

NEA

NATIONAL  
ECOSYSTEM  
ASSESSMENT  
**INITIATIVE**



# WEBINAR: NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

- NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE -



@song\_about\_summer



WCMC



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Japan Biodiversity Fund

# Webinar Agenda



@Mehmetkc

- Reconvening the Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGAN)
- Opening remarks
- The National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative
- National ecosystem assessments to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Q&A



## The Sub-Global Assessment Network

A community of practice that connects and supports individuals and organisations involved in sub-global ecosystem assessments

UNEP-WCMC is pleased to reconvene members and welcome new partners with the intention of strengthening the activities of the network by:

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*Supporting national ecosystem assessments*

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*Encouraging and fostering knowledge sharing between and amongst sub-global assessments*

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*Providing opportunities for training in specific tools and approaches related to ecosystem assessments*

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## The Sub-Global Assessment Network

Join the network and stay up to date with upcoming events

Delivered

16/09/2021



*Webinar: Opportunities for impact from national ecosystem assessments*

23/11/2021



*Webinar: 'National ecosystem assessments to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity'*

TBC - January



*Webinar: Launch of Viet Nam's national ecosystem assessment*

TBC - February



*Webinar: Launch of Cameroon's national ecosystem assessment*

TBC - March



*Webinar: Launch of Colombia's national ecosystem assessment*

# Opening remarks

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Nadine Saad

Programme Management Officer -

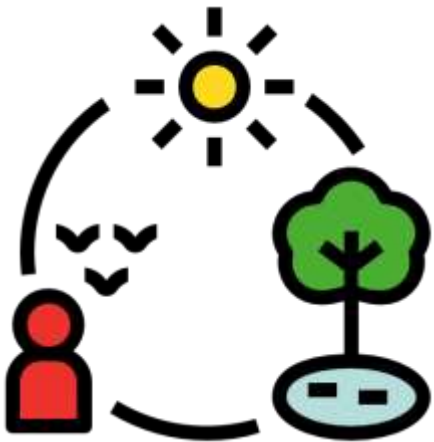
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

A background image of a coffee plantation with green leaves and clusters of coffee cherries. A semi-transparent teal rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and name. A horizontal bar with a yellow-green segment on the left and a blue segment on the right is positioned below the title.

# The National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative at UNEP-WCMC

Dr. Shaenandhoa García Rangel  
Senior Programme Officer - UNEP-WCMC

# What is an Ecosystem Assessment?



- Evaluation of knowledge on drivers, impacts and responses to change in biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Aims to address policy questions
- Synthesizes available information and identifies knowledge gaps
- Communicates complex information to decision-makers



# Overview of ecosystem assessment mechanisms

The Economics  
of Ecosystems  
and Biodiversity

The Global  
Environmental  
Outlook

IPBES  
assessments

The Global  
Biodiversity  
Outlook

Millennium  
Ecosystem  
Assessment



The Global Forest  
Resources  
Assessment

# What is a national ecosystem assessment?



Is an expert evaluation of knowledge on drivers, impacts and responses to changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services



Focused on addressing Key Policy Questions by synthesizing available information  
Identify knowledge gaps



Integrates a range of knowledge types to ensure its credibility, legitimacy and relevance

# Aims of a national ecosystem assessment



Inform decision-making processes (*i.e.*, national to local, sectoral and cross-sectoral)



Support national implementation of international processes (*i.e.*, CBD, UNFCCC)



