



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, GHANA

**COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
ECOSYSTEM-NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS IN
ANGLOPHONE WEST-AFRICAN COUNTRIES/
BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE PROJECT**

SEPTEMBER, 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) has been around for more than 30 years. However, the lack of human capacity in most developing countries such as Ghana (since independence), has hindered the ability to undertake a valuation of its natural resources. Same applies to the sub-region, particularly the Anglophone countries. The capacity to undertake natural capital accounting will help countries carry out an efficient assessment to support national and sub-regional development and cooperation, particularly because biodiversity resources are the insurance to our very human existence.

Scientific and technical knowledge/expertise are therefore required to build the capacity of Anglophone West African Countries as well as help institutions carry out extensive Natural Capital Accounting that will allow the countries to adopt internationally-agreed methods to account for material natural resources like water, minerals, timber and fisheries for their sustainable development over the long-term. The Project also required the support in terms of resources, data and technology to be able to apply the knowledge imbibed

2. DETAILED ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PROJECT

The activities planned for the Project implementation were:

- 2.1. Organization of a 3-day training session for national representatives of all five participating countries on internationally-agreed methods and approaches to carrying out Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting; and
- 2.2. Development of a project proposal for a follow-up cooperation project to be submitted for funding from other sources.

3. What are the main outcomes of the project? How these results impact the state of the biodiversity? How this project generated social and economic benefits? Please annex any written relevant document

The expected outputs and outcomes of the Project were:

3.1 Expected Outputs

- (i) At least 20 national and regional experts from the five participating countries trained in the Natural Capital Accounting theory, methods and approaches; and
- (ii) A follow up sub-regional cooperation project on the promotion of Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting developed, for submission to various funding sources.

3.2 Expected Outcomes

In short-term the project is expected to enhance a collaboration between the Anglophone West African countries with a willingness to submit a joint proposal for continued cooperation.

In the medium to long-term, the project is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- a. Capacity to undertake Natural Capital Accounting built at the national and sub-regional levels;
- b. Capacity of relevant institutions in the participating countries built to assess and take full account of the contribution of natural resources and ecosystem services (the natural capital) to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the overall national economic development in the national accounting systems; and

- c. Improved capacity in Natural Capital Accounting resulting in full recognition of the contribution of natural resources (e.g. timber, fisheries and water resources) and ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration and air filtration) to macroeconomic development.

These outcomes however will require further and a longer training period to ensure that representatives of the various countries are able to undertake Natural Capital Accounting and incorporate same into the calculation of Gross Domestic Product.

4. What has been the role of the NFPs of the CBD of the different Parties involved in the project?

The Primary Focal Point of the CBD and the Clearing House Mechanism NFP were instrumental in the implementation of the Project.

5. Describe how the project enhanced Technical and Scientific cooperation (TSC) between the Parties and organisations involved in the Project

The training afforded trainees from the participating countries the opportunity to network and build a relationship for future technical and scientific cooperations. This was particularly so since as a sub-regional group, the countries had not had an opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing on issues such as this.

6. Which activity or approach efficiently succeeded to foster sustained TSC and why?

The training workshop succeeded in fostering TSC, as countries were able to share experiences of what had been done in their respective countries, the strategies and successes chalked.

7. Which activities or approaches would be done differently, now that you have experienced them, and why?

The training session will have to be held over a longer period and participants encouraged to come to the training with data of their countries to make application more relevant and easy.

8. How this project could be pursued to maintain or scale up the positive results obtained?

Given the scale of implementation, this project could be up-scaled to involve more participants from the other countries besides the host country and be held over a longer period where the hands on training will be done into more detail, using each country as a case study.

9. How this project could be replicated in another region

This Project could be rolled out on pilot basis in other regions and with the lessons learnt, up-scale to involve a wider range of participants with the requisite background and skill sets.

10. Describe the in-kind contribution of the different stakeholders involved in the project and how this type of contribution could be increased in future projects

This project was fully funded by the BBI and the Government of Ghana. BBI provided cash support as well as from the Ghanaian government in addition to the in-kind support that had been agreed upon in the SSFA. For future projects, other stakeholders such as the Ministries of Finance and Ghana Statistical Service could be called upon to provide some in-kind contribution by way of expertise and provision of accurate and up to date data or use.

11. If the project included a participation of major groups like business, sub-national and local authorities, NGOs, youth, women, indigenous peoples and local communities, what would be your advices to engage efficiently this specific group?

No such group was involved in the implementation of the Project.

12. Propose a summary of the project in 250 words to be published on the Bio-Bridge web portal

The **Cooperation for Development of Ecosystem-Natural Capital Accounts in Anglophone West-African Countries Project** sought to foster technical and scientific cooperation between Ghana and other Anglophone West African countries namely the Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra-Leone; on natural resources valuation and Ecosystem-Natural Capital Accounting, with the aim of building national and regional capacities to take full account of the contribution of natural resources and ecosystem services in national accounting systems and to GDP. This is aimed at giving countries the opportunity to measure and value the environment to support sound macroeconomic policies for development.

Over the years, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has only looked at one part of economic performance — income, and largely remained silent on wealth and assets that underlie this income. For example, when a country exploits its minerals, it is actually depleting wealth. The same holds true for the over-exploitation of fisheries or degrading water resources. These declining assets are invisible in GDP and so, are not measured. Wealth accounting, including Natural Capital Accounting (NCA), is however needed to sustain growth. Long-term development is a process of accumulation and sound management of a portfolio of assets— manufactured capital, natural capital, and human and social capital. Yet still, most countries only compile an income statement (GDP) and know very little about the national balance sheet. The full contribution of natural capital like forests, wetlands, and agricultural land does not show up.

Forestry is an example — timber resources are counted in national accounts but the other services of forests, like carbon sequestration and air filtration are ignored. So, GDP can give misleading signals about the economic performance and wellbeing of a country. The main challenges in Anglophone West Africa concerning natural capital accounting have been the limited capacity/skills in key areas, absence of reliable information, and lack of legislation. In addition, there is limited sharing of natural capital information among different government agencies. The BBI technical assistance therefore afforded Ghana the opportunity to organize a 3-day training workshop to help able 20 participants measure and value the environment to support sound macroeconomic policy for development and incorporate Natural Capital

Accounting into national accounts and contribute to improved wellbeing, social equity and reduction of environmental risks among others.

13. Any other lessons learned to share with the Bio-Bridge team?

There is the need to keep a network and contact base for ease of reaching out to the various countries beyond going through the bureaucratic channels.