

2nd Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy

22-23 November 2017

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rijnstraat 8
2515 XP, The Hague

Background and Draft Agenda



Background

Purpose and approach

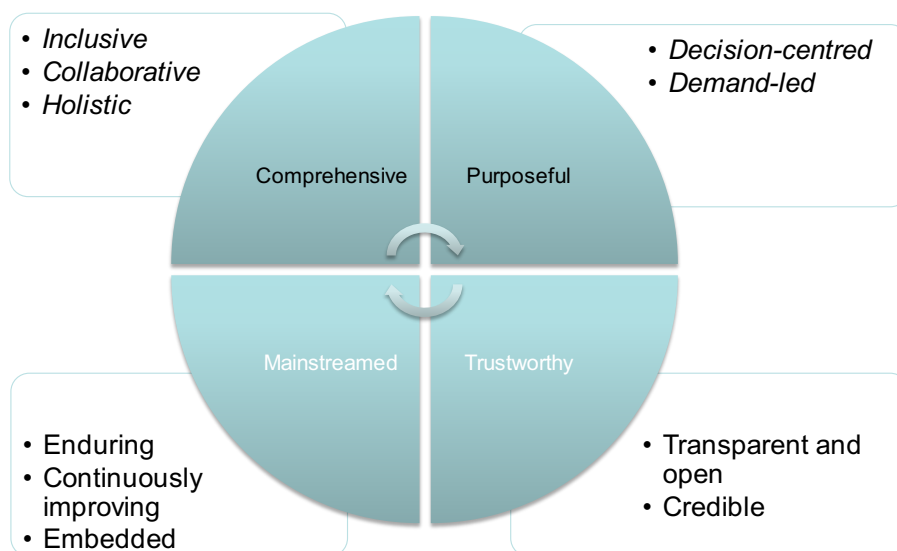
The 2nd Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy (NCA Policy Forum) will build on the 1st NCA Policy Forum and the experiences since then. While the 1st NCA Policy Forum was about what NCA can do for better decisions, drawing on shared experience, the 2nd will be about what NCA could and should do for better decisions, drawing on participants to generate new understanding and co-create focused guidance.

The 2nd NCA Policy Forum will also continue the demand-led and participatory ‘learning’ approaches which worked well the first time. The 2nd Forum will now develop its ‘leadership’ role by working together towards guidance for policy-fit NCA and in particular how NCA can be used to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by government, business and others.

The demand-led approach was supported by a survey sent to participant of the 1st NCA Policy Forum plus other stakeholders, which identified broad interest in the SDGs and contributions were volunteered by many countries and agencies.

The 2nd NCA Policy Forum will provide an opportunity to elaborate on the living principles and the institutional process necessary to make NCA ready for policy use (Fig 1). It will also detail the necessary requirements for NCA to inform policy in any of the decision-making stages (Fig 2).

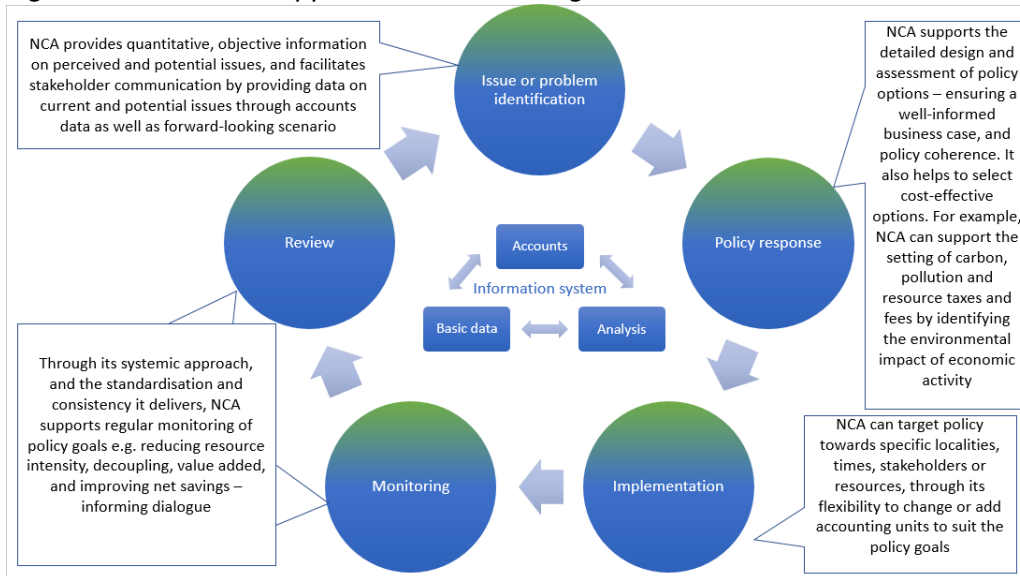
Fig. 1 Ten living principles for NCA



Recap – progress made by the 1st NCA Policy Forum

The 1st NCA Policy Forum distilled lessons and achievements from countries that were summarised in Chapter 3 of “Better Policy through Natural Capital Accounting” and Annex 1 included the 10 ‘living principles’ to make NCA fit-for-policy that were identified.

Fig 2: How NCA can support decision-making



Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs loom large in the minds of many governments, businesses and others. There is a risk that the SDGs are approached separately, by separate authorities working in silos, and without considering trade-offs or possibilities of jointly realizing multiple objectives simultaneously. NCA makes it possible to approach the SDGs through an integrated approach, showing both the positive and negative implications of different SDG policies. NCA can help to identify the problems, prepare integrated policies, monitor progress of goal attainment or review and/or improve existing policies. This is complicated, as the SDGs include 17 Goals (Table 1) and it is apparent that trade-offs (red in Figure 3, below) will be needed between some of them, while synergies exist in others (green in Figure 3, below). For example, there are obvious synergies of Goal 1 No Poverty and Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, whereas a trade-off may be needed between Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and Goal 13 Climate Action.

Major decisions need to be made on the SDGs as countries, businesses and others are at the stage of preparing implementation and investment plans. For example, governments are assessing different public policy instruments and institutional set-ups to achieve the goals.

The discussions at the 2nd NCA Policy Forum will revolve around how NCA can be used to both pursue and monitor SDG targets, and how this can be integrated throughout the policy process. This would include how to organize the associated institutional process of making, analysing and using the accounts. So far the role explored mostly for NCA in the SDGs is as indicators for monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs. Not yet explored fully is how NCA can be used in analysis, policy response and implementation phases of the policy cycle to achieve the SDGs (Fig 2).

Table 2. Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	No Poverty
Goal 2	Zero Hunger
Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being
Goal 4	Quality Education
Goal 5	Gender Equality
Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
Goal 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Goal 10	Reduced Inequalities
Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production
Goal 13	Climate Action
Goal 14	Life Below Water
Goal 15	Life on Land
Goal 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals

Figure 3. SDG interactions: trade-offs (red) and synergies (green)

Goal	1†	2†	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11*†	12†	13†	14*	15*	16*†	17*
1†																	
2†	0.69																
3	0.84	0.55															
4	0.71	0.51	0.80														
5	-0.07	-0.11	0.17	0.04													
6	0.74	0.63	0.79	0.80	0.09												
7	0.90	0.67	0.85	0.84	0.07	0.83											
8	0.52	0.44	0.60	0.33	0.26	0.46	0.41										
9	0.10	0.22	0.53	0.24	0.25	0.41	0.30	0.56									
10	0.34	0.10	0.24	0.15	0.10	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.19								
11*†	0.74	0.65	0.71	0.80	0.07	0.80	0.80	0.62	0.36	-0.43							
12†	-0.45	-0.40	-0.51	-0.40	-0.04	-0.38	-0.46	-0.42	-0.44	-0.21	-0.44						
13†	-0.53	-0.35	-0.49	-0.39	-0.03	-0.47	-0.49	-0.56	-0.37	-0.33	-0.54	0.66					
14*	0.19	0.09	0.27	0.19	0.31	0.19	0.20	0.32	0.34	-0.14	0.28	-0.09	-0.13				
15*	0.12	-0.03	0.18	0.10	0.27	0.12	0.10	0.20	0.23	-0.27	0.12	-0.02	-0.04	0.37			
16*†	0.16	0.15	0.38	0.29	0.15	0.46	0.33	0.41	0.34	-0.30	0.24	-0.33	-0.23	0.45	0.42		
17*	-0.16	-0.03	0.07	0.15	0.21	0.03	0.10	-0.06	0.22	-0.37	0.34	0.27	0.09	0.35	0.09	n.a.	

<https://www.icsu.org/publications/a-guide-to-sdg-interactions-from-science-to-implementation>

Business use of NCA

A little explored area is the links between government and business initiatives on NCA. The 1st Policy Forum touched on this, but the 2nd Policy Forum will give further consideration of how to combine the functions and the stakeholders' knowledge and energies.

Contributions and publication

The 1st NCA Policy Forum invited participants to submit their experience with the policy use of NCA. A publication presented and summarised this experience [weblink]. For the 2nd NCA Policy Forum participants are again invited to share experience and, in particular, contributions outlining how NCA has been – or could be – applied to the SDGs.

Many contributions have already been volunteered via the survey. Timing constraints may mean that not every contribution can be presented in detail, but there will be opportunities to share the information via posters, information booths or other means. Exact details of this are still being determined and will depend on the number of additional contributions received. All written contributions will be loaded to the 2nd NCA Policy Forum website and can be revised after the Forum for publication.

The intent is to again produce an edited publication focusing on how NCA can be used to achieve the SDGs. This time, though, we intend to move closer to a guidance document.

Annex 1. 10 living principles to make NCA fit-for-policy

Comprehensive:

1. Inclusive—Acknowledging the diverse stakeholders concerned with decisions affecting natural capital, responding to their information demands, respecting different notions of value, and using appropriate means of engagement
2. Collaborative—Linking the producers of NCA, the users of NCA for policy analysis and the policy makers using the NCA results, and building their mutual understanding, trust, and ability to work together
3. Holistic—Adopting a comprehensive, multi/interdisciplinary approach to the economic and environmental dimensions of natural capital and to their complex links with policy and practice

Purposeful:

4. Decision-centred—Providing relevant and timely information for indicator development and policy analysis to improve and implement decisions with implications for natural capital
5. Demand-led—Providing information actually demanded or needed by decision makers at specific levels

Trustworthy:

6. Transparent and open—Enabling and encouraging public access and use of NCA, with clear communication of the results and their interpretation including limitations of the data sources, methods, and/or coverage
7. Credible—Compiling, assessing, and streamlining data from all available sources, and deploying objective and consistent science and methodologies

Mainstreamed:

8. Enduring—With adequate, predictable resourcing over time; continuous application and availability; and building increasingly rich time series of data
9. Continuously improving—Learning-focused, networked across practitioners and users, testing new approaches, and evolving systems to better manage uncertainty, embrace innovation, and take advantage of emerging opportunities
10. Embedded—NCA production and use becoming part of the machinery of government and business, building capacity, improving institutional integration for sustainable development, and incorporating NCA use in procedures and decision-support mechanisms

Draft Agenda

2nd Natural Capital Accounting for Better Decision Making

22-23 November 2017

The Organising Committee used the experience of the 1st NCA Policy Forum, the information obtained via specially designed survey and other consultations to devise a Draft Agenda for the 2nd NCA Policy Forum.

The Draft Agenda provide as an indication of the content of the Forum. A Final Agenda will be developed over the coming weeks by the Organising Committee and circulated ahead of the Forum.

If you would like to volunteer addition contributions please contact the session leads identified in the Draft Agenda or michael.vardon@anu.edu.au.

In addition to the formal program, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host a cocktail function on 22 November 2017.

Draft Agenda

2nd Natural Capital Accounting for Better Decision Making

Day 1, Wednesday 22 November 2017		
8.30 to 9.00 am	Registration (Tea and coffee)	
9.00 to 10.30 am	Session 1 Welcome and opening Sessions leads: Steve Bass and Sofia Ahlroth	
	This session will cover introductions, aims and “house rules” of the Forum. There will be a formal welcome, an ice-breaker and a recap of last year’s Forum followed by a panel discussion examining the lessons and achievements coming out of the 1 st Forum and how they have been applied since then.	
10.30 to 11 am	Morning tea	Possible continuation of ice-breaker / meet and great
11.00 to 12.30 pm	Session 2 NCA and the SDGs - Overview Session leads: Arjan Ruijs and Bram Edens	
	This session will provide an overview of the SDGs and how NCA can help decision makers examine synergies and trade-offs within the SDGs, the institutional arrangements needed to achieve the SDGs as well as monitoring the SDG targets with NCA. It will be a combination of presentations, an expert panel and table discussions.	
12.30 to 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.30 to 3.00 pm	Session 3 NCA and the SDGs Goals – the role of business Session leads: Hannah Pitts, Omer van Renterghem and Elizabeth White	
	This session will be a combination of presentations covering an overview of business NCA activities and country examples plus table work and discussions. It will examine: how the Natural Capital Protocol (NCP) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting frameworks can complement and learn from each other; how business can contribute to the SDGs; and how the SDGs influence business activities.	
3.00 to 3.30 pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30 to 5.00 pm	Session 4. NCA for SDGs – exploring poverty reduction and green growth Session lead: Steve Bass	
	This session will be a workshop where users and producers of NCA are split up to explore how NCA can be applied to these critically important areas. Poverty reduction is SDG 1, while green growth cuts across several SDGs including SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth and SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production.	
5.00 to 5.15 pm	Summary of Day and close of day Steve Bass	
5.30 to 7.00 pm	Cocktail function hosted by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	

Draft Agenda

2nd Natural Capital Accounting for Better Decision Making

Day 2, Thursday 23 November 2017		
8.30 to 9.00 am	Arrival	Tea and coffee
9.00 to 10.30 am	Session 5. NCA for SDG15 Life on land Session leads: Bram Edens and Rocky Harris	
	This session will examine how NCA can be applied to the management of terrestrial ecosystems, including the sustainable use of forests, biodiversity loss and land degradation.	
11 am to 12.30 pm	Session 6 NCA for government processes and assessing trade-offs between the SDGs 6 Session leads: Sofia Ahlroth , Michael Vardon and Arjan Ruijs	
	Sessions 6 will be split into two parallel sessions – 6A and 6B – to accommodate the large number of volunteered contributions. This session will look at how NCA can be applied to government processes and policy tools (such as budgeting and taxation) and how NCA can be used in models to assess the impact of particular policy options.	
12.30 to 1.30 pm	Lunch	
	Session 7 The way forward Session leads: Arjan Ruijs and Sofia Ahlroth	
	This session will be used to examine how we can continue to work together, building on the living principles and the community of practice, identifying process for collaboration and development of guidance materials.	
3.00 to 3.30 pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30 to 5.00 pm	Session 8. Summary and close Session leads: Steve Bass and Omer van Renterghem	
	This session will draw together the main threads of the Forum, synthesising main messages and identifying the ways that participants may contribute to the strengthening of linkages between NCA and the achievement of the SDGs.	
5.00 pm	Close of forum	