

# Implementing NCA in South Africa: Building partnerships and strengthening institutions

Shonisani Munzhedzi  
CEO, South African National Biodiversity Institute

## Transforming Institutions to Build Back Greener: The Case for Natural Capital Accounting

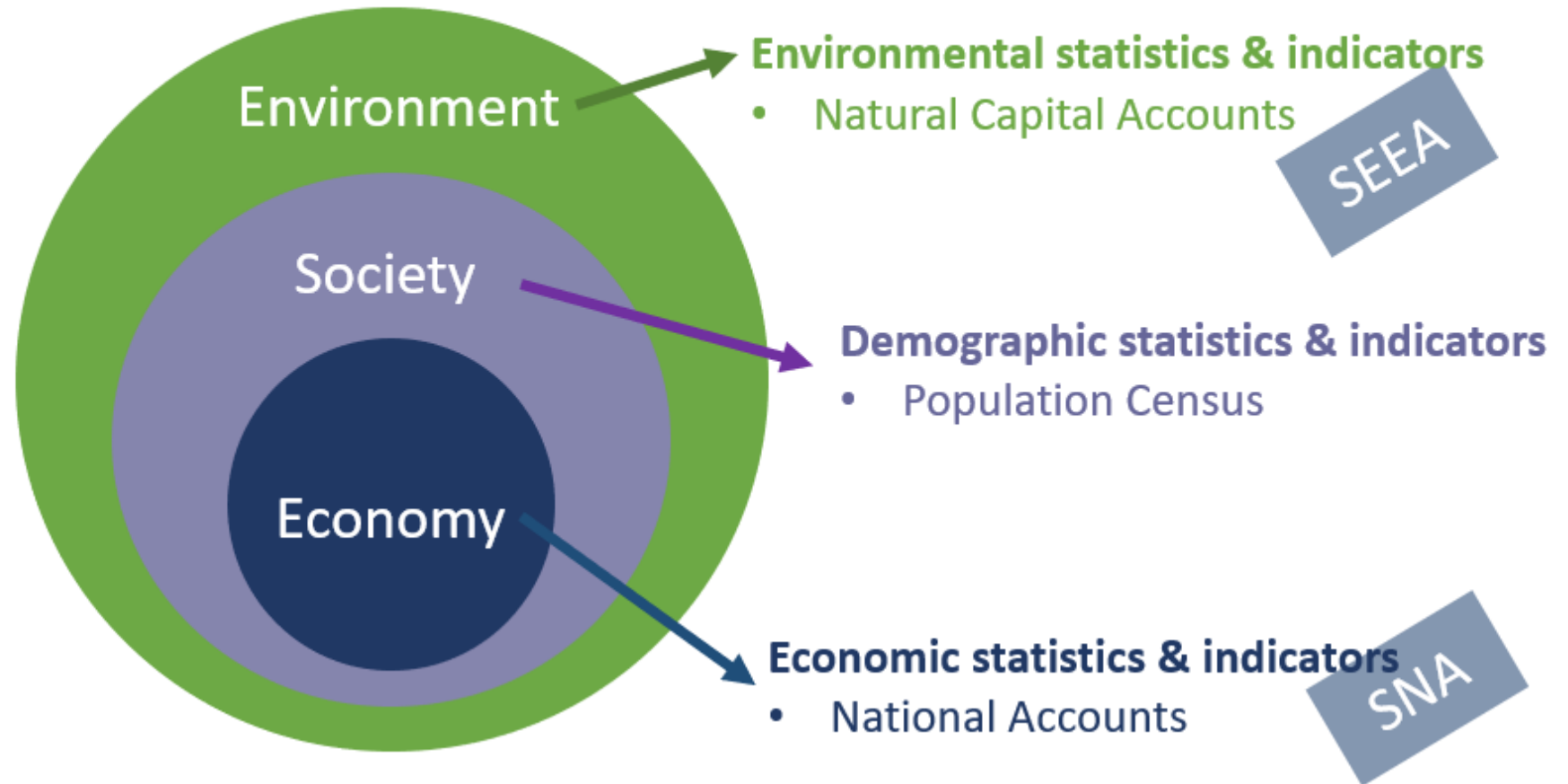
2022 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
12 July 2022



