



Biodiversity and Conservation

Policy Mainstreaming: The SA Example

Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting for African countries- October 2019



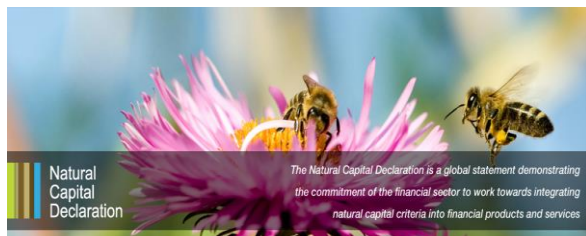
**environment,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Policy Demand: Global Drivers

- 2010: Aichi Targets: Strat Goal A: Target 1&2, WAVES initiative
- Natural Capital Declaration 2012
- World Forum on Natural Capital (Government Dialogue on NC)
- Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA) & AMCEN Decisions
- SDGs 2015 & UNEA Resolutions
- IUCN World Conservation Congress Resolutions on Natural Capital
- IPBES Assessments (African Regional Assessment, Global, Values)
- 2016 CBD Decisions on Mainstreaming
- Post 2020 Agenda



Presently, All Parties Busy with the Post 2020.....

“by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”



In 2020 the Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets

“Living in Harmony with Nature”

The Strategic Plan for
framework for action
save biodiversity and



Policy Entry Points in South Africa

- Evidence Based Policy Making-

Evidence Map sh



Calls for Evidence

NE:MA (1999)

NEMBA (2004) (Science based)

NE:MPAA (2003)

NBSAP

Policy Entry Points in South Africa

- Need For National Environmental Indicators-

NE:BA (2004)

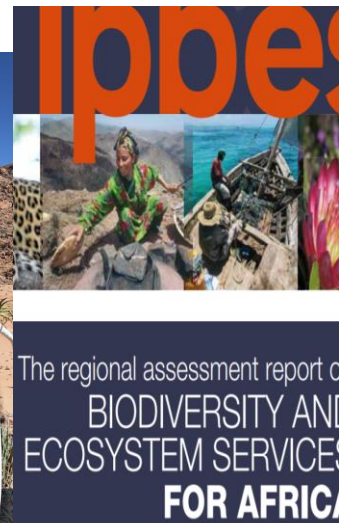
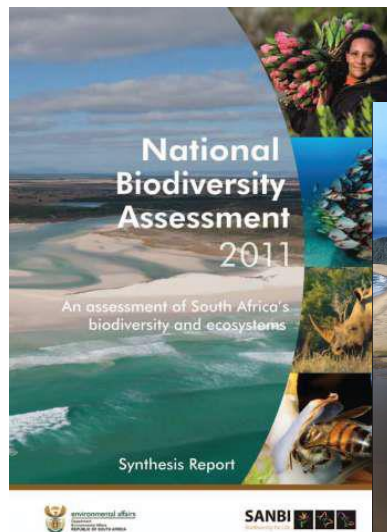
NE:PAA (2003)



