

# *Natural Capital Accounting and Measuring Ecosystem Services: The Next Wave*

Interagency Collaborative on Environmental Modeling and Monitoring (ICEMM)  
Annual Public Meeting  
March 17-18, 2020  
USGS Headquarters, Reston, VA

*Charles Rhodes, PhD*

*Some content directly from Ken Bagstad, PhD, USGS*

charlesrrhodes@gmail.com

## Natural Capital Accounting (**NCA**):

- shares ICEEM 2020 Meeting Objectives and more!
- includes a hard pairing of Environmental Modeling and Monitoring (**EMM**) outputs to human processes and behaviors
- is a critical and expanding user of EMM!
  
- The resolve to embrace and develop NCA is real [Beyond GDP](#)
- Deeper wider understanding and measurement, to inform urgently needed adaptive management strategies
- Each field working alone won't cut it any more



I need consistent,  
high-quality  
environmental data!

Natural capital  
accounts  
developer



I want my data to be  
used in important real-  
world decisions!

Environmental  
modeler



NCA



EMM

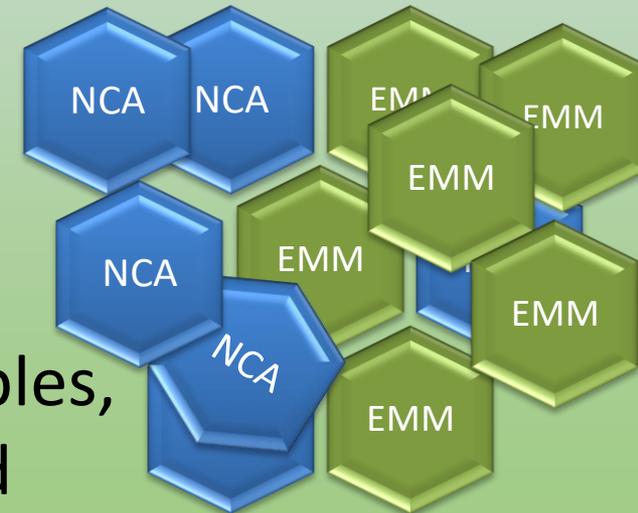
Many who assume NCA can use their research products directly have learned:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – it is not as easy or as obvious as they thought
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – a common organizing framework and vocabulary helps
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – their own definitions and concepts can fit (with some alterations) into NCA framing

So...how to coordinate efforts across fields that are not close partners?

1<sup>st</sup> – *Communicate*  

2<sup>nd</sup> – *Invest* in: shared organizing principles, common definitions, and common goals for model & data sharing



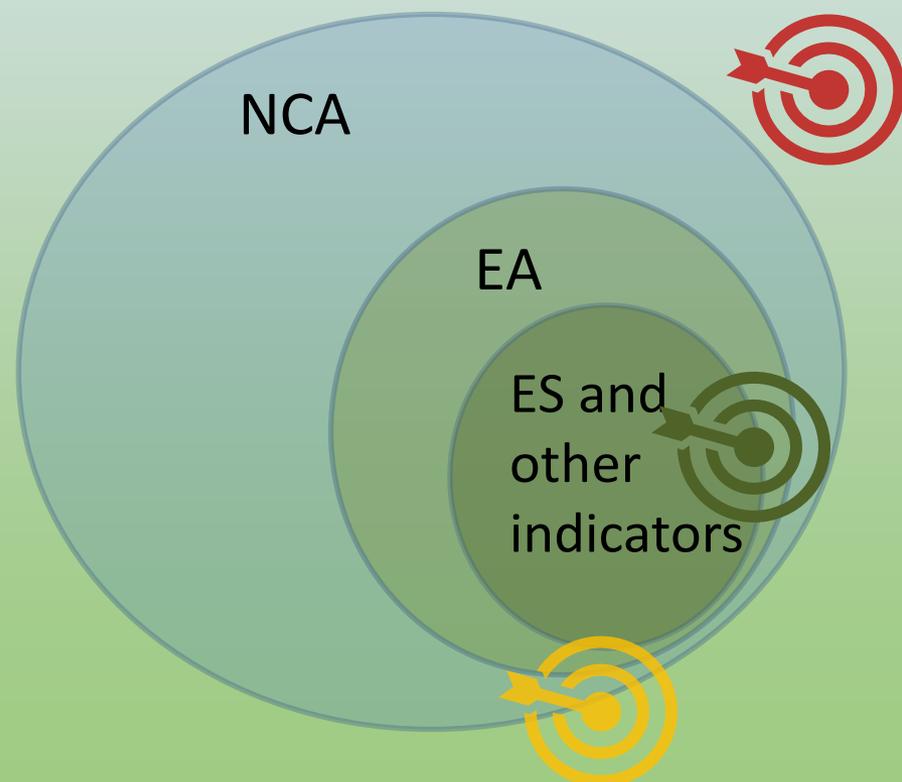
### Interactive Modeling and Data – Can NCA easily apply *your* work?

- passing the baton – moving toward cleaner passes



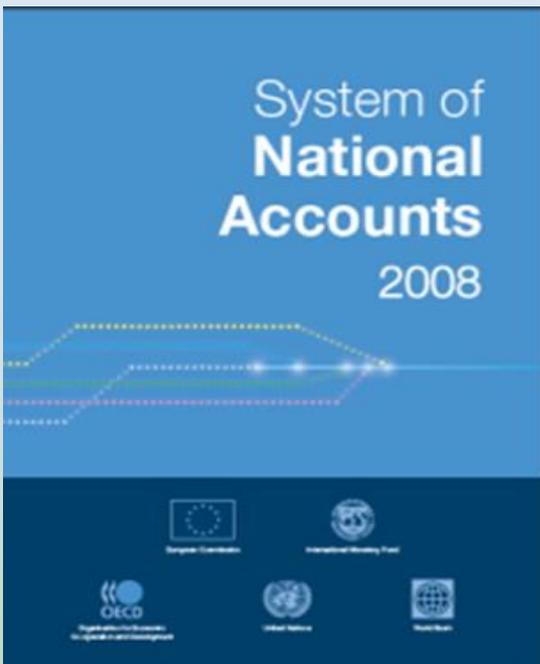
### This presentation:

- **explains** basics of NCA frame, Ecosystem Accounting frame within NCA, and place of Ecosystem Services (ES) and other key indicators in Ecosystem Accounting
- **discusses** how different attempts to conduct or match modeling and data to NCA have stumbled and succeeded, and lessons from these attempts

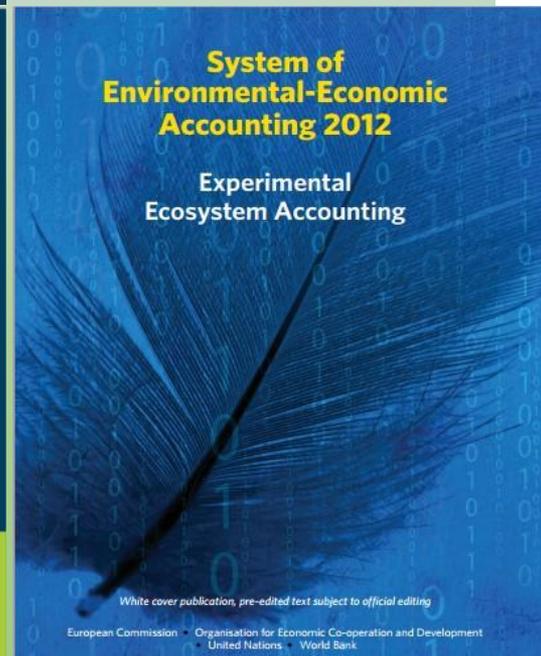
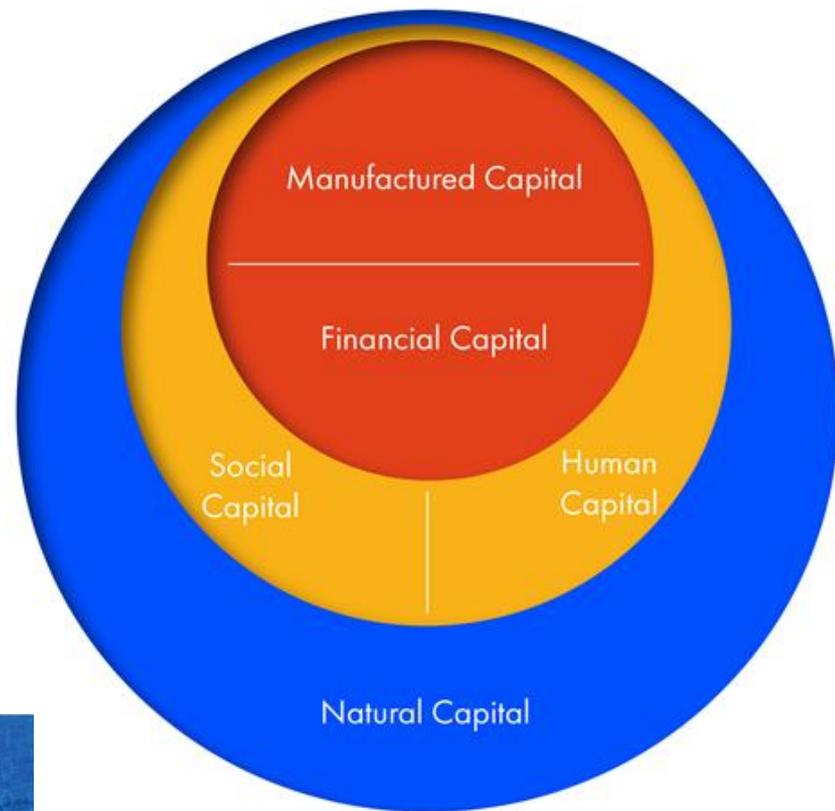


# What is NCA?

# UN Statistics Division (UNSD)



Does SNA +  
SEEA-CF +  
SEEA-EEA =  
NCA ??



<https://www.forumforthefuture.org/the-five-capitals>

No, the term NCA is not tightly defined. US NCA working group had to grapple with this. We created the Venn diagram and locking hexagon figures below to explore and explain...