# Making the case for Natural Capital Accounting

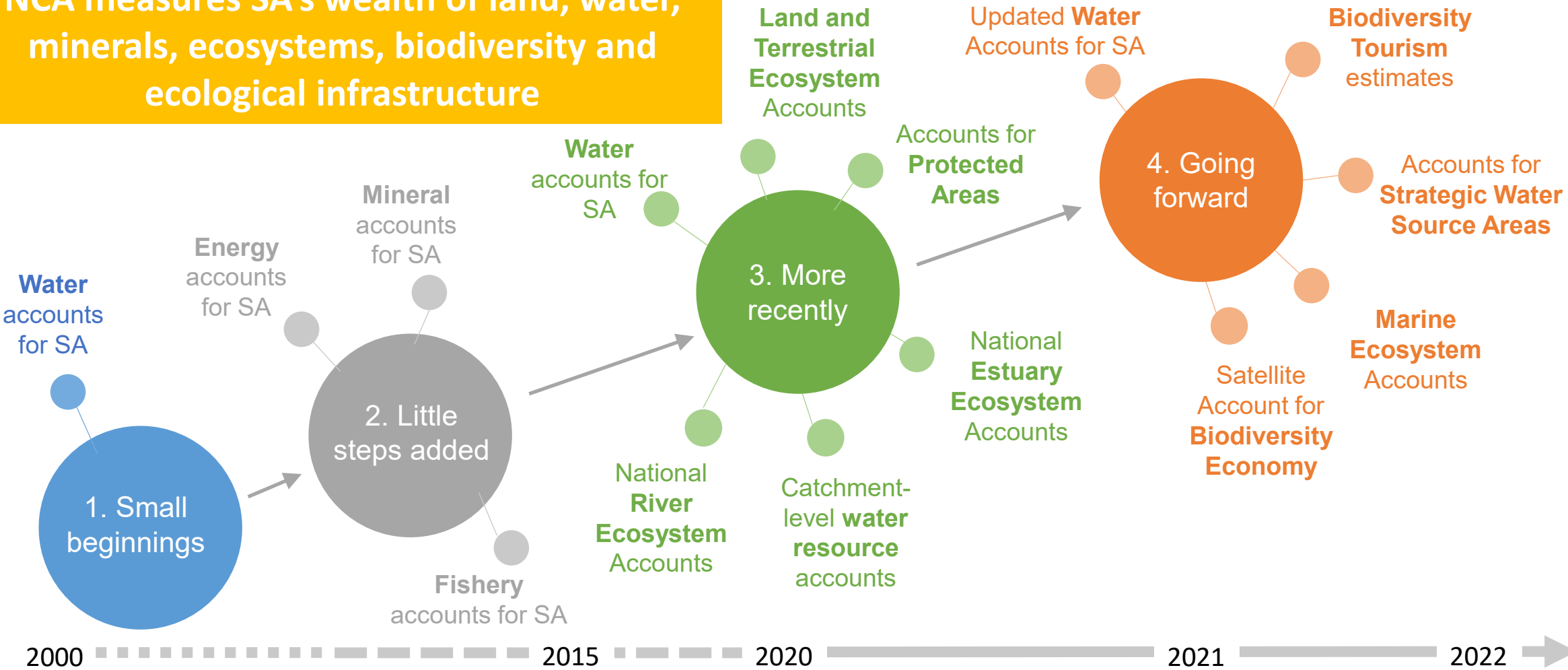
- National statistical offices (NSOs) provide credibility
- NCA opens up new audiences for environmental information
- Boosts inclusion of ecosystems and biodiversity into national policy and decision making

NCA elevates the status of environmental statistics and indicators



# Snapshot of NCA in South Africa

NCA measures SA's wealth of land, water, minerals, ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological infrastructure



From early beginnings with national water accounts in 2000, momentum has grown. Since 2014, donor funded projects have helped to increase capacity, especially for ecosystem accounting.

# Stats SA and SANBI's roles in NCA

## Stats SA leads overall on Natural Capital Accounting

- Ownership of National NCA Strategy
- Convening NCA Strategic Advisory Group
- Convening NCA Co-ordination Unit
- **Publication** of all natural capital accounts
- Compilation of SEEA Central Framework accounts