Policy Entry Points in South Africa

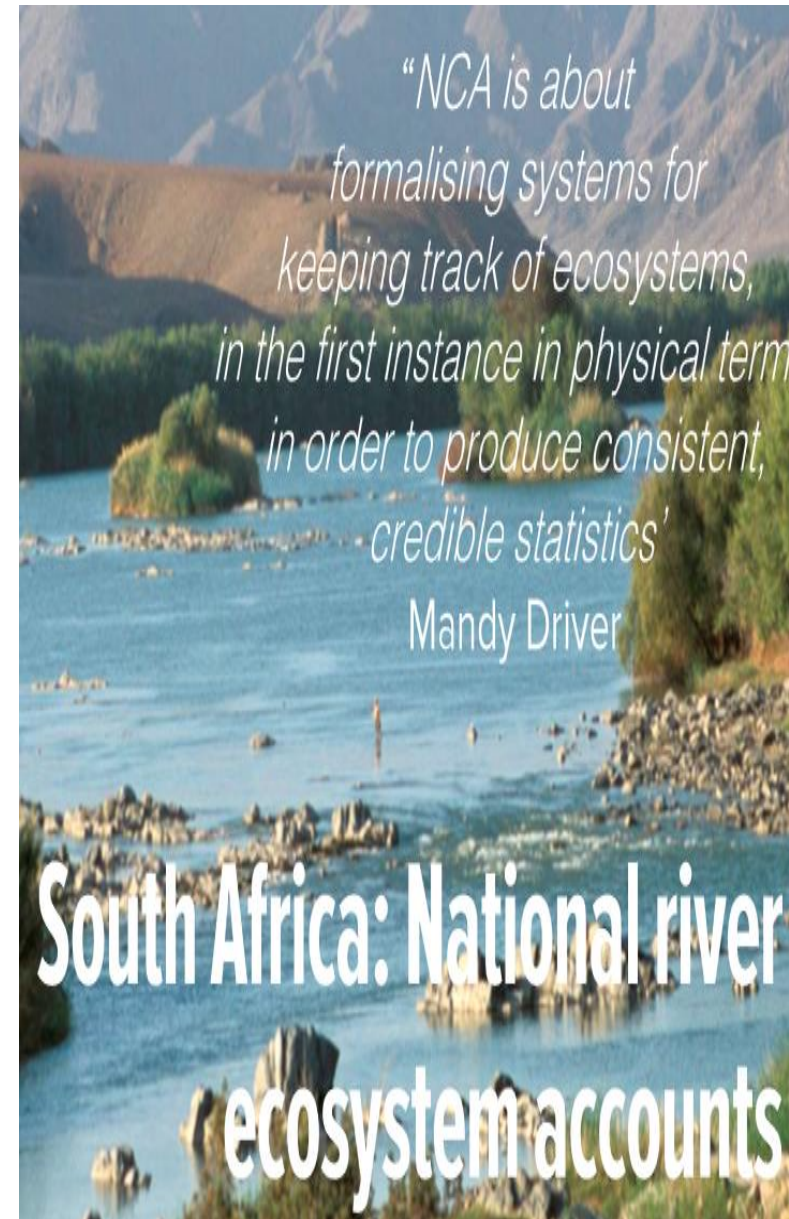
- Need For Spatial Development Information:

NATIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



Policy uses of ecosystem accounts

- **Land-use planning**
e.g. municipal Spatial Development Frameworks
- **Natural resource management**
e.g. priorities for restoration- Priority Ecosystems for Intervention & Assessment
- **Strategic development planning**
e.g. understanding broader trade-offs: Water security: Improved management of strategic Water source Areas
- **Headline indicators**
e.g. percentage turnover in land cover
PA expansion: Assess the protection level of ecosystems



WHY NCA POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Natural capital is increasingly widely discussed and included in corporate and governmental accounts using a variety of different approaches
 - ✓ Natural capital accounts and natural capital accounting
 - ✓ Interchangeable use of ecosystem accounting, natural capital accounting, experimental accounting
 - ✓ Different Natural Capital Approaches (NCA, Natural Capital Assessments)
- There is need for common language between public and private sectors perspective on Natural capital accounting as well as standardisation across sectors when developing Natural capital accounts in South Africa.
- No guiding principles
- There is a need for an enabling environment to support the transition to a society in which NCA is an integral part of public and private sector decision making: At what level?. And the question of Co-production?

OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

- The principal objective of NCA policy framework is to provide guiding principles for practitioners on the compilation of Natural Capital Accounts and a common vision for the implementation of NCA in South Africa.

