

# NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING

IN SOUTH AFRICA

## About Natural Capital Accounting

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 the goals of the National Development Plan and the 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



stats sa

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI

Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute



United Nations



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting



## SOME ONLINE NCA RESOURCES

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) **Natural Capital Accounting page:** [www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=5992](http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=5992)

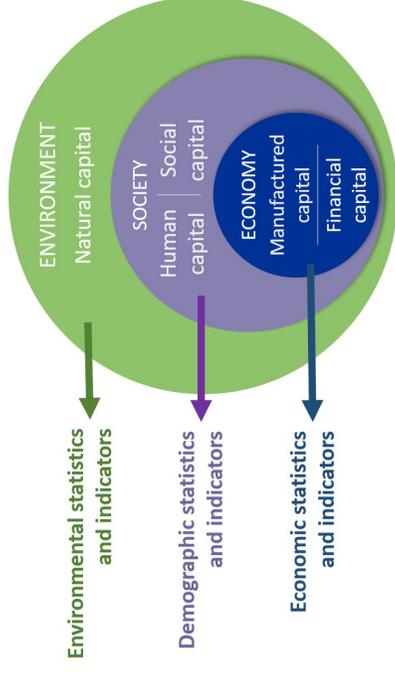
A **glossary of terms:** [seea.un.org/eea-glossary](http://seea.un.org/eea-glossary)

**Frequently Asked Questions:** [seea.un.org/NCA-FAQ](http://seea.un.org/NCA-FAQ)

**e-Learning courses:** [elearning-cms.unstats.un.org](http://elearning-cms.unstats.un.org)

# NCA in South Africa

## A timeline



GOVERNANCE

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

**2000**

### WATER ACCOUNTS



South Africa's water accounts were first developed for nine Water Management Areas and have been updated since then to conform to the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) international standard.

New accounts have been finalised and were released by Water Research Commission in partnership with Stats SA.

**2010**

### FISHERY ACCOUNTS

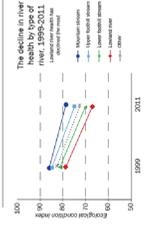
These accounts cover halibut, west and south coast rock lobster, abalone and cape horse mackerel for the period 1990-2015. The accounts were published in the form of a discussion document.



**2015**

### RIVER ACCOUNTS

South Africa joins six other countries in the Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA) project jointly implemented by the UN Statistics Division and UN Environment in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity.



The project, funded by the Government of Norway, produced national river ecosystem accounts showing an overall 10% decline in river health from 1999-2011.

**2017**

### TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ACCOUNTS



Building on the success of ANCA, South Africa joins four other countries in the European Union-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCA&VES) project.

Work is underway to develop a range of national-level ecosystem asset accounts.

**2018**

### WATER SECURITY

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, implemented by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, and executed by SANBI in partnership with others, including the Department of Water and Sanitation, World Wildlife Fund and Stats SA, the Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security project will develop new water and other ecological infrastructure accounts.

