



Building Capacity for National Ecosystem Assessments Around the World

Updated October 2024

About UNEP–WCMC

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP–WCMC) is a centre of global excellence in biodiversity and nature’s contribution to society and the economy. UNEP–WCMC is confronting the global crisis facing nature and supporting the transition to a sustainable future for people and the planet. We do this through collaborating with partners around the world to create innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Our work brings together governments, businesses, NGOs and research bodies to put nature at the heart of decision-making and drive positive change. We are uniquely placed to ensure our science, knowledge and insights shape global and national policy.

Our 2050 vision

Living in harmony with nature.

Our mission

We develop knowledge and capacity for a nature-positive world.

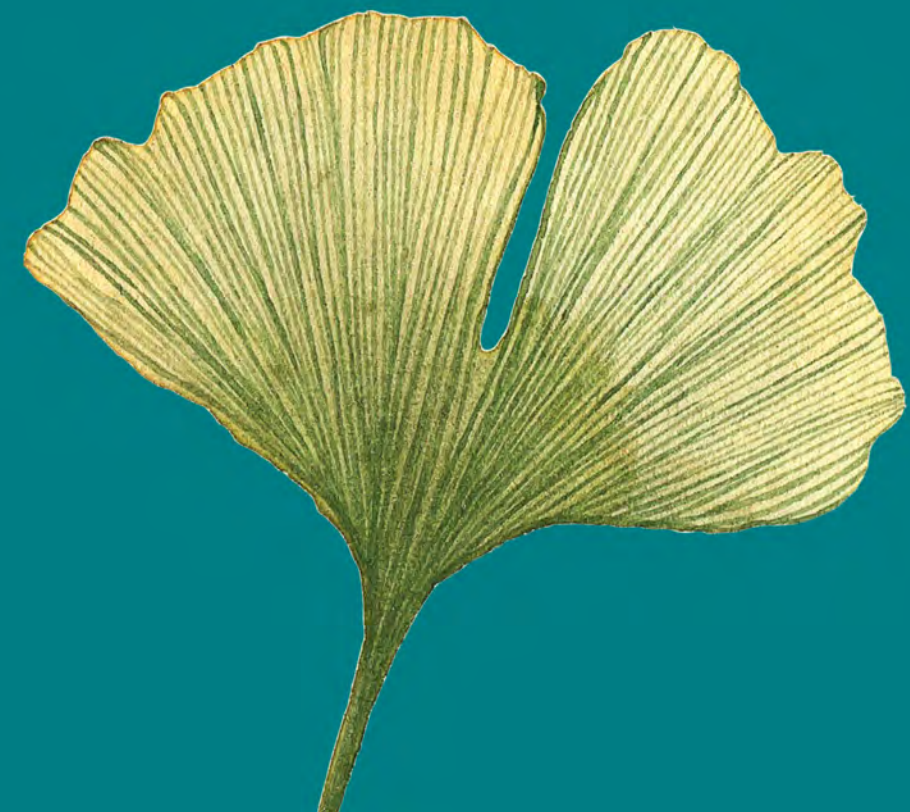
What are national ecosystem assessments?

National ecosystem assessments are an up-to-date, comprehensive, and critical synthesis of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and their linkages to people. These assessments are contextualized to suit national needs and respond to specific policy questions.

National ecosystem assessments lay out the status of biodiversity, drivers of change and the implications for those relying on it. They are important in enabling governments to make informed decisions on how to deliver the best outcomes for their biodiversity and people e.g. help plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

About the National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative

Since its inception in 2017, and building on over 20 years of ecosystem assessment experience, UNEP-WCMC's National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative (NEA Initiative) in partnership with UNDP and UNESCO through the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) has supported countries around the world to conduct or scope national ecosystem assessments.

