

Defining the biodiversity economy with a view to developing a Biodiversity Economy Satellite Account: progress from South Africa

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Key findings

- **Policy context:** interest in the biodiversity economy as a contributor to meeting national development goals
- Why a **satellite account approach**? Links directly to macro-economic statistics and indicators; complements biophysical ecosystem accounts
- Starting point – **defining the biodiversity economy**:
 - *Economic activities that either **contribute** directly to conserving and managing biodiversity or **depend** directly on biodiversity (including on natural ecosystems or indigenous species or both) – see diagram*
 - Narrower than the green economy; Some links with SEEA CF Classification of Environmental Activities and EGSS
- Identified which codes from the **Standard Industrial Classification** and **Central Product Classification** are related to biodiversity, with an estimate of the proportion of each code related to biodiversity.
- Next step: **extract information from Supply and Use Tables** in the national accounts to compile the draft satellite account.
- **Lessons** include: small core group including NSO and biodiversity sector; time for discussion and mutual learning

Questions

1. Is a Biodiversity Economy Satellite Account likely to be a useful tool in contexts other than South Africa?
2. Is the proposed conceptual framework for the biodiversity economy, including the distinction between the green economy and the biodiversity economy, useful?
3. Is this work relevant to classifications or approaches in the context of the SEEA or the Environmental Goods and Services Sector?

