



SUPPORTING DECISION MAKING AND BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THROUGH NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

Objective:

- To increase individual and institutional capacity to undertake policy-relevant national ecosystem assessments;
- To mainstream findings into decision-making at different scales, through the development and use of associated policy support tools.

Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 12.1, 12.6 and 12.8: Promote responsible consumption and production through engagement with key production sectors to raise awareness of sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- SDG 14.1, 14.2: Promote opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources for sustainable development by using policy to manage consumption of marine resources and strengthen their resilience ;
- SDG 15.5 and 15.9: Support and encourage the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems through better access to relevant, credible and legitimate information for policy makers.

Contribution towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

National ecosystem assessments can address many of the Aichi targets and it will depend on the scope and policy relevant questions identified by countries. However, the three key Aichi Targets, which will be addressed in the programme are:

- Target 14: Restore and safeguard ecosystem services for human wellbeing including women and indigenous and local communities;
- Target 15: Promote opportunity for biodiversity and ecosystem restoration and contribute to climate adaptation;
- Target 19: Share, transfer and apply the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss.

Project results

UNEP-WCMC is currently supporting eight countries (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Grenada and Viet Nam) to undertake national ecosystem assessments. The long term impacts of the programme are felt across multiple scales as follows:

- At the **national scale**, the assessment findings will be important inputs to policy and decision making, as well as in terms of planning, implementation and reporting for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The project is expected to leave a lasting legacy through the establishment of a national platform in each country that can actively bring together stakeholders regularly to discuss relevant issues. Furthermore, countries will have the necessary capacity to repeat the assessment exercise, if appropriate, in the future.
- At the **regional level**, the community of practice developed through the current national ecosystem assessment work can be directly disseminated to other countries within their respective regions. This not only enhances the capacity of the region as a whole, but links to ongoing global efforts to mobilise data and information for biodiversity and ecosystem services, for example the IPBES Regional Assessments and the Global Biodiversity Outlook reports.
- At the global level, the capacity built at the national level will be available in the longer term to help implement future activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions and processes. The knowledge management, communication of training materials and lessons learned gained through the programme will allow other countries to understand the benefits of undertaking a national ecosystem assessment and replicate these activities in their own contexts in a harmonised and comparable way using robust scientific methodologies.



Contact

Abigail Burns: Abigail.burns@unep-wcmc.org



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Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety