

# NEEA

NATIONAL  
ECOSYSTEM  
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**INITIATIVE**



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# CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS



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# HOUSEKEEPING



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## The Sub-Global Assessment Network

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

From August 2021, 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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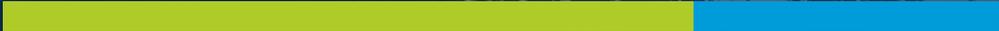
*Providing opportunities for training in specific tools and approaches related to ecosystem assessments*

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# Webinar overview

Agenda	Who
Welcome remarks	Dr. Valerie Kapos, Principle Technical Specialist
Presentation: Integration of Climate Considerations into National Ecosystem Assessment	Dr. Boipelo Tshwene-Mauchaza, UNEP-WCMC
Panel Discussion: Country Learning Exchange on Integration of Climate Change into Ecosystem Assessments, Facilitated by Ms Ceire Booth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Graham von Maltitz, Climate Specialist, SANBI (South Africa)</li><li>• Ms. Anne Teller, Senior Expert, European Commission (European Union)</li><li>• Prof. Juan Camilo Villegas Palacio University of Antioquia (Colombia)</li></ul>
Q&A	<b>Ms Ceire Booth</b>
Closing remarks	Ms Juanita Chaves

# Opening remarks



Dr. Valerie Kapos

Principle Technical Specialist, UNEP-WCMC

# Intergration of Climate Considerations into National Ecosystem Assessment



Dr. Boipelo Tshwene-Mauchaza  
Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC



**ENTRY POINTS FOR INTEGRATING  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS INTO  
NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS**



**UN**  **WCMC**  
worldwide  
conservation  
programme

**NEA**   
NATIONAL  
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# Why is climate change important for NEAs?

- Twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss pose significant threats to nature and its contributions to people
- Climate change drives changes in ecosystems - directly and indirectly – e.g. direct impacts of temperature change; indirect impacts of climate change responses
- Climate change is contributing to extinction risk:
  - 2°C warming -> 5% of species
  - 4.3°C warming -> 16% of species (IPCC 2019)
- Also impacts on ecosystem services and resilience of ecosystems, e.g. changes in water availability, changes in pollinators

Climate change is a direct and indirect driver of change in BES



# Why is climate change important for NEAs?

- Ecosystem services for climate change mitigation and adaptation are becoming increasingly important as the climate crisis deepens
- Potential to deliver over a third of the cost-effective climate change mitigation needed by 2030 to keep warming below 2°C (Griscom et al. 2017)
- Effective solutions to help people cope with climate change and extreme events

