

IEG Africa – Continental community led organization advocating rights of both nature and people

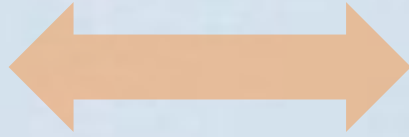
Guided by GBF, Paris Agreement UNDRIP, African Charter, SDGs and African Union Agenda 2063



CASA

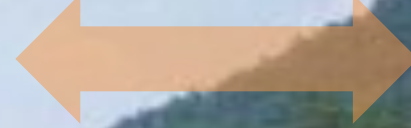
Community Association for South Africans
in Natural Resources

People. Nature. Economy. Together.



African Community
Conservationists

We Conserve for Future Generations



International
Environmental
Guardianship
AFRICA REGION
NATURE AND PEOPLE

CASA: Powered by CLN - CASA is a community-led advocacy platform working to strengthen the participation, rights and economic opportunities of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in natural-resource governance and the emerging nature economy.

CASA's Approach

Human-Centred Conservation through Community Nature Markets

CASA seeks to connect:

- **PEOPLE + NATURE + ECONOMY + FINANCE + DATA**
- **Our Vision 2035**
- **A Human-Centred Conservation, Nature-positive and Community-owned Economy.**

CASA promotes:

- Community participation and ownership, Rights-based natural-resource governance
- Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Community Nature Markets
- Biodiversity and climate finance, Social safeguards, Data sovereignty, Inclusive economic development

Our Principle

- **People First • Nature Always • Economy for All**



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About African Community Conservationists – ACC, an NPO registered in 2019 focusing on the implementation of community nature markets projects

Conservationists – A forum member of Biodiversity Credit Alliance (A UN – Biodiversity Credit body responsible for international biodiversity credit frameworks. Member of International Environmental Guardianship (IEG), an organization advocating rights of communities in nature credits

- ☐ Nature Markets Community – Consultations
- ☐ Nature Markets – Community Governance
- ☐ Nature Markets – Community Data Sovereignty
- ☐ Community Nature Markets Capacity Building
- ☐ Community Wildlife economy consultation and implementation

“THE ROLE OF IPLCs, INDIGENOUS & LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, BIODIVERSITY FINANCE AND THE MAINSTREAMING AGENDA”

From Natural Capital Accounting to Human-Centred Natural Capital Accounting

WHY IPLCs MUST BE AT THE CENTRE OF NCA

WHAT DOES NCA ACCOUNT FOR — AND WHO DOES IT ACCOUNT FOR?

Natural Capital Accounting measures:

- Natural resources, Biodiversity and ecosystems, Ecosystem services, Changes in natural capital and Economic contributions of nature

IPLCs always ask:

- **Where are the people who live with, manage, protect and depend on these natural assets?**

NCA Forum must also ask:

- **Who has the rights?**
- **Who holds the knowledge?**
- **Who controls the data?**
- **Who makes the decisions?**
- **Who bears the costs?**
- **Who receives the benefits?**

Our proposition:

- ***We cannot fully account for nature without accounting for the people, rights, knowledge, livelihoods and institutions connected to nature.***

HUMAN-CENTRED CONSERVATION??

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS and HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Human-Centred Conservation means:

- Community participation
- Community ownership
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Protection of rights
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Gender and youth inclusion
- Social safeguards
- Fair benefit sharing

HCC objective:

Nature conservation + community wellbeing + sustainable economic opportunity



RIGHTS-FIRST APPROACH

RIGHTS MUST COME BEFORE DATA, DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

- A Rights-First Approach means that the rights and interests of IPLCs are considered at the beginning of the NCA and development process—not after decisions have already been made.

RIGHTS FIRST

Recognition of rights



Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)



Meaningful participation



Access to information



Participation in decision-making



Fair benefit sharing

- This applies to:
- Community lands and territories, Natural resources, Biodiversity, Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Community-generated data, Research, Investment, Nature-market development

Do no Harm – Do Good international principle:

No extraction of resources, knowledge or data without recognition of rights, meaningful participation and appropriate consent.

INDIGENOUS & LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND DATA SOVEREIGNTY

KNOWLEDGE AND DATA ARE PART OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Indigenous and Local Knowledge contributes to understanding:

- Biodiversity, Ecosystem change, Land and water, Species, Climate patterns, Sustainable resource management, Cultural relationships with nature

But knowledge is not a free resource.

It requires:

Recognition • Protection • Consent • Governance • Attribution • Benefit Sharing

• DATA SOVEREIGNTY

There is no doubt that NCA uses:

- Community data, Biodiversity data, Geospatial information, Indigenous Knowledge, Environmental monitoring, Earth-observation data, Socio-economic information

Communities should have meaningful governance over:

- Collection • Storage • Access • Use • Sharing • Commercialisation

WHO OWNS THE DATA CENTRE?

- A government, university, company or technology provider may host the infrastructure.

But ownership of the physical data centre should not automatically determine ownership or control of the data.

- Data infrastructure must support data sovereignty—not undermine it.

SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS AND BENEFIT SHARING - NCA MUST NOT CREATE NEW FORMS OF EXTRACTION

NCA mainstreaming should be accompanied by:

- Human rights, FPIC, Community participation, Indigenous Knowledge protection, Cultural heritage protection, Gender equality, Youth participation, Grievance mechanisms, Transparency, Accountability, Fair benefit sharing
- **FIVE QUESTIONS**
- **Who provides the resource?**
- **Who provides the knowledge?**
- **Who provides the data?**
- **Who bears the cost?**
- **Who receives the benefit?**

NCA principle should be:

- ***Those who contribute to creating natural-capital value must have a meaningful pathway to participate in and benefit from that value.***

NCA AND BIODIVERSITY FINANCE - FROM ACCOUNTING TO INVESTMENT

NCA can provide the evidence base for:

- Biodiversity finance, Climate finance, Carbon markets, Biodiversity credits, Restoration finance, Water and ecosystem-service investment, Nature-based solutions, Conservation enterprises, Blended finance, Private investment

THE PATHWAY

NCA



Evidence



Opportunity Identification



Bankable Community Projects



Investment



Community Benefits



Conservation Outcomes

- **Community Nature Markets**

IPLCs' goal is to connect natural-capital information with **community-owned and nature-positive economic opportunities**.

MAINSTREAMING NCA - FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTS TO DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS

NCA should inform:

GOVERNMENT - National, provincial and municipal planning and budgeting.

ECONOMIC SECTORS – Space • Agriculture • Mining • Energy • Water • Tourism • Infrastructure • Conservation • Oil and Gas

INVESTMENT

Public investment • Private investment • Biodiversity finance • Climate finance.

COMMUNITIES

Local planning • Resource governance • Enterprise development • Nature markets.

THE MAINSTREAMING CHALLENGE

NCA must move:

- **From information → to decisions**
- **From accounts → to investment**
- **From national systems → to local action**
- **From consultation → to meaningful participation**

NCA should become a practical decision-support system for sustainable and inclusive development.

OUR CALL TO ACTION - FROM NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING TO HUMAN-CENTRED NCA

We propose five priorities:

1. RIGHTS FIRST

Recognise IPLCs as rights-holders throughout the NCA process.

2. FPIC AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Ensure communities participate before data, knowledge and resources are used.

3. KNOWLEDGE AND DATA SOVEREIGNTY

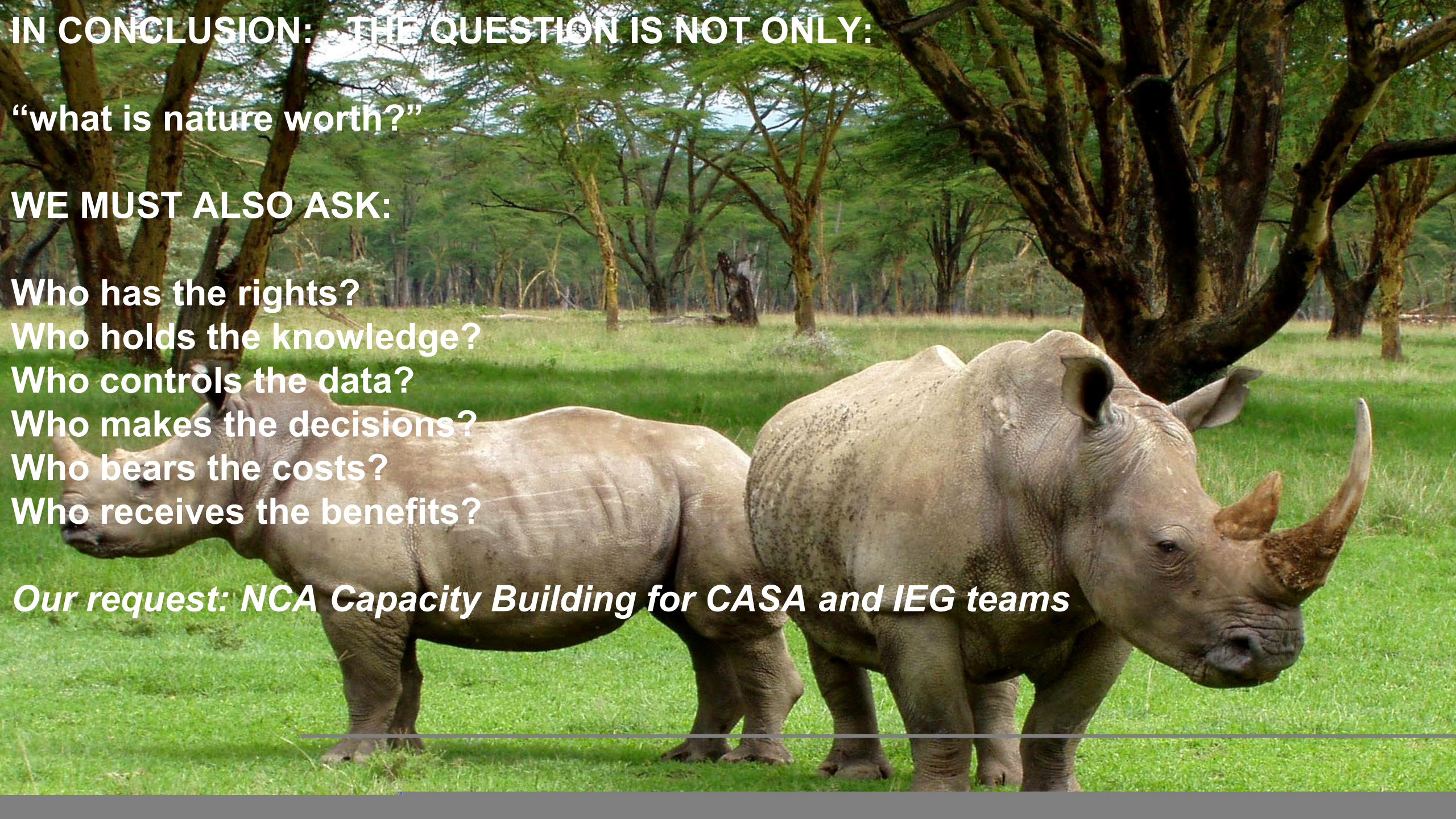
Protect Indigenous and Local Knowledge and establish clear governance of community data.

4. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS AND BENEFIT SHARING

Ensure natural-capital development does not create new forms of extraction or exclusion.

5. CONNECT NCA TO FINANCE AND COMMUNITY NATURE MARKETS

Turn natural-capital information into bankable, community-owned and nature-positive opportunities.



IN CONCLUSION: THE QUESTION IS NOT ONLY:

“what is nature worth?”

WE MUST ALSO ASK:

Who has the rights?

Who holds the knowledge?

Who controls the data?

Who makes the decisions?

Who bears the costs?

Who receives the benefits?

Our request: NCA Capacity Building for CASA and IEG teams

Thank You!!

Esther Netshivhongweni



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