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

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
### Detailed work programme

#### 1. Project management and coordination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and tasks</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Project management and coordination (including appointment of project implementation support &amp; expert advisor)</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b. Project Reference Group meetings approximately six-weekly</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Quarterly progress reports (also to be used as the basis for quarterly briefings to international stakeholders)</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1d. Six-monthly briefings to national stakeholders to disseminate project updates and results</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2. Develop programme of work and National Strategy for NCA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and tasks</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials in support of the assessment report</strong></td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National NCA stakeholder workshop</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desktop research and meetings in support of the assessment report.</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials in support of the assessment report</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme of work</strong></td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft programme of work (timelines and outputs of the project)</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final programme of work (timelines and outputs of the project)</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assessment report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and tasks</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structure for assessment report</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft assessment report</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final assessment report</td>
<td>SANBI, Stats SA</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### National Strategy for Advancing Environmental-Economic Accounting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and tasks</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outline of the national strategy</td>
<td>Stats SA, SANBI</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder engagement on national strategy</td>
<td>Stats SA, SANBI</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft national strategy</td>
<td>Stats SA, SANBI</td>
<td>EU, UNE, UNSD, SANBI</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Monthly catch-up with UNSD & UN Environment

PMU

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 ecosystem asset accounts – terrestrial & marine, extent & condition

Protected area accounts – terrestrial & marine

Species accounts – rhino, cycads

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

- e.g. vegetation types

- e.g. marine & coastal ecosystem types

→ Maps of ecological condition

- terrestrial
- wetlands
- rivers
- marine
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

- 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

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
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

**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 – 11:10  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