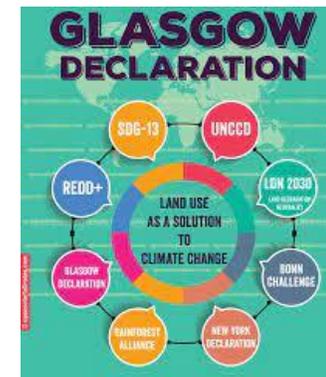


BES form part of solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change

# Why is climate change important for NEAs?

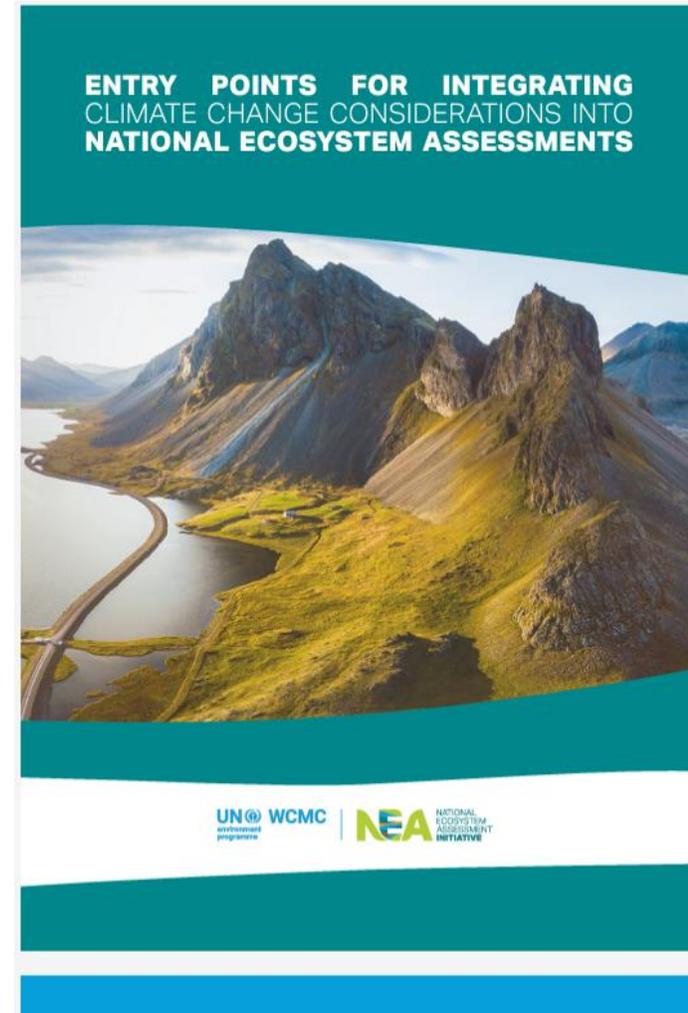
- Climate policies are increasingly recognizing ecosystem vulnerabilities and embracing nature-based solutions
- Including Nationally Determined Contributions, Climate Change Strategies, REDD+, National Adaptation Plans, Disaster Management Plans, etc.
- 105 out of 114 (92%) of updated NDCs include explicit reference to nature and nature-based approaches (WWF-UK, 2021)
- Climate change thus becoming an important part of the policy landscape for biodiversity, and a great opportunity for outreach and synergy across sectors

BES are increasingly recognised – as vulnerable and as solutions – in climate policies



# Development of the Guidance

- Guidance was developed to highlight the importance of integrating climate change considerations into the NEA framework from the beginning
- Recognising that NEAs valuable enabling countries to understand and assess relationships between climate change impacts and status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Structured around a series of **entry points at different stages** of an NEA
- Provides a **checklist** for assessment teams to systematically consider opportunities to integrate climate change priorities, information, policy options, and stakeholders in an NEA



# Scoping stage entry points

- Identify key national climate change priorities and policies as well as relevant data, knowledge
- Consider to what extent the key policy questions of the assessment should reflect the climate change priorities identified
- Utilise the conceptual framework as a tool to fully reflect the role of climate change in relation to socioecological system
- Integrate information about climate change and its links with biodiversity and ecosystem services in a way that is balanced, comprehensive, and reflective of climate change impacts both at the national and local levels
- Follow a multiple evidence-based approach to capture the full range of information about climate change in the assessment
- Build the capacity of assessment teams and national stakeholders on potential climate change issues and their interlinkages with biodiversity and ecosystem services

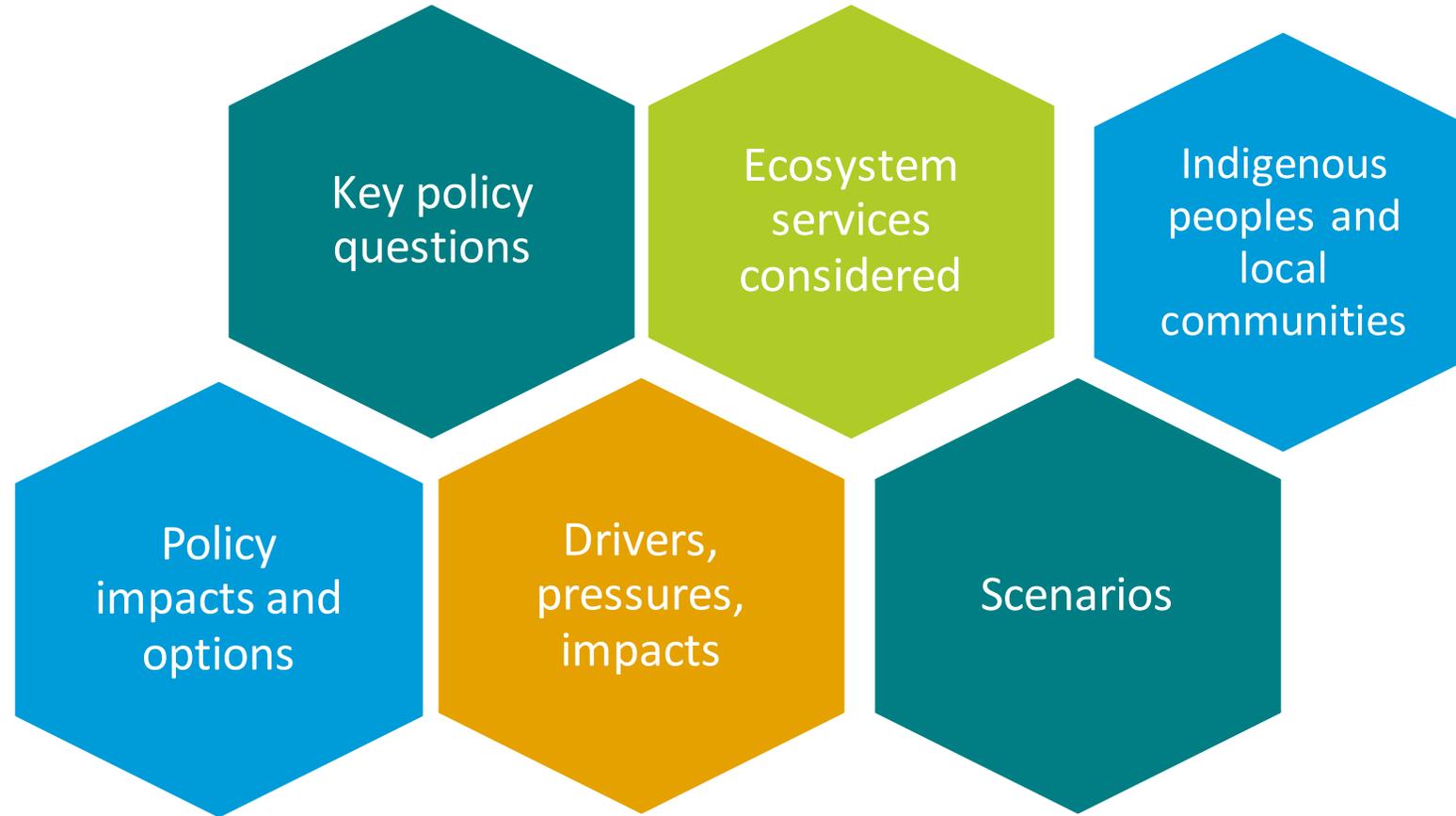
# Expert evaluation stage entry points

- Building on the conceptual framework, ensure that an appropriate range of climate change impacts on ecosystem services are addressed in the assessment
- Consider the inclusion of future climate scenarios, projections, and/or targets as part of scenario development for the assessment
- Consider how current or proposed/future climate change policies could impact biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Use climate change concepts and terminology in a consistent manner across chapters to ensure the main messages are coherent throughout the assessment
- Make use of all available climate-related data and knowledge to help fill information gaps in the assessment

# Use of assessment findings stage entry points

- Engage with climate change-related stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of the assessment
- Use the Summary for Policymakers to communicate the interconnectedness of climate change, biodiversity, and ecosystem services

# Entry points for climate change in NEA



# THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHECKLIST

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# Summary of the climate change checklist

- Aimed to assist NEA teams in systematically considering opportunities to integrate climate change priorities, information, policy options and stakeholders in national ecosystem assessments
- Divided into three key stages for an NEA: planning and scoping; evaluation or preparation; and use of NEA findings and communications
- Provides a series of questions related to potential actions/steps for integration of climate change as well as key considerations and background related to these questions

# Some lessons and tips

- Make sure that all the available information on the kind of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities that are of concern for ecosystems and communities in the country have been considered
- Make sure that CC is dealt with consistently throughout the assessment, giving due consideration to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the role of ecosystem services in both aspects
- Make sure that socio-economic and indirect linkages between ecosystem services and climate change impacts have been considered

# PANEL DISCUSSION

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Ms Anne Teller

Senior Expert, European Commission, European Union

Dr. Graham von Maltitz

Climate Specialist, South African National  
Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa

Prof. Juan Camilo Villegas Palacio

Coordinator of the Research Group in Applied Ecology,  
School of Environment, University of Antioquia, Colombia

# Closing remarks



Juanita Chaves  
Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC

# Thank you!

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