

National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative Global Workshop

Cambridge, United Kingdom

Dates & Venue

- **Dates:** 16-19 September 2025
- **Location:** Cambridge, United Kingdom

Background

The National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative's (NEA Initiative) Global Workshop takes place annually to facilitate knowledge exchange, share project updates and lessons learned, and identify key priorities related to the implementation of the assessment process and the use of assessment findings.

The NEA Initiative at UNEP-WCMC is mainly funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). As part of the NEA Initiative's global capacity-building programme, the workshop is expected to be attended by national ecosystem assessment representatives from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Malawi, Thailand, alongside other partners and international experts from Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam.

Workshop Objectives

1. Identify and facilitate key capacity development support based on countries' priority needs.
2. Provide key updates on project progress and lessons learned between and across countries to facilitate knowledge exchange.
3. Present key tools to countries developed by UNEP-WCMC and partners to support the national ecosystem assessment process, including the use of assessments' outputs and findings.
4. Provide feedback for UNEP-WCMC and partners to strengthen their support for current and future partners.
5. Facilitate and promote networking opportunities and strengthen global communities of practice around ecosystem assessments.

Key Participants

The workshop will be attended by key representatives nominated by each of the country teams. Participants will include members of the core assessment teams, assessment authors, government representatives from country partners, as well as experts from countries that have already finalized their national ecosystem assessments and who will share their experiences and lessons learned in the implementing phase.

Key Partners

The NEA Initiative Global Workshop 2025 will be hosted by UNEP-WCMC and delivered in partnership with UNDP and UNESCO under the umbrella of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net).

Agenda Overview: NEA Initiative Global Workshop 2025

DAY 1 – TUE 16 SEP CELEBRATING IMPACT	DAY 2 – WED 17 SEP EXPERT EVALUATION	DAY 3 – THU 18 SEP FINALISING ASSESSMENTS		DAY 4 – FRI 19 SEP LOOKING AHEAD
08:30 – 09:00 Registration	08:30 – 08:45 Open time for bilateral meetings	08:30 – 08:45 Open time for bilateral meetings		08:30 – 08:45 Open time for bilateral meetings
09:00 – 09:15	08:45 – 09:00	08:45 – 09:00		08:45 – 09:00
Administrative & logistical announcements	Opening Session Recap of previous day & reviewing agenda of the day	Opening Session Recap of previous day & reviewing agenda of the day		Opening Session Recap of previous day & reviewing agenda of the day
09:15 – 10:30	09:00 – 10:30	09:00 – 10:30		09:00 – 10:30
PLENARY SESSION Opening Ceremony UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, UNESCO Opening Welcoming remarks; Group Picture; Icebreaker; Workshop Agenda; Code of Conduct Celebrating success Highlights from the BES-Net Consortium (2024-2025)	PLENARY SESSION Expert Evaluation Stage Presentations by Tranche 3 Partners Updates on milestones & deliverables including ILK/TK milestones, challenges and lessons learned.	PLENARY SESSION Summary for Policymakers (SPM) Development Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC Lessons learned from Tranche 2 partners Guidance from UNESCO on mainstreaming ILK/TK in SPM and developing ILK key messages		PLENARY SESSION Dissemination & Use of Assessment Findings Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC & UNESCO Lessons learned from Tranche 1 and 2 partners, including perspectives on uptake of key assessment findings, including ILK
10:30 – 11:00: BREAK	10:30 – 11:00: BREAK	10:30 – 11:00: BREAK		10:30 – 11:00: BREAK
11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00		11:00 – 12:00
PLENARY SESSION National to Global Context: Strengthening the Science-Policy-Society Interface UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP-WCMC Integrating assessments into national policy and decision-making processes Overview of project indicators for policy impact Examples of national policy impact and links to other biodiversity-related agendas Embedding human rights-based approaches	PLENARY SESSION External Peer Review Process Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC Overview of guidance & key considerations Sharing challenges and lessons learned by Tranche 3 partners	ROOM 1 Assigning Confidence Levels Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC & UNESCO Overview of guidance Lessons learned from Tranche 1 & 2 partners	ROOM 2 Visual Design for SPMs Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC Key considerations Examples previous countries	To be confirmed
12:00 – 13:00: LUNCH	12:00 – 13:00: LUNCH BREAK	12:00 – 13:00: LUNCH BREAK		12:00 – 13:00: LUNCH BREAK

Day 1: Tue 16 Sep (PM)	Day 2: Wed 17 Sep (PM)	Day 3: Thu 18 Sep (PM)	Day 4: Fri 19 Sep (PM)
13:00 -14:30	13:00 -14:30	13:00 -14:30	13:00 -14:30
PLENARY SESSION Finalising the Expert Evaluation stage: Overview of remaining milestones for 2025-2026 UNEP-WCMC & UNESCO Overview of project milestones + visualising remaining steps of the assessment Capacity needs: breakout groups to share challenges and capacity needs to achieve remaining milestones	WORLD CAFE SESSION Lessons Learned from Partners <div> Table 1: Authors Author engagement, collaboration, and chapter cohesion </div> <div> Table 2: ILK Mainstreaming ILK/TK in the assessment process </div> <div> T3: Policy Impact Engaging with national policy processes and decision-makers </div> <div> Table 4: Tech Using emerging technologies in the assessment (e.g. generative AI) </div>	PLENARY SESSION Validation & Approval of Assessments National biodiversity platforms Trialogues & stakeholder engagement ILK in the validation process UNEP-WCMC, UNDP & UNESCO + Tranche 2 Country Partners Overview: Validation and Approval Stage BES Solution Funds for Validation Lessons learned from country partners	PLENARY SESSION Next Steps & Priorities Completing & launching assessments Dissemination & use of findings Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC Presentations by country partners Overview of action plan
14:30 – 15:00: BREAK	14:30 – 15:00: BREAK	14:30 – 15:00: BREAK	14:30 – 14:45: BREAK
15:00 – 16:15	15:00 – 16:15	15:00 – 16:15	14:45 – 15:45
PLENARY & BREAKOUT GROUPS Team building activity Science-policy impact during the assessment process Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC Presentations from breakout groups Discussing and sharing current examples of science-policy impacts through country assessment processes E.g. Contributions to IPBES and CBD, and other biodiversity-related processes and commitments; Conferences and other events; media engagements	PLENARY SESSION Developing Scenarios & ILK Inclusion Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC+UNESCO Presentations from country partners Updates on scenario development across Tranche 3 countries ILK/TK inclusion in scenarios Challenges & lessons learned	PLENARY SESSION National Biodiversity Platforms & Sustainability Plans Facilitated by UNEP-WCMC Overview of milestones and deliverables Updates from country partners Discussion on key challenges & capacity needs	PLENARY SESSION Maintaining a Global Community of Practice Led by country partners Brainstorming opportunities for ongoing collaboration, knowledge-exchange, and other initiatives after the project's completion
16:15 -16:30	16:15 -16:30	16:15 -16:30	15:45 – 16:30
Closing Session	Closing Session	Closing Session	Closing Ceremony
Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening
Open	Open	Workshop Activity Botanical Gardens	Open