

An aerial photograph of a vast landscape. In the foreground, there are green agricultural fields with some smaller ponds. A large, winding reservoir or lake system dominates the middle ground, surrounded by green fields and some scattered buildings. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text "Accounting for ecosystem services, including valuation" is overlaid in white on the lower half of the image.

Accounting for ecosystem services, including valuation

# What work is already taking place? Who is using such studies?

## **Ongoing studies**

- Over 90 ecosystem valuation studies in SA
- Recent atlassing studies for certain resources, including carbon
- Current KZN Pilot study
- Common Lands (linked to Living Lands) developing methods for local scale valuation taking a broader view (e.g. livelihood focus)

## **Existing users**

- Municipalities are using valuation studies
  - E.g. eThekweni Metro currently undertaking SEA using recent ecosystem service valuation study
  - Also in context of climate change assessments
- Conservation agencies - expansion
- Ecological Investment Framework
  - prioritisation and adding other benefits from identified areas.

# Priorities for advancing ES & valuation for NCA?

## **Potential users**

- Planning (local to national)  
Treasury, Agriculture, Water, Environment etc (Most sectors, maybe all)

## **Things to improve**

- Data access
- Consider determining critical thresholds for ecosystem services
- Link to climate-change policy to gain better traction
- Enhanced ground-truthing
- Measures of error/uncertainty
- Targeted messaging

# Recommended actions?

- Produce clear messages and policy briefs
- Establish a government-led, multi-stakeholder group and an expert group.
- Perhaps champion should be DTI or Planning