



## Africa NCA CoP Newsletter



**Dear Africa Community of Practice (CoP) members,**

Welcome to the 9th issue of the CoP newsletter.

We are delighted to share that the Africa NCA CoP participated in the first Natural Capital Symposium since 2019 at Stanford University on June 4th -7th 2024. We are also happy to share that our very own Ngao Mubanga, Environment Specialist at the World Bank in Lusaka Zambia and CoP Team Leader was among the three winners of the inaugural 2024 Natural Capital Young Leaders prize!

The Natural Capital Symposium was attended by 400 people from more than 45 countries and discussed mainstreaming natural capital and ecosystem-based approaches in governments and international financial institutions; advancing private sector financing for nature and biodiversity; the frontiers of urban nature and health; and the connections between equity, justice, and nature – among many other topics. CoP members, Dawit Mulatu, World Bank and Aimee Ginsburg from the South African National Biodiversity Institute also attended the symposium and presented NCA in action approaches from their respective countries, Ethiopia and South Africa.

The CoP also held a successful joint webinar with the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) on using [Natural Capital Accounting \(NCA\) and the Investment Prioritization Tool \(IPT\)](#) for designing landscape programs in Ethiopia. The webinar discussed key activities under the NCA initiative which include the preparation of land, ecosystem extent and ecosystem services accounts and the development of the IPT and the development of an Investment Prioritization Tool (IPT) that combines data on land cover and condition with state-of-the-art ecosystem service modelling approaches to inform the selection future SLM interventions in the recently updated Ethiopia Strategic Investment Framework (ESIF) and the Climate Action through Landscape Management (CALM) World Bank Project.

The registration of the third NCA Forum, an in-person event at Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), Pretoria office in the Rholihlahla Auditorium is now open, please find details of participation shared below.

For any feedback or contributions please send an email to: [Imbonimpa@worldbank.org](mailto:Imbonimpa@worldbank.org) and [pkatanisa@worldbank.org](mailto: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

# COP GOVERNANCE



The Africa NCA COP has appointed new leadership. At the Steering Committee meeting held on April 4, 2024, nominations for the Chair and Co-Chair positions were deliberated. As per the COP governance framework, a Chair and Co-Chair are elected or re-elected every two years. The Chair is selected from member countries (South Africa, Kenya, Botswana, Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda, and Senegal), and the Co-Chair is chosen from partner institutions (WB, AfDB, AUC, GDSA, UNSD, UNEP, and UNECA). We are pleased to announce that Ms. Aimee Ginsburg from South Africa has been elected as the new Chair, and Mr. Innocent Onah from AfDB has been re-elected as Co-Chair. We extend our congratulations to them and wish them great success in leading and guiding the Africa NCA COP to new heights.

The World Bank is currently developing a Long-term NCA CoP Strategy and Roadmap (2024 – 2029) for the future sustainability of the CoP. The Strategy outlines the importance and the strategic role of the Africa NCA CoP in advancing green, inclusive, and sustainable development and achieving its vision: *To create a vibrant platform to advance the understanding, management, valuation, and mainstreaming of natural capital into policy and investment decisions in Africa.* The Strategy further outlines the importance of African governments, partner institutions, and other stakeholders in supporting and enabling the CoP to bring together expertise and experience from African countries and around the world in NCA for the benefit of Africa.

We would like to thank all members who participated in the Strategy and Roadmap survey. Your feedback has been taken into consideration for future implementation and will be communicated in due time. There are additional engagement activities planned between July and August as part of the development of the Strategy and Roadmap, and we encourage all members to participate.

## News from our Partners



**CoP's Ngao Mubanga among winners of the inaugural Natural Capital Young Leaders Prize**



**Convening at Stanford solidifies progress in countries to link nature with development decisions**

“Imagine a world where Africa’s natural resources are not just seen as commodities to be exploited, but as avenues for innovation, job creation, and sustainable development,” Mubanga urged in her acceptance speech. “Natural capital accounting has opened that door, to define a nation as much more. And this aligns with my own values that I hold dear to my heart... This recognition is not just a personal milestone, but a testament to the collective spirit and dedication of the Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice in Africa.” [Read more:](#)

On June 3-4, the Natural Capital Project (NatCap), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank convened participants from the People, Planet, Prosperity (3Ps) project for a second global forum, following the first one held last April. The event brought together leaders from across government sectors in 10 pilot countries, as well as those sharing lessons from similar work in other countries, to Stanford University, where NatCap is based.

[Read more:](#)



### To Grow Strong, Grow Green

The World Bank Group’s mission is to end poverty on a liveable planet. With more than 50 percent of global GDP - \$44 trillion in economic resources – dependent on nature, it is critical to understand the economic impact of biodiversity to achieve this mission.

How do we do this?

[Find out here:](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Third National NCA Forum, in-person event at Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), Pretoria office in the Rholihlahla Auditorium**

**Date : 7 and 8 August 2024.**

[Register for the event](#)

There is no registration fee, but travel and accommodation costs will be for the participants own account. As space in the Stats SA Rholihlahla Auditorium is limited, registrations will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. **Online registration forms must be completed and submitted online by no later than 5 July 2024.**

The National NCA Forum 2024 will feature interactive sessions designed to facilitate meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange. Breakaway groups and plenary sessions will provide opportunities for participants to actively engage with the thematic areas and contribute to shaping the discourse on NCA.

The Forum will include focus sessions on:

- Water-related accounts to support water governance (with a significant focus on ecological infrastructure for water).
- Accounts to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
- Mainstreaming of information from NCA into decision making process: barriers and opportunities.
- Capacity building and sustainability (with a particular interest in the role of universities and research institutions, indigenous knowledge, and resource mobilisation); and
- New waves (with a look at emerging areas for natural capital accounting linked to development finance and nature-related disclosures, as well as resource mobilisation).

Participants are invited to submit titles and abstracts (less than 100 words) for presentations (see the [Call for Presentation Form](#) attached) on the relevant key themes above (also see [National NCA Forum 2024 concept note](#) attached) to Robert Parry- (robertP@statssa.gov.za) by no later than 5 July 2024.



## 19th Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

**Date: June 25-26, 2024**  
**Time: 7:30 to 11:00 EDT**

The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) functions as an umbrella body to provide overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting. The UNCEEA meets once a year and is governed by the Bureau of the UNCEEA.

The agenda of this meeting is organized around the main areas of work of the Committee, namely, coordination and communication, methodological development for normative standards and other research, development of databases for the SEEA, and implementation and statistical capacity building.

Find more details [here](#).

## Publications

### Eight lessons learned from comparing ocean economy measurement strategies across countries

This paper compares the measurement strategies of eight OECD member countries using principles from the system of national accounts.

It also highlights the ocean economy thematic accounts of four countries and summarises their methods. The paper concludes with recommendations for integrating ocean economy measurements with national accounting standards, a vital step for improving the evidence base for ocean policy making.



[Click to download the report](#)

## EVENT RECAP



Joint webinar with the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) on using Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) and the Investment Prioritization Tool (IPT) for designing landscape programs in Ethiopia. The webinar discussed key activities under the NCA initiative which include the preparation of land, ecosystem extent and ecosystem services accounts and the development of the IPT and the development of an Investment Prioritization Tool (IPT) that combines data on land cover and condition with state-of-the-art ecosystem service modelling approaches to inform the selection future SLM interventions in the recently updated Ethiopia Strategic Investment Framework (ESIF) and the Climate Action through Landscape Management (CALM) World Bank Project.

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.



Africa SEEA/NCA COP  
WhatsApp Group Invite

## Our Partners



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

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

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