



Integrating environmental sustainability into decision making by providing policy makers and the financial sector with economic data and tools for valuing natural capital and ecosystem services.

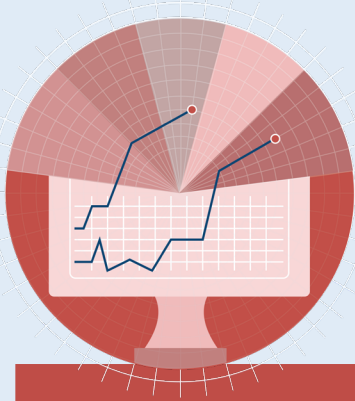
THE GLOBAL PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABILITY

The depletion of a country's natural capital hinders poverty reduction and achievement of sustainable development goals. Environmental assets, such as forests or fisheries, and ecosystem services, such as water filtration and carbon sequestration, are critical for human well-being and provide significant economic and social benefits. Understanding the value of a country's natural capital assets is the key to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

[The Global Program on Sustainability \(GPS\)](#) is a World Bank-led Umbrella Program that aims to integrate sustainability considerations into policies and decision making through the provision of data, metrics and tools. This approach looks beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and traditional financial metrics to account for environmental risks and opportunities.

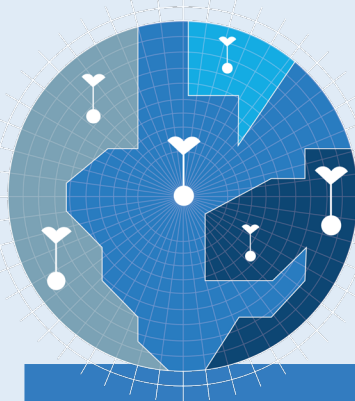
GPS provides high quality data on stocks and flows of natural resources and ecosystem services, helping countries analyze nature loss risks and opportunities from the sustainable management of natural capital.





GLOBAL DATA AND ANALYTICS

Measuring and mainstreaming sustainability considerations into policy and investment decisions by improving and publishing global data and analytics on the values of natural capital and ecosystem services. This includes supporting pioneering quantitative analysis that models the interaction of ecosystem services, economic systems and public policies at a national and global scale.



COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LEVEL SUPPORT

Enhancing the capacity of countries to produce and use natural capital data and analytics in policy and planning. This includes building natural capital accounts, assisting with the design and implementation of sustainability policies and programs, and working with partners to strengthen cooperation and knowledge-sharing in natural capital accounting and its uses in decision making.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Conducting research and developing data and tools to integrate environmental considerations, such as the value of natural assets, into financial markets. This includes helping governments and financial institutions, such as central banks and regulators, in developing policy and regulatory approaches that align financial flows with sustainability goals and better integrate nature into investment decision making.

