
**Towards a Regional Community of Practice in Africa:
Accelerating the mainstreaming of Natural Capital
Accounting through regional integration**

**Synthesis report of the Africa Forum on Natural Capital
Accounting and recommendations for future actions**

Kampala, Uganda

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Towards a Regional Community of Practice in Africa: Accelerating the mainstreaming of Natural Capital Accounting through regional integration

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gaborone declaration
for sustainability
in africa

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background:

Africa's natural resources – including forests, wildlife and minerals – play a crucial role in the continent's economies. According to *The Changing Wealth of Nation 2018*, natural capital accounts for between 30% and 50% of the total wealth of countries across Africa.¹ Ecosystem services² provided by natural resources form the basis for many economic activities in Africa – including crop production, fuel wood production, and tourism – especially among the poorest sectors of the community.³ As Africa's population grows, however, the sustainability of these ecosystem services— and by extension the livelihoods of the people who rely on these ecosystem services — are threatened. It is clear that there is a need to manage and measure the trade-offs associated with development at the cost of nature.

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) – underpinned by the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) as the international statistical standard for environmental-economic data – **is an important tool for evidence-based policy making on the role of nature in sound economic planning and development.**⁴ NCA allows countries to systematically measure and value their natural resource assets in both monetary and non-monetary terms. When mainstreamed into decision-making, this information can allow nations to appreciate, understand, and manage assets about which they previously had limited information.

In Africa, the development and implementation of Natural Capital Accounts⁵ has been ongoing since the late 1980s,⁶ with dozens of pilot accounts developed by numerous countries across the region.⁷ In the past, NCA efforts have been discontinuous and fragmented. With NCA now gaining global momentum, however, governments are seeking embedded and routine approaches to mainstream the results of accounts into decision making.

African Forum on Natural Capital Accounting:

In November 2019, **the first Africa Forum on Natural Capital Accounting was held in Kampala, Uganda and brought together 72 participants from 18 African countries** as well as regional and international agencies working on NCA. The forum was co-organised by the World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) programme, the Secretariat of the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA), and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).⁸ This Forum built on engagement started in 2016, when WAVES and the GDSA⁹ held a first meeting to gauge interest on whether the momentum on NCA in Africa could benefit

¹ Lange, Glenn-Marie; Wodon, Quentin; Carey, Kevin. 2018. *The Changing Wealth of Nations 2018 : Building a Sustainable Future*. Washington, DC: World Bank. World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29001> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

² Ecosystems provide a large number of services necessary for human survival that range from a reliable flow of clean water, to carbon sequestration, and productive soils.

³ African Development Bank (2015) *Payment for Ecosystem Services – A promising Tool for Natural Resource Management in Africa*. AFDB CIF Knowledge Series

⁴ More information available online: <https://seea.un.org/>

⁵ *Development* in this context referring to the production of accounts and *implementation* referring to the use of accounts in decision-making.

⁶ Reuter, K.E., Juhn, D., Portela, R., and Venter, J. 2016. *Natural Capital Accounting across the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa: A Desktop Scoping*. Report Prepared for the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa: Gaborone, Botswana. Pp. 188

⁷ More information available online: <http://www.gaboronedeclaration.com>

⁸ More information available online: <https://www.wavespartnership.org/en/forum-natural-capital-accounting-better-policy>

⁹ The 2016 workshop report can be found online: <http://www.gaboronedeclaration.com/s/NCA-Workshop-Report-Compressed-n6jt.pdf>

from a regional Community of Practice among practitioners, as well as a 2019 workshop organised by the UNSD, Statistics South Africa, GDSA and UN Environment Programme on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting for countries in Africa, where a Community of Practice was also discussed.

The Africa Forum on Natural Capital Accounting was convened to **provide a space for African stakeholders to shape a Community of Practice on NCA in Africa**. Participants were encouraged to identify common challenges and opportunities, and to consider how regional support could promote the mainstreaming of natural capital considerations into policy. The outputs of the Forum included recommendations on implementing an effective Community of Practice for preparing and using NCA in Africa¹⁰ and this workshop report.

The Forum demonstrated the willingness of countries and agencies to share their expertise and experience. A pre-forum NCA questionnaire completed by 16 African countries, combined with information collected by the UNSD, highlighted good progress on NCA in Africa on a range of accounts with some success in mainstreaming NCA outputs into national policies, plans, and other decisions. In addition, the questionnaires highlighted barriers to implementing NCA, including financial resources availability, lack of statistics/data for accounts, and lack of technical expertise (Figure 1). Lessons learned were also shared, including the need to ensure good coordination at the national level on NCA while building strong technical capacity and links to policy-relevant topics and decision-makers.

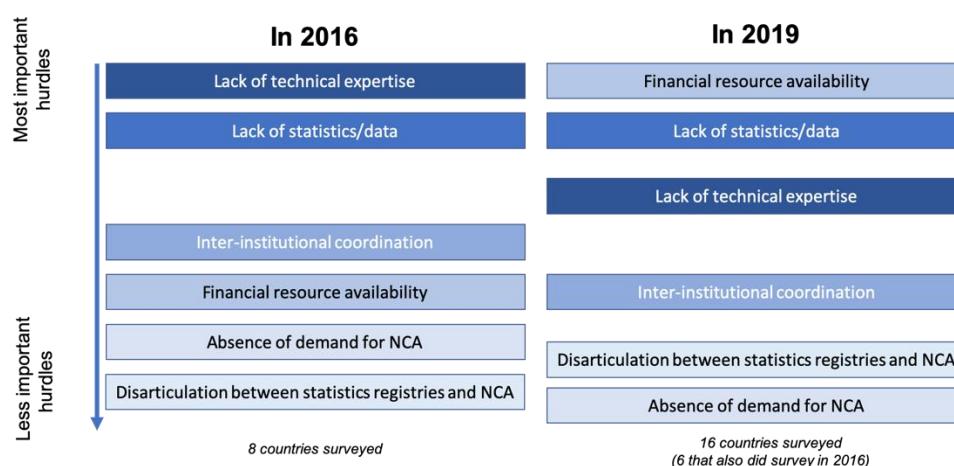


Figure 1: Hurdles faced in the implementation of NCA as captured by questionnaires administered in 2016 and 2019.

Recommendations for a Community of Practice on NCA in Africa:

The objective of the Forum was to shape a Community of Practice on NCA in Africa. Throughout the day, it became clear that there was strong support for a Community of Practice, particularly given the importance of social processes, such as networking, peer support, and access to high-quality learning and conversations, in the development and use of natural capital accounts. It

¹⁰ Building upon the 2016 Natural Capital Accounting Statement drafted following the regional NCA workshop organized on 23 June 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya by the GDSA and the World Bank WAVES programme. The Declaration can be read on the GDSA website, here: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52026c1ee4b0ee324ff265f3/t/580aac15b3db2b5c74f77c70/1477094421538/GDSA+NCA+Statement+Final.pdf>

was noted several times that the return-on-investment from a regional Community of Practice could be more than the resources spent on the platform itself. The participants recognised the benefits of establishing a mechanism to share experiences in NCA and work collaboratively to apply accounting principles in support of natural capital outcomes. **No such systematic and sustained regional collaboration network currently exists in Africa for NCA, though there have been a number of standalone regional training workshops, bilateral exchanges, and some early work by a few institutions and entities.**

For the Community of Practice to be successful, and based on lessons learned from other Communities of Practice in Africa, it was clear that the following elements were needed: 1) clear and achievable objectives for the Community of Practice with a timeline attached; 2) grounding of the Community of Practice within the region and building on existing work; and 3) enabling conditions such as Focal Points within national countries.

The Community of Practice can be implemented at relatively low cost, but there must be some resources allocated towards it to – at minimum – **fund the cost of staff time to manage the Community of Practice** as well as **funding for an annual meeting**. Given that coordination and annual meeting costs are unlikely to be provided initially by governments (though in some cases, governments may be willing and able to co-finance trainings and workshops), **such catalytic roles might be played by non-government entities including the GDSA Secretariat, World Bank, UNSD, UNEP, UNECA, Natural Capital Coalition, and others.**

Based on discussions at the Forum, **the organizers propose that the NCA Community of Practice in Africa be established through a six-month start-up phase, followed by the first year of implementation (culminating in an in-person annual meeting in mid-2021), leading into rolling two-year implementation phases.** These implementation phases would be designed to ensure the Community of Practice remains goal-oriented and focused on relevant issues with high traction at both country and regional scales.

Purpose	
<i>The Community of Practice will support best practices by building capacity and momentum in Africa to mainstream NCA into statistical production and policy in all African countries.</i>	
Networking and dialogue	Annual forums; newsletters; linking with other groups
Joint communication and advocacy	Mobilising resources for the Community of Practice; case studies on NCA in Africa; advocating for NCA and use in regional policy
Peer-to-peer exchange, coaching, and mentoring	South-south exchanges; joint trainings/workshop; linkages between national fora, committees, and workshops
Collective learning and co-generation of knowledge	Themed working groups; peer review; building up knowledge platform of resources in different languages

Key messages and next steps

In bringing together relevant expertise and experience from African countries and around the world, the Africa Forum on Natural Capital Accounting held in Kampala in November 2019 provided a strong platform to further advance NCA in the region. There is important experience in NCA across Africa on which to build, and a clear policy demand for integrated information to support sustainable development policy and analysis. **Establishing a Community of Practice is a**

real and practical step towards supporting best practices in NCA, by building capacity and momentum across the African continent to mainstream NCA into statistical production and policy in all African countries. As such, the Forum closed with representatives from the World Bank, the GDSA Secretariat, UNSD, and UNEP each committing to see this Community of Practice launched and resourced.

Building on the momentum initiated during the Forum, next steps will include:

- A call for interested organizations and institutions, including the Forum organizers, to commit resources towards the Community of Practice and the identification of a host organization to lead in the coordination of the Community's activities;
- The convening of a volunteer Working Group for the Establishment of the NCA Community of Practice which – together with key institutions including the Forum organizers and other interested organizations – will develop a Community of Practice workplan for input and implementation; and
- The planning of the next Forum, at which the Community of Practice can convene to continue its lessons sharing and grow its reach.

1. BACKGROUND

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Africa

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) – underpinned by the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) as the international statistical standard – has been recognized as an important tool for evidence-based economic planning and development.¹¹ NCA has also been identified as a useful framework for the purpose of monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and can play an important role in informing the policy cycle more broadly.

In 2012, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System for Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA) as a global standard to provide a coherent, internationally agreed set of concepts for producing many types of natural capital accounts. Additional material on methodology has been produced by a range of agencies and an experimental framework is now available to account for the ecosystem services provided by natural capital.

In Africa, the development of natural capital accounts has been ongoing since the late 1980s, with dozens of pilot accounts developed by numerous countries across the region. A 2016 summary report by Conservation International (CI) and the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA)¹² highlighted the substantial progress in NCA by GDSA countries.¹³ In many cases, these initiatives have been supported by external donors and partners, including the Forest Investment Program (FIP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) program, United Nations Environment (UNEP), and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). **It is clear that with NCA now gaining global momentum, countries are exploring more comprehensive solutions to mainstream the results of accounting into decision making.**

At the continental level, NCA has been increasingly recognized as an important vehicle for sustainable development. In Africa, the GDSA is a leading regional action platform which prioritises the relevance and implementation of NCA for sustainable natural resource management. The GDSA was agreed to by ten African Heads of State in 2012 in the context of the Rio +20 Summit as a collective commitment to sustainable development in the region, and has now grown to 14 member countries.¹⁴ The objective of the Declaration is, *“to ensure that the contributions of natural capital to sustainable economic growth, maintenance and improvement of social capital and human well-being are quantified and integrated into development and business practice.”* Under this mandate, the GDSA is leading on a number of NCA initiatives in the region, with a five-year impact report published in 2017 showing that GDSA member countries were significantly more likely to be implementing NCA at a national scale than 37 other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁵

Another important entity moving forward NCA is the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership,¹⁶ a World Bank-led global initiative, which aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and decision making and incorporated in national economic accounts.

¹¹ More information available online: <https://seea.un.org/>

¹² Reuter, K.E., Juhn, D., Portela, R., and Venter, J. 2016. Natural Capital Accounting across the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa: A Desktop Scoping. Report Prepared for the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa: Gaborone, Botswana. Pp. 188

¹³ More information available online: <http://www.gaboronedeclaration.com>

¹⁴ The fourteen GDSA member countries are: Angola, Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

¹⁵ More information available online: <http://www.gaboronedeclaration.com/gdsa-documents/the-gdsa-five-year-report>

¹⁶ More information available online: <http://www.wavespartnership.org>

Active in 13 countries on the African continent¹⁷ – along with countries in other areas of the world – the partnership was a co-organizer of the forum being reported here.

Finally, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. UNSD, in particular, coordinates the development of international statistical standards and norms, such as the SEEA with its subsystems, and supports countries' efforts in strengthening their national statistical systems and implementation of the SEEA and related statistical standards. UNSD also serves at the secretariat to the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA) that functions as an intergovernmental body to provide the overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics.

Recognizing the importance of NCA in measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the green economy more broadly, all three focal initiatives above – the Secretariat of the GDSA and the World Bank WAVES program, in partnership with the UNSD – came together to hold the first Africa Forum on Natural Capital Accounting on the 21st of November 2019, in Kampala, Uganda, following the fourth global Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy.¹⁸

Outcomes of the Forum

The objective of the Africa Forum on Natural Capital Accounting was to provide a space for countries in Africa to shape a regional Community of Practice on NCA, where participants were encouraged to identify common challenges and opportunities, as well as identify ways in which countries can support each other in mainstreaming natural capital considerations into policy.

