National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative

Detailed key messages & examples

1. National ecosystem assessments (NEAs) are delivering critical knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their role in human-wellbeing, which can be used by decision-makers to address policy questions for nature and society.
   * National ecosystem assessments have developed from a long line of ecosystem assessments, including those produced more recently by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
   * Global and regional assessments have had a tremendous influence on international and regional policy processes, paving the way for greater consideration of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making. National ecosystem assessments can enable similar progress at the national scale.
   * There is a rapidly growing network of assessment practitioners around the world delivering critical evidence about the values of biodiversity, ecosystem services and people’s dependencies on them.
   * Please remember: The NEA process generally **does not produce new data.** The process evaluates and synthesizes **existing data** and knowledge, and identifies knowledge gaps.
2. NEAs promote national science-policy platforms that encourage engagement between practitioners, policymakers, diverse knowledge holders and stakeholders.
   * National science-policy platforms have been developed and/or supported in Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 countries of the NEA Initiative.
   * Most recently, we celebrated the establishment of Azerbaijan's first ever national biodiversity platform, after country partners received government approval in November 2020.
   * Please remember: National science-policy platforms can take different forms, depending on each country’s national context. These are also referred to as ‘National Biodiversity Platforms’.
3. NEAs strengthen national capacities at the intersection of science and policy, which can support countries better engage with biodiversity-related international processes such as IPBES and CBD.
   * NEAs can support the national implementation of the CBD, particularly within the context of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
   * NEAs have already achieved initial impact with supporting national CBD implementation across six thematic areas: i) Biodiversity planning; ii) National reporting; iii) Technical & scientific cooperation; iv) Capacity development; v) Communication, education and public awareness; vi) Resource mobilisation for biodiversity.
   * The NEA process has also strengthened country-partners’ capacity to effectively engage with intergovernmental processes like IPBES.
   * Please remember to mention that NEAs **can / may** support national engagement with / implementation of international agreements. Avoid making generalised statements by including ‘can’ and ‘may’ when possible.
4. NEAs are feasible all around the world. They can be adapted and implemented by national institutions, with capacity building support from UNEP-WCMC, UNDP and UNESCO.
   * This partnership between UNEP-WCMC, UNDP and UNESCO is a very special collaboration that embodies interdisciplinary collaboration within the UN structure.
   * We are lucky to have UNDP lead on stakeholder engagement through its Trialogue methodology, and UNESCO on the role of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK). Their participation will enhance the potential impact of NEAs and support the integration of their findings into policy planning and decision making.
   * Please remember to emphasize that UNEP-WCMC’s role is to develop capacity and create opportunities for knowledge exchange between country partners to support their assessment process, with support from UNDP & UNESCO.
5. True to its mission of placing ‘*biodiversity at the heart of environment and development decision-making',* UNEP-WCMC supports countries conducting national ecosystem assessments through its NEA Initiative.

* The Initiative brings together a highly qualified, multicultural team of interdisciplinary practitioners to provide a technical and administrative platform backing national partners throughout their assessments process and the integration of key findings into policy and decision-making.
* The NEA Initiative is part of a consortium that includes UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO, each providing specialized support and resources for the assessment processes.
* The Initiative works under the umbrella of UNDP’s Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)[[1]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en%2DUS&rs=en%2DGB&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwcmc.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FNEAPortfolio%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2Fef71ceff31a447b5a8e7a9c045abf47f&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&wdorigin=Sharing&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v1&newsession=1&corrid=e07b45b0-ffe3-4707-9056-09bf7cc807db&usid=e07b45b0-ffe3-4707-9056-09bf7cc807db&sftc=1&mtf=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush&rct=Medium&ctp=LeastProtected#_ftn1) and receives financial support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the Norwegian Environment Agency.

1. The Sub-global Assessment Network (SGAN) Website provides useful resources to support assessment practitioners implement their NEAs.
   * Resources include training materials, lessons learned, case studies and networking opportunities.
   * Webinars, infographics, videos and other types of resources are available on the website.
   * Please remember that UNEP-WCMC’s resources on assessments **are not exclusive** to its partner countries. Resources are made available on the [SGAN](http://ecosystemassessments.net/) website to be used by assessment practitioners and other user groups around the world.