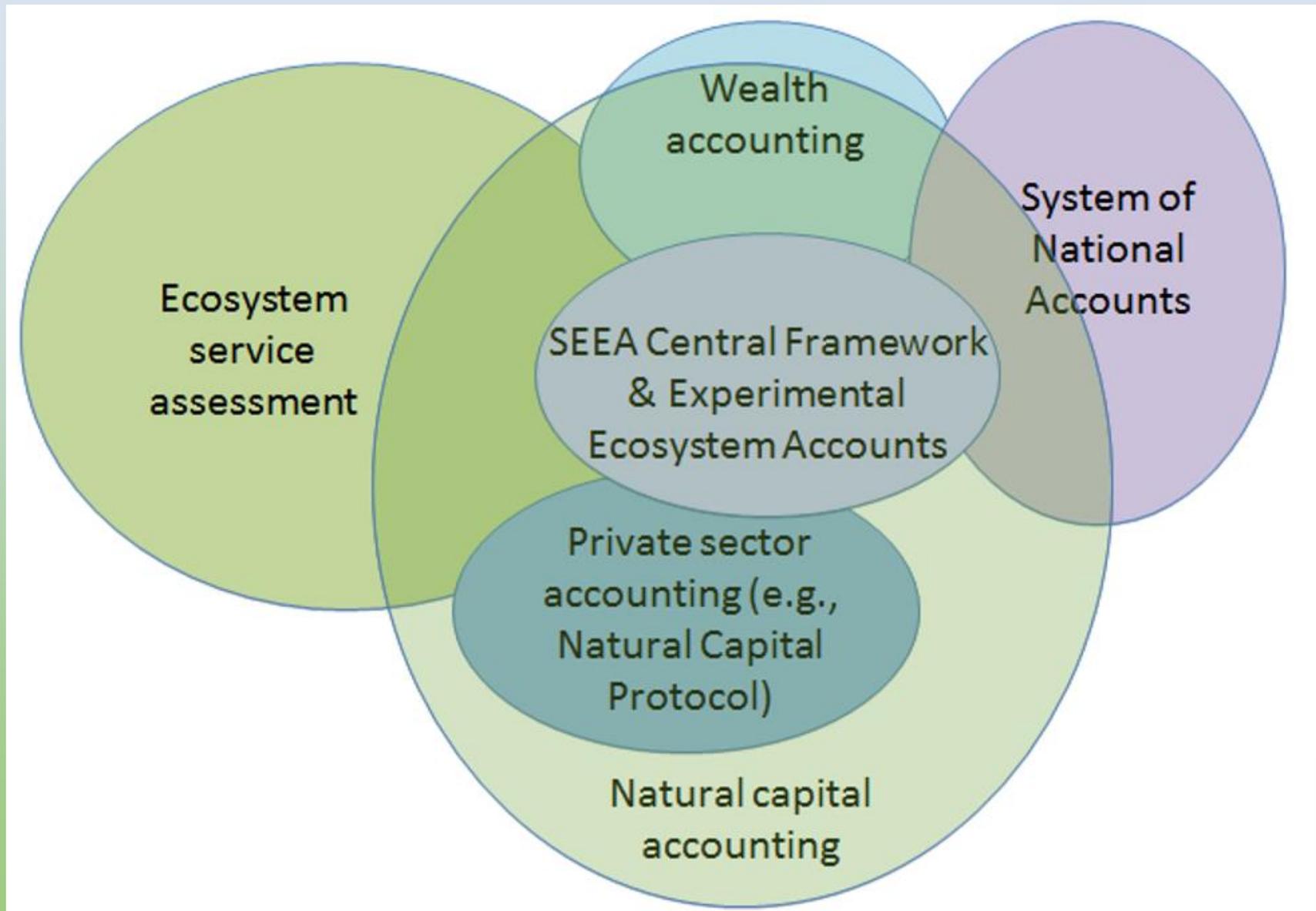


**Not yet standard**

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/pubs.asp>

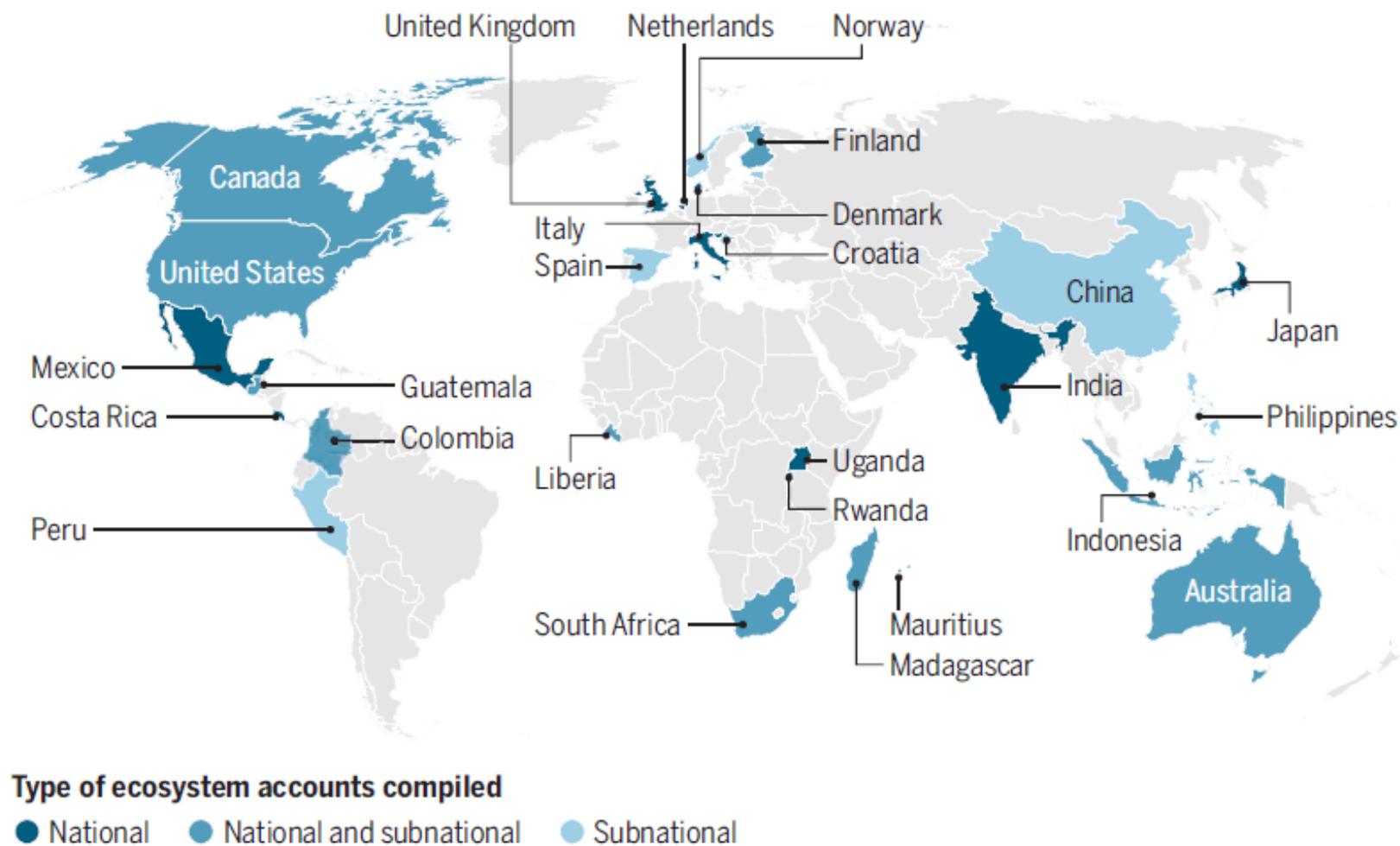
## What is NCA?

# Relationship of natural capital accounts to economic accounts & ecosystem services



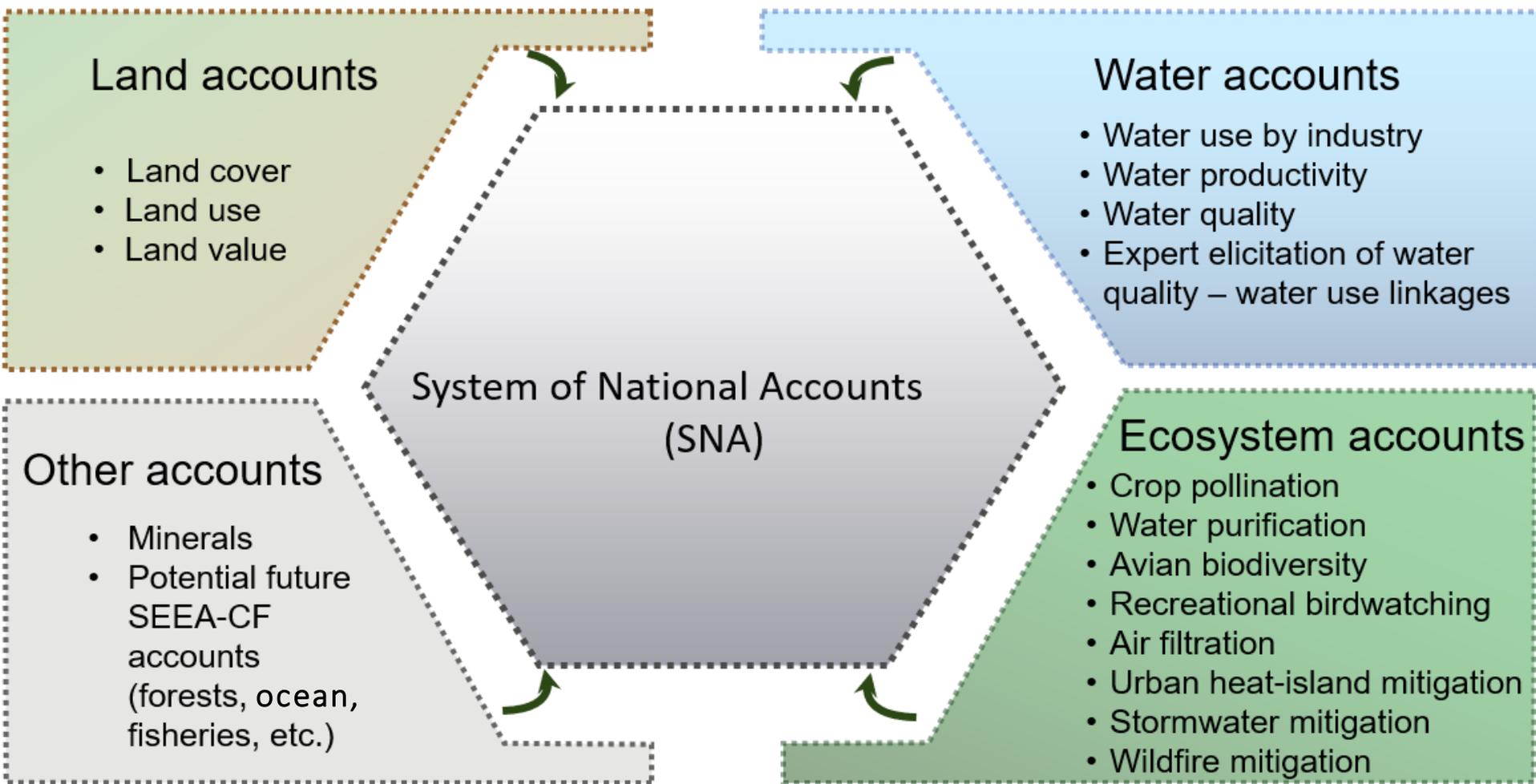
# Countries that have compiled SEEA EEA accounts

Some countries have published all accounts that they have compiled, and others have published only some. China, Japan, and the United States have compiled accounts but not published them (see supplementary materials, section 1). The scope and resolution of the accounts vary between countries. The figure presents a snapshot—countries continue to compile and publish accounts. SEEA, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting; EEA, Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.



## What is NCA?

# Natural capital accounts for the U.S.



**US NCA working group** includes people from: USGS, NOAA, BEA, EPA, State Dept., World Bank, National Ecosystem Services Partnership, Basque Center for Climate Change, UMN, UVM, U CO, U HI, STATCAN, Australian National U, Resources for the Future/SESYNC, Ernst & Young, COMPASS, et alia

US NCA objectives, results, and discussion follow, starting with Ecosystem Accounts

## US NCA Working Group Objectives:

How much can we populate without major data or model investments?

Can we suggest a structure that attracts institutional investment and momentum in building time-series accounts?

- 1) Build pilot accounts with little US institutional investment
- 2) Use existing structures and data wherever possible
- 3) Want results to be reproducible, and often
- 4) Key considerations:
  - a. Data should be *publicly available* on a *national* scale
  - b. Accounts summarized *geographically* and by *ecosystem type*
  - c. Analyses should be *updateable* – tracking *over time* is essential
  - d. *Avoid proprietary* tools and models

1) Make the case to the community:

- Get the word out
- Stoke coalition building

2) Proceed with building accounts

## Viewpoint

### **The Natural Capital Accounting Opportunity: Let's Really Do the Numbers**

JAMES W. BOYD, KENNETH J. BAGSTAD, JANE CARTER INGRAM, CARL D. SHAPIRO, JEFFERY E. ADKINS, C. FRANK CASEY, CLIFFORD S. DUKE, PIERRE D. GLYNN, ERICA GOLDMAN, MONICA GRASSO, JULIE L. HASS, JUSTIN A. JOHNSON, GLENN-MARIE LANGE, JOHN MATUSZAK, ANN MILLER, KIRSTEN L. L. OLESON, STEPHEN M. POSNER, CHARLES RHODES, FRANÇOIS SOULARD, MICHAEL VARDON, FERDINANDO VILLA, BRIAN VOIGT, AND SCOTT WENTLAND

**T**he nation's economic accounts generate consistent time series data (EGSA) accounts for the United States provide objective, regular, and standardized information routinely relied across decades. Those data allow us to document what has happened in the would allow diverse environmental, social, and economic data to be trans-

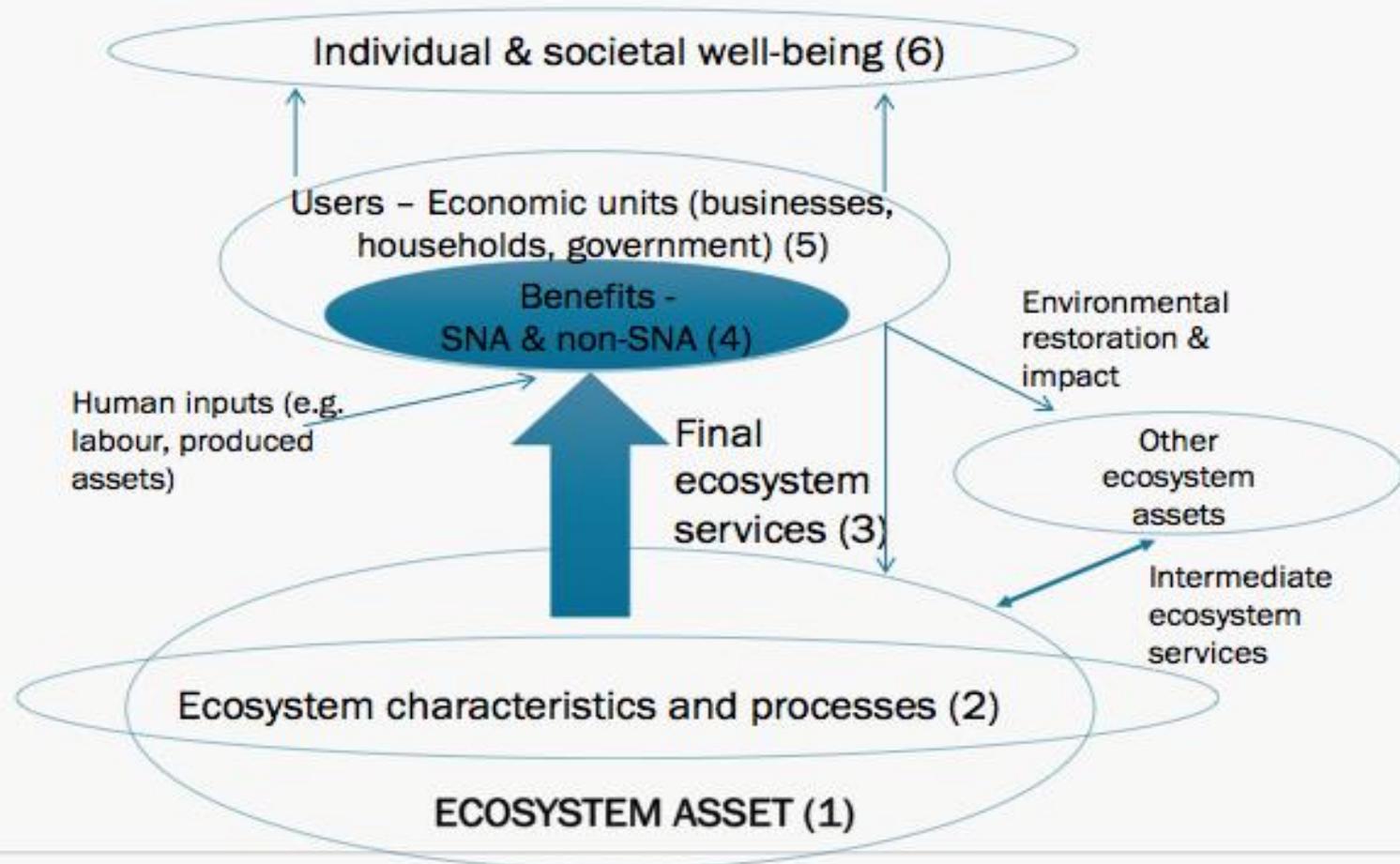
For Ecosystem Accounts, US NCA Working Group agrees to:

- 1) use/adapt UN SEEA EEA accounting model and account structure
- 2) use/adapt a US ES classification system (NESCS) that SEEA EEA is discussing

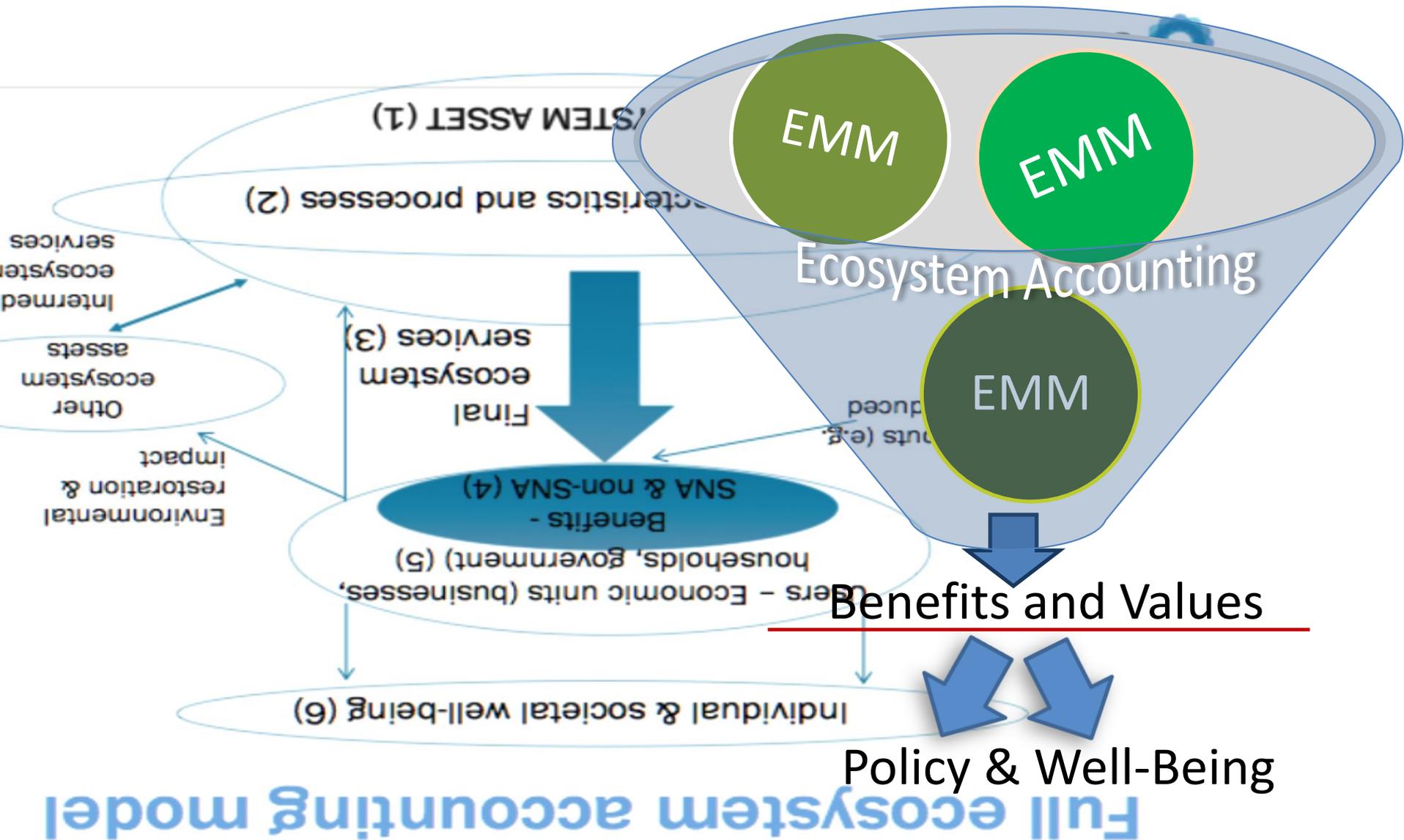
*1<sup>st</sup> – What do these structures look like?*

*2<sup>nd</sup> – How did that agreement work in practice?*

## Full ecosystem accounting model

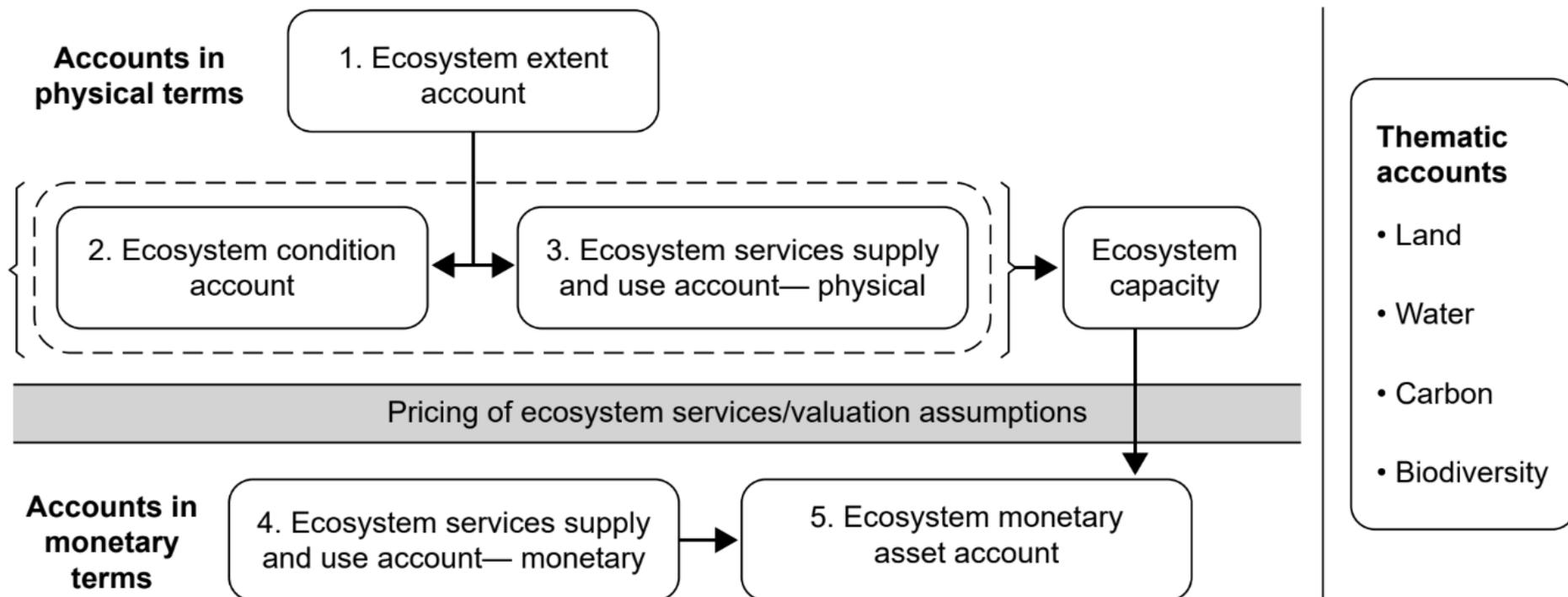


# SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting



(Figure 1, December 2015 draft of U.N. et al., 2017 "SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations")

## SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (detail)



- *Ecosystem extent* begins with spatial areas, “ecosystem assets”
- *Ecosystem assets* hold biotic and abiotic components that in their *condition* produce things that when used/appreciated/transacted by *economic units* record as *ecosystem services*
- Physical flows and monetary flows are separate accounts
- Thematic accounts cover critical factors that span ecosystem assets
- Integration: SEEA-EEA entries should minimize overlap with SNA entries

# SEEA EEA – Supply and Use Tables (SUTs)

## 3. Ecosystem services supply and use account – physical

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES SUPPLY TABLE**

	Type of economic unit	Type of Ecosystem Unit
<b>Ecosystem services</b>	A	B
Provisioning services		
Regulating services		
Cultural services	C	D
<b>Products</b>		

