



REPUBLIC OF GHANA



**TRAINING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NCA IN THE WEST AFRICA
SUB-REGION UNDER THE BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE PROJECT**

(APPROACHES TO NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING)

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- **BACKGROUND**
 - **INTRODUCTION TO BIO BRIDGE INITIATIVE**
 - **GHANA'S TRAINING WORKSHOP**
 - **APPROACHES TO NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING**
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BACKGROUND

- Ghana ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994.
- A number of policies and strategies developed in fulfillment of the provisions of the Convention i.e. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Draft National Biodiversity Policy.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP), an indicator to economic growth and performance has reflected only one part of economic performance — income/output, and remained silent on wealth and assets that underlie this income/output.
- Presently, the GDP of most developing countries excludes natural capital in national accounts. In forestry, for example, timber resources are counted, but forest carbon sequestration is not. Consequently, this renders the overall economic performance assessments of such countries as incomplete.
- In February, 2018, Ghana, just like other member states of the convention identified the above challenge and applied to Secretariat of the Bio Bridge Initiative Programme to help build capacities of national institutions in the field of Natural Capital Accounting.

INTRODUCTION

- **The Bio Bridge Initiative** (BBI) is a Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) programme which facilitates **the technical** and **scientific cooperation** among parties of the convention by **creating a resilient bridge** for countries and institutions to share knowledge (**traditional/scientific**) and **technical support**.
- **Project Goal:** Build capacities among participating countries and take full account of the contribution of natural resources and ecosystem services to GDP in national accounting systems.

- **Participating Countries**

Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Project Objectives:

- **Facilitate cooperation among the participating countries on NCA**
- **Develop national capacities on NCA**
- **Provide participating countries with the needed tools including a software application to undertake NCA Assessments**

GHANA'S TRAINING WORKSHOP



- In fulfillment of the objectives of the workshop , a three day workshop was held from the 16th –18th July, 2018 at the MJ Grand Hotel, Ghana.
- Facilitation was competently executed by a resource person at the Department of Economics, University of Ghana.
- Altogether, the workshop was attended by 16 expert participants from Ghana, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Nigeria and the Gambia.

TRAINING SESSIONS/APPROACH

DAY 1

This session focused on the basics of Natural Capital, Natural Capital Accounting, Types of Ecosystem Accounts, Benefits of NCA and FAQs of NCA.

DAY 2

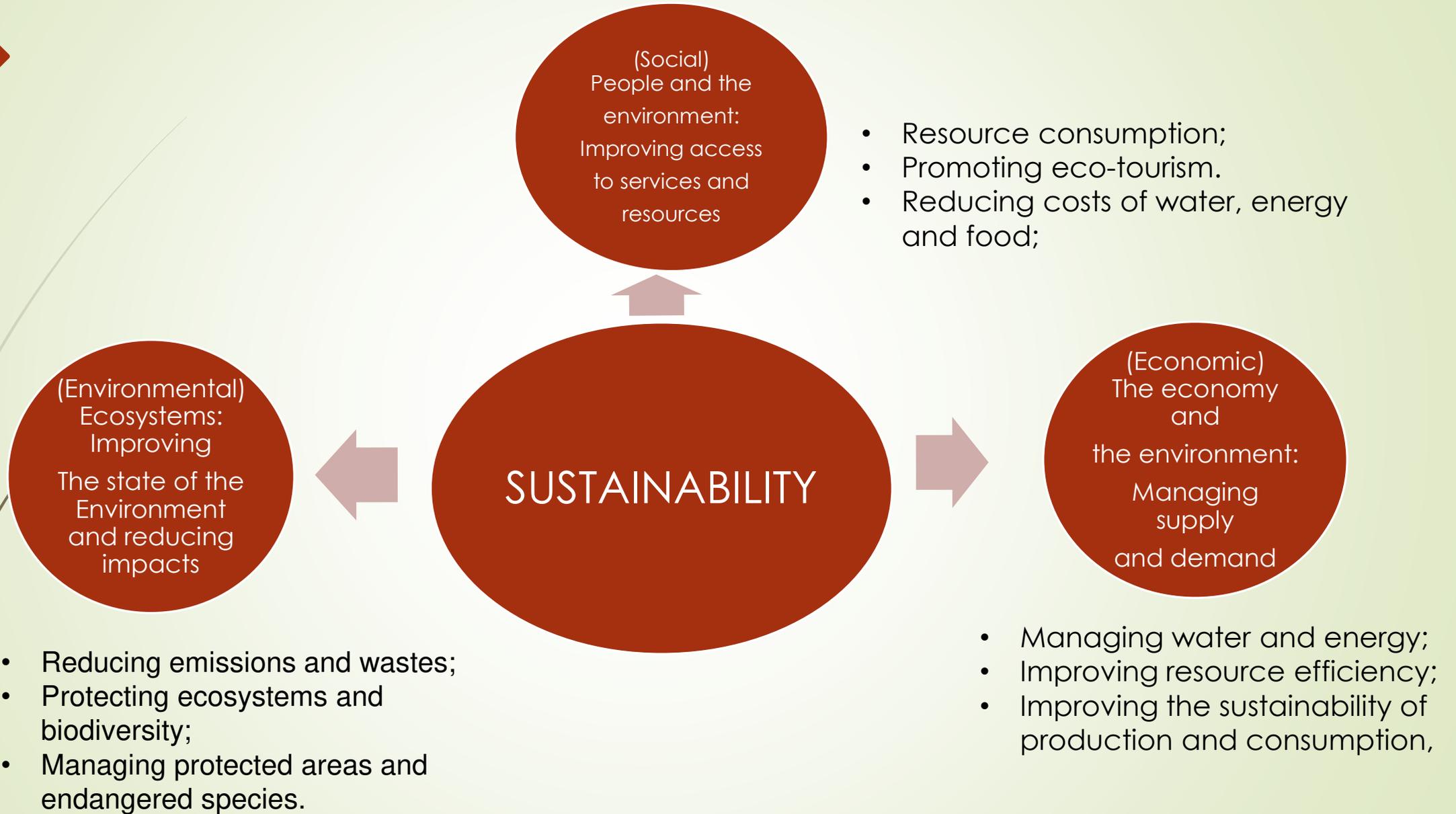
This session focused on the internationally agreed methods or approaches of NCA, the System for Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA)

DAY 3

This session focused on the joint draft proposal .

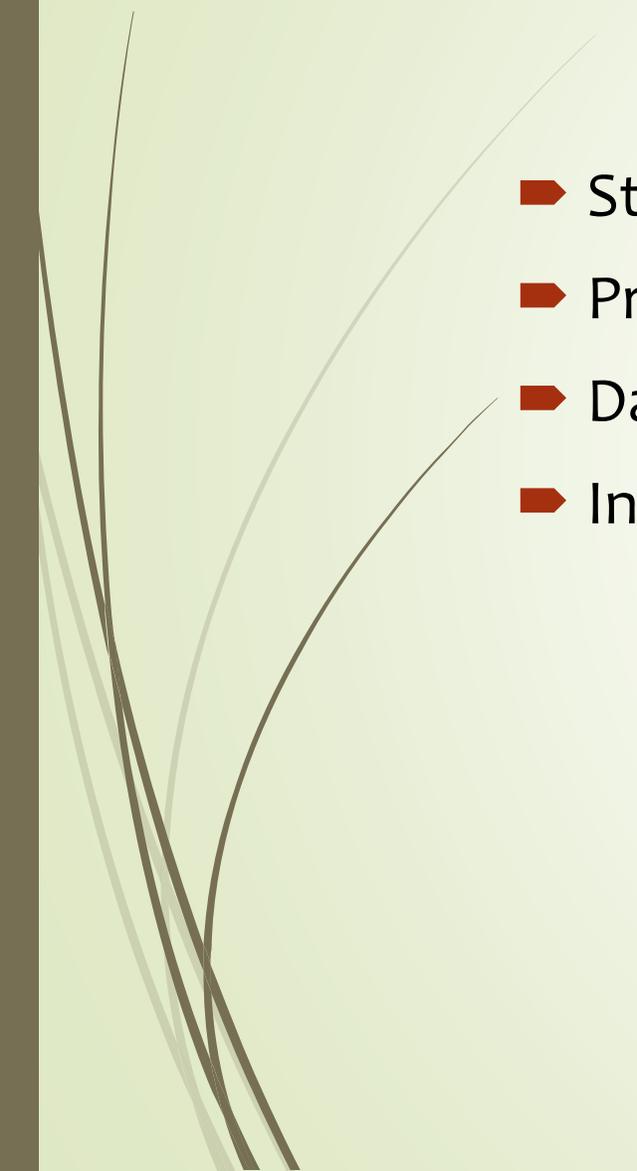


NCA & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





Approaches to Natural Capital Accounting

- Stakeholders and Institutional Assessment
 - Priority Assessment
 - Data sources
 - Initial assessment of Data
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1. Stakeholders and Institutional Assessment should focus on:

- Stakeholder
- Data producer or user
- Statistical capacity

2. Priority Assessment

- Highest priority: Mentioned in SD or national document
- Scope: National or Regional

3. Data source

Names and Web addresses of statistical development projects and programmes currently active.

Information on the current statistical standard in use (e.g., 1993 SNA; 2003 SEEA) and links to further information.

Names and links to relevant country-level reports submitted to the international agencies listed.



4. Initial assessment of data source

Status: General existence of the data source:

- Data source is complete and comprehensive,
- Data source exists but may be incomplete or partial,

Responsible organizations: name or the department, agency or research centre that manages this data source.



Challenges

- ▶ Time or duration for workshop was limited.
- ▶ Most participants do not have strong Mathematical backgrounds.

Recommendations/ Way forward

The need to regularly build national and regional capacities of countries to implement the SEEA and to demonstrate its benefits to policy makers enabling them to undertake sustainable policy decisions and actions, and monitoring progress.

Focus NCA on sector basis (sectorial accounts and aggregate)

Conclusion

The concept of accounting for natural capital establishes a complete picture of nature's contributions to mankind which enables us to prioritize nature's contributions and improve our economic well being and performance however, little has been done to implement it.

Our natural resources are our wealth base as a nation and it is imperative to ensure all resources are sustainably managed regardless of our pace of economic growth and development.

The value of one single tree.



“Where hearts and minds are connected, hands share a common task”. El-Salim.

