

## Forum for the Exchange of Knowledge on the Valuation of Ecosystem Services: The Cases of Mexico, Uganda and Zambia

### [Seminar Recording](#)

**Presentations:** [Mexico](#) (in Spanish) | [Mexico](#) | [Uganda](#) | [Zambia](#)

Mexico's Report: [Valoración de Servicios Ecosistémicos Clave en Cuencas de México Reporte Final](#) (in Spanish)



*Sumidero Canyon, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico | Photo credit: sunsinger/Shutterstock*

South-South cooperation is an opportunity to achieve the objectives of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which seeks to end hunger, poverty and counteract the consequences of climate change. Such cooperation leads to new ideas, exchanges of experiences, and is a means to encourage the voices of the Global South. It also promotes innovation and sustainable development, through technical cooperation between countries particularly vulnerable to climate change.

This South-South forum presented the advances and experiences of Mexico, Uganda and Zambia in the valuation of ecosystem services (VES) within the framework of the [Global Program on Sustainability](#) (GPS) of the

World Bank. Each country presented results from a case study, followed by discussion of their perspectives on VES for strengthening environmental, climate and development policies in the Global South.

## Speakers



**Agustín Ávila Romero, General Director, Policies for Climate Action, Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources and Head of the Office, General Directorate, National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change**

Agustín Ávila Romero holds a degree in economics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and a master's degree and doctorate in rural development from the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM). He has taught at several national and international universities. Agustín is the author of more than 30 scientific articles, published in journals in the United States, Europe, and several Central and South American countries, as well as the author of the book "Decoloniality and good living". He is a defender of biocultural heritage and a promoter of the human rights of indigenous communities in Mexico. He was General Director of Productive Options in the Welfare Secretariat, from where he promoted processes of social and solidarity economy at the local and national levels. He is currently General Director of Policies for Climate Action of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and Head of the Office of the General Directorate of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), from where he promotes the climate agenda with a focus on social and environmental justice.



**María del Pilar Salazar Vargas, Director of Environmental Economics and Natural Resources, National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), Government of Mexico**

María del Pilar Salazar Vargas is the Director of Environmental Economics and Natural Resources at the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), Government of Mexico. She has a degree in economics and a master's degree in integrated environmental management. Pilar has collaborated in economic, environmental, and climate research projects at the federal level, in academia, and in the private sector. Her experience covers monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to climate change, environmental economics, climate finance, economic valuation of ecosystem services, socioeconomic analysis of adaptation to climate change, and design of business models for sustainability in artisanal productive activities. She has several publications of his own and institutional publications.



**Debora Lithgow, Consultant, Instituto de Ecología, A.C.**

Debora Lithgow is a Researcher at the Instituto de Ecología, A.C (INECOL) and a Consultant for the GPS grant, World Bank in Mexico. Her research focuses on the design of strategies to recover key ecosystem services. Therefore, she specializes in decision-making systems, valuation of ecosystem services, and Nature-Based Solutions. Debora has participated in more than 20 articles, 14 books, and ten chapters and is a member of the National System of Researchers of Mexico.



**Raúl Figueroa Díaz, Director of Satellite Accounts, National Institute of Statistics and Geography and Technical Secretary, Specialized Technical Committee on Economic Statistics of the Tourism Sector**

Mr. Figueroa Díaz studied economics and applied mathematics in the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He serves as Director of Satellite Accounts at the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and as Technical Secretary of the Specialized Technical Committee on Economic Statistics of the Tourism Sector (SNIEG). He has participated as a panelist in various national and international meetings and conferences related to satellite accounts; and as a member of International Expert Groups such as the “Committee on Statistics and Tourism Accounts” and the “Expert Group Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism” (both from UNWTO); the “London Group on Environmental Accounting”, the “UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting”, “Expert Workshop on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”, the “Ulaanbaatar Group for economies based on mineral resources”; the “Task Force on Indicators for a Strong, Resilient, Green and Inclusive Recovery”; among others. He supported the coordination of the technical work for the implementation of Ecosystem Accounting in Mexico. As part of the ProBlue project, he is currently participating in the work for the development of the Ocean Accounts in Mexico. He has been the author/collaborator of some documents related to satellite accounting.