Strengthen in-country science-policy-practitioners networks

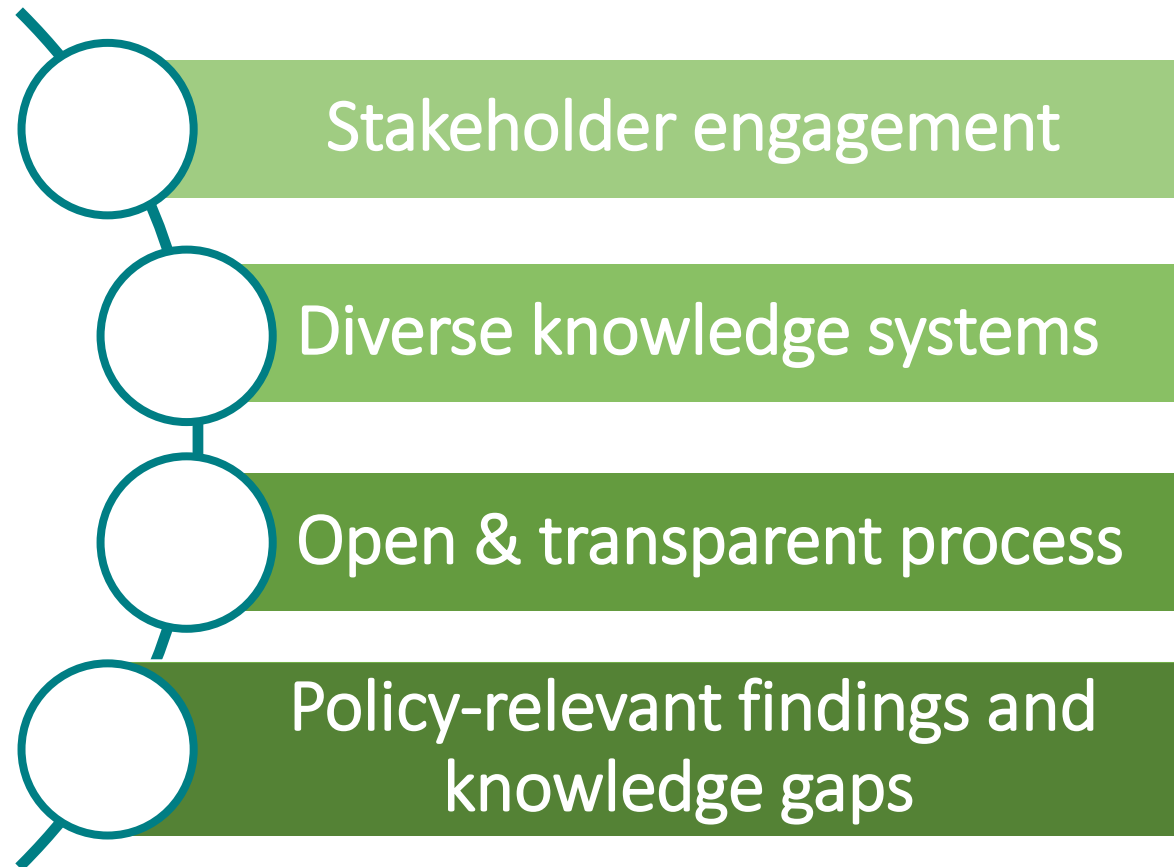
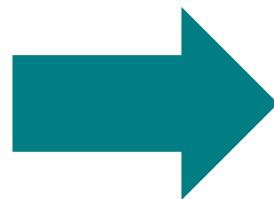


Build capacities of the assessment teams and stakeholders

# Key assessment components



Credible, Legitimate  
and Relevant



# Uses of national ecosystem assessments

What happens next?



National  
Level

- National policies and plans
- Sector-specific policies, i.e. agriculture, fisheries, forestry

International  
Level

- CBD
- UNFCCC
- UNCCD
- Sustainable Development Goals

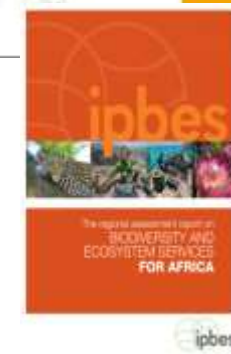
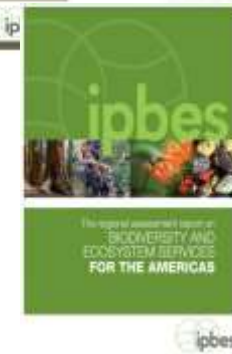
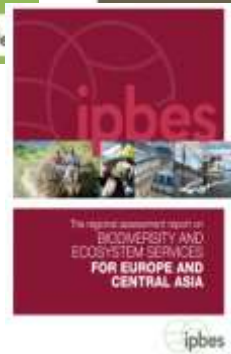
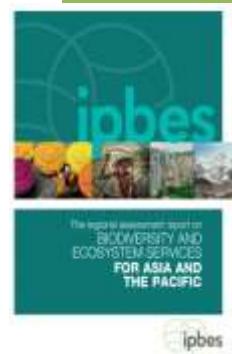
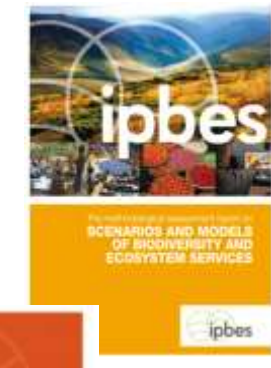
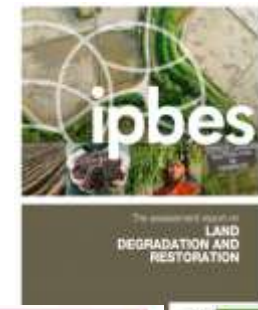
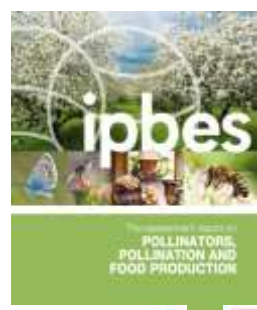
# IPBES assessments

