

SEEA and Natural Capital Case Studies

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GGKP Natural Capital Expert Working Group

Goal: Better integrate nature and biodiversity into national green growth planning.

Activities:

1. Push the knowledge frontier;
2. Mainstream natural capital in green growth;
3. Strengthen on-the-ground implementation.

2019 Research: groundwork on natural capital data, metrics and policy.

1. Next, focus on peer review and building practical applications;
2. Address further gaps in finance, infrastructure and biodiversity.



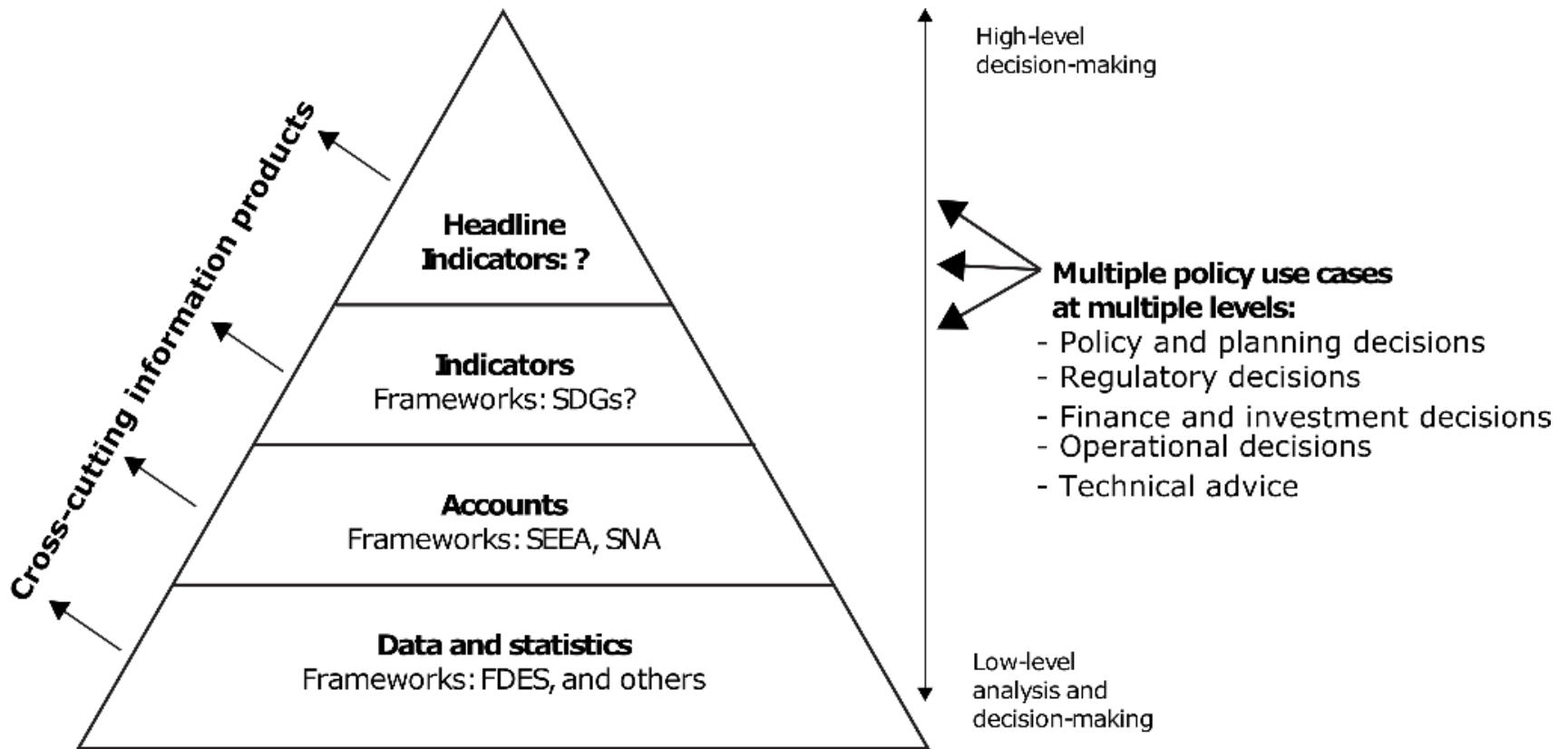
Problem we are addressing

- Overall proliferation of natural capital information, yet lack of implementation in green growth policy
- GGKP identified key knowledge gaps preventing implementation, including dearth of success stories
