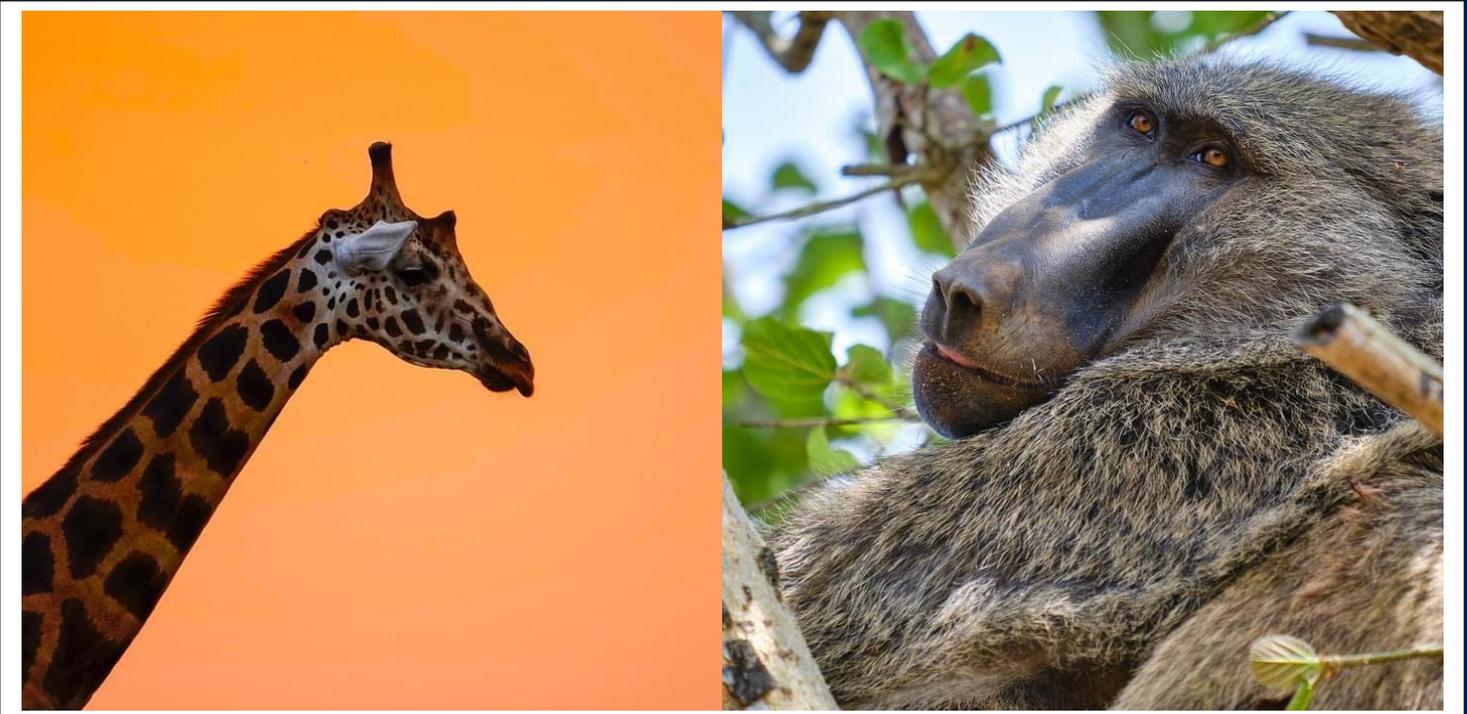




Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-making in Uganda

Report on Proceedings of the Stakeholder Workshop to draft Roadmaps
for integrating biodiversity-related natural capital accounting in
sectoral development processes

23rd to 26th November 2020 (NEMA Regional Office, Mbale)



This report was prepared by Tom Geme, the Project Officer – Natural Capital Accounting with help from the Project Management Unit at the National Environment Management Authority

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Introduction

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), on behalf of the Government of Uganda, with financial support from the Darwin Initiative is implementing a project titled 'Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision Making in Uganda.' The Project is being implemented in collaboration with the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the National Planning Authority (NPA), Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Institute for the Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting (IDEEA).

The Goal of the project is *"to support the delivery of the Ugandan National Development Plan, Green Growth Development Strategy and NBSAP"* through its four objectives namely to:

- a) integrate the value of biodiversity into national reporting, poverty reduction, and planning processes;
- b) organise biodiversity-related natural capital data (fisheries, land and soil improvement and biodiversity and tourism) using internationally endorsed accounting frameworks;
- c) enable decision-makers to implement integrated environmental-economic planning for green growth, poverty alleviation and attaining the SDGs and Aichi Targets; and
- d) develop the capacity of account compilers and users to institutionalise the accounting approach.

