



WAVES
Guatemala
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WAVES – Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting
and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Guatemala: Country Report FY2016-FY2017



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Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting
and Valuation of Ecosystem Services



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WAVES – Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) is a global partnership led by the World Bank that aims to promote sustainable development by mainstreaming natural capital in development planning and national economic accounting systems, based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The WAVES global partnership (www.wavespartnership.org) brings together a broad coalition of governments, UN agencies, nongovernment organizations and academics for this purpose. WAVES core implementing countries include developing countries—Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Philippines and Rwanda—all working to establish natural capital accounts. WAVES also partners with UN agencies—UNEP, UNDP, and the UN Statistical Commission—that are helping to implement natural capital accounting. WAVES is funded by a multi-donor trust fund and is overseen by a steering committee. WAVES donors include—Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Country work on natural capital accounting and their policy applications are reported in a publication series, WAVES Technical Reports.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BANGUAT	Central Bank
IARNA	Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
INE	National Institute of Statistics
MARN	Ministry of Environment
MINFIN	Ministry of Finance
SGD	Sustainable Development Goals
SCAE	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SEGEPLAN	Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the President
WAVES	Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Introduction

The Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)) is a World Bank-led global partnership that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts.

With the same goal, since October 2013, Guatemala is part of a group of eight core implementing countries¹ receiving technical support from the global partnership for the implementation and integration of natural capital accounts (NCA) into planning and policy dialogue, becoming an entry point where the accounts can achieve policy impacts in less time.

To accomplish the above, a National Steering Committee (NSC) has been established. The Committee is composed of representatives from the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the President (SEGEPLAN), the Ministry of Environment (MARN), the Ministry of Finance (MINFIN), the Central Bank (BANGUAT), and the National Institute of Statistics (INE).

In 2014, the NSC approved the global work plan containing actions to be implemented in the country according to the WAVES framework that aims to create conditions to provide evidence-based information of the accounts to processes linked to national development, and to provide technical and financial support to the institutions linked to the National Statistical System so the compilation of the accounts becomes a country effort that is developed in a continuous and sustained way.

At present, the global work plan has been implemented through the operative annual plan which has the following content:²

3 Specific objectives

- Update and enhance the production of existing accounts through a technical effort with the institutions involved.
- Integrate natural capital accounts into policy dialogue and the policy decision making process by addressing key policy priorities.
- Promote and contribute to the institutionalization of natural capital accounts through enhanced outreach efforts.

- **1 single goal:** Promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts.

8 Expected results

10 Specific actions or components

This document integrates details of the actions the country has developed (FY2016-FY2017) to comply with the specific objectives of the operative annual plan, and the actions developed within the framework of the governance and institutional arrangements of the Waves initiative in Guatemala.

¹ WAVES core implementing countries include developing countries such as: Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Philippines and Rwanda

² See Annex 1 for details of the operative annual plan.

1 | Update and enhance of natural capital accounts

Guatemala has an important experience in the production of natural capital accounts, which is reflected in a System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) integrated by seven accounts³ with data series from 2000 to 2010. This system provides statistic information about the relationship between the country's economic growth and the use of natural resources, providing inputs that can be used in the processes of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies.

Despite the SEEA was a result of a public-academic partnership under the leadership of the Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (IARNA), its implementation and sustainability was designed aiming to institutionalize the production of the accounts by public institutions, which implies the transfer of capacities and resources to them.

During the period reported in the present document, progress has been made in the efforts to initiate the processes of capacity building in public institutions. To achieve this goal IARNA has been hired to develop a strategy of technical strengthening for institutions based on the production and use of natural capital accounts for the purposes of development planning and public policy dialogue.

To ensure the sustainability of the production and use of de natural capital accounts, the technical strengthening for public institutions will include the transfer of methodological criteria for accounts compilation as well as all the data used to construct them. This will reinforce the actions currently being carried out by the country to improve the availability of statistical information in accordance with the follow-up of the implementation of the existing national planning instruments, such as the National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the present, Guatemala has a National Development Plan, approved in August 2014. The plan sets 80 goals that require the definition of indicators and base-line, something achievable using updated statistical data, being the SEEA a possible source of information. The country is currently conducting a process of appropriation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development made through an exercise of prioritization of its content based on its relationship with the National Development Plan and demands raised by different social groups. The result of this exercise prioritized 129 goals and 200 indicators that require updated statistical information for their monitoring and evaluation.

