



Africa NCA CoP Newsletter



Dear Africa Community of Practice (CoP) members,

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the CoP newsletter! We hope you are all keeping safe and well as we continue to work mostly virtually. In this issue, we bring you the latest updates of the CoP activities and Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) related events that the CoP has organised and/or participated in.

The Fifth Policy Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Decision Making was held virtually on 15 - 16th September 2021 and this year's discussion focused on practical ways in which NCA can make COVID-19 recovery initiatives more sustainable and effective. The Forum was co-organized by the World Bank's Global Program on Sustainability (GPS), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the Government of the Netherlands. It was a highly successful event, attended by more than 330 participants, including many CoP members. Find out more about the Forum below.

In alignment with the FY2022 work plan and the CoP's response to the annual needs assessment survey to focus on the training needs and enhance capacity for the CoP members, a Measuring and Valuing Ecosystem Services training course was held. The objective of the course was to familiarize government professionals with the valuation of ecosystem services and how they can be used for policy analysis. The course was developed by the University of Cape Town and funded by the World Bank. It was attended by 25 participants from five countries selected through their government focal points.

Two webinars were held in July and September 2021 respectively; [Living in Harmony With Nature: Lesson From Ethiopia's Experience on Nature-Based Solution and Green Legacy Initiative](#) presented by the Environment Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) and Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) and [Protecting East Africa's Natural Capital: The Cost of Inaction](#) presented by the Economics of Natural Capital in East Africa Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

We would like to thank all CoP members for their enthusiasm and participation in the CoP activities.

Warm regards,

The CoP Secretariat Team

COP GOVERNANCE

Introducing the new COP Secretariat Team



*Photo: Top (L-R) Mimako Kobayashi, Ngao Mubanga, Peter Katanisa
Bottom (L-R) Yesmeana N.Butler, Dawit Woubishet Mulatu, Leonah Mbonimpa*

We are excited to introduce the new Africa NCA CoP Secretariat team in charge of the overall planning and implementation of the CoP work plan and activities.

The team is led by Ms Mimako Kobayashi, Senior Environmental Economist – World Bank as the Task Team Leader (TTL) with Ms Ngao Mubanga, Environmental Economist – World Bank, Zambia as Co-TTL. They are supported by Ms Yesmeana N.Butler, Program Assistant - World Bank and Mr Dawit Woubishet Mulatu (PhD), Senior Environment and Climate Economics Consultant, World Bank, Ethiopia. Peter Katanisa(CoP Coordinator, World Bank) and Leonah Mbonimpa (Communications Consultant, World Bank) remain in charge of the CoP coordination and communications respectively.

The new team officially began working with the CoP at the start of this FY(July 2021) following Ms Sofia Ahlroth's retirement from the World Bank. They have so far been part of all CoP activities, trainings and contributing to both the Steering Committee and Partners' meetings.

The team will join efforts to build on the need for a long-term sustainability plan for the NCA CoP as an African program in the natural capital accounting field.

COP TRAINING

Measuring and Valuing Ecosystem Services in the context of Natural Capital Accounting



The objective of the course was to familiarize government professionals with the valuation of ecosystem services and how they can be used for policy analysis. The course was attended by 25 participants from six countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia) selected through their government focal points. The training provided an overview of the global context that has led to the demand for natural capital accounting, highlighting the biodiversity crisis, climate crisis, and various challenges facing society and related policies that integrate nature into the System of National Accounts (SNA) and national development plans.

Feedback from participants:

"I enjoyed the course very much, it contained useful content with an effective tutor. The course highlighted the different valuation of ecosystem services methodologies and how they can be applied to policy. It is a fundamental course for statistical agencies and ministries. I wish it was longer and I look forward to physical trainings in the near future when we can have more interactions with our NCA Africa CoP colleagues" Dr Sam Mugume, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda

*"As a senior staff, I provide technical advice on matters related to biodiversity management, including preparation of policy and related legal instruments on biodiversity, the course gave an in-depth understanding of ecosystem quantification techniques. Our new policy on Environment and Climate Change has opted to tap into new evolving theories including nature based solutions, PES and NCA and the course gave an in-depth understanding of how we can pilot and mainstream these initiatives to various sectors and share the knowledge with different stakeholders. The course was very interesting with enriching indicative resources for further reading."*Mr Marshall Banamwana, Ministry of Environment, Rwanda.

The next CoP training in ecosystem valuation will take place in November and is targeting professionals who work in public sector institutions managing ecosystem services, biodiversity and national statistics offices (NSOs) mandated to generate data to inform development plans and policy decision making.

For more information about the training please contact Peter Katanisa, NCA CoP coordinator: pkatanisa@worldbank.org

Fifth Policy Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Decision Making -Greening the Recovery



The Policy Forum enabled the NCA community and those working on green recovery policies to discuss the data needs for green recovery policies and how NCA can provide those needs to guide green recovery efforts and institutional reforms.

[Read more and find links to the Forum proceedings and presentations](#)

News from our Partners



An appetite for greening the recovery with natural capital accounting

The Fifth Policy Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Decision Making, attended online by more than 330 participants, recognized that the pandemic has changed the world.

The Forum asserted that government spending, policies and management of the



Our Common Agenda Report

On 10 September 2021, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released the "Our Common Agenda" report, which looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents the Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation and multilateralism.

The report further serves as an action

economy must now tackle a breadth of pressing challenges such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals – and that Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) can help.

Prof Diane Coyle's keynote showed that, while most recovery spending has been "grey" rather than "green", there is increasing public appetite for resolving climate and nature crises alongside post-COVID recovery, and governments are beginning to seek more holistic recovery responses. Highlighting the need for aggregate measures that reveal a better picture than GDP alone, she emphasized how the System of Environment-Economic Accounts (SEEA) provides metrics that can directly link to the policy instruments of government and that support the broader movement towards wealth accounting.

[Read more:](#)

agenda to drive forward progress on Agenda 2030. Our Common Agenda contains 12 areas of commitment, including "Protect our planet", with proposals to "account for the environment in economic models" and fully support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In addition, the report urges the global community to go beyond GDP, building on the work of the Statistical Commission. This includes agreeing on "pathways for national and global accounting systems to include additional measurements, and to establish systems for regular reporting as part of official statistics." On this note, the Secretary-General explicitly calls on Member States and others "to already begin implementation of the recent System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting." The report also makes a proposal for a Summit of the Future to forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like.

[Read more:](#)

Upcoming Events



[Green Recovery Dialogue: Fiscal Innovations to Deliver on a Climate-Smart Recovery](#)

November 3rd, 2021
3:00 PM in Glasgow (local time)

[The Value of Nature to People and Planet](#)

November 5th, 2021
1:30 PM in Glasgow (local time)



COP Training: Measuring and Valuing Ecosystem Services in the context of NCA

Target audience: Professionals who work in public sector institutions

Date: 23rd November – 7th December 2021

Event Recap Webinars



[Protecting East Africa's Natural Capital: The Cost of Inaction](#)



[Living in Harmony With Nature: Lesson From Ethiopia's Experience on Nature-Based Solution and Green Legacy Initiative](#)

[More Webinars](#)

Join the NCA Telegram Group

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

1. Download the Telegram App on your device (Mobile phone or laptop) [here](#).
2. Click the [NCA CoP Telegram invitation link](#) that has been shared by the CoP secretariat team and join the group.

Find out more: [Telegram](#)



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for sustainability
in africa



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting



CAPITALS
COALITION



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

This newsletter is published by the WAVES/GPS Communications Team. We welcome your submissions of news, events and publications at ncacommunityofpractice@gmail.com

Find out more: [Africa Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice](#)