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES USE TABLE**

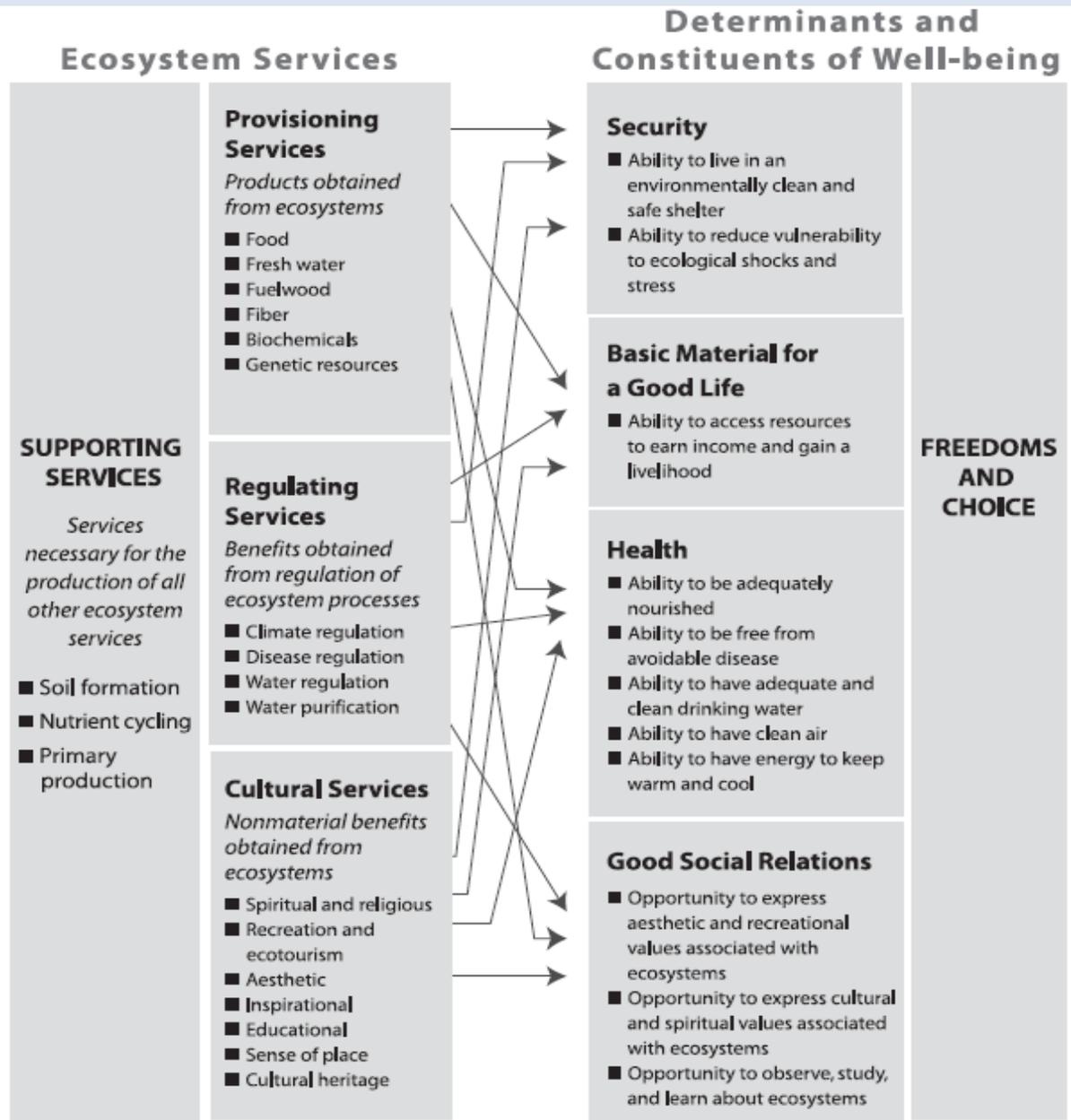
	Type of economic unit	Type of Ecosystem Unit
<b>Ecosystem services</b>	E	F
Provisioning services		
Regulating services		
Cultural services	G	H
<b>Products</b>		

SEEA EEA ecosystem services supply and use table structure (reduced from December 2015 draft of U.N. et al., 2017)

- Only Ecosystem Units(/assets) can supply ES, never Economic Units
- Only “final” ES; must be *used/appreciated/transacted* in area and year
- Quadrants B & E are equal in total, and by row

# Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Categorization of Ecosystem Services and their Links to Human Well-Being

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2003. Ecosystems and human well-being: a framework for assessment, 266p.



*“These categories overlap extensively, and the purpose is not to establish a taxonomy but rather to ensure that the analysis addresses the entire range of services”*  
(p. 38).

- Porous categories
- Double Counting

# Ecosystem Services (ES) – Definitions Matter!

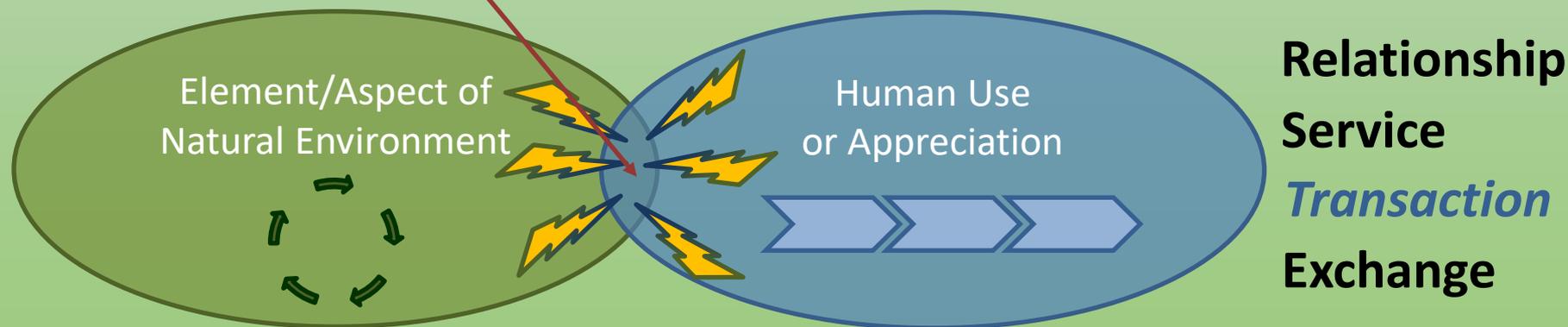
*Ecosystem services* are the conditions and processes through which natural ecosystems, and the species that make them up, sustain and fulfill human life. *Daily et al. 1997*

*Ecosystem services* are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems.  
*Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005*

Colloquially, ecosystem services are “the benefits of nature to households, communities, and economies.” ...(H)owever, ecology and economics have failed to standardize the definition and measurement of ecosystem services.

... **Final** ecosystem services are components of nature, directly enjoyed, consumed, or used to yield human well-being.

*Boyd and Banzhaf, 2007*



## Approaches to definition and identification of ES split between:

### *Those seeking formalization and standardization of ES definitions and identification*

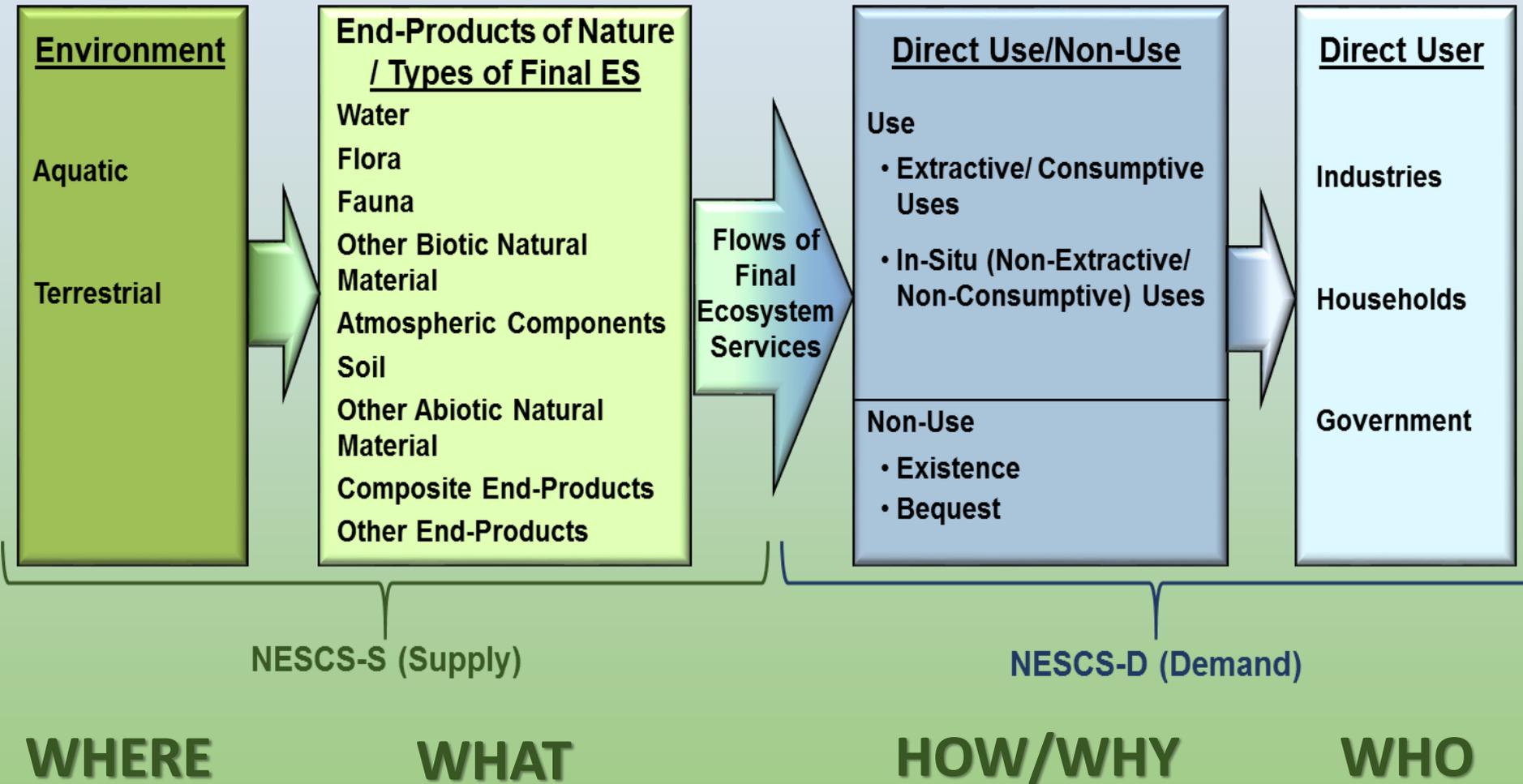
- bound to formal analysis
  - marginal/scenario/cost-benefit analyses
- seek long-term tool development
  - “full-spectrum” *identification*
  - precise, reproducible, and specific field *metrics*
  - precise final ES for known users/beneficiaries to *value*
  - common tracking of relevant ES metrics with the *goal* of “allowable” benefits transfer

### *Ad-hoc pragmatists*

- frustrated with slowness of adoption of ES perspective
- focused on limitations of full-scale ES assessment for very few ES
  - 1 to 6 “ecosystem services”
- question the efficacy of formalizing classification (*didn't see SEEA-EEA coming*)

Early adopters of MA 4-types of ES, and to some extent WAVES get stuck here. “Walking path.”

# NESCS Four-Group Classification Structure (condensed)



# ES Defns test to SEEA EEA SUTs

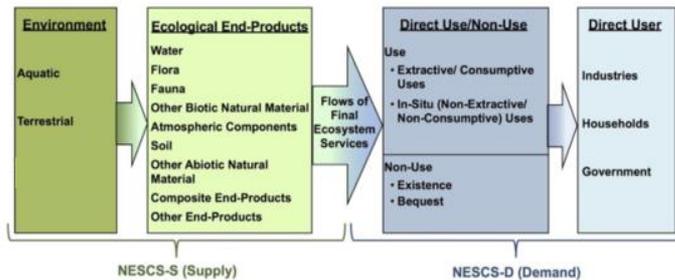
US NCA for Ecosystem Accounting chooses SEEA EEA framework, and tests NESCS framework for ES supply and use tables

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES SUPPLY TABLE

	UNITS	Type of economic unit					Type of Ecosystem Unit										TOTAL SUPPLY							
		Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	Electricity, gas supply	Water supply	Other industries	Households	Accumulation	Rest of the world - Imports	Artificial surfaces	Herbaceous crops	Woody crops	Multiple or layered crops	Grassland	Terrestrial	Aquatic	Environment		Sparse natural vegetated areas	Terrestrial barren land	Permanent snow and glaciers	Inland water bodies	Coastal water and inter-tidal areas	Sea and marine areas	
Ecological End-Products																								
Ecosystem services		A					B																	
Products		C					D																	

Ecological End-Products  
 Water  
 Flora  
 Fauna  
 Other Biotic Natural Material  
 Atmospheric Components  
 Soil  
 Other Abiotic Natural Material  
 Composite End-Products  
 Other End-Products

NESCS Four-Part Classification Structure (condensed)



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES USE TABLE

	UNITS	Type of economic unit					Type of Ecosystem Unit										TOTAL USE							
		Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	Electricity, gas supply	Water collection, treatment and supply	Other industries	Households	Accumulation	Rest of the world - Exports	Artificial surfaces	Herbaceous crops	Woody crops	Multiple or layered crops	Grassland	Tree-covered areas	Mangroves	Shrub-covered areas		Regularly flooded areas	Sparse natural vegetated areas	Terrestrial barren land	Permanent snow and glaciers	Inland water bodies	Coastal water and inter-tidal areas	Sea and marine areas
Ecological End-Products																								
Ecosystem services		E					F																	
Products		G					H																	

Ecological End-Products  
 Water  
 Flora  
 Fauna  
 Other Biotic Natural Material  
 Atmospheric Components  
 Soil  
 Other Abiotic Natural Material  
 Composite End-Products  
 Other End-Products

US NCA EA sub-group: Let's start filling rows and columns!

