



REGIONAL TRAINING

Integrating Natural Capital Accounting to inform nature-based solutions and development planning

About the event

The Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme ([HI-REAP](#)), implemented by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ([ICIMOD](#)), is organising a regional training co-designed with the Institute for Social and Economic Change ([ISEC](#)), Bengaluru, the Indian Institute of Science ([IISc](#)) Bengaluru, and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TFD).

This training will bring together government officials from Nepal and Bhutan to engage with institutions involved in the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) and Valuation of Ecosystem Services ([NCAVES](#)) [initiative](#) in India, combining institutional interactions, practical field exposure, and joint reflection workshops.

Objectives

- Enhance understanding of NCA and its relevance for valuing ecosystem services and integration into development planning.
- Build skills in tools, techniques, and data systems required for NCA implementation.
- Understand financing mechanisms and economic imperatives for sustaining natural capital and nature-based solutions (NbS).
- Foster cross-country collaboration between Nepal, Bhutan, and India and explore collaborative action and initiative in the region.

Expected outputs

- Strengthened technical and institutional capacities of participating officials in NCA
- Preliminary country-specific roadmaps for operationalising specific NCA and their integration into national planning and policy processes
- Enhanced knowledge of financing opportunities and data systems for NCA
- Strengthened Nepal–Bhutan–India collaboration for science and practice of NbS

Background

Globally, NCA has gained momentum as countries seek to integrate ecosystem values into economic systems and national accounts, with strong linkages to climate adaptation, sustainable development, and emerging green finance opportunities. Initiatives such as [NCAVES](#) have demonstrated how ecosystem services can be quantified and valued, providing an evidence base for investment and policy decisions. For Bhutan, this resonates with its development vision of Gross National Happiness ([GNH](#)), which emphasises the harmony of ecological well-being and human prosperity, and builds on recent work piloting NCA for Protected Areas. For Nepal, it aligns with the Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development ([GRID](#)) framework, which highlights the importance of natural capital in sustaining livelihoods and resilience, and aligns closely with efforts towards forest accounting.

Strengthening capacities in NCA is therefore critical to enable both countries to mainstream NbS into development planning, access innovative finance, and deliver on national priorities while contributing to global sustainability goals.

Coordinator of the training programme

Dr M Balasubramanian, Associate Professor, ISEC, Bangalore

[Bandana Shakya & Bibek Sharma](#), ICIMOD, Nepal



Regional training programme

Natural Capital Accounting and Development Planning

Bengaluru, India | 1–5 December 2025

Organised by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in collaboration with ISEC, Bengaluru, and Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Chennai.

Day 1 – 1 December 2025 (Monday)

Arrival of Participants in Bangalore

Time	Activity	Lead / Host	Notes / Key Points
Throughout the day	Arrival of international and national participants in Bangalore	ICIMOD & ISEC Logistics Teams	Airport pickup; transport to accommodation; check-in and settling in
Morning (Flexible)	ICIMOD Team Visit to ISEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of training arrangements - Discussion on programme preparation - Final suggestions and coordination 	ICIMOD Representatives ISEC Organising Committee	Final alignment on sessions, exposure visits, materials, communication & roles

Day 2 – 2 December 2025 (Tuesday)

Theme: Foundations of Natural Capital Accounting & Development Planning

Time	Session	Expert(s)	Expected Discussion / Key Takeaways
08:30–09:00	Welcome & Inaugural Session Opening Remarks	Chairman & Director, ISEC; ICIMOD Nepal	Understanding training goals, clarity on programme structure, and institutional expectations
09:00–10:00	Programme Orientation & Expectation Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training structure - Pre-training appraisal 	Dr M. Balasubramanian, ISEC, Dr Bandana Shakya, ICIMOD	Participant expectations, baseline understanding, and aligning learning outcomes
10:00–10:30	Tea Break/Group photo	ISEC Cafeteria	Informal networking and peer introductions

10:30–12:00	Technical Module 1.1 Integrating NCA into Development Planning: Conceptual foundations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insights from NCAVES - Conceptual idea and relevance-conservation and development 	Dr Lisa Mandle, Stanford University, California, USA	How NCA supports planning: Global Experience; policy relevance of ecosystem accounts; Financing natural capital
12:00–13:00	Technical Module 1.2 India and NCAVES' experience and progress	Ms Anita Baghel, DDG, MoSPI, Government of India	Core SEEA structure; national progress; understanding data architecture & indicators; institutional engagements
13:00–14:00	Lunch	ISEC Cafeteria	—
14:00–15:15	Country Experience Session Gross National Happiness (Bhutan) GRID concept (Nepal) State-level GNH data needs (Karnataka)	Country representative Chair: Ms Anita Baghel, DDG, MoSPI, Government of India Moderation: Dr. Bala	Country implementation insights: integrating wellbeing indicators; challenges
15:15–15:30	Tea Break	ISEC	—
15:30–17:00	Technical Module 2.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tools & Techniques for Valuation: Environmental valuation methods - Economic valuation of Tiger Reserves: Linkages with SEEA 	Prof Madhu Verma, Senior Economic Advisor & Chief Environmental Economist IORA, Ecological Solutions, New Delhi	Key valuation methods; practical examples; alignment with ecosystem accounts
17:00–18:00	Technical Module 2.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case Mapping: Guided Group Work, defining data sources & institutions, identifying gaps, needs & capacities, Country-wise group exercise 	Dr Priyamvada Bagaria, IORA & Ecological Solutions Dr M. Balasubramanian, ISEC	Participants map NCA-relevant data; identify institutional roles; assess capacity needs; prepare country-specific NCA readiness notes
18:30–20:00	Dinner	ISEC	—

Note:

Day 3 – 3 December 2025 (Wednesday)

Theme: Applying NCA – Field Exposure & Case-Based Learning

Time	Session	Expert(s) / Host	Expected Discussion / Key Takeaways
08:30–09:00	Icebreaker & Day Briefing	ISEC & ICIMOD	Setting the day's objectives; recap of Day 2; preparing participants for field-based NCA learning
09:00–13:00	Field Module 3.1 – Guided Field Visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) Understanding ecosystem services, Assessing values of Protected Areas 	Dr M. Balasubramanian Ms Namratha Mr Pruthivi, Karnataka Forest Department & BNP Team	Practical exposure to NCA elements in a protected area; understanding biodiversity, tourism, forest dependency; learning from frontline forest staff

	- Interaction with Forest Department officials & local communities		
10:30–11:00	Tea Break (during field travel)	—	Informal reflections & observations from the field
13:00–14:00	Lunch (Return to Indian Institute of Science)	ISEC	—
14:00–15:30	Technical Module 3.2 – Case Mapping Workshop NCA for Protected Areas: KMTR case study	Dr M. Balasubramanian	Practical case-based learning; how accounts are compiled; mapping data sources; preparing Protected Area NCA readiness notes
15:30–17:00	Technical Module 3.3 – Institutional Visit to IISc Exposure to scientific research relevant to NCA Exploring partnerships for ecological and economic assessments	Prof T. V. Ramachandra & Team, IISc	Understanding scientific methods supporting NCA; linking ecological monitoring with policy; potential collaboration opportunities
17:00–20:00	Guided Market Visit & Cultural Exposure Visit to the organic and natural product market Local cuisine dinner Closing circle & reflection	ISEC PhD Scholars	Understanding market linkages to natural capital, exposure to value chains, informal interaction, and reflection

Note

Theme: Financing, Policy Integration, and Country Roadmaps

Day 4 – 4 December 2025 (Thursday)

Day 4 Agenda with Updated Session Description

Time	Session	Expert(s)	Expected Discussion / Key Takeaways
08:30–09:00	Opening Circle & Day Overview	Dr Bandana & Dr M. Balasubramanian	Overview of the day's themes; recap of Day 3; setting expectations
09:00–10:00	Technical Module 4.1 Indian Perspectives on NCA	Dr. Rajiv Pandey	India's ecosystem and forest accounting experience; challenges in indicator integration; policy applications
10:00–11:00	Technical Module 4.2 International Perspectives (Australia Experience)	Prof. Kamaljit K. Sangha, Charles Darwin University	Lessons from Australia on NCA in land planning; Indigenous perspectives; PES models and nature-based solutions
11:00–11:15	Tea Break	ISEC	—

11:15–12:00	Special Lecture – Advances in Natural Capital Accounting	Prof. Haripriya Gundimeda, IIT Bombay	NCA progress globally; India’s NCAVES journey; mainstreaming NCA into ministries and state planning
12:00–13:00	Technical Module 4.3 – Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP): China’s Experience & Finance for Nature	Prof. Ouyang Zhiyun , Chinese Academy of Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEP concept & methodology - China’s national and provincial GEP pilots - Linking GEP to ecological compensation & green GDP - Financing mechanisms for nature: green budgeting, eco-compensation, carbon markets
13:00–14:00	Lunch	ISEC	—
14:00–16:30	Technical Module 5 – Country Roadmaps	MoSPI (India), Bhutan & Nepal I Officers; Dr Pandey; Dr Balasubramanian Dr Haripriya Gundimeda; Dr Bandana	Bhutan PA accounting roadmap; Nepal forest accounting priority areas; institutional enablers; capacity needs
16:30–17:00	Closing & Valediction	ISEC, IISc, MoSPI, ICIMOD	Training evaluation, certificates; next steps, country commitments
Evening	Free time for cultural / city visit	—	—

Day 5 – 5 December 2025 (Friday)

Departure of Participants

Time	Activity	Lead / Host	Notes / Key Points
Throughout the day	Departure of participants to their respective countries and home locations	ISEC & ICIMOD Logistics Teams	Airport drop-off coordination: travel assistance as needed; concluding formalities