This Forum's outcomes included recommendations on how to implement an effective Community of Practice that can contribute to mainstreaming NCA applications in Africa.¹⁹ These recommendations are compiled within this workshop report, which also includes the results of a pre-forum questionnaire completed by representatives from African countries. This, together with survey data from the UNSD, provides a baseline of existing NCA work in Africa, and helps with identifying synergies and areas for collaboration, including a roadmap for the Community of Practice.

This report is structured in a series of sections. Section 2 summarises the information collected via pre-forum NCA questionnaire, which were completed by forum participants from 16 different African countries in advance of the forum (see Annex 3). In Section 3, the recommendations around a Community of Practice are presented, including a summary of 'lessons learned' from other Communities of Practice in Africa. Section 4 concludes the report and provides motivation for moving forward.

Annexes to this report include the forum agenda (Annex 1); participant list (Annex 2); summaries of responses to the NCA questionnaire (Annex 3); feedback captured from the participants on the shape of the Community of Practice (Annex 4); and details on the interim Working Group on the establishment of the NCA Community of Practice (Annex 5).

¹⁷ WAVES partner countries include: Benin, Botswana, Code d'Ivoire, Egypt, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia

¹⁸ More information available online: <https://www.wavespartnership.org/en/forum-natural-capital-accounting-better-policy>

¹⁹ Building upon the 2016 Natural Capital Accounting Statement drafted following the regional NCA workshop organized on 23 June 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya by the GDSA and WAVES. The Declaration can be read on the GDSA website, here: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52026c1ee4b0ee324ff265f3/t/580aac15b3db2b5c74f77c70/1477094421538/GDSA+NCA+Statement+Final.pdf>



Photograph 1: Group photo of Africa NCA Forum participants.

2. THE STATUS OF NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING (NCA) IN AFRICA

As part of the preparation for the forum, country delegations were asked to complete a questionnaire concerning natural capital accounting in their countries (hereafter referred to the pre-forum NCA questionnaire). The same questionnaire was also completed by countries participating in the 2016 workshop organised by WAVES and the GDSA²⁰ and supplements a 2017 survey undertaken by the UNSD on the status of SEEA implementation across the world, including Africa (Figure 1). **The purpose of this questionnaire was to better understand the status of NCA across the countries participating in the forum to inform the next steps forward, particularly with an NCA Community of Practice.**

This section summarises the findings from the submissions provided by participations from 16 countries. Short country summaries, based on information from the questionnaires, can be found in Annex 3. The findings from the pre-forum NCA questionnaires are grouped under five themes: (i) self-assessment of state of information on natural capital; (ii) progress on implementation; (iii) policy linkages; and (iv) barriers and lessons learned.

Self-assessment of state of information on natural capital

Given that NCA is aimed at increasing understanding of a country's natural capital, countries were asked to describe the general state of knowledge of natural capital in their country – from very poor, through to poor, moderate, good and very good. Nine countries rated their knowledge as either Moderate or Good with the rest providing ratings of Poor or Very Poor. Interestingly, with the exception of two countries, all countries provided an indication of the major threats facing their natural capital, but only 11 listed specific information sources that Government could access, regarding the status of the country's natural capital. Broadly speaking, the responses indicated that there was a general lack of data coordination of information which became a problem for communicating messages about natural capital to decision makers and the public. The lack of coordination was also problematic in trying to assess

²⁰ The 2016 workshop report can be found online: <http://www.gaboronedeclaration.com/s/NCA-Workshop-Report-Compressed-n6jt.pdf>

questions of sustainability and environmental capacity which require a degree of data integration. It was also the case in some countries that public data and information on natural capital were preliminary, primarily qualitative, or not regularly/systematically updated.

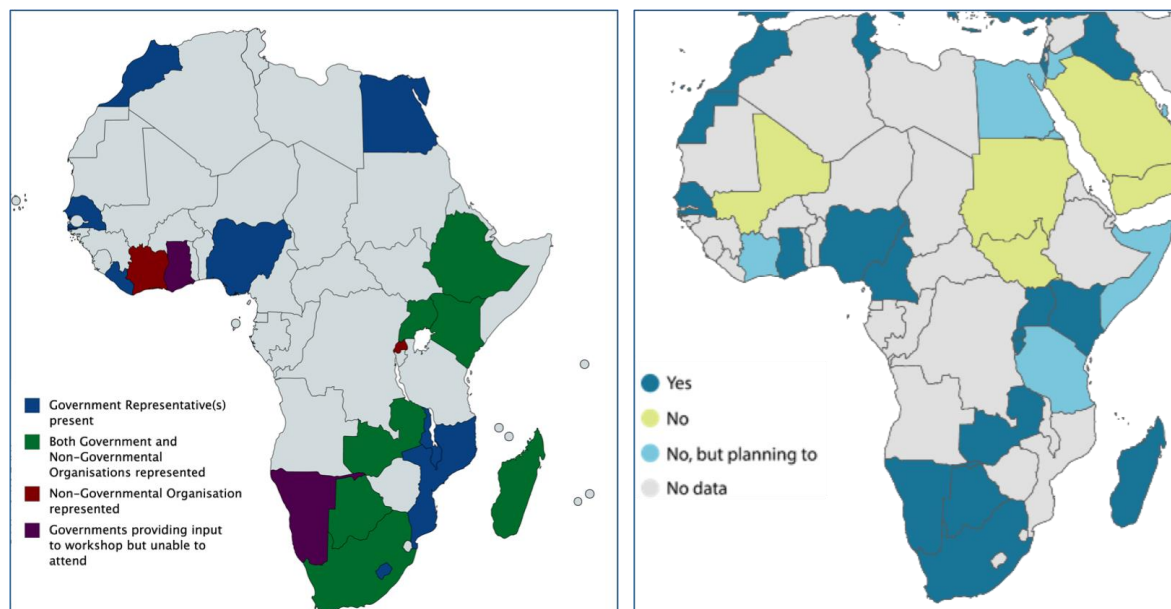


Figure 1: Representation from across Africa at the Forum including both government and non-government participants (left) and status of SEEA implementation in Africa based on the 2017 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics and subsequent updates through consultation with international agencies and donors (right).

Progress on implementation of NCA

The responding countries are at different stages in the implementation of natural capital accounting (Figure 1). **Table 2.1, below, provides a summary of the types of accounts that are desired as well as those that are demonstrated/established in each of the 16 countries.** The information in the table is compiled from both the 2017 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics carried out by UNSD²¹ as well as the pre-forum questionnaire. **This information could be useful in establishing common areas of interest across the countries during discussions in the NCA Community of Practice.**

Institutional coordination for NCA

In most countries, steering committees were in place to facilitate coordination of NCA activities, generally taking six months to establish. The lead agencies for NCA varied across the countries although usually it was either a statistical office or environmental agency. In some cases, the lead agency varied by type of account. In all cases, there were a combination of government agencies involved, although no standard pattern emerged, thus highlighting the importance of establishing effective institutional arrangements. The mix of agencies included ministries for environment, finance, economy, planning, statistics and various industry sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, water and tourism).

²¹ More information available online: <https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting>

The responses concerning the general resourcing of NCA work suggested that in most countries, there has been a strong connection to international support from the World Bank, Conservation International, GIZ, the UN Statistics Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa, the UN Environment Programme and others. Support from national governments was evident in most, but not all countries. Financing and resource limitations was identified, however, as a key barrier for implementation.

Global implementation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) has been recognized as an important tool for evidence-based policy making regarding the role of nature within sound economic planning and development activity. At a global level, NCA has been identified as a useful framework for monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Connections to NCA have also been established with various natural capital initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi targets, the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), and the Natural Capital Protocol, where the SEEA can provide a common measurement framework and data for monitoring and analysis.

The implementation of NCA in the public sector is standardised through the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework. Implementation of the SEEA is now widespread with the 2017 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics reporting that more than 90 countries either have NCA programs in place or planned to commence (Figure 2).

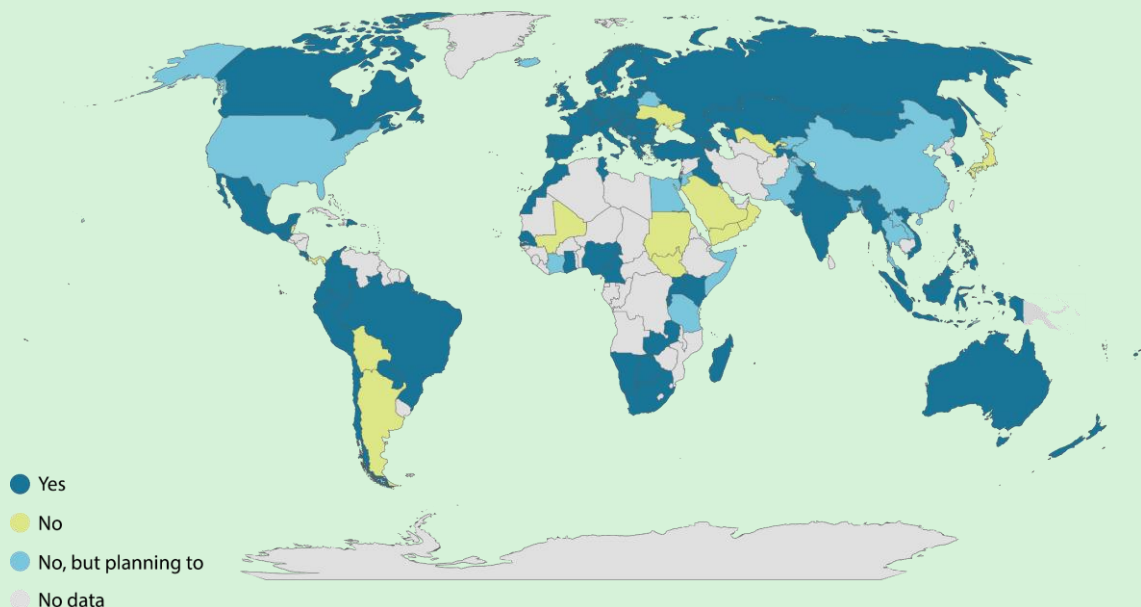


Figure 2: Countries using the SEEA, as captured by a 2017 UNSD survey.

Table 2.1: Summary of desired and demonstrated/established natural capital accounts.

Country		Agriculture	Biodiversity	Carbon	Ecosystem	Emission	Energy	Fisheries	Forest/ Timber	Freshwater/ Aquatic/Lake	Land	Minerals	Soil	Waste	Water	TOTAL
Botswana	Desired					X					X			X		3
	Demonstrated/Established				X		X		X			X			X	5
Egypt	Desired					X										1
	Demonstrated/Established															0
Ghana	Desired		X	X	X	X								X	X	6
	Demonstrated/Established						X					X				2
Kenya	Desired			X				X		X	X	X	X	X		7
	Demonstrated/Established				X		X		X						X	4
Lesotho	Desired	X	X	X	X											4
	Demonstrated/Established															0
Liberia	Desired		X		X				X		X					4
	Demonstrated/Established															0
Madagascar	Desired	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	11
	Demonstrated/Established			X	X				X							3
Malawi	Desired	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
	Demonstrated/Established															0
Morocco	Desired										X			X		2
	Demonstrated/Established								X						X	2
Mozambique	Desired	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
	Demonstrated/Established															0
Namibia	Desired		X	X	X	X					X		X	X		7
	Demonstrated/Established						X	X	X	X		X			X	6
Nigeria	Desired															NR
	Demonstrated/Established															NR
Senegal	Desired								X		X		X		X	4
	Demonstrated/Established	X					X			X						3
South Africa	Desired	X	X	X		X										4
	Demonstrated/Established				X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	8
Uganda	Desired	X		X	X	X	X					X		X	X	8
	Demonstrated/Established		X					X	X	X	X		X			6
Zambia	Desired				X		X					X				3
	Demonstrated/Established								X		X				X	3
TOTAL	Desired	4	8	8	8	9	5	4	4	4	9	6	6	9	6	90
	Demonstrated/Established	1	1	1	4	0	6	3	8	4	3	3	1	0	6	41

Policy linkages to NCA efforts

Throughout the questionnaire, there were various places in which countries were asked to provide information on the linkages between natural capital, natural capital accounting, and policy. Many countries provided examples of links between natural capital and policy – for example in terms of establishing protected areas – but there were far fewer examples showing a direct connection between natural capital accounting and policy. Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, and Zambia were among the countries that indicated that specific accounts had been able to inform certain national policies and plans.

In part, this reflects that NCA is relatively new but there also seems to be a challenge in engagement with decision makers and creating high-level awareness and understanding. Nonetheless, all respondents saw many opportunities for potential use of NCA either in terms of the development of national level development plans and strategies or in terms of theme specific policies and legislation. Almost all countries noted that NCA could be drawn in to support reporting requirements at the national level (e.g., via state of environment reporting) and at the international level (e.g., for coordination of reporting to UNFCCC, CBD and the SDGs).

Barriers and lessons

The final area summarised here concerns the barriers to implementation identified by countries and the lessons learned. Table 2.2 summarises the six barriers to implementation that countries were asked to rate in importance. What stands out, based on a simple aggregation of scores,²² is that the lack of financial resource availability, lack of statistics/data, and the lack of technical expertise were the top three concerns. This was slightly different in order from the 2016 administration of this survey (Figure 3). This table could provide a good starting point for discussion within the NCA Community of Practice to better understand the precise nature of the barriers to NCA, and in turn help to identify common areas for discussion and targeting of capacity building.

