

Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Project reference | DARCC012 |
| Project title | Capacity for Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Development in Ghana |
| Country/ies | Ghana |
| Lead Partner | UNEP-WCMC |
| Project partner(s) | Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) |
| Darwin Initiative grant value | £199,933.00 |
| Start/end dates of project | 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2024 |
| Reporting period and number | April 2022 – March 2023 Annual Report 1 |
| Project Leader name | Kiruben Naicker |
| Project website/blog/social media | N/A |
| Report author(s) and date | Kiruben Naicker, Qian Feng, Alina Vera Paz, Helga Sterckx, 26/04/2023 |

1. Project summary

Natural Capital is the basis of many economic activities which underpins the livelihoods and wellbeing of people and society. However, nature and its benefits are not recognised adequately in economic systems. Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) helps to present information on the stocks and flows of biodiversity, ecosystems and their services in a way that can be clearly understood and used to make more informed decisions, resulting in improved equity in society and contributing to wellbeing of both people and the environment. To enhance and extend Ghana’s existing NCA work, the project is working with key Ghanaian government partners, and aims to build capacity for producing, championing, and using natural capital accounts to better integrate information on biodiversity into Ghana's sectoral policymaking and development planning.

In 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ghana published a feasibility study – “Building NCAs for Ghana”, which highlighted the lack of established NCA within the country and identified the need for capacity development and increased political will. Since then, Ghana has compiled mineral and energy accounts. However, biodiversity-related NCA are still lacking, limiting the ability of decision-makers to mainstream biodiversity into economic and wider national development planning. This project will build upon, update and address the findings of the Ghana

Feasibility Study for NCA, capitalising on new developments (scientific and political) and advance the process of implementation of NCA in Ghana.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project is jointly led by UNEP-WCMC together with the national partner, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). UNEP-WCMC was requested to provide technical expertise to support the GSS in building capacity of all relevant stakeholders and implementing partners for the regular production of accounts to inform decision making and development planning. This need is further articulated in Ghana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2016) which notes the lack of NCA that limits budget allocation to the environmental sector.

UNEP-WCMC is the fund manager and undertakes project management of the project and provides technical expertise, with the GSS sub-contracted as the national implementing agent. As the official producer of national statistics, GSS ensures that all statistical activities or products that will be produced are in line with international standards, classifications, and recommendations. GSS is also responsible for identifying and engaging the necessary in-country institutions, including utilising existing structures, forums and stakeholder data bases, as was the case for the inception workshop held in January 2023, and the invitee list and planning for the 2nd stakeholder engagement meeting. The stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report compiled findings from desk top research of previous initiatives such as the feasibility study, discussion documents and the Global Environment Facility-funded 'Connect' project, among others, and informed the GSS in identifying and inviting key and relevant stakeholders to planned and targeted consultation workshops. The GSS has requested that each agency and organisation invited to the consultation workshops nominates a limited number of individuals based on the number of organisations identified, institutional legacy and gender representativity. Additionally, the Ministry of the Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), especially the EPA, has been providing technical input.

Regular weekly internal team meetings of the UNEP-WCMC project team, and frequent (at least once a month) meetings with GSS project managers were held to review progress, discuss activities, and identify issues, risks and mitigating actions. Bi-weekly internal coordination meetings (held every two weeks) allowed for a more formal review of the project's progress, budget expenditure, and projections, as well as a review of its log frame, using defined indicators to ensure that the project remained on track.

The project team had several email exchanges and two virtual meetings with complimentary initiatives, such as that of the World Bank and FAO under the Global Sustainability Program, to discuss and coordinate efforts in advancing NCA in Ghana. Follow up contact with the CSIR in Ghana also yielded additional stakeholders to be considered in future stakeholder engagements and consultation.

The project deliverables and activities require stakeholder consultation for national validation. All workshop participants have been invited to become part of a national natural capital accounting community of practice within Ghana to receive project updates and to be invited to review outputs and contribute to discussions. This will retain the involvement of those who were invited to the workshop but were unable to attend all consultation sessions.

