Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project

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Partners

• Implementing partners
  • United Nations Statistics Division
  • United Nations Environment Programme
  • (CBD)

• Sponsor
  • European Union
  • Partnership Instrument

• Five partner countries
  • Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa

• Project duration
  • 4 years from 2017-2020
Overall objectives

• Advance the knowledge agenda on Natural Capital Accounting, in particular ecosystem accounting

• By initiating pilot testing of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, with a view to:
  • Improving the measurement of natural biotic resources, ecosystems and their services at the (sub)national level
  • Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in (sub)national level policy-planning and implementation
  • Contributing to the development of internationally agreed methodology and its use in partner countries.
Work streams

• Piloting ecosystem accounts (in each of the 5 partner countries) for selected areas (national and/or regional)
• Developing guidelines and methodology
• Indicators
• Business accounting (sustainability reporting)
• Communication and outreach
• Training and capacity development
W1: Piloting ecosystem accounts

Approach:

• **Flexible:** (no blueprint), depending on country needs
• **Mainstreaming:** accounts should inform policy and be sustained
• **Inclusive:** build on existing work programs and projects and consolidate past experiences

Deliverables:

• National assessment (policy mapping)
• National plan
• Compilation of selected ecosystem accounts in physical terms
• Economic valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital
• Policy applications / scenario analysis
Brazil

- Many players and projects
- PIV (green domestic product) law adopted in October, makes explicit reference to need to align with SEEA
  - A decree is being developed for implementation
- Institutional Framework
  - Casa Civil, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, etc.
- Pilot ecosystem accounting in RioGrande river basin with SWAT
  - Hydrological services + erosion as a result of land cover change / deforestation
  - Carbon (Storage / sequestration)
China

Context

- Ecological civilization + Xi Jinping Thought
- Strong ownership by NBS + regional stats bureaus
- National ecosystem assessment (2014) by CAS,

Project

- Land + timber + water +(minerals)
- Technical support to Guizhou and Guangxi provinces
  - Measurement and valuation of selected ecosystem services,
  - Interest to use for ecological compensation schemes

Next steps

- Linkages to CAS + NatCap Project on GEP
Mexico

• Assessment and national plan
• Condition and extent accounts
  › soil S-world model
• Measurement of ecosystem services
  › carbon storage
  › crops
  › coastal protection
  › water capture and supply
  › coastal protection by mangrove ecosystems
• State of Aguascalientes results to be released shortly
India

• High level panel
• MOSPI
• Just published land, water and timber accounts
• Picked one region to develop extent, condition and ecosystem services
South Africa

• National land and ecosystem extent accounts;
• Full suite of ecosystem accounts for KZN; - will provide pilot for national ecosystem service accounts)
• City-region accounts (several)
• Protected area accounts
• Marine ecosystem accounts
• Endangered species accounts/ Species in trade accounts

Next steps
  › The National Strategy on SEEA/NCA will be revised; the idea is to develop a 10-year strategy (2020-2030) revised after 5 years;
  › Technical consultants under recruitment
W2: Guidelines and methodology

- Objective: developing guidelines and methodology
  - Standards (revised SEEA EA; Technical Recommendations)
  - Practical guidelines

- Synergy: between country and global work programme
  - Results from pilots linked to research agenda and will contribute to standards (e.g. SEEA EA 2020)

- Deliverables / outputs:
  - Annual global forum on advancing ecosystem accounting
    - Contribute to issues on research agenda
    - Learn from experiences from other countries
W3: Indicators

- Objective: assess how the SEEA is able to inform indicator programs, both international and national
- Deliverable: an indicator set based on SEEA Environmental and Ecosystem accounts, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
- Working with UNEP-WCMC
  - Phase 1: Assessment
  - Phase 2: Country consultation
  - Phase 3: In country testing -> using the developed ecosystem accounts
W4: Business accounting

Objective: contribute to alignment between NCA and corporate sustainability reporting (nowadays explosion of corporate reporting standards)

• Liaise with national companies to use results of the NCA project
• Organize workshop(s) on alignment of corporate sustainability reporting and NCA
• Bring the results to global processes e.g.:
  › ISAR – UNCTAD/UNEP;
  › GRI;
  › IIRC
  › Natural Capital Coalition
W5: Communication and outreach

Objective: awareness raising, demonstrating value added of NCA (regional; national and global)

• Deliverables:
  › Development of a global knowledge platform on SEEA
    - Website: seea.un.org
    - SEEA Newsletter (please sign up!)
    - Archive of publications
    - Discussion platform
  › National website
  › National forums / workshops
    - Demonstrate and consult on progress
    - Outreach for broader engagement
W6: Training and capacity building

 Objective: enhance capacity and enlarge the community of practitioners

 Deliverables:

• Training modules for ecosystem accounting in support of capacity development (E-learning)
• Regional training workshops
• National training workshops
• In country technical support (consultants) to project team
Events in 2018 and early 2019

• Follow up mission to 5 partner countries
• Expert meeting on Ecosystem Valuation in the context of Natural Capital Accounting (24-26 April, Bonn)
• Forum of Experts in Ecosystem Accounting 2018 (18-20 June 2018, New York, USA)
• Side-event UN World Geospatial Congress (19-21 Nov 2018, Deqing, China)
• Side-event – Convention on Biodiversity COP-14 (22 Nov 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt)
• Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America region (28-30 November 2018, Rio de Janeiro)
• 3rd Policy Forum on Natural Capital Accounting (26-27 November 2018, Paris)
• Expert Meeting on SEEA indicators (5-7 February 2019, Cambridge, UK)
• Forum of Experts in Ecosystem Accounting 2018 (Apr/May 2019, New York, USA)
THANK YOU

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