Global

Regional

Thematic

Methodological

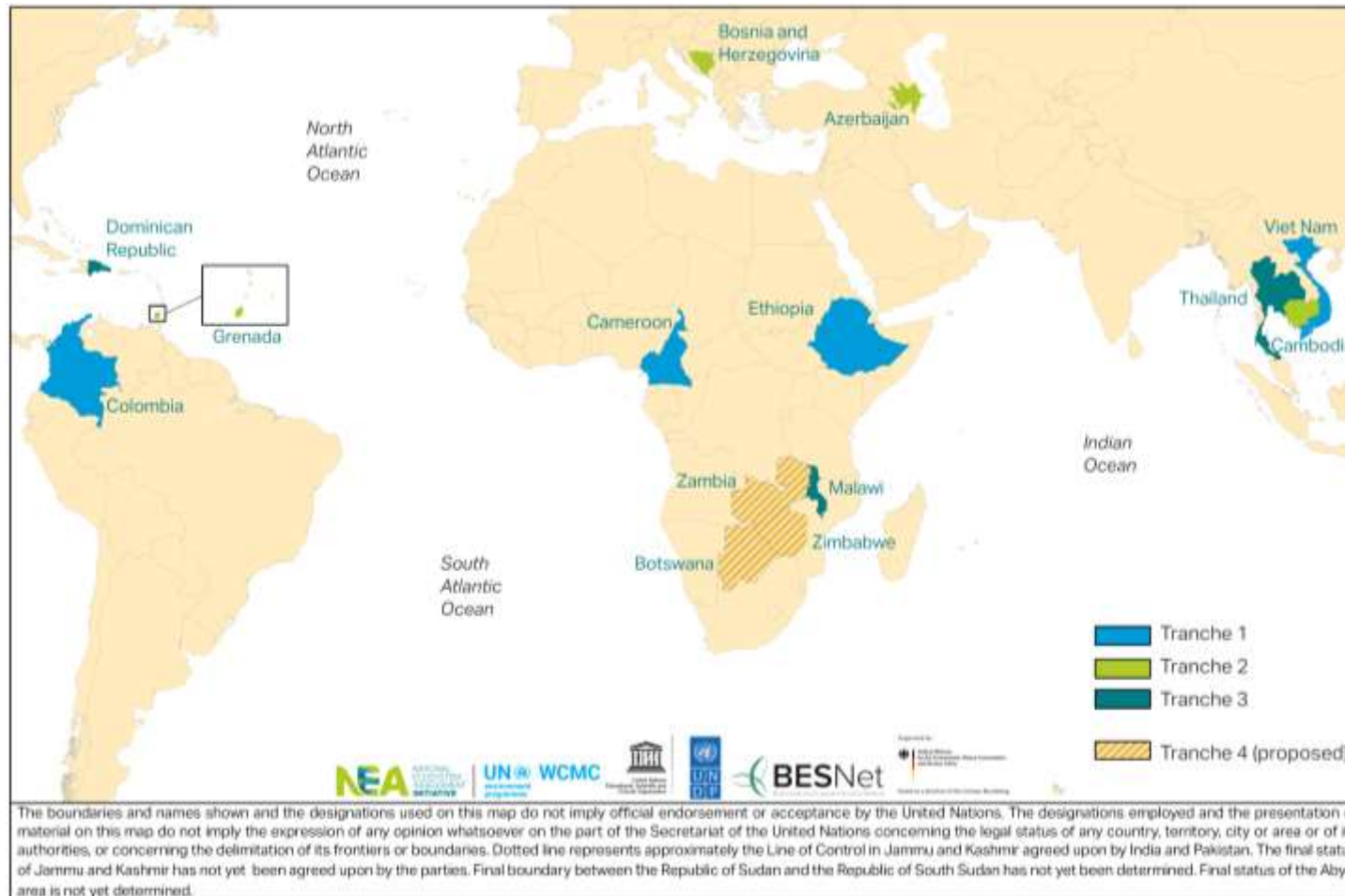


# The IPBES assessment process



# The National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative

Working globally





# The National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative

## Aiming for impact

- Building **shared knowledge** through knowledge-exchange on biodiversity and ecosystem services for policies and decision-making
- Promoting platforms that **strengthen engagement** between practitioners, policymakers, experts, knowledge holders and stakeholders
- **Developing capacity**, sharing lessons learned
- Supporting national engagement with international processes (IPBES, CBD)