All materials from the project are freely available using the most appropriate means for the project participants (e.g., Ghana Statistical Service website, shared folder system and WhatsApp groups). These platforms allow for the expansion of the network of stakeholders beyond the ones identified, in addition to the existing stakeholders, thus ensuring the project's legacy and sustainability. Through the stakeholder mapping exercise, organisations with the relevant technical expertise operating within the country and wider region were identified. Depending on the priority theme selected for the demonstration accounts, the relevant organisation(s) will be engaged and consulted to support the in-country delivery of the demonstration accounts.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Over the reporting period April 2022 – March 2023, the planned activities were undertaken as part of the project's efforts to advance NCA in the country. Under Output 1, the first step was conducting stakeholder mapping to identify relevant actors and stakeholders in the field. This was followed by the drafting of a user needs analysis, which helped guide the project's focus and ensure its alignment with the needs of key stakeholders. To build capacity for producing and using NCA, a stakeholder workshop was held from 12th - 13th January 2023, which brought together representatives from various stakeholder groups. During the workshop, the user needs analysis was validated and later finalised.

The project team also worked to identify priority themes for the next phase of the project which requires the compilation of demonstration accounts. National stakeholders participating at the inception workshop engaged in a policy identification exercise of where NCA could support such policy interventions. The outcome of this exercise was a priority list of themes within which potential demonstration accounts could be compiled. The priority themes and potential demonstration accounts require further consultation and validation.

The project team also began outlining a National Plan for Advancing NCA which involved conducting a scoping exercise of global and regional plans and strategies on NCA. The scoping exercise informed the outline of a zero-draft National Plan, and the zero-draft National Plan helped prepare the 2nd stakeholder consultation workshop (which was planned on the 26th of April), and the 2nd workshop designed agenda items to validate and finalise the National Plan with input from national stakeholders. The zero-draft National Plan was compiled and is currently under review and awaiting integration of stakeholder input for its finalisation.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

The proposed outputs as per project timeline have been achieved and they can be evidenced by the indicators of success detailed in Annex 1. The project has four major outputs, as stated below:

Output 1: Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies.

Change recorded to date: The inception workshop held from 12th to 13th of January 2023 had 59 participants. As determined from the analysis of the evaluation forms submitted by the workshop participants, participants reported an increased understanding of NCA. A website hosting the training materials was made for participants to access and refer to in the future.

Output 2: A multi-stakeholder National Plan for Advancing NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published.

Change recorded to date: UNEP-WCMC has produced the first draft of the National Plan, which is under review at the second stakeholder workshop in Ghana amongst national stakeholders and will be finalised by integrating stakeholder input and subsequently endorsed by GSS.

Output 3: Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2.

Change recorded to date: The production of a set of demonstration accounts has been initiated. Based on a policy exercise organised during the inception workshop, national partners and stakeholders conducted an analysis, and priority themes were shortlisted.

Output 4: A clear strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA is developed through a participatory process, ensuring the uptake and success of Output 2 to catalyse continued development of NCA in Ghana.

Change recorded to date: To be initiated in July after the finalisation of the National Plan and in parallel to the compilation of the demonstration accounts according to project timeline.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The proposed Outcome is that stakeholders across government support the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, and its application for mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, especially for poverty alleviation. The key highlights of the impact of the project so far have been the relationships which were built and are being built with national partners, the effective consultation process of national stakeholders and the increased momentum amongst stakeholders and partners in advancing NCA for evidence-based decision making. The GSS, which is the official national implementing partner to the project, has strengthened the relationship and engagement in the project with other national partners including the EPA, MESTI, the Planning Commission and others. This relationship has been effective in identifying and engaging national stakeholders for consultation and validation of project deliverables.

The momentum and capacity building amongst national stakeholders for NCA advancement has been facilitated via high level addresses at the inception workshop, together with a media article that was published which served to increase awareness of the value and potential of NCA in supporting decision-making across government and other sectors. This high-level endorsement and increased awareness also serve as entry points for the expression of the information from NCA in sectoral documents and strategies at different scales, informing development planning and alleviating poverty. The project includes the compilation of biodiversity related natural capital accounts. Priority themes have already been identified and will inform the compilation of at least one biodiversity related natural capital account. This outcome, which measured against the present status quo of natural capital accounts already compiled (which include energy and mineral accounts), shows that ecosystem accounts or biodiversity related accounts have not yet been considered or compiled.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Stakeholders (including environment, finance and planning and other key ministries, private sector, civil society) are fully engaged and involved in dialogue around natural capital data and are receptive to the integration of natural capital evidence in policymaking, planning, and recognising the benefits of using NCA.

Comments: This assumption is still valid, as the workshop participants showed interest in the discussions.

Assumption 2: Common understanding of priority areas for NCA can be agreed upon by stakeholders.

Comments: This assumption is still valid. After the workshop, priority themes for NCA were agreed to and potential priority accounts were determined.

Assumption 3: Capacity needs can be addressed and embedded through workshops, methodological guidance and online materials.

Comments: This assumption is valid for the reporting period. The workshop participants reported increased understanding of NCA.

Assumption 4: The project team (within Ghana and international) can identify opportunities to secure technical, technological, financial and human resources required for implementation of the National Plan for Advancing NCA.

Comments: The assumption is still valid as the zero draft National Plan considers the key building blocks for NCA in Ghana augmented by a draft operational framework.

3.5 Achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

Short term: Stakeholders within a range of government departments, ministries and agencies within Ghana have increased awareness to integrate NCA into their sectoral plans, strategies and policies. The user-needs assessment report includes entry points for NCA from cross cutting policies, plans and strategies. The policy identification exercise performed by participants to the first workshop has demonstrated that stakeholders from cross cutting sectors are capable to recognise and understand the value and potential of NCA in addressing local and national issues. This will lead to greater support and demand for NCA production that would increase the use and uptake of the information from NCA to inform short and long-term decision making on nature and its benefits to people.

Long-term: Capacity to produce and use NCA to deliver green growth and sustainable development is institutionalised in government ministries, departments and agencies, allowing Ghana to better account for biodiversity in its policies and plans, resulting in improved outcomes for biodiversity and well-being of people. The GSS has been identified as the anchoring organisation for the overall coordination of the production of NCA. This project, through the capacity being built within the GSS and other partner organisations, further strengthens the case for the institutionalisation of NCA.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Advancing NCA contributes to the overall goal of Ghana's NBSAP and supports the implementation of several of its national action plans, including Action Plan 2 on mainstreaming biodiversity, and Action Plan 7 on sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry (see MESTI (2016), pages 48 and 53). At the international level, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (including Ghana) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The MESTI CBD NBSAP focal point, who has been part of most of the meetings on planning and reporting on progress for the project, has indicated that the NBSAP revision has been initiated. Furthermore, the NBSAP review working group has also been incorporated in the structures proposed for advancing NCA in the draft National Plan (See draft National Plan which notes that Ghana will be updating its NBSAP in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). NCA provides robust scientific evidence to support the establishment of priorities, targets and strategies, and a foundation for a robust monitoring framework. This opportunity to build NCA capacity is therefore ideally timed to inform forthcoming policies and plans, whilst facilitating biodiversity mainstreaming.

In its 2019 Voluntary National Review of the SDGs, Ghana only reported on Indicator 15.1.1 (under Goal 15). By developing capacity for NCA, Ghana could also report on Target 15.9 and other relevant targets. This would depend on the themes prioritised for the 'demonstration accounts,' and other priority accounts identified for which resources can be secured if linked to these national entry points. The project also supports MESTI's Medium Term Development Plan by building capacity in NCA, which is mentioned under the goal "Safeguard the natural Environment and ensure a resilient, built environment." The various Conventions, Treaties and Agreements are captured under the national policy provisions in the draft National Plan.

