



# Implementing NCA Case studies

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# What is Sitra?

1. Established by the Finnish Parliament in 1967.
2. Financially and politically independent.
3. Our mission is to promote the well-being of Finland and accelerate economic growth *within the limits of nature's carrying capacity.*

*A futurologist, visionary, developer, experimentalist, financier, partner, trainer, and networker.*



# NCA

*“The bottom line... is that **we need to transform how we view and value nature.**”*

*“We must reflect **nature’s true value** in all our policies, plans and economic systems. The rewards will be immense.”*

*Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations*

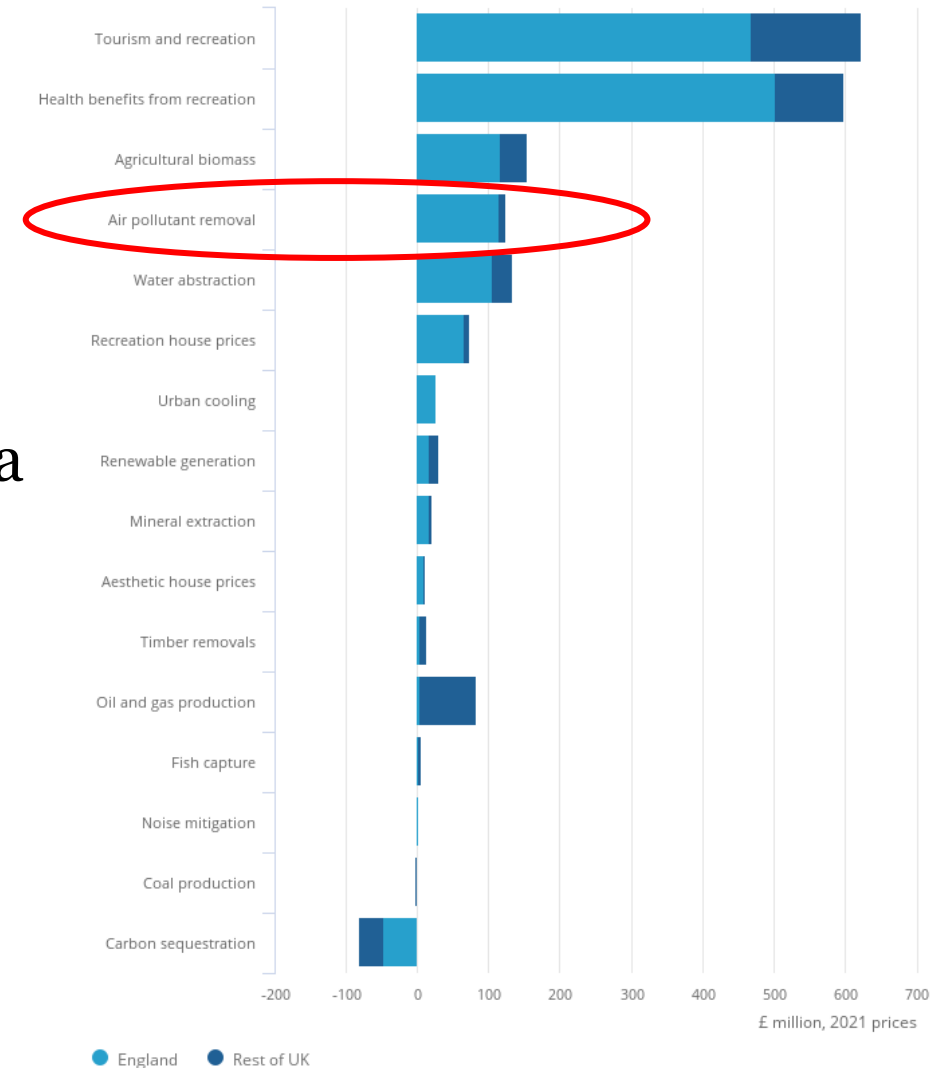


# The United Kingdom

- The work begun in 2012
- HM Treasury commissioned the Dasgupta Review in 2019
- Natural Capital Accounts have been published in the Blue Book since 2020
- 16 ecosystem service accounts are regularly produced, also in monetary terms
- Analysis to support public policy, e.g. health benefits gained from spending time in nature

Figure 24: Tourism and recreation had the highest total asset value in 2020, while England represented the highest proportion of asset value for air pollution removal

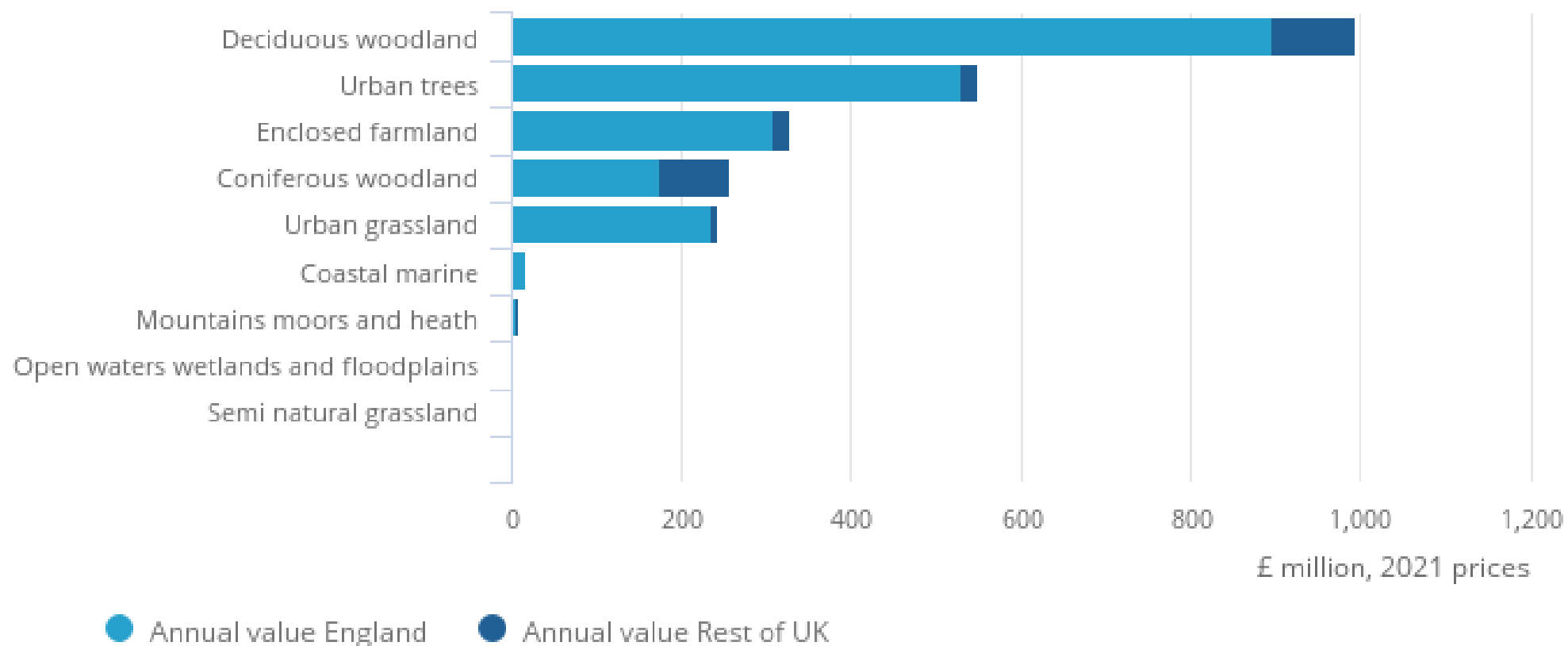
Asset values for all services, comparing England with the rest of the UK, £ million (2021 prices), 2020



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	<a href="#">Return to read me</a>														
2	<b>England Natural Capital Accounts 2023: Health benefits from recreation</b>														
3															
4	Year	Country	Habitat	Physical flows (Number of people gaining health benefits from recreation, millions) [note 22]	Annual value (£ million, 2021 prices) [note 22]	Asset value (£ million, 2021 prices) [note 22]									
5	2009	UK	Total	18	£5 779	£498 545									
6	2010	UK	Total	16	£5 264	£477 161									
7	2011	UK	Total	17	£5 590	£479 392									
8	2012	UK	Total	17	£5 633	£481 918									
9	2013	UK	Total	18	£5 839	£486 747									
10	2014	UK	Total	19	£6 156	£493 200									
11	2015	UK	Total	18	£6 040	£506 635									
12	2016	UK	Total	21	£6 721	£526 302									
13	2017	UK	Total	21	£6 840	£547 110									
14	2018	UK	Total	21	£7 002	£567 243									
15	2019	UK	Total	22	£7 183	£584 987									
16	2020	UK	Total	21	£6 831	£598 645									
17	2009	UK	Urban	9	£2 973	£256 591									
18	2010	UK	Urban	8	£2 666	£244 659									
19	2011	UK	Urban	9	£2 926	£248 222									

Figure 14: Urban trees represented 24% of the annual value of air pollution removal in England in 2020

Annual value of air pollution removal in all habitats, £ million (2021 prices), England, 2020



# The Netherlands

- Five core accounts of SEEA EA and two thematic accounts on carbon and biodiversity published in 2020
- Comprehensive set of accounts developed for the whole country
  - 49 ecosystem types, 13 ecosystem services, eleven in monetary terms
- Relevant information to support policymaking, e.g.
  - Cost-efficiency of carbon emission reductions in peatlands
  - Contributions of small landscape elements, such as hedgerows, to maintaining pollinator populations

## Dutch Natural Capital Accounts 2013-2018

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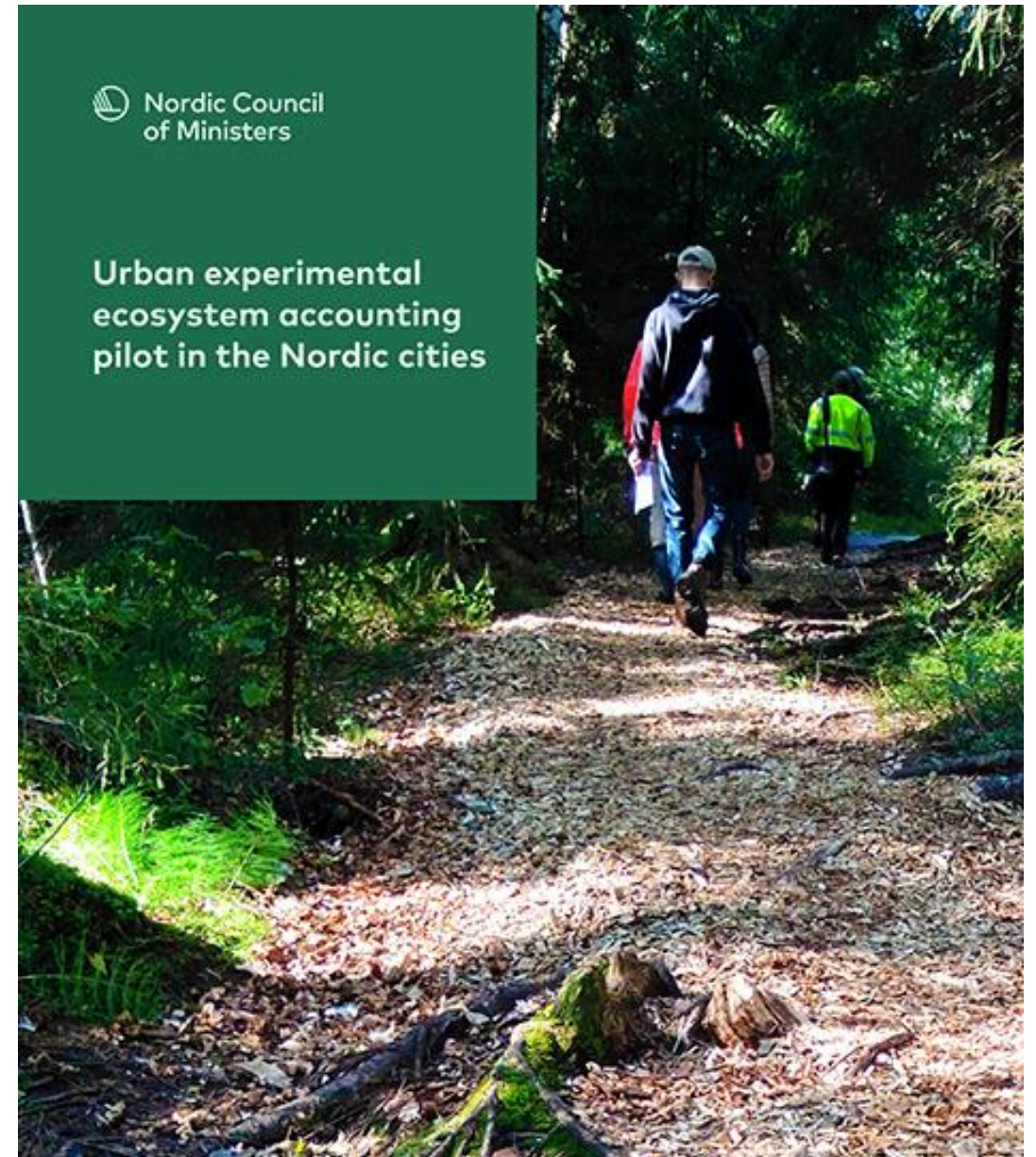