# National ecosystem assessments to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Dr. Claire Brown

Principal Technical Specialist - UNEP-WCMC

# The guidance document

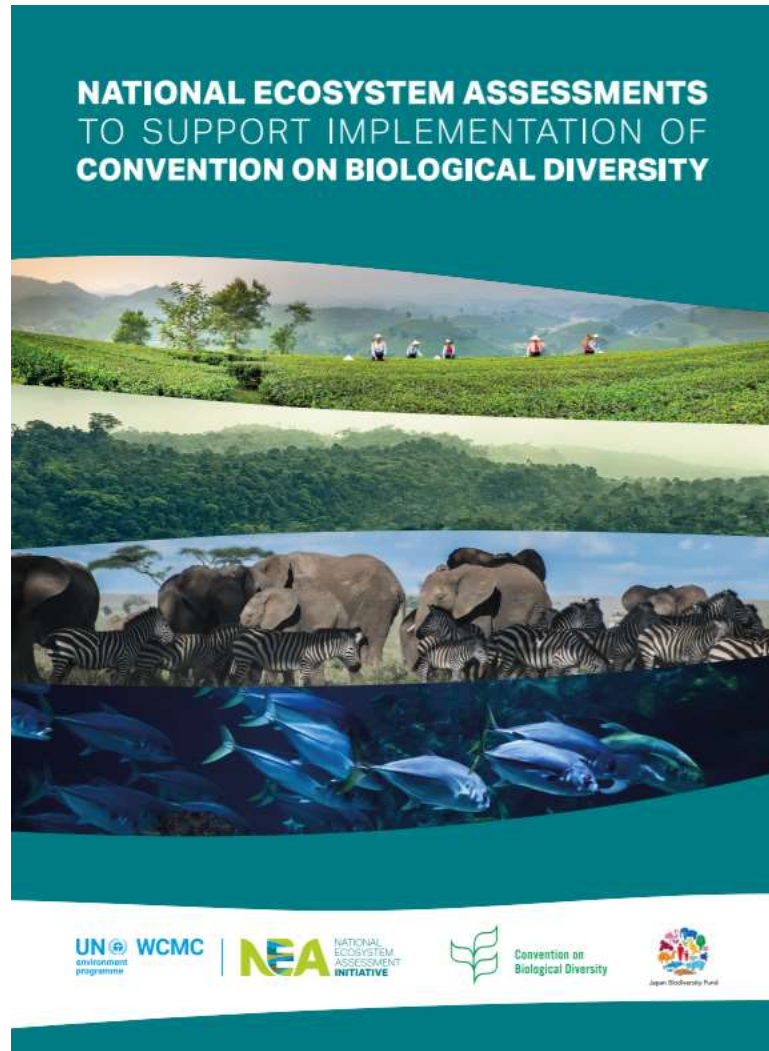
CBD Decision 14/1 (COP 2018): calls on Parties to consider undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services



Aims to increase awareness and understanding of the national ecosystem assessment process and how it can support implementation of the CBD at the national level



# The guidance document



# The guidance document

## Methodology



- Key participants: CBD and IPBES National Focal Points
- 2 workshops held in Kunming (China) and Bangkok (Thailand) with 73 participants
- A survey

# NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

to support implementation of

## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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# Biodiversity Planning

## Key Challenges

- A lack of clarity, understanding, and long-term vision of the objectives and priorities for biodiversity, development, and other sectors
- A lack of comprehensive and reliable knowledge and data

# Biodiversity Planning

## National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- *Agenda setting*  
Provide planners with relevant, authoritative, comprehensive, cross-cutting, and up-to-date information
- *Design*  
Involve relevant knowledge holders and stakeholders throughout the assessment process



For **Ethiopia's** upcoming revision of their National Development Plan, the National Development Commission is being engaged to support the use of the NEA findings and biodiversity data across all sectors



# Biodiversity Planning

National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- *Implementation and review*