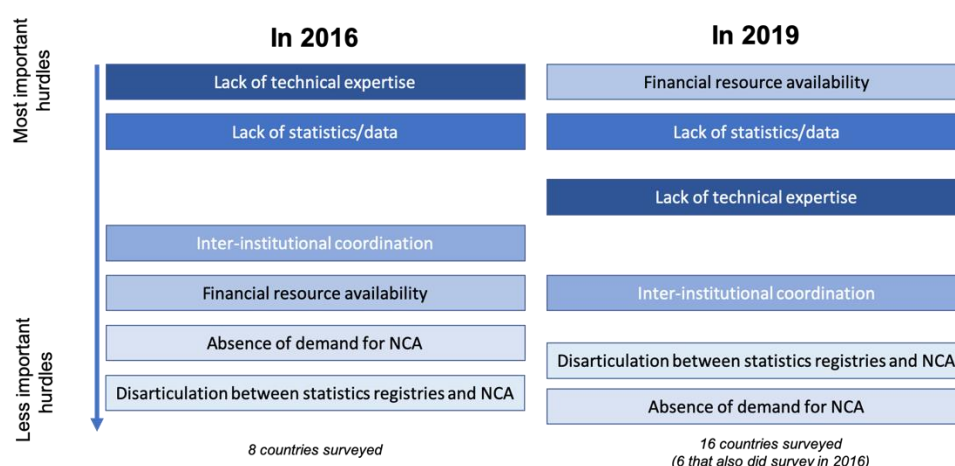


Figure 3: Hurdles faced in the implementation of NCA as captured by surveys administered in 2016 and 2019.

²² Since not all countries used a pure 1-6 ranking, the simple sums are not directly comparable but the scores are nevertheless informative.

Table 2.2: Barriers to NCA implementation

Country	Lack of statistics/ data	Inter-institutional coordination	Lack of technical expertise	Absence of demand for NCA	Financial resource availability	Disarticulation between statistical registries and NCA
	Ratings (1 = largest barrier)					
Botswana	2	1	1	2	1	1
Egypt	1	6	3	5	2	4
Ghana	3	6	2	5	1	4
Kenya	2	4	3	6	1	5
Lesotho	4	2	1	NR	3	NR
Liberia	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Madagascar	2	2	3	3	1	1
Malawi	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Morocco	2	1	3	NR	1	1
Mozambique	1	1	1	2	1	2
Namibia	2	2	1	1	1	2
Nigeria	1	2	4	5	3	6
Senegal	2	6	4	3	1	5
South Africa	3	5	2	4	1	6
Uganda	1	3	4	6	2	5
Zambia	1	3	2	6	4	5
TOTAL *	27	44	34	48	23	47

* The total is the simple sum of the country entries. NR = No Response.

Overall findings from the Pre-Forum NCA Questionnaire

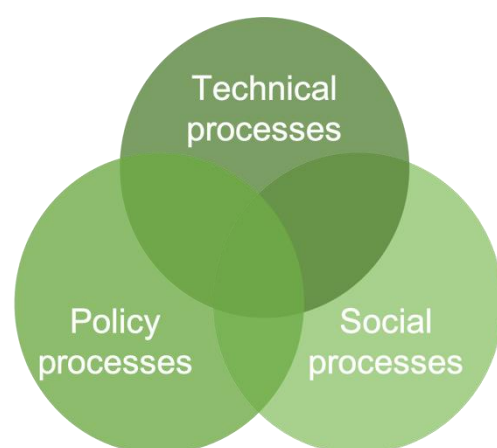


Figure 4: NCA involves a number of different processes. The Community of Practice would aim to facilitate social, technical, and policy processes.

Concerning implementation, the pre-forum NCA questionnaires highlighted that it is certainly possible to undertake NCA in Africa, but that there is no single, 'silver bullet' solution to ensure easy implementation. Different approaches to NCA are both needed and desirable, as this allows for NCA to be suited to country contexts and specific policy needs. It is clear too, that different challenges will emerge in different countries and the chosen solutions will vary from country to country due to, for example, differences in institutional settings, data availability, technical expertise and environmental and economic situation.

The responses to the questionnaires underscore that the embedding and mainstreaming of NCA is something that takes time. As such, there is a need to accelerate learning around NCA, so that decisions can be informed by its processes and outputs. **There is ample scope for an exchange of experiences given the quite similar situations in countries on the African continent find themselves with respect to the composition and use of their natural capital (Table 2.1).**

In addition, the pre-workshop questionnaire illustrates that many countries have made substantial progress in mapping out their near-term plans for the development and implementation of NCA. There was specific and repeated reference to the need for targeting quick, policy-relevant accounts (to build traction for additional accounting efforts) that would help answer important policy questions and build high-level support; it is clear that NCA depends on not just technical and policy processes but on social processes as well (Figure 4; courtesy of M. Driver, SANBI). The survey concluded with a ‘lessons learned’ section (Figure 5), where inter-institutional coordination, working with decision-makers, and ensuring adequate capacity ranked as the top three most important lessons learned. Many countries that completed the NCA questionnaire expressed interest in expanding their accounting efforts to new accounts, as well as to continued iteration of existing accounts (Table 2.1).

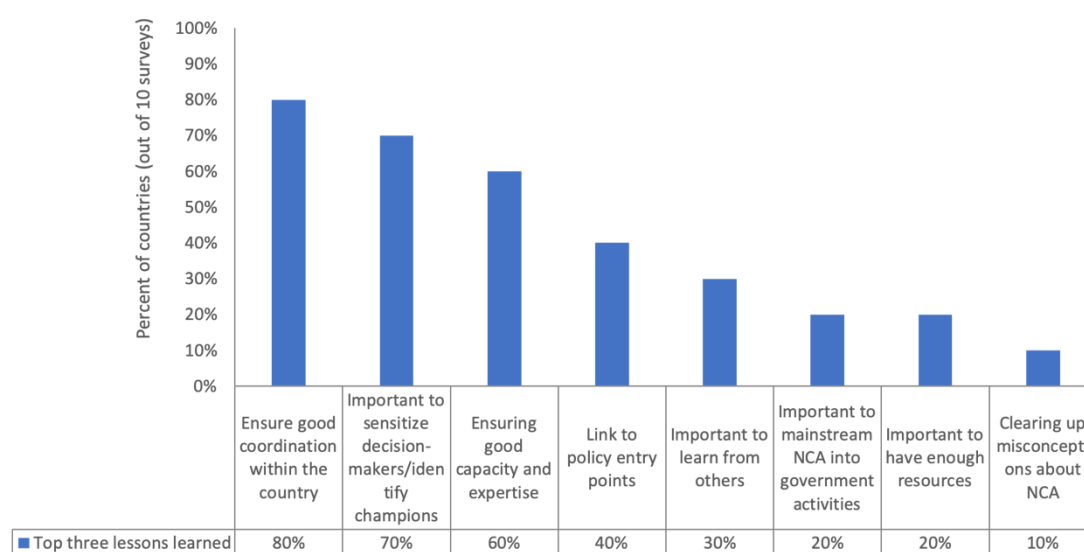


Figure 5: Top three lessons learned in implementing NCA, as captured by the pre-workshop survey.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The objective of the Forum was to offer the space for stakeholders from Africa to discuss a potential Community of Practice on NCA. The participants recognised the potential benefits from establishing a mechanism to share experiences in NCA and work collaboratively to implement and apply best practice accounting in support of natural capital outcomes. **It was noted that no such regional collaboration network currently exists in Africa for NCA, though there have been a number of bilateral exchanges and some early work by a few institutions and entities on the continent.**

Lessons learned: hearing from other Communities of Practice

A Community of Practice is generally established for the specific purpose of learning and sharing of approaches, experiences, and best practices; is driven by the requirements of the

participants; and has a degree of overarching coordination and support. More specifically, and as noted during the workshop, a Community of Practice is, “A group of people working in a shared domain of human endeavour, who learn how to do something better through regular and diverse engagement with each other.”

To promote reflection and learning, the Forum included a panel of four individuals, who shared lessons learned from their experiences participating in other Communities of Practice in Africa and in Latin America. These included the African Leadership Group on Biodiversity Mainstreaming, a national Community of Practice on NCA in South Africa, and a Latin America regional Community of Practice on NCA hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Elements and common themes from these four panellists’ experiences are embedded throughout the report. Collectively, they emphasised the importance of:

- the enabling environment for the Community, including a grounding in a regional body/institution and links to relevant regional and international bodies;
- Inclusion – casting a wide net for participations, while still being clear about what types of expertise and interests are most relevant to the Community;
- Clear governance as a prerequisite for success, with the need for a coordinator to push the Community forward and keep momentum high;
- Activities that are fit-for-purpose that build social networks while providing support and affirmation to those who often work on isolated projects; and
- The importance for the Community of Practice to have clear objectives and build on existing work, with articulated goals and targets set by its members.

Consulting on the shape of a Community of Practice

The Forum was structured to allow for the participants to provide targeted inputs at three points during the day (see the agenda in Annex 1):

- 1) Following the presentation on ‘Natural Capital Accounting in Africa’, participants contributions were invited from the floor;
- 2) Across two break-out sessions in the afternoon, participants discussed what an African Community of Practice should do and how such a Community of Practice could be organised; and
- 3) In a closing plenary session, facilitated by the GDSA Secretariat, final contributions were recorded from participants.

Inputs from participants who had attended a regional workshop on NCA in Pretoria, South Africa just a few weeks earlier (and where the subject of an Africa Community of Practice had also been discussed), were also heard.

These contributions are summarised, below, with additional feedback captured in Annex 4.

Proposals for the NCA Community of Practice in Africa

Purpose of the NCA Community of Practice in Africa

At the broadest level, **the Community of Practice will support best practices in NCA, by building capacity and momentum across the African continent to most effectively mainstream NCA into statistical production and policy.** The NCA Community of Practice would not directly implement national-level or indeed regional programming, although any such programming would be expected to be informed by the NCA Community of Practice and also provides impetus for the existence of the Community of Practice itself.

Activities to be undertaken under an NCA Community of Practice in Africa

There was clear alignment across the workshop participants regarding the kinds of activities that the NCA Community of Practice should be able to deliver, including those that would be possible within the short-term as ‘quick wins’.

It was proposed that the Community of Practice be implemented using regular meetings of both producers and users of accounts, as well as through south-south exchanges, practitioner-level dialogue of NCA, and the coordination of training and development activities among the countries. More specifically, the activities would include:

- *Annual meetings:* There was strong and unanimous support for an annual meeting to serve as a foundation for the Community of Practice, as this would promote lessons sharing, trust building, networking, learning and help keep the Community of Practice forward-looking (by aligning the Community of Practice with ‘windows of opportunity’).²³
- *Occasional meetings:* Annual meetings would be supplemented by ad hoc regional or local meetings, as well as side events organized at regional and international events (e.g. UNEA, AMCEN, CBD COPs). Such side events could also serve a secondary objective of joint advocacy or ensuring common messaging regarding NCA topics across a number of countries. These occasional meetings could also take place alongside other communities of practice in the region.
- *Working groups (virtual + in person):* Themed working groups were proposed as a way to tackle different issues and topics within NCA (including around the private sector, on technical issues, cross-cutting issues, and transboundary issues). These working groups could work together virtually (e.g. providing peer review²⁴ or co-producing briefs and case studies), could participate in training together, and could meet in person – funding allowing.
- *Joint capacity building:* Workshops and trainings were mentioned a number of times as a way in which to support capacity building and awareness raising.
- *Online platforms:* A range of online platforms and databases were mentioned that could serve to facilitate communication between the participants and also share case studies and reports.
- *Sharing best practice:* A number of activities around sharing best practices and success stories were raised (including through webinars and development of case study templates). This also included ideas regarding targeted learning exchanges between countries. The purpose of such South-South exchanges would allow Community of Practice participants the ability to see how NCA is being implemented and main-

²³ These annual meetings could be organized alongside existing meetings or be stand-alone meetings. It was noted that consensus statements and declarations arising from annual meetings are an important part of the Community of Practice.

²⁴ For example, peer review of NBSAPs, NDPs, and mainstreaming plans.

streamed elsewhere. Alternatively, South-South exchanges might be structured to allow countries to be paired to undertake long-term training and knowledge exchange.

These activities, categorized under a set of high-level outcomes in Table 3.1, were further differentiated between those that should happen within the first year of a Community of Practice and those that would take place over a longer period of time (see Table 3.2).

Governance of the NCA Community of Practice in Africa

Participants were asked to consider governance issues regarding membership, coordination, operating principles, and first-year implementation targets. **There was reasonably broad alignment regarding the discussions on the governance of the Community of Practice, and the following section summarizes these discussions.** While there was unanimous support for many key governance issues, there remained options for discussion and exploration.

The governance issues for which there was clear support and broad consensus included:

- *Operating principles:* The Community of Practice would be non-hierarchical and inclusive, acting as a safe space for discussion as well as a vehicle for advocacy for NCA. Principles deployed by other successful CoPs can be drawn upon.
- *Membership:* The Community of Practice would be inclusive and open to all African countries, with two Focal Points per country. There was also agreement that the Community of Practice would be open to non-Government entities like international institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Volunteers within the membership would be important in moving forward activities and that the Community of Practice would only be successful if this was a self-driven group of individuals and entities.²⁵
- *Working groups:* There was agreement on the utility of working groups as a way to organise members around common interests and activities. Different working groups could have different individuals or entities leading/coordinating them.
- *Coordination + alignment with regional hubs:* There was agreement that a regional institution would be well placed to serve as the coordinator or convener of the Community of Practice, and that this coordinator or convener would most likely be a non-governmental organisation. It would be important for the Community of Practice to align and link with many relevant regional institutions, policies, and bodies (e.g. the African Union), even if those entities are not the coordinator or convener.
- *Language of the Community of Practice:* The language of the Community of Practice would be English to begin with, but with an aspiration to expand to French and Portuguese with time and increased membership (dependent on resources).

