

October 26, 2022

Strengthening the Capacity for Measuring and Valuing Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services for Improved Policy, Development, and Investment Planning in Ghana

[Seminar Recording](#) | [Presentation](#)



Tropical river Volta in Ghana | Photo credit: Sopotnicki/Shutterstock

Remarkable economic growth over the past few decades has come at a high environmental cost for countries like Ghana. Unsustainable use of natural resources due to increased economic activity threatens future opportunities for sustained growth and shared prosperity. Competing land uses for agriculture, mining, and forest utilization are the underlying drivers of land and environmental degradation that lead to continuous loss of natural capital for future generations. The deterioration of natural capital amplifies climate risks and disproportionately exacerbates poverty among vulnerable resource-dependent communities in Ghana.

The Government of Ghana has demonstrated commitment to natural resources management reform through the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance program (a multi-year and multi-sectoral program that was supported by the World Bank and other development partners). Datasets on land, forest, land cover, and minerals currently exist, however, information available on the contribution and value of natural capital remains limited. The [Global Program for Sustainability](#) (GPS) will support Ghana to develop a fuller set of natural capital accounts for land, forest resources, and ecosystem services, and use that information for policy, development, and investment planning.

The seminar discussed how the GPS Grant will strengthen Ghana's capacity for measuring and valuing natural capital and ecosystem services particularly in priority conservation and restoration areas to inform the design and implementation of greener, inclusive, and climate-resilient policies and investments such as the Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project.

Speakers:



Christine Asare, Deputy Executive Director/General Services, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana

Dr Christine Asare is a highly profiled expert in the environment and natural resource sector with over 3 decades (33 years) of experience in the field. She is a specialist in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), environmental governance, sustainability, environmental law, gender mainstreaming and international negotiations. As a key resource person with adept knowledge in the sectors, she has spearheaded and guided the development of several training programs in environmental management and the coordination of Strategic Environmental Assessment of national programs such as Ghana's Poverty Reduction Strategy and Ghana Environmental Assessment Support

Project (GEASP). Her expert counsel has also led to dynamic and strategic actions in the renewable and bioenergy, water, transport, and oil and gas sectors in Ghana. Dr Asare is a “Champion” of natural capital accounting and environment statistics within the Government of Ghana. Her work continues to stress and advocate the production and use of environmental-related data and research at all levels of decision-making in Ghana. She is also a pacesetter in the mainstreaming of the environment into national development planning processes and supported several national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7. She was the Deputy National Focal Person for Rio+20 and lead negotiator for Ghana as part of the G77 plus China Group. She also served as the National Focal Person for the Intergovernmental Process for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as the coordinator of the Natural Resources Environmental Governance (NREG) Program (2005/2018). Dr Asare is an experienced Lawyer in good standing with the legal fraternity in Ghana. She is a firm believer in women's empowerment. Christine has been an Executive member of the EPA Management Team for the past fifteen (15) years and a governing board member of the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) in Ghana. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law from Tufts University, U.S.A; a Master of Arts Degree in Environmental Management from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom; and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Ghana, Legon.



Kwame Fredua, Principal Program Officer/Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana

Kwame has over a decade's experience in environmental economics and natural resource management. He has, over this period, garnered expertise in varied sectors such as green economy and climate change mainstreaming and natural resource governance, environmental assessments, program and project coordination, natural capital accounting, environment statistics, economic and public policy management, analyses, monitoring and evaluation,

research, financial management and sustainability assessments. He has also played key coordinating roles and has been the driver of several stakeholder and community engagement programs at national, sector and district levels. These projects cut across different sectors such as oil and gas developments, renewables, tourism investments, environmental fiscal reform, development planning, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystems valuation, among others. Kwame is currently coordinating efforts on estimating the cost of environmental degradation, valuation of ecosystems in the context of natural capital accounting, and other environmental data and statistics activities at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He played several complementary roles at the national level leading to Ghana's ratification of the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the formulation and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He is an expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the National Focal Point for the African Community of Practice on Natural Capital Accounting coordinated by the World Bank. He has authored and co-authored several publications and technical reports in the environment and sustainability space. He has academic degrees in Economics, and Economic Policy Management (EPM) and is currently pursuing Doctoral studies in Environmental Science at the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS), University of Ghana, Legon.

Discussant:



Raffaello Cervigni, Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank

A native of Italy, Cervigni has led the water resource management, natural resource management, and disaster risk management communities within the Africa region. His areas of expertise are environmental economics, adaptation to climate change, low carbon development, and regional development. Cervigni has been with the World Bank for more than 21 years and

prior to his current position, he was the senior natural resources management specialist in the Middle East and North Africa region. He joined the World Bank as a research assistant and has experience working in the regions as well as the central environment unit. Before joining the Bank, Cervigni worked in the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance as a coordinator in the project evaluation division. He was also a research associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment based at the University of East Anglia. Cervigni holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of London as well as a Master of philosophy majoring in economics from the University of Oxford.