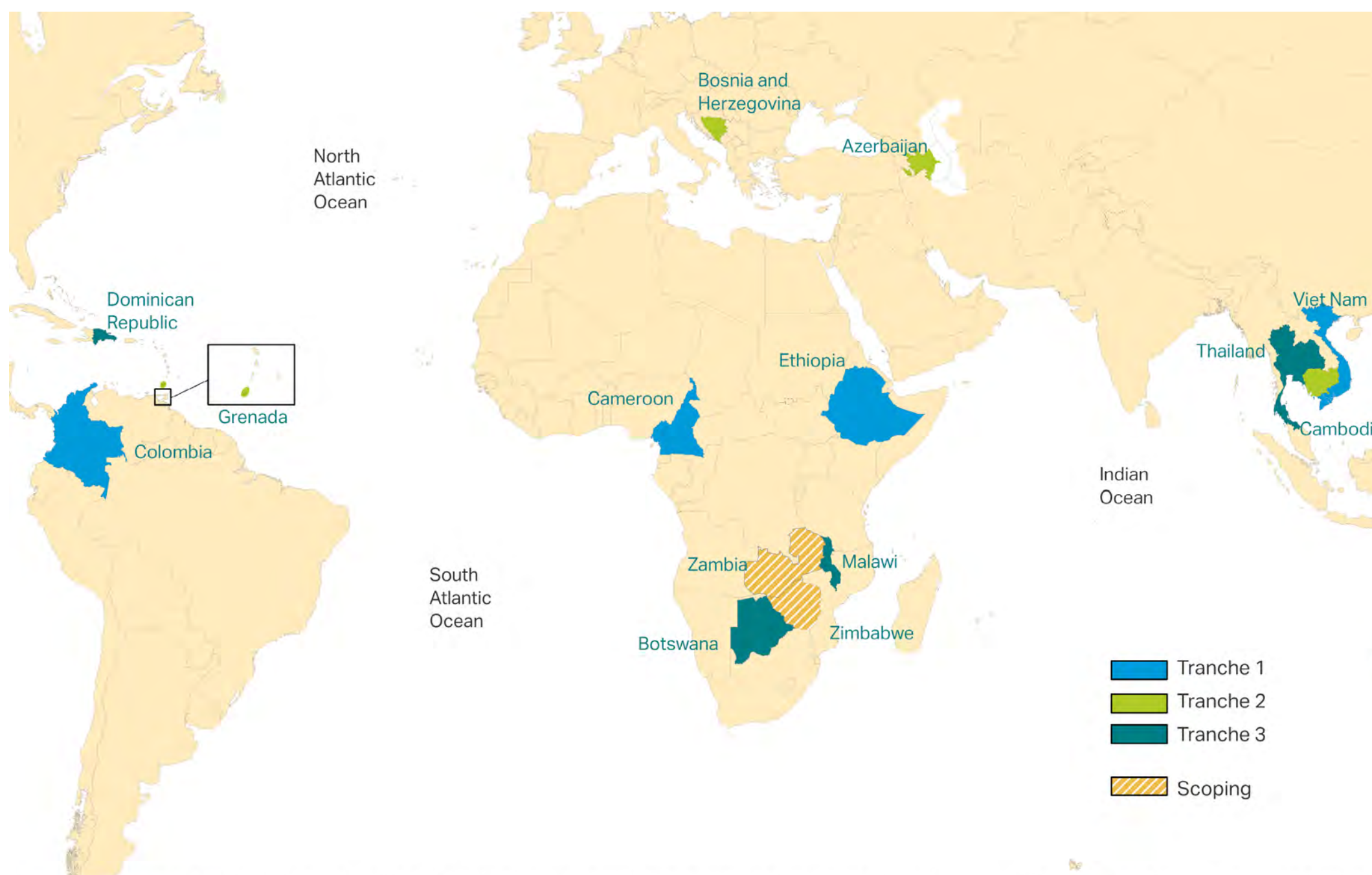


Our approach is tailored to the needs of each country and focuses on building a strong community of practice across 5 continents.

Tranche I: **Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam** completed their national ecosystem assessments in 2022.

