

Leveraging NCA for Transformative Impact in South Africa

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8 August 2024 | Natural Capital Accounting Forum, Pretoria

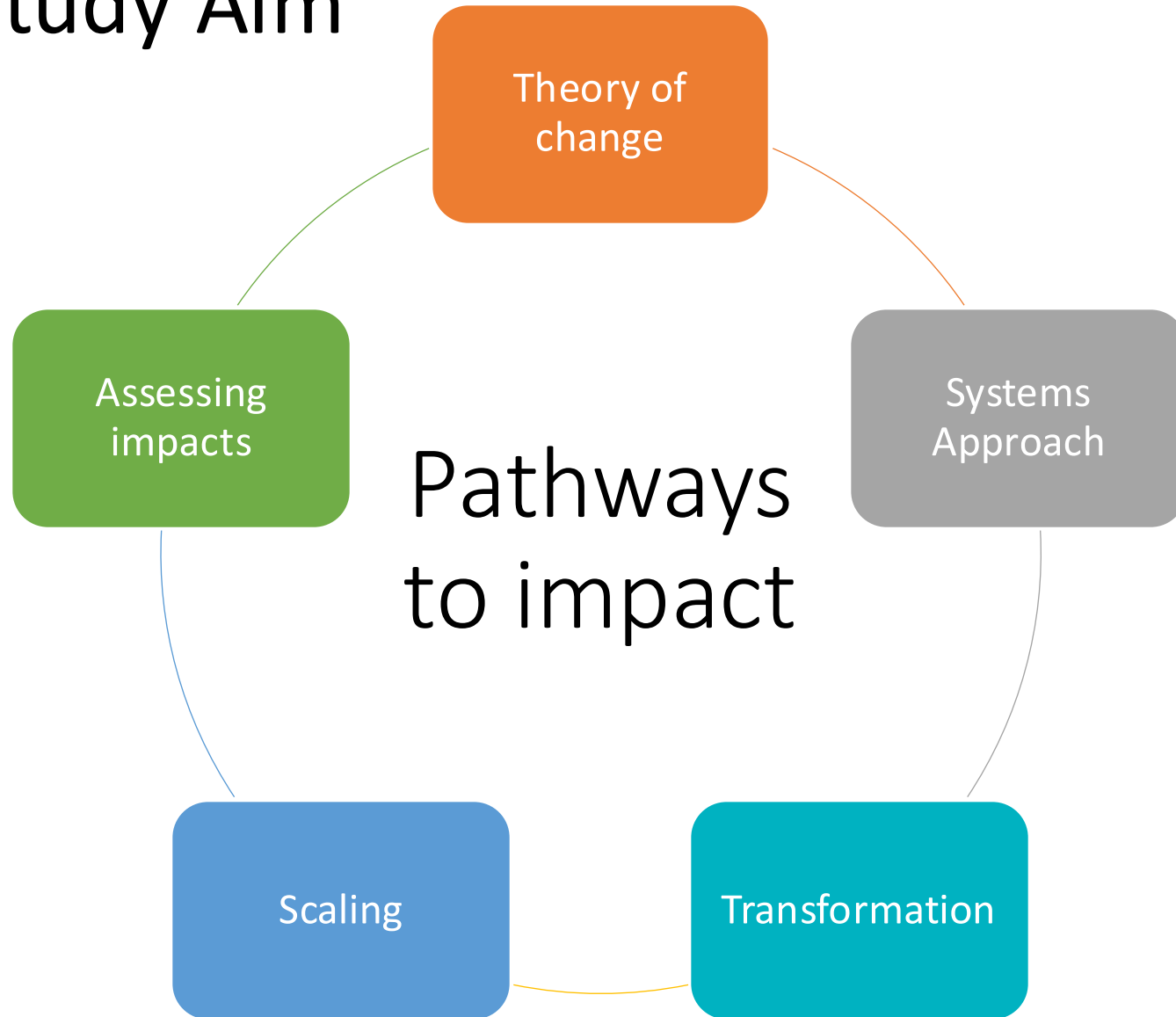
Co-Authors: Aimee Ginsburg, Belinda Reyers



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



Study Aim



Pathways to impact

Overarching question

What progress has been made by natural capital approaches to account for and engage with- the complex and dynamic (social-ecological) interdependencies of nature and human development?

Initial focus

What is the transformative potential of NCA for biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable development?