5. Gender equality and social inclusion

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| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ . | 50% |
| Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have | GSS's board members constitute of 50% women (three women out of six board |

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

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| a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² . | members), with the Chairperson being a woman as well. |
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This project supports the implementation of Policy Commitment 1 of Ghana’s National Gender Policy “Women’s Empowerment and Livelihoods”, and notably, Measure 5: “Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Women’s Access to Productive Resources”.

In the workshop and discussions, the project ensured that participants are representative of technical expertise, gender, social inclusion and organisational representativity. These requirements are reflected in the profile of the delegates participating in the consultation workshops (See Report of inception workshop and Invitee list of 2nd Stakeholder consultation workshop).

During the current review of the National Plan, gender considerations have been discussed for each identified priority theme, and further consultations will be held on potential gender mainstreaming.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The indicator of success and the progress have been detailed in Annex 1, and there is no change made to the M&E plan over the reporting period.

The project recognises monitoring and evaluation as a continual part of project management. It is the responsibility of the project manager, in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC’s Impact Officer, and others deemed to have the necessary skills and experience to provide advice.

Any changes to the project’s planned activities or outputs have been discussed and agreed within the project team (and relevant senior staff) at UNEP-WCMC and GSS, while consulting others involved in the project as relevant. The project plan, which is uploaded into a software program called ‘Deltek,’ is reviewed every two weeks at internal coordination meetings. All outputs go through an internal quality assurance and approval process. Partners are also expected to provide annual/ quarterly/biannual reports to UNEP-WCMC, focusing on delivery of planned activities, expenditure reporting and evidence that contributes to indicators and milestones. This will ensure all project information feeds into half yearly and annual project reporting to Darwin. Risks and opportunities of any changes (or inaction instead of proposed change) will be evaluated by the project team, with a view to ensuring that the project achieves its intended impact. Any such changes will be communicated to Darwin through a change request.

A draft monitoring and evaluation Framework has been included as an essential component of the draft National Plan, which reinforces the need for strong M&E systems for advancing NCA. The capacity building aspect of the project also forms part of the overall draft M&E Framework of the National Plan and includes proposed indicators.

7. Lessons learnt

Throughout the past year, valuable lessons were learnt about what worked well. To achieve buy-in and ownership of the project, it was found that a user needs assessment (as designed in the proposal) with key identified lead agents, policy entry points, and practical examples or case studies, is crucial for understanding the local context. Additionally, it was recognised that in-person consultation workshops with active participation of delegates in break-out groups, focused discussion groups, and practical exercises, were effective in keeping stakeholders engaged and

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

for optimising stakeholder input. Overall, these lessons will be invaluable in the implementation of the project in the future.

Based on the experience gained through this project, any similar projects should prioritise a strong communication and consultation approach, particularly when using novel tools or mechanisms. This project brought to the fore the importance of understanding local dynamics, which is vital for the success of the project, as is focusing on national priorities whenever possible. To ensure that project interventions remain demand-driven, working closely with national policy entry points is crucial for any project to thrive. These recommendations can help to ensure that any similar projects are well-received by stakeholders and achieve their intended impact.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

There were no substantive comments received on the half yearly report. All project activities and deliverables undergo a substantive quality assurance and approval process. Comments and recommendations are integrated for the finalisation of project outputs.

9. Risk Management

No new risks occurred. Any encountered risks are tracked in the risk register document.

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project is within projected timelines and is progressing effectively.

11. Sustainability and legacy

The workshop participants from various government departments, ministries, agencies, NGOs and academia have responded in the evaluation forms that their understanding of NCA has been enhanced.

