



Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC012
Project title	Capacity for Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Development in Ghana
Country(ies)	Ghana
Lead Partner	UNEP-WCMC
Project partner(s)	Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£199,933.00
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Project Leader’s name	Dr Kiruben [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	
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- *Project Summary*

Ghana’s national policy framework recognizes the contribution of nature to the country’s wealth, future growth prospects and socio-economic sustainable development, which include policy provisions in the Long-term National Development Plan of Ghana (2018 – 2057), the National Medium-term Development Policy Framework (2022-2025) and Ghana’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2016). While Ghana’s natural capital presents opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development, Ghana’s natural resources are threatened by unsustainable use and resource depletion. Key threats include land degradation, deforestation, and overfishing. Ghana’s Medium-term National Development Framework (2022-2025) notes that the exploitation of fisheries and aquaculture sectors exceeds sustainable levels. The government together with the global community has recognized however that nature and its benefits are often inadequately integrated into economic systems. The government has adopted natural capital accounting (NCA), as one of the approaches to address this global and national issue. NCA is a globally recognized tool that presents information on the stocks and flows of biodiversity, ecosystems and their services in an understandable way for decision and policymakers. This information supports evidence-based decision-making, improving equity and contributing to the wellbeing of both people and the environment. There has also been growing interest in Ghana’s government for the development of “green GDP” and the need to integrate the value of natural capital in the government’s revised macroeconomic reporting.

In the last decade, Ghana has seen several biodiversity and NCA-related initiatives supporting national imperatives and international commitments. The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ghana Statistical Services (GSS) have taken a leadership role in championing NCA to accurately account for the true value of Ghana’s natural resources.

The project was therefore supported by government and designed accordingly to enhance and extend Ghana's existing NCA work by building the capability and capacity needed for implementing NCA in Ghana. The project collaborated with key government partners. It aimed to build capacity for producing, championing and using natural capital account information to better integrate biodiversity into Ghana's sectoral policymaking and development planning. GSS, based in Accra, spearheaded the project. Stakeholder consultation meetings were mainly held in Accra, with participation from various regions, ensuring broad geographical representation.

In 2017, the EPA published a feasibility study, "Building NCAs for Ghana," which highlighted the lack of established NCA in the country and the need for capacity development and increased political will. Since then, Ghana has compiled mineral and energy accounts. However, biodiversity-related NCA were still lacking, limiting decision-maker's ability to mainstream biodiversity into economic and national development planning. There was also limited coordination among different agencies implementing NCA initiatives. This project built upon, updated and addressed the findings of the Ghana Feasibility Study for NCA, capitalizing on new scientific and political developments to advance the process and coordination of NCA implementation in Ghana.

A stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment was conducted and consulted which updated and validated priorities, needs and stakeholder interests and supported the development of other outputs of the project. The project produced a 10-year National Plan for Natural Capital Accounting (NCA). The plan, led by GSS in partnership with the EPA, MESTI, and UNEP-WCMC, was co-developed by national stakeholders. This group included representatives from 71 divisions, sections and departments, encompassing these key ministries, departments, agencies (MDAs) and other organizations that participated in the stakeholder consultation workshops. GSS has published the plan, which serves to improve coordination for the implementation of NCA. The project also facilitated the coordination and compilation of demonstration Fisheries Asset and Flow accounts. Coordination challenges, which resulted in initial delays to the project timeline, ultimately worked to the project's advantage. The initial setbacks for the compilation of the accounts catalyzed collaboration and data sharing among the Fisheries Commission, GSS, MESTI, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Statistics Research and Information Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (SRID-MoFA). The internal capacity of these participating organizations was significantly strengthened, as they, under the leadership of GSS, took on the responsibility of compiling the accounts themselves building on the demonstration accounts developed primarily by UNEP-WCMC. The Project also produced an implementation strategy to support the national plan for NCA. This strategy fed from stakeholder consultations and insights gained from engagement efforts around the national plan for NCA and the experiences gained while compiling the demonstration accounts.

The highlights of the project therefore included the strong leadership of key government partners, robust and consistent stakeholder consultations, the publication of the 10-year national plan for NCA, the collaborative compilation of demonstration fisheries accounts and a practical, evidence-informed implementation strategy—all of which have been instrumental in building capacity, raising awareness, providing a mechanism for improved coordination among stakeholders and addressing stakeholder needs, thereby achieving the project's aims.

1 Project stakeholders/partners

The project was jointly led by UNEP-WCMC and the GSS, with active participation from national government officials in the EPA. Other agencies who consistently participated as stakeholders were the MESTI, NDPC and the Fisheries Commission. UNEP-WCMC was requested to provide technical expertise on NCA and support GSS in building capacity of stakeholders (stakeholders representative of 71 divisions, sections and departments were identified and participated in the stakeholder consultation workshops) (Annex 5. 4; 5.23) and MDAs (23 MDAs initially identified in the Stakeholder Mapping and User-needs Assessment Report, which was based on their relevance to potential accounts being compiled) (Annex 5.1) for the regular production of accounts to inform decision-making and development planning.

UNEP-WCMC was the fund manager. It undertook project management of the project and provided technical expertise. GSS was sub-contracted as the national implementing agent. As the official producer of national statistics, GSS ensures that all statistical activities or products produced are in line with international standards, classifications and recommendations. GSS was also responsible for identifying and engaging the necessary in-country institutions, including utilizing existing structures, forums and stakeholder databases, as was the case for all stakeholder engagement and consultation sessions. The stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report informed GSS about relevant stakeholders who participated in a series of stakeholder consultation workshops. The EPA, which is the implementation arm under the MESTI, provided technical guidance for the consultation processes and all deliverables of the

project. Additionally, the MESTI which is a National Ministry responsible for the environment, provided oversight for the implementation of the project. The NDPC, which is the lead planning and coordinating institution that facilitates national cross-sector policy coordination was consistently consulted throughout the project for policy coherence and project mainstreaming across sectors. Through the stakeholder mapping exercise, organizations with the relevant technical expertise operating within the country and wider region were identified (Annex 5.1). Stakeholders prioritized the Blue Economy, Effective protected areas management and sustainable agriculture and forestry as priority themes for NCA (Annex 5.2). The Blue Economy priority theme was therefore the focus of the demonstration accounts on Fisheries Asset and Flow Accounts developed by UNEP-WCMC. This led to enhanced collaboration between GSS, the Fisheries Commission and the SRID-MoFA, strengthening their relationship. The Fisheries Commission has also been consistently represented at all stakeholder consultation workshops. They have in partnership with GSS, the MESTI, EPA, NDPC and SRID-MoFA compiled the demonstration Fisheries Accounts (Annex 5.3). These partnerships are likely to persist for the implementation of the ten-year national plan for NCA.

Regular weekly internal team meetings with the UNEP-WCMC project team were held. Frequent (at least once a month) meetings with GSS project managers were convened to review progress, discuss activities and identify issues, risks and mitigating actions. Bi-weekly internal coordination meetings allowed for a more formal review of the project's progress, budget expenditure and projections. This included a regular review of the project log frame, using defined indicators to ensure that the project remained within the planned project timeline.

The project team had several email exchanges and three virtual meetings with complementary initiatives, such as that of the World Bank and FAO under the Global Sustainability Program and Danmark Statistik, to discuss and coordinate efforts in advancing NCA in Ghana. Follow-up contact with the CSIR, the NDPC and Fisheries Commission in Ghana also yielded additional stakeholders to be considered for future stakeholder engagements and consultation.

The project deliverables and activities required stakeholder consultation for national validation. All stakeholder consultation workshop participants (3 stakeholder consultation workshops and 2 thematic stakeholder consultation workshops) were invited to become part of a national natural capital accounting community of practice within Ghana to receive project updates, review outputs and contribute to discussions (Stakeholder participant lists) (Annex 5.4). The inception stakeholder consultation workshop recorded 59 participants. The 2nd stakeholder consultation workshop to elaborate and co-develop the national plan for NCA recorded 49 participants. The 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop to launch the national plan for NCA and consult and validate the implementation strategy and demonstration accounts, recorded 76 participants. This platform retained the involvement of those who were invited to the stakeholder consultation workshops but were unable to attend all consultation sessions including the 3-day gender mainstreaming and data assessment stakeholder consultation workshops.

All materials from the project were available via platforms and services agreed by project participants (e.g., GSS website (████████████████████) (Annex 5.25), a ████████████████████ and NCA WhatsApp group) (Annex 5.5). These platforms facilitated the expansion of the network of stakeholders. They have remained active following the project closure.

Project Achievements

1.1 Outputs

Output 1: Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies.

Comments: Ghana's feasibility assessment (EPA 2017) recorded capacity as a major constraint to the implementation of NCA and compilation of all types of accounts. This was validated by the 2022 stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report compiled under this project (Annex 5.1).