- Desire from senior policy-makers for new evidence of natural capital uses to inform policy
- 2018/19: GGKP & UCL collaborate on systematised review of case studies in grey and academic literature to understand current evidence base
- Will result in typology of policy uses, characterization of gaps, guidelines for producing new evidence and fresh set of success stories to add to “usual suspects”

Literature search

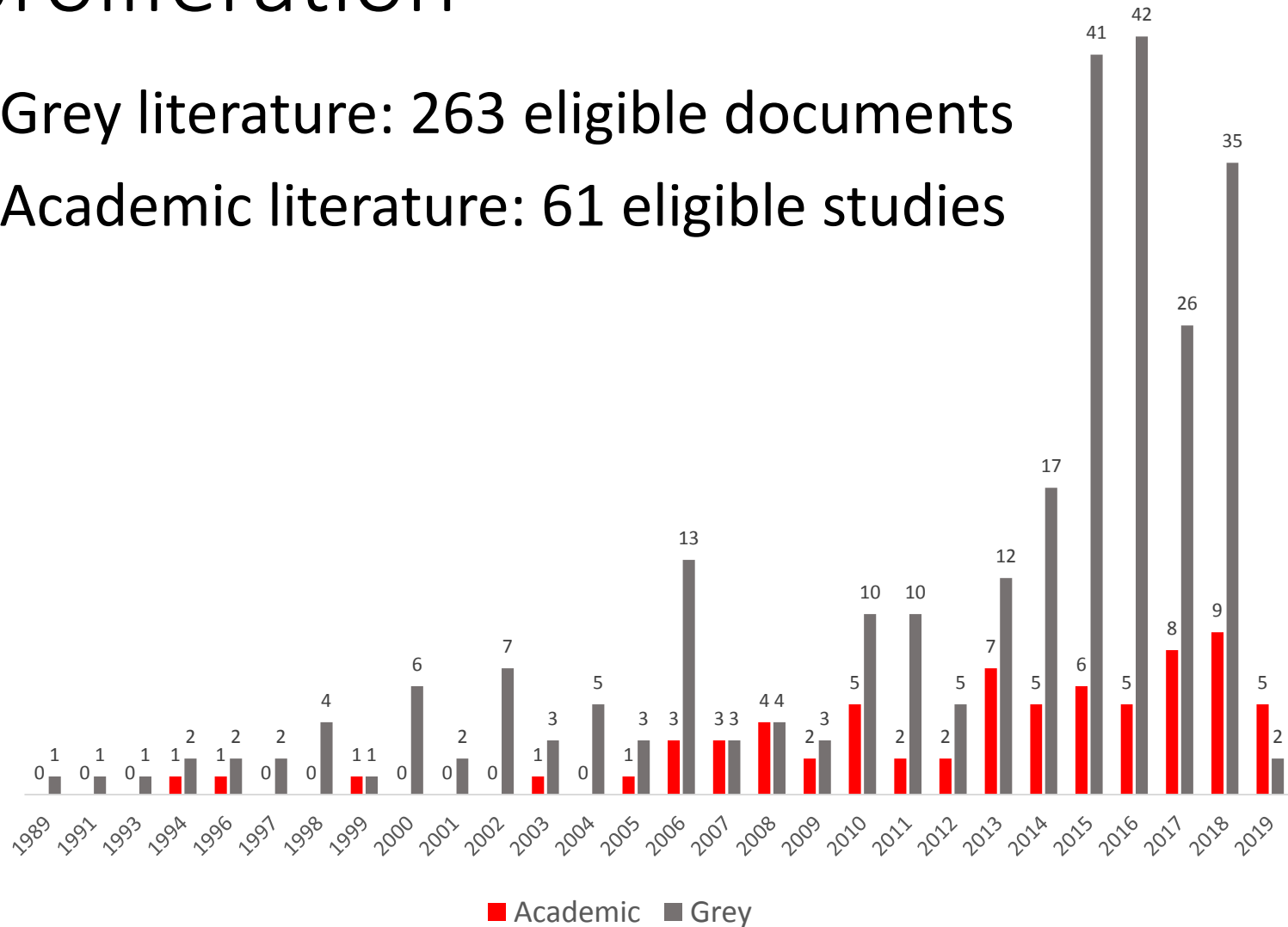
- GGKP develop grey literature dataset by searching online databases of relevant organisations and governments up to Feb 2019
- UCL develop academic literature dataset by searching Scopus electronic database using terms “natural capital” and “case study” and “national” or “country” up to June 2019

Types of information and government decisions

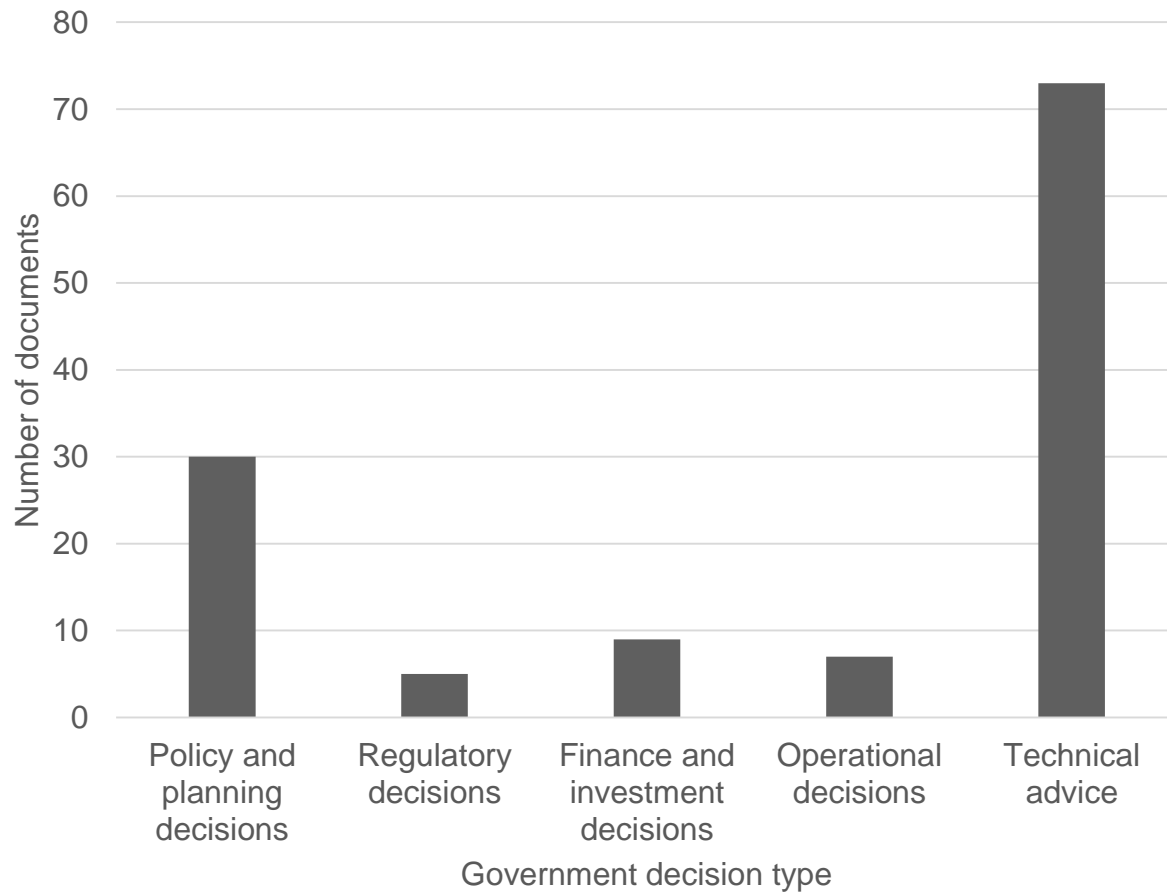


Characteristics of the literature: proliferation

- Grey literature: 263 eligible documents
- Academic literature: 61 eligible studies



