Dear Africa Community of Practice (CoP) members,

Welcome to the 8th issue of the CoP newsletter.

We would like to thank all members for your continued support and enthusiasm for the development of NCA in Africa. In the last quarter, we held a successful joint webinar with the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) in partnership with the UN Statistics Division: The Quest for Green GDP that familiarized the audience with headline indicators that can be derived with natural capital accounts, as well as the World Bank’s approach to adjusting the standard macroeconomic indicators from the System of National Accounts to reflect how a country is managing its natural and human capital.

Please note that the Africa NCA Policy Forum that was scheduled to take during the week of May 8-12, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya has been postponed and rescheduled to take place in September the week of 4-8, 2023 to coincide with the planned Africa Summit (ACS). More details of the on-going preparations to be shared by the CoP Secretariat soon.

Remember to share your institutional news and updates on how NC is influencing policy and decision-making that you would like us to highlight and share with the CoP by sending your contributions to lmbonimpa@worldbank.org and pkatanisa@worldbank.org. A line-up of events, webinars and trainings will be shared via the CoP communication platforms.

Best wishes,

The CoP Secretariat Team
The Africa NCA Policy Forum that was scheduled to take during the week of May 8-12, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya has been postponed and rescheduled to take place in September the week of 4-8, 2023 to coincide with the planned Africa Climate Summit (ACS). The Coordinator on behalf of the Africa NCA CoP Secretariat led a forum planning mission this month in Nairobi, Kenya with the responsible Government of Kenya institutions and CoP partner institutions including World Bank, UNEP, Capitals Coalition, IUCN and SEI-Africa among others. A meeting was held thereafter with the CoP Steering Committee members to inform them of the progress of the forum and to incorporate their input. More details on your participation and contribution (sponsorship and attendance) in the Forum to be shared.

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**News from our Partners**

**Ethiopia NCA Initiative: Technical workshop on Natural Capital Accounting and Investment Prioritization Tool for Sustainable Land Management**

The World Bank and United Nations Statistics Division conducted a follow-up in-person technical training last month for Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) focal points, contact persons as well as data custodians in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training is part of the Ethiopian NCA initiative which aims is to help institutionalize NCA approaches in decision making by helping government agencies to acquire, maintain and update data and information on natural capital. [Read more]

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**Study visit conducted in the Netherlands**

Early this year, fifteen participants from Ghana and Ethiopia visited Statistics Netherlands (CBS) for a study visit to learn more about environmental and ecosystem accounting practices (SEEA). This study visit was organized as part of the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) programs in Ghana and Ethiopia supported by the Global Sustainability Program (GPS) administered by the World Bank. CBS is one of the leaders in the field of NCA, and participants from the two countries gained key knowledge on how to compile data and accounts to analyze the contribution and value of natural capital. [Read more]
Assessing the state of the SEEA: 2022 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting

The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) released the results of the 2022 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics (Global Assessment) last month, which indicated that 92 countries currently compile SEEA accounts, a net increase of three countries from 2021. Nearly all countries (91 out of 92 countries) implementing SEEA accounts compile the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) while 41 countries compile the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA).

Since 2014, UNSD has been tracking information on the implementation of the SEEA accounts around the world, with the administration of a detailed survey sent every three years to all countries. In addition, since 2021, a shortened version of the Global Assessment is administered annually to collect information on the number of countries compiling SEEA accounts to report on the SDG indicator 15.9.1 (b), including the stage of implementation of each respondent country. Read more:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Integrating the value of natural capital into policy and investment decisions for economic development

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023

Register for the webinar

Time: 13:00 -14:30 UTC/ 09:00 - 10:30 EDT/15:00 - 16:30 CEST/16:00 - 17:30 EAT/ 15:00 - 16:30 CAT

Presented by the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF)

The overarching theme of this webinar is how natural capital accounting can help answer important policy questions by providing information for economic analyses like cost-benefit analysis. It will provide an understanding of why natural capital has historically and typically been excluded from economic development planning and investment, resulting in its degradation and loss. We will then explore how a country's natural capital accounting system, when integrated effectively into environmental economic analysis, can be used to guide decision making and identify best-case scenarios for investments into sustainable development.

Embedding Ecosystem Services into Policy Training
Program in Malawi

Date: June 19-21, 2023

The Global Program for Sustainability (GPS) and the Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Landscape Assessment (BELA) initiative at the World Bank launched the Embedding Ecosystem Services into Policy (EESP) training program. This program aims to deliver tailored capacity-building to support policymakers and technical staff in governments to move beyond the initial landscape and ecosystems assessments to translate biophysical analyses into financial and economic feasibility and trade-off analyses that can inform policy development and planning processes.

In Malawi, the EESP training program will build on the recent landscape assessments prepared by the BELA team for the CCDR to support the Malawi government in integrating landscape and ecosystem services approaches into their work as they implement their Malawi 2063 National Development Plan. The workshop will be co-delivered with the Africa NCA COP to support the Malawi government as they set up their steering committee and prepare a roadmap for the development of natural capital accounts. The training is scheduled to take from June 19-21, 2023 in-person training in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Publications

Adjusted Macroeconomic Indicators Report 2021 Edition

This report presents adjusted Uganda’s macroeconomic indicators for 2020 and highlights relevant policy issues for planning and budgeting. It provides 2020 values and long-term trends for Adjusted Net National Income (ANNI) and Adjusted Net Savings (ANS). Read more:

Kenya Climate and Nature Financing Options Analysis

The objective of this report is to conduct a preliminary options analysis of financing instruments suited to the Kenya context which can help Kenya, over time, to reduce the gap between the financing needs for climate and nature action and the actual funding the country can leverage from the government’s budget, development partners and capital markets. Read more:

EVENT RECAP

Joint webinar with the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) in partnership with the UN Statistics Division: The Quest for Green GDP

This webinar familiarized the audience with headline indicators that can be derived with natural capital accounts, as well as the World Bank’s approach to adjusting the standard
macroeconomic indicators from the System of National Accounts to reflect how a country is managing its natural and human capital. Furthermore, the linkage between the two, and possibilities to complement one with estimates or data from the other, were discussed.

More: Post webinar recording.

Join the NCA WhatsApp Group

To join the new NCA CoP WhatsApp group, follow these two easy steps:

1. Download WhatsApp on your device (Mobile phone or laptop) here.
2. Click the NCA CoP WhatsApp invitation link to join the group.

Our Partners

This newsletter is published by the NCA CoP Secretariat. We welcome your submissions of news, events and publications at ncacommunityofpractice@gmail.com

Find out more: Africa Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice

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