Areas that require additional exploration and discussion:

²⁵ It is anticipated that a range of experts from countries will participate in the NCA Community of Practice, including individuals in government, parastatal, academic, and other entities. In addition, the structure of the NCA Community of Practice could provide opportunities for the involvement of, and coordination with, non-state actors as partners. For example, partners could support one aspect of the Community of Practice (e.g., provision of technical experts for the workshops; online outreach) or they could support the involvement of key individuals from core or affiliated countries. These non-state actors could include NGOs, multilateral and bilateral entities, academic and research institutions and other actors. External experts would be able to participate in the Community of Practice, including by attending annual meetings (though resources for the Community of Practice would be used first to support participants from Governments on the understanding that non-Government entities can support the participation of their staff).

- *Membership:* It was noted that a Terms of Reference would need to be developed for the Focal Points as well as more discussion on who the Focal Points might be. Options to explore include whether the two Focal Points would have different focus areas and expertise (e.g. a technical Focal Point and a policy-oriented Focal Point). In some countries, there are existing national steering committees or communities of practice focused on NCA and the Focal Points would be asked to link the Africa Community of Practice's work to those national efforts.
- *Coordination:* There was debate around which specific (non-governmental) institution or entity would act as the coordinator or convener, though there was strong support for the GDSA Secretariat among the participants as well as support for the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). As this discussion had clear implications on resource availability and the ability to ensure momentum in a variety of areas without being held back unduly by the politics or procedures of the coordinating agency, the organisers of the workshop took note of the participant's suggestions and accepted the participants' mandate to explore the issue further following the workshop.

Looking forward, many participants noted that the Community of Practice should remain informal, flexible in approach, and with a light framework that could act promptly and would not require large investment of resources.

High-level roadmap for implementation of the NCA Community of Practice in Africa

For the Community of Practice to be successful, it is clear that the following elements need to be articulated and/or in place: 1) information on demand for the NCA and also gaps in knowledge; 2) clear objectives for the Community of Practice with a timeline attached; 3) grounding of the Community of Practice within the region and building on existing work; and 4) a fully-funded coordinator with funding for an annual meeting, at minimum. Many participants noted that the Community of Practice would need to have an informal approach with light coordination to best serve its many members' needs, but that it could be run on a relatively small annual budget. **Table 3.1 lists activities that were considered reasonable and important to implement within the first year of the Community of Practice taking shape.**

Based on the feedback collected from the participants, it is proposed that the NCA Community of Practice in Africa be established through a six-month start-up phase, followed by the first year of implementation (culminating in an in-person annual meeting in mid-2021), leading into rolling two-year implementation phases. These implementation phases would allow the Community of Practice to remain goal-oriented and focused on issues relevant at both the country and the regional scale. Table 3.2 proposes for discussion, an initial timeline for the establishment of the NCA Community of Practice noting key steps and possible timings; this timeline was not presented to forum delegates but has been developed in post-forum scoping.

Table 3.1: Suggested priority activities for the first year of the Community of Practice.

Governance + Establishing the Community of Practice	Activities within the Community of Practice
<i>Strategy for launching the Community of Practice</i>	<i>Networking and dialogue</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a roadmap/action plan, based on quick scoping and assessment of need, as well as understanding of resources available to fund 'quick wins' and longer-term work under the Community of Practice. This would be developed together with the informal, volunteer Working Group (see below) and would be open for forum participant input/review. <p><i>Coordination + alignment with regional hubs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate primary coordinator/ convener. Clear understanding of resources and opportunities available from different sources. This could include fundraising from the aid community or alignment of existing programs/resources to benefit the Community of Practice. <p><i>Membership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping NCA across the continent and using that to invite members to join the Community of Practice. Identification of specific Focal Points and general TOR for Focal Points Develop Focal Point database <p><i>Working groups</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of working groups with clear lead(s), goals, and proposed activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Forum (target date: early 2021) Newsletter (e.g. building on SEEA News) A website landing page and a WhatsApp group. Making links with private sector and non-governmental groups. Using convening power of GDSA and others to have meetings at regional and international events. <p><i>Joint communication and advocacy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies on what NCA has done and achieved in Africa (and template to encourage many to publish case studies on NCA). Shared business case for NCA in Africa based in part on case studies <p><i>Peer-to-peer exchange, coaching, and mentoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one south-south exchange or joint training/workshop. 1-2 government representatives from a country participating in another country's national NCA workshops, forums, committee meetings, etc. <p><i>Collective learning and co-generation of knowledge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the WAVES partnership website to create an online African NCA platform to share knowledge materials and tools. Kicking-off working groups around different interests (e.g. peer review; development of case studies).
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The proposals in Table 3.2 have been framed with the following considerations in mind:

- **The Community of Practice can be implemented at relatively low cost** if the right coordinating institution is appointed. However, it should not be launched without some resources allocated towards it to – at minimum – **fund the cost of a dedicated individual's time to manage the Community of Practice** (whether or not that individual sits within the coordinating/convening institution can be discussed) as well as **funding for an annual meeting**. Given that these resources are unlikely to be provided by governments initially (though in some cases, governments may be willing and able to co-finance trainings and workshops), **agreement is required from external entities including the GDSA Secretariat, World Bank, UNSD, UNEP, UNECA, Natural Capital Coalition and the development assistance community, on how resources can be allocated towards this important endeavor**.
- Selecting and nominating high quality country level NCA Focal Points is essential to the success of the NCA Community of Practice. Appropriate discussion and agreement on the precise role for Focal Points and the required skill set of the selected individuals would be required relatively soon.
- It is important that the momentum initiated at the Forum is maintained in the coming 12-18 months. While the substantive work plan may take some time for members of the Community of Practice to confirm, establishing a highly-effective

network of NCA Focal Points in the short term is needed to stimulate awareness of the NCA Community of Practice and to catalyze the necessary engagement.

Table 3.2: An example NCA Community of Practice timeline.

Year	Month	Activity / Outcome
2019	December 2019	Agreement in principle to establish NCA Community of Practice by a number of non-government institutions (e.g. the coordinator/convenor as well as entities that are interested in providing support for the Community of Practice's activities in the first year). Selection of the coordinator/convenor for the Community of Practice going forward; if agreement cannot be reached on this, an entity can serve as the Acting Convenor until agreement is reached in early-mid 2020.
2020	January to June 2020	Strategy developed for the Community of Practice (e.g. roadmap and action plan, building on the content presented here) with inputs from the interim Working Group; Terms of Reference for Focal Points drafted; Mapping landscape for the NCA Community of Practice with invitations sent to countries/entities to join; Development of online platform/page/content for the Community of Practice; Developing concepts for the Working Groups and beginning to scope out activities and opportunities within these groups; Announcement of the NCA Community of Practice to the public, pending funding.
2020 - 2021	July 2020 to July 2021	First year activities (Table 3.1) take place, culminating in the annual meeting of the Community of Practice in July 2021 (or thereabouts) . Ensure the meet-ups and side events take place at the various events happening in 2020. Development of a two-year workplan for the next two years of the Community of Practice (July 2021 to July 2023).
2021 - 2023	July 2021 to July 2023	Implementation of the two year workplan for the Community of Practice , including annual meetings.

Ongoing communication and coordination through Focal Points

An Interim Working Group for the establishment of the NCA Community of Practice

There was high enthusiasm from participants to ensure momentum was maintained following the Forum, so as to ensure the establishment of the Community of Practice. As such, and with the encouragement of the World Bank and other organizers, participants self-nominated to join an interim Working Group for the establishment of the NCA Community of Practice (Annex 6). This interim Working Group should be used as a resource, particularly in the first six month start-up phase, to address a number of consultation questions that remain unresolved, including:

- Articulation of the workplan for the Community, including additional details on potential working groups and leads thereof;
- Consideration of different approaches to identifying Focal Points within countries, and Terms of Reference for those Focal Points;
- Advising on the governance structure of the Community, with co-creation of governance terms alongside a number of institutions; and
- Mechanisms for aligning with existing initiatives and communities of practice in Africa and elsewhere.

It is suggested that this Working Group be a volunteer and ad hoc committee open to stakeholders with the strongest interest in seeing the Community launch and thrive.

Commitments made by forum organisers

At the close of the forum, the organisers made a broad commitment to provide technical and

governance resources towards the operation of the Community of Practice, though it was also noted that additional resource mobilisation may be necessary. For example, the GDSA Secretariat expressed a willingness to host the Community of Practice and also to provide some support towards the convening of an annual meeting. Following the workshop, the forum organisers will seek to align resources to provide for activities over for the first 18 months of the Community of Practice in the first instance. Assistance from other institutions will also be welcomed.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

There is clear evidence that there has been substantial progress towards the development of NCA in Africa. There is evidence of increasing demand from further countries, for more accounts, and for using them to achieve sustainable development. There is a strong interest in working collaboratively to take this area of work forward.

In particular, there was clear and strong support for the development of an Africa Community of Practice on NCA to drive the process of expanding and accelerating NCA and its use in Africa. Forum participants were clear in their appreciation of the benefits that a Community of Practice on NCA would yield, with a return-on-investment higher than the relatively few resources required to get a Community of Practice started. It was felt that a Community of Practice at the regional scale could help:

- Increase support for NCA at the national level (by highlighting leaders in the field, increasing the visibility of NCA champions, improve communication about NCA through the use of business cases);
- Provide the opportunity to establish a common understanding of NCA implementation approaches; and
- Provide an opportunity for the engagement and sharing of expertise.

In particular the Community of Practice could directly address barriers to NCA implementation (Table 2.2) through lessons sharing, south-south exchange, peer review, working groups, and coordination/alignment at the regional level.

In bringing together relevant expertise and experience from African countries and around the world, the Africa Forum on Natural Capital Accounting held in Kampala in November 2019 provided a strong platform to further advance NCA in the region. There is important experience in NCA across Africa on which to build and a clear policy demand for integrated information to support sustainable development policy and analysis. **Establishing a Community of Practice is a real and practical step towards supporting best practices in NCA, by building capacity and momentum cross the African continent to mainstream NCA into statistical production and policy in all African countries.**

ANNEX 1: FORUM AGENDA

Facilitators were Steve Bass (IIED), Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC) and Peter Katanisa (World Bank Rwanda).

Workshop Agenda		
MORNING: SNAPSHOT OF WORK IN AFRICA		
8.30 am - 9.00 am	Registration and pre-workshop networking	Tea and coffee
Session 1. Welcome remarks		
9.00 am – 9.10 am	Welcome remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benoit Blarel (World Bank) Ruud Jansen (GDSA) Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)
9.10 am – 9.30 am	Statement by the Government of Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC
Session 2. Setting the scene – ongoing work across the world and impact of NCA in Africa		
9.30 am – 10.15 am	Impacts of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) on decision-making <i>Panel for sharing positive and powerful stories about how NCA in Africa has influenced policies and decision-making.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Peter Katanisa (World Bank) Panelists: Sonigitu Asibong Epke (Govt. of Nigeria), Lucy Iyango (Govt. of Uganda), Richard Lungu (Govt. of Zambia)
10.15 am – 10.30 am	Natural Capital Accounting – a Global snapshot <i>High-level snapshot of the range of NCA work happening globally.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)
10.30 am – 11.15 am	Natural Capital Accounting in Africa <i>High-level snapshot of relevant work happening in Africa, based on responses to the pre-workshop survey, as well overview of the 2016 GDSA NCA Statement.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juan-Pablo Castaneda (World Bank) Kim Reuter (World Bank) <i>Brief, voluntary contributions and reflections from the floor from African participants about their work.</i>
11.15 am – 11.45 am	Coffee & Tea break and Group photo	All
Session 3. Linking NCA to global targets and discussion on how Communities of Practice can promote progress		
11.45 am - 12.30 pm	Mainstreaming and funding NCA – the link to global targets <i>A panel discussion on using NCA to inform the climate crisis, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD COP-15), and the SDGs with input from the international community.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Raffaello Cervigni (World Bank) Panelists: Vanessa Ushie (African Development Bank), Monica Lopez Conlon (UNEP), Tom Sengalama (DFID Uganda)
12.30 pm - 1.00 pm	What is an effective Community of Practice? <i>A panel discussion and lessons learned from other Communities of Practice.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Steve Bass (IIED) Panelists: Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC), Evelyn Atuhaire (Govt. of Uganda), Juan-Pablo Castaneda (World Bank), Mandy Driver (SANBI)
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch	All