The three stakeholder consultation workshops consistently included participants from various government institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research organizations and the media. The inception stakeholder consultation workshop recorded 59 participants (Annex 5.6). The 3rd and final stakeholder consultation workshop recorded 77 participants and 16 media representatives (Annex 5.7). The analysis of the evaluation forms submitted by the inception stakeholder consultation workshop participants reported an increased understanding of NCA. The compilation of the demonstration fishery accounts involved 22 participants in data assessment and collection, while a total of 24 contributors from

the GSS, MESTI, EPA, Fisheries Commission, NDPC and SRID-MoFA were involved in finalizing the account compilation process.

The increased and consistent participation of stakeholders at the 3rd consultation workshop was an indication of enhanced awareness and understanding of NCA principles. The evaluation forms used at the inception stakeholder consultation workshop were administered to stakeholders who participated in the 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop. From 43 responses, on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 implied little or no knowledge/awareness and 10 implied excellent knowledge/awareness, 93.8% of respondents indicated that they have a knowledge and awareness level of 7 or above. Regarding stakeholders' readiness to advance NCA implementation and compile accounts, 90.6% of the 43 respondents indicated that they felt adequately equipped, rating their preparedness at 6 or above on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 implied poorly equipped and 10 implied excellently equipped. A website hosting training materials was provided for ongoing participant access throughout the project (██████████). By the project's conclusion, 56 participants were recorded and tracked accessing the training materials. The website will continue to serve as a future reference point.

The need for increased understanding among key stakeholder agencies, such as the Fisheries Commission, initially delayed Output 3. Recognizing the priority of the Blue Economy and Fisheries Accounts, GSS undertook extensive efforts to engage and secure the Fisheries Commission's collaboration. This required additional communication and engagement between GSS and the Fisheries Commission to align their efforts with the project milestones. Despite the initial delay, these extended efforts did not impact the overall project timeline.

On the use and uptake of accounts, the stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report identified 23 MDA's including the private sector and media and communications sectors who would be potential users of NCA (Annex 5.1). This assessment also provided a comprehensive preliminary policy user needs assessment for NCA in Ghana, analyzing the policy entry points of 26 biodiversity-related and cross-cutting policy frameworks.

The demonstration fishery asset physical flow and asset accounts for fish and aquatic resources, compiled by the Fisheries Commission, GSS, EPA, NDPC, MESTI and SRID-MoFA with contributions from 24 representatives from these organizations, have highlighted policy entry points for sustainable development that NCA can support across nine related policy frameworks. The demonstration accounts have been recognized by the participating organizations for their use in several key areas:

- Coordinating efforts in formulating policies and strategies on fisheries and aquaculture due to the multi-sectoral nature of these policies.
- Supporting frameworks to analyze complex interactions between food security, natural resource utilization, and sustainable development, enabling integrated approaches that balance economic development with environmental conservation and social equity.
- Providing a framework to understand the relationship between fishing/aquaculture activities and the natural environment, thereby aiding in the development of more effective policies and interventions to promote sustainable practices and conserve aquatic resources for future generations.

Output 2: A multi-stakeholder national plan for NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published.

Comments: Ghana's critical analysis technical report (EPA 2016) confirmed the lack of an institutional framework for natural capital management. The lack of an overarching coordination mechanism was confirmed by the 2022 stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report compiled under this project (Annex 5.1).

GSS launched the national plan for NCA on the 20 March 2024 (Annex 5.7, P9). The launch event, which was at the 3rd Stakeholder consultation workshop, was attended by 77 participants and 16 media personal. The plan was endorsed by the Government Statistician of GSS was published on GSS website available here: (██████████) (Annex 5.25). During the drafting process, a strategic decision was taken between the national implementing partner GSS and UNEP-WCMC to consult and communicate the development of the national plan for NCA at the inaugural National Natural Capital

Accounting Forum. The Forum highlighted Ghana's commitment to economic transformation as articulated in the long-term development plan (2018-2057) and Ghana's spatial development framework (2015 -2035). The national plan for NCA was pitched and supported by cross-sectoral government and development partners at this multistakeholder forum to support the theory of change as the key coordinating mechanism for several ongoing natural capital accounting initiatives in the country (Annex 5.19). This engagement prompted further consultations on the national plan for NCA with development partners and the coordination of a partners meeting to explore synergies and future prospects (Annex 5.22). This meeting provided an opportunity for UNEP-WCMC to present the United Kingdom's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Nature Transition Support Program, which aims to support Ghana in realizing its own vision for transformational change.

The drafting team also consulted national stakeholders, including the key planning and coordinating institution, the NDPC, to lead mainstreaming of NCA (Annex 5.8). The NDPC has been identified in the national plan for NCA as the organization to undertake this task over the implementation period.

Quality assurance processes delayed the timeframe for publication of this deliverable. Nonetheless, this was achieved within the timeline of the project.

Output 3: Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2.

Comments: Ghana's feasibility assessment (EPA 2017) identified a lack of data as a significant constraint to compiling various types of accounts, particularly those related to biodiversity. However, the 2022 stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report conducted under this project revealed several entry points and potential uses for compiling biodiversity-related accounts. The report also provided an assessment of potential data providers.

The Blue Economy was identified as a priority theme by national stakeholders at the inception stakeholder consultation workshop as articulated in Ghana's National Medium Term Development Framework (2022-2025), which aims to harness its marine and coastal resources sustainably, ensuring they continue to provide economic benefits while preserving their ecological integrity for future generations. Within this priority theme, demonstration fishery accounts were identified and further validated at the 2nd Stakeholder consultation workshop (Annex 5.2, 5.8). This policy Framework articulates further several challenges including the "exploitation of fisheries resources over and above sustainable levels; proliferation of illegal fishing methods; insufficient monitoring and control to ensure compliance with laws and regulations on fisheries; weak involvement of communities in the management of fisheries resources; lack of alternative livelihood opportunities for coastal/fishing communities; inadequate fishing infrastructure; low levels of private sector investment in aquaculture development, especially small- and medium-scale producers; high cost of aquaculture inputs; and weak extension service delivery among others. Demonstration fishery asset and flow accounts were compiled in partnership with GSS and the Fisheries Commission (Annex 5.3). UNEP-WCMC provided technical support for the compilation of accounts.

A technical note developed by UNEP-WCMC informed the process (Annex 5.9). The demonstration accounts were consulted at the 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop which provided some useful feedback for future iterations of the accounts (Annex 5.7).

This deliverable required the full participation of the Fisheries Commission regarding the use of accounts, access to data and the capacity to develop thematic fishery accounts in collaboration with GSS and UNEP-WCMC. Initial engagement challenges delayed the compilation of the accounts. While awaiting feedback from the Fisheries Commission, UNEP-WCMC pursued the compilation of accounts using global datasets and modeling approaches. This contingency effort was eventually superseded by a more promising development. The GSS and Fisheries Commission took ownership of the process, demonstrating the capacity for account compilation. This collaboration fostered greater inter-agency cooperation and resulted in a product that was shaped and developed by the users themselves. Even though these processes delayed the timeline of this output, the deliverable was successfully produced within the timeline of the project.

Output 4: A clear strategy for implementing the national plan for NCA is developed through a participatory process, ensuring the uptake and success of Output 2 to catalyze the continued development of NCA in Ghana.

Comments: The Implementation Strategy for Natural Capital Accounting in Ghana (EPA 2017) was published without a national framework or plan. To support the 10-year national plan for NCA, this strategy needed substantial alignment and significant revisions. The stakeholder mapping and user-needs

assessment report (Annex 5.1) and the national plan for NCA therefore made provision for a revised and updated implementation strategy which included a governance structure that has been institutionalized in GSS. GSS is the custodian of the national plan for NCA (2024-2034) which has been published and is available for its implementation on the GSS website.

The implementation strategy was drafted based on the robust stakeholder consultation processes of the national plan for NCA. It was consulted with stakeholders and validated at the 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop. Following discussion, comments and inputs from national partners and stakeholders, the [REDACTED] (Annex 5.26) was finalized and published by GSS for dissemination and use.

Stakeholders involved in the drafting and reviewing process have a clearer understanding of how to implement the national plan for NCA. Evaluation responses from participants who filled in the evaluation forms administered at the inception and 3rd stakeholder consultation workshops, revealed that 15% to 20% of the 32 respondents were sufficiently capable of advancing the implementation of NCA in Ghana (Annex 5.7). If all participants of the stakeholder consultation workshops completed the evaluation forms, the findings would likely show more stakeholders capable of advancing NCA processes and implementation. The NCA implementation strategy is a dynamic document that necessitates annual updates to effectively support the execution of the 10-year national plan for NCA. These annual revisions will incorporate lessons learned, evolving priorities and innovations in methodology, data, and tools, thereby supporting Ghana's 2034 vision of a comprehensive national system for NCA, which will meet the demands of the national and sector-specific plans for sustainable development.

