



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



NATURAL
CAPITAL
COALITION

Natural Capital Policy Forum

Working together to improve decision-making: special insights on climate change and biodiversity

November 26-27, 2018, Paris

**Venue: Palais Brongniart Room: Notre-Dame des Victoires
Place de la Bourse, 75002 Paris**

Joint meeting of the 3rd Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy Decisions, the 2nd Government Dialogue on Natural Capital, and the Combining Forces initiative

Background:

Three important international initiatives each seek to create enabling environments for better decision-making, by mainstreaming considerations of natural capital. The Forum on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) for Better Policy, the Government Dialogue on Natural Capital, and the Combining Forces Initiative have joined up to hold a combined meeting on 26 to 27 November 2018 in Paris during what has been called Natural Capital Week 2018 (Paris, France).

The *Forum on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) for Better Policy Decisions* is a yearly forum providing countries, international agencies and interested stakeholders a space to discuss the use of the natural capital accounting to support policies. The 2017 Forum highlighted the need for building collaboration with the private sector, which is making rapid progress in natural capital accounting and complementary approaches.

The *Government Dialogue on Natural Capital* provides a platform for governments to explore, understand and strengthen the role of governments and their interaction with the private sector in up-scaling and mainstreaming natural capital approaches.

The *Combining Forces Initiative* focuses on building synergies between public and private approaches to natural capital with a view of generating trusted and credible information to inform decisions.

The Natural Capital Policy Forum will focus its discussion on how natural capital accounting and complementary approaches that can help in informing decisions, providing special insights on climate change and biodiversity.

Suggested approach, objectives and expected outcomes of the Natural Capital Policy Forum

- **Approach:** The joint forum is shaped to meet these needs:
 - *Policy/demand-driven* – focusing on government decision-makers’ needs and experiences
 - *Sharing learning and best practice* – linking public and private sector perspectives and approaches to natural capital such as Natural Capital Accounting are being applied
 - *Briefings and updates* – Understanding what the different approaches are doing, how they are connected., their complementarity and comparative advantage.
 - *Future-facing* – defining actions to address intractable, systemic policy challenges with focus on climate change and biodiversity loss)
 - *Collaborative* – energizing a community of practice to prioritise issues and work together informing the work streams of the three collaborating initiatives
- **Objectives:**
 1. *Exploring how Natural capital approaches/accounting can improve decision-making on climate change and biodiversity.* This year we will focus on two specific global policy agendas, climate change and biodiversity, and explore how accounting and complementary approaches can systematically improve decisions in those areas, with recommendations for the Paris 2015 Climate Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) post-2020 processes
 2. *Working together: government and business* – to explore what roles and relationships work, and to identify what is needed next, for creating an enabling environment for mainstreamed Natural Capital into decision making
 3. *Developing a narrative around Natural Capital* – to debate and validate the narrative being coordinated by the Government Dialogue, and recommend an associated communication strategy, that will inspire accelerated integration of Natural capital thinking in policy, accounting and institutional frameworks.
- **Expected outcomes:**
 1. *Identifying entry points to promote natural capital accounting and other natural capital thinking for improved decision making on biodiversity and climate change* (e.g. Post-202 Biodiversity Framework, Climate Change Paris Agreement and relevant processes)
 2. *Brief ‘monographs’* – two papers produced following the Forum, on the diverse *experience and needs for natural capital accounting and complementary approaches to improve policy* decisions in favour of good Biodiversity (#1) and Climate Change (#2) outcomes
 3. *Priorities for collaboration* – recommendations to inform the ongoing work plans of the three collaborating initiatives, along with potentials for a 2019 Natural Capital Forum (World Bank, United Nations, Combining Forces, Government Dialogue)
 4. *Improving on communicating natural capital thinking* – validation and inputs for a natural capital narrative and communication strategy developed by the Government Dialogue
 5. *Draft outline on Natural Capital Approaches/accounting policy application in support of the SEEA* – advice on the purpose, content and process for producing a guidance document tentatively planned by the Natural Capital Policy Forum (UNSD, WB)

Brief outline of the NC Policy Forum

During the two days, the participants will share knowledge and experience to explore how natural capital accounting and complementary approaches can contribute to the two key global agendas of climate change and biodiversity. We will also focus on how to create an enabling environment for

natural capital accounting and assessments, through communication, mainstreaming and exploring how governments and businesses could benefit from collaborating and coordinating efforts in this space. Keynote speakers, international experts and representatives from governments and businesses will contribute to the discussion through presentations and panel discussions around the two policy themes, as well as around the communication theme: how to illustrate the added value of a natural capital thinking and strengthening government-business collaboration with the objective to increase uptake by linking national ambitions and global commitments. The Forum will conclude by setting up processes for moving forward with the five expected outcomes as outlined above.

On the first day, agenda items include

- Outlining main policy challenges of the climate change and biodiversity agendas, what the contribution of natural capital accounting and assessments to addressing these challenges could be, and how to communicate the usefulness of a natural capital approach to policy makers.
- Deep-dive on main policy issues in the climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda and how natural capital accounts and assessments can help to inform them, including identifying entry points.

On the second day, agenda items include

- Deep-dive on main policy issues in the biodiversity use and conservation agenda and how natural capital accounts and assessments can help to inform them, including identifying entry points.
- Creating an enabling environment: presentations and discussions around differences, similarities, challenges and opportunities between private and public sector natural capital approaches and how to explore opportunities to mainstream natural capital thinking into policies.

The full agenda will be shared closer to the Forum.