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**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on  
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(ISAR)**

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Morning Session

**Agenda item 4. Enhancing the role of reporting in attaining  
the Sustainable Development Goals: Integration of  
environmental, social and governance information into  
company reporting**

Presented by

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System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS FOR SDG MONITORING

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United Nations

# Outline

1. Official Statistics for SDG monitoring
2. Aligning corporate and national natural capital accounting
3. Roadmap



# SDG Indicators



A list of indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals was approved by the Statistical Commission in March 2016



SEEA

# Aligning corporate and national efforts

- Corporate sustainability accounting is an important **information source** for statistics to support national-level monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Contributions of the corporate sector to obtaining and monitoring the **Sustainable Development Goals** will require a harmonized monitoring effort
- Alignment of national and corporate sustainability will;
  - > Reduce the **reporting burden** for businesses by aligning business surveys with corporate reporting
  - > **Streamline** the process of using business statistics in the production of national statistics

# Example: SDG Indicators and the SNA & SEEA



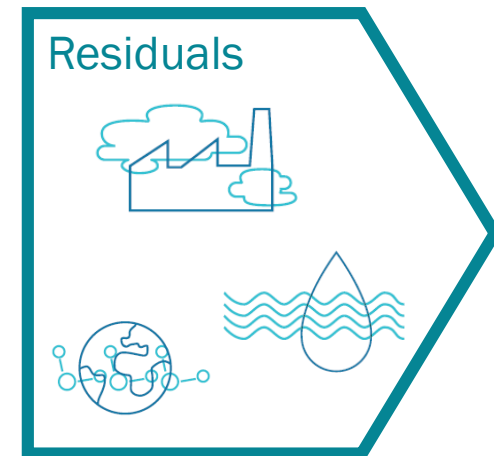
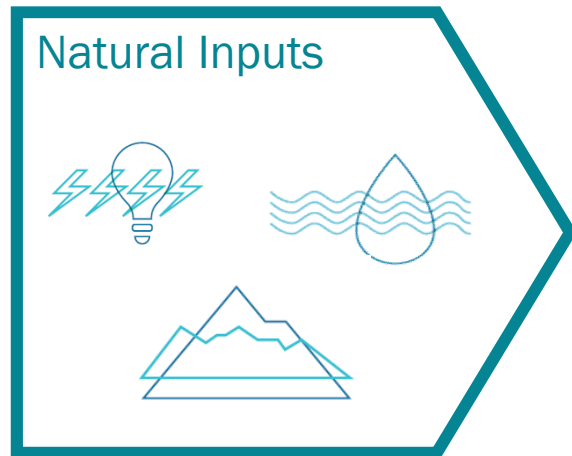
The **SNA and SEEA** are statistical standards that can be used to monitor a number of environmental-economic SDG Indicators **in an integrated way**. Alignment of corporate-level sustainability accounting helps this standards-based monitoring

# Environmental-economic accounting at the national level

- The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) is the **international statistical standard** to measure the environment and its relationship with the economy.
- It is consistent with the System of National Accounts which together represent the established system to measure the **economy and environment**.
- Industry statistics are used to inform the SEEA and SNA.



# Corporate natural capital accounting





# National natural capital accounting



# Example of alignment: Water Withdrawal

# G4-EN8: Total water withdrawal by source

- This GRI indicator measures the total volume of water withdrawn from the following sources;

- Surface Water
  - Wetlands
  - Rivers
  - Lakes
  - Oceans
- Ground Water
- Rainwater collected directly and stored by the organization
- Wastewater from another organization
- Municipal water supplies and other water utilities



**Total volume  
of water  
withdrawn**



# Different use of terms (GRI vs. SEEA)

## GRI DEFINITION:

- **Total Water Withdrawal** is the sum of all water drawn into the boundaries of the organization (including surface water, ground water, rain water and municipal water supply) for any use over the course of the reporting period

## EQUIVALENT SEEA TERM:

- **Total water use** [of an industry] is the sum of the amount of water directly abstracted and the amount of water received from other economic units
  - > *Water Abstraction: the amount of water that is removed from any source, either permanently or temporarily, in a given period of time.*
  - > *Water received from other economic unit: the amount of water that is delivered to an industry, household or the rest of the world by another economic unit.*

# Aligning GRI and SEEA terms

## GRI: TOTAL WATER WITHDRAWAL

### Surface Water

- Wetlands
- Rivers
- Lakes
- **Oceans**

### Groundwater

Rainwater collected and stored by the organization

Wastewater from another organization

Municipal **water supplies** and **other water utilities**

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## SEEA: TOTAL WATER USE

### Surface Water

- Wetlands
- Rivers
- Lakes

### Oceans

### Groundwater

### Precipitation

### Re-used water

Water supplied by **another economic unit** (e.g. ISIC 36)

+ abstraction from artificial reservoirs & soil water

= WATER ABSTRACTION  
(from the environment)

= WATER RECEIVED BY ANOTHER ECONOMIC UNIT

# Roadmap

# Alignment – How?

Multiple initiatives in corporate and finance sectors;

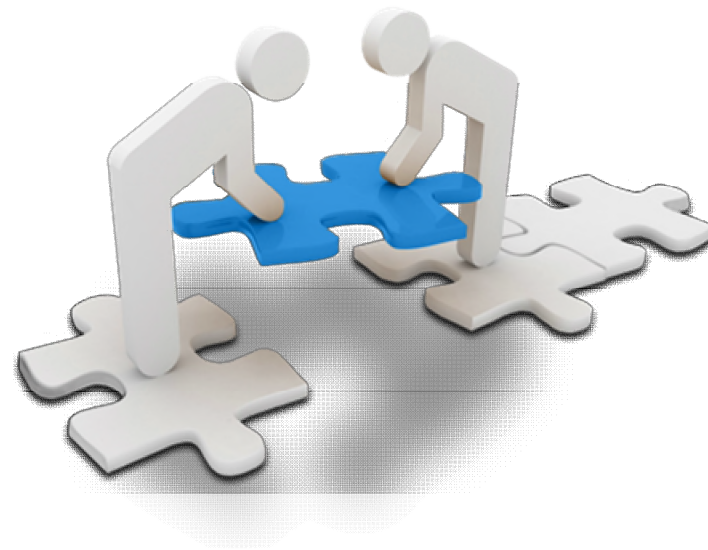
→ **Converge towards one common standard that is harmonized with the SEEA**

1. Map existing initiatives and identify the differences and similarities with SEEA standard
2. Work to align terminology and classifications
3. Develop common valuation methodology and data validation techniques
4. Work towards a standardized collection process



# Developing partnerships

- GRI, UNSD and Statistics  
Netherlands will host a workshop in December 2016 on **'Alignment of National and Corporate Level accounting in the context of the SDGs'**
- All major stakeholders must come together;
  - ✓ National statisticians
  - ✓ Corporate Social Responsibility experts from business, and
  - ✓ Major corporate sustainability initiatives







**THANK YOU**

[seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

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SEEA