The project's exit strategy in the form of the implementation strategy for NCA is an integral part of the project and will ensure that the legacy of the project continues beyond the timeline of the project. Producing a National Plan for Advancing NCA is an outcome of a social process, bringing institutions together to agree on a coherent set of NCA outputs for the short and long term, designed with clear policy entry points in mind. The focus of the project on the SEEA, which is an international statistical standard for accounting, means that there is an international community of practice in which Ghana already participates in. Ghana can continue its participation and contributing towards a national and local community of practice, along with building its capacity and contributing to the advancement of NCA via international events. It also indicates that Ghana is progressing towards integrating the values of biodiversity into their national accounts (SDG Target Indicator 15.9.1 b).

To ensure that the support and momentum built for NCA does not wane, the multi-stakeholder workshops have each trained representatives of identified stakeholder organisations. The exact number will be determined by the number of agencies that are identified during the stakeholder mapping process, but all consultation workshops for the project will collectively and ideally train 3-5 individuals from each key stakeholder organisation to ensure institutional memory and to mitigate turnover.

All training materials (including those developed under a previously related project in Uganda) have been made widely and freely available within Ghana, and hosted/distributed in the most appropriate way for staff from different stakeholder departments, ministries and agencies to access, which include a training material website, hard-copies, online file sharing systems, and WhatsApp groups etc.

In terms of the retention of capacity, training multiple individuals from each agency ensures institutional memory in case of staff turnover – enough individuals will remain in ministries to continue to champion NCA, and direct others to available resources and materials. The establishment of a ‘community of practice,’ to which all workshop participants will be invited to join, will also help ensure sustainability of the project by maintaining open channels of communication between those with an interest in NCA across the country.

The best means of establishing and maintaining such a community of practice was ensured at the initial stakeholder workshop, but it is envisaged that those who participated will receive updates on the project (and subsequently on NCA in the country), and will be invited to review and contribute to outputs and future proposals for NCA development. In cases where continuity of participants is not possible from one workshop to the next, the stakeholder lists and WhatsApp groups help keep everyone up-to-date with developments, and to share training materials and disseminate information.

The project also links up with existing and established NCA initiatives in Africa as well as globally. These include the African Forum on Green Economy, the Green Growth Knowledge Network, World Bank’s WAVES initiative and Global Sustainability Program and Africa’s Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The project highlighted the Darwin Initiative logo on the project output documents and the concept note for the consultation workshops. The GSS used project funds to develop two roll-up banners which were displayed at the workshop venue for the duration of the workshop. High level welcome addresses at the consultation workshop have also introduced the Darwin initiative and its core aims of addressing sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

All the presentations delivered at the consultation workshops included the logo of the Darwin Initiative on each slide of the presentations. Among the major deliverables - the user needs assessment report and the National Plan, the Darwin Initiative was mentioned on the front two pages. The Darwin logo is also placed at the top of the training material website.

13. Safeguarding

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| Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months? | Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No X |
| Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months | Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No X |
| Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No Naomi Kingston, Head of Operations of UNEP WCMC, [REDACTED] |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No [If yes, please provide date and details of training] Travel safety training required by UNEP-WCMC staff. |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | Past: 100% 4 staff Planned: All new staff members are required to |

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| | attend training on safeguarding as well as on operational policies of WCMC. |
| Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. | |
| No. | |
| Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. | |
| No. But all project staff, partners and stakeholders consulted are encouraged to report any incidents or concerns throughout the project cycle and on an ongoing basis. | |

The Head of Operations is the focal point for issues relating to our Safeguarding Policy, supported by the People Team and our Safeguarding Trustee. Where necessary, issues are investigated following our Disciplinary Procedure. Furthermore, we have a Research Ethics review process to ensure that projects are designed and delivered appropriately and sensitively where safeguarding issues are a risk.

