Natural capital accounting (NCA) is a way of understanding our world and the choices we make as a society. It links natural capital to a country’s system of national accounts. Using best available information and robust, globally endorsed methodologies, it can help public and private sector actors to understand more about the interactions between the economy, society and the environment. Natural capital accounting can also be applied to monitor progress against achieving global Sustainable Development Goals.

**Learn More**

*Natural capital accounting enables us to:*

- **Know more**: Measure how ecosystems contribute to the economy and society
- **Understand more**: Empower people to plan and make better development decisions
- **Do more**: Invest in ecological infrastructure and natural resources to achieve national development goals
NCA in China
A timeline

2007

ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION

Ecological civilization is identified as a specific goal of the Chinese government at the Chinese Communist Party’s 17th Congress. The commitment sets the stage for China’s environmental progress in the coming years.

2014

NATURAL RESOURCE BALANCE ACCOUNTS

The Chinese government announces the compilation of natural resource asset accounts in November. Two years later pilot work for compiling natural resource asset accounts at the sub-national level commences.

2015

NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

China announces its intention to develop a new metric, Gross Ecosystem Product, to use as a companion to Gross Domestic Product.

2017

ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS AND THE NCAVES PROJECT

China joins four other countries in the European Union-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCA&VES) project.

- Improved ecosystem extent, condition and services accounts in Guangxi and Guizhou provinces and focusing on forest, grassland, freshwater, farmland, urban and marine ecosystems.

- Goals of the project include:
  - Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in (sub)national level policy-planning and implementation
  - Contributing to the development of internationally agreed methodology and its use in partner countries.

2020

The Chinese government announces the compilation of natural resource asset accounts in November. Two years later pilot work for compiling natural resource asset accounts at the sub-national level commences.

Natural Capital Accounting shows the economy’s dependency on well-functioning natural ecosystems.