



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

National Stakeholder Workshop to develop a programme of work for ecosystem accounting in South Africa

19 March 2018

9.30 for 10am – 3.30pm

Milk Plum Restaurant, Pretoria National Botanical Garden

Background

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) is a growing field of work globally and in South Africa. NCA includes accounting for environmental assets such as water, minerals and energy, with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) adopted by the UN Statistical Commission as an international statistical standard for these accounts. A more recent aspect of NCA is ecosystem accounting, which focuses on accounting for ecosystem assets and ecosystem services. International standards for ecosystem accounting, based on the SEEA, are in the process of being developed.

In 2014-15, South Africa participated as one of seven countries¹ in a global project on piloting ecosystem accounting. The project, Advancing Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, was led by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment (UN Environment), with funding from the Government of Norway. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) led the project in South Africa, in close collaboration with relevant national and provincial departments and agencies. The project produced two sets of pilot ecosystem accounts:

- National River Ecosystem Accounts
- Land and Ecosystem Accounts for KwaZulu-Natal

Both are available at <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/planning-and-assessment/experimental-ecosystem-accounting/>

¹ Along with Bhutan, Chile, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, Vietnam.



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Building on this pilot project, South Africa is now one of five countries² participating in a further international project on ecosystem accounting. The Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project is led by the UNSD and UN Environment, with funding from the European Union. Stats SA and SANBI are leading the project nationally, and will work closely with a range of national and sub-national stakeholders to further develop ecosystem accounts for South Africa. This project provides the opportunity to build on the lessons from the 2014-15 pilot accounts, to convene a National Forum on Natural Capital Accounting, and to develop a National Strategy for Natural Capital Accounting that will take this work forward.

The global project partners undertook an initial mission to South Africa in September 2017, including a high-level inception workshop with national partners. The workshop on 19 March will be the first broad national stakeholder workshop for the two-year project.

Purpose of the workshop

The workshop will address the following questions:

- Why do we need ecosystem accounts? For those new to ecosystem accounting, a brief introduction, including the relevance of ecosystem accounts for policy and decision-making.
- What do we have thus far? An overview of South Africa's ecosystem accounting and other environmental accounting work to date.
- What still needs to be done? Broad plans going forward, including the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services projects, as well as other related projects.
- How do we go forward? And who is involved? An initial programme of work for the next two years will be presented for discussion, feedback and input.

Over the course of the project, there will be further workshops and opportunities for participation and involvement in this evolving body of work and knowledge.

² Along with Brazil, China, India and Mexico.



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National Stakeholder Workshop, 19 March 2018

AGENDA

Chair: Kristal Maze (SANBI) & Gerhardt Bouwer (StatsSA)

09:30	TEA	
10:00	Welcome	Stats SA, SANBI, DEA
10:15	Introductions and purpose of the workshop	Gerhardt Bouwer (Stats SA)
10.45	What do we mean by Natural Capital Accounting and ecosystem accounting, and why is it useful?	Mandy Driver (SANBI)
11.00	What work has been done so far? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental accounts by Stats SA - Ecosystem accounts - Ecosystem valuation 	Robert Parry (Stats SA) Mandy Driver (SANBI) Jane Turpie (Anchor Environmental)
11.20	Introduction to the global NCA&VES project and pilot countries	Kavita Sharma (UN Environment)
11:30	TEA	
12.00	Address by the Ambassador of the EU to South Africa	Marcus Cornaro
12:15	New NCA projects in South Africa	Aimee Ginsburg
	Proposed NCA priorities for the next two years	Mandy Driver
13:00	LUNCH	
13.45	Introduction to carnival break-away	Aimee Ginsburg
14:00	Carnival break-away: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority accounts and their uses, for next 2 years and longer term – matching supply and demand 2. Related projects and initiatives 3. Stakeholder engagement: Who needs to know about this work and how should/can we get them involved? 4. How can we make the case for accounts and communicate them effectively? 5. Scenario analysis 	Everyone
15:00	Quick report backs from Carnival Wrap up	Facilitators Mandy Driver