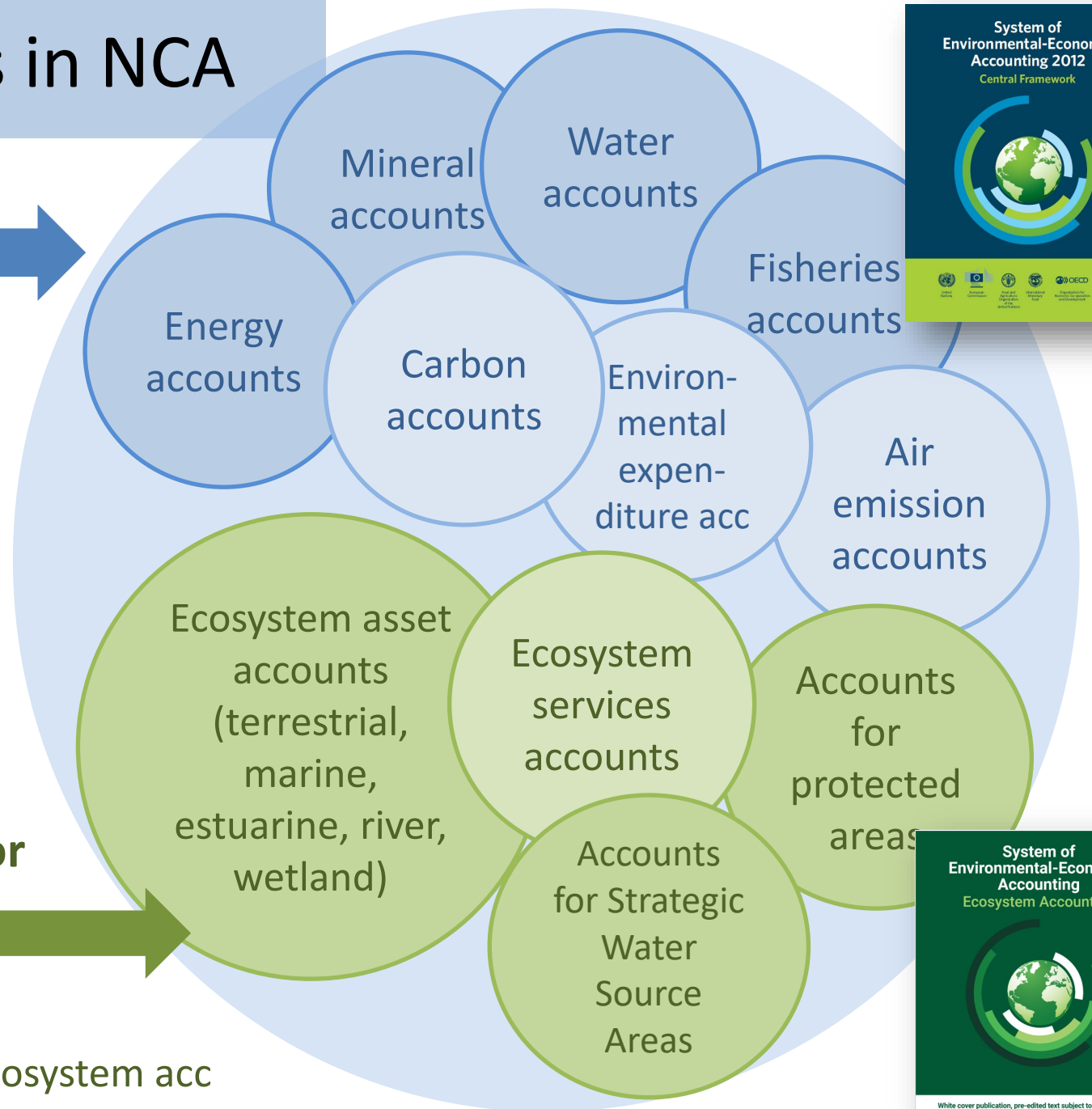


SEEA

The SEEA provides accounting principles, concepts and methods

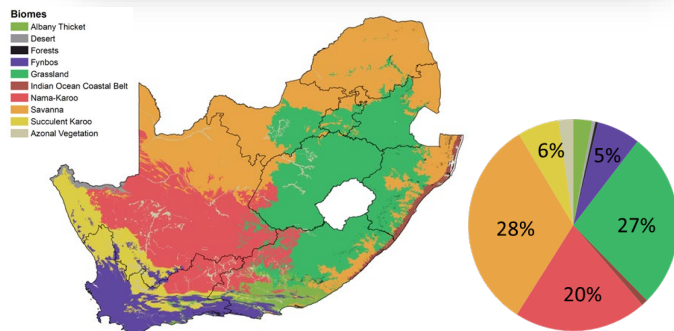
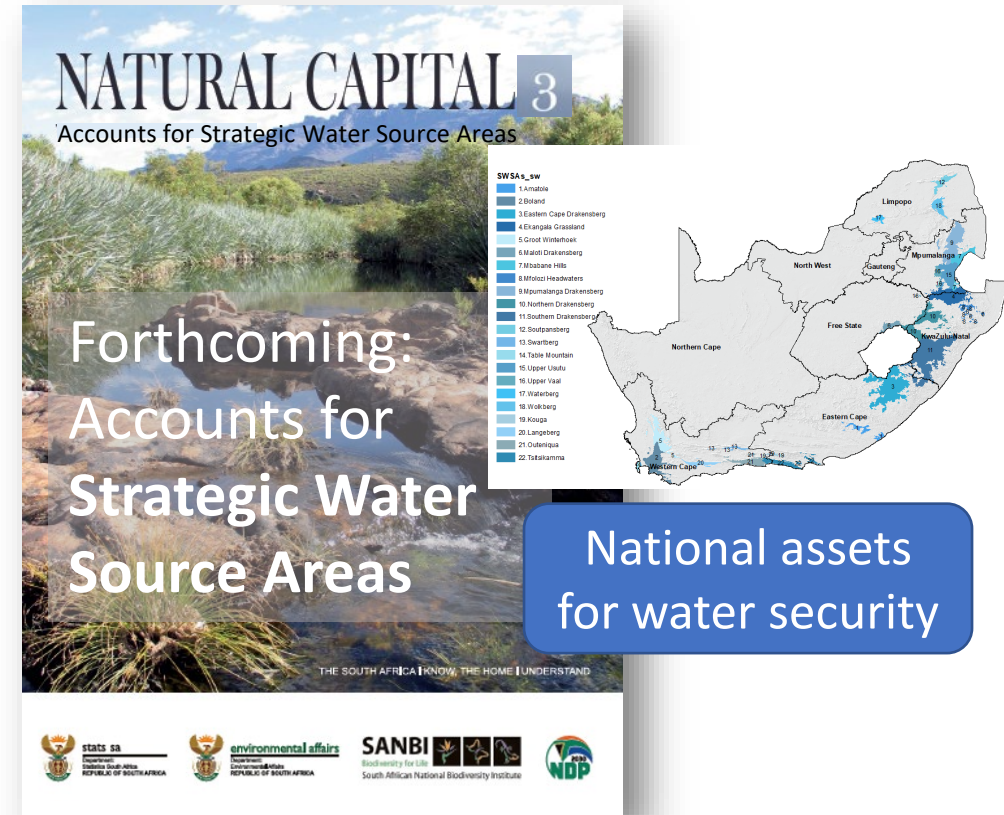