1.2 Outcome

Stakeholders across government supported the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana and its application for mainstreaming biodiversity into development throughout the project implementation time frames and beyond. The drafting of the 10-year national plan for NCA was a co-created country driven process, which was launched and published by the Government of Ghana for widespread implementation. This national plan for NCA has provisions for continued support, consultation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

Indicator 0.1: Number of Sectoral, Cross-Sectoral Policies and Plans Referencing NCA

- **Target:** Increase from 1 to 3 policies/plans by Q4 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP): The NBSAP (2016) included provisions or entry points for NCA. The NBSAP will be revised and updated to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The KM-GBF has a specific reference to NCA in Target 14 on the integration of "Biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy". This intended revision and alignment signifies a critical step towards embedding NCA within national biodiversity strategies which will ensure that natural capital considerations are systematically integrated into development planning processes (Annex 5.21).

Draft Biodiversity Framework: In a press release for International Biodiversity Day celebrations in 2022, the Ghana Government through the MESTI, committed to "engaging with the international community to develop a biodiversity framework that will direct the path towards a shared future for all life." (Annex 5.20). To all records, the Draft Biodiversity Framework is within the internal consultation process and provides a suitable entry point for NCA since it has been proposed that this framework would align with the KM-GBF.

Ghana's Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (2024-2027): Policy entry points in this strategy have been identified for NCA integration under the Environmental Fiscal Reform Initiative. These entry points provide Ghana with an opportunity to strategically incorporate environmental sustainability into fiscal policies, which supports informed decision-making for sustainable economic growth.

Indicator 0.2: Budget Allocation within GSS for Producing NCA

- **Target:** Increase from £0 to £100,000 by Q4 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

Budget and Economic Policy (2024): The 2024 Budget and Economic Policy emphasizes "Leveraging climate financing for Green Growth," which provides an entry point for NCA as a key mechanism to support Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity Final Report Template 2023

this initiative. GSS through adopting the national plan for NCA will need to mobilize resources for NCA implementation, underscoring the financial and institutional support needed for sustainable development. This commitment can be inferred from the government webinar series hosted to commemorate International Day for Biological Diversity in 2024 (Annex 5.21).

Indicator 0.3: Statements of Support for NCA from Economic/Planning Sectors

- **Target:** Obtain 3 statements by Q4 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

Fisheries Commission Statement: The Fisheries Commission formally acknowledged the value of NCA in balancing economic development with environmental conservation and social equity. This endorsement demonstrates the recognition of NCA's benefits across economic sectors as expressed in the Physical Flow and Asset Accounts for Fish and Aquatic Resources (Annex 5.3).

Media and Public Statements: Multiple media statements and published articles have supported NCA, reflecting broad-based endorsement from influential sectors and raising public awareness of NCA's importance. These include high-level addresses and media articles from the EPA, MESTI and Ministry of Finance (Annex 5.10).

Output 1: Increased Capacity for NCA

Indicator 1.1: Stakeholder Engagement and Understanding of NCA

- **Target:** 30 participants with increased understanding by Q3 FY 2022/23.
- **Achievements:**

Stakeholder Consultation Workshops: The inception workshop in January 2023 had 59 participants, and showed an increased understanding of NCA, which was measured by the evaluation forms that were administered by GSS at both the inception stakeholder consultation workshop and the 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop (Annex 5.6). The 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop in March 2024 further solidified stakeholders' understanding, enhancing their ability to apply NCA in their respective sectors (Annex 5.7). Participant representation across all stakeholder consultation workshops remained consistent, reinforcing and embedding capacity development.

Indicator 1.2: Access to Training Materials

- **Target:** 50 individuals accessing materials by Q3 FY 2022/23.
- **Achievements:**

Online Training Platform: By March 2024, 56 users had accessed training materials to the online platform. This engagement indicated a significant interest in NCA and demonstrated the project's effectiveness in disseminating knowledge and resources to a wide audience (██████████).

Output 2: National plan for NCA

Indicator 2.1: Published national plan for NCA Endorsed by GSS

- **Target:** 1 plan published by Q2 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

Publication and Endorsement: The ██████████ has been published and endorsed by GSS, with a foreword signed by the Government Statistician. This formal endorsement is crucial for legitimizing and institutionalizing NCA practices within national policy frameworks

Indicator 2.2: Stakeholder Participation for elaborating the plan

- **Target:** 30 participants by Q1 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

April 2023 Workshop: The workshop saw participation from 49 stakeholders, including government institutions, academia, NGOs, research organizations, and the media. This high level of participation highlighted the project's success in fostering a collaborative approach and building multi-stakeholder engagement for NCA (Annex 5.8).

Indicator 2.3: Stakeholder Agencies Participation Outside Workshops

- **Target:** 10 agencies by Q2 FY 2023/24.

- **Achievements:**

Multi-Agency Engagement: The project engaged with key stakeholder agencies such as GSS, EPA, MESTI, NDPC, CSIR, World Bank, FAO, Fisheries Commission, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and DEFRA. This comprehensive engagement ensured that NCA development and implementation were supported by a diverse coalition of relevant agencies (Annex 5.23).

Output 3: Demonstration Accounts for Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation

Indicator 3.1: Review and Input from Stakeholders

- **Target:** 15 stakeholders/agencies by Q3 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

Data Consultation Workshop (November 2023): 22 participants from 10 agencies provided input to methodological notes, metadata reports and accounts being compiled. It is often difficult to ensure the participation of a wide range of agencies due to limited capacity and their availability to attend a 3-day workshop. However, the input of stakeholders present was crucial for refining and validating the demonstration accounts, ensuring they met the needs and standards of various stakeholders (Annex 5.16).

Indicator 3.2: Capacity Building Workshop Participation

- **Target:** 30 participants by Q3 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

3rd Stakeholder consultation workshop: The workshop saw participation from 76 stakeholders, significantly exceeding the target. This high turnout reflected the project's success in generating widespread interest and engagement in NCA among diverse groups (Annex 5.7).

Output 4: Implementation Strategy for NCA

Indicator 4.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in this session of the workshop

- **Target:** 30 participants by Q3 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

3rd Stakeholder consultation workshop: The consultation and validation of the implementation strategy was included in the 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop. 76 participants attended. This robust participation underscores the strong stakeholder commitment to developing a cohesive and actionable NCA implementation strategy (Annex 5.7).

Indicator 4.2: Resources Identified for NCA

- **Target:** £100,000 by Q4 FY 2023/24.
- **Achievements:**

Resource Mobilization: The [REDACTED] (Annex 5.26) included a comprehensive plan for securing necessary funding for NCA activities, ensuring the project's sustainability and long-term impact. No tangible commitments were made regarding budget allocations for NCA. However, since the national plan for NCA and strategy was adopted by government and published for implementation, resources for their implementation should be allocated from the annual budget cycle accordingly. Policy entry points for integration of NCA have also been identified in Ghana's medium-term Revenue Strategy (2024-2027) in their Environmental Fiscal Reform Initiative. The Fisheries Commission have highlighted the value added of NCA "for crafting integrated approaches that balance economic development with environmental conservation and social equity" (Annex 5.3). The 2024 Budget and Economic Policy lists one of its priorities as "Leveraging climate financing for Green Growth". This provides an entry point for NCA, which has already been adopted by Government as one of the mechanisms to support Green Growth.

1.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Stakeholders (including environment, finance and planning and other key ministries, private sector, civil society) are fully engaged and involved in dialogue around natural capital data and are receptive to the integration of natural capital evidence in policymaking, planning, and recognising the benefits of using NCA.

Comments: Stakeholder engagement was key to the project. The project team monitored this assumption throughout the project. The in-country partner GSS was instrumental in initiating and strengthening stakeholder engagement. This was evidenced by the active and consistent participation and interests from the stakeholder consultation workshop participants. (Stakeholder consultation Workshop 1: 59 Participants; Stakeholder consultation workshop 2: 49 Participants; Stakeholder consultation workshop 3: 76 Participants; Stakeholder Consultation Gender mainstreaming Workshop: 19 Participants; Data needs assessment stakeholder consultation workshop: 22 Participants (Annex 5.4). Cumulatively, across all stakeholder consultation sessions, representatives from 71 ministries, departments, agencies, and other organizations participated in stakeholder consultation workshops or were consulted during the project timeline (Annex 5.23).

Assumption 2: Common understanding of priority areas for NCA can be agreed upon by stakeholders.

Comments: After the inception stakeholder consultation workshop in January 2023, priority themes for NCA were agreed to and priority accounts were identified by the participating stakeholders. During the drafting process of the national plan for NCA, the Account compilation and the Implementation Strategy, the priority areas for NCA were further validated by stakeholders (Annex 5.2).

Assumption 3: Capacity needs can be addressed and embedded through workshops, methodological guidance and online materials.

Comments: Capacity on NCA has been improved, as the participants to the workshops reported increased understanding of NCA in the evaluation forms submitted after the inception workshop and the final stakeholder consultation workshop (Annex 5.6 & 5.7).

Assumption 4: The project team (within Ghana and international) can identify opportunities to secure technical, technological, financial and human resources required for implementation of the national plan for NCA.