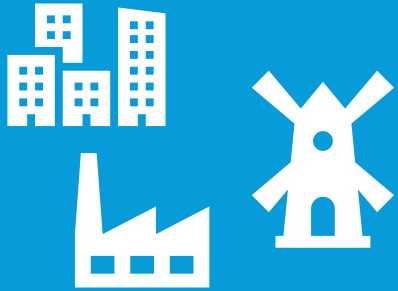
Provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing biodiversity and ecosystem services policies



**Viet Nam's** assessment findings are being used to advise the revision and development of the Law on Environmental Protection, the National Strategy on Environmental Protection and the NBSAP

# Biodiversity Planning

National ecosystem assessments can support through:



Systematizing the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral policy

# Biodiversity Planning

## Japan's NBSAP built upon the Japan Biodiversity Outlooks (JBO)

- The NBSAP was underpinned by the latest data from the JBO-1
- The JBO-1 assessed the progress made towards achieving the previous set of targets for Japan (2010 Biodiversity Target)
- The JBO-2 reviewed and incorporated new knowledge, new issues relating to CBD implementation and new targets under the NBSAP



# National Reporting

## Key Challenges

- Low quantity, quality, consistency, reliability, and comprehensiveness of datasets, information, and knowledge to develop national reports
- Including information from multiple sources in meaningful ways
- How to report the **breadth of national progress** and activities towards implementation of the CBD in succinct and meaningful ways



# National Reporting

National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- Improving understanding of the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their drivers of change.
  - Describing the **progress** being made in addressing national goals and targets
  - Detailing the **implications of not achieving** those targets
  - Understanding the effectiveness and urgency of different **response options**



# National Reporting

National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- Compiling and evaluating information and knowledge from multiple sources, presented in a policy-relevant format.
- Integrating **indicators, knowledge, datasets**, scenarios and the **multiple values** of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the potential implications of biodiversity loss
- **Mobilizing indigenous and local knowledge**



The NEA supported **Cameroon's** 6th National Report to the CBD, discussions at SBSTTA and SBI and IPBES meetings.

# National Reporting

## Working with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in an NEA

- Due to their intricate relationship with nature, many IPLCs hold detailed and diverse knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Community participatory research and mapping tools are used to mobilize indigenous and local knowledge for national ecosystem assessments



**Bosnia and Herzegovina** is using direct-to-digital mapping with local communities in its national ecosystem assessment to map the status of local ecosystems and historical changes over time.



@Baleyaaa

# National Reporting

National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- Identification of knowledge gaps, these may include:
  - Data, information, and knowledge needs for future assessments, which can be useful in **supporting future national reports**
  - Identifying improvements required in policy implementation, decision-making, or monitoring and reporting



Future scenarios have now been developed for **Viet Nam's** biodiversity and ecosystem services, empowering future engagement in international processes.



# National Reporting

## South Africa's National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA)

The NBA is South Africa's primary tool for monitoring and reporting on the state of biodiversity, using the outputs for the country's reporting commitments to the CBD. The NBA:

- Assesses the state of biodiversity and discusses the benefits that biodiversity and intact ecosystems offer
- Key outputs include the headline indicators of threat status and protection levels of species and ecosystems.
- Provides key information that contributes to strategic planning and policy processes



# Technical and Scientific Cooperation

## Key Challenges

- Matching knowledge and resources with needs
- Matchmaking between different individuals and organizations
- A shortage of appropriate infrastructure or policy frameworks at the national scale



# Technical and Scientific Cooperation

National ecosystem assessments can support by :

- Matching expertise and skills through knowledge holder and stakeholder engagement within the national ecosystem assessment process
- Facilitating multidisciplinary cooperation as the national ecosystem assessment process aims to be consultative and inclusive
- Enhancing the national science-policy interface to institutionalize technical, scientific, and multi-stakeholder cooperation

# Technical and Scientific Cooperation

## National Science-Policy Platforms

- Strengthen the interface between science, policy and practice
- Dedicated to sharing knowledge and discussing topics relevant to policy and country priorities related to biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Disseminating and facilitating access to knowledge **by sustaining long-term capacity-building efforts**



@Roob2001

# Technical and Scientific Cooperation

## Cameroon's national science-policy platform fosters collaboration

The NP-SPBES was created in 2017 by a ministerial decision to facilitate scientific input on biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making and to NBSAP implementation. The NP-SPBES:

- Promotes collaboration among stakeholders including key policymakers, academics, IGOs, NGOs and indigenous and local knowledge holders
- Ensures the technical soundness of the assessment and is responsible for validating the assessment and delivering the outputs to the ministry.
- Engages in capacity-building and knowledge-sharing events within the wider assessment community supported by the NEA Initiative



# Capacity-building

## Key Challenges

- Determining and effectively applying the relevant **tools and approaches** to build effective capacity
- Identifying and efficiently communicating **capacity-building needs and priorities**
- Identifying **partner organizations** that can effectively support capacity-building

# Capacity-building

National ecosystem assessments can support by developing and enhancing capacity on:

- **Data, information, and knowledge handling** to identify tools, needs, and priorities
- **Identifying capacity gaps** and provide the necessary justifications for addressing them
- **Enhancing individual skills**, building links between knowledge holders and policy processes, and strengthening institutional coordination mechanisms.

# Capacity-building

National ecosystem assessments can support by developing and enhancing capacity on:

- Knowledge holder and stakeholder engagement and relationship-building to mobilize resources and identify and engage partner organizations
- Post-NEA: disseminating **training materials and lessons learned**, provide capacity-building support regionally.



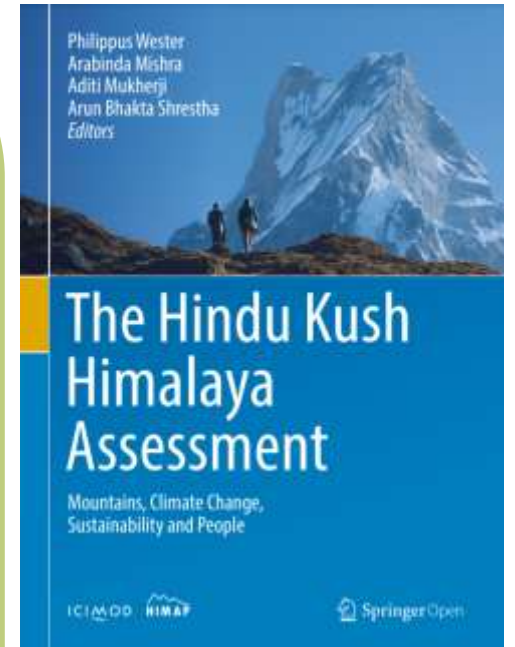
**Colombia** reported increased collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and mining, agriculture, and other sectors.



# Capacity-building

## Capacity-building in the ICIMOD Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) assessment

- Capacity was built at the interface between science and policy
- Workshops were organized to bring together different scientific and educational institutions, experts, and researchers
- A Call to Action was developed as a roadmap, articulating six urgent actions



# Communication, education and public awareness

## Key Challenges

- Lack of clear communication, education, and awareness-raising **goals**
- Lack of effective engagement with the correct **audiences** and the relevant channels
- Lack of the necessary **knowledge base** to address different audiences

# Communication, education and public awareness

## National ecosystem assessments can support by:

- Raising awareness through a communication strategy, reinforcing CBD activities by supporting country-level action towards sustainable uses of natural resources
- Providing communication, education, and awareness-raising content.
- Translating the different outputs of an assessment into messages understandable to different audiences, e.g., the Summary for Policymakers

# Communication, education and public awareness

## The Colombian national ecosystem assessment

- The communication strategy aimed to strengthen the gathering of knowledge to support decision-making on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Videos, podcasts and articles were synthesized to raise public awareness on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being



# Resource Mobilization

## Key Challenges

- Identifying resource gaps and needs
- Setting funding priorities
- Difficulties in communicating funding priorities
- Developing the necessary knowledge base **to justify incremental funding requests**

# Resource Mobilization

## National ecosystem assessments can support by:

- **Identifying drivers of change**, playing an important role in detecting where subsidies are potentially harmful to biodiversity
- Leading communication with key economic sectors both public and private on the **value of biodiversity**
- Providing key stakeholders with an **economic valuation and/or natural capital** perspective
- **Drawing attention to non-financial resources** that can be deployed to be mutually reinforcing across sectors
- Lending support to developing **justifications for further funding requests**

# Resource Mobilization

## The follow-on phase of the UK's national ecosystem assessment

The UK Government supported a two-year follow-on phase for an economic analysis to enhance understanding of the value of natural capacity stocks to:

- Improve UK representation in national wealth accounts
- Examine the macroeconomic impacts of the findings

A report on the economic case for investment in natural capital was built upon the national ecosystem assessment → this informed a proposal by the Natural Capital Committee for a 25-year investment plan to protect and improve natural capital in England



# Thank you!



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