Biodiversity Mainstreaming: What Natural Capital Can Achieve

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Outline of the presentation

1. Uganda's experiences in Ecosystem Accounts

2. Lessons Learnt: What works for the accounts to support biodiversity mainstreaming

Uganda

Feasibility for Biodiversity Accounting in Uganda

- Reviewed availability of data
- Identified Policy entry points and questions for application of NCA information to inform policy and decision making
- Provided a communication tool to make a case for investment in ecosystems and species
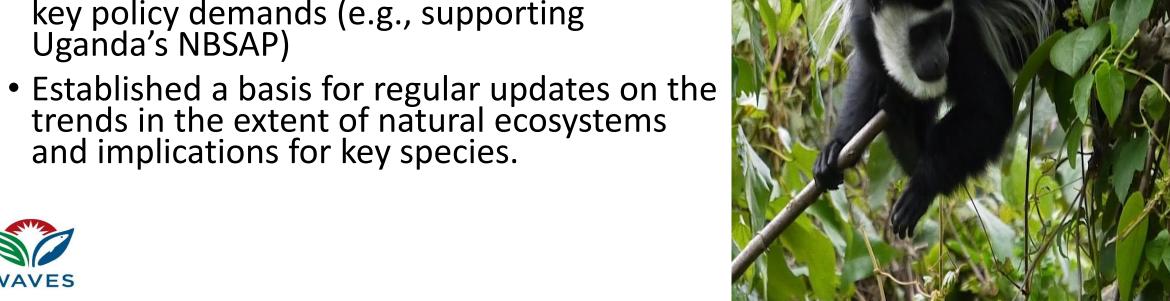- Provided a roadmap for the construction of species account

WAVES

Experimental Ecosystems Accounts

- Illustrated how the SEEA Framework can be cost effectively used to compile integrated accounting tables to support policy and decision making based on existing data;

- Provided a set of integrated Land, Natural Ecosystem Extent and Species Accounts that provided insights into the state and trends in ecosystems and biodiversity in response to key policy demands (e.g., supporting Uganda's NBSAP)

- Established a basis for regular updates on the trends in the extent of natural ecosystems and implications for key species.

Ecosystems Accounts …

- The accounts established the extent of forest degradation which led to the following policy actions
  - Ban on the cutting of *Prunus Africana* tree and instituted a quota on the exportation of its bark, led to the imposition of a ban on Shea butter tree,

Other On-going Ecosystem Accounts

- Forest and Ecosystem Accounts (contributes 6-8% of GDP, employs about 1 million people)
- Water accounts
- Tourism expenditure accounts
- Land cover accounts

Ongoing Projects

Planned Ecosystem Accounts

- Charcoal Economy (Energy-economy nexus) over 96% of the population depends on Biomass energy
- Wetland accounts
- Fisheries Accounts
- Tourism biodiversity accounts (in 2014/15 contributed US$ 1.8 billion (9.9% of GDP) and 592,500 jobs)
- Land soils accounts
- Production and dissemination of the National SEEA Compendium

Lessons Learnt: What works for accounts to support biodiversity mainstreaming

- **Contextualized**
  - Should be rooted within the national development frameworks, regional and international commitments e.g. Africa Agenda 2063, SDGs, Paris Agreement, Aichi Targets
  - Vision 2040
  - NDP II

- **Policy relevant**
  - Should answer or address particular policy questions e.g. How do we use natural capital to achieve social economic transformation?
    - Unemployment,
    - Poverty reduction,
    - Climate resilient growth,
    - Food security, Energy security

What works for accounts to support biodiversity mainstreaming?

- **Demand driven**
  - Demanded by Natural Resource Managers e.g. Water and Environment Sector Working Group and its sub-sectors e.g. Forestry, Fisheries,
  - NCA should be seen as a management tool
  - Advocacy tool e.g. for better management, resource/budget allocation and enforcement tool
  - Monitoring and evaluation tool for effectiveness of interventions

- **Enabling macroeconomic framework**
  - Should be embedded in the macroeconomic model to facilitate macroeconomic projections
  - Should be integrated into the National Standard Indicator (NSI) Framework

What works for accounts to support biodiversity mainstreaming?

- **Simple and easy to communicate**
  - Simplified, summarized, issues specific supplementary tables
  - Decoupling of indicators e.g. percentages (%), ratios etc. Value Added of Charcoal to GDP

- **Strong partnerships between Accounts Producers and Users**
  - Relevance and timeliness
  - Good feedback mechanisms

- **Leverage the existing partnerships for technical and financial resources** e.g. UNSD,UNEP-WCMC, WAVES Partnership, UNECA, UNREDD+