

2018 Government Dialogue on Natural Capital

Proposed approach for the three workstreams (roadmap, roles, and actions)

30 April 2018

1. Introduction

On 27 November 2017 the inaugural Government Dialogue on Natural Capital took place at the 3rd World Forum on Natural Capital in Edinburgh. Four key areas for collaboration were identified (natural capital accounting, collaboration, sharing of best practices and developing a positive narrative) and it was agreed to meet again after one year.¹

This document outlines the way forward and presents a roadmap towards the 2018 Government Dialogue on Natural Capital. It introduces workstreams to prepare for this 2nd Dialogue and outlines the roles and actions that are needed.

Aim of the Government Dialogue on Natural Capital

- Provide a platform for governments to explore, understand and strengthen the role of national governments and their interaction with the private sector in up-scaling and mainstreaming natural capital approaches.
- Share experiences of governments in creating an enabling environment for natural capital approaches in both the public and private sector, that can help to achieve an inclusive economy within planetary boundaries.
- Collaborate on concrete actions with the aim to strengthening the enabling role of governments around the world with respect to natural capital approaches.

2. Workstreams and roadmap for 2018

The work ahead will be organized in three workstreams, that focus on the issues identified in Edinburgh:

- **Workstream 1: Accounting**
Link national natural capital accounting with corporate natural capital assessment
- **Workstream 2: Practice**
Increase collaboration by government agencies and businesses (both nationally and internationally) and use existing online platforms to share best practices
- **Workstream 3: Narrative**
Develop a positive natural capital narrative

Table 1 summarizes a proposed roadmap towards the 2018 Government Dialogue.

¹ See *Government Dialogue on Enabling Natural Capital Approaches – [Summary Report](#)*.

Table 1 Proposed Roadmap

Jan – Apr 2018	Apr – Jun 2018	Jun – Oct 2018	Nov 2018
Preparation			
	Defining concrete actions and results for each workstream		
		Delivery of results	
			2 nd Government Dialogue

The proposal is to organize the 2nd Government Dialogue on 26-27 November in Paris (France), together with the 3rd WAVES Policy Forum and the meeting of the NCC Combining Forces initiative. It will be organized back to back with the 2018 Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum and 6th Annual Conference of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP, 27-29 November), GGKP Working Group on Natural Capital (29 November), NCC Collaboration (28 November) and EU Platform B@B (29 November).

3. Roles and tasks

For each of the workstreams a working group will be set up consisting of the governments and non-government partners that have indicated their interest to participate. Each of these workstreams will be guided by a lead-country in collaboration with lead-partners (non-government). By teaming up a government and non-government partners the aim is to strengthen the collaboration across sectors and the effectiveness of the Government Dialogue.

The respective roles within the workstreams can be summarized as follows:

- Workstream lead-country:
 - Convenes the working group at least two times in the period between April and October 2018 (in person or by teleconference)
 - Takes the lead in defining concrete actions and results for the working group in 2018, based on the suggestions made at the 1st Government Dialogue (see factsheets)
 - Guides the working group in delivering the results by the end of October 2018
 - Informs interested governments and partners on progress and (intermediate) results
- Workstream lead-partners:
 - Collaborate with the lead government in its tasks and deliverance of the results
- Working group members
 - Contribute to the definition and delivery of concrete actions and results for 2018

Table 2 outlines for each of the workstreams the lead country, lead partner and who will make up the working group. It also includes a list of countries and organizations who would like to be kept informed on progress and (intermediary) results by the workstream-lead. The proposed division of roles is based on nominations received by governments and non-government partners, and aims to reflect a geographical spread.

Table 2 Leads and Working Group Members of the three workstreams

Workstream	Proposed lead-country and –partner(s)	Working Group members	To be informed
1. Accounting	Australia ICAEW	Botswana, France, Ghana, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa European Commission, GDSA, IUCN, Natural Capital Coalition	Ghana, Malaysia, Namibia, United Kingdom Green Economy Coalition
2. Practice	South Africa NCC, CISL, Netherlands and GDSA	Australia, Ghana, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, European Commission, GDSA, GEC, IUCN, NCC	France, Ghana, Malaysia, Namibia, United Kingdom
3. Narrative	Netherlands Green Economy Coalition Worldbank Group	Botswana, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom CISL, European Commission, GEC, ICAEW, IUCN, NCC	Australia, France, Ghana, Malaysia, Namibia

In addition to the workstreams a Preparation Team will be set up in collaboration with the WAVES Programme team, to prepare the 2018 Government Dialogue and 3rd WAVES Policy Forum, to prepare a consistent and aligned programme for the meeting in November. The Preparation Team will be lead by the Dutch Government and World Bank Group, in collaboration with the Natural Capital Coalition. The lead countries and lead-partners of the three workstreams will also be members of the Preparation Team. In order to ensure consistency and good collaboration with related efforts the International Finance Corporation, European Commission, Secretariat of the Gabarone Declaration, Secretariat of the CBD and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature will be invited to participate. The respective roles within the Team can be summarized as follows:

- Lead-country for the preparation of the 2nd Government Dialogue:
 - Convenes the Preparation Team at least every three months (in person or by teleconference)
 - Takes the lead in defining the program for the 2018 Government Dialogue
- Lead-partner for the preparation of the 2nd Government Dialogue:
 - Collaborates with the lead government in its tasks and in the deliverance of the results
- Members of the Preparation Team
 - Contribute to developing the program of the 2nd Government Dialogue

Table 3 Leads and Working Group Members of the Preparation Team

Proposed lead-country and -partner	Working Group members
Netherlands and World Bank Group (WAVES Programme) Natural Capital Coalition	Australia, South Africa, ICAEW, Green Economy Coalition European Commission, IFC, GDSA Secretariat, CBD Secretariat, IUCN

Attached to this document are three factsheets with practical information for the three workstreams.