AFTERNOON: SHAPING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE		
Session 3. Shaping a Community of Practice		
2.00 pm - 2.10 pm	Framing the discussion: some ideas for a Community of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruud Jansen (GDSA) • Rosimeiry Portela (Conservation International)
2.10 pm - 3.20 pm	What an African NCA Community of Practice should do, and opportunities for collaboration <i>Break Out Session 1: Scoping</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building on the 2016 GDSA Declaration, participants break out into 4-5 groups</i> • <i>Report back</i> • <i>Discussion of common priorities under an African NCA COP</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator: Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC) • Break-out groups and facilitators: Business/investment group (Hannah Brooke, Natural Capital Coalition); Integrated field programs group (Rosimeiry Portela, Conservation International); Policy group (Mandy Driver, Govt. of South Africa); Data group (Marko Javorsek, UN Statistics Division)
3.20 pm - 3.45 pm	Afternoon Coffee and Tea	All
3.45 pm - 4.45 pm	How to organize the African NCA Community of Practice <i>Break Out Session 2:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Table discussions brainstorm Community of Practice membership, operating principles, coordination, short-term easy wins and longer-term ambitions, etc.</i> • <i>Report back</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator: Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC)
4.45 pm - 5.20 pm	Towards an NCA Regional Community of Practice <i>Plenary discussion following on from the break-out sessions.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator: Ruud Jansen (GDSA)
5.20 pm - 5.30 pm	Wrap up and closing words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benoit Blarel (World Bank) • Ruud Jansen (GDSA) • Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of participants – those in italics were not able to participate in the workshop but provided inputs into the workshop in the form of pre-workshop surveys. In total, participants from

Government

Botswana

- Dimpho Galegane, Water Resources Engineer, Department of Water and Sanitation
- Bathusi Segobai, Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Egypt

- Hadeer Mohamed Fathallaha, Director for Trade of Environmental System Department, Ministry of Environment

Ghana

- *Kwame Boakye Fredua, Environmental Economist & Policy Analyst, Environmental Protection Agency*

Kenya

- Christine Mukami Magu, Statistician, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- Amanda Louise, Senior Biodiversity Policy Advisor, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- Kennedy Olwasi, Assistant Director (Programmes, Projects, & Strategic Initiatives), Ministry of Environment & Forestry

Lesotho

- Stanley Damane, Director for Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture

Liberia

- Elizabeth Hoggard, Comptroller, Environmental Protection Agency

Madagascar

- Arison Fabien Clair Andriamalala, Monitoring & Assessment, National Commission for Science and Technology
- Marie Fabienne Randrianarisoa, Responsible for GIS/PADAP, National Commission for Science and Technology
- Ignela Sahondra Randriantsizafy, Engineer Technical Support Framework, Directorate Generale for Environment and Forests, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Malawi

- Zacharia Magombo, Principal Scientific Officer, National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens
- Adwell Zembele, Ministry of Finance

Morocco

- Imane Loudiyi, Comptable National, Haut Commisariat au Plan

Mozambique

- Teresa Magalhaes Pinto, Focal Point, Ministry of Land, Environment, and Rural Development

Namibia

- *Olimpio Nhuleipo, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment and Tourism*

Nigeria

- Sonigitu Ekpe, Acting Director (Scientific), Department of Bilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of International Development Cooperation

Rwanda

- Peter Katanisa, National Coordinator, WAVES-Rwanda

Senegal

- Aminata Sall Diop, Division of Evaluation, Division of National Parks, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

South Africa

- Mandy Driver, Senior Biodiversity Policy Advisor, SANBI

Uganda

- Dr. Tom Okurut, Executive Director, National Environment Management Authority
- Lucy Iyango, Assistant Commissioner Wetlands, Ministry of Water and Environment
- Aliziki Kaudha Lubega, Director for Macroeconomic Statistics, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
- Evelyn Atuhaire, Economist, Ministry of Water and Environment
- Ronald Kaggwa, Manager Production, Trade and Tourism Planning, National Planning Authority
- Sam Mugume, Principal Statistician, Macro Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development
- Godwin Kamugisha, Principal Economist, National Environment Management Authority
- Margaret Nakirya, Senior Statistician, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
- Sandra Namukaya, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance

Zambia

- Richard Lungu, Assistant Director, Ministry of Development Planning
- Abel Siampale, Forestry Department, Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources, and Environment

Non-Government Organisations

African Centre for a Green Economy, South Africa

- Mao Amis, Executive Director

African Development Bank

- Cornelius Nkoanyane Sebutsoe, Senior Capacity Development Officer, African Development Institute
- Olufunso Somorin, Principal Climate Change & Green Officer, East Africa Regional Office

- Vanessa Ushie, Manager, Policy Analysis Division, African Natural Resources Centre

Conservation International

- Dr. Rosimeiry Portela, Senior Director

DFID Uganda, Uganda

- Tom Sengalama, Environmental Specialist

Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa, Botswana

- Ruud Jansen, Executive Secretary
- Disikalala Gaseitsiwe, Deputy Executive Secretary

Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, Switzerland

- John Maughan, Research Programme Manager

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), United Kingdom

- Steve Bass, Senior Associate

IUCN

- Luther Anukur, Regional Director
- Mersie Ejigu, Africa Region Vice Chair
- Nick Conner, IUCN
- Sophie Kutegeka, Country Director – IUCN Uganda
- Evelyne Busingye, Programme Officer of Water and Biodiversity – IUCN Uganda

Makerere University, Uganda

- Dr. Justine Namaalwa, Head - Department of Environmental Management
- Dr. Patrick Byakagaba, Lecturer
- Dr. John Robert Stephen Tabuti, Professor
- Prof Derek Pomeroy, Department of Environmental Management

National Biodiversity Data Bank, Uganda

- Herbert Tushabe, Manager

Natural Capital Coalition, United Kingdom

- Hannah Brooke, Relationships Director

Natural Eco Capital, Nigeria

- Eugene O. Itua, Dr.

National Remote Sensing Centre, Zambia

- Samuel Maango, Acting Director

SIDA, Sweden

- Maria van Berlekom, Lead Policy Specialist

United Nations Environment Programme, Kenya

- Monica Lopez Conlon, Programme Management Officer

UNEP-WCMC, United Kingdom

- Steve King, Environmental Economist
- Abisha Mapendembe, Senior Programme Officer

United Nations Statistics Division

- Alessandra Alfieri, Chief
- Marko Javorsek, Statistician

Vital Signs, Kenya

- Everline Ndenga, Programme Manager

World Bank

- Benoit Blarel, Practice Manager
- Raffaello Cervigni, Lead Economist
- Glenn-Marie Lange, Senior Environmental Economist
- Juan-Pablo Castaneda, Senior Environmental Economist
- Stefano Pagiola, Senior Environmental Economist
- Shun Chonabayashi, Environmental Economist
- Iretomiwa Olatunji, Environmental Specialist
- Sonu Jain, Communications Officer
- Michael Vardon, Consultant
- Kim Reuter, Consultant
- Lesya Verheijen, Consultant

WWF, Uganda

- David Duli, Country Director
- Rita Kyategeka Samanya, Communications, Partnerships, and Fundraising Manager

ANNEX 3: PRE-WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE - COUNTRY SUMMARIES

Botswana

Introduction

The Botswana scoping assessment was completed by staff from Environmental Affairs and Water Affairs. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Botswana was good. This was reflected in a sound understanding of the contribution of minerals to economic activity, water accounts, and preliminary energy accounts.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Botswana have implemented a number of natural capital accounts – energy, forest/timber, minerals, and water. In developing their accounts they have found some of the international guidelines and materials useful including the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA Water.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are well established through the WAVES project with overarching coordination by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (Figure 4). Steering committees and a working group have been set up to help develop accounts, with water accounts having been institutionalised. Unfortunately, energy and mineral accounts have not been updated since the partnership with WAVES ended, due to lack of resources and technical capacity constraints. Botswana is currently working on a project with the GDSA and CI, alongside NASA, to map ecosystems. In addition, JICA has assisted with a forest inventory and will do a pilot study on the valuation of forest resources. Finally, there is a valuation study ongoing for dryland ecosystems as part of a GEF-6 project.

There are a wide range of data available and a number of institutional mechanisms in place to support access to data, data sharing and data quality.

Use of NCA

To date a number of areas have been informed by NCA results, including the National Development Plan, the draft National Framework for Sustainable Development, land use planning, the National Water Master Plan, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). In addition, the results of WAVES were presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Environment and national reports to the CBD include information on natural capital. Notably, the water accounts have been institutionalised and have been used to inform the following: raw water abstraction strategy project, catchment management committees, the National Water Master Plan Review, the monitoring of SDGs (e.g. SDG 6), and establishment of better linkages between key stakeholders.

Unfortunately at this stage there are no clear champions or promoters of NCA within the Botswana government but the GDSA initiative may provide an opening for engagement with relevant people.

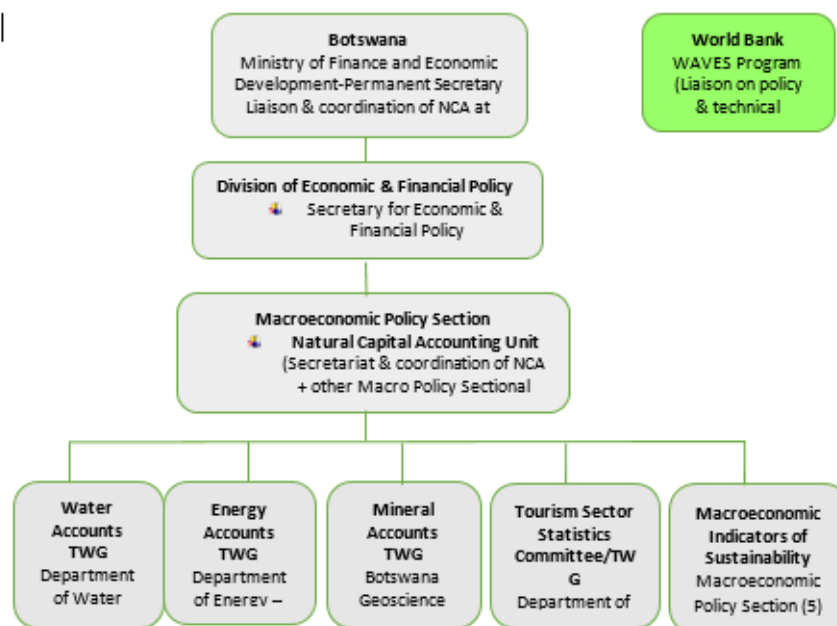


Figure 1: Institutional arrangements for natural capital accounting in Botswana.

Barriers

Botswana sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being lack of inter-institutional coordination, lack of technical expertise, financial resources availability, and disarticulation between statistics registries and NCA as the key barriers to implementation.

Egypt

Introduction

The scoping assessment for Egypt was completed by staff from the Ministry of Environment, with reference to publicly available documents published by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Auditing Organisation. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Egypt was moderate. Limited other information was provided on the state of natural capital knowledge in the country, though a report on the cost of environmental degradation published by the World Bank was referenced.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Limited information was provided on how Egypt is implementing NCA, though it was noted that steering committees and working groups (as institutional arrangements for NCA), would be work well in the Egyptian context. Egypt is working with the World Bank WAVES programme and found that assistance useful. It was noted that the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics as well as the Central Auditing Organization acted as a clearinghouse for data and for sharing information between governments and agencies.

Use of NCA

To date no key national documents have been informed by NCA results, as NCA is in early stages in the country.

There are regular reporting requirements including a national state of the environment report and international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

Barriers and lessons

Egypt sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being lack of data and lack of financial resources. They are less concerned about establishing institutional arrangements and finding suitable demand for NCA from government. To date however, they have limited experience in NCA and have no specific lessons to convey.

Ghana

Introduction

The scoping assessment for Ghana was completed by staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Ghana was moderate. There was a reasonable understanding of their natural resources including minerals and land although work to determine the economic value of these resources has not yet been completed. The information gaps concern the disaggregation of data (e.g. many data are available in aggregated format at the national level but not at the sub-national level). The threats to Ghana's natural capital are well recognised and include water pollution, deforestation, illegal mining activities, land degradation, and climate change.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Ghana have compiled energy and minerals accounts²⁶ but would like to implement many more NCA including accounts for biodiversity, carbon, ecosystems, emissions, waste, and water. In considering the development of this broad range of accounts, they have used (and found useful) the SEEA Central Framework, SEEA Water, SEEA Energy, and the draft SEEA Implementation Guide.

Establishing institutional arrangements for NCA is an ongoing process with working groups and overarching senior level management in place. It is the legal mandate of the Ghana Statistical Service to produce accounts, and there is strong institutional collaboration with the environment-related institutions such as the Environmental Protection Agency in this regard. There are a number of institutions mandated to produce NCA, principally the Ghana Statistical Service, the EPA, MESTI and the Ministry of Finance, in coordination with relevant sector institutions.

Current work to build NCA has been facilitated through assistance from the World Bank, Conservation International, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), as

²⁶ Available online: <http://www.epa.gov.gh/epa/publications/natural-capital-accounting>

well as through the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA). Breaks in the production of natural capital accounts have been due to technical capacity challenges, financial resource constraints, and low or no demand for accounts.

Use of NCA

To date no key national documents have been informed by NCA results but the scoping assessment indicated the potential to use NCA to inform the National Development Plan, National Strategies in specific themes (e.g., sustainable development, climate change, water) and in National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP). A few references to natural capital have been made in national budget statements and the legislature are occasionally briefed on the need to incorporate natural capital in decision-making.

Success stories related to the management of natural capital include:

1. Environmental and natural capital issues are being mainstreamed in development plans at the local government level;
2. Pilot asset accounts for minerals contributed to reforms within the mining sector (i.e. licensing and formalization of small-scale mining activities, etc.); and
3. Production of energy accounts contribute to the monitoring of sustainable development indicator 7.2.1, and 7.3.1, among others.