The process to update the existing SEEA Central Framework Accounts should be addressed in the short term. The issue can be solved with the task assigned to IARNA. The task includes: review and update of all the accounts published by Guatemala during 2001-2010, sharing and documenting the methodological processes implemented, guaranteeing their transfer to the linked public institutions through capacity building for their production and use.

As part of the implementation process of the National Development Plan and the prioritization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, information needs have been identified which the SEEA could incorporate based on its alignment with the demands of public policy. As a result of this situation three accounts were defined to be developed: ecosystem, agriculture and macroeconomic indicators

³ The seven accounts included in the SEEA are: Water, Energy and Emissions, Forests, Land and Ecosystems, Fisheries, Subsoil, Waste, y Environmental Expenditures and Transactions.

In the case of the first account identified that should be fully developed according to the methodology approved at the international level, could provide the necessary information to assess the costs associated with degradation of natural resources, which means assessing the capacity of the ecosystems to provide the natural goods and services used as part of processes of production and economic development. This account could provide inputs for decision making, mainly in the framework of climate change.

The agriculture accounts could provide information for decision making on food security and food sovereignty issues, which is considered an important aspect of the development of the country, according to the National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The macroeconomic indicators account will generate information about the impact of the economy in the environment and the contribution of the environment to the economy, identifying opportunities to innovate and promote activities that can lead to an inclusive green growth.

One of the advances reported in this period is the incorporation in the contract signed with IARNA of the commitment of the institute to develop the three previously mentioned accounts. The commitment includes: ensure the documentation of the process performed for the production of the accounts, review the methodology and the concepts of the production, prepare the available data of each account while identifying the gaps in the availability of data and the institutional challenges for the production of the three accounts in order to prepare a work proposal for the institutions to solve the information gaps identified.

2 | Integrate natural capital accounts into the dialogue and public policy decision making process

Guatemala has a National Development Plan, approved in August 2014, that defines a series of general orientations to transform reality and existing socioeconomic conditions based on a strategic vision of sustainable development.

This vision of development has been endorsed with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), prioritize the different areas of development focused on the renewal and strengthening of the State in terms of the well-being of the people.

Both instruments of national planning (National Development Plan and the SDG) are aligned in their content and priorities, their implementation in short term is possible through the development goals defined in the General Policy of the current government (2016-2020) in five axis: zero tolerance for corruption, modernization of the State, food and nutritional security, integral health, quality on education, promotion of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, tourism, housing and decent work, citizen security and environment and natural resources.

Given the importance in the follow-up and assessment of the implementation of the three instruments previously mentioned, one of the advances reported in this document is linked to the use of the natural capital accounts to diagnose the potential of the SEEA to generate periodic information to monitoring goals, results, priorities and guidelines defined in the national planning instruments.

According with the diagnose, the SEEA could provide information to monitoring and assessment of 16 out of 36 defined priorities of the National Development Plan (44%) which are included in four of five axis of the Plan⁴. The

⁴ See Annex 2 for details in the possible contribution of the SEEA in the follow-up of the content of the National Development Plan

following table provides information about the axis. The axis “Natural resources today and for the future” is the account with the most potential to obtain information from the natural capital accounts include in the existing SEEA.

Axis	Priority
Axis 1. Rural and urban Guatemala	Priority 1 Integral Rural Development
	Priority 2 Sustainable Urban Development
	Priority 3 Local Territorial Development
Axis 2. Wellness for people	Priority 2 Guarantee the food and nutritional security of children under five years old, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and high nutritional risk.
	Priority 3 Provide adequate care to mothers, children and infants to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality.
Axis 3 Wealth for all	Priority 1 Accelerating economic growth through productive transformation
	Priority 3 Infrastructure for Development
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 1 Adaptation and mitigation to climate change
	Priority 2 Conservation and sustainable use of forests and biodiversity for adaptation and mitigation of climate change
	Priority 3 Sustainable management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives
	Priority 5 Territorial management for the sustainable use of natural resources, agricultural production and adaptation to climate change and mitigation of their effects.
	Priority 6 Agricultural production for food security.
	Priority 7 Integral and participatory management of solid waste.
	Priority 8 Sustainable management of coastal marine systems, Ramsar sites and lake and river systems, considering the relevance of gender, Mayan, Xinka, Garifuna people and age groups.
	Priority 9 Access to quality energy with national coverage.
	Priority 10 Increase of the participation of renewable energy in the energy matrix, considering the citizen participation and with pertinence of Mayan, Xinka and Garifuna people and gender and age groups
Total:	4 out of 5
	16 out of 36

Regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SEEA, in its current state, has the possibility to provide information for seven indicators of four Sustainable Development Goals. See following table:

Goals	Indicators
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.	12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GD
	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches
	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
	14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density

The relationship between the SEEA and the SDG represents an opportunity for the country to have statistical information for 3.5% of the indicators (14 out of 200) and 41% of the SDG (7 out of 17) that were prioritized by Guatemala as a product in an prioritization exercise of the content of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including as part of the criteria of prioritization the alignment of content of the Agenda with the National Development Plan, and the availability of the de statistical data that allows observation of the evolution of the indicators included in the Agenda.

Regarding the relationship between the content of the SEEA with the current General Policy of the government 2016-2020, the information provided by the natural capital accounts will allow to partially feed the monitoring and evaluation system of the goals in the environment and natural resources axis linked with the forest coverage in the national territory and the participation of the renewable energy in the energy matrix.

Axis	Environment and natural resources
Goal	Forest coverage
	In 2019, the forest coverage was stable in 33.7% of the national territory (base line: 33.7%. Goal 33.7%)
Goal	Energy
	In 2019, the participation of the renewable energy in the energy matrix increased 5 percentage point. (base line: 64.94% Goal 69.4%)

In the framework of the use of the natural capital accounts in the decision making process of public policy, during the reported period stand out the actions to strengthening the capacities of public workers and technicians based on the understanding and assessment of the use of the natural capital accounts as a source of statistical information and for the definitions of most effective interventions for the compliance of the goals included in the national planning instruments, among them the National Development Plan, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the General Policy of the government 2016-2020.

Four workshops were held about the content and use of the natural capital accounts. The first workshop addressed the content and use of the Water Accounts based in the Australian experience to manage this account. The workshop was conducted by an international expert. The audience of the activity was public workers of the participating institution in the NSC in Guatemala, the sectoral coordinator of environmental statistics, and students of Rafael Landivar University, San Carlos University and Mariano Galvez University. During the four hours workshop the participants received information about how to use the accounts in the public policy cycle. In addition, an exchange of experiences and technical information was promoted. The participants reported the activity as very profitable.

The second workshop aimed to present the use and application of the accounts as a tool to produce reports linked, mainly, to the follow-up and evaluation of national planning instruments. The activity included exercises to interpret the information provided by the natural capital accounts and the relationship with the water, forests, land and ecosystems and energy indicators.

The third workshop was dedicated to train technical staff in charge of the compilation of the macroeconomic indicators. The workshop attendees were workers from the macroeconomic statistics unit, national accounts and agricultural of the Central Bank.

The fourth and last workshop was focused in the training of technical staff in the use of the information provided by the accounts, with the purpose of incorporating them as a cross-cutting analytic tool in the aspects related to the institutional work. The participants were staff members from the public policy, geographical information systems and cleaner production of institutions such as the Ministry of Environment. At the end of the workshop an exercise was held to identify and interpret data that could provide information to elaborate, design and update public policies.

In addition to the workshops, some members of the NSC attended the launching of the workshop about “Economic, Social and Environmental policies, based on evidence”, activity coordinated by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Vice-rectorate for Research and Projection of Rafael Landivar University.

The purpose of the workshop was the presentation of the framework of Integrated Economic-Environmental Modelling (IEEM) as a tool for assessing ex-ante the impact of policy interventions, changes in the world economy and financial operations of long term in the economies of the region and the possible impacts in the use of natural resources and the waste production.

3 | Promotion and contribution to the institutionalization of natural capital accounts through enhanced outreach effort

In 2016, the communications team of Waves Guatemala developed a communication strategy with contents aligned with the objectives of the operative annual plan, and was also raised in response to the demands of dissemination made by the members of the NSC and the guidelines defined by the Waves Initiative at the global level.

The NSC and the Waves team promoted the importance to make a qualitative change in the approach of the content of the SEEA focusing in informing about the potential of the use of the natural capital accounts included in the SEEA, which goes beyond the initial approach focused in the production of accounts. This marked a milestone in the development plans of the natural capital accounts, especially in the strategies and outreach actions which were focused in the efforts of interpretation of the data contained in the SEEA for the decision makers to understand more easily their content, and therefore, they will be considered them a references for the definition of policy actions focused on the development of the country.