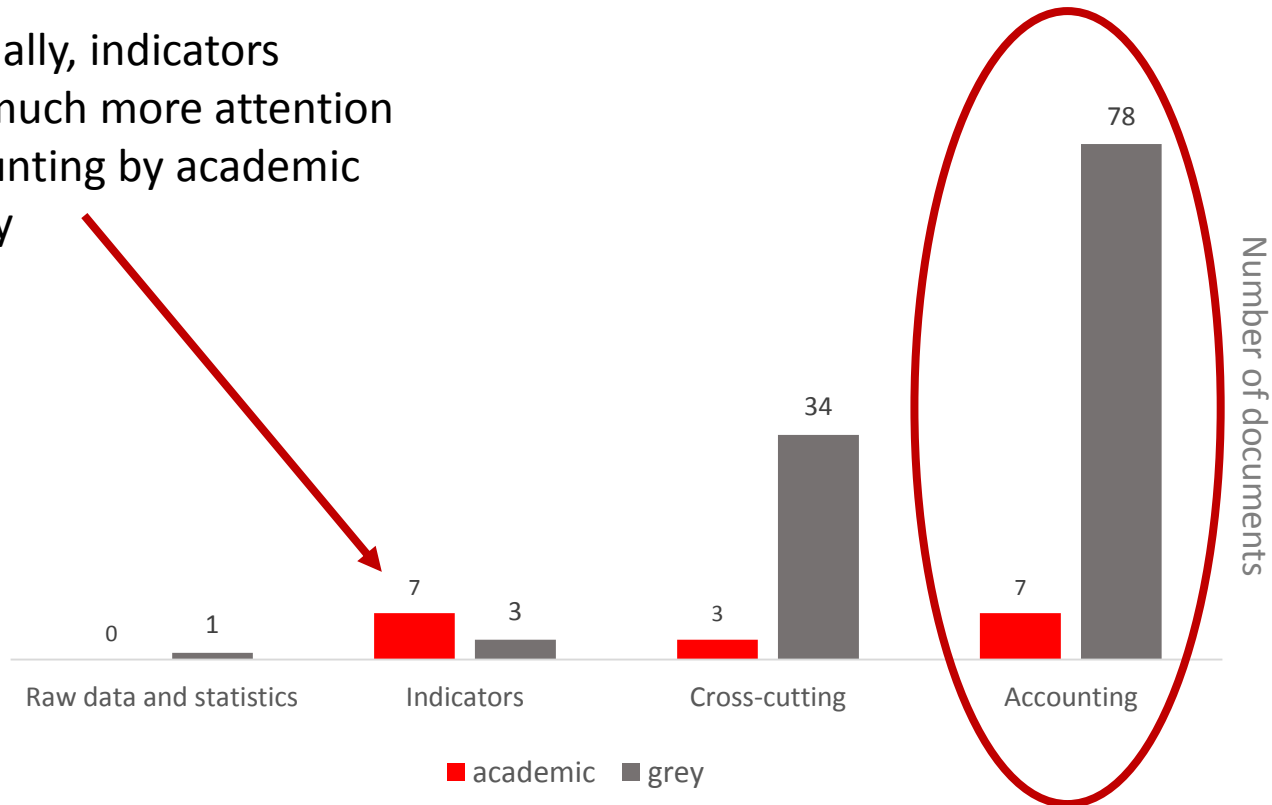
Characteristics of the literature: policy use