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<https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/publication/2021/22/dutch-natural-capital-accounts-2013-2018>

# Finland

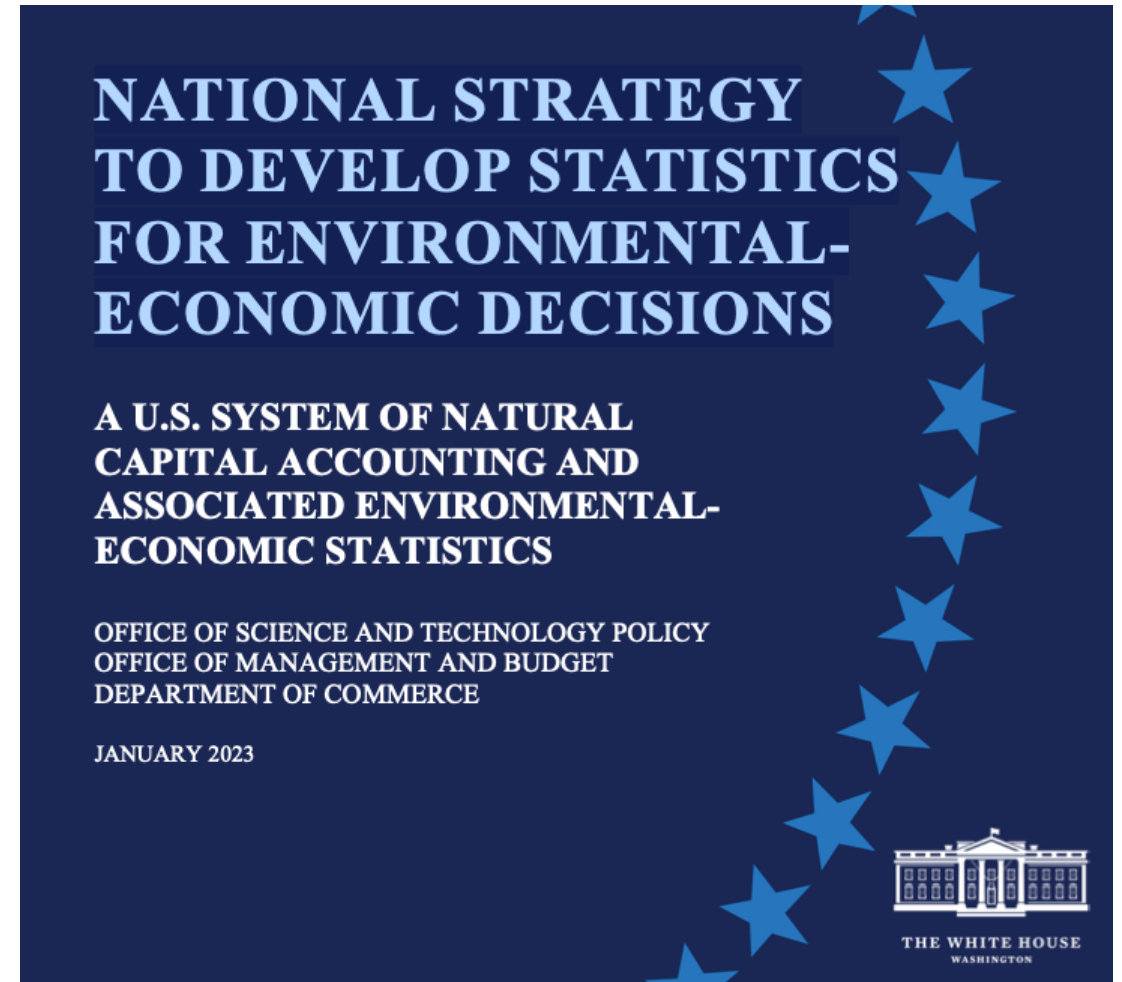
- Active work in environmental-economic statistics over decades
- Ecosystem accounting pilots in several cities, such as Tampere and Espoo
- “The Government will prepare a model that measures comprehensive sustainability – which comprises wellbeing, economic profitability and the state of the environment – in addition to GDP.”
- Preparations on-going regarding the new environmental accounts, incl. ecosystem accounts, proposed by the Commission in 2022





# The United States

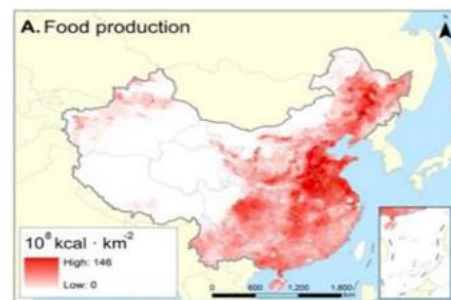
- National long-term strategy for developing natural capital accounts published in 2023
- Pilot accounts developed on land, water and air emissions, and environmental activities
- Goal to have the full system operational by 2036
- Partnership with Australia and Canada established with the intent to develop a common approach to accounting, in line with the UN SEEA framework



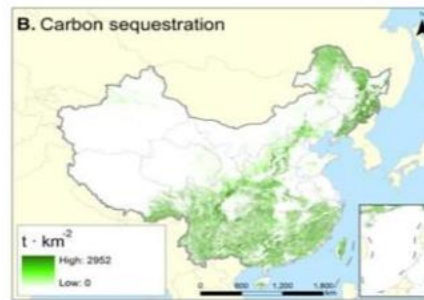
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Natural-Capital-Accounting-Strategy-final.pdf>

# China

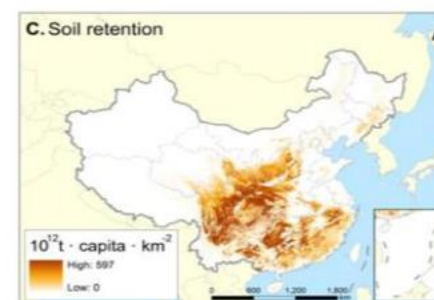
## Spatial pattern of ecosystem services in China



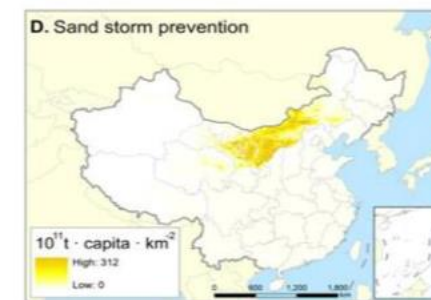
Food production



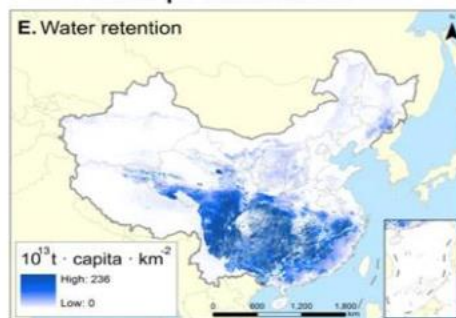
Carbon sequestration



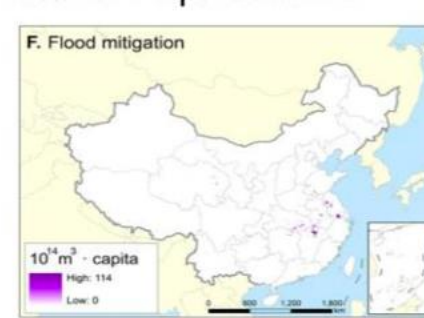
Soil retention



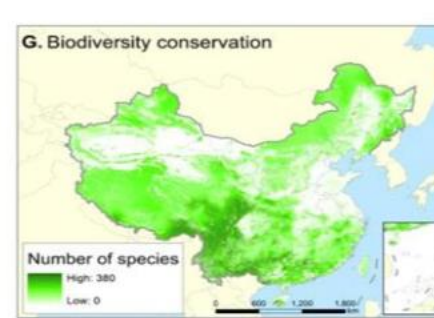
Sand storm prevention



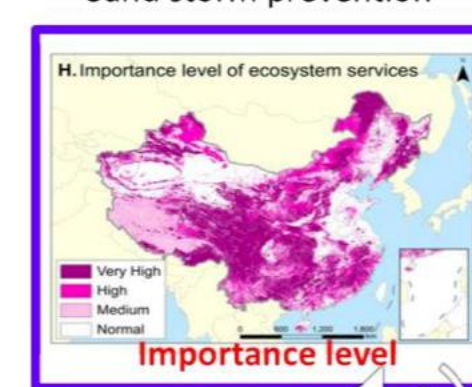
Water retention



Flood mitigation



Biodiversity conservation



Source: Presentation by Zhiyun Ouyang, Chinese Academy of Sciences at Third Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Policy Decisions, November 2018

