

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



The Sustainable Development Goals 'wedding cake'
(<http://eatforum.org/event/eat-stockholm-food-forum-2016/>)

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

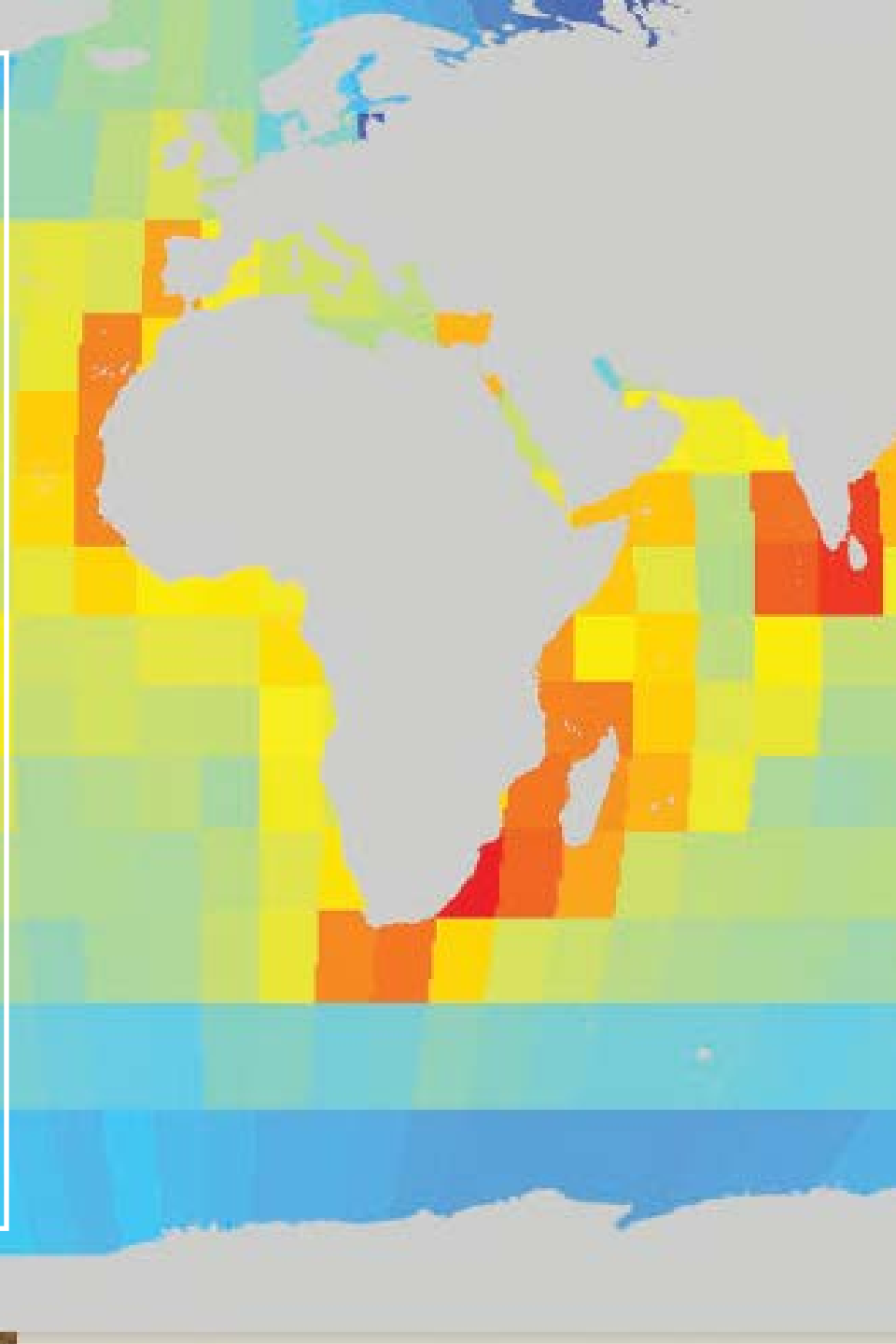
Objective: enhance capacity and enlarge the community of practitioners

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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