

# Natural Capital Accounting & Valuation of Ecosystem Services

## Project progress in South Africa

NCA&VES Project Countries Workshop  
Glen Cove, New York  
28 June 2019



# Initial ecosystem accounts as part of Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA), 2014-2015



United Nations  
Statistics Division



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



South Africa one of seven pilot countries

Now building on this with  
**Natural Capital Accounting & Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCA&VES)** project – co-led by Stats SA & SANBI



Five pilot countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa

and **Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security (EI4WS)** project

# NCA&VES project activities and deliverables

1. Project management and co-ordination
2. Assessment report, national strategy
3. Selected ecosystem accounts (physical accounts)
4. Test SEEA ecosystem indicators
5. National forum and training workshop
6. Economic valuation (including monetary accounts) ← Contracted separately by UN Environment



High-level national structure  
for Environmental-Economic Accounts

To be established,  
linked to national strategy

Project  
structures

Project Reference Group

EU, UNSD, UN Environment, DEA, Stats SA, SANBI

Project team

PMU

Monthly catch-up with  
UNSD & UN Environment

Stakeholder engagement processes

National NCA Forum

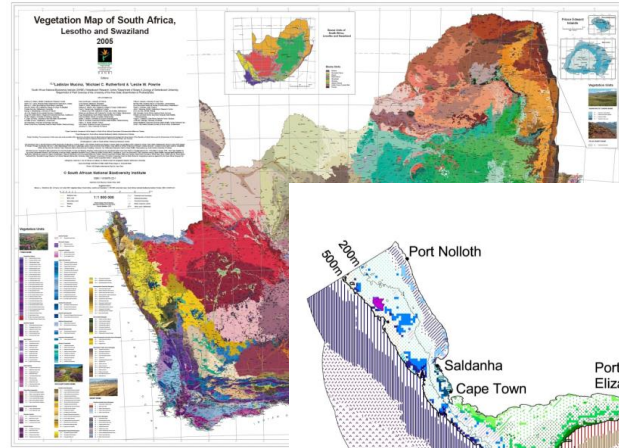
Technical meetings  
on specific issues

Stakeholder engagements  
on specific issues

# Accounts to be produced in NCA&VES Project in South Africa

National

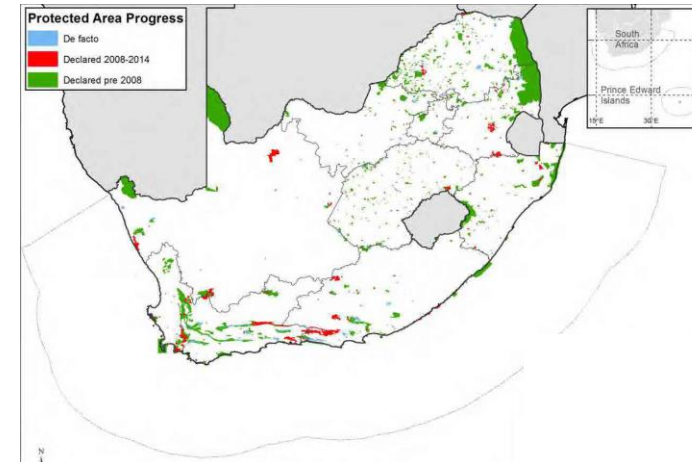
National ecosystem asset accounts – terrestrial & marine, extent & condition



Species accounts – rhino, cycads

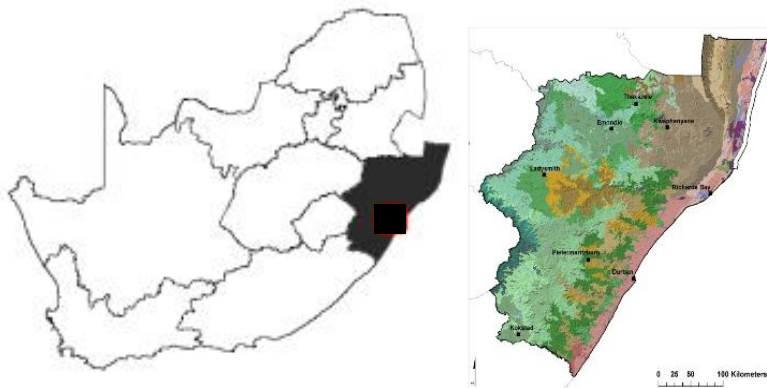


Protected area accounts – terrestrial & marine

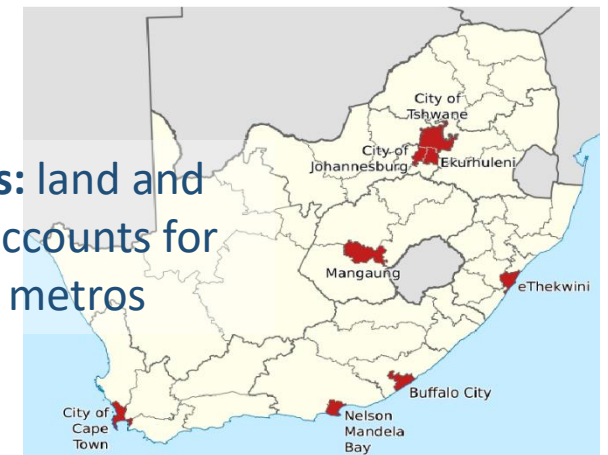


Sub-national

KZN: Full suite of ecosystem asset and ecosystem service accounts

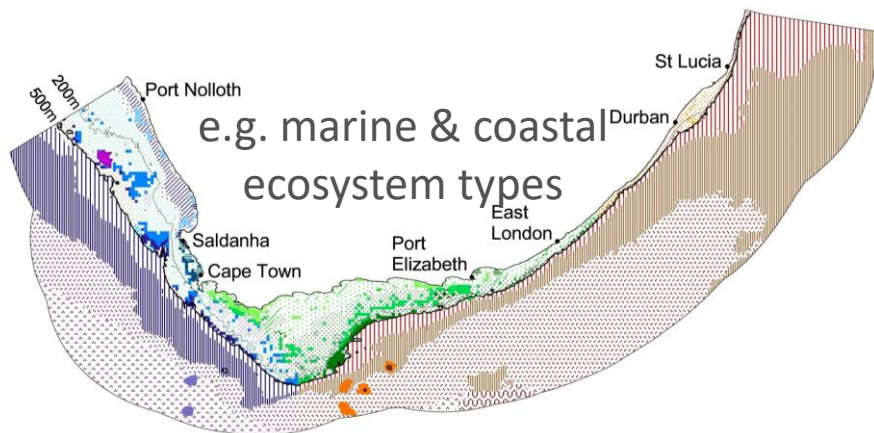
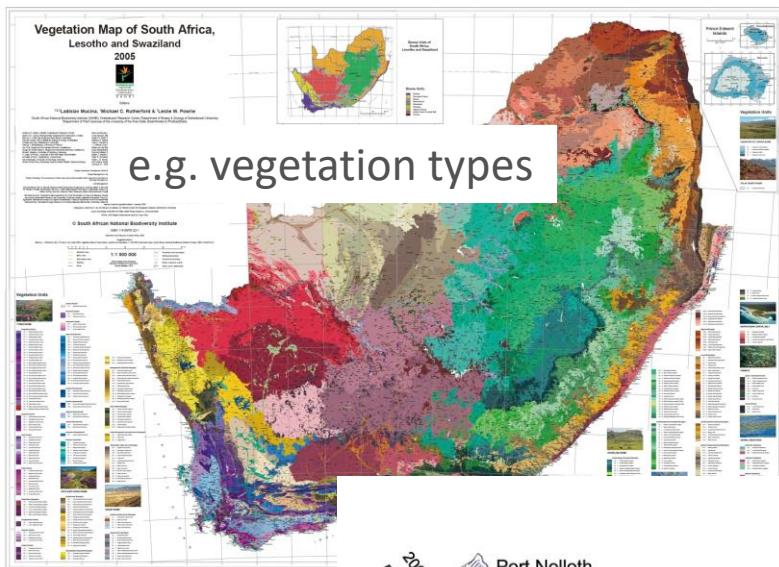


