

BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

The National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) Initiative at UNEP-WCMC supports countries to tailor the IPBES Guide on the production of assessments to carry out national level ecosystem assessments. Working in collaboration with UNDP and UNESCO under the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Network (BES-Net), the aim is to support informed decision-making based on the national-context relevant assessments.

NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

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

National ecosystem assessments aspire to be credible, legitimate and relevant by bringing together diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and working with different knowledge systems and disciplines.

These assessments develop and support national capacity to engage with IPBES products and activities.

6 YEARS

Since 2017, the NEA Initiative has worked with countries across 5 continents to conduct or scope their national ecosystem assessments.

14 COUNTRY PARTNERS

Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon*, Colombia*, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia*, Grenada, Malawi, Thailand, Viet Nam*, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*These four countries completed their assessments in 2022. Follow the QR code below to learn more about it.

THE ASSESSMENT STAGES

SCOPING

This first stage of the assessment process involves exploring how and why an assessment might be carried out and defines key policy questions to be addressed. A scoping report is the main output of this stage.



SPOTLIGHT ON AZERBAIJAN

In 2021, Azerbaijan established their national biodiversity platform (NBP) consisting of representatives from government, private sector, NGOs and other national stakeholders. The NBP will help to ensure that nature's value is integrated into decision-making in Azerbaijan.

EXPERT EVALUATION

This is when the compilation and comprehensive synthesis of existing knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services takes place, guided by the key policy questions identified during the scoping stage. A technical report and a summary for policymakers are the main outputs of this stage.



SPOTLIGHT ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

As part of their assessment, and with technical support from UNESCO, Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted novel research with local communities on the state of traditional knowledge in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services across the country. These findings will be integrated into the assessment report.

APPROVAL

In this stage, stakeholders are invited to validate the findings of the assessment. After the validation process, the assessment report and summary for policymakers are approved by the relevant national entities. The assessment is then officially launched.



SPOTLIGHT ON CAMEROON

At a national workshop attended by high-level representatives, civil society, and international organisations in 2022, Cameroon validated its national assessment. Cameroon is now seeking to mobilize biodiversity knowledge in response to the the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to foster effective conservation and sustainable development.

USE OF THE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

At this stage, with the support of BES-Net, countries that complete their assessments are supported in implementing an action plan based on their assessment findings. This is the first step towards empowering policy processes to consider the full value of nature.



SPOTLIGHT ON VIET NAM

The findings of Viet Nam's assessment have been used to identify suitable areas for establishing wetland conservation areas in multiple provinces. As part of their support from BES-Net, Viet Nam are now focusing on paving the way for a legal policy on payment for wetland ecosystem services and establishing a NBP.