All UNEP-WCMC staff are required to take mandatory safeguarding training, and in the past 12 months, they have participated in travel safety training as well.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

| Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report) | 2022/23 Grant (£) | 2022/23 Total Darwin Initiative Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|-------------------|---|------------|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | | | | |
| Consultancy costs | | | | |
| Overhead Costs | | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | |
| Capital items (see below) | | | | |
| Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) | | | | |
| Others (see below) | | | | |
| TOTAL | 89,363 | 89,36 | | |

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

| | Matched funding secured to date | Total matched funding expected by end of project |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project. | | |
| Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£) | | |

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

| File Type (Image / Video / Graphic) | File Name or File Location | Caption, country and credit | Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none) | Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Indicators of Success for Financial Year 2022-2023

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Outcome: Stakeholders across government support the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, and its application for mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, especially for poverty alleviation</p> | <p>0.1: Number of sectoral, cross-sectoral policies and plans which contain references to NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 1; Target 3)</p> <p>0.2: Budget allocation within GSS for producing NCA and implementing Output 4 by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline £0; Target £100,000)</p> <p>0.3: The value of biodiversity-related NCA to achieve economic and poverty objectives is recognised through statements of support for continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, from representatives of economic/planning sectors (baseline 0; Target 3 statements)</p> | <p>0.1: The project team completed mapping for relevant policy entry point; established communication (through WhatsApp group and email) with high-level government officials who attended the inception workshop held on 12th – 13th January 2023.</p> <p>0.2: Established connection with GSS</p> <p>0.3 In an NCA webinar jointly held by the World Bank and EPA, this Darwin Initiative project was mentioned in an address by Deputy Executive Director of EPA, Dr Christine Asare.</p> | <p>0.1: To continue communication with government officials, and to mainstream NCA in policy making through the development of National Plan</p> <p>0.2: To continue discussions with GSS to promote budget allocation</p> <p>0.3: To continue discussions with other economic/planning sectors after the National Plan workshop</p> |
| <p>Output 1. Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies</p> | <p>1.1: Number of individuals who have participated in stakeholder engagement workshop and seen an increase in their understanding of and support for NCA by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>1.2: Number of individuals who have accessed available training materials by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 50)</p> | <p>1.1: The inception workshop held on 12th - 13th January 2023 had 59 participants (excluding WCMC team members), and they reported increasing understanding of NCA after the workshop as evidenced in the Workshop report on page 39.</p> <p>1.2: Tracked 15 users in total until the end of March 2023.</p> | |

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| Activity 1.1: Stakeholder mapping is conducted | The project completed the stakeholder mapping in the user need assessment. | Stakeholders were identified in the mapping process, and they will be consulted in the next phase of work. |
| Activity 1.2: User needs analysis drafted | After desktop research, consultation with EPA and GSS, the document was drafted | The user needs assessment will underpin the development of the National Plan. |
| Activity 1.3 Stakeholder workshop held with representation from identified stakeholders to build capacity for producing and using NCA, and complete user needs analysis | The Inception workshop was held on 12 th - 13 th January 2023 during which the user needs assessment was verified and validated. | Relationship strengthening, preparation for the next phase, priority setting |
| Activity 1.4 User needs report published. | Report finalised. | <p>The user needs report was used as an internal document to draft the National Plan.</p> <p>It has been submitted to GSS for use as an internal background document. A summary document will be drafted and published alongside the publication of the National Plan. (Timeframe: Publication of National Plan)</p> |
| <p>Output 2: A multi-stakeholder National Plan for Advancing NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published.</p> | <p>2.1: National Plan published with endorsement from GSS by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 1)</p> <p>2.2: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in the capacity building workshop for elaborating the plan by Q1 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>2.3: Number of stakeholder agencies actively participating in its elaboration outside of the workshop</p> | <p>2.1 National Plan has been drafted; currently in the process of consultation with national partners.</p> <p>2.2 Invitation letters have been sent out to national stakeholders and workshop will take place on 26th – 27th April 2023.</p> <p>2.3 The project team had a meeting with representatives from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Ghana (CSIR) to discuss the development of fishery accounts;</p> <p>The project team had email exchanges with staff from the World Bank and FAO. Both organisations are developing their NCA accounts.</p> <p>The project team will also have a planned bilateral meeting with the Fishery Commission.</p> |

