

## Communiqué on Natural Capital Accounting

*Recognizing* the limitations of GDP as a measure of well-being and sustainable growth that values environmental and social aspects of progress;

*Underscoring* the importance of natural capital accounting as a tool for mainstreaming natural capital into informed economic decision making;

*Recognizing* the adoption by the UN Statistical Commission of the 2012 System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) central framework as the initial version of the international standard for environmental-economic accounts, subject to further revision, acknowledging that further improvements on measurement are necessary on specific issues;

*Noting* the challenge to build national institutional capacity to implement the SEEA, including the organization and collection of data, and to demonstrate its benefits to policy makers;

*Appreciating* that there are many successful experiences and best practices on natural capital accounting and that a key challenge we face is how to scale up, replicate and adapt what we know works;

*Welcoming* that Rio+20 offers an important opportunity for the international community to mobilize support for the implementation of previously stated commitments to implementing natural capital accounting.

### ***Hereby:***

*Invites* Governments, and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and other international organizations, as appropriate, working in partnership with major groups and other stakeholders to take action as follows:

1. Develop institutional arrangements to strengthen the implementation of natural capital accounting;
2. Develop science-based methodologies on an experimental basis for ecosystem accounting as a complement to GDP and corporate performance;
3. Pilot and demonstrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of scaled up and integrated approaches to natural capital accounting.

*Further invite* the United Nations Statistical Commission to assist in the implementation of the SEEA and, subject to availability of resources, in part provide support for the training of national accountants, environmental statisticians and national technical staff.