This communication strategy was approved by the NSC. The design of the strategy was focused in promote the analysis of accounts findings and their use within the public policy processes.

The short term challenge of the Initiative in Guatemala and to the communication strategy is to develop and promote the methodology to extract, from the technical information of the natural capital accounts, relevant data to the development of public policies and present them to decision makers in an innovated and understandable way. In order to accomplish this, the contract signed with IARNA includes activities for the promotion of actions to analyze, interpret and communicate the information generated by the natural capital accounts according to specific groups, including decision makers, civil society, entrepreneurs, among others.

In addition, as part of the promotion and contribution to the institutionalization of natural capital accounts through enhanced outreach effort, during the period reported in this document, the communication team⁵, attended three meetings held by the NSC and received two missions of the Global initiative during a visit to Guatemala in 2016.

The communication team also participated in the first Latin American workshop about natural capital accounts, organized by Global Waves, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the German cooperation in Bogota, Colombia. The team was also part of the annual meeting of Waves, held in Costa Rica, where supported the projects from Guatemala and Costa Rica. The communication team led the production of institutional videos from Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

4 | Governance and institutional arrangements

In 2016, as part of the coordination and definition of strategic actions according to the WAVES framework, the NSC met on three occasions, two of which coincided with missions undertaken by the World Bank. The agenda of the meetings included the adjustment and approval of the operative annual plan, and the definition of duties of AIRNA and the technical staff hired to achieve the three goals of the plan.

Subsequent to the holding of several bilateral meetings with representatives of the NSC, the operative annual plan was approved on June 16, 2016, which allowed addressing the contract terms of IARNA and the communication strategy of the Initiative.

Until April 2017 the NSC held its first meeting that aimed to resume processes initiated during 2016, as well as the definition and agreements regarding actions to be implemented in 2017. In addition to the above, and as part of the World Bank's mission in March 2017, progress was made in defining specific requirements by the institutions members in the NSC, which were linked to the importance of generate institutional capacities to produce and update existing natural capital accounts included in the SEEA, as well as those new accounts that were defined based in the necessities of information for the follow-up and assessment of national planning instruments (ecosystems, agriculture and macroeconomic indicators accounts.)

⁵ All communications activities were suspended due to lack of staff.

5 | Final considerations

Although during the period reported in this document, advances were made regarding the generation of conditions to achieve the defined goals of the operative annual plan of Waves in Guatemala. It is considered important to position the SEEA as a source of information for processes of follow-up and assessment of the national planning instruments, which implies updating and enhancing the content and the natural capital accounts based on the demands of identified information in these planning instruments.

In order to ensure sustainability in the production of the accounts is highly necessary to develop building capacities actions in the public institutions linked to the production of accounts that include transfer of data methodologies, and elements for the interpretation of its content in order to promote their use in the decision making processes.

Annex 1:

Operative annual plan

Goals	Expected results	Specific actions or components
O1. - Update and enhance the production of existing accounts through a technical effort with the institutions involved.	R1. Guatemala has indicators and accounts for natural capital assets and flows.	01. Update of the SEEA central framework accounts already developed and enhancing the old accounts were there is the option to do so.
	R2. Guatemala has indicators and accounts for key ecosystems.	02. Ecosystem accounts compilation.
	R3. Guatemala has indicators and accounts for agricultural land assets and flows	03. Environmental-agricultural accounts compilation
	R4. Guatemala has indicators derived from the wealth accounts	04. Macroeconomic indicators compilation
O2. Integrate Natural Capital Accounts into policy dialogue and the policy decision making process.	R5. Guatemala has and uses analytical work based on the Natural Capital Accounts	05. Natural capital policy analysis for long term planning and other public policy instruments.
		06. Capacity building to incorporate NCA as a cross-cutting analytical tool in all aspects related to MARN's role.
		07. Strengthening analytical capacities of the Ministry of Finance related to monetary and fiscal policy issues.
	R6. Guatemala has the capacity to maintain the effort to use and produce NCA through the institutions linked to the National Statistical System	08. Establishing coordination and publication mechanisms.
O3. Promote and contribute to the institutionalization of NCA through enhanced outreach efforts..	R7. Guatemala effectively communicates NCA findings	09. Communication strategy designed and implemented
	R8. Guatemala has the capacity to use NCA in policy dialogue	10. Capacity building strategy in place