The project is delivering across these objectives by partnering with stakeholders and/or field experts from academia and research institutions, non-government organisations, ministries, agencies and local governments in Uganda to identify planning decisions where it is important to consider values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and key areas where natural capital accounting is likely to be influential. The project will also provide technical support to national institutions on the compilation and supply of natural capital accounts to meet their needs or demands. It also seeks to develop demand and capacity amongst decision-makers to employ natural capital accounting processes in different decision contexts.

The project focuses on three biodiversity-related natural capitals namely:

- i. **Biodiversity and tourism accounts**, to provide information on the major tourism sites, their species and the flows of economic benefits associated with the wildlife watching tourism they support
- ii. **fisheries resource accounts**, to provide information on policy-making for sustainable management of fish stocks and supporting the small-scale fisheries sector to provide livelihoods, fish for consumption and export products and

- iii. **land and soil improvement accounts**, to provide information for an understanding of the evolution of soil fertility to draw policies for better soil management practices, driving sustainable agricultural practices and supporting poverty reduction.

The project has four main outputs as outlined herein below;

- (i) Raising awareness of the value of biodiversity-related natural capital and the NCA approach
- (ii) Developing and testing the accounting approach
- (iii) Building communities of practice
- (iv) Institutionalisation of the natural capital accounting approach

Objective of the Workshop

The main objective of the workshop was to draft a roadmap outline for the integration of biodiversity-related natural capital accounting within three sectoral development process

Expected outcomes of the workshop

The overarching expected outcome was that stakeholders share insights that would form the basis for developing roadmaps for integrating the Natural Capital Accounting approach. The roadmaps developed will be focused on the sectors covered by natural capital accounts developed on the project under Output 2.

Workshop Programme

This was a 2-day workshop whose activities are detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report.

Workshop Proceedings

Day 1:

Opening Session

Welcome remarks

These were made by Mr Francis S. Ogwal, the Natural Resource Manager (Biodiversity & Rangelands) at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on behalf of Dr Tom O. Okurut, NEMA's Executive Director, who later joined the workshop virtually and also officially opened the workshop. Mr Ogwal is the National Project Coordinator for the project on Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda.

In his remarks, Mr Ogwal;

- ▲ welcomed members and thanked them for supporting the NCA project and for always sparing time to participate in workshops and events organised by NEMA.

- requested for a volunteer to lead the team in offering a word of prayer. The prayer was offered by Ms Jovan Lubega an Economist/Statistician from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).
- then invited the Project Officer to come and review the programme of the workshop

Review of the Programme

This was done by Mr Tom Geme, the Project Officer. He started by welcoming participants to this 2-day workshop to discuss aspects of the Natural Capital Accounting Project, Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision Making in Uganda.

He gave an overview of the project mentioning that the project has four main outputs emphasising that that workshop focused on Output 4 on the institutionalisation of the NCA Approach. He also mentioned that as part of the workshop, the project consultants will also present the accounts being developed on the project i.e. biodiversity and tourism; fisheries resources and land and soil improvement accounts to stakeholders.

He ended his programme review by emphasising that the main objective of the workshop was to have local stakeholders work together with international partners to draft roadmaps to inform the integration of the NCA approach in sectoral development processes and thereby its institutionalisation.

Introductory Remarks

These were made by Mr Francis Ogwal, the National Project Coordinator (NEMA) and Ms Nadine Bowles-Newark (UNEP-WCMC).

In his communication, Mr Ogwal:

- informed members that the workshop would be a hybrid, i.e. with some of the members participating physically and others, especially the representatives of the International partners, joining in virtually via zoom.
- asked participants to introduce themselves mentioning their name, institution and designation.
- expressed gratitude to the Darwin Initiative for the financial support that has enabled the implementation of the project on 'Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision Making in Uganda.'
- thanked members both national and international for the insights shared during the process of developing the NCA accounts.
- also reported to the stakeholders that the reports on the natural capital accounts developed on the project are almost ready with one simply awaiting publication. This,

he pointed out, would be followed by awareness creation especially among decision-makers, as guided by the roadmaps that will be developed following this workshop.

