



Africa NCA CoP Newsletter



Dear Africa Community of Practice (CoP) members,

Welcome to the 5th issue of the CoP newsletter! Thank you for all your feedback and suggestions brought forward.

As we start the new financial year (FY) 2022/2023, the Steering Committee, Partner Institutions and the secretariat team have been planning and developing the CoP workplan that will build on past efforts to raise awareness of Natural Capital (NC) data, methods, and tools to support the development and use of NCA data for informing policy making in Africa.

Activities and events planned include the Africa NCA Policy Forum (details to be communicated in due time), South-South knowledge exchange events; trainings, and webinars.

We would like to thank the ARIES team (Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability) of BC3 (Basque Center for Climate Change) for the insightful webinar held on the ARIES for SEEA Explorer. Find out more about how you can get started with ARIES [here](#).

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite our partner institutions, member countries and individuals to share insights and updates on how NC is influencing policy and decision making in your respective domains. Please send your submissions to lmbonimpa@worldbank.org and pkatanisa@worldbank.org.

We look forward to your continued support and collaboration.

Best wishes and stay safe,

The CoP Secretariat Team

COP GOVERNANCE

Updates from the CoP leadership team



We are pleased to officially welcome a new country; Namibia that has recently joined the NCA CoP by nominating three (3) Focal Points (FPs) to represent the country. FPs play an important role of representing their institutions or governments within the CoP acting as key bridges for smooth communication of various NCA initiatives and information between CoP member countries and community members.

The Steering Committee and the CoP Secretariat are looking forward to implement CoP planned activities in the new FY. There is optimism that in the new normal, post Covid-19, the planned Africa NCA Policy Forum will be a physical event, bringing together members of the community, reinstating activities of south - south learning and sharing of experiences between Africa sister countries.

Stakeholder consultation is on-going and details of the first Africa NCA policy forum will be shared at a later date. We are look forward to a successful and engaging year ahead.

Photo: World Bank Photo Collection

UPCOMING - UNSIAP e-Learning Course

System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)-Central Framework



Africa NCA CoP members are invited to apply and attend an e-learning course; **Introduction to the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)-Central Framework from 1 August to 9 September 2022**. The course is organized by the United Nations Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP).

This course introduces the SEEA Central Framework, the international statistical standards for measuring the interactions between the environment and the economy.

By providing an internationally agreed standard with agreed concepts, definitions and classifications, the SEEA is an invaluable tool for compiling integrated information on the economy and the environment.

Target participants are staff of national statistical offices and other relevant line ministries (e.g., Ministry of Environment) working on issues related to the environment. The course can also be useful to a wider audience interested in learning more about the SEEA.

Please fill out the nomination form at the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccKTTweiwclpIoK6AIi89FoJUMUVSOUpVMU1QUVFQMkNYMFNXVDM4MFNCVC4u>

The deadline for receipt of nominations is 27 July 2022

For more information please refer to the course guideline [here](#).

Photo: World Bank Photo Collection

RECAP - TRAINING

GPS Landscape Approaches



NCA Africa Community of Practice members were delighted to take part in the Global Programme for Sustainability (GPS) Landscape Approaches training that took place on 6 -7th June 2022. The training was in support of the new flagship Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Landscape Assessment (BELA) initiative.

The training took place in Zambia, Lusaka and allowed virtual participation as well, bringing together over 50 participants including Government officials like Permanent Secretaries of Ministry of Finance and Planning, and Ministry of Tourism, individuals working in forest, water, land, tourism natural capital accounts and modelling technical working groups as well as NCA CoP members.

In her closing remarks, Director, Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Ms. Cynthia Mukubesa said,

"The training series provided a detailed insight on the need to realize that the depletion of natural resources represents a constraint to sustainable growth as espoused in the 8th National Development Plan. The government is cognizant of the fact that the future growth of the country will depend on sound management of our natural capital. Therefore, we need to establish a credible set of statistical systems that will support better management of our natural resources".

"Of equal importance is the need for human capacity that will facilitate the continuous accounting for the use of our natural resources," she added.

The training aimed to advance institutional capacity in Zambia to increase the integration of ecosystem service science and landscape approaches into national and ecosystem-based planning processes and policy development.

Training facilitators presented innovative landscape assessment tools related to real world applications and provided a platform for participants to share challenges and barriers related to capacity that prevent countries from utilizing landscape assessments in their projects, investments, and planning processes.

Speaking at the end of the training, NCA CoP member, Environmental Officer, GDSA, Mercy Masego Pelekekae said "*The GPS training series was a great learning and knowledge exchange experience that will serve us, as we continue to work to develop the Natural Capital Accounts for policy and decision making. Learning more about natural capital approaches and tools will capacitate me and my colleagues in Botswana to timely generate our ecosystem accounts*"

Resources shared during the training are available on request.

News from our Partners



Helping Uganda Account for Nature

The planet's sustainable future, and humanity's sustainable development, relies on us being able to understand, quantify and recognize the multiple values of biodiversity. However, natural capital and ecosystem services are often neglected in traditional assessments of economic progress and development planning. This is where Natural Capital Accounts (NCA) are a useful tool: they quantify the stocks of ecosystems and other natural resources and flows of services they provide, helping decision-makers to accurately value how societies and industries benefit from nature and incorporate environmental and economic prosperity. [Read more:](#)



Beyond ESG: Streamlining Financial Decision-Making With a Shared Understanding of Value

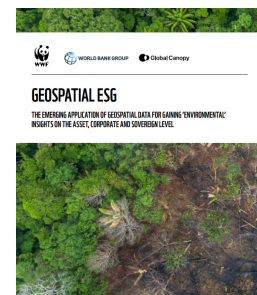
Many institutions already use sustainability or environmental, social and governance (ESG) tools and methodologies to help financial institutions (e.g. asset owners and managers, bankers, insurers) evaluate which environmental and social risks might affect a company's revenue and costs, and how the company is managing those risks.

However, they do not currently consider or evaluate to what extent the activities they are invested in have a positive or negative impact across nature or society. This report summarizes exploratory work, conducted to understand what is needed to bridge this gap. [Read more:](#)

Publications

Geospatial ESG: The Emerging Application of Geospatial Data for Gaining 'Environmental' Insights on the Asset, Corporate and Sovereign Level

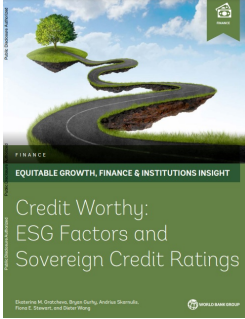
The report demonstrates that it is possible, even with limited resources and only open data, to generate robust geospatial ESG insights that often can be scaled globally – aiding financial institutions to better differentiate environmental impact at different scales and across different applications.



Credit Worthy : ESG Factors and Sovereign Credit Ratings

This paper focuses on sovereign credit ratings and empirically assesses how broad sovereign ESG factors as well as the ESG factors specific to a country's national wealth and management of risks and opportunities related to so-called stranded assets like fossil fuel resources are manifested in sovereign credit

rating assessments.



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](#)



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](#)

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