**Stanley Nkhuwa, Coordinating Officer, Natural Capital Accounting for Zambia, Ministry of Finance and National Planning**

Stanley Nkhuwa is Coordinating Officer of the Zambia Natural Capital Accounting Programme in Zambia since 2020. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from the University of Namibia. With over 10 years of experience in Development Planning and Coordination both at National and Sub-National Levels, Stanley Nkhuwa has developed competences in National Development

Planning, Coordination, Resource Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships.



**Hildah Arinaitwe, Senior Statistician, Satellite Accounts Statistics Directorate, Uganda Bureau of Statistics**

Hildah Arinaitwe is an experienced statistician with demonstrated skills in statistical analysis, forecasting quarterly and annual national economic performance, nation-wide research project management—from conceptualization, design, implementation, data collection and statistical analysis. She presented at multiple international statistical conferences representing the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, including the Regional Seminar on the compilation and application of Environmentally Extended Supply and Use Tables (EE-SUT's) in Pretoria, South Africa 2018 and more recently the symposium on “measuring the sustainability of tourism – pioneering pilots in countries” and 3rd meeting of the expert group on measuring the sustainability of tourism in Madrid, Spain 2022.



**Linda Mungalu Mukuba Siwale, Director Planning and Information and Coordinating Officer, Lands Natural Capital Accounting for Zambia, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources**

Linda Mungalu Mukuba Siwale has worked for 28 years in various Government and Donor Institutions and over 10 years in Senior Government positions having served as Senior Planner in the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Principal Planner and Chief Planner in the Ministry of National Development in Southern Province and Ministry of Tourism and Arts. She has completed Training of trainers course in mainstreaming bio financing in public service project planning; Natural capital for better decision making in financing nature in Botswana course and Gender mainstreaming and leadership training. She undertook training in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a SIDA funded training in Sweden in 2017. Linda has a Master of Science Degree

in Project Management from the University of Lusaka and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Development Studies with Economics from the University of Zambia. A well-researched and analytical personality. She has a vast experience in the decentralization process having effectively being a team leader, Liaison and Provincial Coordinator under the German Technical Cooperation, Support to Decentralized Rural Development Programme. Linda is currently is responsible for the overall coordination of planning, budgeting, project implementation and monitoring and evaluation in the Ministry.

## **Agenda**

**9:00 am** - Opening Remarks

**Mr. Agustín Ávila Romero**, Director General of Climate Action Policies of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and in charge of the office of the General Directorate of National Institute for Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)

**Mr. Raffaello Cervigni**, Lead Environmental Economist, Manager of the World Bank's Global Program on Sustainability (GPS)

**9:15 – 9:40** *Economic valuation of ecosystem services in priority watersheds of Mexico in the context of CONECTA Project*

**Ms. María del Pilar Salazar Vargas**, Director of Environmental Economic and Natural Resources, INECC

**Ms. Debora Lithgow**, Researcher, Ecology Institute, A.C. (INECOL)

**9:40 – 10:05** *Zambia Natural Capital Accounts: Policy Implications*

**Mr Stanley Nkhuwa**, Coordinating Officer – Natural Capital Accounting for Zambia, Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MOFNP)

**10:05 – 10:30** *Ecosystem Accounting in Uganda.*

**Ms Hildah Arinaitwe**, Senior Statistician, Satellite Accounts

**10:30 – 10:40** Q&A

**10:40 – 11:20** *Panel Discussion: Conclusions and perspectives for strengthening environmental, climate, and development policies*

Representatives from Mexico, Zambia, and Uganda.

**Moderator: Mr. Raúl Figueroa Díaz**, Director of Satellite Accounts, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

**11:20 – 11:30** *Closing remarks*

**Tuuli Bernardini**, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank