

# STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS AROUND THE WORLD



## 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.

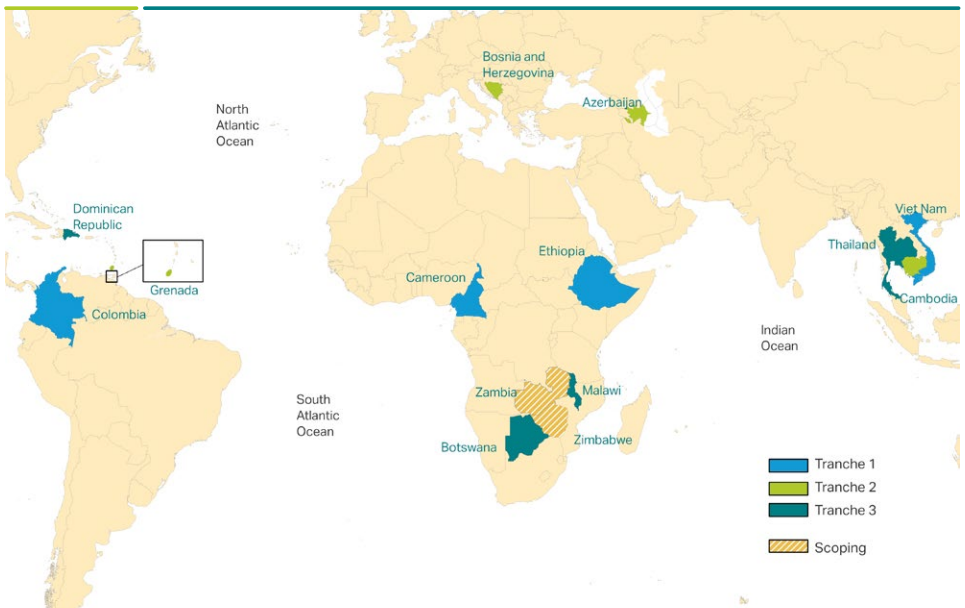
Financial support for the NEA Initiative is being provided by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Previously, additional financial support was also provided by the Norwegian Environment Agency and the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

Our approach is country-driven and tailored to national priorities, while strengthening a global, cross-continental community of practice on ecosystem assessments. National ecosystem assessments have been completed across three tranches, and scoping exercises have been completed in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Tranche I:** Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Viet Nam.

**Tranche II:** Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Grenada.

**Tranche III:** Botswana, The Dominican Republic, Malawi, Thailand.



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National ecosystem assessments are a nationally driven process to develop 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.

The NEA Initiative supports countries to tailor the process developed by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to carry out ecosystem assessments.

National ecosystem assessments provide an evidence-based overview of the state of biodiversity, key drivers of change, and implications for people who depend on nature. Using a Multiple Evidence Base approach, they enable governments to make informed decisions to achieve positive outcomes for biodiversity and society, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

## Support for Partners

- Capacity development and knowledge exchange workshops
- Sharing lessons learned and best practices between countries
- Dedicated 1:1 technical support
- Enabling connections with a global network of practitioners and experts
- Communications support
- Inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge
- Gender and other Human Rights considerations
- Guidance, toolkits and case studies
- Webinars and other outreach activities

## Benefits of a National Ecosystem Assessment



**7 NATIONAL  
ECOSYSTEM  
ASSESSMENTS  
APPROVED**

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Seven national ecosystem assessments have been completed and approved by governments—each accompanied by Summaries for Policy Makers in **Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Grenada, and Viet Nam**—delivering crucial evidence to inform biodiversity planning and decision-making.

National ecosystem assessments adopt a whole-of-society approach, engaging diverse stakeholders across sectors and levels of governance.

**MORE THAN  
2000  
INDIGENOUS  
AND LOCAL  
KNOWLEDGE  
HOLDERS  
INVOLVED**

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More than **2,000 Indigenous and local knowledge holders** contributed to the assessments, ensuring their ancestral knowledge and worldviews are meaningfully incorporated alongside scientific evidence.

**OVER  
400  
EXPERTS  
CONTRIBUTED**

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Over **400 experts** from the public and private sectors, civil society, and women's and youth groups contributed to the process, ensuring diverse priorities and perspectives inform national ecosystem assessments.



The Sub-Global Assessment Network  
(SGAN)

More than **500 members** from the scientific community, national and international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and the public and private sectors are members of the Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGAN), increasing capacities, fostering knowledge exchange and sharing lessons learned on ecosystem assessments.



A study in Cameroon examining women's roles in biodiversity conservation is currently underway in response to a gap identified in the national ecosystem assessment, with the aim of generating actionable evidence to support gender integration in national policies and enhance social cohesion.

A study on biological resource accounting and ecosystem service valuation in Cameroon is addressing a key evidence gap identified in the National Ecosystem Assessment, informing the NBSAP update and guiding implementation of the National Development Strategy (SND 30).



Fifteen strategic messages from the Colombia National Ecosystem Assessment directly informed the National Development Plan (2022–2026), strengthening the integration of biodiversity considerations into national development priorities.



In Ethiopia, two policy briefs based on the National Ecosystem Assessment, focusing on aquatic and wetland ecosystems and on local community knowledge, have guided policy discussions and contributed to the development of a draft Payments for Ecosystem Services policy.



In Viet Nam, National Ecosystem Assessment recommendations are being implemented through a pilot Payment for Wetland Ecosystem Services (PWES) initiative at the Tram Chim National Park. Technical guidelines have been developed to enable future scaling, and a policy brief on marine and wetland payment schemes is being finalized for dissemination.

## IN-COUNTRY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



### AZERBAIJAN

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



### THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Consortio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)



### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

University of Sarajevo



### ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute



### BOTSWANA

Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN)



### GRENADA

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)



### CAMBODIA

The Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)



### MALAWI

Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)



### CAMEROON

Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA)



### THAILAND

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



### COLOMBIA

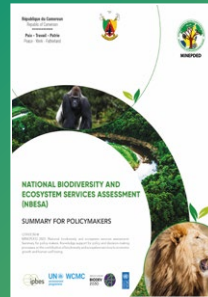
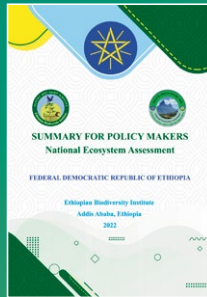
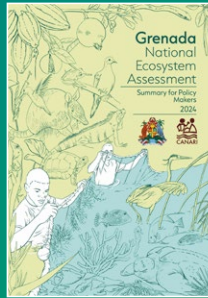
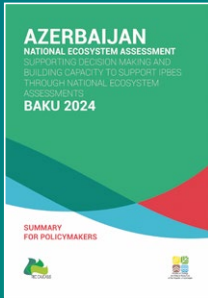
Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute



### VIET NAM

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

# POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE BASE



## The National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative at UNEP-WCMC

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## Our Consortium Partners



## Our Donors

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