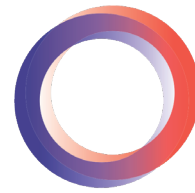




SAHARA
AND SAHEL
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AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



Copernicea

*Regional Cooperation for New Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting
Indicators in Africa*



POLICY BRIEF



Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting - ENCA | Relevance



Wherever you go in this world, ecosystems are being lost and degraded at a breathtaking pace, causing serious economic, societal and environmental damage and threatening the security and stability of the populations. For this “natural capital” to be protected, reliable tools need to be established, they would make it possible to assess the benefits and services of this capital and provide useful data for decision-making at all levels.

In 2014, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) developed a Quick Start Toolkit (QST) for Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting (ENCA), that lays the foundations for the methodological implementation of ecosystem accounts on a simplified model.

March 5, 2021, was the day the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) -

Experimental Ecosystem Accounting was considered an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission, thus promoting a sustainable development program for biodiversity.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 is part of this endeavour and calls upon all countries of the world to come as one to protect nature and human beings. It aims to align with the objectives of the global development agendas and put an end to the degradation of ecosystems and to restore them.

Natural capital accounting serving the decade on ecosystem restoration

Copernicea The project

Copernicea is a project that works on **operationally filling** the lack of ecosystem quantification, with the aim of spatio-temporally monitoring the ecosystem services condition.

Copernicea is initially **implemented** in six French-speaking African countries, namely: Burkina-Faso, Guinea-Conakry, Morocco, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia.

Copernicea **designs** a self-governing and operational system (methods, tools, skills and organization) of Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting (ENCA), for the benefit of a national and regional information sharing and exchanging network.

Copernicea **works** for:

- The institutional strengthening and establishment of structures at regional and national levels;
- The creation of the ENCA operational infrastructure;
- The capacity building of the account development stakeholders;
- The communication and integration of the ecosystem accounts as sustainable development indicators.

Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting - ENCA | Approach

The ENCA is a geo-referenced and multi-criteria tool that relies on the biophysical accounting of accessible resources, in a simplified ecosystem by integrating two types of accounts:

- Basic accounts that provide an index of the ecosystem sustainability and condition, as well as the estimation of its average ecological value, such as land cover, freshwater ecosystem, biocarbon and ecosystem services infrastructure accounts;
- Ecosystem natural capital capability account that integrates the freshwater, biocarbon and infrastructure accounts.

All these accounts are summarized in a composite index of total ecosystem accounting and are expressed in Ecosystem Capability Unit (ECU).



Copernicea Purpose

- Establish a national, regional and continental network for sharing and exchanging operational and sustainable ENCA geographical information and data;
- Foster the decision-making and planning process to promote the ecosystem service value inclusion in national plans; and
- Capacity building of the national institutions for a sustainable management of the natural capital, through nature-based solutions.

Copernicea

The outcomes

Establishment of a national and regional sharing and exchanging network

- A “hub” for technical support and national and regional cooperation;
- A pool of ENCA international experts;
- National technical units;
- An ENCA-dedicated regional platform.

Experts capacity building

- 100 African experts trained;
- 7 sessions, 30 days of training.

Production of continental ecosystem accounts (AFRIK'ENCA)

- Establishment of an infrastructure of data from international/regional sources;
- Development of a multi-scale database for the account production;
- Development of basic ecosystem accounts (Land cover, infrastructure service, carbon, water and total ecosystem capability).

Dissemination of the ENCA concept

- ENCA popularization video;
- International events for the ENCA approach promotion.

Next milestones for Copernicea

- Implementation of a multi-stakeholder and multi-source cooperative platform (geoportal)
- of the basic ecosystem accounts;
- Analysis and promotion of the outcomes of the continental ENCA accounts;
- Development of national ENCA accounts;
- Organization of training sessions at national level;
- Development of national studies for the establishment of the databases necessary for the production of ENCA accounts at country level;
- Design and distribution of training modules for the academic community.