There are regular reporting requirements including a national state of the environment report and international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

There are currently a scarcity of champions for NCA but many opportunities to expand upon this in the future.

Barriers and lessons

Ghana sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being financial resource availability and lack of lack of technical expertise. They are less concerned about establishing institutional arrangements and finding suitable demand for NCA from government.

Three important lessons learned in regards to the implementation of NCA include the need for: 1) strong institutional coordination and collaboration; 2) continuous advocacy and awareness raising among data users and producers; and 3) for the establishment of a strong link between the production of NCA information to decision-making/policy. It was also noted that organizations like GDSA need to be consistent in follow-up to progress being made by member countries, particularly at the Ministerial level using forums like the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

Kenya

Introduction

The Kenya scoping assessment was completed by staff from the National Treasury, Ministry of Environment & Forestry, and the Kenya Wildlife Society. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Kenya was moderate. This view reflected that they had a reasonable understanding of the physical state of certain environmental assets as well as some understanding of some monetary and non-monetary values.

Gaps in data include a lack of coherence in information between data sources partially due to the existence of silos. In addition, valuation exercises often lack monetary values and there is a lack of consistency across different valuation exercises.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Kenya have implemented a number of natural capital accounts – for energy, forest/timber (with support from UNEP-FAO), minerals, among others. This work has been developed using the System of National Accounts, SEEA Central Framework, draft SEEA Implementation Guide, SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts, SEEA Applications and Extensions, and Designing Pilots for Ecosystem Accounting documentation.

Institutional arrangements for NCA include a steering committee, working groups, and oversight by senior government officials. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics coordinates NCA with a pool of experts in support, though the Ministry of Environment holds the obligation to report on international and regional conventions related to the environment. The latter include institutions such as technical working groups and subject matter work groups. National Environment Coordination Authority provides information through the State of Environment reports and the Environmental Performance Index. Support for the NCA work has been received from World Bank, Conservation International, TEEB, DANIDA, FAO, and UNEP, as well as the GDSA.

Use of NCA

To date, work on NCA in Kenya has informed some environmental policies and plans, sectoral policies, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Looking forward, Kenya has developed a Natural Resources Benefits Sharing Bill (2018), which is awaiting enactment. The bill seeks to guide sharing of revenue from natural resources at national and sub national levels (County) and prescribes institutional arrangement for doing so; this may well link to natural capital accounting data or indicators.

Barriers and lessons

Kenya sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being the lack of financial resources and lack of data. They are less concerned with issues such as an absence of demand for NCA and the connection between statistical offices and NCA work.

Their experience in NCA has highlighted the importance of: re-configuring data indicators and sharing with partners for ease of data collection and integration; need for capacity building

among data providers; and developing a framework for natural capital accounting to avoid silo mentality and improve coordination.

Lesotho

Introduction

The scoping assessment for Lesotho was completed by staff from the Department of Environment. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Lesotho was very poor. The types of information available to the national government included on land (soil type, farming practices, land cover), water quality, biodiversity, ecosystem extent, and information on forests and protected areas.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Lesotho has not compiled natural capital accounts, but expressed interest in agriculture, biodiversity, carbon, and ecosystem accounting. Though there has been no NCA implementation yet, the Bureau of Statistics (Environment Division and National Accounts Division) as well as the Department of Environment have begun initiating the process. In addition, delegations from the country participated in some training on the SEEA EEA in October 2019, following an online training. Relevant to the implementation of NCA, Lesotho is a member of the GDSA.

Use of NCA

To date no key national documents have been informed by NCA results, as NCA development is just starting. There are regular reporting requirements including a national state of the environment report and international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

Champions for NCA include the Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Environment, which have initiated the process of NCA.

Barriers and lessons

Lesotho sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being the lack of technical expertise and the need to establish institutional arrangements (e.g. inter-institutional coordination). Lessons learned to date include the importance of establishing a coordination mechanism across government, engaging decision-makers at different levels, and the provision of adequate resources to ensure success.

Liberia

Introduction

The scoping assessment for Liberia was completed by staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United Methodist University (Liberia), and Conservation International Liberia. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Liberia was very poor.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Liberia has not developed any NCA, but expressed interest in biodiversity, ecosystem, forest/timber, and land accounts. Limited information was provided on how Liberia is implementing NCA, though it was noted that steering committees, working groups, and oversight by senior government officials (as institutional arrangements for NCA), would be work well in the Liberian context. Liberia is working with the Conservation International on NCA and found that assistance useful.

Use of NCA

To date no key national documents have been informed by NCA results, as NCA is in early stages in the country. It was noted that there would opportunities for NCA to inform NCDs/Low Carbon Economy Plans, environmental policies and plans, sectoral policies, and poverty reduction and economic growth policies.

There are regular reporting requirements including international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

Barriers and lessons

Liberia did not provide information on the hurdles faced in implementing NCA. In addition, they had no specific lessons to convey.

Madagascar

Introduction

The Malagasy scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Madagascar was poor. The major threats to natural capital are recognised as illegal exploitation of resources, poor governance, poverty, and bush and forest fires. They see gaps in data arising as a result of a lack of clear mechanisms to coordinate the production and use of data on natural capital.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Madagascar has developed a number of natural capital accounts including carbon (for the island of Nosy Be), ecosystem accounts (for the island of Nosy Be), forest/timber accounts²⁷, and preliminary work on freshwater, minerals²⁸, and macroeconomic indicators²⁹. They would like to extend this program to develop a comprehensive set of natural capital accounts including agriculture, biodiversity, carbon (for the whole country), ecosystems (for the whole country), emissions, energy, fisheries, land, soil, waste, and water. These SEEA documentation and the Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounts Quick Start Package were used in the development of accounts.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are not well established, and not all processes established during the WAVES programme have lasted beyond the end of the WAVES programme. Steering committees and working groups have been used in the past.

In recent years, the roles of the World Bank, through the WAVES partnership, the Indian Ocean Commission, and Conservation International have been important in taking forward implementation. In the past, production of the accounts had been stalled at various times due a lack of funding.

A range of data is available in Madagascar. However, data sharing and coordination is limited with each institution collecting and managing their own data to report on and analyse their direct activities.

Use of NCA

To date, NCA information has not informed national development plans or policies. In the future, it is hoped that other national strategies can be informed by NCA including sustainable development plans, low carbon economy plans, land use planning, water management plans, environmental policies and plans, industry development plans, sectoral policies, and poverty reduction and economic growth plans.

There are regular reporting requirements including international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

Barriers and lessons

Based on Madagascar's experience in developing accounts, the top two barriers for the development of accounts include financial resources availability and the need to develop linkages between statistics agencies and those working on natural capital accounting. They noted, however, that awareness of NCA among decision-makers remains high and hence NCA is taken into account in regards to decisions and policies.

²⁷ Available online: <https://www.wavespartnership.org/sites/waves/files/kc/A4-snapshot-bois-02p-FINALE.pdf>

²⁸ Available online: <https://www.wavespartnership.org/sites/waves/files/kc/A4-snapshot-mines%2002p-FINALE.pdf>

²⁹ Available online: <https://www.wavespartnership.org/sites/waves/files/kc/A4-Indicateurs%20macro%2020p-FINALE.pdf>

Malawi

Introduction

The Malawi scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development as well as from the National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens of Malawi. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Malawi was very poor. In Malawi, it is common knowledge that the country's natural resources have been heavily degraded but there are a lack of detailed assessments on the topic.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Malawi has not yet developed NCA, but there is interest in developing agriculture, biodiversity, carbon, ecosystems, emissions, energy, fisheries, forests/timbers, freshwater, land, minerals, soil, waste, and water.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are not established, but it was noted that a first step would be the development of a working group as the country already has Sector Working Groups which are used as forums for negotiations among different stakeholders.

Use of NCA

Given there are no NCA results for Malawi at this stage, there have been no instances of using NCA. There would be opportunities, however, for NCA to inform a number of national strategies and reports (such as the state of environment report) as well as international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

Barriers and lessons

Barriers to success in implementation of NCA include lack of statistics and data. To date they have limited experience in NCA and have no specific lessons to convey.

Morocco

Introduction

The Moroccan scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Haut Commissariat au Plan. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Morocco was poor.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Morocco has developed forest/timber and water accounts, and would like to further expand their NCA efforts to include land and waste accounts. The natural capital accounts were developed using the System of National Accounts, SEEA Central Framework, and SEEA Water, which were also considered very useful in this effort.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are being established and include a team working on national accounting, the UNECA, the High Commission for Water and Forests. A working group has been established and, in the future, a steering committee and oversight by senior government officials could be effective in supporting implementation. In the past, there have been breaks in NCA due to lack of funding and lack of data. They have also received support from the FAO.

Use of NCA

To date, NCA information has not been used to inform national development policies and plans. There would be opportunities, however, for NCA to inform a number of national strategies and reports (such as the state of environment report) as well as international reporting (e.g., for the SDGs) which may be an opportunity for future NCA data.

Barriers and lessons

Morocco has identified three main barriers to success in implementation of NCA, namely: lack of inter-institutional coordination, financial resources availability, and disarticulation between statistical registries and NCA. In addition, they had no specific lessons to convey.

Mozambique

Introduction

The Mozambican scoping assessment was completed by staff from a number of agencies including the Ministry of Land, Environment, and Rural Development. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Mozambique was very poor. Nevertheless, it is recognised that natural capital is important for social, economic, and cultural development, even if official statistics and information are few.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Aside from some small scale efforts in specific sectors, Mozambique has not compiled any NCA at present but they would like to implement a comprehensive NCA program. The discussion here on implementation is therefore prospective. Mozambique sees benefit in establishing appropriate institutional arrangements (e.g., steering committees and working groups) involving staff from different sectors and agencies. The agency responsible for developing NCA, will be the Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of Land, Environment, and Rural Development. The primary reason for a delay in producing NCA is a lack of knowledge and financial resources.

They note the importance of assistance from international agencies, including work being supported by the African Development Bank and WWF. Mozambique is a member country of the GDSA.

Use of NCA

Given there are no NCA results for Mozambique at this stage, there have been no instances of using NCA. However, it is anticipated that NCA results can be applied in many contexts including

for national (including the state of environment report) and international reporting. Champions for NCA include the Ministry of Land, Environment, and Rural Development (who have created an inter-ministerial natural capital and green economy group) as part of implementing the Action Plan for Green Economy and the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA).

Barriers and lessons

Mozambique sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being the lack of statistics and data, inter-institutional coordination, lack of technical expertise, and financial resources availability.

Even though Mozambique have not implemented any accounts, they have already identified some important lessons, namely that inter-institution coordination and articulation mechanisms can be improved, that decision-makers should be sensitised to natural capital accounting, and that capacity building and training is important.

Namibia

Introduction

The Namibian scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Namibia Statistics Agency, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry, the Ministry of Fishery and Marine Resources, Ministry of Mines and Energy, and Ministry of Environment and Tourism. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Namibia was moderate. While there was considered to be information available on mineral extraction, forest, water, and wildlife, there was concern that some natural capital stock data are not updated on an annual basis. The threats to natural capital were identified as overexploitation, climate change, clearing of land, overgrazing, poaching, and illegal fishing.

Implementing natural capital accounts

At various points in time, Namibia have compiled various NCA including accounts for energy, fisheries, forest/timber, freshwater, minerals, water, and wildlife accounts. In addition to this broad list of accounts, Namibia have a desire to develop accounts for biodiversity, carbon, ecosystems, emissions, land, soil, and waste. A range of SEEA documents have been used in the development of NCA and were found to be useful, though it was noted that online training and course materials (with examples of each account) would be useful in the future.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are quite well established, involving all sectors of the economy, the Namibia Statistics Agency Board, economic ministries, industry associations and data producers and users. Memorandums of Understanding have been developed with all stakeholders. Historically, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism was coordinating NCA work within the government after which point a Technical Working Group on Natural Resources Accounting was established to compile pilot NRA Accounts for Namibia. Following this, accounts were decentralized to relevant ministries.

Breaks in account development have taken place due to: lack of technical skills for NCA compilation in the relevant institutions; insufficient budget for outsourcing of work on NCA; NCA

not priority or lack of interest or understanding of the importance of NCA on part of top management in relevant line Ministries; no use of local academic institutions; and that NCA was not made part of annual work plans in relevant line ministries.

In developing accounts, Namibia has received training on SEEA and Ecosystem Accounting from UN Statistics Agency and GIZ. Namibia is also a member country of the GDSA.

Use of NCA

To date no direct use has been made of NCA data in the policy space. A number of plans and strategies can be identified however that could use NCA information. These include the State of the Environment reporting as well as the parliamentary committee on natural resources, the Sustainable Development Advisory Council, and the Cabinet Committee on Economics. In terms of international reporting, Namibia completes the various required transmissions (UNFCCC, CBD – NBSAPs, SDGs) however each report is coordinated through separate processes.

A general challenge for gaining momentum for NCA use in government is a need to raise awareness and cultivate interest at top management levels within ministries.

There have been a number of successful cases of improved management of natural capital in Namibia including expanding the network of protected areas, including Marine Protected Areas (alongside a Marine Spatial Plan). Namibia has also implemented a successful Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme and compiled the Inventory of Ecosystem Services.

Barriers and lessons

Namibia sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as lack of technical expertise, absence of demand for NCA, financial resources availability, and a limited national budget for NCA.

Their experience in NCA has highlighted the following lessons learned, noting that it is important to have: 1) high awareness of NCA at the highest level of Government; 2) champions of NCA at top management of relevant line ministries; and 3) high level of technical skills, sufficient staff, budget, and good coordination among relevant institutions.