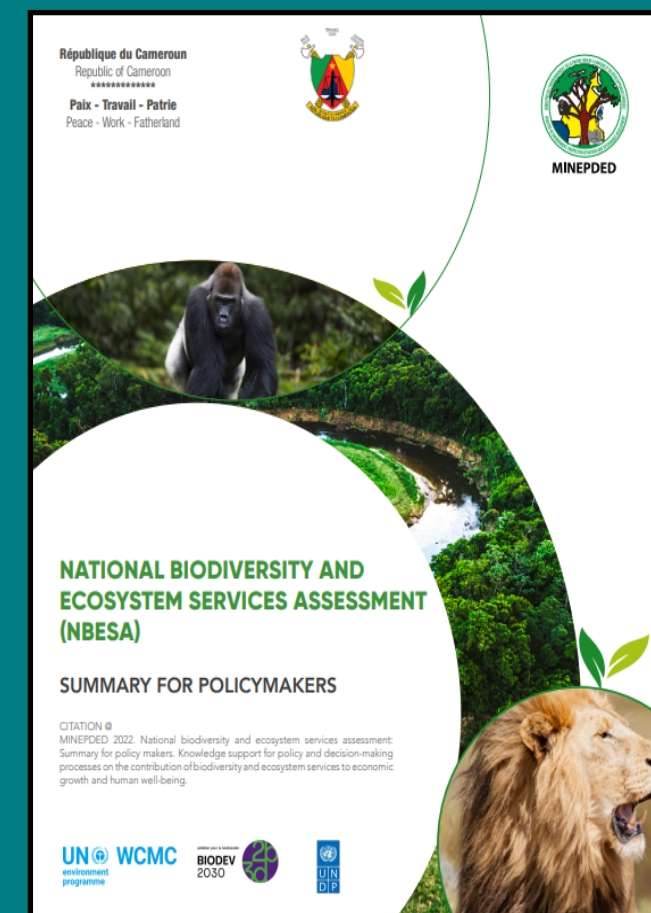
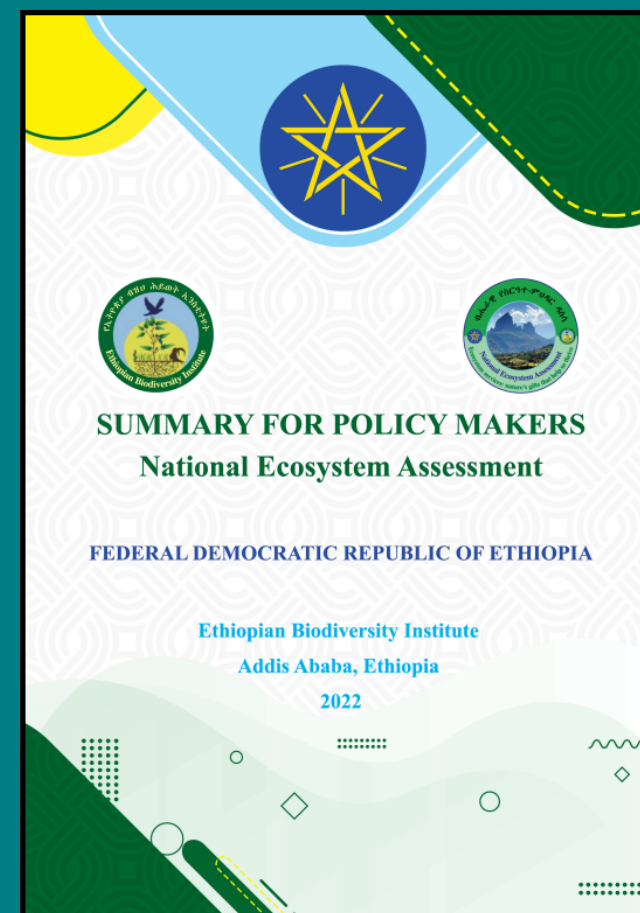
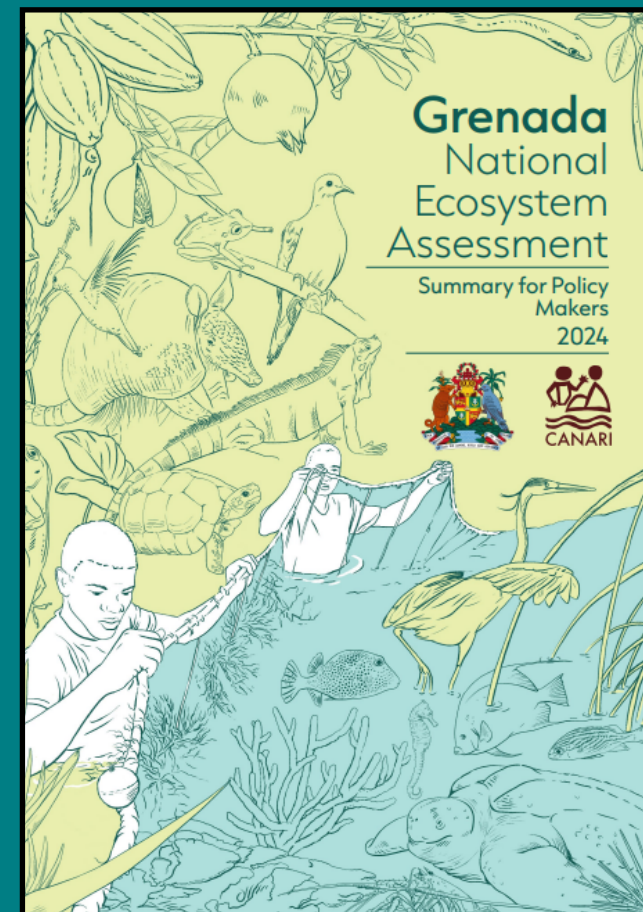
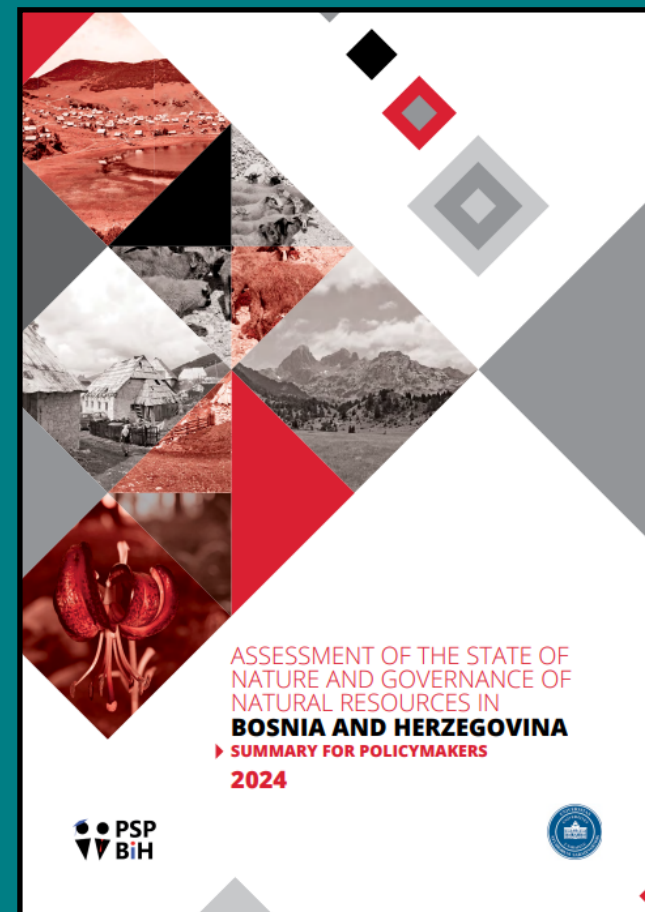