Ecosystem Accounting paper sub-group: first draft from outline to text breaks from SEEA EEA account structure and NESCS ES definition structure!!

### Is this even a problem?

#### NO

- researchers re-frame questions all the time
- Working Group stated goal to use existing measures where possible
- team members were using own vocabulary and measures from previous publications as starting point (who wouldn't do that?)
- very tempting to settle "what to measure?" quickly, knowing most effort will be on "how to measure?" and "how to report?" (our quantitative training first, baton pass 2<sup>nd</sup>!)
- team members split between ad-hoc and formal approaches to ES definition, why should one be favored?

#### YES

- US NCA EA work publishable, but compatible with SEEA EEA? Could replicating it fuel a schism in approaches to EEA?
- Re-tasking SEEA EEA terms and account structure not disrespectful, just unfamiliar with framework, rigor of its development, and with basic constraints imposed by SEEA goal of integrating with SNA and becoming a standard
- Following SEEA EEA structure and rigorous ES definition signals US cooperation with proposed international standards and signals leadership in NCA development
  - breaking in key ways from European attempts
  - anchoring methods, measures, and place in accounts for US NCA EA time-series products

How did we work through the problem? A few case specifics and lessons...

## Resolving conflicting project objectives, and differences in approach by team members:

- Communication
- Leadership
- Finding role/place in accounts for what can be measured
  - whether or not past “ES” are “ES” in final placement...

Carefully determine, including people familiar with ES classification and EEA (NCA):

- what you already model and monitor
- *ideal* measure
- *actual* measure (with uncertainty, error, etc.)
- what measures *don't work* for SEEA, what SEEA *needs*, what SEEA *prefers*
- where in *framework*, from environment to economy, does actual measure fit?
- where in *accounts*, from environment to economy, does actual measure fit?

### Pollination

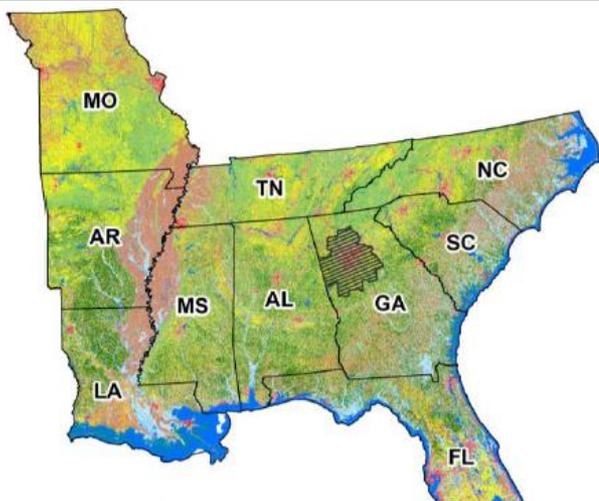
1. pollinator habitat vs. pollination
2. pollination vs. wild pollination
3. actual measure and call to science

### Biodiversity

1. orgs and literature vs. EEA and ES classification
  - coalition building vs. rigors of SEEA
2. open questions and continuing debate

### Carbon

# Ecosystem accounts for the SE U.S. (Warnell et al., accepted)



0 100

- Atlanta-Savannah
- Open Water
- Developed - High
- Developed - Medium
- Developed - Low
- Developed - Open

Source: National Land

		Ecosystem Types (Land Cover)																
		Offshore	Open Water - non-freshwater	Open Water - freshwater	Developed - Open	Developed - Low	Developed - Medium	Developed - High	Barren	Deciduous Forest	Evergreen Forest	Mixed Forest	Shrub/Scrub	Grassland/Herbaceous	Pasture/Hay	Cultivated Crops	Woody Wetlands	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
Wild pollination*	Area of pollinator habitat in flight range of pollinator-dependent crops (sq km)	2001								5,471	2,516	1,336	1,290	165			7,061	172
		2006								4,152	2,125	1,459	2,191	423			11,539	371
		2011								53,679	30,441	6,670	18,388	9,314			43,104	3,354
Water purification	Area of purifying land cover types between NPS sources and waterways (sq km)	2001								31,542	20,238	6,959		5,385			25,463	3,379
		2006								31,453	19,780	6,678		5,997			25,427	3,504
		2011								31,005	19,330	6,353		6,192			25,151	3,789
Wild pollination*	Area of pollinator-dependent crops in flight range of pollinator habitat (sq km)	2001															11,182	
		2006															21,581	
		2011															65,818	
Water purification	Ratio of pollinator habitat to pollinator dependent crops	2001															1.66	
		2006															1.05	
		2011															2.55	
Water purification	% of flowpath between NPS sources and waterways in purifying land cover types	2001																
		2006																
		2011																

		Ecosystem Types (Land Cover)															Total	
		Offshore	Open Water	Developed - Open	Developed - Low	Developed - Medium	Developed - High	Barren	Deciduous Forest	Evergreen Forest	Mixed Forest	Shrub/Scrub	Grassland/Herbaceous	Pasture/Hay	Cultivated Crops	Woody Wetlands	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	Total
Recreational birding (thousands of birding days)	2001	2,015	8,471	6,935	5,897	1,850	978	416	6,586	3,441	365	1,075	1,498	2,285	4,614	7,106	3,343	56,874
	2006	518	4,418	8,552	9,451	4,368	1,129	780	6,273	3,433	531	2,208	2,808	2,833	3,658	6,196	2,204	59,360
	2011	1,236	5,207	10,022	7,420	3,553	1,046	1,408	7,173	3,816	692	1,966	1,833	4,050	2,634	4,964	3,695	60,715
Air pollutant concentrations (annual mean, ppb except for PM (µg/m3))	CO	2010																314.6
		2015																290.1
	NO <sub>2</sub>	2010																7.3
		2015																7.0
	O <sub>3</sub>	2010																30.6
		2015																27.9
	PM <sub>10</sub>	2010																9.5
		2015																9.5
	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	2010																10.9
		2015																10.4
	SO <sub>2</sub>	2010																2.0
		2015																1.0

Carbon storage* (kilotons of C)	2001	0	0	307,170			0	11,039,035	1,211,205	601,250	4,941,118	3,276,189	741,315	22,117,283
	2006	0	0	361,629			0	11,074,236	1,282,818	713,026	4,897,046	3,260,913	748,974	22,338,642
	2010	0	0	384,934			0	10,935,461	1,464,086	740,303	4,887,533	3,225,475	782,570	22,420,361

# Ecosystem *Condition* accounts for the SE U.S.

- Includes metrics related to:
- Wild pollination
  - Purification of runoff water
  - Bird species richness
  - Air pollutant removal

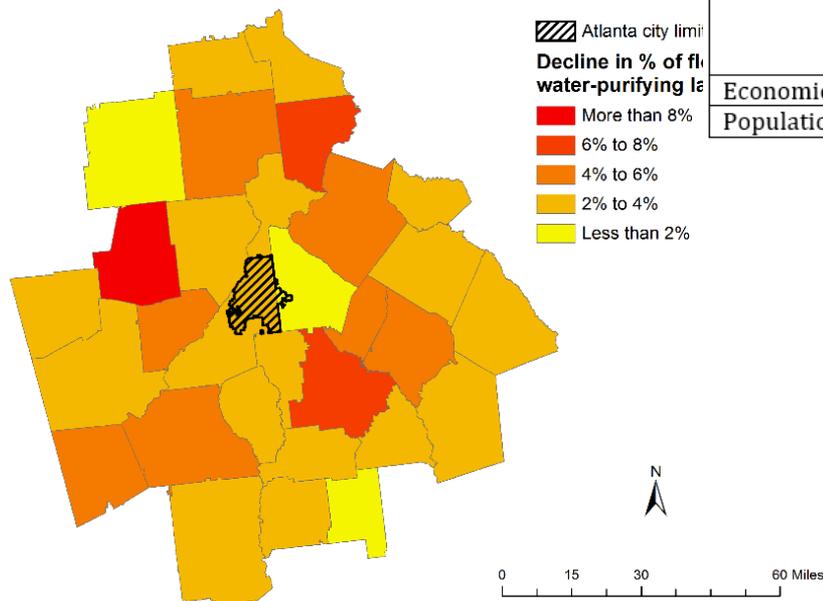
			Ecosystem Types (Land Cover)																		
			Offshore	Open Water - non-freshwater	Open Water - freshwater	Developed - Open	Developed - Low	Developed - Medium	Developed - High	Barren	Deciduous Forest	Evergreen Forest	Mixed Forest	Shrub/Scrub	Grassland/Herbaceous us	Pasture/Hay	Cultivated Crops	Woody Wetlands	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	TOTAL	
Wild pollination*	Area of pollinator habitat in flight range of pollinator-dependent crops (sq km)	2001									5,471	2,516	1,336	1,290	165			7,061	172	18,011	
		2006									4,152	2,125	1,459	2,191	423			11,539	371	22,259	
		2011									53,679	30,441	6,670	18,388	9,314			43,104	3,354	164,951	
	Area of pollinator-dependent crops in flight range of pollinator habitat (sq km)	2001															11,182				11,182
		2006															21,581				21,581
		2011															65,818				65,818
	Ratio of pollinator habitat to pollinator dependent crops	2001															1.66				
		2006															1.05				
		2011															2.55				
Water purification	Area of purifying land cover types between NPS sources and waterways (sq km)	2001									31,542	20,238	6,959		5,385			25,463	3,379	92,966	
		2006									31,453	19,780	6,678		5,997			25,427	3,504	92,840	
		2011									31,005	19,330	6,353		6,192			25,151	3,789	91,820	
	% of flowpath between NPS sources and waterways in purifying land cover types	2001			30.6%																
		2006			30.4%																
		2011			29.9%																

# US NCA EA Results

Sub-state scale: from spatial data & models to accounts

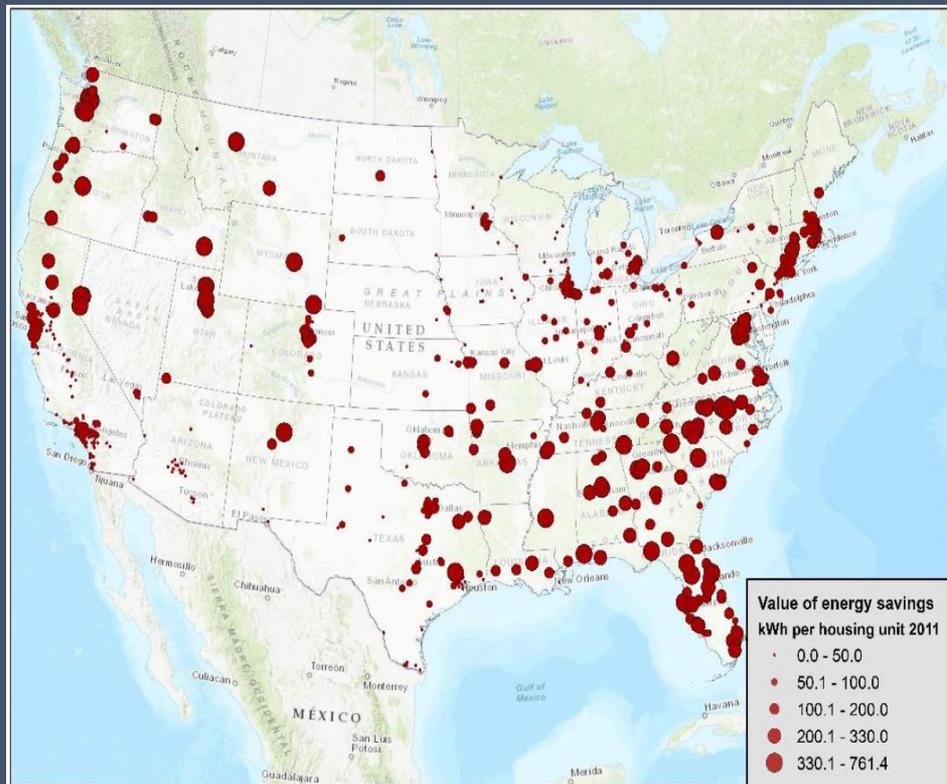
Ecosystem accounts support fine-grained analysis