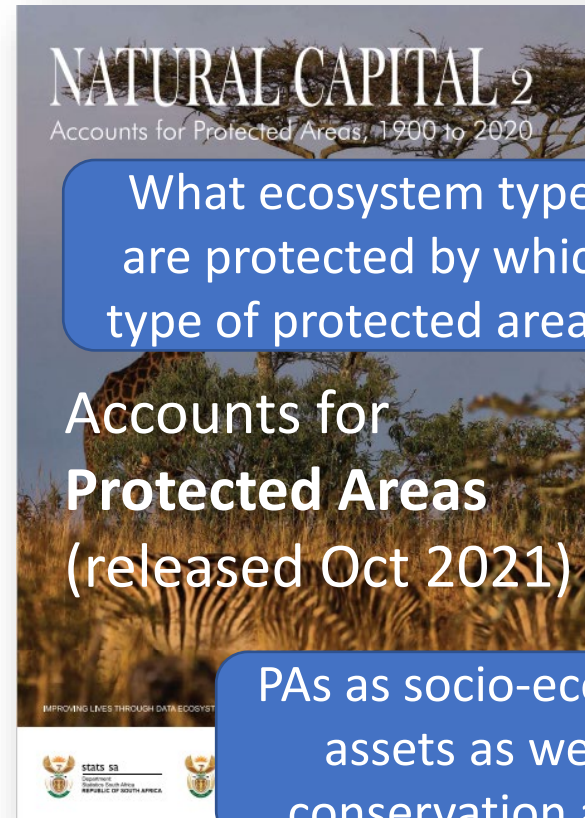
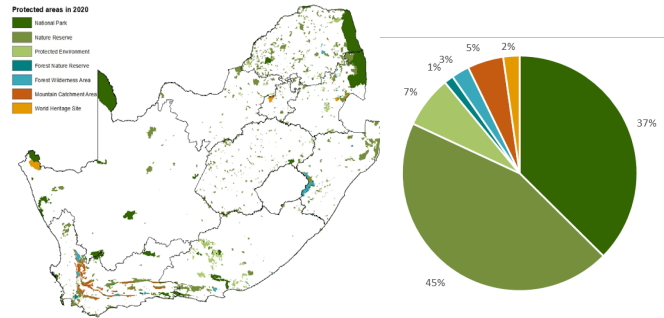
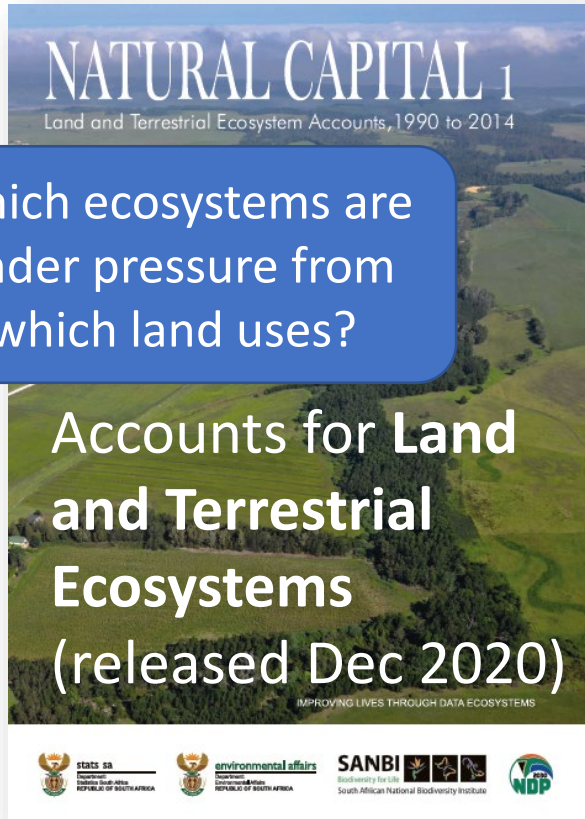
## SANBI provides technical leadership for ecosystem accounting