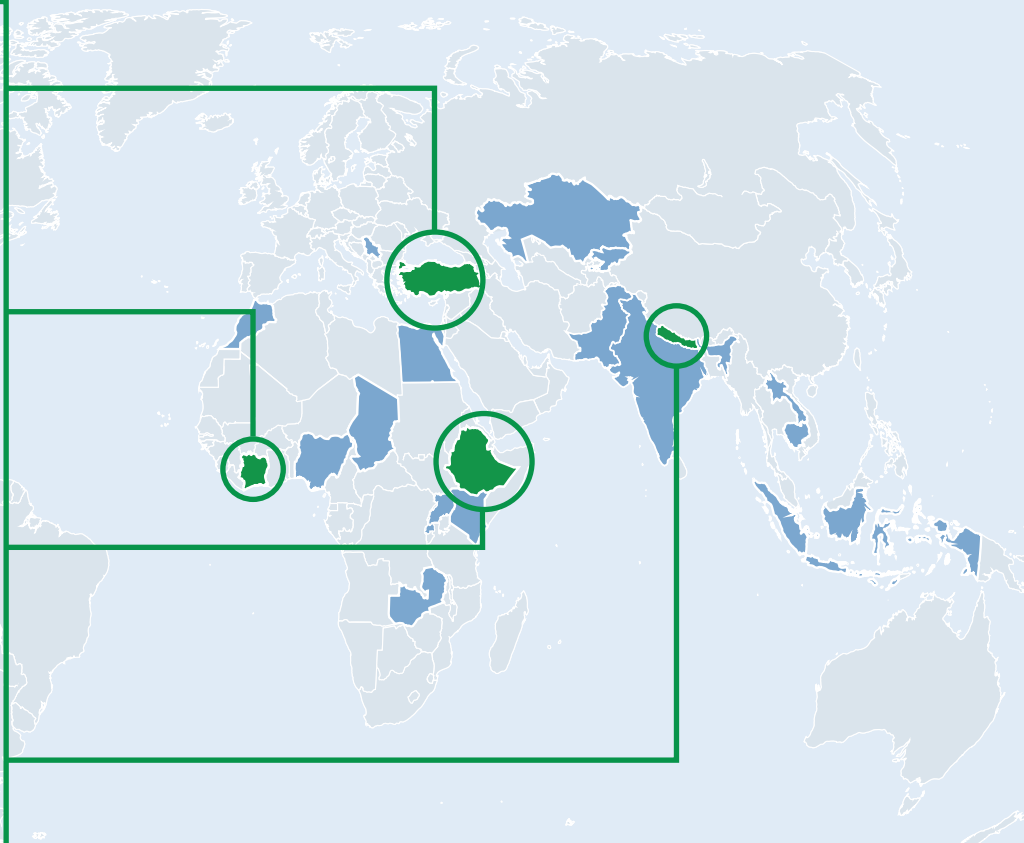
GPS engages with 25 countries by supporting efforts to integrate natural capital and ecosystem services into investment and policy decisions. GPS will also directly inform the design and implementation of World Bank projects in core implementing countries, including Ghana, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria and Türkiye.

Türkiye: increasing natural capital data in investment and policy decisions to support the transition to a circular economy.

Ghana: building local capacity to measure and value natural capital and ecosystem services to support policy development and investment planning.

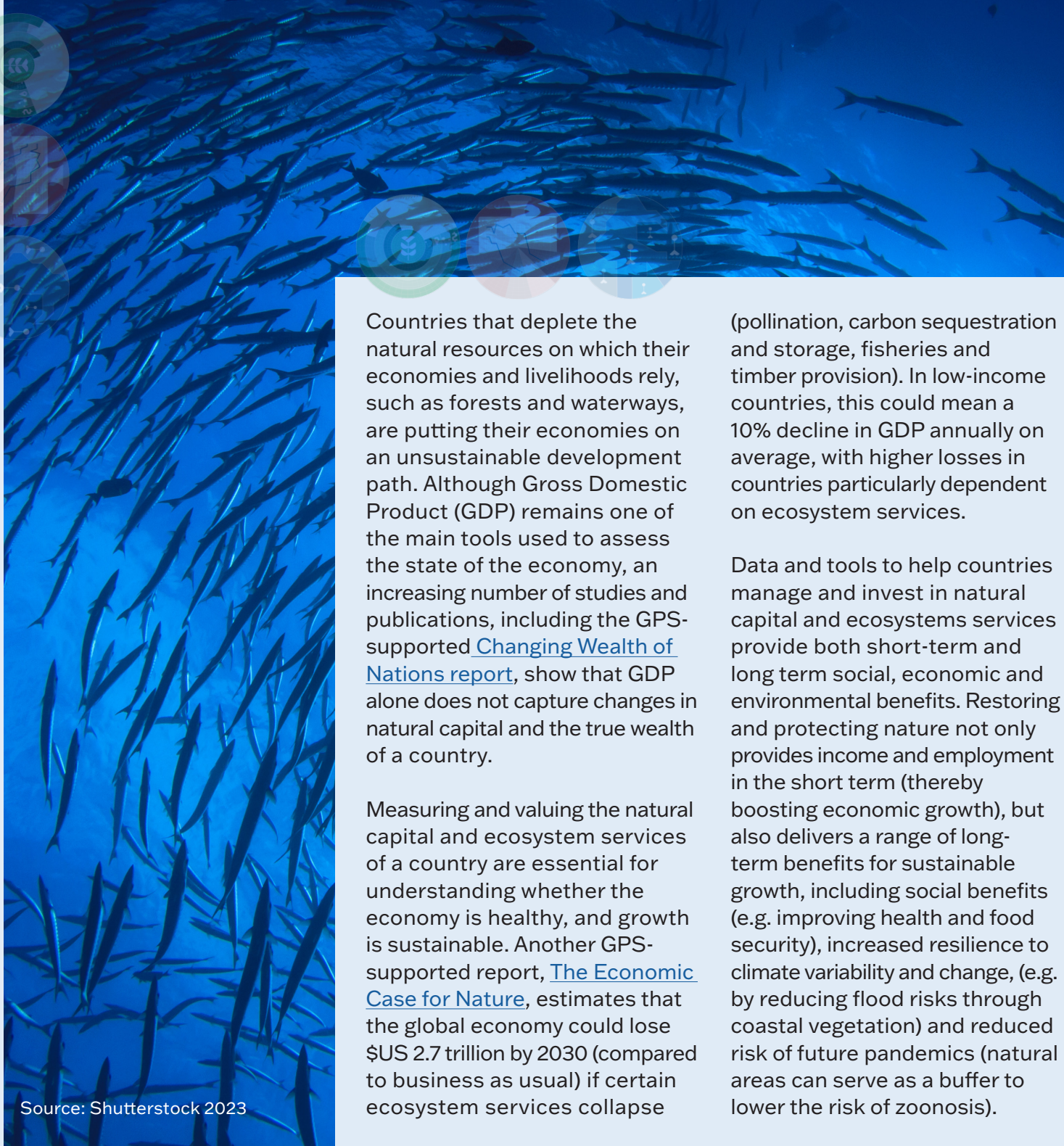
Ethiopia: supporting natural capital account development and their integration into policy decisions to inform climate resilient, low carbon programs.