Case study

20 Years of NCA in South Africa

*Infrastructure for Water Security Project (EI4WS)
- GEF Funded, Aimee Ginsburg, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)*

Mixed Methods

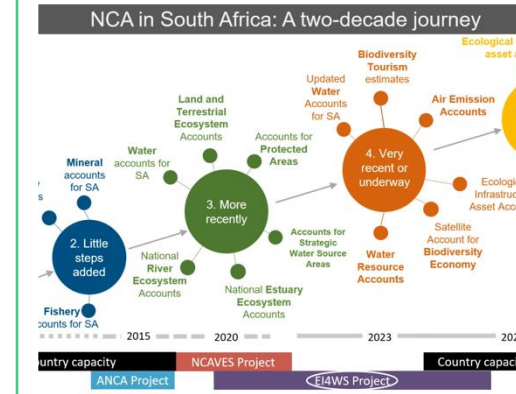
Interviews, SWOT Analyses, SAG workshop, document analyses, organizational learning.

Emerging Themes for NCA Impact

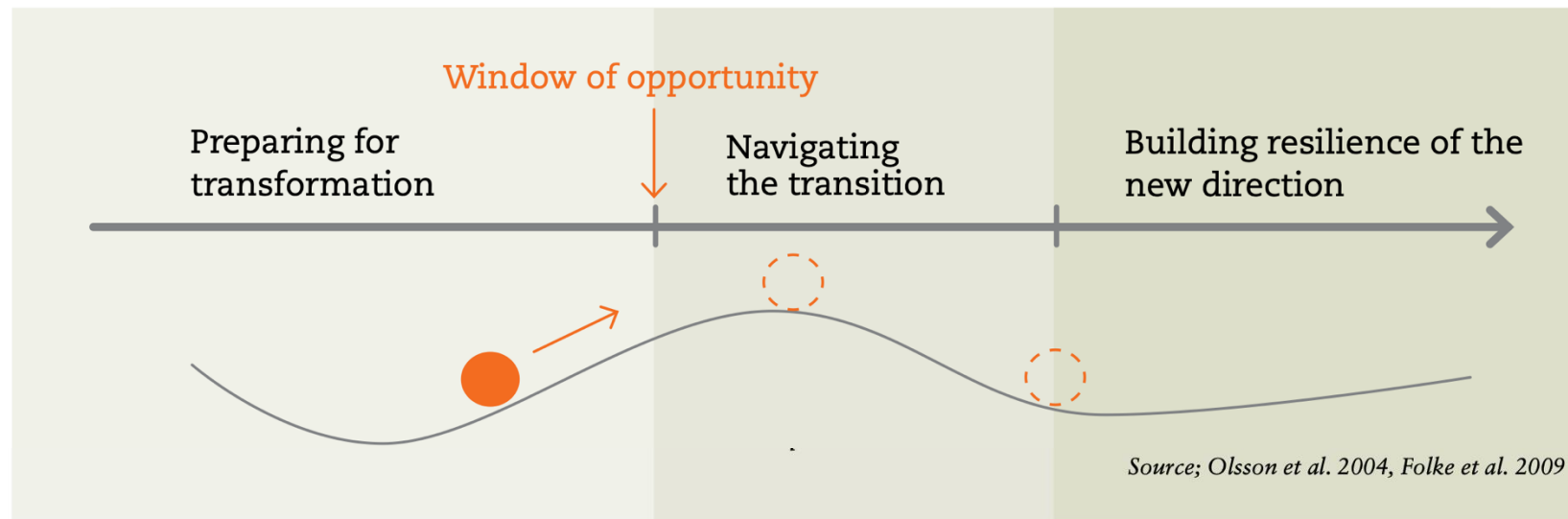
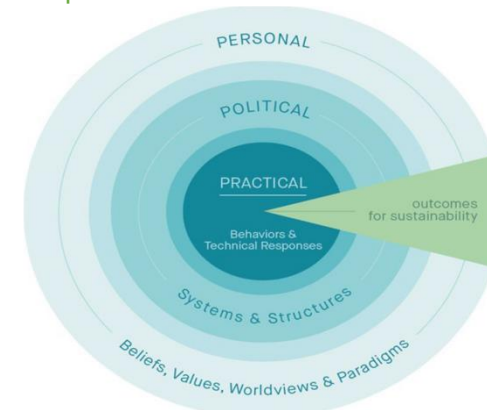
Readiness



Scaling Success



Transformation



Transformative potential

Personal

Beliefs, values, worldviews, paradigms

“Champions are very important on any platform, country, or organization; you need champions to move things along, especially with mainstreaming.”

“I had a long view knowing it would take up to 7 years to embed a new policy.”

Political

Systems & Structures

“The platforms have been fantastic. I don't know if we would have come this far from our perspective on NCA without the opportunity of participating in these forums”

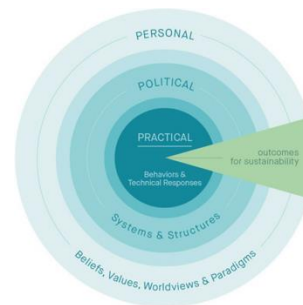
“Concern with the strong economic approach of “if it pays, it stays”

Practical

Behaviors & technical responses

“People are driven by pain or pleasure - need to pull out success indicators and tell stories about them.”

“We need to share learnings across Africa and abroad.”

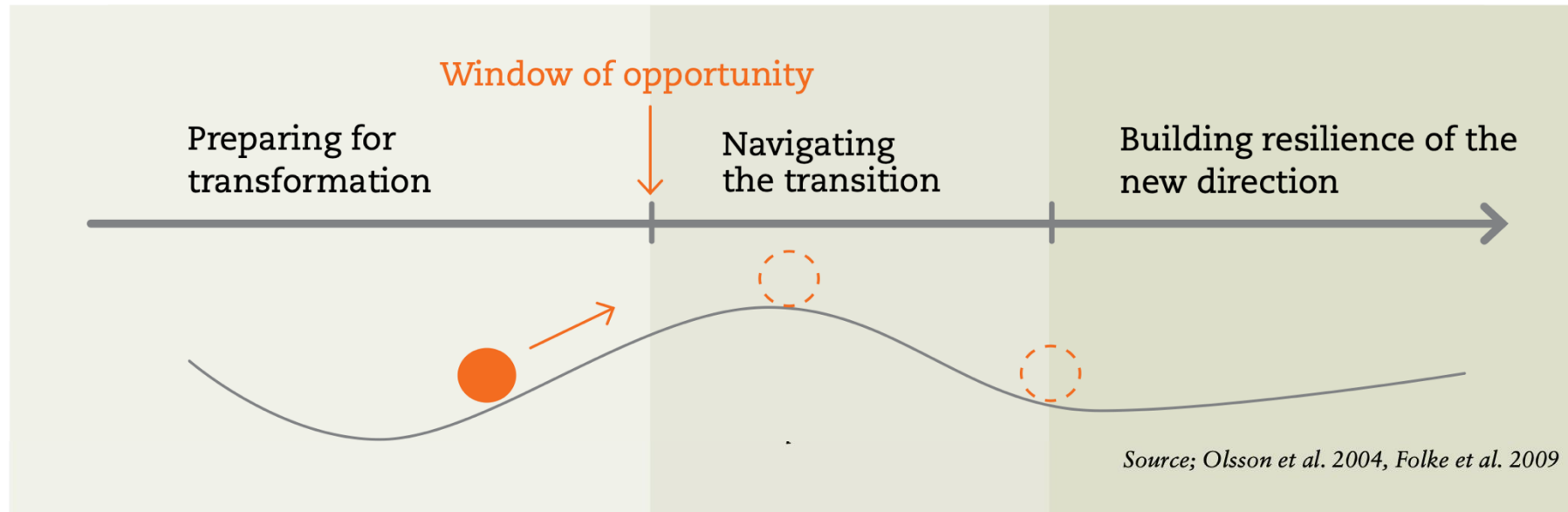


Flow from readiness - scaling success - transformation

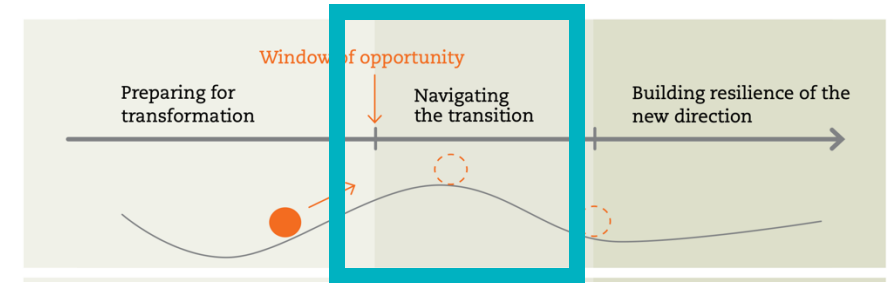
“I looked at the booklet for the ecosystem accounts and thought we can do this. My boss believed that we should do what we can even without funding and use what we have done to get the funding. So, when the opportunity came, we were ready.”

“It took time and effort to establish the institutional working relationships between the Statistics Division, South African Biodiversity Institute, and Department of Environment Forestry & Fisheries.”

