Natural Capital Accounting The Kenyan Case

KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Background:

May 2017: National Stakeholder Workshop

Prioritized Energy, Water and Forest Accounts:

Reasons: Government Priority, Data availability and capacity issues April, 2018: Published Pilot Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA). PEFA institutionalized by KNBS and published on an annual basis

The Accounts have become quite popular with policy makers in the energy sector and with international bodies

May, 2022: Embarked on developing the National Plan for Advancing Environmental Economic Accounts (NP-AEEA) and Physical Water Flow Accounts (PWFA)

Both NP-AEEA and PWFA are at an advanced stage.

The NP-AEEA has proposed regular production of Energy, Water,
Forests, Mineral and Ecosystem Accounts It has also proposed a dedicated Natural Capital Accounting office at KNBS





Roadmap:

Publication

Verification and recommendations

Compilation of Accounts – iterative process

Conduct data mining with partners

Design the structure of the account

Consider the applications / uses of the account

Build a partnership between data providers / KNBS / users





Challenges:

- Classification issues and Data gaps
- Enhanced data requests to institutions
- Staffing (lack of a dedicated NCA unit)
- Lack of proper coordination of NCA stakeholders in Kenya
- Financial Constraints
- Publicity and advocacy





Opportunities/What works:

- Identifying priority areas for the Government of the day
- Working closely with technical Assistance (consultants). Staff need to be heavily involved in the process hence able to replicate.
- Availability of data: Start small, work your way up
- Goodwill from Management
- Technical working committees comprising Ministries, Departments and Agencies (important for sharing datasets, creating awareness and capacity building). Also critical for building lasting relationships with MDAs
- Trainings (both physical and virtual)
- Collaboration: whether South-South, North-South, East-West etc, take credible knowledge/information where you find it
- Share the data published data widely and encourage critique of the data. This will help you improve
- Passionate/dedicated staff

If sure of the data (Even if just 20 percent of it), publish a summary to create demand, then improve on the data based on demand for it.





Parting shot:

- NCA institutionalization is not an event, it is a process.
- The more you collaborate, the faster you get things done
- NCA/SEEA needs a strong voice at the UNFCCC, UNCBD and other similar interventions. Once there is integration globally, there will surely be integration nationally.