- ▲ emphasised that the use of the NCA approach is critical in the environment and natural resource management and urged members present to be keen on the process of developing roadmaps for institutionalising the approach if the approach is to garner traction in national policy planning and decision-making processes

In her communication, Ms Nadine Bowles-Newark, the Deputy Head of Programme, Ecosystem Assessment and Policy Support at the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC):

- ▲ thanked the Project Team for organising the workshop and for enabling the international partners such as those from UNEP-WCMC and IIED to participate albeit virtually.
- ▲ thanked stakeholders including a representative from the World Bank for joining the workshop. She invited them all to share insights towards the fruitful implementation of the project and indeed the advancement of the NCA approach in Uganda.
- ▲ wished the participants wonderful deliberations in this workshop

Presentations of indicative accounts

The indicative accounts were presented by Mr Fred Muwanika, Mr Moses Masiga and Mr Eugene Muramira, the consultants hired to develop the biodiversity and tourism; land and soil improvement and the fisheries resource accounts respectively. In their presentations, the consultants were supported by Dr Steven King (from UNEP-WCMC) who also presented to stakeholders an overview of the Darwin Initiative funded project on Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-making in Uganda.

In his presentation, Steve pointed out how this project links to other natural capital accounting initiatives in Uganda such as the World Bank's WAVES Programme and others being implemented by UBOS and the United Nation's Statistics Division. He emphasised that the accounts developed on this project and indeed the other projects are coherent with each other and use the same accounting framework – the System or Environmental-Economic Accounting framework

The consultants, in their presentations, highlighted the work done in developing the various parts of the accounts i.e. extent, condition and supply and use. They also pointed out some of the challenges faced during the development of accounts. Further, of essence to the workshop on developing roadmaps for integrating NCA in sectoral plans, they pointed out policy interventions required for the sustainable management of biodiversity-related natural capital as well critical entry points for integrating natural capital aspects into the national decision-making cycle.

A link to the presentations made is found in **Appendix 2** of this report.

Plenary on the Accounts Developed

Following the presentations of the indicative accounts, a plenary session was held. Among the issues that emerged during the discussion included the following;

Biodiversity and Tourism Accounts

- a) Members suggested that the consultant should explicitly show how the biodiversity and tourism accounts link to the Forest Accounts developed under the World Bank's WAVES Programme.
- b) Members also suggested that the accounts' report also touches on aspects of increased land fragmentation due to the increase in built-up areas or urbanisation. The argument was that built-up areas are increasing so fast and thereby likely to have impacts on biodiversity and consequently the biodiversity-related tourism yet not much attention has been accorded to this predicament.

Land and Soil Improvement Accounts

- a) Members requested that the consultant continues to unpack some of the technical information to enable non-technical audiences to be on-board with the discussion at hand. It was suggested that as part of presenting, the consultant works with the project communications team to develop tailor-made mini-reports for technical and non-technical audiences for better understanding.
- b) Members also suggested that the consultant makes succinct the policy implications of the different land and soil dynamics as presented. Such message packaging, members thought, would help capture the interest of decision-makers, for example, what are policy interventions for the decreasing agricultural productivity due to soil exhaustion? A further example is how the country addresses the need to increase soil productivity without necessarily increasing inorganic fertiliser application that poses environmental challenges.

Fisheries Accounts

- a) Members thought the findings were very insightful and are keen on having the project team presenting them to high-level staff in the different institutions. The Project team was encouraged to liaise with stakeholders and have findings presented at high-level meetings for greater impact.

A general concern regarding the accounts developed was that they focused on the human-benefit of the environment (provisional services) yet the environment has other benefits that are not

solely tied to human benefit. Members suggested that future work needs to interrogate these other benefits further.

Institutionalising the Natural Capital Accounting approach

This section of the report details the workshop activities related to implementing output 4 of the project. The following presentations were made;

Needs and Challenges for Institutionalising NCA

This presentation was made by Mr Ronald Kaggwa from the National Planning Authority (NPA). In his presentation, he;

- a) foremost thanked the Project Management Team at NEMA for convening the workshop and the various stakeholders for attending the workshop
- b) mentioned that institutionalising the NCA approach is more important now than ever in Uganda. He attributed this to challenges such as climate change, fast increasing population and the increasing degradation of natural resources
- c) reminded members that natural capital accounting as an approach to advance the sustainability agenda has been explicitly featured in the National Development Plan III 2020/21 – 2024/25
- d) encouraged stakeholders (especially Ministries, Agencies and Local Governments) to see to it that the approach is reflected in sectoral plans and thus have a keen interest in developing roadmaps that foster this requirement
- e) reiterated the challenge of inadequate data to facilitate the development of the accounts. On that note, he applauded the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and other data-holding institutions for always supplying data to facilitate planning processes including enabling the development of accounts.
- f) he encouraged planners and data users to create not only national but also sub-national networks and see to it that such networks are maintained. This is to ensure that data can be obtained and shared at these levels and that suggested interventions are better informed.

Reflecting on the Project's Context Analysis and User Needs Assessment

This was presented by Ms Sarah Ivory, the Programme Officer - Ecosystem Assessment and Policy Support at UNEP-WCMC. The presentation touched the following aspects;

- i. Contribution of the project to the National Plan for Advancing Environmental-Economic Accounting

- ii. Salient issues identified at the project onset during the context analysis
- iii. Progress made in addressing the stakeholder needs as identified at the project onset during the context analysis and later during the needs assessment exercise

Introduction to the NCA Roadmap

This session was led by Mr Steve Bass from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). In his presentation,

- i. he highlighted the rationale for developing roadmaps emphasising that it is by developing well-structured roadmaps that interventions such as the use of the NCA approach can be sustained
- ii. he highlighted the principles behind NCA roadmaps development process mentioning that both the accounting-pull as well as the policy-push side of the roadmap developing exercise are studied in equal detail
- iii. he elaborately discussed the process that the participants will take in developing the draft roadmaps

After his presentation, he invited Mr Laban Musinguzi (from the National Fisheries Resource Research Institute, NaFIRRI) and Dr Steven King to present an example of considerations when developing roadmaps. The presentation made by Mr Laban Musinguzi and Dr Steven King focused on the desired outcomes for biodiversity and people that the fisheries natural capital accounts can inform.

This presentation was followed by the formation of break-away groups. These groups were for the first part to brainstorm on their understanding of the one-pager guidance on developing NCA roadmaps. Each break-away group focused on a particular accounting theme on the project i.e. biodiversity and tourism, fisheries resources and land and soil improvement and was facilitated by a preselected team.

The group to cover aspects related to biodiversity and tourism was facilitated by Mr Leone Candia (from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, MTWA) and Mr Fred Muwanika. The group covering aspects related to fisheries resources was facilitated by Mr Laban Musinguzi and Mr Eugene Muramira. The group covering aspects of land and soil improvement was facilitated by Mr Moses Masiga and Mr Andrew Byamugisha (from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, MAAIF).

Closing session

Following the brainstorm session in the different groups, the facilitators presented in each group the work-plan for the next day. The general plan for the following day was that each group would work together to share insights on the different elements of developing a roadmap for NCA institutionalisation as guided by the 1 and 2-pager documents.

The chair of the workshop closed the day's activities thanking participants for their contribution in the day's discussion. He urged members to reflect on the deliberations made that day. With these remarks, he closed the day's workshop.

Day 2

Opening session

Welcome Remarks and Prayer

The day's activities were once again opened by Mr Francis Ogwal, the National Project Co-ordinator. Mr Ogwal;

- welcomed members to the second day of the workshop.
- invited Ms Allen Birungi from NEMA to offer a word prayer
- invited the Project Officer, Mr Tom Geme, to review the day's programme and consequently invite Mr Steve Bass (IIED) who would lead the participants through a recap on the roadmap development process that started the previous day

Review of the Programme

The Project Officer, Mr Tom Geme, welcomed participants to the day's workshop. He thereafter, recapped the previous day's activities mentioning that all the tasks as per the programme had been executed. He then reviewed the day's activities as per the programme. He pointed out that the second day's activities, unlike the day before, would be group-centred with each group working separately to accomplish the tasks as per the 1-page guidance note.

He mentioned that members would get a chance to listen to the deliberations in each of the groups later that afternoon. Following the presentations by each group in the afternoon, project leaders from UNEP-WCMC and NEMA would outline the next steps regarding the institutionalisation of the NCA approach in sectoral development processes. This would be followed by the official closure of the workshop.

Recap on developing Roadmaps

Following the programme review, Mr Steve Bass, made a presentation to remind members present on the process of developing roadmaps for integrating Natural Capital Accounts in sectoral development processes. He once again emphasised the concepts of policy pull and account push and their relevancy in institutionalising the NCA approach.

Group work- continued

Following the recap session, the participants once again moved to their working groups to discuss the aspects as detailed in the 1-pager guidance note. This one 1-pager had a framework with guiding questions for each of the groups. The framework is herein below;