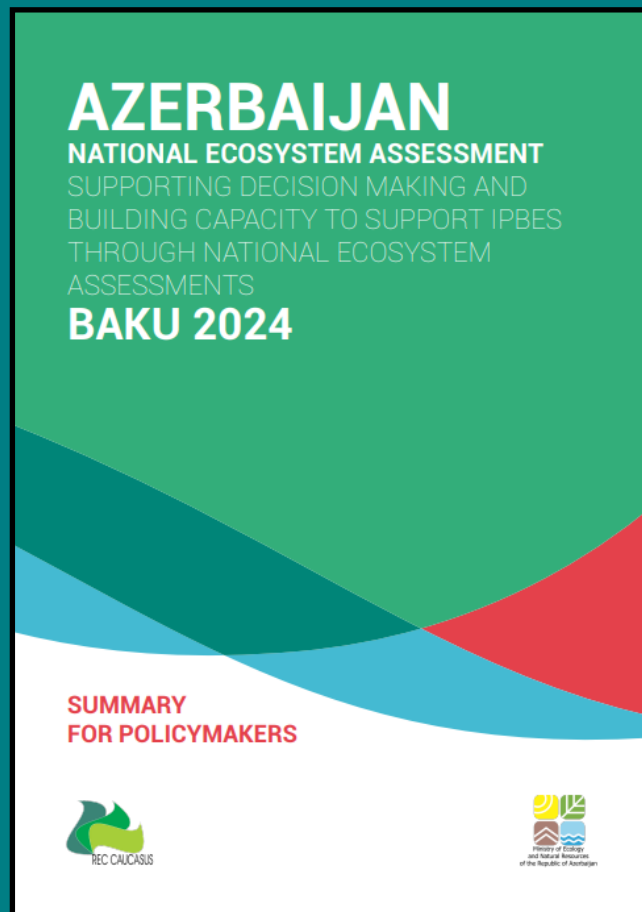
Tranche II: **Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Grenada** have completed their assessments in 2024.

