



Gobierno de Guatemala

Secretaría de Planificación y Programación
de la Presidencia -Segeplan-

***Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of
Ecosystem services
Going Beyond GDP in Guatemala***

Washington D.C. May, 2014

Natural Capital Accounting Already Supports Policy Instruments

Use of Natural Capital Accounting for Public Policy

- National Development Plan K'atun
- National Forestry Institute Restructuring
- Estrategia para la reducción en el uso de la leña.
- Forest Act, Climate Change Act, Protected Areas Act, etc.

Policy Orientation Sources

- National Development Plan K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032
- National resource legislation (Forest Act, Climate Change Act, Protected Areas Act, etc)
- Key Stakeholders Consultations
 - Individual semi-structured interviews
 - Participative consultations



Policy Questions

1. How do we ensure land availability for agriculture and forests for ecosystem services, including water production?
2. How do we make sure that we have enough available water for agricultural processes (Food Security), industrial processes (Economic Growth), and households?
3. Which combination of energy sources will ensure economic growth while reducing social cost?
4. How much do we spend to reach our environmental goals, and how do we make sure it is effective?
5. Which ecosystem services are linked to adaptation to climate change? Is our economic model sustainable?

Accounts to be Developed

Specific Natural Capital Accounts

- **Water accounts at the watershed level**
- **Forestry Ecosystem Account**
- **Agricultural Experimental Accounts**
- **Energy Accounts**

Cross-Cutting Components

- **Policy Incidence Strategy**
- **Environmental Expenditure Accounts** (for the true cost of environmental policy.)
- **Analytical Use of Information**
- **Experimental Valuation of Ecosystem Services**

Principles for the Implementation of WAVES

- Account development will be policy oriented.
- Advance Policy Incidence.
- Advance macroeconomic analysis with Natural Capital Accounting.
- Embrace open data practices.
- Advance Wealth Accounting.

Challenges for the Future

Although Natural Capital Accounting in Guatemala has been conducted for almost a decade, there is scant awareness of its existence, even within the institutions involved in their creation.

Absence of NCA in political discussions, outside the strict environmental arena.

SEEA not linked to national budget programming.

A Natural Capital Accounting research agenda is missing, so researchers do not use the information or findings from it.





Instituto Nacional de Estadística
Guatemala



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