- Owner of key data layers
- **Compilation** of SEEA ecosystem accounts
- Advising on stakeholder engagement for ecosystem acc





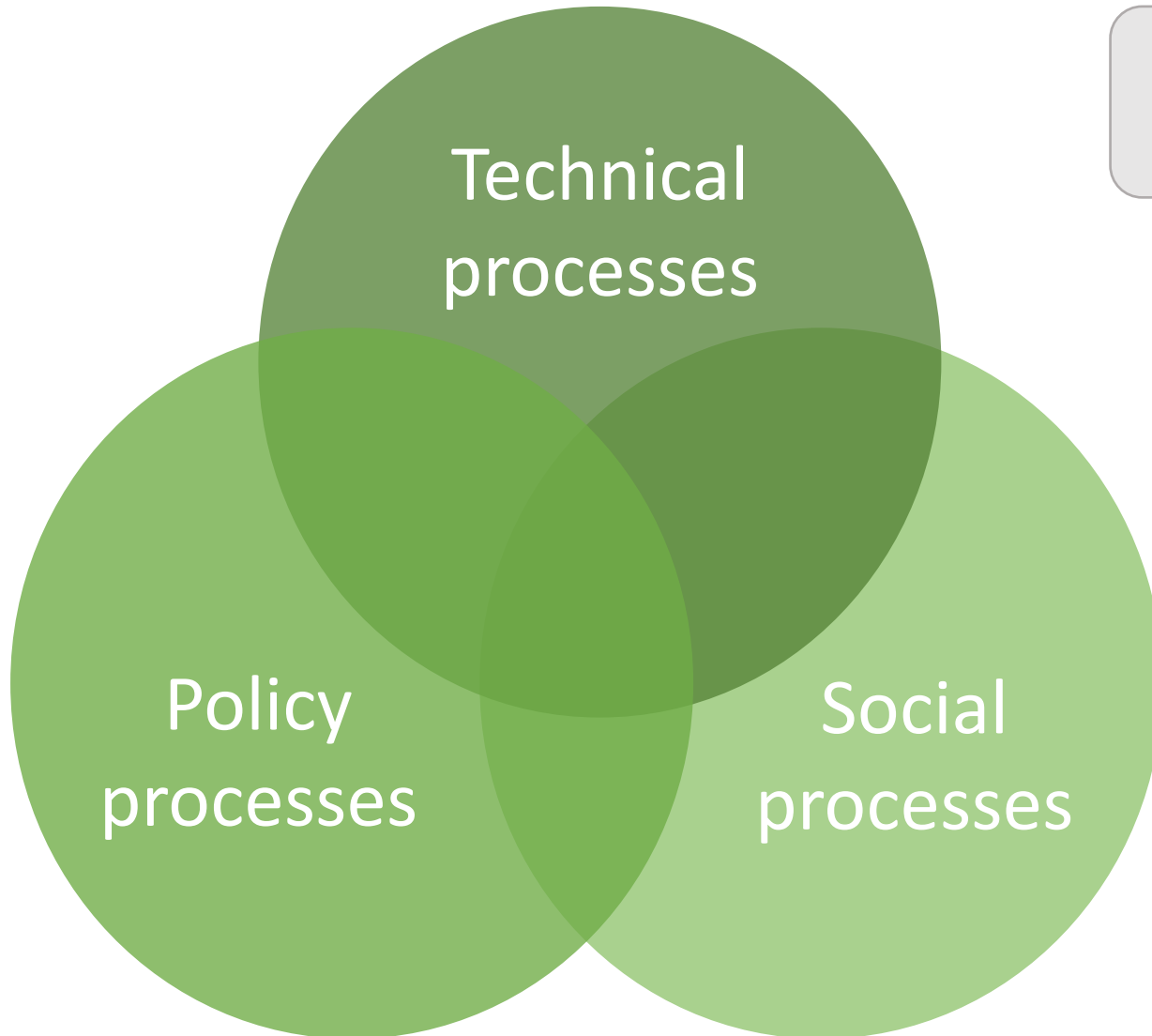
# Natural Capital series launched by Stats SA in 2020



SANBI contributes best available science, spatial data layers, and expertise

# Natural Capital Accounting involves...

**Key lesson:** All three of these aspects are equally important



## **Attention to social process includes:**

- Inclusive stakeholder involvement
- Making sure the right people are in the room
- Time for quality conversation
- Shared learning
- Building consensus



# National NCA Strategy

A ten-year strategy for advancing NCA in SA

Published by Statistics South Africa in June 2021

Lesson: clear policy and strategy led by NSO and partnerships essential

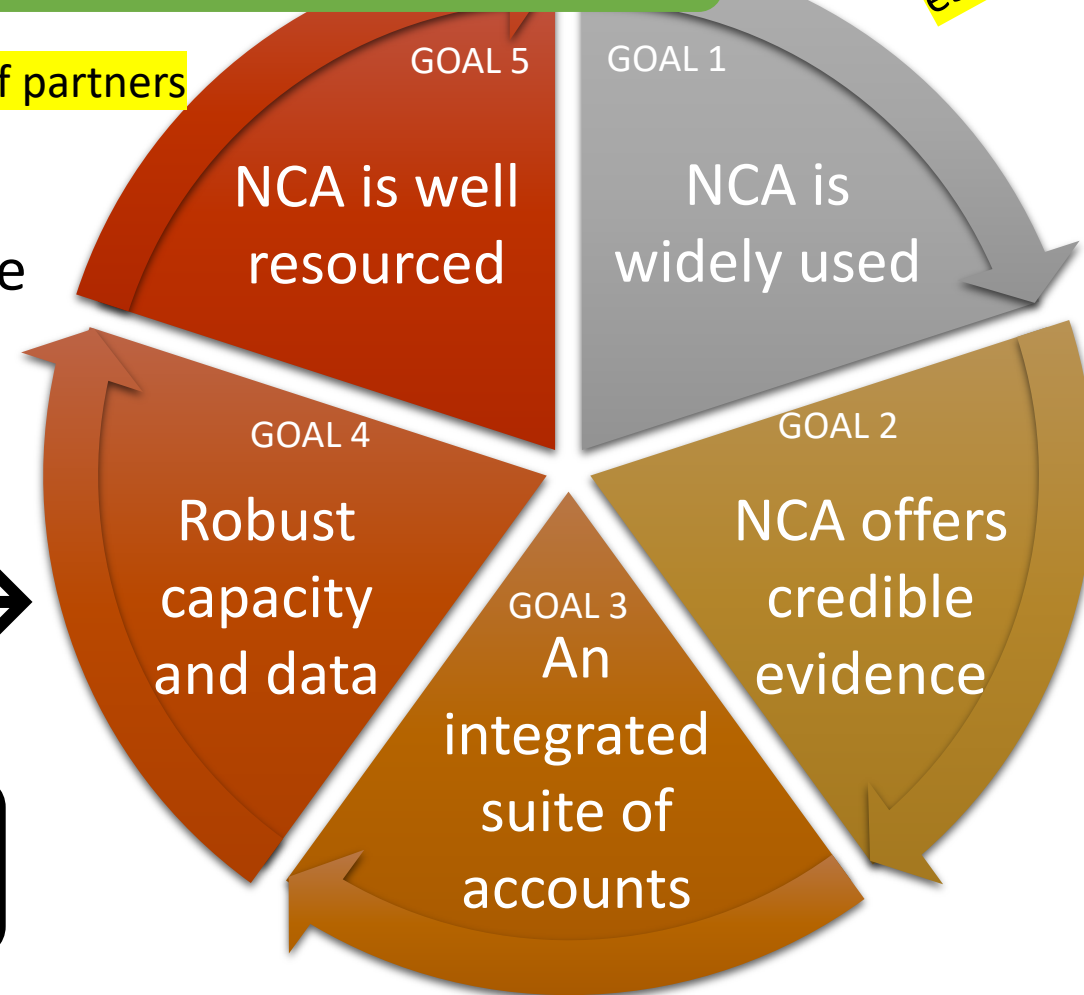
Roles and resps for diff partners

## Vision

Natural capital accounting is **widely used** to provide **credible evidence** for **integrated planning and decision-making**, in support of the **development needs** of the country