Comments: The national plan for NCA endorsed by the government, institutionalized by GSS, and backed by the published implementation plan should be provided with an annual budgetary allocation for implementation. Ghana's 2024 Budget and Economic policy provide a suitable entry point (Leveraging climate financing for Green Growth) for NCA implementation. The assumption however is still valid.

Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

To support Ghana's national implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and align with the country's sustainable development agenda (SDGs and Agenda 2063), the ten-year national plan for NCA was developed and published in consultation with key government and development partners. This plan recommends that the GSS act as the custodian of NCA, ensuring its robust institutionalization. The NDPC has been identified as the central coordinating body for mainstreaming NCA across various sectors.

This government-adopted national plan for NCA envisions that by 2034, NCA will be integral to policies, regulations, planning, and development processes, providing credible evidence for decision-making and fostering integrated planning for poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Ghana.

These strategic provisions will facilitate the integration of NCA into cross-sectoral policies and plans, including the draft Biodiversity Framework (Annex 5.20). The MESTI CBD NBSAP focal point, who has been part of most of the consultation meetings on planning and reporting on progress for the project (Annex 5.4), has indicated that the NBSAP update and revision process alignment with the KM-GBF has been initiated (Annex 5.21). The KM-GBF specifically references NCA in Target 14, emphasizing the integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts and assessments of environmental impacts across all levels of government and sectors of the economy. Furthermore, the NBSAP review working group has also been incorporated into the structures proposed for advancing NCA in the national plan for NCA. NCA provides robust scientific evidence to support the establishment of priorities, targets, and strategies, and a foundation for a robust monitoring framework, which has been reflected in the national plan for NCA. The opportunity to build NCA capacity is therefore ideally timed to inform forthcoming policies and plans, while facilitating biodiversity mainstreaming (Section 2.2) (Annex 5.21).

Ghana's medium-term Revenue Strategy (2024-2027) has identified policy entry points for the integration of NCA within its Environmental Fiscal Reform Initiative. The Fisheries Commission has underscored the added value of NCA in crafting integrated approaches that balance economic development with environmental conservation and social equity (Annex 5.3). Additionally, the 2024 Budget and Economic

Policy prioritizes "Leveraging climate financing for Green Growth," providing a crucial entry point for NCA, which has been adopted by the government as a mechanism to support green growth.

With the national plan for NCA in place, Ghana would be able to report against the complementary indicators of the KM-GBF: the number of countries using natural capital accounts in planning processes and the number of countries using ocean accounts in planning processes. NCA would also support the implementation of several national action plans, including Action Plan 2 on mainstreaming biodiversity, and Action Plan 7 on sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry (see MESTI (2016), pages 48 and 53). In its 2019 Voluntary National Review of the SDGs, Ghana only reported on Indicator 15.1.1 (under Goal 15). With the ten-year national plan for NCA and the Implementation Strategy in place, Ghana would be able to report on Target 15.9 and other relevant targets. The national plan for NCA includes priority themes for the compilation of priority accounts in the short, medium, and long term, which if linked to national policy entry points and priorities: would secure resources for the regular compilation of accounts. Through a robust natural capital accounting system, Ghana would be able to align these priority themes with global frameworks effectively, contributing significantly to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. The table (Annex 5.24) provides a detailed alignment, but here we present a concise narrative summarizing these efforts.

High Priority Themes

Blue Economy: Ghana's focus on the Blue Economy, supported by fishery accounts and marine and coastal ecosystem service accounts, aligns with SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and target 3 of the GBF, which aims to conserve marine and coastal areas. By promoting sustainable fisheries and eco-tourism, the Blue Economy provides livelihoods for coastal communities, thereby contributing significantly to poverty alleviation.

Effective Protected Areas: Emphasis on protected areas, backed by ecosystem extent accounts and eco-tourism accounts, aligns with SDG 15 (Life on Land). This priority supports GBF target 2, aiming to conserve 30% of land and sea areas. Establishing effective protected areas creates job opportunities in conservation and eco-tourism, boosting local economies and reducing poverty.

Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry: Sustainable practices in agriculture and forestry are supported by land and soil accounts, agriculture and forestry accounts, and forest provisioning ecosystem service accounts. This aligns with SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 15, and GBF target 10, promoting sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry. These practices enhance food security, support livelihoods in agriculture, and generate income through sustainable forestry, thereby directly addressing poverty.

Medium Priority Themes

Water Resources Management: Supported by water regulation service accounts, this priority aligns with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and GBF target 11, focusing on maintaining and restoring water-related ecosystems. Improved water management enhances access to clean water, reduces water-borne diseases, and supports health and productivity, contributing to poverty reduction.

Sustainable Use of Natural Resources: This priority, supported by energy flow accounts, aligns with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and GBF target 14. By promoting sustainable energy solutions, the sustainable use of natural resources reduces energy costs and improves quality of life, contributing to poverty alleviation through more affordable and reliable energy access.

Climate Resilience and Livelihoods: Supported by carbon and air emissions accounts, this priority aligns with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and GBF target 8. Enhancing climate resilience protects vulnerable communities from climate impacts, improving their resilience and livelihoods, which is crucial for poverty alleviation.

The project also supported MESTI's Medium Term Development Plan by building capacity on NCA, which is mentioned under the goal "Safeguard the natural environment and ensure a resilient built environment." The various conventions, treaties, and agreements are captured under the national policy provisions in the national plan for NCA and in the Demonstration Fisheries Account Report (Annex 5.3).

The momentum and capacity building among national stakeholders for NCA advancement has been enhanced through high-level addresses at stakeholder consultation workshops and through published media articles, increasing awareness of the value and potential of NCA in decision-making across government and other sectors (Annex 5.10).

These initiatives collectively ensure that NCA is positioned as a pivotal tool in Ghana's pursuit of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, in alignment with the GBF, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Agenda 2063. By institutionalizing NCA, Ghana aims to enhance

evidence-based decision-making, promote integrated planning, and achieve long-term goals of poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Project support to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction

Short term: Stakeholders across various government departments, ministries, and agencies in Ghana have an increased awareness of the connections between sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and other cross-sector policy objectives. They can integrate Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) into their sectoral plans, strategies, and policies.

(Annex 5.7). The stakeholder mapping and user-needs assessment report included entry points for NCA from cross-cutting policies, plans and strategies (Annex 5.1). The policy identification exercise performed by participants at the first stakeholder consultation workshop has demonstrated that stakeholders from cross-cutting sectors can recognize and understand the value and potential of NCA in addressing local and national issues, including poverty alleviation, equitable distribution of benefits and sustainable use. (Annex 5.6). The [REDACTED] (Annex 5.25) includes short-, medium- and long-term priorities. This is supported by a [REDACTED] (Annex 5.26).

The compilation of demonstration Fisheries accounts has highlighted the multi-sectoral nature of policies on fisheries and aquaculture. It demonstrates that further analysis can provide pertinent information on the complex interactions between food security, natural resource utilization, and sustainable development. This improved understanding can lead to the development of integrated approaches that balance economic development, environmental conservation and social equity (Annex 5.3).

Long-term: Capacity building to implement the ten-year national plan for NCA is crucial for achieving long-term sustainable development and green growth in Ghana. Institutionalizing the capacity to produce and use NCA within government ministries, departments and agencies will enable Ghana to better integrate biodiversity considerations into its policies and plans, leading to improved outcomes for biodiversity and the well-being of its people.

GSS has been designated as the anchoring organization for the overall coordination of NCA production, ensuring consistency and reliability. GSS is presently the custodian of the national for NCA and its publication for implementation has ensured that it is embedded and institutionalized with GSS. Concurrently, the NDPC has been identified as the central coordinating agency for mainstreaming NCA across various sectors and policies.

By building capacity within GSS and other partner organizations including enhancing the existing capacity within the EPA, this project has reinforced the institutionalization of NCA. Enhanced capacity within these organizations will facilitate the integration of NCA into decision-making processes, promoting evidence-based policies that align with Ghana's sustainable development goals and green growth objectives.

The demonstration Fishery Accounts alongside other priority accounts identified in the national plan for NCA provides a framework for understanding the relationship between consumption of natural resources and the natural environment. With this improved understanding that account compilation is possible, policymakers can develop more effective policies and interventions to promote sustainable practices and conserve natural resources for future generations (Annex 5.3).

1.4 Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	50%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	GSS's board members is constituted by 50% of women (three women out of six board

¹ A Project Board had overall authority for the project, was accountable for its success or failure, and supported the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that had a formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project involved staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

	members), with the Chairperson being a woman as well.
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This project supported the implementation of Policy Commitment 1 of Ghana’s National Gender Policy “Women’s Empowerment and Livelihoods”, and notably, Measure 5: “Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Women’s Access to Productive Resources”.

In all the stakeholder consultation workshops and discussions, the project ensured that participants were representative of technical expertise, gender, social inclusion and organizational representativity. These requirements were reflected in the profile of the delegates participating in the stakeholder consultation workshops (Annex 5.4).

The project facilitated the convening of a stakeholder consultation workshop on mainstreaming Gender into the national plan on NCA. The stakeholder consultation workshop brought together stakeholders from key institutions including GSS, NDPC, the EPA, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), the MESTI and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) (Annex 5.11).

Substantive inputs were received which included the identification of the need for further reviews and restructuring of the plan; revision of plan objectives and strategies to include gender considerations; proposals for additional gender-related objectives; development of a draft work plan outlining objectives and activities; and recognition of the necessity to build institutional capacity for advancing NCA. These inputs were evaluated and integrated into the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The impact of this was that the plan addressed gender-specific needs and strengthened the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the NCA initiatives in Ghana.

1.5 Transfer of knowledge

Throughout the project and in all stakeholder consultation workshop events, stakeholders participated in practical activities that embodied Ghana’s principle of learning by doing. At the inception stakeholder consultation workshop, stakeholders engaged in a policy identification exercise, where they learned how to translate conservation challenges into policy interventions and implementation using the steps for NCA implementation (Annex 5.12). This exercise was followed by a practical training session on natural capital accounting (Annex 5.13). At the second Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, stakeholders collaboratively co-developed the draft national plan for NCA. They were organized into breakout groups according to their areas of expertise and specific mandates to review and discuss each section of the draft. This process required significant contributions and text negotiations, where stakeholders applied their knowledge, skills and respective mandates to improve the document’s quality and relevance (Annex 5.14). The Gender mainstreaming and Data needs assessment stakeholder consultation workshop also included practical learning by doing exercises (Annex 5.15, 5.16). The working session on compiling the accounts clearly demonstrated the real theory of change and the transfer of knowledge among the various contributors (Annex 5.17).

The knowledge products developed include:

Stakeholder mapping and user needs assessment report compiled under this project (Annex 5.1) included stakeholder consultation workshop reports, which provided useful information on planning, convening and hosting stakeholder consultation workshops. (Annex 5.6; 5.7; 5.8; 5.11; 5.16).

[REDACTED] (Annex 5.25).National Plan for Natural Capital Accounting

Demonstration fishery asset and flow accounts (Annex 5.3).

Technical note for the compilation of Physical Flow & Asset Accounts for Fish & Aquatic Resources (Annex 5.9).

[REDACTED] (Annex 5.26).

1.6 Capacity building

The national partners Bernice Oforu-Baadu (female, GSS) and Kwame Boakye Fredua (male, EPA) were invited to speak at the London Group on Environmental Accounting in 2023. (Annex 18). Both officials

were also invited to participate in the African Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice Forum in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2023 (Annex 19), and the project was represented by EPA.

Monitoring and evaluation

The indicator of success and the progress have been detailed in Annex 1, and no changes were made to the M&E plan of the project. The project team recognized that monitoring and evaluation were ongoing aspects of project management. It was the responsibility of the project manager, in collaboration with the project team and others deemed to have the necessary skills and experience to provide advice and guidance throughout the project timeline.

Any changes to the project's planned activities, outputs and milestones as per log frame were discussed and agreed within the project team (and relevant senior staff) at UNEP-WCMC and GSS, while consulting others involved in the project as relevant. All outputs underwent a rigorous internal quality assurance and approval process. Partners were also expected to provide annual/quarterly/biannual reports to UNEP-WCMC, focusing on delivery of planned activities, expenditure reporting and evidence that contributed to indicators and milestones. This ensured that all project information fed into half yearly, annual and final project reporting to Darwin. Risks and opportunities of any changes (or inaction instead of proposed change) were evaluated by the project team, with a view to ensuring that the project achieved its intended impact. Any such changes were communicated to Darwin through a change request.

A monitoring and evaluation framework is an essential component of the national plan for NCA, which reinforced the need for strong M&E systems for advancing NCA.

During the last annual reporting to the Darwin Initiative in April 2023, the project received positive feedback and suggestions from an external reviewer appointed by the donor, as stated in Question 6 below.

Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

The annual report reviews provided positive feedback on the progress of the project. It stated that the annual report provided clear and concise information about the project progress, and the reviewer indicated that the project "demonstrated potential to catalyze transformational change". The review offered two suggestions. The first being:

"Please ensure an attendance register is provided for future workshops or other engagements so that attendees can self-report their gender. Please also consult guidance on improving gender equity in project delivery for strategies to encourage the participation of women in engagements, then implement the strategies that make sense in the context of your project. This should be reported in the Final Report."

The project team discussed this feedback with partners and collaborators, and the National Partner subsequently hosted a dedicated gender mainstreaming stakeholder consultation workshop to highlight the importance of gender representivity in the project. However, the national partner did not include gender in the attendance registers of subsequent stakeholder consultation workshops, citing difficulties due to the project's shift in focus to the Fisheries Sector, where gender representation was challenging to achieve. Although participants were not given the opportunity to self-report their gender, efforts were nevertheless made to ensure gender balance in participation. However, accurately assessing this balance was challenging due to the lack of detailed gender data from the stakeholder consultation workshops.

During the follow-up processes after stakeholder consultation, gender specialists at UNEP-WCMC were consulted for all outputs.

The second suggestion was that "When reporting against the Standard Indicators in Annex 2 of the Annual Report, a suggestion was made that the project also reports the publication of the national plan for NCA against Standard Indicator DI-C19." This has been included in this report.

Lessons learnt

Throughout the past year, valuable lessons were learned about what worked well.

- Regular stakeholder mapping and assessment of needs, priorities and capacity are essential for the implementation of NCA and the compilation of priority accounts.
- To ensure country ownership, stakeholder consultation, communication and engagement are required throughout the NCA value and production chain.
- It was recognized that in-person stakeholder consultation workshops with active participation of delegates in break-out groups, focused discussion groups and practical exercises, were effective in keeping stakeholders engaged and for optimizing stakeholder input.
- Compilation of thematic natural capital accounts requires robust consultation with the relevant stakeholders and partner organization identified.
- Data sharing between provider organizations and users may require negotiation facilitated by national partners.

- Better coordination is needed among international, national and local agencies and partners.
- Project management requires adaptation according to the emerging needs of a project.
- Political will, policy entry points, national processes and local institutions/organizations can enhance the implementation of donor-funded initiatives.
- The project has demonstrated that mainstreaming gender and other considerations for an inclusive approach are possible and can be further enhanced through additional investment.

Overall, these lessons will be invaluable for implementation of related and follow up projects in the future.

Risk Management

Data access and sharing for the compilation of accounts emerged as a risk which did delay project milestones. GSS was requested to facilitate and negotiate with data providers and gatherers. In a parallel process the CSIR was consulted to provide access to data. However, this data required additional cleaning and validation. The submission of financial reports from the national project partner required additional project management and communication. Regular follow ups via email and the convening of short online meetings resolved some of the issues. The project was ultimately completed effectively.

Sustainability and legacy

The stakeholder consultation workshop participants from various government departments, ministries, agencies, NGOs and academia have responded in the evaluation forms for the inception stakeholder consultation workshop and the final stakeholder consultation workshop that their understanding of NCA has been enhanced (Annex 5.7).

The project's exit strategy in the form of the [REDACTED] (Annex 5.26).

is an integral part of the project legacy. It is a living document that would be updated annually to ensure that natural capital accounting outputs and outcomes remain relevant and aligned to country priorities. The 10-year national plan for NCA was an outcome of a social process, that brought together multidisciplinary institutions to reach consensus together on a coherent set of NCA outputs for the short, medium and long term. The focus of the project on the use and implementation of the globally agreed statistical standard of the System for Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), implies that there is an international community of practice in which Ghana already participates in. Ghana can continue its participation and contribute and strengthen the national and local community of practice via its participation in international events and processes. It also indicates that Ghana is progressing towards integrating the values of biodiversity into their national accounts (SDG Target Indicator 15.9.1 b) which aligns with their aspirations to achieve transformative change as articulated in their long-term development plan.

To ensure that the momentum built for NCA does not wane, the multi-stakeholder consultation workshops have trained representatives of identified stakeholder organizations (Annex 5.4).

All training materials have been made widely and freely available within Ghana via several existing platforms (Section 1). These existing platforms which have potential to evolve into a national community of practice will also help ensure sustainability of the project by maintaining open channels of communication between those with an interest in NCA across the country.

The project has already aligned and explored synergies with existing and established NCA initiatives regionally and globally. These include the African Forum on Green Economy, the Green Growth Knowledge Network, World Bank's Global Program for Sustainability and Africa's Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice.

The project has also explored synergies with follow-up initiatives, such as the UNEP-WCMC-led NORAD-funded Oceans for Development project and the UK DEFRA-funded Nature Transitions Support Programme, to share knowledge and continue mainstreaming the project's results.

Darwin Initiative identity

The project highlighted the Darwin Initiative logo on the project output documents and the concept note for the stakeholder consultation workshops. GSS used project funds to develop two roll-up banners which were displayed at the stakeholder consultation workshop venues for the duration of the workshops. High-level welcome addresses at the stakeholder consultation workshop also introduced the Darwin Initiative and its core aims of addressing sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

All the presentations delivered at the stakeholder consultation workshops included the logo of the Darwin Initiative on each slide of the presentations. Among the major deliverables the national plan for NCA, the Implementation Strategy and Fishery Accounts Report have been published online with the Darwin logo. The Darwin logo is also placed on the training material website.

Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	There is a policy in place and the Human Resources section is the contact point.
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [15] Planned: 0% [0]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
No.	

Finance and administration

1.7 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report)	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				Staff cost lower than budgeted due to reallocation of funds from staff costs to Travel & Subsistence due to fluctuating travel costs of flights, accommodation, visa requirements and exchange rates.
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				This amount is higher than the budget due to shift from staff costs.
Operating Costs				Variance as capital cost incurred by the partner in year 2023-24 instead of year 2022-23.
Capital items (see below)				Variance as capital cost incurred by the partner in year 2023-24 instead of year 2022-23
Others (see below)				
Audit costs				
TOTAL	£110,570.00	£110,596.99		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Brown, Claire; Principal Technical Specialist	
Calhoun, Emma; Project support	
Critchley, Megan; Project support	
Feng, Qian; Project support	
Garcia Rangel, Shaenandhoa; Project support	
Gardiner, Russell; Design and communications	
Kaplan, Matt; Lead Editor	
Lockerbie, Emma; Project support	
Naicker, Kiruben; Project Leader	
Ondo, Ian; Project support	
Sterckx, Helga; Project administration	
van Soesbergen, Arnout; Senior ecosystem services and modelling scientist	
Vause, James; Lead Economist	
Vera Paz, Alina; Project support	
Zaman, Hashim; Technical Specialist in NCA	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)

LCD Projectors and screens Laptop	██████████
	£3,249.56

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

1.8 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
WCMC In-kind contribution	██████████
TOTAL	██████████

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
TOTAL	

1.9 Value for Money

Despite the financial shortfall, the Centre invested an additional ██████████ to cover fluctuating travel costs and additional labour requirements. We ensured cost-effective travel and procurement by adhering to our procurement process, aligning with His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Daily Subsistence Allowance (HRMC DSA) guidelines, and our partners diligently sought cost-efficiency in workshops and equipment purchases. This highlights the Centre's commitment to ensuring the project's completion and the efficient reallocation of resources to meet project demands.

The deliverables were completed within the project timeline, demonstrating that the desired outputs were achieved. This is a key indicator of the project's effectiveness.

The project incurred an unforeseen additional investment of ██████████ due to fluctuating travel costs and labour requirements. The financial reports indicate a total project overspend of ██████████, absorbed by WCMC.

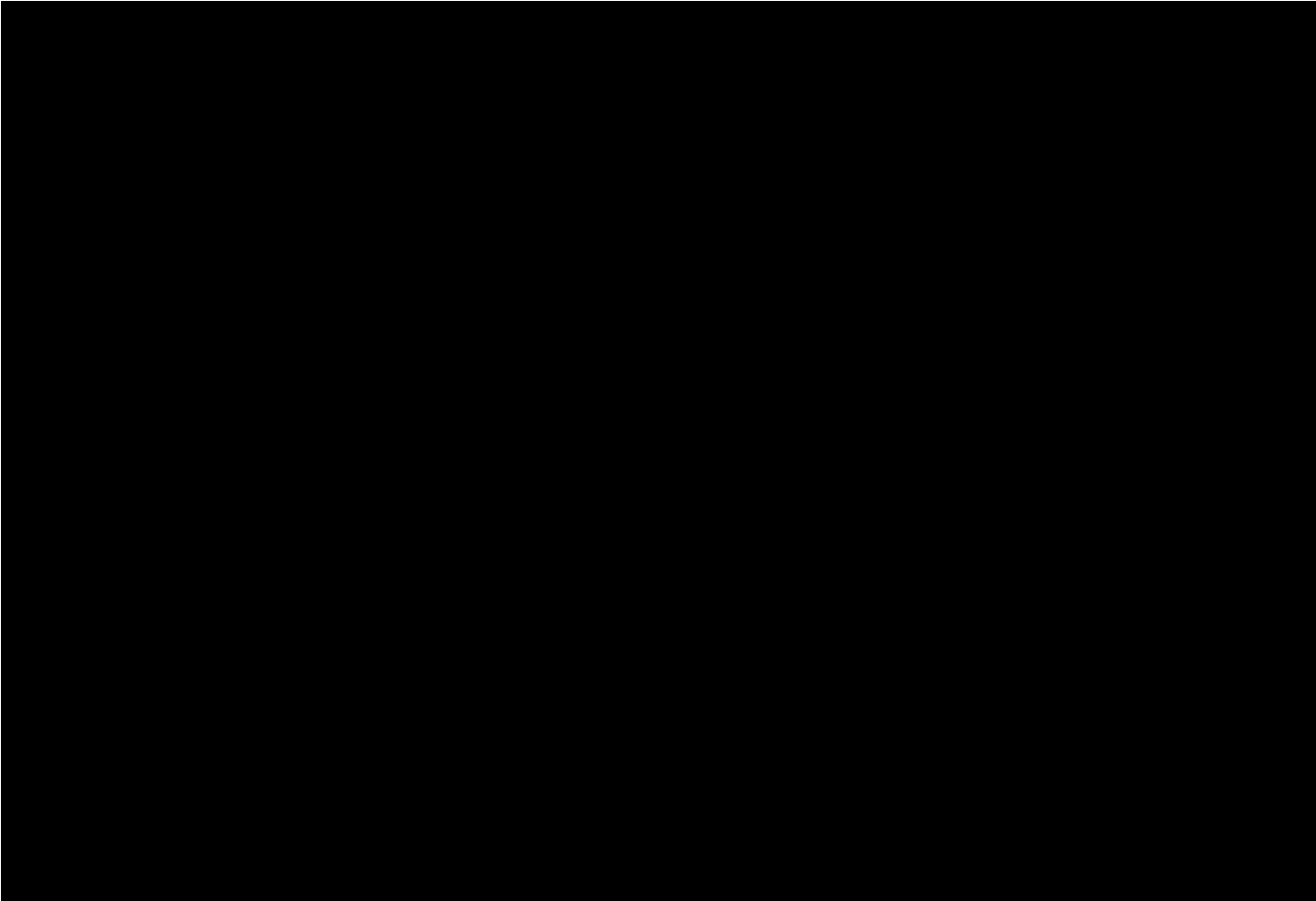
The additional investment and the absorption of the financial loss by the Centre underscore a strategic investment in achieving long-term benefits and outcomes that align with the project's objectives.

The strategic and qualitative benefits indicate good value for money regarding the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. The project's successful completion and the Centre's ability to manage and mitigate unforeseen financial challenges reflect a strong commitment to delivering impactful results within the stipulated timeline.

OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

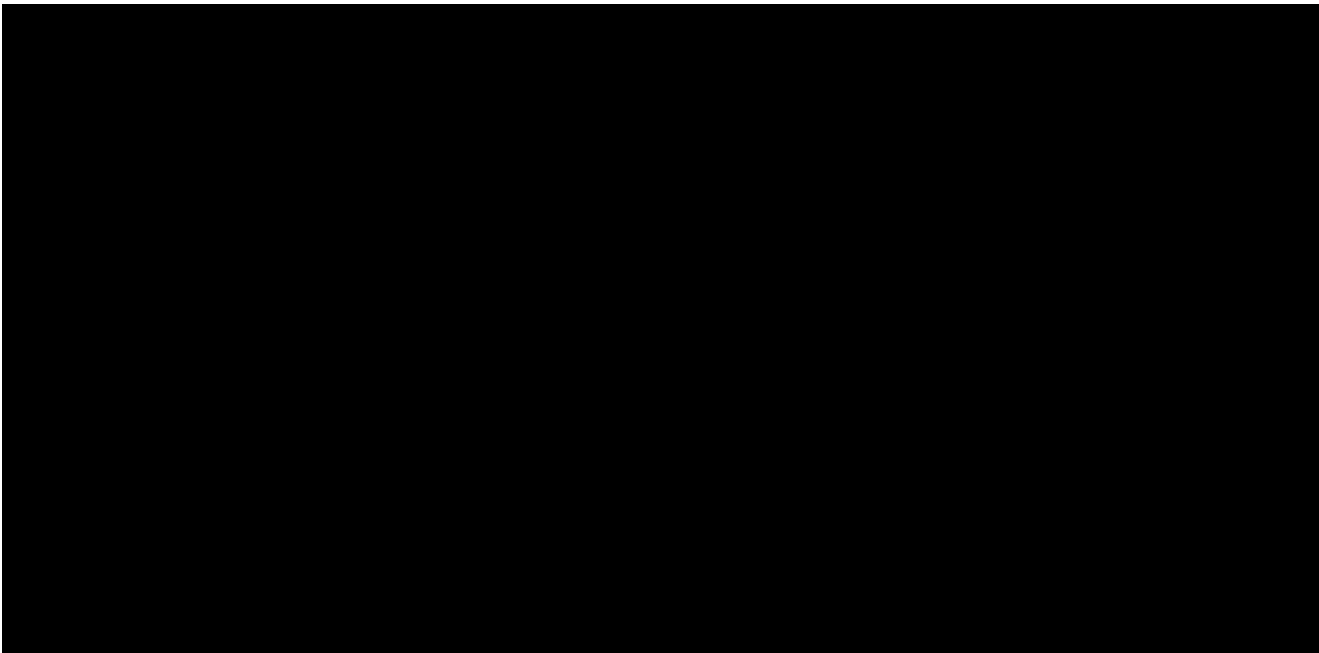
I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	News paper	Project to incorporate natural capital into GDP launched		No
Image	Report	Capacity in natural capital accounting (NCA) for sustainable development Report on the 3 rd Stakeholder Consultation Workshop and launch of the national action plan for natural capital accounting.		No