“It's great that now, we (the key Departments), are in sync and there is no need to convince anyone about the value of NCA”



Navigating the transition for resilience



Sustainable funding is needed for ongoing development and implementation of NCA.

Close SDG Reporting gaps and align NCA with products that influence development decisions, e.g. Red List Ecosystems and Critical Biodiversity Maps

Increase individual participation in learning and knowledge sharing e.g. Communities of Practice



FRAMEWORKS GOALS NEWS SCORECARD DATA EXPLORER DATA DOWNLOAD

DATA AVAILABILITY

There is currently data available for 160 indicators. The Global SDG framework has 247 indicators. You can hover a square to get more information about the particular indicator. A grey square means that there is no data available for this indicator yet in Goal Tracker.



160/247

indicators available for South Africa

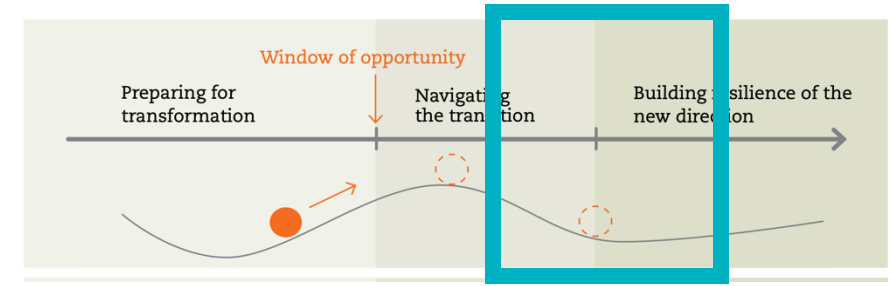
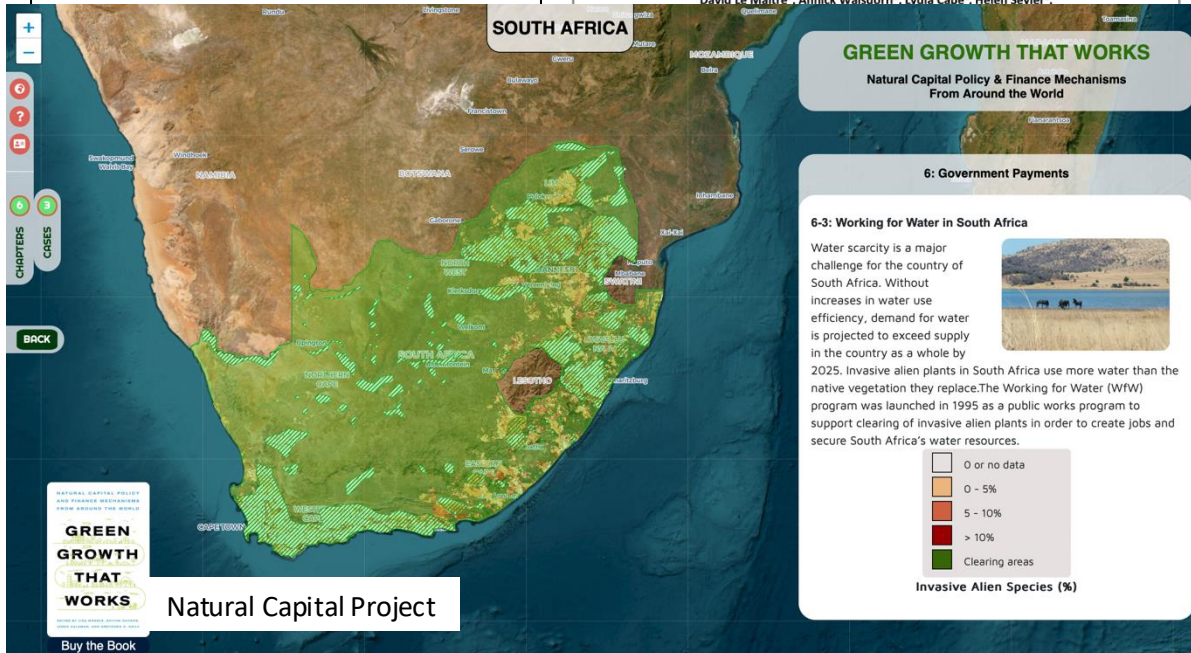
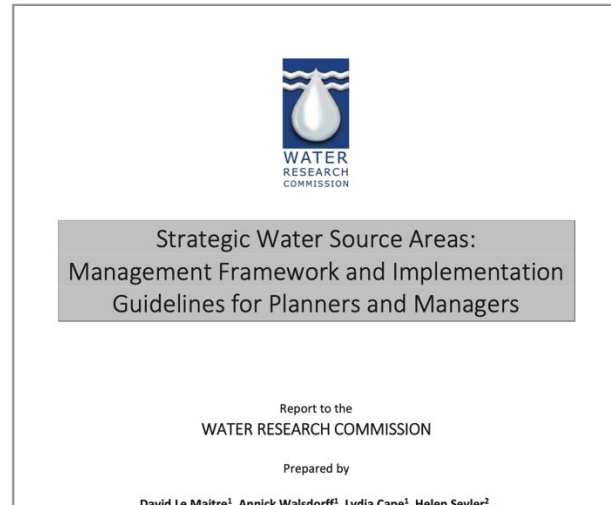
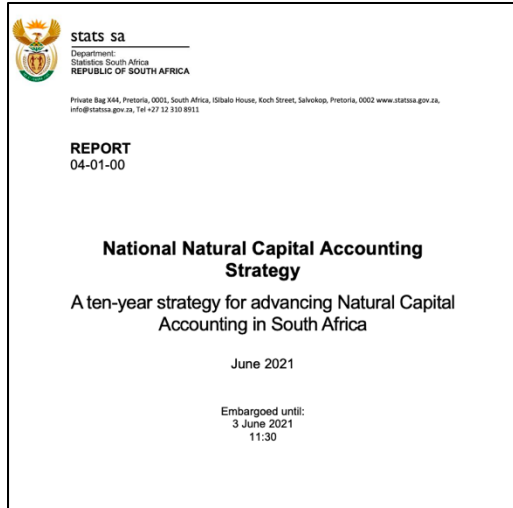
64.8%