# The European Union

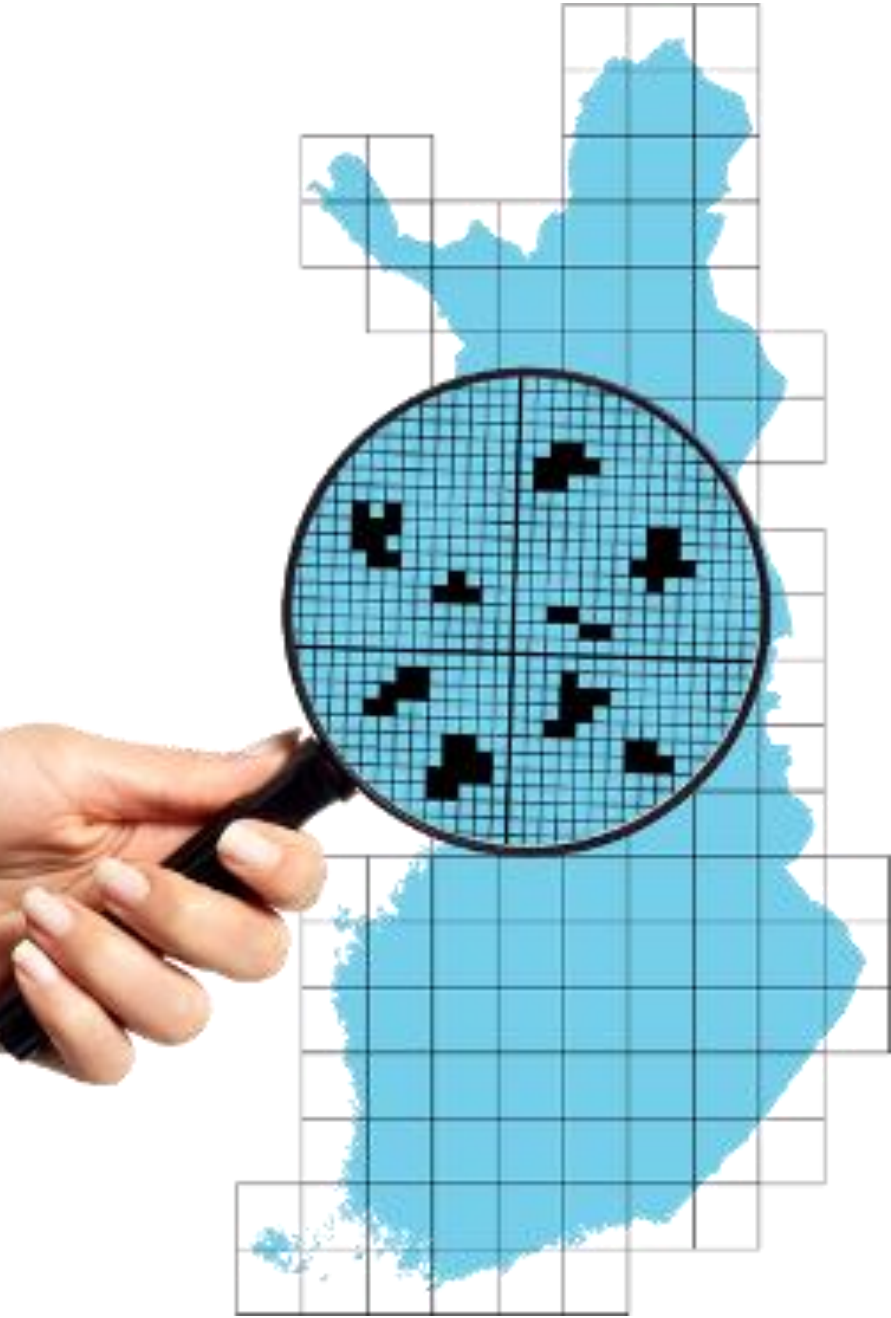


- The European Commission presented its first strategy on “green national accounting” already in 1994
- In 2011 a common framework for collecting, compiling, transmitting and evaluating European environmental economic accounts was agreed, aligned with the SEEA. Amended in 2014.
- INCA project was launched in 2015, piloted EA in the EU
- In 2022 new accounts, incl. ecosystem accounts, were [proposed by the Commission](#). Negotiations continue in 2024.
- [The proposal](#) includes
  - o Ecosystem extent (12 different ecosystem types)
  - o Condition accounts related to 5 different ecosystem types
  - o 7 ecosystem services in physical units



# Benefits

1. Collection of ecological data in a systematic framework
2. Target setting, evaluation & reporting (e.g. headline indicators of Kunming-Montreal GBF, SDG indicators, national targets & strategies)
3. Assessing the direct contribution of ecosystem services to the economy
4. Complementing the knowledge base for policy design and implementation



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SHINE!**



# Sources

Sitra press release (in English) and Working Paper (in Finnish):

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- <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/amillionfewerpeoplearegaininghealthbenefitsfromnaturesince2020/2023-11-27>

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USA

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Natural-Capital-Accounting-Strategy-final.pdf>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2024/04/23/a-successful-inaugural-year-for-natural-capital-accounting-in-the-united-states/>
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