

SEEA: THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL- ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING

AN INTRODUCTION TO ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING

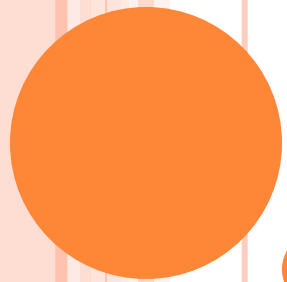
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Capital Accounting**

World Parks Congress

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Sydney, Australia



PART I: THE RATIONALE

POLICY CHALLENGE

- Need to recognise the dependence of society on ecosystems and their services
 - Services with direct economic links
 - Services taken for granted
- Need for policy to consider balances and trade-offs
 - Sustainable production and consumption
 - Food, water and energy security
 - Competing land uses / restoration and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem condition
- Need for spatially specific policy responses



INFORMATION GAP

- Lack of regular, coherent and comprehensive environmental data that is presented as linked to economic and human activity
=> Dependence not recognised
- Data often issue focused and discussion centred on modelling results not ongoing monitoring
- Solution requires a focus on stocks and flows and the connection between ecosystems and people



OUR COMMON FUTURE

THE WORLD COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT



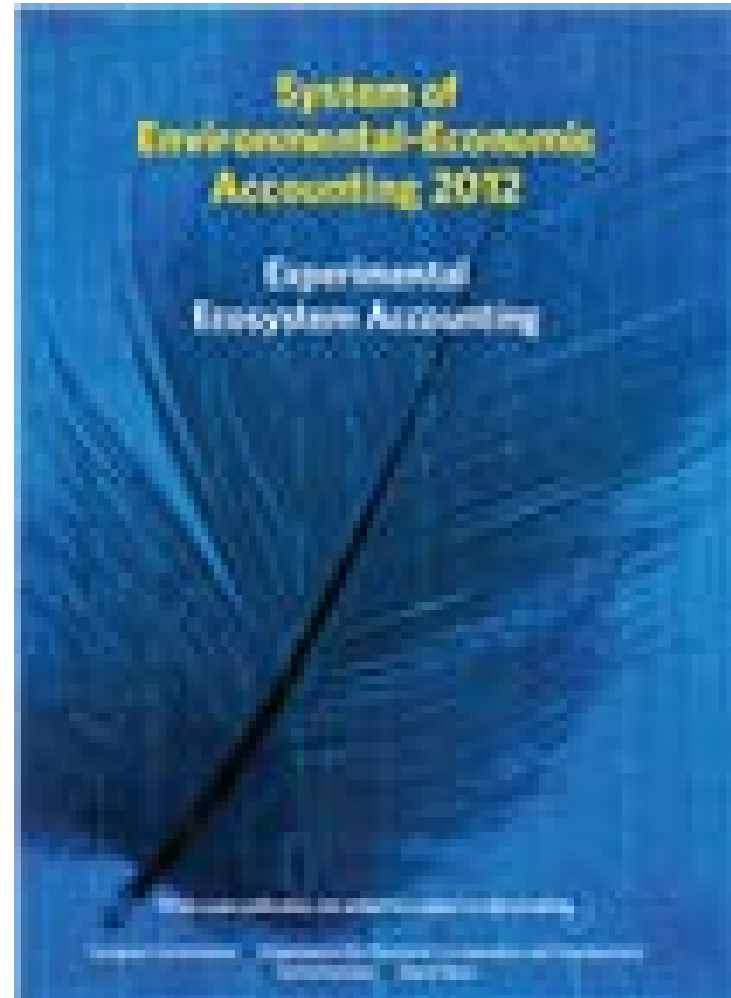
System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012

Central Framework



System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012

Experimental Ecosystem Accounting





PART II: TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The SEEA approach to ecosystem accounting

THE BOUNDARY OF NATURAL CAPITAL



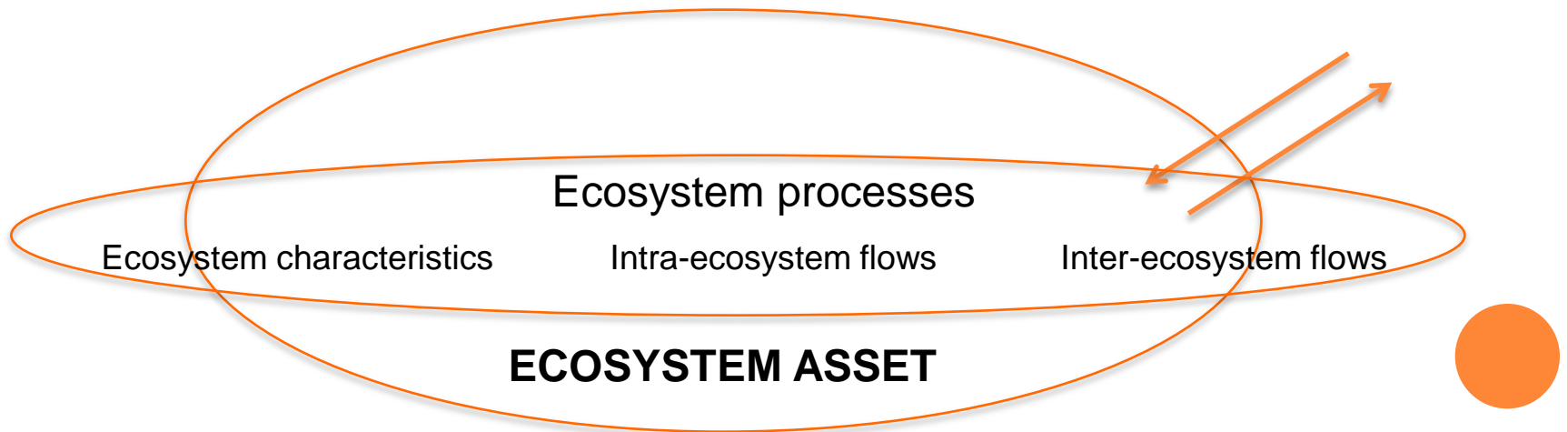
CORE ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING MODEL

ECOSYSTEM ASSET

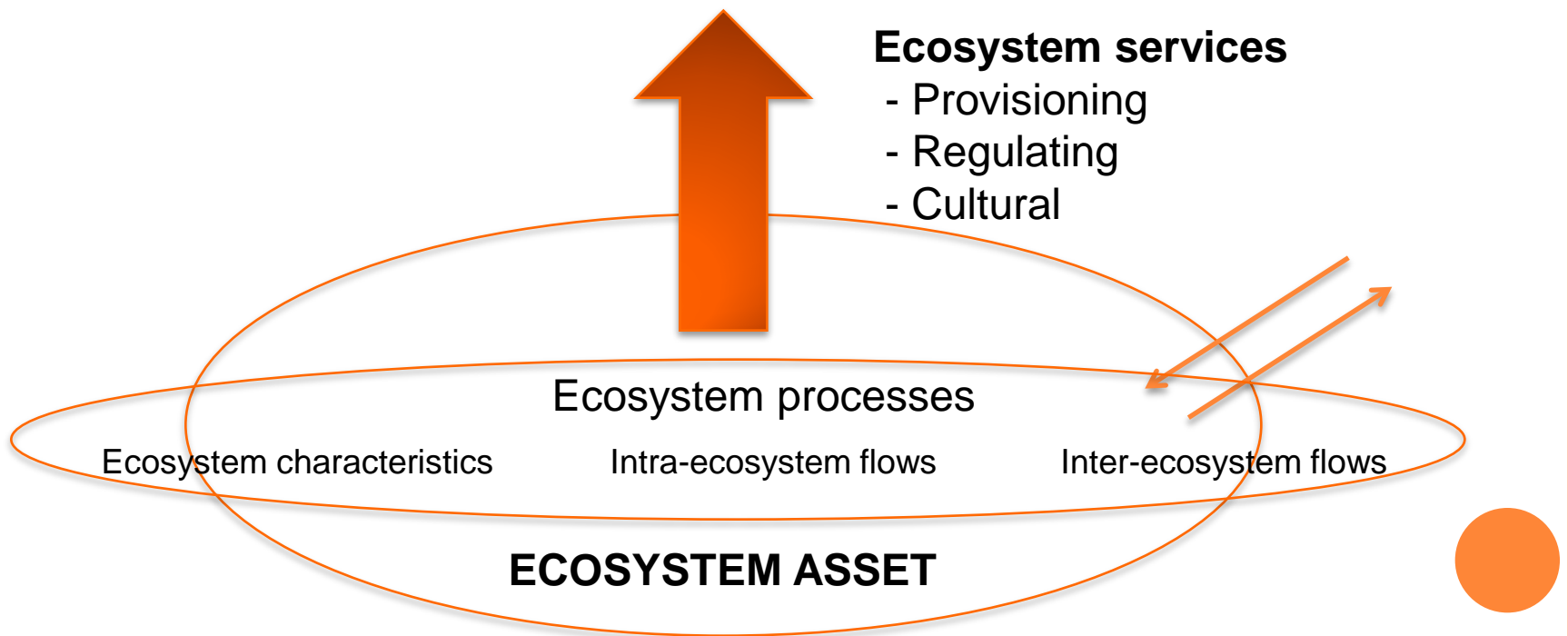
(e.g. forest, wetland, agricultural area, marine environment, or combinations in a region or landscape)



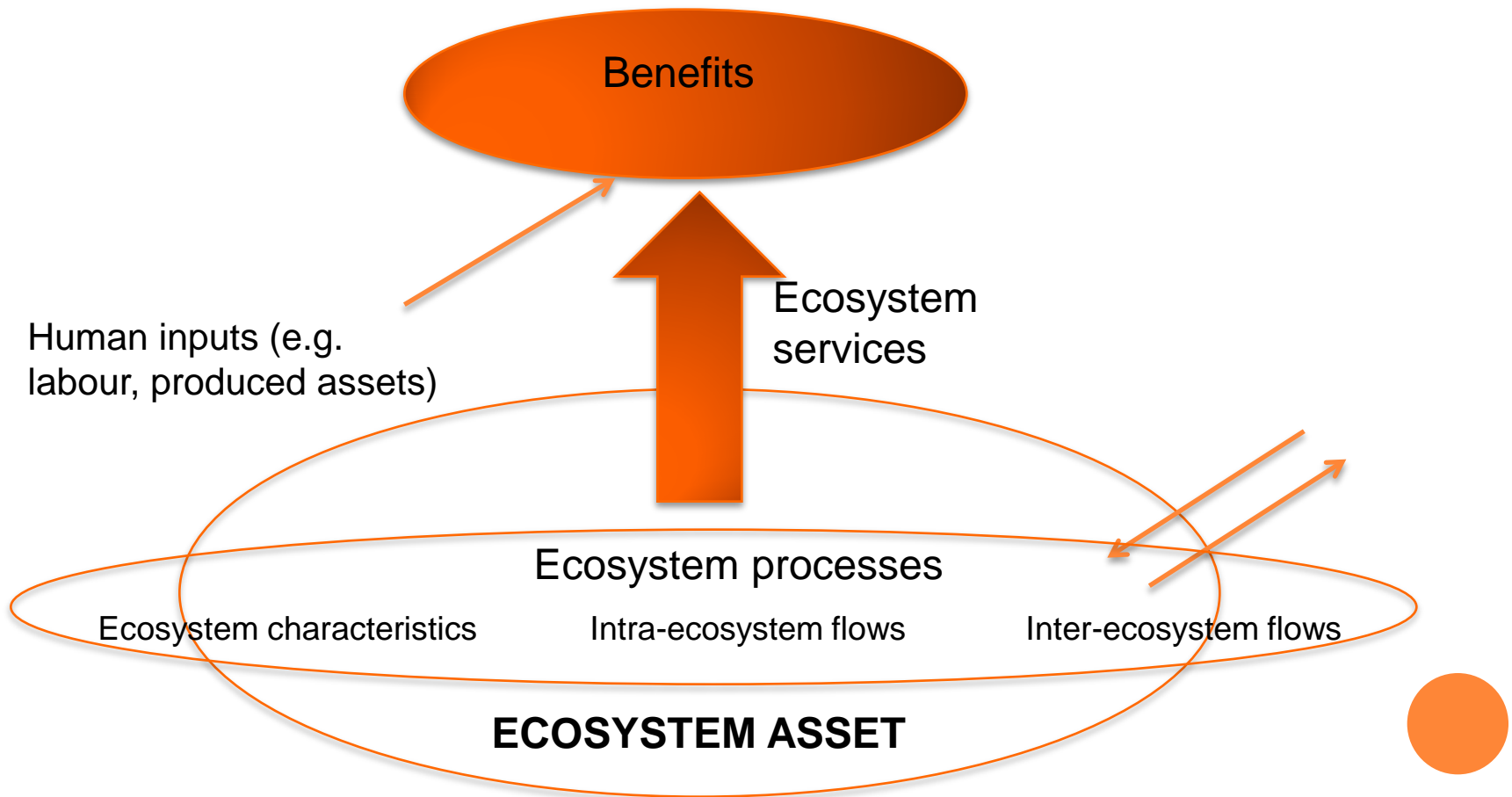
CORE ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING MODEL



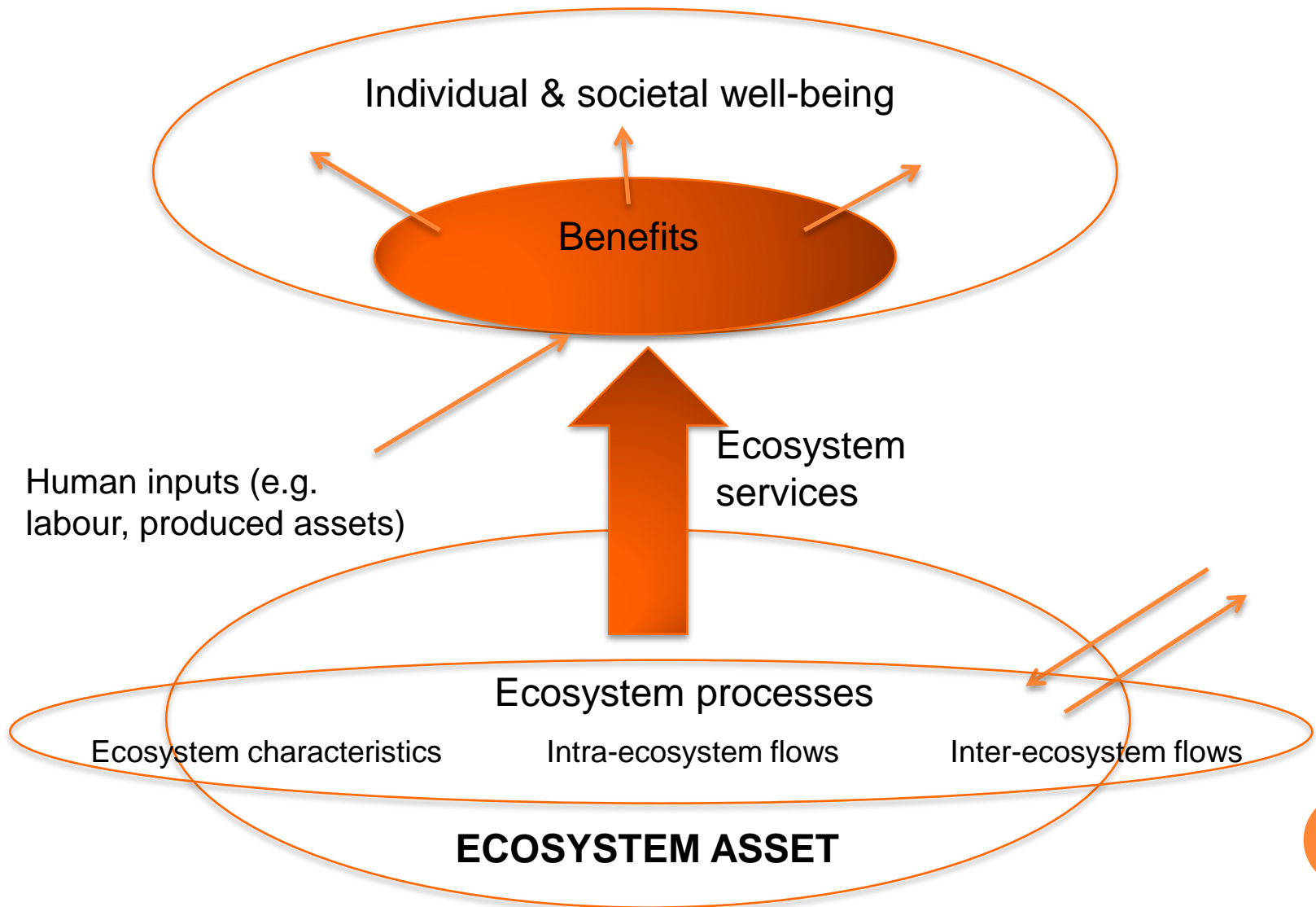
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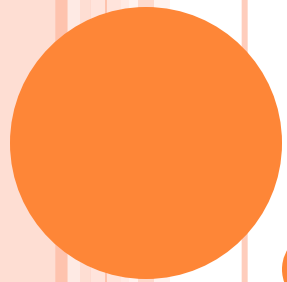
CORE ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING MODEL