Annex 2:

■ Linking the natural capital accounts and the National Development Plan

Water resources					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 1. Rural and urban Guatemala	Priority 1 Integral Rural Development	1	1		2
	Priority 3 Local Territorial Development	1	1		1
Axis 2. Wellness for people	Priority 2 Guarantee the food and nutritional security of children under five years old, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and high nutritional risk.	1	2		3
	Priority 3 Provide adequate care to mothers, children and infants to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality.	2	2		2
Axis 3 Wealth for all	Priority 3 Infrastructure for Development	1	1		1
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 1 Adaptation and mitigation to climate change	1	1		1
	Priority 3 Sustainable management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives	8	7	20	4
Total: 4 out of 5	7 out of 36	15 out of 80	15 out of 123	20 out of 730	14 out of 730

Forests					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 1. Rural and urban Guatemala	Priority 1 Integral Rural Development	1	1	1	
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 1 Adaptation and mitigation to climate change	1	1		2
	Priority 2 Conservation and sustainable use of forests and biodiversity for adaptation and mitigation of climate change	3	3	3	10
	Priority 10 Increase of the participation of renewable energy in the energy matrix, considering the citizen participation and with pertinence of Mayan, Xinka and Garifuna people and gender and age groups	1	1	2	2
Total: 2 out of 5	4 out of 36	6 out of 80	6 out of 123	6 out of 730	14 out of 730

Energy and emissions					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 1 Adaptation and mitigation to climate change	1	1	4	
	Priority 9 Access to quality energy with national coverage	1	1	2	1
	Priority 10 Increase of the participation of renewable energy in the energy matrix, considering the citizen participation and with pertinence of Mayan, Xinka and Garifuna people and gender and age groups	3	3	2	9
Total: 1 out of 5	3 out of 36	5 out of 80	5 out of 123	8 out of 730	10 out of 730

Fisheries					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 2. Wellness for people	Priority 2 Guarantee the food and nutritional security of children under five years old, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and high nutritional risk.	1	1		1
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 10 Increase of the participation of renewable energy in the energy matrix, considering the citizen participation and with pertinence of Mayan, Xinka and Garifuna people and gender and age groups	1	1	2	
Total: 2 out of 5	2 out of 36	2 out of 80	2 out of 123	2 out of 730	1 out of 730

Waste					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 1. Rural and urban Guatemala	Priority 1 Integral Rural Development	1	1		1
Axis 2. Wellness for people	Priority 2 Guarantee the food and nutritional security of children under five years old, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and high nutritional risk.	1	1		1
	Priority 3 Provide adequate care to mothers, children and infants to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality.	1	1		1
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 7 Integral and participatory management of solid waste.	1	1	6	1
Total: 3 out of 5	4 out of 36	4 out of 80	4 out 123	6 out 730	4 out 730

Subsoil					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 3 Wealth for all	Priority 1 Accelerating economic growth through productive transformation	1	1	1	
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 5 Territorial management for the sustainable use of natural resources, agricultural production and adaptation to climate change and mitigation of their effects.	1	1		1
Total: 2 out of 5	2 out of 36	2 out of 80	2 out of 123	1 out of 730	1 out 730

Land and ecosystems					
Axis	Priority	Goals	Results	Guidelines	
				Directs	Indirects
Axis 1. Rural and urban Guatemala	Priority 1 Integral Rural Development	1	1		1
	Priority 2 Sustainable Urban Development	1	1		1
Axis 4. Natural resources today and for the future	Priority 1 Adaptation and mitigation to climate change	2	2	1	1
	Priority 2 Conservation and sustainable use of forests and biodiversity for adaptation and mitigation of climate change	3	3	1	3
	Priority 5 Territorial management for the sustainable use of natural resources, agricultural production and adaptation to climate change and mitigation of their effects	1	1		1
	Priority 6 Agricultural production for food security	1	1		2
	Priority 8 Sustainable management of coastal marine systems, Ramsar sites and lake and river systems, considering the relevance of gender, Mayan, Xinka, Garífuna and age groups..	2	1	2	1
Total: 2 out of 5	7 out of 36	11 out of 80	10 out of 123	4 out of 730	10 out of 730

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