City-regions: land and ecosystem accounts for selected metros

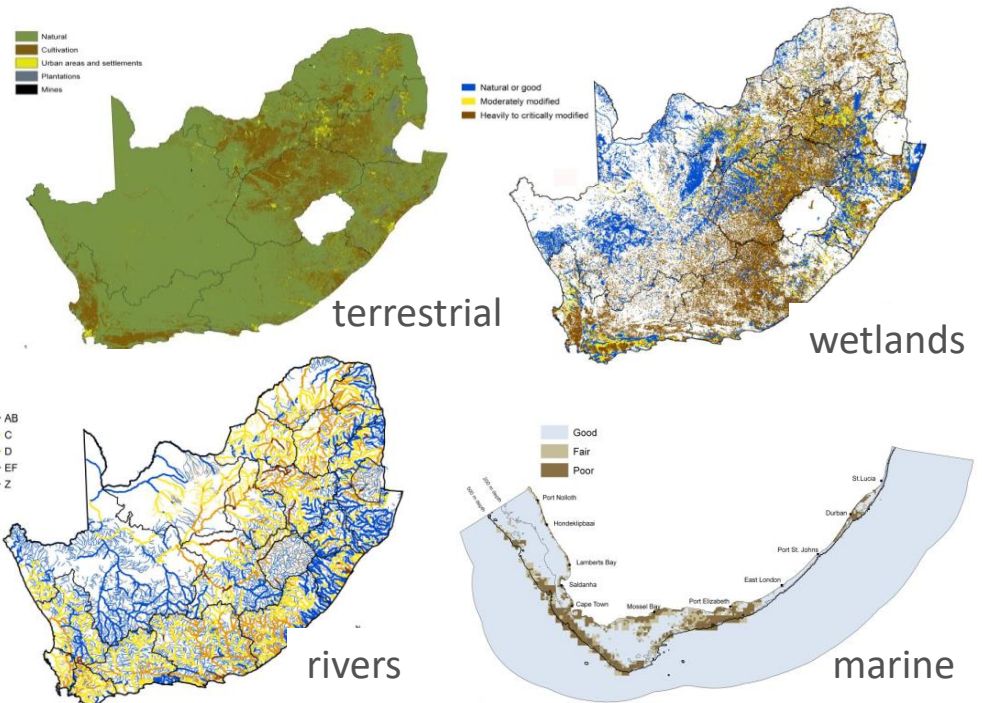


# Science foundations / building blocks for ecosystem asset accounts – **SAME** as for National Biodiversity Assessment

→ Classification & mapping of ecosystem types



→ Maps of ecological condition





NCA&VES milestones to date

# National Stakeholder Workshop (19 March 2018)

- >70 people & 30 organisations
- Workshop report developed



# Assessment Report (to inform national strategy)

- Final **Assessment Report** distributed to national stakeholders January 2019 and available on Stats SA website
- Core elements include:
  - Policy priorities
  - Institutional setting
  - Key stakeholders
  - Information and knowledge, including data sources and availability
  - Technical capacity
  - Stock-take of current NCA work
  - Recommendations for national strategy

# National training workshop (21-23 May 2019)

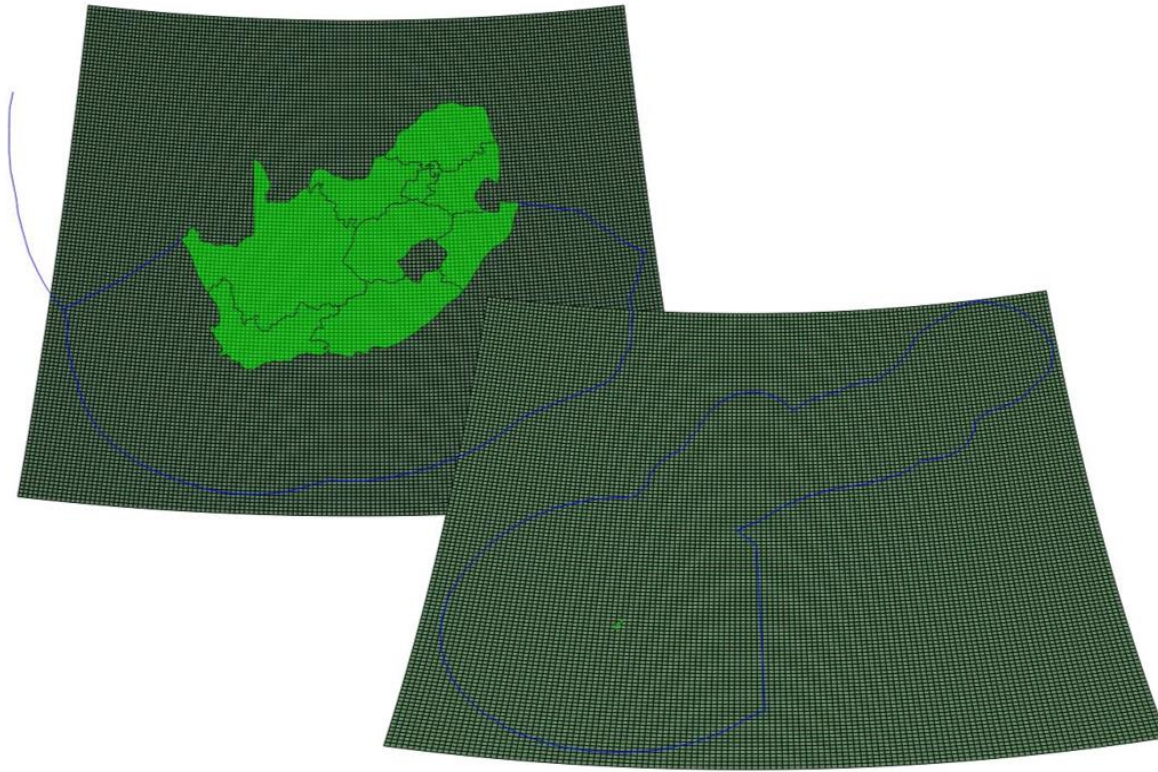
27 participants  
14 organisations – mainly government



# Basic Spatial Unit for ecosystem accounting

## *and other spatial assessments*

BSU 1 (728 million 1 ha cells):  
South Africa + EEZ + Transboundary basins



BSU 2 (624 million 1 ha cells):  
South Africa's Prince Edward Islands + EEZ

- Broad stakeholder consultation
- The BSU is a unit for analysis – all data gets synthesized in a 100m grid (can be scaled up or down)
- Formal process for custodianship as a strategic national dataset underway
- Administrative units (e.g. provinces, municipalities) assigned to BSUs

# Next steps

- National NCA Forum 10-11 July 2019
- Draft accounts (Sept – Dec 2019)
- Draft national strategy (Aug – Dec 2019)
- National stakeholder workshop focusing on national strategy (early 2020)
- National strategy (March 2020)
- Final accounts → to be published as discussion documents by Stats SA (2020)

# National NCA Forum 10-11 July 2019

## Natural Capital Accounting

NATIONAL NCA FORUM 2019

LEARN MORE



10-11 July 2019

Statistics South Africa Auditorium

### HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMME

#### WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2019

10:00 - 11:00 Registration and coffee

#### Session 1: Opening ceremony – South Africa at the forefront of a global movement

11:00 – 12:30 Welcoming remarks by Statistician General and statements from high level representatives

12:30 – 13:00 **Keynote:** Natural Capital Accounting – what it is and how it can add value

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

#### Session 2: NCA to support national priorities

14:00 – 16:00 Panel discussion: How does NCA support national priorities?

16:00 – 16:30 South Africa's new national land and ecosystem asset accounts: a quick look

16:30 Close

16:30 – 18:00 Networking event

#### THURSDAY 11 JULY 2019

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and coffee

9:00 – 9:30 South Africa's national land and ecosystem asset accounts: your questions answered

#### Session 3: Building natural capital accounts: experience, lessons and challenges

9:30 – 10:00 **Keynote:** Implementing NCA: experience, lessons and challenges from other countries

10:00 – 11:00 Emerging opportunities for NCA and related initiatives in South Africa

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

#### Session 4: Advancing NCA in South Africa

11:30 – 13:00 Advancing NCA in South Africa: facilitated discussions around key thematic areas

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

#### Session 5: Shaping a mandate for moving forward together

14:00 – 16:00 Towards a national strategy:

- Integrating feedback from discussions on key thematic areas
- Steps for advancing NCA in South Africa and identification of champions

16:00 – 16:30 Closing remarks

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee for the road

# National strategy for advancing NCA

- Will draw on inputs from stakeholders at the National NCA Forum
- Will feed directly into the **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics**, currently being developed by Stats SA
  - Fortunate timing!



# Successes

- NCA work embedded in national government
- Effective working relationships between Stats SA, SANBI, DEA and consultants
  - Strong basis for integrating ecosystem, social and economic data
  - Building a network of champions for NCA
- Formalising the BSU layer in the national Spatial Data Infrastructure System
- Interest and consultation with wide range of stakeholders → basis for mainstreaming

# Challenges

- Lengthy recruitment processes of staff for the project – for various reasons
- Expanding long-term capacity for NCA in Stats SA and SANBI