THE ROLE OF VALUATION

- Monetary valuation facilitates integration with standard economic aggregates and provides a perspective on relative importance
- Many challenges
 - Clarifying the purpose and object of valuation
 - Scenarios and trade-offs
 - Ecosystem services, assets and degradation
 - Selecting the relevant concept and appropriate techniques
 - Collating data
- Accounting approaches remain valid in non-monetary units





PART III: MOVING FORWARD

PROJECTS UNDERWAY ...

- World Bank WAVES project on Natural Capital Accounting
- Joint UNEP/CBD/UN Statistics Division project to test SEEA's ecosystem accounting
- Conservation International ecosystem accounting work in Peru
- UNEP projects including TEEB, ProEcoServ and VANTAGE



MESSAGE #1

- An accounting approach can fill the information gap, including for ecosystems
 - Integrated information on stocks (ecosystem condition) and flows (ecosystem services)
 - Physical and monetary information can be included
 - Comprehensive at national scale
 - Framework for monitoring and evaluation over time

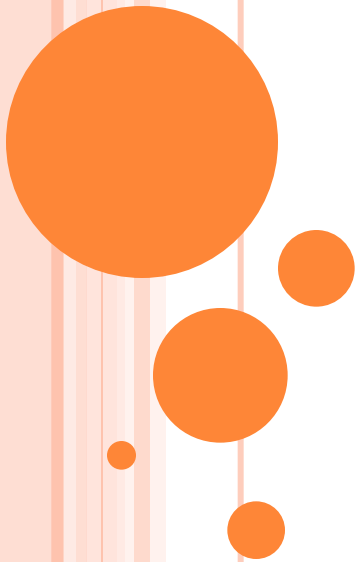


MESSAGE #2

- Ambition should be to inform decision making not develop the perfect set of information
 - Aim to institutionalise monitoring and improve quality over time
 - Expand scope gradually – “learn by doing”
 - Aim to co-ordinate existing data then fill data gaps
 - Ensure a focus on stocks and dependencies on them



THANK YOU



LINKS

- **SEEA Central Framework**

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seeaRev/SEEA_CF_Final_en.pdf

- **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting**

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/eea_white_cover.pdf

- **SEEA Applications & Extensions**

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/BG-SEEA-AE.pdf>