Annex: Factsheets for the three workstreams

Workstream 1: Accounting

Brief description

This workstream focuses on the links between natural capital accounting by governments and the private sector, using existing frameworks such as the UN-SEEA (governments) and the Natural Capital Protocol (business). This issue is also addressed in the paper ‘Combining forces on Natural Capital’ that the Natural Capital Coalition and IDEEA-Group launched at the World Forum: “While it’s true that businesses and governments often have different aims when it comes to natural capital approaches, and are attempting to capture different kinds of information, it’s clear that the work undertaken by governments can be hugely useful to that of businesses, and vice versa.”² By exploring how national and corporate approaches could be linked and business and government could complement and challenge each other, quality and availability of data on natural capital impacts and dependencies can be improved.

Possible actions

- Share country or regional experiences in linking business and government experiences with natural capital accounting practice
- Strengthen collaboration with Natural Capital Coalition, IDEEA-Group, WAVES Program and others in the context of the ‘Combining Forces’ initiative
- Determine how data from national accounts and corporate natural capital assessment can be integrated, such that their interaction can be measured.

Working Group

Lead-country Australia

Lead-partner ICAEW

Participants Botswana, France, Ghana, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa
European Commission, GDSA, IUCN, Natural Capital Coalition

Governments and partners to be informed

Malaysia, Namibia, United Kingdom

Green Economy Coalition

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² <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/projects/combining-forces-on-natural-capital/>

Workstream 2: Practice

Brief description

This workstream focuses on the need of governments to deepen the engagement between different agencies, with other governments and with businesses (both directly and through sector-level business associations) to explore alternative sustainability pathways and co-create new markets. This workstream on the short term (2018) will explore how governments can use existing online platforms to share practical examples of how they build natural capital leadership, enable different approaches and use hubs to support this. Existing online platforms that will be taken into account will include the Natural Capital Hub³, webpage of the Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy (as part of WAVES program)⁴ and the webpages of the EU Business@Biodiversity Platform⁵. On the longer term this workstream could include strengthening public-private collaboration in the context of (regional) platforms. Or the development of possible agreements (covenants) on joint ambitions and action plans for achieving sustainability transitions.

Possible actions

Short term (2018)

- Explore opportunities using existing hubs for sharing practices (e.g. business and policy case studies) by critically reviewing their power to reach a range of audiences.
- Liaise with the UN, EU, GDSA and other international bodies to align with their efforts to streamline the use of international hubs for sharing expertise on Natural Capital.
- Develop a government natural capital hub, if appropriate and possible building on an existing hub, to which countries are invited to share and exchange their natural capital approaches and practices.

Longer term

- Share country and/or regional experiences with collaboration at sectoral levels, to determine what works and what does not, and suggest ways forward.
- Reach out to relevant international sector organizations for input to in-country initiatives (e.g. in sectors where Natural Capital Protocol Sector Guides are available or under development).
- Jointly develop sector-level plans that support businesses in viewing natural capital as an asset and enable them to move “beyond compliance”.
- Set up (regional) platforms for collaboration of business, governments and NGOs around natural capital.

Working Group

<i>Lead-country</i>	South Africa
<i>Lead-partner</i>	NCC (development of format and invitation to share best practices), supported by Netherlands and GDSA (reaching out to and supporting deliverance of best practices in Europe respectively Africa) and CISL.
<i>Participants</i>	Australia, Ghana, Japan, Nigeria, United Kingdom, South Africa European Commission, GEC, IUCN

Governments and partners to be informed

France, Malaysia, Namibia

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³ <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/hub/>

⁴ <https://www.wavespartnership.org/en/2nd-forum-natural-capital-accounting-better-policy>

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/index_en.htm

Workstream 3: Narrative

Brief description

This workstream focuses on the need for a positive natural capital narrative to capitalize on the enormous potential the natural capital concept has to accelerate and guide transformative economic changes. A positive narrative would include a vision on a natural capital positive economy as well as how natural capital approaches over time will help to realize this. Such a narrative is necessary to ensure that natural capital approaches are viewed as being worthwhile, and where governments have not previously tried specific approaches before then they are encouraged to do so. The narrative should be based on robust scientific evidence, data and tools, and should align with other global initiatives such as the SDGs and 2°C climate target to deliver an integrated message. An interesting opportunity could be to collaborate with the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), that recently launched an Expert Group on Natural Capital that also identified the development of a joint narrative as one of its priorities.

Possible actions

- Systematically support and promote pilot studies which demonstrate the added value of using natural capital approaches in related policy areas, like green economy, green growth, SDGs or circular economy.
- Jointly develop an integrating vision and storyline to link natural capital, circular economy, blue/green economy and SDG concepts.
- Liaise and collaborate with the GGKP-Expert Group on Natural Capital.
- Seek to hold the physical meeting to discuss the first draft narrative at UN PAGE Ministerial meeting, 3rd and 4th September, Durban, South Africa.

Working Group

<i>Lead-country</i>	Netherlands
<i>Lead-partner</i>	Green Economy Coalition World Bank Group
<i>Participants</i>	Germany, Ghana, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, United Kingdom CISL, European Commission, ICAEW, IUCN, NCC

Governments and partners to be informed

Australia, France, Malaysia, Namibia

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