Nigeria

Introduction

The Nigerian scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Federal Ministry of Environment, National Bureau of Statistics, University of Calabar, River State University, and the Ministry of International Development Cooperation. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Nigeria was poor. There was considered to be no data available on the threats to natural capital in the country and that there were gaps in natural capital information.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Limited information was provided on how Nigeria is implementing NCA, though it was noted that steering committees, working groups, and oversight by senior government officials (as institutional arrangements for NCA), would be work well in the Nigerian context. It was mentioned that there is little spatial and geographic data, that the National Bureau of Statistics requires more institutional/human capacity building, and that there is no framework or legislation around natural capital data collection.

Use of NCA

To date no key national documents have been informed by NCA results, as NCA is in early stages in the country. There are reporting requirements including national and international reporting (e.g., to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD)) which may be an opportunity in the future.

Barriers and lessons

Nigeria sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being lack of data and lack of inter-institutional coordination. They are less concerned about disarticulation between statistical agencies and NCA, and finding suitable demand for NCA from government. To date however, they have limited experience in NCA and have no specific lessons to convey.

Senegal

Introduction

The Senegal scoping assessment was completed by staff from National Statistics and Demography Agency. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Senegal was moderate. While there was considered to be information available on mining, fishing, forestry, and the environment, the information is not exhaustive and there is no structured data collection on natural capital in the country. Note, though, that knowledge of the country's natural capital has increased since the discovery of oil and natural gas in 2014. The main threats to natural capital include overexploitation, loss of biodiversity, and loss of land.

Implementing natural capital accounts

In 2010, Senegal undertook a Forest Ecosystem Services Improvement and Development Project, which was looking at ensuring better knowledge around forest ecosystem services and to integrate that information into tax policy. Regarding natural capital accounts, Senegal has completed agriculture and fisheries accounts, and an Energy Balance EIS has been developed. Accounts for forest/timber, land, soil, and water are being developed. These accounts have been developed using the SEEA Central Framework as well as the Technical Recommendations for the EEA.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are established, following the revision of statistical law in 2012 under the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD), whereby satellite accounts are developed following an MOU between the ANSD and line ministries developing the accounts. Senegal has a technical committee that meets regularly to set guidelines for statistics collection. It was noted that an information system to bring together natural capital

data would be useful and that breaks in accounts production has been due to lack of financial resources. Senegal has received technical and financial assistance from UNEP, UNDP, UNDO, UNESCO, and the World Bank.

Use of NCA

To date no direct use has been made of NCA data in the policy space, though natural capital information more broadly is often used in government decision-making. A number of plans and strategies can be identified however that could use NCA information, including a range of national development plans and policies (such as the state of environment report, the mining code, the water code, and other such codes that regulate the fair and equitable use of natural resources). Other opportunities include regular reporting to international commitments such as the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, and the SDGs.

It was noted that information from the treasury – including a sector’s contribution to GDP and the sector’s reliance on natural capital – is made available to decision-makers. Champions for natural capital accounting do also include the private sector, particularly those in the mining sector.

Senegal has made great efforts in investing in coastal protection, combating coastal erosion, establishing protected areas for the conservation of marine, and coastal and terrestrial biodiversity. In addition, carbon projects are being developed in the country and many studies are being done in the field of carbon sequestration.

Barriers and lessons

Senegal sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being financial resources availability and the lack of data. They are less concerned about inter-institutional coordination and disarticulation between statistical registries and NCA. Lessons learned, that have helped them in their NCA implementation, include making sure enough data are available across different sectors, setting up systems where MOUs can be signed between the national statistics agency and line ministries, and sharing experiences with other countries that have also implemented NCA.

South Africa

Introduction

The South African scoping assessment was completed by staff from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and Statistics South Africa (StatsSA). They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in South Africa was good. This was reflected in a sound understanding of ecosystems and species condition in South Africa and also a reasonable understanding of some components of natural resources such as mineral and energy resources. However, it was felt that there was still a lack of time series data, and that some information on natural capital stocks were still missing. Finally, it was noted that information was not always well consolidated or easily available in a format for decision makers and the general public.

The biggest pressure on ecosystems and species was described as the loss and degradation of natural habitat (e.g. through conversion of natural areas to cultivation, urban settlement and mining). In addition to habitat loss and degradation, freshwater ecosystems (such as rivers and wetlands) are threatened by over-abstraction of water, and marine ecosystems are threatened by harvesting pressure. Some species are threatened by over-harvesting or illegal poaching (e.g. some medicinal plants, abalone and rhino). Invasion by alien species and climate change are additional threats.

Implementing natural capital accounts

South Africa have implemented a number of natural capital accounts – including for some ecosystem types, emissions³⁰, energy, minerals, fisheries, rivers, water and land³¹ (for one province), minerals, and water.³² They would like to extend this program to develop accounts for agriculture, biodiversity (though they are in the process of developing species accounts for rhino and cycads; reports will be available in 2020), carbon, ecosystem accounts, emissions, and land (national land accounts are being developed). The accounts have been developed using a range of guidance materials on the SEEA, which have been considered useful. In addition, the software package EnSym is being used in developing the land and ecosystem asset accounts under the NCA&VES project. EnSym automates the production of the accounts, saving enormous amounts of time and effort. The software is free but currently does not have a formal user manual or other supporting materials; an EnSym handbook or manual would be useful to have in the future.

Institutional arrangements for NCA are well established. StatsSA has an environmental-economic accounting unit that leads the compilation of mineral, energy and fisheries accounts in partnership with other relevant agencies. Water accounts were re-initiated with funding from the Water Research Commission (a public agency). Breaks in the production of mineral, fisheries, energy, and water accounts were due to capacity constraints within Stats SA.

Stats SA and SANBI are working in partnership on producing ecosystem accounts. The NCA&VES Project, which began in 2018 and will be completed in early 2020, is led by the UNSD and UN Environment, with funding from the European Union. Stats SA and SANBI are leading the project nationally, working closely with a range of national and sub-national stakeholders, to further develop ecosystem accounts for South Africa.

Generally, the implementation of accounts has been driven from within the country. In the past few years, South Africa was one of seven pilot countries that participated in the global project Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA) (also referred to as Advancing SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting) (mid-2014 – May 2015). The project was led by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) in partnership with UNEP and the CBD Secretariat, with funding from the Government of Norway. Being part of this project provided a large boost to South Africa's ecosystem accounting efforts, in terms of funding, advice and links with other countries.

South Africa is now one of five pilot countries in the NCA&VES project, which will until June 2020. The project is funded by the European Union and led globally by UNSD and UN

³⁰ More information available online: www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/greenhousegas_inventorysouthafrica.pdf

³¹ More information available online: <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/planning-and-assessment/experimental-ecosystem-accounting/>

³² Information on various accounts available online: www.statssa.gov.za

Environment. The funding received through this project, as well as additional technical support through the UN agencies, has been essential for building on the work of the ANCA project to take forward ecosystem accounting in South Africa. Accounts to be produced as part of NCA&VES include national land accounts, national accounts for terrestrial ecosystem assets, and accounts for protected areas and metropolitan areas. Accounts for ecosystem services will be piloted for the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Many national department and agencies are involved in gathering and managing natural capital related data. Provincial environmental affairs and conservation authorities are also important sources. The Spatial Data Infrastructure Act (2003) and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (2000) provide good encouragement and support for data coordination and sharing with all information available on agency based websites.

Use of NCA

A number of sectoral policies have been informed by NCA, including the National Water Resources Strategy and the National Water & Sanitation Master Plan. In the future, there are a number of policies and plans that NCA information could inform including the National Development Plan 2030, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy, the National Water Resources Strategy, the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy and NBSAPs. There is also thought that NCA data could support the development of national indicators for South Africa for inclusion in the annual report published by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Champions for natural capital accounting currently include Stats SA, SANBI, Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries, and Department of Water & Sanitation, but with a growing number in other departments and organizations.

Linked to the NCA&VES project, South Africa held the first National NCA Forum on 10-11 July 2019, with more than a hundred participants from government, NGOs and private sector. This has helped to mobilize interest and support for NCA, and there is a growing NCA community of practice in South Africa. South Africa also held a National NCA Training Workshop in May 2019, with around 30 participants, mainly from government. The workshop provided hands-on training in producing ecosystem accounts with “live” South African data, and has helped to build momentum and broaden the skills base for NCA.

There a number of instances of successful management of natural capital in South Africa. The Department of Environmental Affairs runs a series of Environmental Programs focused on the management of natural resources, such as Working for Water (which clears invasive alien plants that compromise water supply) and Working for Wetlands (which restores wetlands) – these programs create jobs and alleviate poverty as well as providing natural capital benefits.

The concept of ecological infrastructure has proved useful in South Africa and is showing significant uptake in policy. A Framework for Investing in Ecological Infrastructure has been developed.

South Africa has been faced with severe droughts in the last several years, with major impacts on water supply to cities. This has prompted a focus on Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) – the 10% of South Africa’s land area that delivers 50% of South Africa’s water, supporting half

the population and two thirds of the economy. SWSAs are increasingly recognized as vital ecological infrastructure that supports and enhances built infrastructure such as dams. Efforts are underway to ensure appropriate land use in SWSAs and to secure their ecological functioning.

Significant progress is being made in the expansion of the protected area network, including through Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes, in which landowners enter into contracts with conservation authorities. The landowners retain ownership of the land and responsibility for its management in terms of an agreed management plan which is audited annually. These contract protected areas are much more cost effective for the state than state-owned protected areas, as shown in the Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship based on detailed analysis of actual protected area establishment and management costs to date. The National Protected Area Expansion Strategy sets detailed ecosystem-specific targets for protected area expansion, focusing on under-protected ecosystem types.

Barriers and lessons

South Africa sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being the lack of financial resources and lack of technical expertise. They are less concerned with issues around inter-agency coordination and disarticulation between statistics registries and NCA.

Their experience in NCA resulted in the following lessons learned:

1. Initial accounts are likely to be supply-driven rather than based on demand from policymakers or decision-makers. The usefulness of natural capital accounts has to be demonstrated before demand for the accounts can be expected.
2. The existence of an organization that has the ability to convene various partners to collaborate to produce natural capital accounts, is extremely useful. For ecosystem accounts in South Africa, Statistics South Africa and SANBI have been able to play this role.
3. Ecosystem accounts in physical terms are powerful in their own right, not just as a precursor to monetary accounts. Many stakeholders are reassured to hear that NCA is primarily about systematic measurement of ecosystems and their contributions, and that this measurement needed be in monetary terms.
4. Ecologists should play a central role in the development of ecosystem accounts. Meaningful ecosystem accounts require a strong ecological perspective, not simply a resource economics perspective (which may be sufficient for other environmental accounts).

Uganda

Introduction

The Ugandan scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Ministry of Water and Environment as well as from the World Bank. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Uganda was moderate. Information is available on forestry, wetlands, agriculture, and on national parks, but there remain gaps in valuation of natural capital as well as in the regularity of data collection. Threats to natural capital include unsustainable exploitation of natural capital, degradation of resources, unplanned settlement and rapid urbanisation, and high population growth rate.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Uganda has developed NCA for biodiversity, land, fisheries, forests, wetlands, and water. In addition, there is interest to expand their NCA programme to include agriculture, carbon, ecosystems, emissions, energy, minerals, soil, and waste. Accounts have been developed with the use of various SEEA-related documents, though it was noted that it would also be useful to see example accounts from other countries in Africa as well.

Institutional arrangements are in place for NCA and are overseen by a national steering committee, with the compilation and integration of accounts done by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. Technical review is provided by the technical working group (which comprises of data users and line ministries, as well as the private sector and civil society organisations). Finally, sector committees are the starting point for accounting development, and these function as a subset of the technical working group.

Breaks in accounting production have been due to lack of data, financial resource constraints, and inadequate technical capacity. Uganda has received assistance from international institutions including the World Bank and UNEP-WCMC.

Use of NCA

To date no direct use has been made of NCA data in the policy space, though natural capital information more broadly is often used in government decision-making. A number of plans and strategies can be identified however that could use NCA information, including a range of national development plans and policies, such as the state of the environment report. Other opportunities include regular reporting to international commitments such as the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, and the SDGs.

Champions for NCA include Permanent Secretaries within the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as well as the Ministry of Water and Environment, as well as officials from the Department of Macroeconomic Policy in the Ministry of Finance and the Forest and Wetlands Departments in the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Barriers and lessons

Uganda sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being the lack of statistics and data and financial resource availability. They are less concerned with issues such as the disarticulation between statistical registries and NCA and the potential absence of demand for NCA.

A few key important lessons learned have been identified as follows:

1. Importance of having a structure that connects/ links data generators, users, decision makers within institutions;
2. Identification of policy entry points to ensure there is sustainable demand and importance of the accounts to the country;
3. The importance of identifying champions of natural capital accounting in the country;
4. Building a community of practice and a critical mass of experts in country to facilitate the development of the accounts; and
5. Importance of having a sustainability plan that articulates the resources (financial, technical) set aside for future accounts development.

Zambia

Introduction

The Zambian scoping assessment was completed by staff from the Ministry of National Development Planning, Zambia Statistical Agency (CSO), Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation, and Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, and the National Remote Sensing Center. They considered that, overall, the general state of knowledge about natural capital in Zambia was moderate. There is a growing recognition of the value of natural resources and their contribution to livelihoods, and major threats to natural capital include deforestation, low value chain development in non-timber forest products, water bodies' management, and poor land use management.