Inception Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

This project aimed to build capacity to extend Ghana's national accounting system to better integrate biodiversity-related natural capital information into sectoral policymaking and development planning. This initiative was aligned with government priorities of poverty alleviation and advancing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The co-development and publication of a government-endorsed 10-year National Action Plan for natural capital accounting in Ghana as an outcome of the project is significant. The plan was approved by the Ghana Statistical Services with the support and endorsement of key lead Ministries & Agencies including the Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency and the National Development Planning Commission. An implementation strategy complements the plan. This strategy is a living document that would be updated annually to align with the dynamic nature of government priorities.



Stakeholder Consultation Workshop: Launch of the national plan for NCA

The project's capacity-building aims were further realized when the Fisheries Commission agreed to partner with the Ghana Statistical Services, taking ownership of compiling the demonstration fishery accounts. These thematic accounts were the first of its kind and have provided a baseline upon which updates, the regular production of fishery accounts and the possibility of ocean accounts can be compiled and published. The national plan for NCA recommends priority themes for priority accounts. These include the Blue Economy (Fishery accounts, marine and coastal ecosystem service accounts); Effective Protected Areas (Ecosystem extent accounts, eco-tourism accounts); Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry (Land and soil accounts, agriculture and forestry accounts, forest provisioning ecosystem service accounts). Medium priority themes include Water Resources Management (Water regulation service accounts); Sustainable use of natural resources (Energy flow accounts) and Climate resilience and livelihoods (Carbon and air emissions accounts). These priority accounts for the short, medium, and long term, would place Ghana on a pathway toward transformative change and realizing its aspiration for a Green GDP. There are synergies and follow up initiatives such as the Norad funded Ocean for Development Project and the UK DEFRA funded project the Nature Transition Support Program will also support Ghana achieve sustainable development and poverty alleviation as articulated in Agenda 2063.

The project has contributed to consolidating UNEP-WCMC's expertise supporting countries in developing their natural capital accounting programs with a focus on enabling conditions. We are aiming for our efforts to support to expedite transition pathways towards nature-positive economies.

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) indicators of success, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full indicators of success. If your indicators of success have changed since your application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert the indicators of success.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
<p>Outcome: Stakeholders across government support the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, and its application for mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, especially for poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>0.1: Number of sectoral, cross-sectoral policies and plans which contain references to NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 1; Target 3) 0.2: Budget allocation within GSS for producing NCA and implementing Output 4 by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline £0; Target £100,000) 0.3: The value of biodiversity-related NCA to achieve economic and poverty objectives is recognised through statements of support for continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, from representatives of economic/planning sectors (baseline 0; Target 3 statements)</p>	<p>Policies and plans (e.g., mid-term development plans) published on Government ministry websites Policy entry points in published documents. Media Statements and articles.</p>
<p>Output 1 Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies.</p>	<p>1.1: Number of individuals who have participated in stakeholder engagement workshop and seen an increase in their understanding of and support for NCA by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 30) 1.2: Number of individuals who have accessed available training materials by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 50)</p>	<p>1.1: Consultation Reports with evaluation results. 1.2: Download/user statistics for the e-learning modules and training materials published online.</p>
<p>Output 2 A multi-stakeholder National Plan for Advancing NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published.</p>	<p>2.1: National Plan published with endorsement from GSS by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 1) 2.2: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in the capacity building workshop for elaborating the plan by Q1 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30) 2.3: Number of stakeholder agencies actively participating in its elaboration outside of the workshop by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 10)</p>	<p>2.1: Plan available on GSS website 2.2: Workshop participant list. 2.3: Contributors acknowledged in the national plan. Communication emails to stakeholders.</p>
<p>Output 3 Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2.</p>	<p>3.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies providing review and input to a) methodological notes, b) metadata report, and c) accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 15) 3.2: Number of stakeholders participating in the capacity building workshop and with improved ability to use and communicate accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p>	<p>3.1: List of Participating Agencies in Demonstration account reports. 3.2: Participants lists and evaluation forms from stakeholder consultation workshop (Workshop report)</p>
<p>Output 4 A clear strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA is developed through a participatory process, ensuring the uptake and success of Output 2 to catalyse continued development of NCA in Ghana.</p>	<p>4.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in this session of the workshop by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30) 4.2: Total value of potential resources identified for NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target: £100,000)</p>	<p>4.1: Stakeholder consultation Workshop participant list 4.2: Published Strategy for implementing the National Plan for</p>

		NCA (Resource mobilization in implementation strategy).
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

1.1 Stakeholder mapping is conducted.
1.2 User needs analysis drafted.
1.3 Stakeholder consultation workshop held with representation from identified stakeholders to build capacity for producing and using NCA, and complete user needs analysis.
1.4 User needs report published.
2.1 National Plan for Advancing NCA outlined.
2.2 Stakeholder workshop held to agree on an outline and elaborate National Plan
2.3 National Plan finalized.
2.4 National Plan published on GSS website.
3.1 Priority theme for demonstration accounts agreed.
3.2 Methodological note drafted.
3.3 Methodological note reviewed by relevant agencies.
3.4 Metadata report produced.
3.5 Accounts produced.
3.6 Stakeholder workshop to build capacity for producing and using the demonstration accounts and build support for advancing NCA within Ghana.
4.1 Strategy for implementing National Plan outlined.
4.2 Session held at Stakeholder workshop (Activity 3.6) to agree on outline and elaborate strategy
4.3 First draft strategy produced.
4.4 Strategy reviewed by stakeholders.
4.5 Strategy finalized.

Important Assumptions

- Stakeholders (including environment, finance and planning and other key ministries, private sector, civil society) are fully engaged and involved in dialogue around natural capital data and are receptive to integration of natural capital evidence in policymaking and planning, recognising the benefits.
- Common understanding of priority areas for NCA can be agreed upon by stakeholders.
- Capacity needs can be addressed and imbedded through workshops, methodological guidance and online materials.
- The project team (within Ghana and international) can identify opportunities to secure technical, technological, financial and human resources required for implementation of the national plan for NCA.

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project indicators of success for the life of the project

Supplementary Materials have been named and sorted by activities and will be submitted together with this report.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>Outcome: Stakeholders across government support the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, and its application for mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, especially for poverty alleviation</p>	<p>0.1: Number of sectoral, cross-sectoral policies and plans which contain references to NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 1; Target 3)</p> <p>0.2: Budget allocation within GSS for producing NCA and implementing Output 4 by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline £0; Target £100,000)</p> <p>0.3: The value of biodiversity-related NCA to achieve economic and poverty objectives is recognised through statements of support for continued production and development of NCA in Ghana, from representatives of economic/planning sectors (baseline 0; Target 3 statements)</p>	<p>The project team completed mapping for relevant policy entry points across identified and relevant organisations across Ghana (stakeholder mapping and user needs Assessment report: Annex 5.1). Identified stakeholders were consistently engaged throughout the project (Stakeholder lists of stakeholder consultation workshops: Annex 5.4); Established communication platform (through WhatsApp group (Annex 5.5) and ██████████ which to all records are still active and has potential to serve as a national community of practice.</p> <p>01: NBSAP contains provisions and entry points for NCA (baseline). NBSAP is intended to be updated and aligned to KM-GBF which has specific references to NCA (Annex 5.21). NCA to be considered in the draft Biodiversity Framework (Annex 5.20). Policy entry points for integration of NCA have also been identified in Ghana’s medium-term Revenue Strategy (2024-2027) in their Environmental Fiscal Reform Initiative ██████████</p> <p>The Fisheries Commission have highlighted the value added of NCA “for crafting integrated approaches that balance economic development with environmental conservation and social equity”(Annex 5.3).</p> <p>0.2: GSS is custodian of the national plan for NCA implementation. GSS has published the plan and would need to mobilize resources for the plan implementation. The 2024 Budget and Economic Policy lists one of its priorities as “Leveraging climate financing for Green Growth” (██████████). <u>A figure for climate finance has not been included.</u> This, however, provides an entry point for NCA, which has already been adopted by Government as one of the mechanisms to support Green Growth.</p> <p>0.3 A number of media statements and published articles are available online (3 public statements and 14 websites with published messages, articles and statements of support (Annex 5.10).</p>
<p>Output 1. Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity</p>	<p>1.1: Number of individuals who have participated in stakeholder engagement workshop and seen an increase</p>	<p>1.1: The inception stakeholder consultation workshop held on 12th - 13th January 2023 had 59 participants (excluding WCMC team members), and they reported increasing understanding of NCA after the workshop as evidenced in the stakeholder consultation workshop report (Annex 5.6). Stakeholders at the final stakeholder consultation workshop held on the 20 March 2024, reported an enhanced understanding of NCA and its application (Annex 5.7).</p>

mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies	in their understanding of and support for NCA by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 30) 1.2: Number of individuals who have accessed available training materials by Q3 FY 2022/3 (baseline: 0; Target 50)	1.2: Tracked 56 users in total until the end of March 2024 [REDACTED]
Activity 1.1: Stakeholder mapping is conducted		The project completed the stakeholder mapping in the user need assessment, and key agencies were consulted throughout the project (Annex 5.1).
Activity 1.2: User needs analysis drafted		After desktop research, consultation with EPA and GSS, the document was drafted and underpinned the development of the national plan for NCA (Annex 5.1).
Activity 1.3 Stakeholder workshop held with representation from identified stakeholders to build capacity for producing and using NCA, and complete user needs analysis		The Inception stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 12 th – 13 th January 2023 during which the user needs assessment was verified and validated. Relationship with stakeholders was strengthened, and it helped with the preparation for the next phase especially the priority setting (Annex 5.6).
Activity 1.4 User needs report published.		The Report was drafted based the Feasibility study on NCA (EPA 2016c). It was validated and finalized following stakeholder consultation (inception stakeholder consultation workshop) and thereafter used as an internal document to draft the national plan for NCA. It has been submitted to GSS for use as an internal background document as its contents have been integrated into [REDACTED] (Annex 5.25).
Output 2: A multi-stakeholder National Plan for Advancing NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published.	2.1: National Plan published with endorsement from GSS by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 1) 2.2: Number of stakeholder agencies participating in the capacity building workshop for elaborating the plan by Q1 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)	2.1 The national plan has been published with endorsement from GSS, and the foreword signed by the Government Statistician from GSS [REDACTED] (Annex 5.25). 2.2 The stakeholder consultation workshop for elaborating the plan was convened on the 26th -27th April 2023. 49 participants from government institutions, Academia, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), research organizations and the media attended the workshop. Participants from 71 different Ministries, Departments and Agencies were represented at the workshop (Annex 5.23). The 1 st draft of the national plan for NCA was ready for consultation in early April. The stakeholder consultation workshop had to be scheduled for late April to accommodate consultation and availability of national partners, which resulted in minor delays to the project schedule. Breakout groups were established based on participants' relevance to the different sections of the national plan for NCA. These breakout groups, representing 30 different Sections, Departments, Agencies, Ministries and other organizations (Annex 5.14) provided further insights and substantive text changes to the national plan for NCA, as shown in section 4 of the 2 nd stakeholder consultation workshop report (Annex 5.8). 2.3 The project team had meetings with representatives from the following stakeholder agencies (11): GSS, EPA, MESTI, NDPC, CSIR, World Bank and FAO, the Fisheries Commission, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC (Norad Funded Project) (SPACES) and

	2.3: Number of stakeholder agencies actively participating in its elaboration outside of the workshop by Q2 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 10)	DEFRA (Annex 5.23). GSS in addition to the planned consultation also hosted a gender mainstreaming stakeholder consultation workshop (Annex 5.15).
Activity 2.1: National Plan for Advancing NCA outlined		Outline completed.
Activity 2.2: Stakeholder workshop held to agree on outline and elaborate National Plan		Stakeholder consultation Workshop held on 26th -27 th April 2023, the outline was validated, and participants elaborated their suggestions on the national plan for NCA (Annex 5.8).
Activity 2.3: Plan finalised		The Plan was finalized and approved.
Activity 2.4: National Plan published on GSS website		The national plan for NCA has been published on GSS website. [REDACTED] (Annex 5.25).
Output 3. Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2.	3.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies providing review and input to a) methodological notes, b) metadata report, and c) accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 15) 3.2: Number of stakeholders participating in the capacity building workshop and with improved ability to use and communicate accounts by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)	3.1: GSS led a in country data stakeholder consultation workshop to provide input to the methodological notes, metadata report and accounts on 3 rd – 5 th November 2023. The workshop had 20 participants from 10 stakeholder agencies (as in section 1.3 in the data consultation workshop report Nov 2023) (Annex 5.16). The UNEP-WCMC team held discussions with representatives from GSS, EPA, the Fisheries Commission on the account production. 3.2: The 3 rd stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 20 th March 2024 with 76 participants. The workshop, initially scheduled for November 2023, had to accommodate the availability of national stakeholders and partners. This stakeholder consultation workshop also planned to consult the draft demonstration accounts which became available for consultation in mid-March 2024. Consequently, the project schedule was adjusted while staying within the project's overall timeline (Annex 5.7).
Activity 3.1: Priority theme for demonstration accounts agreed		The project team conducted a policy exercise at the inception stakeholder consultation workshop held in January 2023, and further discussed and validated the priority themes at the 2 nd Stakeholder Consultation workshop (Annex 5.12, 5.2)
Activity 3.2: Methodological note drafted		The methodological note was drafted and approved (Annex 5.9).

Activity 3.3: Methodological note reviewed by relevant agencies	The methodological note was reviewed by participants in the data stakeholder consultation workshop in November 2023 (Annex 5.16).	
Activity 3.4: Metadata report produced	The metadata report was produced and approved (Annex 5.24).	
Activity 3.5: Accounts produced	The accounts were produced and approved (Annex 5.3)	
Activity 3.6: Stakeholder workshop to build capacity for producing and using the demonstration accounts, and build support for advancing NCA within Ghana	The 3 rd consultation workshop was convened in March 2024 to consult the demonstration accounts and launch the national plan for NCA for implementation in Ghana (Annex 5.7).	
Output 4. A clear strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA is developed through a participatory process, ensuring the uptake and success of Output 2 to catalyse continued development of NCA in Ghana.	<p>4.1: Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in this session of the workshop by Q3 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>4.2: Total value of potential resources identified for NCA by Q4 FY 2023/24 (baseline: 0; Target: £100,000)</p>	<p>4.1 The 3rd stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 20th March 2024 with 76 participants. The stakeholder consultation workshop originally planned for the 3rd Quarter was rescheduled to cater for the availability of national partners and stakeholders (Annex 5.7).</p> <p>4.2 Resource mobilization included in the [REDACTED] (Annex 5.26). No commitments for budget allocation could be confirmed through publication for implementation by the government should warrant resources from national annual budgeting cycles.</p>
Activity 4.1: Strategy for implementing National Plan outlined	The Strategy outline was compiled and the project team consulted national partners.	
Activity 4.2: Session held at Stakeholder workshop (Activity 3.6) to agree on outline and elaborate strategy	the strategy outline was discussed with stakeholders through meetings, as the stakeholder consultation workshop was delayed.	
Activity 4.3: First draft strategy produced	The first draft was produced.	
Activity 4.4: Strategy reviewed by stakeholders	The strategy was reviewed by stakeholders including GSS and EPA (Annex 5.23)	
Activity 4.5: Strategy finalised	The strategy was consulted at the 3 rd stakeholder consultation workshop, finalized, approved and published [REDACTED]	

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Indicator number	Darwin Initiative Standard Indicator	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	Number of Stakeholders who attended training session	1	Not available for total		61	56	117	50
DI-C19	Number of other publications produced.	Number of publications accessible to stakeholders	1	No of Organizations that participated in contributing to the publication			6	6	6
DI-C19	Number of other publications produced.	Number of publications accessible to stakeholders	1	No of Organizations that participated in contributing to the publication			6	6	6
DI-C19	Number of other publications produced.	Number of publications accessible to stakeholders	1	No of Organizations that participated in contributing to the publication			7	7	7

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
National plan for NCA	Planning document	Bernice Ofosu-Baadu, Kwame Boakye Fredua, Kiruben Naicker, Qian Feng, Alina Vera Paz and Emma Calhoun ,2024	Female	Ghanian	Ghana Statistical Services	████████████████████
Natural Capital accounting Implementation Strategy	Strategy document	Bernice Ofosu-Baadu, Kwame Boakye Fredua, Kiruben Naicker, Qian Feng, Alina Vera Paz and Emma Calhoun	Female	Ghanian	Ghana Statistical Services	████████████████████

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Physical Flow & Asset Accounts for Fish & Aquatic Resources (2015-2022)	Report	GSS & Fisheries Commission	Not known	Ghanian	Ghana Statistical Services and Fisheries Commission	GSS & Fisheries to publish

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 13)?	No
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	