NCA 'policy pull'	NCA 'accounting push'
Overarching strategic question: What is the biodiversity vision we are working towards?	
Identify priority sector outcomes for biodiversity and people	Ensure NCA information provides relevant evidence for meeting the priority outcomes
Operational roadmap questions:	
1 What decision processes do we need to target?	
Identify top (1) procedures, (2) plans, or (3) policies that might achieve biodiversity/people outcomes	Ensure NCA meets procedural needs, addresses economic arguments, and offers policy messages
2 Which decision-makers and influencers should we engage with?	
Identify people with decision-making mandate and people with high influence on decisions.	Ensure decision-makers and influencers understand NCA, receive relevant data, and support NCA use
3 What timing is critical?	
Identify critical stages and dates involved in the above processes and plans	Ensure NCA links to decision events, delivers at the right time, anticipates future needs, and is iterative
4 Who will play what roles in sector NCA and how will they be coordinated?	
Identify policy leads and their formal data requirements	Ensure clear roles, coordination, coherence of NCA
5 What capacities and resources will be needed for sector NCA?	
Identify capacity/gaps for understanding, approving, and using NCA data in decisions	Ensure good capacity to produce, interpret and communicate NCA to inform decisions

Group presentations

Each of the groups following comprehensive discussions and facilitation made presentations to the members present on the different considerations for developing roadmaps in their assigned sector.

A link to all the presentations made is provided in **Appendix 2** of this report.

These presentations were then followed by a plenary session facilitated by Mr Steve Bass on all aspects covered during the group work.

Closing session

Next steps

Following the discussion on the presentations made, the following were suggested as the next steps;

- i. UNEP-WCMC and NEMA will consolidate the presentations with assistance from Steve Bass into a roadmap document, a separate document will be made for each of the accounting themes on the project
- ii. These drafts will then be shared with the members present for further input and/or guidance
- iii. Final roadmaps will then be published on stakeholder websites
- iv. At least one pilot sector will be chosen and assistance provided on how to integrate elements of NCA in its decision-making processes including but not limited to sector plans and budgets.

Closing remarks

The chair of the workshop, Mr Francis Ogwal, the National Project Coordinator, thanked the participants for their critical insights and congratulated them upon the wonderful deliberations.

He urged participants to be the agents of change and proponents of the NCA approach. He asked the Project Officer to share the presentations made in the workshop with the participants for further reflection and consideration. He also promised members that a workshop report will be shared with them in due course. He urged members to look-out for the draft roadmaps following the presentations they made. These will also be shared with them for further input and guidance.

Finally, members were urged to stay safe and remember that COVID-19 is real. With these remarks, the workshop was closed.

Appendix 1: Programme of Workshop Activities

Day 1		
Travel Day		
Day 2		
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Arrival and registration of participants	PO-NCA (NEMA)
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Breakfast	PO-NCA (NEMA)
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.	Review of the Programme and Objectives of the Meeting	NPC (NEMA)
10:50 – 11:00 a.m.	Prayer and Introduction	ALL
11:00 – 11:05 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	ED - NEMA
11:05 – 11:10 a.m.	Opening of the Workshop	OPM
11:10 – 11:20 a.m.	Natural Capital Accounting for Development	UBOS/ NPA
11:20 – 12.50 p.m.	Presentation and discussion of indicative Accounts	Consultants & Steven King (UNEP-WCMC)
12:50 – 1:15 p.m.	Plenary	NPC (NEMA)
1:15 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	PO-NCA (NEMA)
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Introduction to Institutionalising NCA	IIED (Steve Bass)
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Plenary brainstorming of an example NCA Sector Roadmap – Fisheries	IIED, UNEP-WCMC, IDEEA Group, NEMA
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	End of Day 2 Remarks and Closure	NPC (NEMA)
Day 3		
09:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Arrival and registration of participants	PO-NCA (NEMA)
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Breakfast	PO-NCA (NEMA)
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.	Recap of Day 2 Activities	NPC (NEMA)
10:50 – 1:00 p.m.	Group work to develop three NCA Sector Roadmap outlines (Land degradation, Tourism, and Fisheries)	IIED, UNEP-WCMC, IDEEA Group, NEMA
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	PO-NCA (NEMA)
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Group work to develop three NCA Sector Roadmap outlines (Land degradation, Tourism, and Fisheries)	IIED, UNEP-WCMC, IDEEA Group, NEMA
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Presentation and discussion of NCA Sector Roadmap outlines	IIED, UNEP-WCMC, IDEEA Group, NEMA
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Next steps	Steve King/ Sarah Ivory (UNEP-WCMC)
4:30 p.m.	Workshop Closure	NPC (NEMA)
Day 4		
Travel Day		

Appendix 2: Presentations and workshop documents

All presentations made at the workshop including the other support documents can be found on the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/85uubvrx3o6sv9/AADHfXfpO-QF2XAcZHF8J7xIa?dl=0>

Appendix 3: List of Participants

Name	Institution	Designation	Email	Phone Contact
Physical Participants				
Francis Ogwal	NEMA	NRM (B&R)	sabinofrancis@gmail.com	0787702025
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Appendix 4: Pictorial