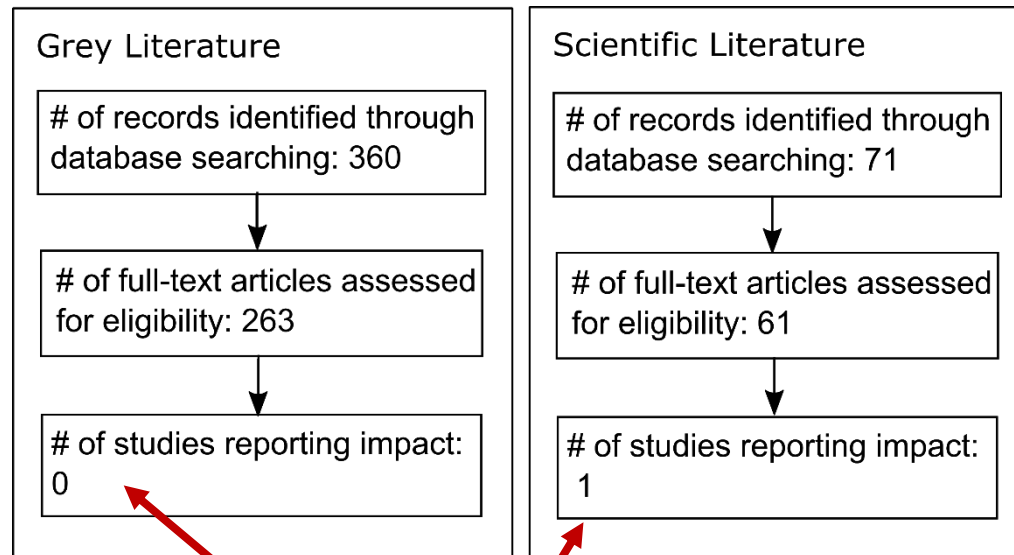
Characteristics of the literature: information type

Accounting dominates reporting

Proportionally, indicators
receiving much more attention
than accounting by academic
community



Characteristics of the literature: impact reporting



Very little literature reporting impact on government decision-making

Few new examples uncovered showing impact

- Case studies include some “usual suspects”:
 1. Coastal management in Belize
 2. Natural capital accounting in Botswana
 3. Ecosystem Function Conservation Areas (EFCAs) in China
 4. Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Costa Rica
 5. Ecosystem assessment in Myanmar
 6. Natural capital accounting in the Philippines
 7. United Kingdom 25 Year Environment Plan

Impact studies tend to be used for policy planning and investment

Natural capital information type	Type of government decision				
	<i>Policy and planning decisions</i>	<i>Regulatory decisions</i>	<i>Finance and investment decisions</i>	<i>Operational decisions</i>	<i>Technical advice</i>
<i>Raw data and statistics</i>					
<i>Accounts</i>	Botswana; Philippines		Botswana; Philippines		
<i>Indicators</i>					
<i>Cross-cutting information products</i>	Myanmar; United Kingdom; Belize; China; Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Costa Rica; China		

Impact studies often rely on accounts and info derived from accounts

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Accounts and modelling are main types of information reported

Types of information and decisions

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No reported impact on operational decisions and technical advice

Preliminary conclusions

- Spike in natural capital literature in past decade
- By far most literature has focused on providing technical advice
- Fewer examples of use in practical decision making such as policy or fiscal planning
- Much literature is based on accounting information and accounting is key in many of the most impactful examples
- Still rely on “usual suspects” to demonstrate policy impact
- Lack of standardised reporting of case studies – dataset difficult to collect and evaluate
- Some key literature appears to be missing from public domain – unclear how much and how it affects our sample

Recommendations for the UNCEEA based on this work

- Guidelines or “policy adequacy criteria” are needed by 2020 to develop a more coherent and impactful dataset of natural capital case studies
- Accounting is already a key source of natural capital information, but needs to be applied more in policy and fiscal planning and to develop of other types of information like indicators
- Support policy-makers and researchers including members of the GGKP expert group to publish additional case studies in the public domain