STRUCTURE OF THE DRAFT POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Introduction
- What is Natural Capital Accounting
- Objective of the policy
- Principles
- Frequency of accounts
- Policy implementation
- Institutional mechanism
- Monitoring and evaluation

NCA principles

- **NCA should meet the policy demand(s)**
 - ✓ Natural capital accounts should provide information actually demanded or required by decision makers at specific levels
 - ✓ Should support policies with meaningful, objective and verifiable data.
- **Be outcome-oriented**
 - ✓ Should provide the desired outcomes relating to capability, degradation, steady-state or enhancement, accountability.
- **Use existing data available in countries and/ or international databases.**
 - ✓ Most of the data needed for producing a first set of accounts already exists. Eg NBA, Ecosystem accounts, SDG reporting (goals 14 and 15) and other indicators and reporting(CBD)

NCA principles

- **CICES/MEA should be regarded as a checklist rather than as a standard to be followed in all its detail.**
 - ✓ The classification of ecosystem services is an important aspect of measurement since classifications can provide an important guide to ensure that an appropriate measurement is undertaken or at least, that individual measures are understood within a broader context.
 - ✓ Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services- categorized Ecosystem services as follows: provisioning, maintenance, regulating and cultural.
 - ✓ The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment- categorised ES as provisioning, regulating, and cultural services as supporting.

NCA principles

- **Natural Capital accounts should be in line with System of National accounts**
 - ✓ Natural capital accounts and other environmental accounts in South Africa are seen as extensions to the main national accounts, within the framework of the UN System of National Accounts (SNA).
 - ✓ In this regard, the concepts and methodologies used in the natural capital accounts should align with those used in the main part of the SNA.
- **First produce accounts of ecosystem capital capability and ecosystem services in physical units, then value ecosystem services and restoration costs**
 - Accounting for ecosystems in physical (i.e., non-monetary) terms is a key feature of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.
 - There is a significant amount of information in physical terms that can be organized within an accounting framework to support analysis and monitoring.
 - Measurement in monetary terms for ecosystem accounting purposes is generally dependent on the availability of information in physical terms.

Other issues to be considered by the policy framework

- **Institutional Arrangement**

- ✓ NCA is inherently multi-disciplinary concept and requires expertise, data and information from various organisations
- ✓ establish an Institutional mechanism for advancing NCA in South Africa which should ideally help to navigate challenges, address barriers, and identify and leverage opportunities to advance NCA
- ✓ Eg. The UK have established Natural Capital Committee that advised the government on natural capital

- **Frequency of the accounts**

- ✓ How frequent should the accounts be updated?
- ✓ Assets account- are unlikely to change significantly can be updated less frequently
- ✓ Capital flow accounts ?

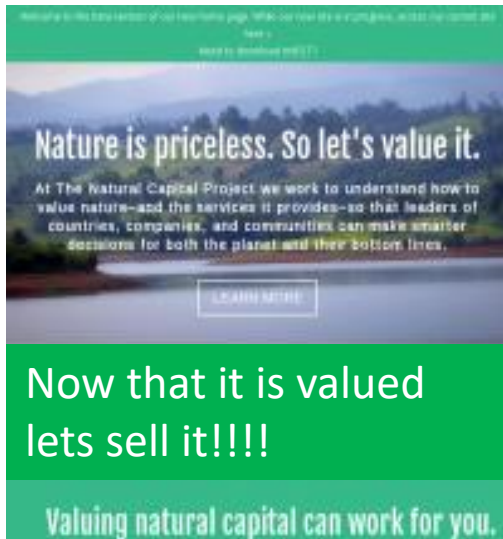
Other issues to be considered by the policy framework

- **Policy Mainstreaming**

- ✓ Approval of Accounts: Clusters & Working Groups

- **Co-Production & Decision making**

- ✓ Setting Priorities
- ✓ Process of Accounting (Who should be involved: scientists, policy makers/government officials)



So What Factor!!!

- Valuation of Natural Capital has its pros and cons: Risk of overselling the green and biodiversity economy, transformative agenda
- Natural Capital Accounting integrates nature into the economic system in a regular, systematic and repeatable manner
- It may have implications through making the case for Offsets policies, land use changes, land degradation and Land neutrality
- Wildlife Crime: NCA could capture the illicit flows of wildlife in an attempt to bring it into the mainstream
- It impacts on GDP: full integration of nature may mean that GDP is reduced: Political and Economic implications
- South Africa will continue to research Natural Capital: establish pilots for green GDP, wealth indices, accounts for priority resources.



Thank You

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