Account	Metric	% change, 2001-2011
Land accounts <sup>a</sup>	Developed land cover	17.2%
	Agricultural land cover	-6.3%
	Other land cover	-4.0%
Water accounts	Total water use (million gallons/day, 2000-2010) <sup>b</sup>	-57.8%
	Water productivity (\$/100 gallons water use, 2000-2010) <sup>c</sup>	153.3%
	Water-quality monitoring declines (% of sites monitored, 2002-2012) <sup>d</sup>	
Ecosystem accounts <sup>e</sup>	% of flowpath in purifying land cover	-18.2%
	Mean annual concentration, CO (2010-2015)	14.8%
	Mean annual concentration, NO <sub>2</sub> (2010-2015)	-25.0%
	Mean annual concentration, O <sub>3</sub> (2010-2015)	-3.8%
	Mean annual concentration, PM10 (2010-2015)	-32.5%
	Mean annual concentration, PM2.5 (2010-2015)	-1.8%
	Mean annual concentration, SO <sub>2</sub> (2010-2015)	-42.7%
	Mean annual removal rates, CO (2010-2015)	22.5%
	Mean annual removal rates, NO <sub>2</sub> (2010-2015)	18.9%
	Mean annual removal rates, O <sub>3</sub> (2010-2015)	3.4%
	Mean annual removal rates, PM10 (2010-2015)	-20.3%
	Mean annual removal rates, PM2.5 (2010-2015)	0.3%
	Mean annual removal rates, SO <sub>2</sub> (2010-2015)	-46.6%
	Total precipitation (mm/yr)	39%
Recreational birding-days	209.6%	
Economic accounts <sup>f</sup>	GDP, all industries	8.8%
Population (2000-2010) <sup>g</sup>		24.0%

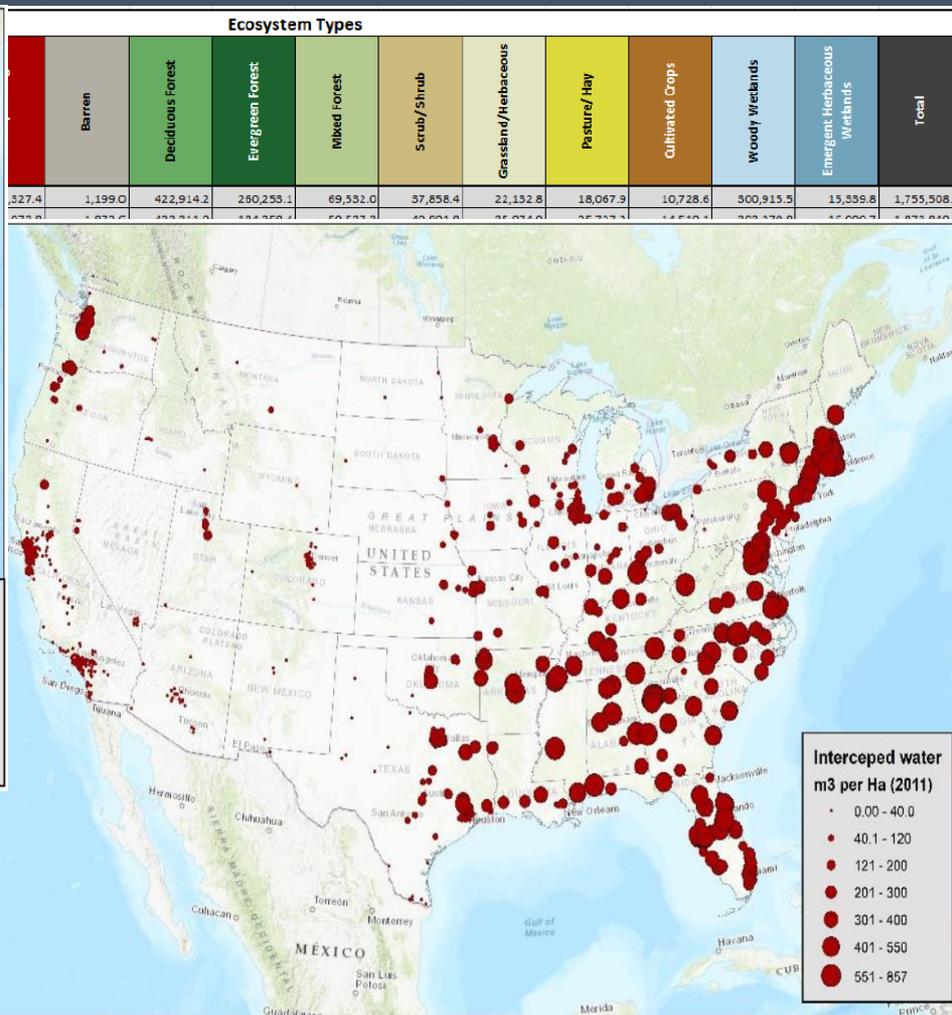


- Atlanta MSA (left)
- New county-level GDP estimates from BEA enable finer scale analysis
- Ability to extract results for any geography e.g., watersheds, public lands

## National-scale urban ecosystem accounts (Heris et al. in review)



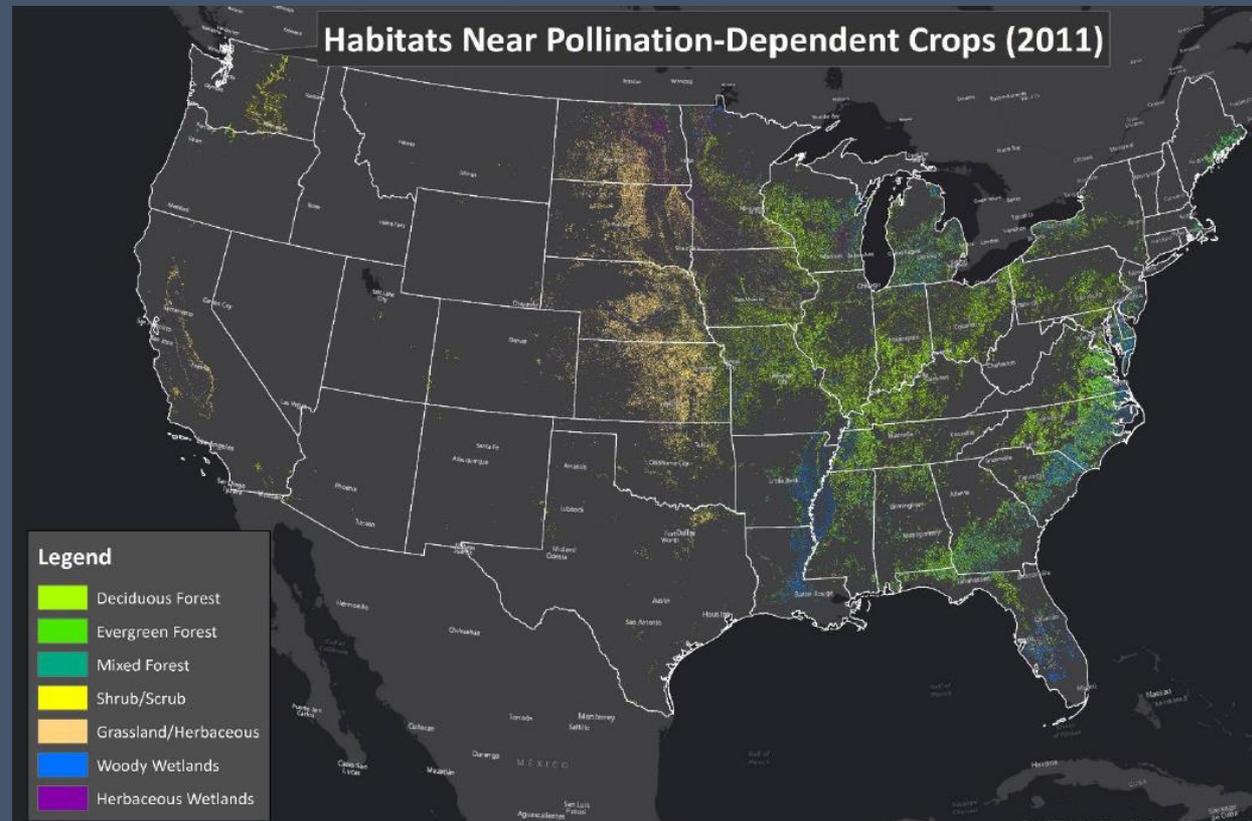
Colorado	Intercepted water (1000m <sup>3</sup> )	2001	0.0	3,775.3
		2011	0.0	5,191.8
	Energy Savings (mWh)	2001	0.5	0.0
		2011	2.7	0.0
Denver	Intercepted water (1000m <sup>3</sup> )	2001	0.0	649.4
		2011	0.0	886.8
	Energy Savings (mWh)	2001	0.0	0.0
		2011	0.8	0.0



- Urban ecosystem services (rainfall interception, urban heat island mitigation) for 768 cities >50,000 population
- Pollination in development, other ES to come
- New NLCD 2016 enables 2001 to 2016 time series

## National-scale ecosystem accounts

- Urban ecosystem services (rainfall interception, urban heat island mitigation)
- Pollination (in progress)
- Coastal storm protection (in progress)



Energy savings from urban trees, Atlanta MSA

Landcover	Sum Megawatt
Developed, Open Space	239.31
Developed, Low Intensity	1281.44
Developed, Medium Intensity	243.24
Developed, High Intensity	77.21
Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	-0.06
Deciduous Forest	0.48
Evergreen Forest	0.03
Mixed Forest	0.02
Shrub/Scrub	-0.26
Grassland/Herbaceous	0.16
Pasture/Hay	0.01
Cultivated Crops	0.08
Woody Wetlands	0.93
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	0.15
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1688.32</b>



## Land accounts – value

- National-scale hedonic model valuing land (price/ac) – incorporating aspects of its location, incl. value of ecosystem services
- State-level, aggregated to regions
- Census tract fixed effects allow location's influence to vary at fine scale