Nepal: generating data and analytics to inform forest management plans and support forest-related revenue sharing.



NATURAL CAPITAL & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Natural capital refers to resources that come from nature, such as minerals, energy, forests, agricultural land, fisheries and fresh water. This includes **services provided by ecosystems** that our health and livelihoods rely on—air and water filtration, carbon storage, and crop pollination for example. Since natural capital and ecosystem services are not usually valued and recognized in financial markets, the contributions of nature to economies are often neglected and overlooked.



Countries that deplete the natural resources on which their economies and livelihoods rely, such as forests and waterways, are putting their economies on an unsustainable development path. Although Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remains one of the main tools used to assess the state of the economy, an increasing number of studies and publications, including the GPS-supported [Changing Wealth of Nations report](#), show that GDP alone does not capture changes in natural capital and the true wealth of a country.

Measuring and valuing the natural capital and ecosystem services of a country are essential for understanding whether the economy is healthy, and growth is sustainable. Another GPS-supported report, [The Economic Case for Nature](#), estimates that the global economy could lose \$US 2.7 trillion by 2030 (compared to business as usual) if certain ecosystem services collapse

(pollination, carbon sequestration and storage, fisheries and timber provision). In low-income countries, this could mean a 10% decline in GDP annually on average, with higher losses in countries particularly dependent on ecosystem services.

Data and tools to help countries manage and invest in natural capital and ecosystems services provide both short-term and long term social, economic and environmental benefits. Restoring and protecting nature not only provides income and employment in the short term (thereby boosting economic growth), but also delivers a range of long-term benefits for sustainable growth, including social benefits (e.g. improving health and food security), increased resilience to climate variability and change, (e.g. by reducing flood risks through coastal vegetation) and reduced risk of future pandemics (natural areas can serve as a buffer to lower the risk of zoonosis).

IMPACT & COLLABORATION

GPS builds on nearly a decade of experience from the [Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services \(WAVES\)](#), a global partnership that piloted the development of natural capital accounts and their use for policy purposes in twelve countries from 2012-2020. To date, WAVES, WAVES plus and GPS have helped over 40 countries measure and value natural capital and ecosystem services and integrate sustainability into development, informing various policy and investment decisions around the world.

As governments and the financial sector expand the scope of risks and opportunities they face beyond climate change, GPS is helping these institutions take practical steps to assess and manage nature-

related risks and opportunities. GPS collaborations include organizations such as the [UNSD](#), [Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action](#) and the [Network for Greening the Financial System](#).