Next steps for the GGKP effort

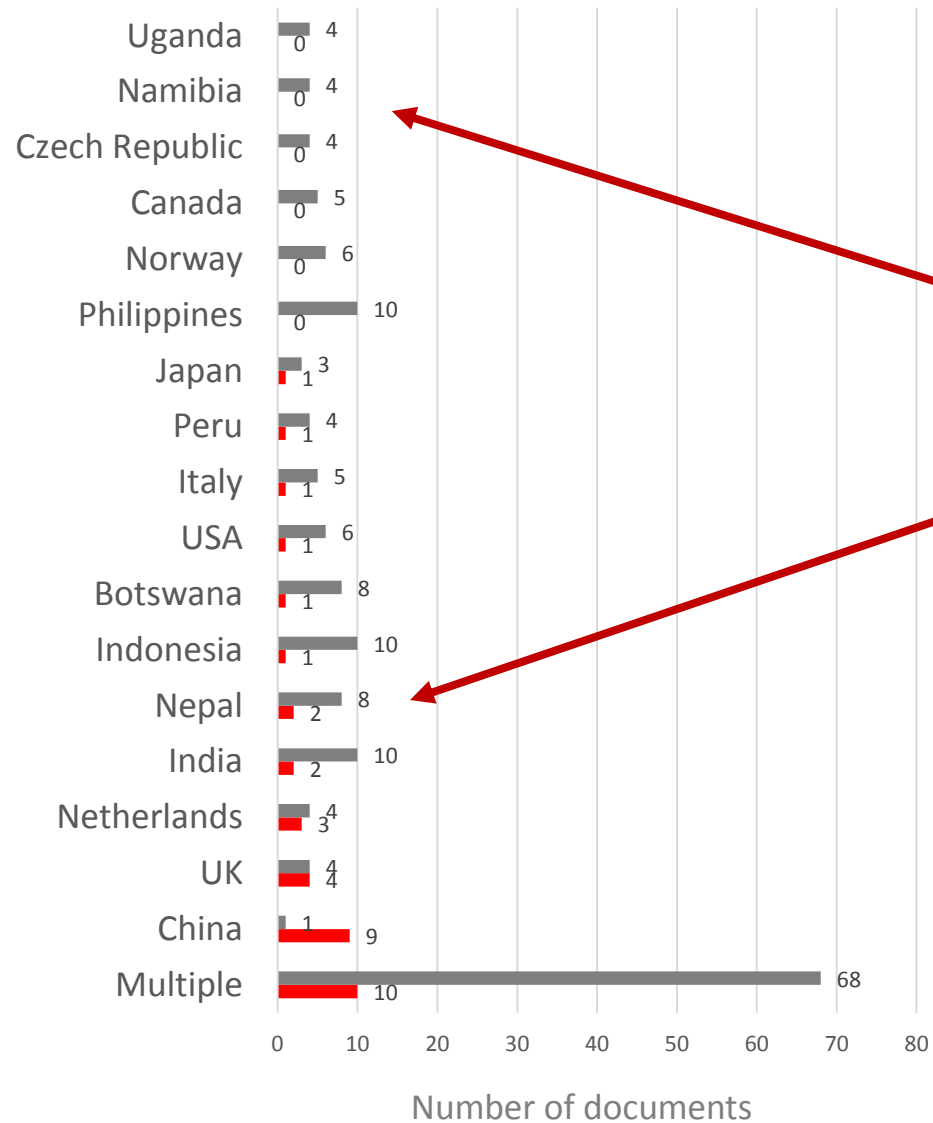
- Consultative peer review of this work in 2019
- New round of research will build out mainstreaming applications for green growth
- Its scope will also be broadened to address knowledge gaps in natural capital finance, infrastructure and biodiversity
- GGKP welcomes collaboration with UNCEEA to expand the evidence base of SEEA case studies to demonstrate national policy impact

For more information please
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Characteristics of the literature



Country bias in terms of how some case studies are reported