Tranche III: **Botswana, The Dominican Republic, Malawi and Thailand** are expected to complete their assessments in 2026.



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Policy-Relevant Knowledge Base



Our Capacity Building Offerings To Countries

**Annual In-Person Global Capacity
Building Workshop**

**Peer-to-Peer Learning and
Knowledge Exchange**

**Multi-Stakeholder
Engagement and Dialogue**

**Inclusion of Indigenous and
local knowledge (ILK)**

**Exposure to International Fora Through
Side Events**

**In-Country Workshops
and Trainings**

**Dedicated 1:1
Technical Support**

**Communications
Support**

**Guidance, Toolkits
and Case Studies**

5

Webinars

Our Impact So Far

7 National ecosystem assessments completed, including Summaries for Policy Makers for Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Grenada and Viet Nam, providing key information for biodiversity planning.

10 National biodiversity platforms or networks developed or strengthened in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Grenada, Malawi, Thailand and Viet Nam.

More than 400 knowledge holders representing Indigenous Peoples and local communities participated in the assessment process and their knowledge was incorporated into national ecosystem assessments.



Our Impact So Far

The Sub-Regional Ecosystem Assessment Network (SGAN) is recognized as a robust and diverse community of practice that builds capacities, promotes knowledge exchange, shares experiences and lessons learned on ecosystem assessments with more than 500 members.

The national business association of Colombia is using the findings from the Colombia National Ecosystem Assessment to develop a road map for the private sector to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Experts from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, The Dominican Republic, Grenada, Malawi and Thailand have participated and engaged in international processes, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IBPES) and the Convention of Biological Diversity.



Translating Evidence into Action: How Viet Nam is Building on its National Ecosystem Assessment

The National Ecosystem Assessment of Viet Nam cast light on the country's yet-to-be fully tapped potential of payments for marine and wetland ecosystem services (PMES/PWES). The success of the country's existing payment for forest ecosystem services was highlighted in the assessment. The Vietnamese Government recognizes the need to better preserve the country's waterbased ecosystems, and has decided to apply the success of PFES to wetland and marine ecosystems.

In particular, the Vietnamese Government is developing national guidelines for the creation of provincial and site-based PMES and PWES schemes. Prior to finalization and nationwide issuance, a site-specific plan for the piloting of PWES will be implemented in Tram Chim National Park in the Mekong River Delta, allowing spaces for lessons learned and opportunities going forward.