5 inter-related goals →

Intensive co-development process with range of stakeholders over 3 years





# Vibrant NCA community of practice: national meetings and workshops have enabled cross-sectoral sharing of perspectives, discussion and learning

## National NCA Stakeholder Workshop

(Pretoria,  
19 March 2018)  
>70 people  
from 30  
organisations



## National NCA Training Workshop

(Pretoria,  
21-23 May  
2019)  
27 participants  
from 14  
institutions



Technical task teams  
to tackle specific technical  
issues, as needed



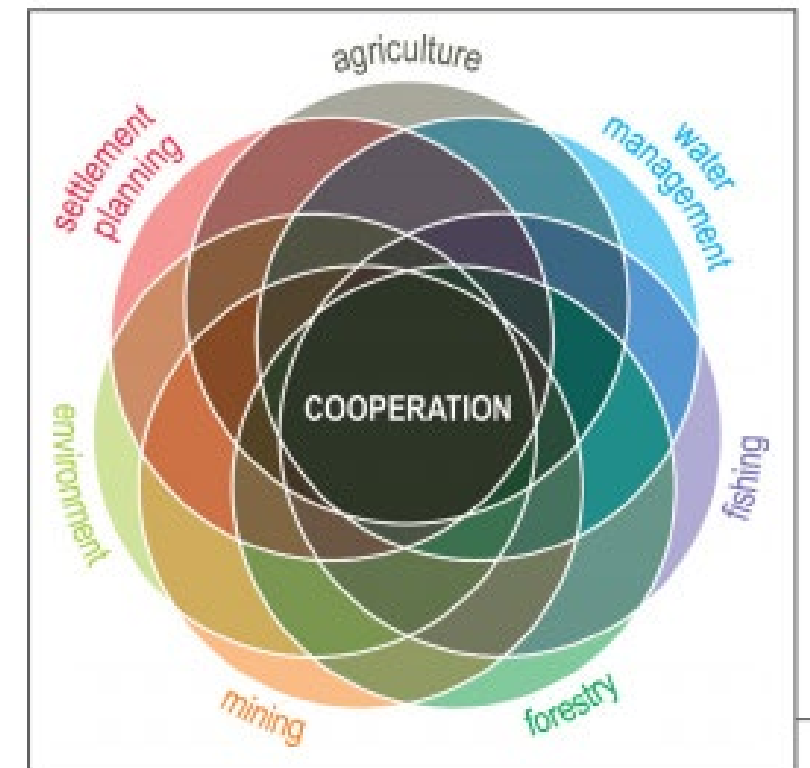
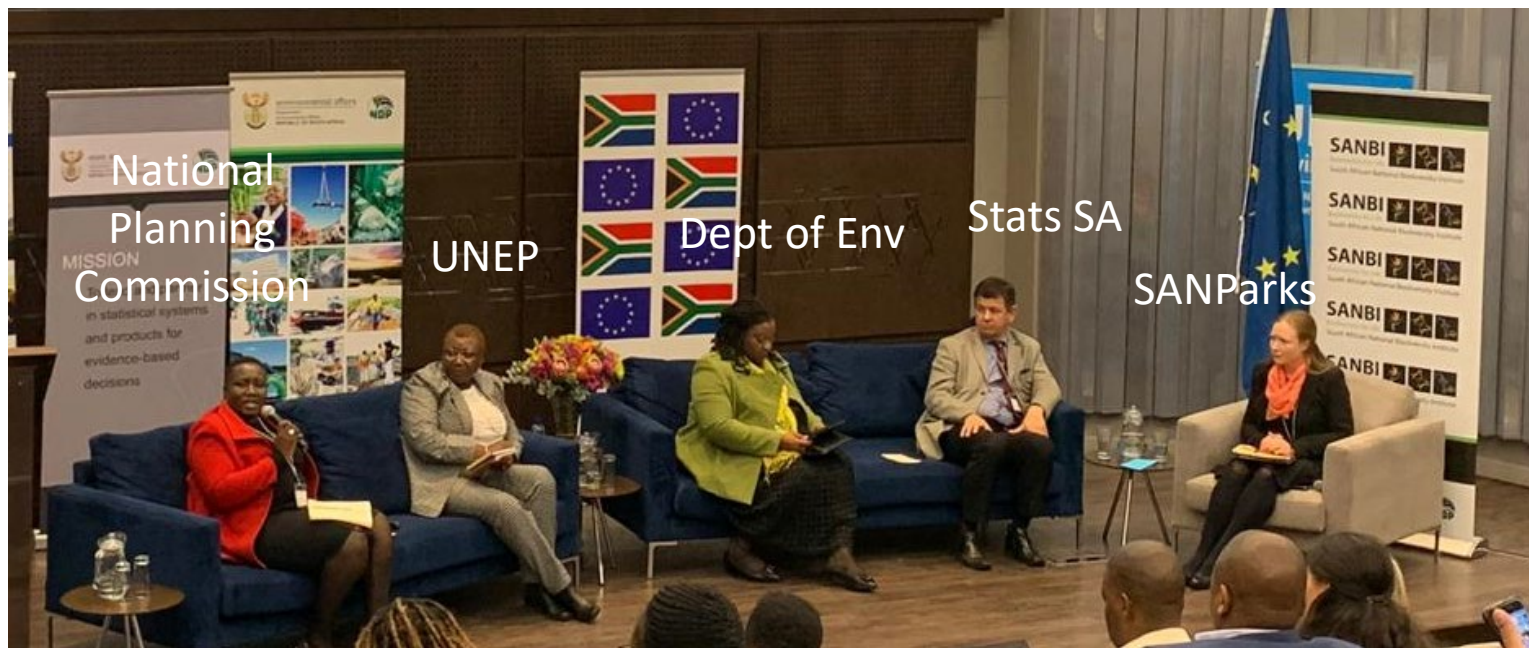
**National NCA Forum** (Stats SA Auditorium, July 2019): 131 delegates from 24 organisations