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| | by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 10) | |
| Activity 2.1: National Plan for Advancing NCA outlined | The project team developed a table of content based on a scoping exercise for the previous NCA national plans and the user need report. | Developed a draft based on the outline and the scoping. |
| Activity 2.2: Stakeholder workshop held to agree on outline and elaborate National Plan | Workshop held on 26th -27 th April 2023. The scheduling was based on consultation with national partners. | The project team will continue building stakeholder network for future consultation. |
| Activity 2.3: Plan finalised | The plan has been drafted and went through internal review in UNEP WCMC. | The plan will be finalised after further consultation with national stakeholders. |
| Activity 2.4: National Plan published on GSS website | The National Plan will be drafted after the workshop. | The project team will keep collaborating with GSS and the National Plan will be finalised and published by GSS. |
| Output 3. Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2. | <p>3.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies providing review and input to a) methodological notes, b) metadata report, and c) accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 15)</p> <p>3.2: Number of stakeholders participating in the capacity building workshop and with improved ability to use and communicate accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> | <p>3.1: Representatives from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Ghana (CSIR) and EPA had joined the methodological discussions.</p> <p>3.2: Activities are planned for the financial year 23/24.</p> |
| Activity 3.1: Priority theme for demonstration accounts agreed | The project team has had discussions and conducted policy exercise in the inception workshop held in January. National partner | The project team will continue discussions with national partners and stakeholders to finalise and |

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| | | conducted analysis, and priority themes shortlisted. | agree on priority themes for demonstration accounts. |
| Activity 3.2: Methodological note drafted | | The methodological note is in the drafting process. | To be finalised after further discussions. |
| Activity 3.3: Methodological note reviewed by relevant agencies | | These activities are planned for the financial year 23/24. | |
| Activity 3.4: Metadata report produced | | | |
| Activity 3.5: Accounts produced | | | |
| Activity 3.6: Stakeholder workshop to build capacity for producing and using the demonstration accounts, and build support for advancing NCA within Ghana | | | |
| Output 4. A clear strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA is developed through a participatory process, ensuring the uptake and success of Output 2 to catalyse continued development of NCA in Ghana. | 4.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in this session of the workshop by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30) 4.2: Total value of potential resources identified for NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target: £100,000) | This Output is planned for the financial year 23/24. | |
| Activity 4.1: Strategy for implementing National Plan outlined | | These activities are planned for the financial year 23/24. | |
| Activity 4.2: Session held at Stakeholder workshop (Activity 3.6) to agree on outline and elaborate strategy | | | |
| Activity 4.3: First draft strategy produced | | | |
| Activity 4.4: Strategy reviewed by stakeholders | | | |
| Activity 4.5: Strategy finalised | | | |

Annex 2: Project's full current Indicators of Success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Stakeholders across government support the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, and its application for mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, especially for poverty alleviation.</p> | <p>0.1: Number of sectoral, cross-sectoral policies and plans which contain references to NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 1; Target 3)</p> <p>0.2: Budget allocation within GSS for producing NCA and implementing Output 4 by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline £0; Target £100,000)</p> <p>0.3: The value of biodiversity-related NCA to achieve economic and poverty objectives is recognised through statements of support for continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, from representatives of economic/planning sectors (baseline 0; Target 3 statements)</p> | <p>Policies and plans (e.g., mid-term development plans) published on Government ministry websites</p> |
| <p>Output 1</p> <p>Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies.</p> | <p>1.1: Number of individuals who have participated in stakeholder engagement workshop and seen an increase in their understanding of and support for NCA by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>1.2: Number of individuals who have accessed available training materials by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 50)</p> | <p>1.1: Workshop evaluation forms</p> <p>1.2: Download/user statistics for the e-learning modules and training materials published online.</p> |
| <p>Output 2</p> <p>A multi-stakeholder National Plan for Advancing NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published.</p> | <p>2.1: National Plan published with endorsement from GSS by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 1)</p> <p>2.2: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in the capacity building workshop for elaborating the plan by Q1 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>2.3: Number of stakeholder agencies actively participating in its elaboration outside of the workshop by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 10)</p> | <p>2.1: Plan available on GSS website</p> <p>2.2: Workshop participant list</p> <p>2.3: Responses to emails requesting input.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Output 3</p> <p>Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2.</p> | <p>3.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies providing review and input to a) methodological notes, b) metadata report, and c) accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 15)</p> <p>3.2: Number of stakeholders participating in the capacity building workshop and with improved ability to use and communicate accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> | <p>3.1: Email responses to requests for input.</p> <p>3.2: Participants list and evaluation forms from workshop.</p> |
| <p>Output 4</p> <p>A clear strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA is developed through a participatory process, ensuring the uptake and success of Output 2 to catalyse continued development of NCA in Ghana.</p> | <p>4.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in this session of the workshop by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>4.2: Total value of potential resources identified for NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target: £100,000)</p> | <p>4.1: Workshop participant list</p> <p>4.2: Strategy for implanting the National Plan for Advancing NCA</p> |
| <p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1 Stakeholder mapping is conducted</p> <p>1.2 User needs analysis drafted</p> <p>1.3 Stakeholder workshop held with representation from identified stakeholders to build capacity for producing and using NCA, and complete user needs analysis</p> <p>1.4 User needs report published.</p> <p>2.1 National Plan for Advancing NCA outlined</p> <p>2.2 Stakeholder workshop held to agree on outline and elaborate National Plan</p> <p>2.3 National Plan finalised</p> <p>2.4 National Plan published on GSS website</p> <p>3.1 Priority theme for demonstration accounts agreed</p> <p>3.2 Methodological note drafted</p> | | |

3.3 Methodological note reviewed by relevant agencies

3.4 Metadata report produced

3.5 Accounts produced

3.6 Stakeholder workshop to build capacity for producing and using the demonstration accounts, and build support for advancing NCA within Ghana

4.1 Strategy for implementing National Plan outlined

4.2 Session held at Stakeholder workshop (Activity 3.6) to agree on outline and elaborate strategy

4.3 First draft strategy produced

4.4 Strategy reviewed by stakeholders

4.5 Strategy finalised

Important Assumptions

Stakeholders (including environment, finance and planning and other key ministries, private sector, civil society) are fully engaged and involved in dialogue around natural capital data and are receptive to integration of natural capital evidence in policymaking and planning, recognising the benefits.

Common understanding of priority areas for NCA can be agreed upon by stakeholders.

Capacity needs can be addressed and imbedded through workshops, methodological guidance and online materials.

The project team (within Ghana and international) can identify opportunities to secure technical, technological, financial and human resources required for implementation of the National Plan for Advancing NCA.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator using original wording | Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---------------------|---|---|-------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| [DI-A03] | Number of individuals who have participated in stakeholder engagement workshop and seen an increase in their understanding of and support for NCA | Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity of NCA as a result of workshop engagement. | Number of organisations | The organisations include government agencies, research institutes, NGO, INGOs | 27 | N/A | N/A | 27 | To be determined |
| [DI-A01] | Number of individuals who have accessed available training materials | Number of people from Ghana's key national and local stakeholders who accessed structured and relevant training on NCA. | | Female 18, Male 41 | 59 | N/A | N/A | 59 | To be determined |

Table 2 Publications

| Title | Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs) | Detail (authors, year) | Gender of Lead Author | Nationality of Lead Author | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online) |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|---|---|
| Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission? | Yes |
| Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | Yes |
| Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | No |
| Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | Yes |
| Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic. | No |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)? | N/A |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes. Kwame Freuda from EPA Ghana, Bernice Ofosu-Baadu from GSS |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |