

Building capacity for national ecosystem assessments: linking science and policy



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THE AIM

To build capacity at the national level to undertake ecosystem assessments and support the uptake of assessment findings into national decision-making.

WHY ARE ASSESSMENTS NEEDED?

- Governments recognise that human well-being is dependent on healthy functioning ecosystems and the services they provide.
- Despite this, ecosystems are being significantly reduced in extent and threatened with loss of crucial functions, putting at risk the ecosystem services they deliver.
- In many cases national policy setting and decision making processes do not take full account of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Ecosystem assessments deliver an evidence base that meets the needs of decision makers across sectors, and provides a mechanism to build capacity around the science policy interface.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS



GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

- A capacity building programme, including regular webinars, a help desk facility and dedicated forum space, fellowship programmes and exchange visits.
- A series of global training workshops with project countries, and up-to-date training materials on national ecosystem assessments made available online.
- Lesson sharing and case studies disseminated through different channels and side events at international and regional biodiversity conferences.
- An Expert Leadership Group providing expert advice, mentoring and support to the assessment teams.
- Working with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to identify how the evidence from national ecosystem assessments can be utilised for national level CBD implementation.

WHERE ARE WE CURRENTLY WORKING?



PROJECT IMPACT

- At the national level, project countries will have an up-to-date and broadly-owned evidence base which they can use for many different processes supporting policy setting and decision-making relating to biodiversity and ecosystem services (e.g. for CBD activities related to the post-2020 Agenda such as updating NBSAPs).
- The project countries will also have developed structures, such as a national science-policy platform, and built a community of practice around the science-policy interface.
- At the global level, a greater number of experts from the project countries are engaging in activities of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- The lessons learned from the project are shared with other countries for successfully implementing their own assessments.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The national assessments are being undertaken by expert local organisations in partnership with national governments:



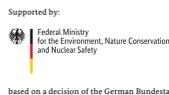
Coordination and guidance at the global level is provided by UNEP-WCMC, leveraging their significant experience and expertise in assessments and communities of practice through the Sub-Global Assessment Network



Technical support and expertise is provided by Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research



This project is undertaken via funding by the Government of Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, International Climate Initiative (IKI).



This project supports the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)



The first phase of the national ecosystem assessment project is implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the framework of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net). UNDP also supports the application of the Trialogue approach to the assessments to enhance a three-way dialogue between scientists, policymakers and practitioners.



CONTACT

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