**Table 4: Acreage, Total Value, and Average (Nominal) Price Per Acre by Census Division**

	NLUD 2010	2002 - 2006		2007 - 2011		2012 - 2016	
	Total Acreage (000s)	Total Value (\$Billions)	Average Price Per Acre (\$)	Total Value (\$Billions)	Average Price Per Acre (\$)	Total Value (\$Billions)	Average Price Per Acre (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<b>Pacific</b>							
Dense Urban Residential	237	1,101	4,649,537	702	2,965,103	939	3,966,882
Urban Residential	2,415	2,890	1,196,770	1,599	662,202	2,577	1,067,320
Suburban Residential	1,629	1,866	1,144,864	1,097	673,393	1,797	1,102,608
Rural Residential	9,893	250	25,264	146	14,759	243	24,599
Commercial	611	540	883,317	542	886,953	823	1,347,576
Industrial	261	104	396,744	105	403,117	163	624,566
Agricultural	78,480	453	5,768	433	5,517	651	8,292
<b>Mountain</b>							
Dense Urban Residential	81	244	3,005,093	158	1,944,110	210	2,585,526
Urban Residential	1,383	1,424	1,030,013	782	565,687	1,462	1,057,383
Suburban Residential	1,263	762	602,917	279	221,222	611	483,320
Rural Residential	7,587	194	25,555	79	10,469	127	16,682
Commercial	521	462	886,337	390	749,613	510	980,089
Industrial	212	25	115,644	21	100,762	36	167,526
Agricultural	218,751	2,324	10,622	2,232	10,204	2,382	10,890
<b>West North Central</b>							
Dense Urban Residential	49	104	2,115,213	74	1,511,599	108	2,191,092
Commercial	311	145	467,459	139	447,803	189	606,056
Industrial	151	27	180,631	27	177,656	42	279,811
Agricultural	21,632	90	4,141	81	3,721	105	4,840
<b>New England</b>							
Dense Urban Residential	61	233	3,797,030	172	2,796,648	302	4,916,635
Urban Residential	669	738	1,102,908	493	737,141	888	1,327,517
Suburban Residential	1,176	399	339,247	242	205,434	601	510,792
Rural Residential	10,836	223	20,599	166	15,338	303	28,006
Commercial	196	68	345,794	63	319,192	92	470,474
Industrial	90	34	374,333	20	225,877	40	441,306
Agricultural	15,761	405	25,670	283	17,967	116	7,345
<b>U.S. National Totals</b>	<b>1,264,975</b>	<b>\$33,681</b>	<b>\$26,626</b>	<b>\$24,173</b>	<b>\$19,109</b>	<b>\$33,888</b>	<b>\$26,789</b>

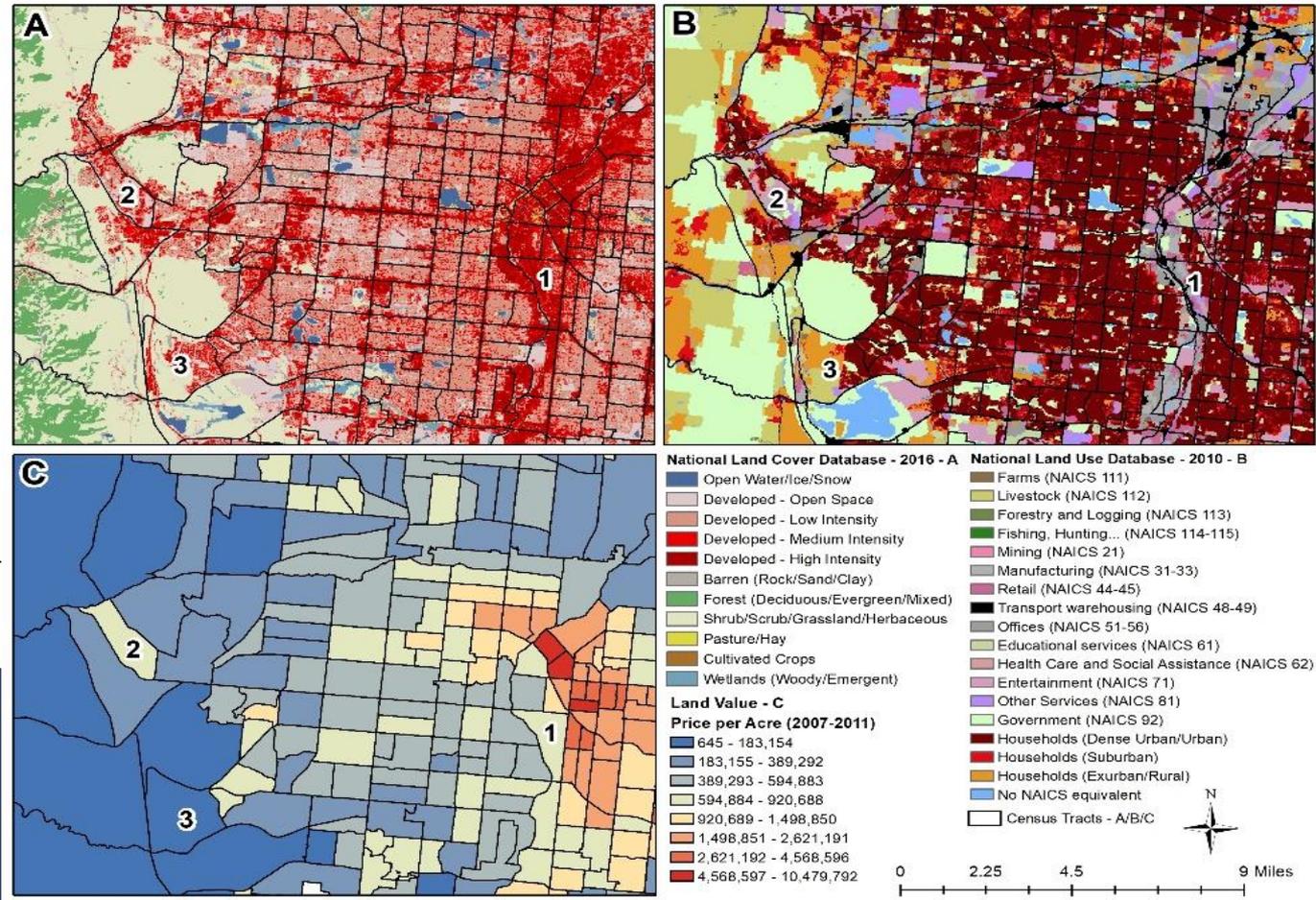
$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Residential Property Sale Price}_{ijt} = & \alpha + \sum \beta X_i + \gamma \text{LOCATION}_j \\
 & + \sum \delta \text{sq. ft.}_i * \text{LOCATION}_j + \sum \varphi \text{acreage}_i * \text{LOCATION}_j + \rho \text{TIME}_t + \varepsilon
 \end{aligned}$$

**Table 4: Acreage, Total Value, and Average (Nominal) Price Per Acre by Census Division**

NLU 2010	2002 - 2006		2007 - 2011		2012 - 2016	
	Total Acreage (000s)	Total Value (\$Billions)				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		Average Price Per Acre (\$)				

West Region	
<b>Pacific</b>	
Dense Urban Residential	237
Urban Residential	2,415
Suburban Residential	1,629
Rural Residential	9,893
Commercial	611
Industrial	261
Agricultural	78,480
<b>Mountain</b>	
Dense Urban Residential	81
Urban Residential	1,383
Suburban Residential	1,263
Rural Residential	7,587
Commercial	521
Industrial	212
Agricultural	218,751

West North Central	
Dense Urban Residential	49

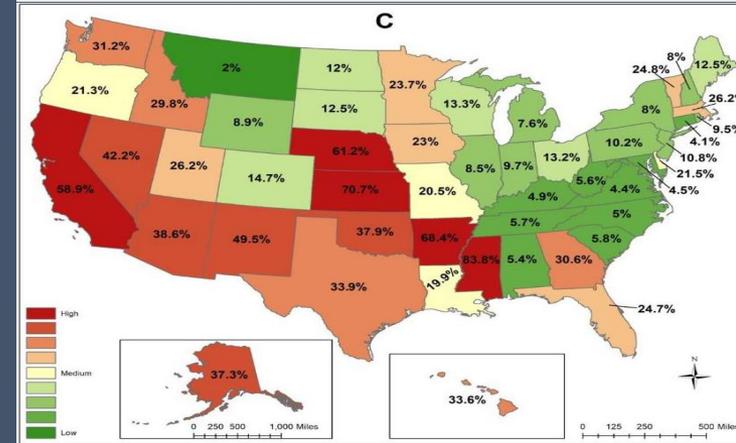
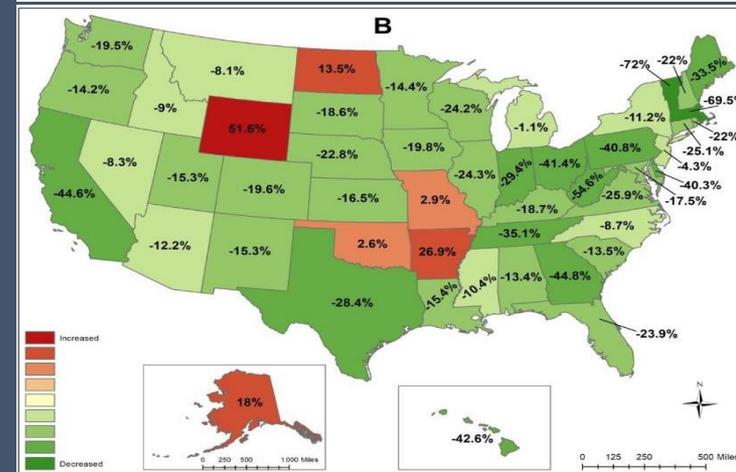
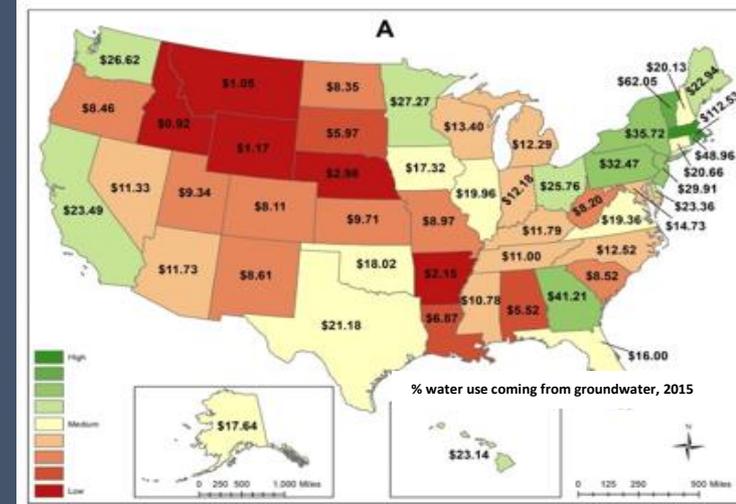


## Water accounts

(Bagstad et al. in review)

- A) Water productivity (economic activity/100 gal water use);
- B) % change in water use, 2000-2015;
- C) % of state water use from groundwater

- Data on water quality & emissions
- Identified data gaps in comprehensive water accounts for the U.S.
- *Potential uses:* In other countries supported water allocation, pricing, etc. (Colorado River account prepared by BOR)



# Water accounts tables

Year	11. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting			21. Mining	2211. Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution			2213. Water, Sewage & Other (Irrigation)		31-33. Manufacturing	713910. Golf Courses and Country Clubs	Households (Domestic self-supply)	Total
	111. Crop Production (Irrigation)	112. Animal Production (Livestock)	1125. Aquaculture		Thermoelectric Power (Once-through cooling)	Thermoelectric Power (Closed-loop cooling)	Hydroelectric (Evaporative Use)	221310. Water supply (Public supply)	221320. Sewage treatment facilities (Wastewater)				
2000	138,172.2	2,362.1	5,792.9	4,129.6	174,307.8	18,395.4	14,630.1	42,740.8	N/R	19,496.6	1,971.2	3,576.3	425,575.0

2	11. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting			21. Mining <sup>b</sup>	2211. Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution			2213. Water, Sewage & Other (Irrigation)		31-33. Manufacturing <sup>b</sup>	713910. Golf Courses and Country Clubs	Households (Domestic)	Total
	111. Crop Production (Irrigation)	112. Animal Production (Livestock)	1125. Aquaculture <sup>b</sup>		Thermoelectric Power (Once-through cooling)	Thermoelectric Power (Closed-loop cooling)	Hydroelectric (Evaporative Use) <sup>a</sup>	221310 Water supply (Public supply) <sup>b</sup>	221320 Sewage treatment facilities (Wastewater) <sup>b</sup>				
<b>A. Water Use</b>													
<b>1. Total abstraction</b>	117,018.2	2,093.8	7,450.0	3,996.4	126,110.2	5,027.0	14,113.8	38,419.3	N/R	14,784.0	1,445.1	3,255.8	333,713.3
1.1.1. Surface Water, of which is	60,338.5	868.6	5,839.4	1,132.2	125,986.1	4,555.4	14,113.8	23,268.4	N/R	12,076.9	754.4	46.6	248,980.2
Fresh	60,338.5	868.6	5,833.1	876.5	90,621.6	4,085.0	14,113.8	23,264.6	N/R	11,334.0	754.4	46.6	212,136.5
Saline	0.0	0.0	6.3	255.7	35,364.5	470.5	0.0	3.9	N/R	742.9	0.0	0.0	36,843.7
1.1.2. Ground Water, of which is	56,679.7	1,225.2	1,610.7	2,864.2	124.1	471.5	0.0	15,150.8	N/R	2,707.1	690.7	3,209.2	84,733.1
Fresh	56,679.7	1,225.2	1,610.7	1,004.1	80.8	342.5	0.0	14,887.7	N/R	2,664.2	690.7	3,209.2	82,394.6
Saline	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,860.1	43.4	129.0	0.0	263.1	N/R	42.9	0.0	0.0	2,338.5
<b>2. Use of water from other economic units</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.8	112.3	0.0	0.0	N/R	376.2	0.0	22,952.4	23,492.7
Reclaimed wastewater	654.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.2	141.2	0.0	331.0	N/R	92.9	266.6	0.0	1,494.7
<b>3. Total use of water</b>	117,672.8	2,093.8	7,450.0	3,996.4	126,170.3	5,280.5	14,113.8	38,750.3	N/R	15,253.1	1,711.7	26,208.1	358,700.7
<b>B. Water supply</b>													

	Industries (by NAICS 2017 category)															Total	% as other industries	
	211. Oil & Gas Extraction	212. Mining (Except Oil & Gas)	2211. Electric Power Generation	221310. Water supply & irrigation systems	221320. Sewage Treatment Facilities	311. Food Manufacturing	312. Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	321. Wood Product Manufacturing	322. Paper Manufacturing	325. Chemical Manufacturing	326. Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	488. Support Activities for Transportation	493. Warehousing & Storage	562. Waste Management & Remediation Services	721. Accommodation			Other industries*
Nitrogen	1,959	176	30,800	4,625	1,707,044	9,076	224	2,305	4,477	11,390	690	2,745	276	41,457	1,713	61,160	1,880,116	3.3%
Phosphorus	1,813	1,080	3,518	278	229,370	46,984	483	67	3,062	4,483	22,353	57	1	53	7,846	2,468	323,917	0.8%
Organic enrichment	17,864	1,528	7,921	1,878	794,385	126,283	58,362	63,112	221,832	31,190	32,722	32,693	102,963	89,413	7,771	213,202	1,803,117	11.8%
Solids	31,839	47,734	815,669	1,413,230	2,402,702	256,620	4,365	189,360	319,346	291,293	937,321	268,139	5,059	305,549	15,089	3,023,845**	10,327,160	29.3%
Metals	84,022	94,431	53,179	15,175,582	486,175	9,731	82	361	1,338	4,025	8	97,101	73	60,816	21	184,521	16,251,467	1.1%

### Early Movers:

1. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005); ES only, no accounts  
“4 Types”: Supporting | Provisioning, Regulating, Cultural
  - vocabulary dominant – by first mover consensus, *not* by function for task
  - few aware why their measures will not fit ES supply-and-use tables ...
  - building institutional momentum before addressing technical issues
2. World Bank – Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
  - major report: [Changing Wealth of Nations 2018](#)
  - further WAVES activities to build accounts awaits funding

### Right Now:

3. Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, EU Joint Research Council and KIP INCA, Norway, et alia
  - continue to lead and innovate, with national and EU funding
  - China is gaining ground quickly, with academics and officials

### Right Now (cont'd):

- World Business Council for Sustainable Development / Natural Capital Protocol
  - private-sector interest is growing rapidly, and in large accounting firms
  - compatibility issues with government standard-setting practices?
- German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz)  
“Expert Meeting on Ecosystem Valuation in the Context of Natural Capital Accounting”
  - Economists and accountants are close partner fields, so ecosystem accounting can easily use 30 years of environmental economists’ value estimates?
  - No! – Germans, as a world leader, host “Expert Meeting” to discuss (Bonn, 2018)
  - Bottom line: the values can be applied, but not directly, and only when crunched back through core economic theory

### The Future is Here, for Those Who Build It:

- Proactive modeling and data providers
  - NASA, European Space Agency, ARIES* (USGS and global)
  - Working with potential modeling and data clients to develop own work and to increase demand for own modeling and data products



## Take-Away Lessons

### Leveraging “what to model/measure?” into a proven powerful framework

- Lesson 1:** Influence for decision makers, adaptive management, makes NCA framing attractive
- Lesson 2:** Frameworks require rigorous rules & feedback, including classifications & definitions – faithfulness to organizing frameworks is important
- Lesson 3:** Pause and discuss when deciding “what to measure?” when passing the baton to specific users
- Lesson 4:** What you actually measure vs. what you want to can change where your results fit in NCA framework
- Lesson 5:** If you think it is important to measure, it will be useful somewhere, even if not where you thought
- Lesson 6:** You can keep your complex models, but NCA wants stock and flow numbers in its tables, est.'d averages over ecosystem and economic units over a year

US NCA *BioScience* paper:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329554563> The Natural Capital Accounting Opportunity Let's Really Do the Numbers;

UN Statistics Division SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations:

[https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/Presentations/Training\\_China\\_2017/seea\\_eea\\_tech\\_rec\\_final\\_v3.2\\_16oct2017.pdf](https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/Presentations/Training_China_2017/seea_eea_tech_rec_final_v3.2_16oct2017.pdf);

[La Notte and Rhodes 2020 - Theoretical frameworks behind integrated environmental, ecosystem, and economic accounting systems and their classifications](#)

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz), conference website in English:

<https://seea.un.org/events/expert-meeting-ecosystem-valuation-context-natural-capital-accounting>

World Bank Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Policy Decisions:

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/904211580129561872/pdf/Forum-on-Natural-Capital-Accounting-for-Better-Policy-Decisions-Taking-Stock-and-Moving-Forward.pdf>

World Bank: [Changing Wealth of Nations 2018](#)

UN Environment Program, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Natural Capital Report:

[https://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset\\_file\\_fields/files/000/000/377/original/Natural\\_Capital\\_Report\\_WEB.pdf?1460119504](https://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/377/original/Natural_Capital_Report_WEB.pdf?1460119504)

US EPA National Ecosystem Services Classification System (*NESCS*; currently being upgraded to an online tool as *NESCS Plus*):

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-12/documents/110915\\_nescs\\_final\\_report\\_-\\_compliant\\_1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-12/documents/110915_nescs_final_report_-_compliant_1.pdf)

USGS et al., *ARIES* modeling platform: [Artificial Intelligence for Ecosystem Services \(ARIES\) modeling framework](#)

[NASA's Biodiversity and Ecological Forecasting program](#)

Reserve Slides Below

Without measures of economic aggregates like GDP, policymakers would be adrift in a sea of unorganized data. The GDP and related data are like beacons that help policymakers steer the economy toward the key economic objectives.

Paul Samuelson,\* 1995

[The Human Development Index] is people-centered ... GDP is commodity-centered.

Amartya Sen,\* 2010

GDP tells you nothing about sustainability.

Joseph Stiglitz,\* 2008

(GDP) measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.

Robert F. Kennedy, 1968

# Ecosystem Services: Groupings and Classifications

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) – Four Groups

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) – ES are not Benefits

Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES, v 5.1) – Hierarchy

Final Ecosystem Services Classification System (FEGS-CS) *and* National Ecosystem Services Classification System (NESCS) – conscious break from MA-based approach

UK National Capital Accounting (NCA) – final ES elements

China National Capital Accounting (NCA) – final ES elements

Nature's Contribution to People (NCP)

- **Ecological conditions and functions** (e.g. habitat)
- **Ecological end-products** (e.g., biophysical elements)
- **Economic activity/Use of ES** (e.g., hunting)
- **Benefits** (e.g., lower insurance premiums)

# Why a National Ecosystem Services Classification (NESCS)?

*Boyd and Banzhaf (2007):*      **Final Ecosystem Services**

*“... are components of nature, directly enjoyed, consumed, or used to yield human well-being.”*

- separate *ecosystem* services from *economic* services
- count only those ES that directly enter the human economy, at the point they do

From an “FES perspective,” consider:

- at the point that they enter human systems “ecological endpoints” *have no price* – no human pays nature for birdsong, seashells, or soil productivity
- *crops* are *not* final ecosystem services
  - cultivars are joint products of ecosystem and economic inputs
  - crop value *can* be used as a crude measurement proxy for a suite of ecosystem services...until better measures developed

# Core Features for a Desirable Final Ecosystem Services Classification System

## *Exhaustive and Mutually Exclusive*

*uniquely identifies all structures, processes, functions, and products of natural systems (separate from human-driven systems) that humans use or appreciate*

## *Non-Duplicative*

*focuses attention and measurement on those ecosystem services that humans use or appreciate directly (final versus intermediate ecosystem services), to avoid double-counting*

## *Practical for Users*

*groups or separates candidate elements in a way easy to conceive and use, with clear definitions, and rules for classifying that appeal across disciplines and users – avoiding overwhelming complexity, confusion, fuzzy classification boundaries, and thus avoiding divergent choices for similar cases by similar users*

## *Helpful for Selecting Appropriate Metrics*

*uniquely identifying the environment, the precise flows of ecosystem services, the users, and how they use the ES, all help to determine what ecologists and economists should measure*

## *Modular*

*a “bonus” for practical use, if system interfaces with other standard classification systems or ecosystem service tools without extensive exceptions and patching*

## *Appropriate to be a Standard*

*a “bonus” for practical use, if system is stable, its rules for use are well-explained, and it is practical enough to serve as the standard for many types of applications*

# Proposed 4-Group NESCS Structure – “Wiring Diagram” with Proposed Metrics By Group

Example: (a) lake, river, or stream water for drinking – m<sup>3</sup> fresh water (m3frshw)

(b) same water in composite viewing environment – degree natural/unbuilt

## Environment

## End-Products

## Direct Use/Non-Use

## Direct User

### Aquatic

- Rivers and streams (11.)
- Wetlands
- Lakes and ponds (13.)
- Near coastal marine
- Open ocean and seas
- Groundwater

### Terrestrial

- Forests
- Agroecosystems
- Created greenspace
- Grasslands
- Scrubland/ shrubland
- Barren/rock and sand
- Tundra
- Ice and snow

### Atmospheric

- Atmosphere

### Water

- Snow/ice
- Liquid water
  - fresh water (13.12.) (11.12.)
  - metric: m3frshw

### Flora

- Specific classes/species of flora

### Fauna

- Specific classes/species of fauna

### Other Biotic Components

- Specific types of natural material

### Atmospheric Components

- Air
- Solar light/radiation

### Soil

- Specific types of soil

### Other Abiotic Components

- Specific types of natural material

### Composite End-Products

- -Scapes: views, sounds, scents of land, sea, sky
- beach envmmt (13.81.)
- metric: degree natural/unbuilt

- Regulation of extreme events
- Presence of environmental class

### Other End-Products

Stock indicators, Flow Indicators, Quality Indicators, Site Indicators, Indicators Characterizing Extreme Events

Flows of Final Ecosystem Services

### Use

#### • Extractive Use

- Raw material for transformation
- Fuel/energy
- Industrial processing
- Distribution to other users
- Support of plant or animal cultivation
- Support of human health and life or subsistence
- freshwater (13.12.1106.) (11.12.1106.)
- metric: m3frshw
- Recreation/tourism
- Cultural/spiritual activities
- Information, science, education, and research
- Other extractive use

#### • In-Situ Use

- Energy
- Transportation medium
- Support of plant or animal cultivation
- Waste disposal/assimilation
- Protection or support of human health and life
- Protection of human property
- Recreation/tourism
- Cultural/spiritual activities
- Aesthetic appreciation
- beach environment (13.81.1209.)
- metric: degree natural/unbuilt
- Information, science, education, and research
- Other in-situ use

### Non-Use

- Existence
- Bequest
- Other non-use

### Industries

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation
- Accommodation & Food Services
- Other Services

### Households

- freshwater (13.12.1106.201) (11.12.1106.201)
- metric: m3frshw / effort
- satisfaction / \$-equiv. source at intake
- freshwater (13.81.1209.201)
- metric: degree natural/unbuilt/access
- satisfaction / \$-equiv. source at intake

### Government

NESCS-S

NESCS-D