# NCA unlocks new relationships and partnerships

- Collaboration across disciplines, including ecologists, economists and statisticians
- Collaboration across different sectors
- Building working relationships between institutions takes time, patience and champions!



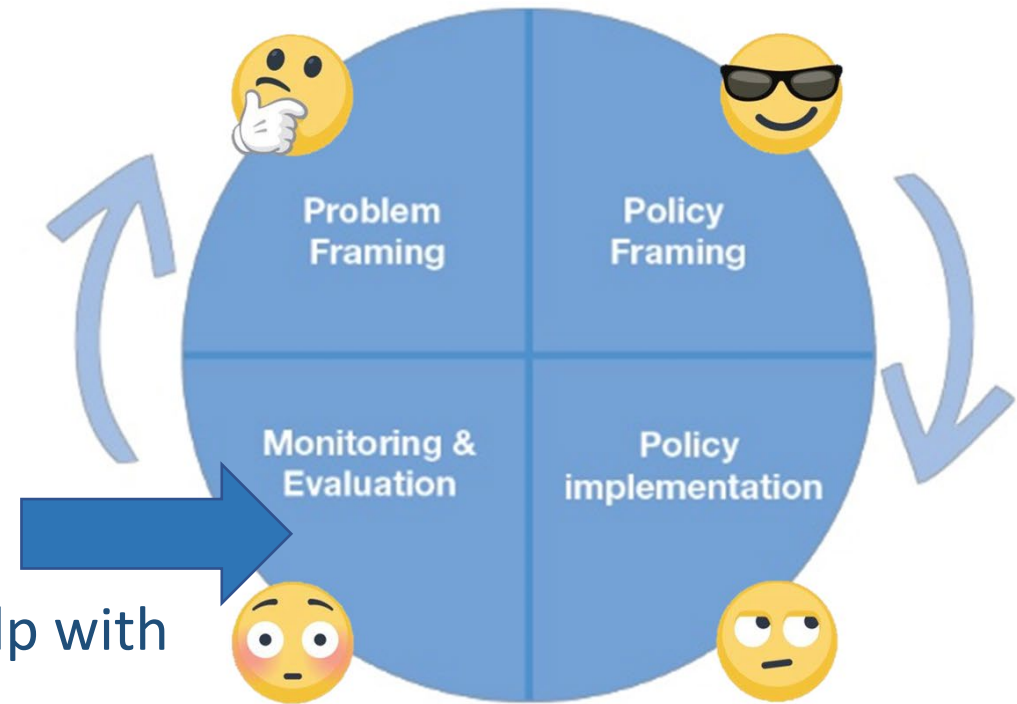
Panel discussion at the National NCA Forum, July 2019

# NCA strengthens evidence-based decision-making and governance

- Especially when linked to social and economic information
- Systematic credible tool to measure impacts of policy interventions

→ Helps us redirect public investment where it's needed most

## Policy cycle



NCA can help with this step!