GPS data and analysis have been widely used and quoted, including in the highly influential [Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity](#), and financial sector data and product providers have incorporated GPS analysis and recommendations into their offerings. GPS has also contributed to the global dialogue leading up to [COP-15](#) and the Global Biodiversity Framework, the on-going development of the [Biodiversity Pledge](#) and [Nature Action 100+](#) investor engagement approach and the [Sovereign ESG Data Portal](#).

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

[The Changing Wealth of Nations](#)

[Mobilizing Private Finance for Nature](#)

[The Economic Case for Nature](#)

[Unlocking Nature-Smart Development: An Approach Paper on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)

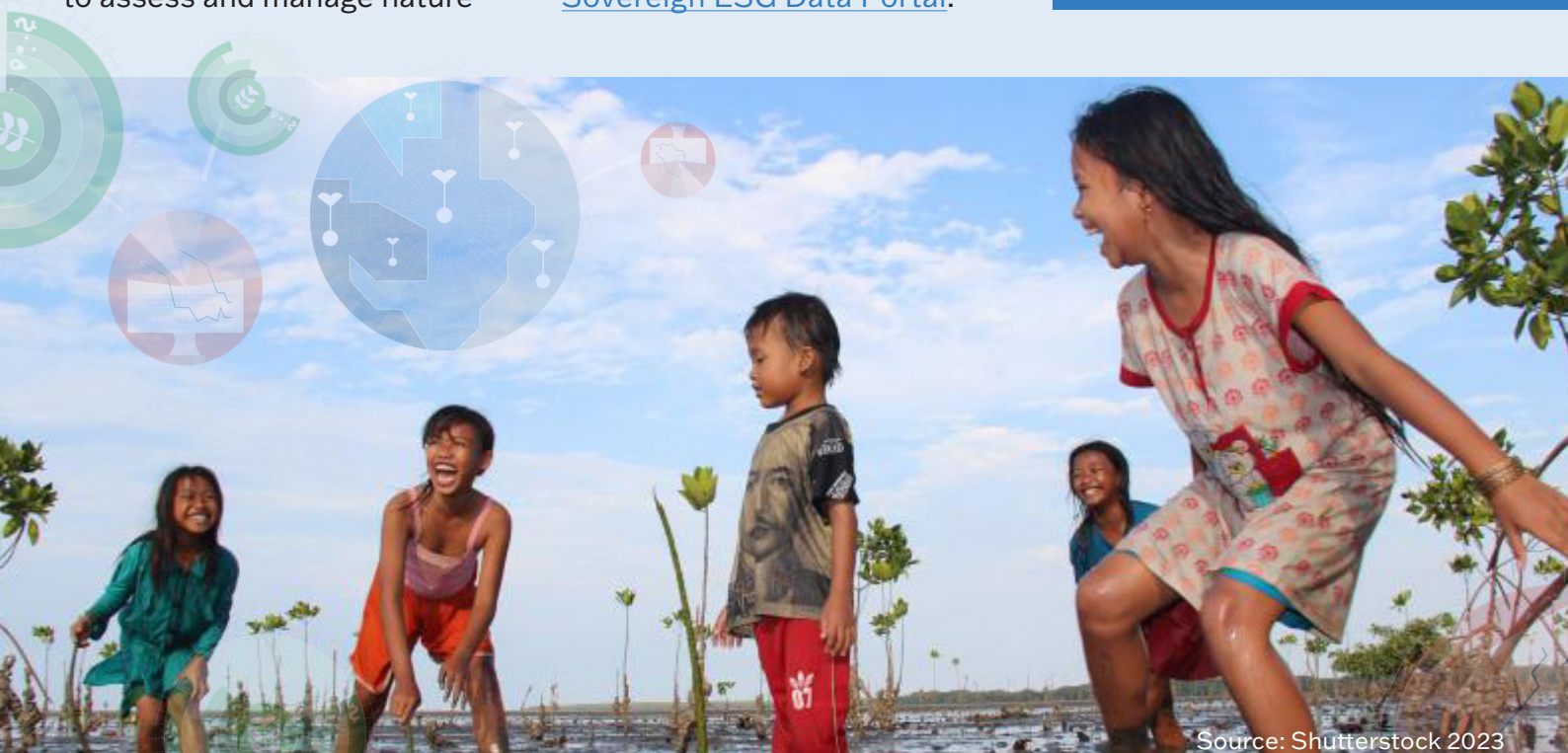
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