Our Donors and Partners

Donors

Supported by:



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network



In-country Implementing Organizations

Azerbaijan



The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus in Azerbaijan (REC Caucasus)

Bosnia and Herzegovina



University of Sarajevo

Botswana



Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)

Cambodia



The Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)

Cameroon



Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA)

Colombia



Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute

In-country Implementing Organizations

The Dominican Republic



Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

Ethiopia



Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

Grenada



Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Malawi



Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)

Thailand



Maritime Administration Graduate Program (MARAD), Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University

Viet Nam



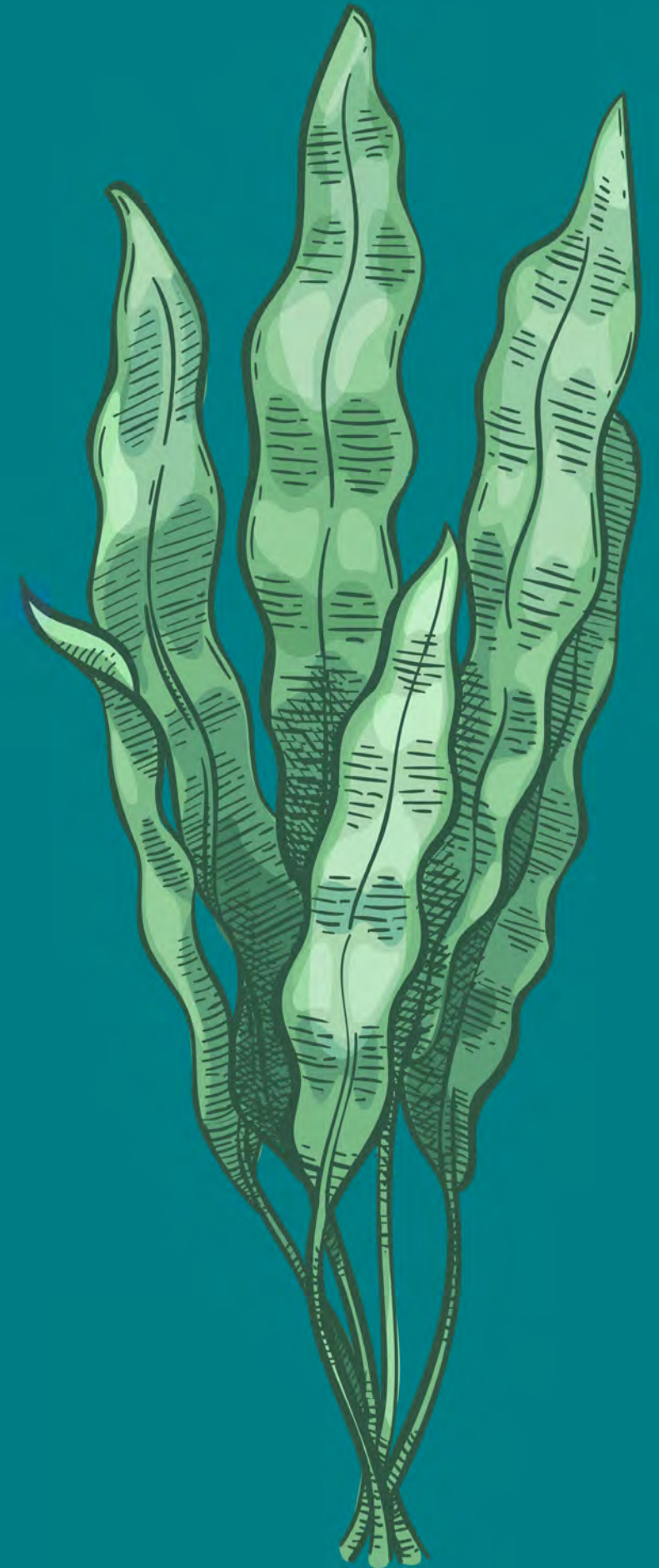
Center for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC) under Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA)

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