Implementing natural capital accounts

Zambia is in the process of developing forest/timber, land, and water accounts and would also like to develop energy, minerals, and tourism accounts in the future. They are using the SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Water, which they find useful in this regard.

Currently, the compilation of NCA is still in an early stage and is produced by a consortium of individuals from different ministries and government institutions including personnel from the Zambia Statistical Agency (ZAMSTATS). The consortium is led by the Ministry of National Development Planning with support from the World Bank. In the past, there has been a break in the production of land accounts and also in modelling efforts due to issues around stakeholder coordination, lack of data, lack of technical expertise, and lack of 'buy in' at senior leadership levels. In the future, ZAMSTATS will take the lead in the compilation of accounts through its national accounts branch.

Use of NCA

Given that NCA is just beginning development in Zambia, there have few instances of the use of NCA in informing policies (though it has informed sectoral policies as well as poverty reduction and economic growth plans). However, it is anticipated that NCA results can be applied in many contexts including both national and international plans and reporting.

Parliamentarians were briefed on the development of the Water Accounts and their submissions were factored in in the second iteration of the Accounts. Once the reports for Water and Forest Accounts are launched for the country, these reports will be distributed to Parliament and its various subcommittees on Economic Development and Environment.

Barriers and lessons

Zambia sees the greatest barriers to NCA implementation as being the lack of statistics and data and lack of technical expertise. They are less concerned with issues such as the disarticulation between statistical registries and NCA, and the potential absence of demand for NCA.

Zambia have already identified some important lessons, namely: 1) the need for awareness among decision makers of the use of NCA and policy uses; 2) the need to link NCA to the SDGs and the AU agenda; and 3) the need to increase technical capacity and mainstreaming NCA into planning processes.

ANNEX 4: FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS ON THE SHAPE OF THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

As noted in the agenda (Annex 1), the Forum was structured to allow for the participants to provide targeted inputs at three points during the day:

- 1) Following the presentation on 'Natural Capital Accounting in Africa', contributions were invited from the floor for about 20 minutes;
- 2) Across two break-out sessions in the afternoon, participants discussed what an African Community of Practice should do and how such a Community of Practice could be organised (Tables 1 and 2, below).
- 3) In a closing plenary session, facilitated by the GDSA Secretariat, final contributions were provided from participants.

We summarise those contributions, below.

Contributions from the floor (morning sessions):

The contributions from the floor following the morning presentation regarding 'Natural Capital Accounting in Africa' focused primarily on the opportunities and hurdles for NCA, from the perspective of c. 12 government delegates or delegates from international institutions based in Africa. The comments raised are noted here, as they provide an indication of the kinds of topics that might be addressed through a Community of Practice:

- *Nigeria*: It would be important to leverage funding for NCA from other projects/interventions. How can we trigger the movement of information the national level to the local level?
- *World Bank, Rwanda*: It is very critical to have a stakeholder prioritization exercise at the beginning of work to ensure that findings are linked to priorities. NCA can measure progress directly to the SDGs as well as climate-related indicators, and this is an important opportunity for NCA.
- *South Africa*: Taking raw data and turning it into NCA is not always possible. From a project management perspective, it is important to have individuals whose job descriptions include NCA. Within South Africa, there are good working relationships across the entities doing NCA, and this is important. However, there remains a concern that NCA can be produced on a regular basis.
- *Kenya*: NCA takes time and the next is visualisation of the information that is critically important so as to better convey the information and create an appetite for NCA. Coordination is critically important between agencies. **If we work together as a region, under a Community of Practice, we will be able to do NCA faster.**
- *Senegal*: In Senegal, there is a policy angle for NCA but there is a need to also further include the private sector who are interested in the information that NCA presents from a business perspective.
- *Lesotho*: Existing data can be leveraged in Lesotho to develop NCA. **For the Community of Practice, can we leave here with a commitment to help with data and information sharing? The issue of a Community of Practice should be committed to fully as it adds value to our work.**

- *Madagascar*: One of the first countries to work on WAVES. However, the government did not continue working on WAVES because it wasn't convinced that there was enough value in NCA. How can we better inform governments that NCA is a priority? In addition, it would be important to synchronise different initiatives happening within a country.
- *Uganda*: Uganda is developing several accounts and through this has learned that it is critical to identify entry points as well as indicators useful to decision-makers. It is important to have 'champions' and for there to be institutional collaboration, academic and private sector involvement, and support from international organisations. They recognised and thanked UNEP-WCMC, World Bank, and UNSD for support.
- *Botswana*: Botswana has been developing accounts for more than six years, initially supported by WAVES. It is now difficult to get the resources to continue developing the accounts and they also face issues of data availability. **This Community of Practice will help us as a region.**
- *Mozambique*: **A community of practice could eventually help with the sharing of information in Portuguese as many documents are only available in the English language.**

Contributions made during the afternoon break-out sessions:

The agenda included space for two break-out sessions (Annex 1), designed to promote discussion on different aspects of the NCA Community of Practice. The feedback collected from participants is captured in Tables 1 and 2, below.

Contributions made during the closing plenary:

The following contributions were noted from participants during the plenary, in regards to setting up the Community of Practice:

- *Nigeria*: can there been a declaration on natural capital coming out of this workshop, so that we can ensure there is a Community of Practice which is implemented? Also, a meeting in November 2021 would be good. Provided a suggestion that a small team works with the Secretariat to ensure implementation of this Community of Practice.
- *Peter Katanisa (Rwanda/World Bank)*: It would be best to have clarity on who the host Secretariat is and make sure that that entity has a person in charge of this Community of Practice. It would also be good to suggest a month/year for the next meeting. Finally, it would be good to convene a small volunteer team to support the GDSA in putting activities together for the Community of Practice as it ramps up.
- *UNSD*: UNECA has offered to host the platform, and hence there is a request to hold on deciding who the convener/coordinator of the Community of Practice would be.
- *Malawi*: We would like to ensure that the organizers liaise with the GDSA to organize this Community of Practice.

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- *Uganda*: In principle, all of the 17 countries present agree to be part of the Community of Practice. This can be a good starting point for the Forum organizers.
 - *Benoit Blarel (World Bank)*: suggested a small working group to develop a roadmap for the NCA Community of Practice, with people from the room self-nominating to participate in that group.

Table 2: Suggestions from the first break out session on the purpose of a Community of Practice, as well as potential activities.

	Private Sector Break-out Group	Landscape Break-out Group	Policy Break-out Group	Statistics/Data Break-out Group
Is there demand for an NCA Community of Practice?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
What should be the purpose of an Africa-wide NCA Community of Practice?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits outweigh the costs • Can improve political will for NCA at national level • Helps with aligning NCA works to international commitments • Save time + resources from coming together • Can help countries benchmark against each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make NCA attractive to decision makers • Demonstrate value of NCA + catalyse process of NCA • Platform to share experience + for advocacy • Platform to support decisions taken at a higher level (e.g. AU, AMCEN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences • Collaborative communication • Management of data sources • Statistical capacity building • Regional strategies on action plans for NCA to align with AU Agenda 2063 and NSDS • Provide technical support to all African countries on NCA • Provide innovative financing for NCA • Help develop a business case to support private sector/INGOS • Peer pressure to drive NCA in other African countries • Ensure linkages to other related projects with NCA (e.g. BIOPAMA) • Ensuring international initiatives are aligned
What should be the main activities of an Africa-wide NCA Community of Practice?				
Networking and dialogue	X		X	X
<i>Annual forum/meeting</i>		X (a “must”)	X (potentially also by region)	X
<i>Annual/quarterly bulletin</i>			X	
<i>Online platform for engagement + Social Media tools</i>			X	X
<i>Database of members of the Community of Practice</i>			X	
<i>Linking to other/existing Communities of Practice</i>	X			

<i>Presence at other conferences and meetings (e.g. side events, presentations)</i>			X (exhibition table)	X
Collective learning and co-generation of knowledge	X		X	X
<i>Collect best practices + share them (including connecting with new groups of stakeholders)</i>	X		X	
<i>Development of case studies</i>	X		X	
<i>Webinars</i>				X
<i>Resource hub/depository</i>		X ("online materials")	X	X
<i>Working groups</i>	X (private sector)		X (for transboundary issues)	X (for cross-cutting issues)
<i>Peer review of documents</i>				X
Joint capacity development		X	X	X
<i>Supporting national fora across continent</i>			X	
<i>Workshops/trainings to address topical issues</i>		X	X	X
Joint advocacy and strategy			X	X
<i>Inclusion of civil society in Community of Practice</i>			X	
<i>Use convening power of African Union to influence policy + identifying high-level policy entry points</i>			X	X
Peer-to-peer exchange, coaching, and mentoring	X	X	X	X
<i>Inter-country learning + south-south exchanges</i>		X	X	X
Other ideas				
<i>Joint resource mobilisation</i>			X	

Action plans and roadmaps at the national level		X		
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Table 3: Suggestions from the second break-out session, on governance issues and how a Community of Practice might function.

	Private Sector Break-out Group	Landscape Break-out Group	Policy Break-out Group	Statistics/Data Break-out Group
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share membership list and criteria Shared ownership + inclusive Individual institutions and champions welcome From the private sector, participation can initially start within the CSR department but move out of this department in Year 2 and onwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country level: whatever entity is leading NCA efforts (potentially two levels of participation, including political and technical?) Should be open to all African countries Could be defined by working groups with Focal Points within each country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals, governments, institutions (e.g. academic, civil society, NGOs) Should be broad and inclusive Can be benchmarked against existing Communities of Practice in Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All African countries Two focal points per country (one primary and one alternate). There are many ministries within a government from which the focal points can come. The focal points should have a technical understanding of NCA and a TOR is to be developed for their duties.
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional hub(s) with links to the AU Can learn from others (e.g. the Circular Economy Forum) Could be placed under a neutral convening hub (e.g. GDSA, World Bank, Natural Capital Coalition) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules of engagement to be determined based on common vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two focal points per country (one technical; one policy) Suggestion for the GDSA Secretariat to host the Community of Practice Should initially be an English-language Community of Practice, even as non-English speaking countries would be welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be under a regional organisation (CI, UNECA, AfDB, AU, etc.)
Operating Principles			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-hierarchical + every member is an equal participant Safe space for participants as individuals and as institutions to express ideas and opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement, inclusive, standardization, advocacy

Links to other networks and existing Communities of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should also include private finance arms and/or the regional networks of the AfDB, IUCN, DFID, WBCSD, AU, WEF, UNEP-FI, IFC, World Bank, Business 4 Nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map linkages to other activities/relevant networks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect to other regional Communities of Practice both within Africa and elsewhere Link to other organisations (e.g. CI, IUCN)
What should be in a first-year workplan? (e.g. quick and easy wins)	<p><i>Year 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a working group for the private sector Map current practices and gather information for compelling case studies <p><i>Year 2:</i> Capacity building, and identifying areas where businesses could be better 'trained'. Working to understand how businesses can use data from NCA to inform their assessments. Start providing businesses with a safe, trusting space to discuss this issue. It is important to engage beyond the CSR department.</p> <p><i>Year 3:</i> Scaling and incentives, and begin discussion on policy drivers. Begin thinking about how to scale things like green bonds and begin discussion on topics like value chains and mandatory vs. voluntary efforts.</p> <p><i>Longer-term:</i> Is there a way to have standard business accounts that are compatible to the SEEA? Can this be linked to international standards?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Focal Points (within a few months) Develop data/info depository for sharing with Focal Points and others Define representation structure (e.g. hierarchy) Designate coordinator/convenor Identify funding/mobilise resources Assessment of training need within the region Delivery of training(s) recognising differences in experience within Africa (both of the production and use of accounts) Stock take of what is happening on NCA, including uptake and mainstreaming Identify and engage key NCA decision makers Convene annual face-to-face meeting Regular information sharing Bilateral exchanges/south-south visits Beyond the first year, it would be beneficial to showcase Africa NCA experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of GDSA as host institution Develop TOR for Focal Points Identification of Focal Points in countries Establish online platform (e.g. WhatsApp) and a page on the GDSA website Survey to map out other Communities of Practice and how they engage (+ opportunities they can provide) Database of members Links on Community of Practice website to the WAVES Knowledge Platform and SEEA website Focal Points to convene small meetings in their countries and prepare 2-page brief on NCA in the country and the next steps on NCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usage of social media tools (e.g. Facebook page, twitter account; WhatsApp) collaborative tools (slack) web portal to be hosted by UNECA annual face-to-face meeting inclusion of the COP activities in the agenda of planners and statisticians conferences conduct webinars and online meetings for training adapting the global strategy to align with Agenda 2063 for NCA conduct capacity building events conduct peer review develop a repository for NCA create working groups/task forces or cross cutting issues; and a coordinator to serve as Secretariat.

ANNEX 5: INTERIM WORKING GROUP FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NCA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The following individuals self-nominated to join the interim Working Group for the Establishment of the NCA Community of Practice:

- Peter Katanisa (World Bank, Rwanda)
- Zacharia Magombo (Malawi)
- Sonigitu Ekpe (Nigeria)
- Imane Loudiyi (Morocco)
- Mandy Driver (South Africa)
- Ignela Sahondra Randriantsizafy (Madagascar)
- Evelyn Atuhairi (Uganda)
- Nick Conner (IUCN)
- Marie Fabienne Randrianarisoa (Madagascar)
- Christine Magu (Kenya)
- Teresa Magalhaes Pinto (Mozambique)
- Bathusi Segobai (Botswana)
- Kennedy Olwasi (Kenya)