overall indicator coverage in Goal Tracker

17/17

goals with data for at least one indicator

Scaling Success in NCA



Natural Capital Accounting to Inform Climate, Biodiversity and Development Policies in Africa Daniel Juhn and Rosimeiry Portela¹

Background paper
Commissioned by The World Bank Global Program on Sustainability (GPS)
to inform discussions at the
The Africa Natural Capital Accounting Policy Forum on
Using Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) And Analysis to Inform Policies for Development, Climate Change and Nature Protection
September 6-7, 2023

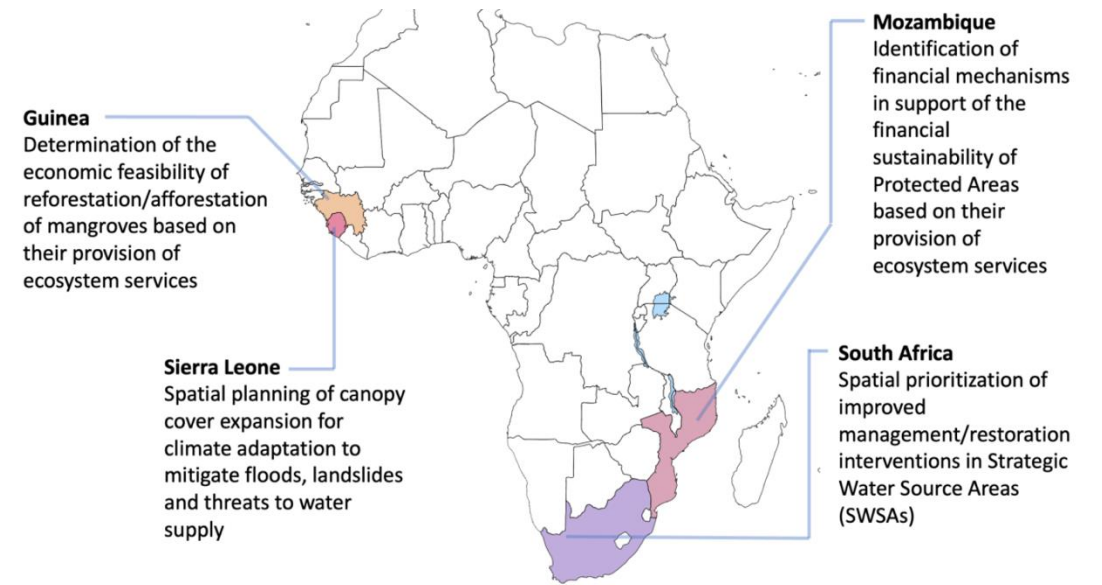
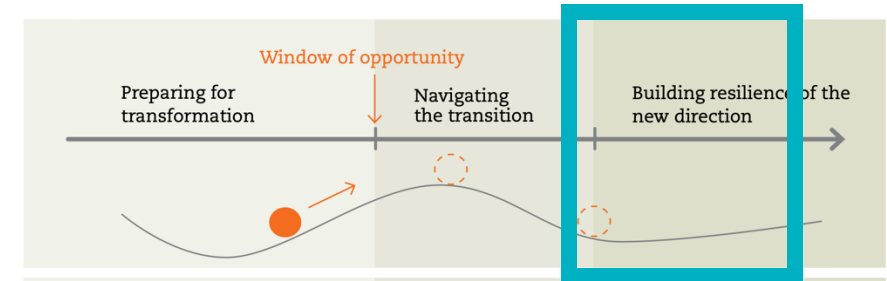
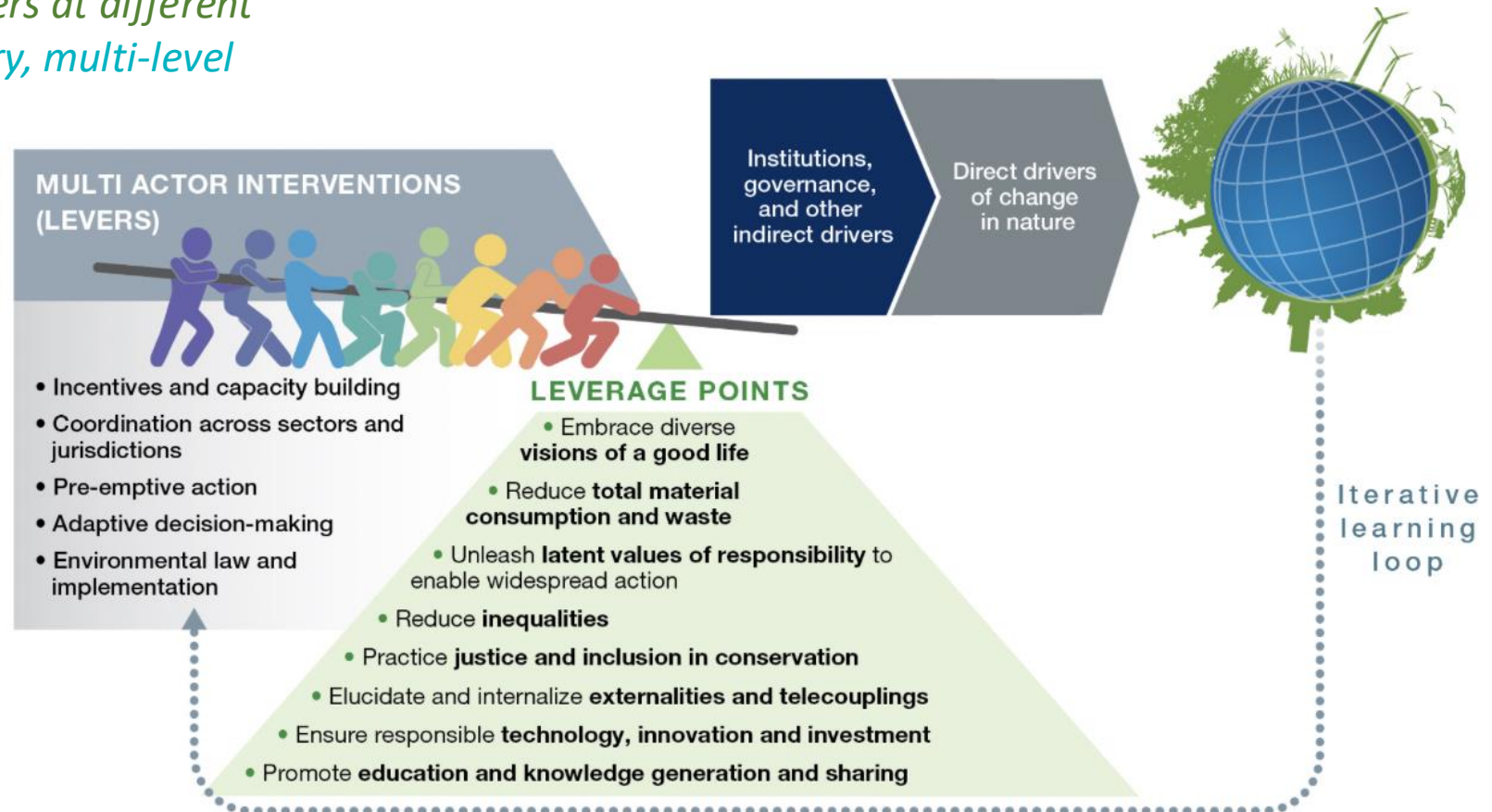


Figure 5. Four examples of interventions related to nature and climate change where Natural Capital Accounting or related analysis is being effectively deployed.

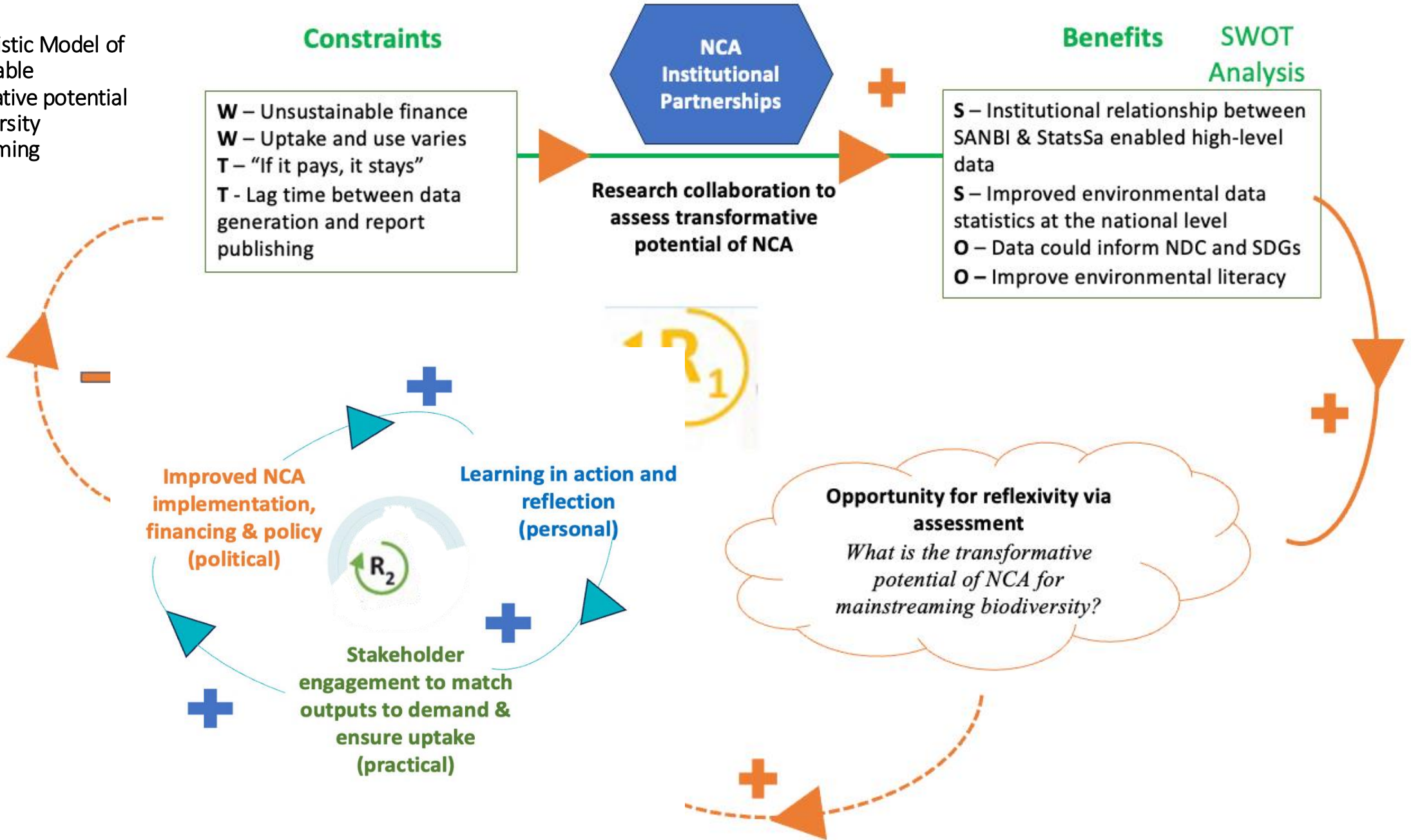
Leverage for Transformation



“NCA requires *expertise* from different *departments* and *stakeholders* at different *stages*. It's a *multidisciplinary, multi-level approach*.”



