

DPME Presentation

Using Natural Capital Accounting to Strengthen Planning, Monitoring and Decision-Making in South Africa

National NCA Forum 2026

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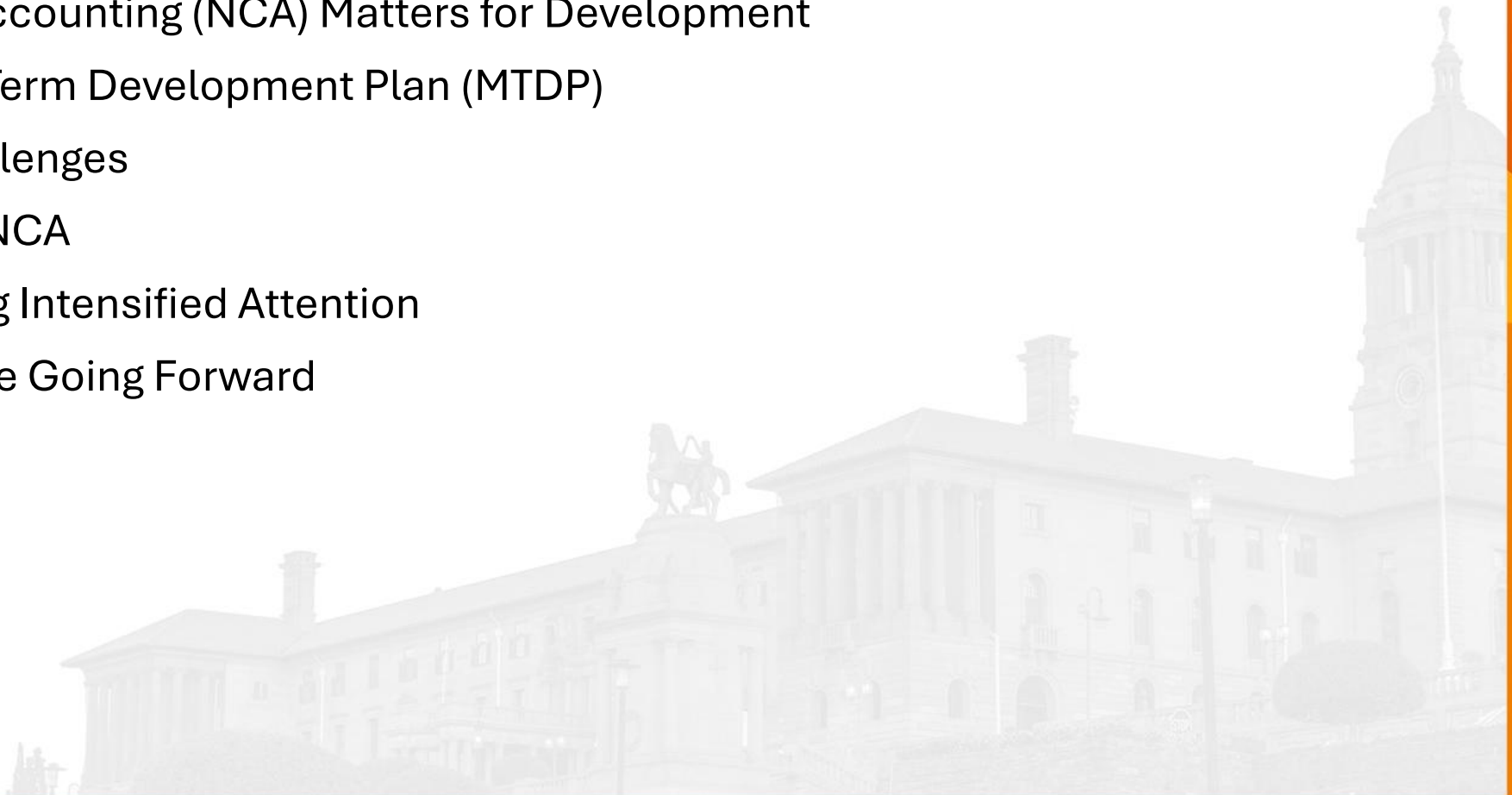
the dpme

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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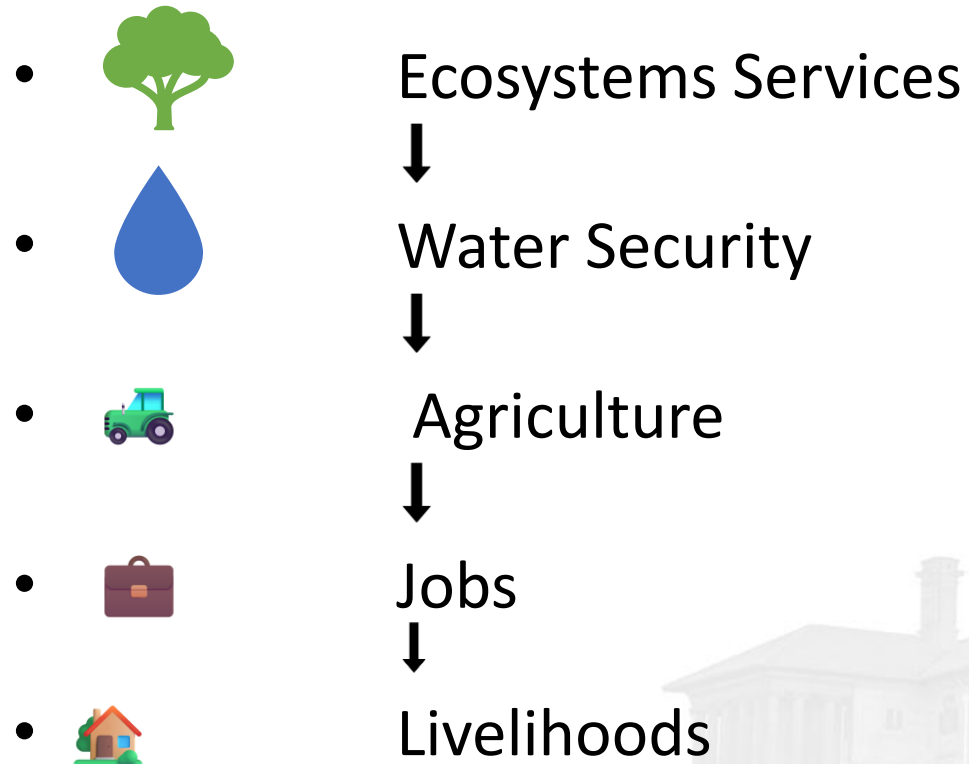
INTRODUCTION

- ❑ The DPME continues to monitor the implementation of the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029.
- ❑ Delivery challenges increasingly require integrated solutions across sectors.
- ❑ Water, biodiversity, climate resilience and rural livelihoods are becoming development priorities.
- ❑ Natural assets underpin many government priorities but often remain invisible in planning and monitoring systems.
- ❑ NCA provides an opportunity to strengthen evidence for decision-making.

WHY NCA MATTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Natural capital is not only an environmental issue. It is a development asset, our economy's raw material

✓ Nature Supports Development



NCA and the MTDP

NCA can support delivery of MTDP priorities:

- ✓ Inclusive growth and job creation
- ✓ Poverty reduction
- ✓ Climate resilience
- ✓ Water security
- ✓ Rural development
- ✓ Sustainable resource management

But, how do we ensure natural capital evidence directly informs MTDP implementation and review?

The Development Challenge

South Africa faces these increasing pressures

- ⚠ Water stress
- ⚠ Land degradation
- ⚠ Climate shocks
- ⚠ Biodiversity loss
- ⚠ Fiscal constraints
- ⚠ Slow growth

The challenge is not only environmental management but protecting the natural systems that supports development.

DPME Perspective: Key Catalytic Outcomes Lenses

☐ ECONOMIC CLUSTER

 Growth  Rural Economy  Investment

☐ SOCIAL CLUSTER

 Livelihoods  Food Security

☐ GOVERNANCE CLUSTER

 Planning  Evidence

☐ ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

 Biodiversity  Water  Climate Resilience

Why NCA Matters for Planning?

NCA strengthens:



Planning



Budgeting



Monitoring



Evaluation

Good planning requires understanding not only economic conditions but also the status of natural assets that supports development.

Monitoring Outcomes, Not Activities

Traditional Monitoring

- ✓ Projects completed
- ✓ Budget spent
- ✓ Infrastructure delivered

Outcome Monitoring

- ✓ Water security improved
- ✓ Ecosystem condition improved
- ✓ Agricultural productivity strengthened
- ✓ Livelihoods enhanced

The question that we need to answer: Are the interventions changing the outcomes?

Rural Economy

Rural Economic Development Pathway



Natural Resources



Agriculture



Local Enterprises



Employment



Improved Livelihoods

Protecting natural capital means supporting inclusive local economic development.

Priorities Requiring Intensified Attention

Areas for Greater Integration

- ✓ Water-related accounts
- ✓ Biodiversity accounts
- ✓ Climate resilience accounts
- ✓ Rural economy planning
- ✓ Public investment decisions
- ✓ MTDP review processes and planning for the next cycle, 2029

CURRENT OPPORTUNITY

MTDP Mid-Term Review in November 2026 provides an opportunity to:

- ✓ Strengthen environmental evidence
- ✓ Improve development indicators
- ✓ Identify catalytic outcomes
- ✓ Strengthen monitoring frameworks
- ✓ Improve investment prioritisation

NCA should increasingly become part of mainstream planning.

WHAT DPME WOULD LIKE TO SEE

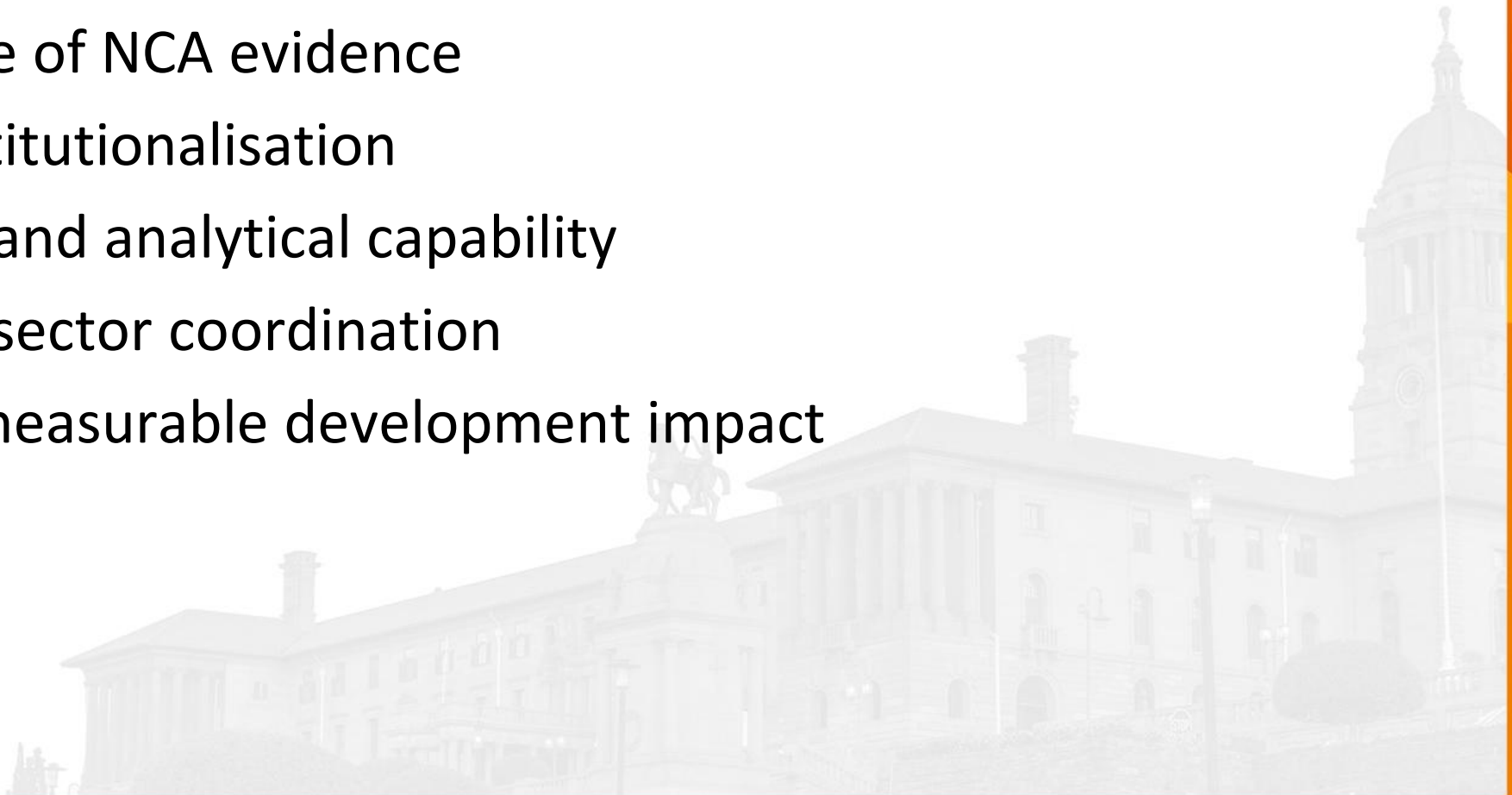
- ✓  NCA embedded in planning processes
- ✓  NCA reflected in monitoring frameworks
- ✓  NCA informing investment decisions
- ✓  NCA incorporated into evaluations
- ✓  Stronger collaboration across sectors

The value of NCA lies in its use.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE GOING FORWARD?

Focus Areas

- 1 Improve uptake of NCA evidence
- 2 Strengthen institutionalisation
- 3 Build planning and analytical capability
- 4 Improve cross-sector coordination
- 5 Demonstrate measurable development impact



PARTING SHOT

From Natural Capital to Development Outcomes

 Better Evidence   Better Decisions   Better Outcomes

- Natural Capital Accounting is most valuable when it helps government plan better, invest smarter, monitor outcomes more effectively and improve the lives of South Africans.

Thank You