Early Heuristic Model of NCA to enable transformative potential for biodiversity mainstreaming

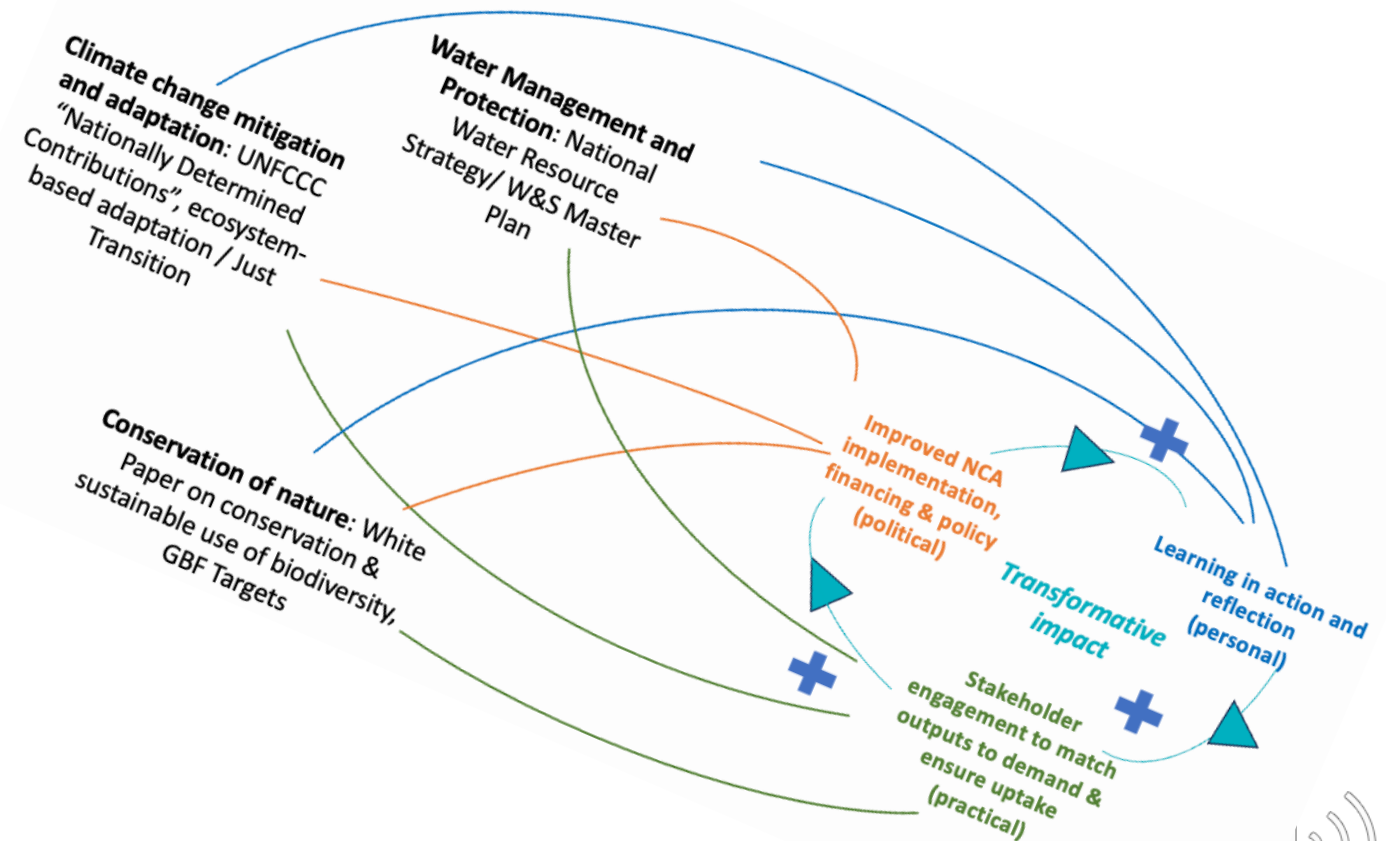


Crafting Transformative Futures with NCA

What **natural capital information** do we need to generate to **address interlinked challenges** of loss of nature, climate change, and water insecurity (quantity and quality)?

How can we effectively use natural capital information to increase **resource mobilization** for conservation, climate change adaptation, or investment for water security?

How can we ensure better **youth participation**, community, & private sector **involvement** in NCA?



Conclusion

No universal remedy to mainstream natural capital into policy.

Need to coalesce all actors, departments, institutions, funding, tools, and communities of practice...

... to facilitate the bricolage of individual, government, and institutional actions that lead to sustainable outcomes for nature, economies, and all people.

NCA is a dynamic system: a continuous loop of inputs, actions, and outcomes, championed by individuals who dare to leverage practical, political, and personal realms for transformative impact.

