



Reporting on Natural Capital in Scotland



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Natural Capital (NC)

- Relates to ecosystem services: but more attention to condition & quality of underlying resources e.g. soil
- Usually – but not always - quantified & monetised
- Can be considered together with other capitals – intended to improve cross-sectoral decisions



Natural Capital (NC)



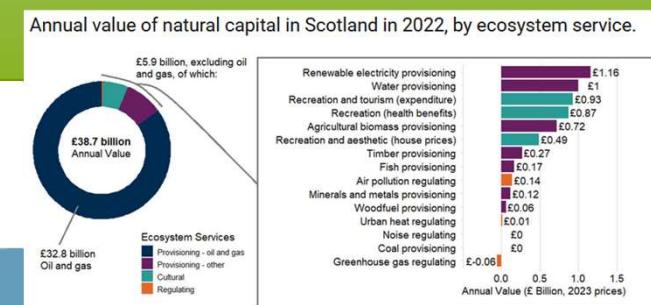
- Scotland (and rUK) was a pioneer in endorsing work on and with NC
- Now 2 official statistics for Scotland's NC



NC reporting – type 1.

- NC Accounts
- Published by Office for National Statistics
- Based on services from natural resources
 - Follows UN-SEEA accounting standards
 - Does include some marine (fish), and non-renewable resources
 - Doesn't include disbenefits
 - No citizen input
- Output = monetary value, both annual (can split to ESS types) & lifetime “asset value”

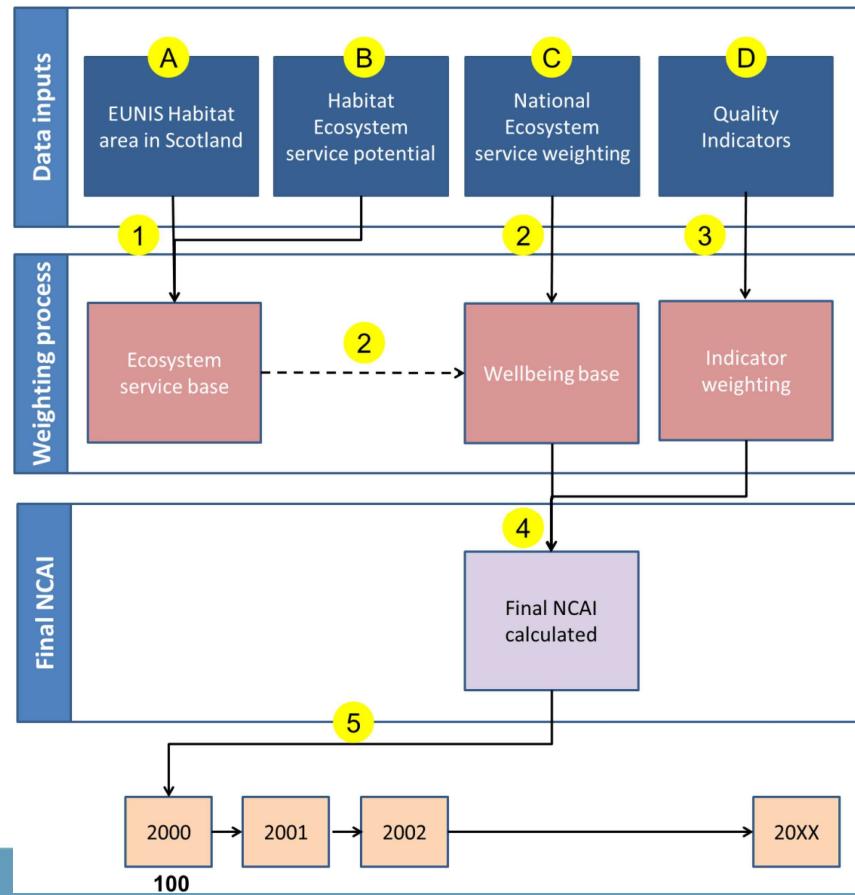
“..£254.7 billion including oil and gas, or £142.2 billion when oil and gas is excluded. This measures the stock of ecosystem services and takes into consideration their future expected supply.”



www.gov.scot/publications/summary-of-scottish-data-from-uk-natural-capital-accounts-2024/

NC reporting – type 2.

- NC Asset Index – NCAI
- Published by NatureScot
- Based on terrestrial ecosystems' condition & extent
 - Incl some biodiv. related metrics
 - Some measures of stress on ecosystems
 - Habitat monitoring incl some cit. science
 - Survey of society's values/views of nature
 - Expert input into design & peer review
- Output = indicator (no unit), annually



<https://www.nature.scot/doc/natural-capital-asset-index-official-statistic>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X19306375#f0005>

Use or influence?

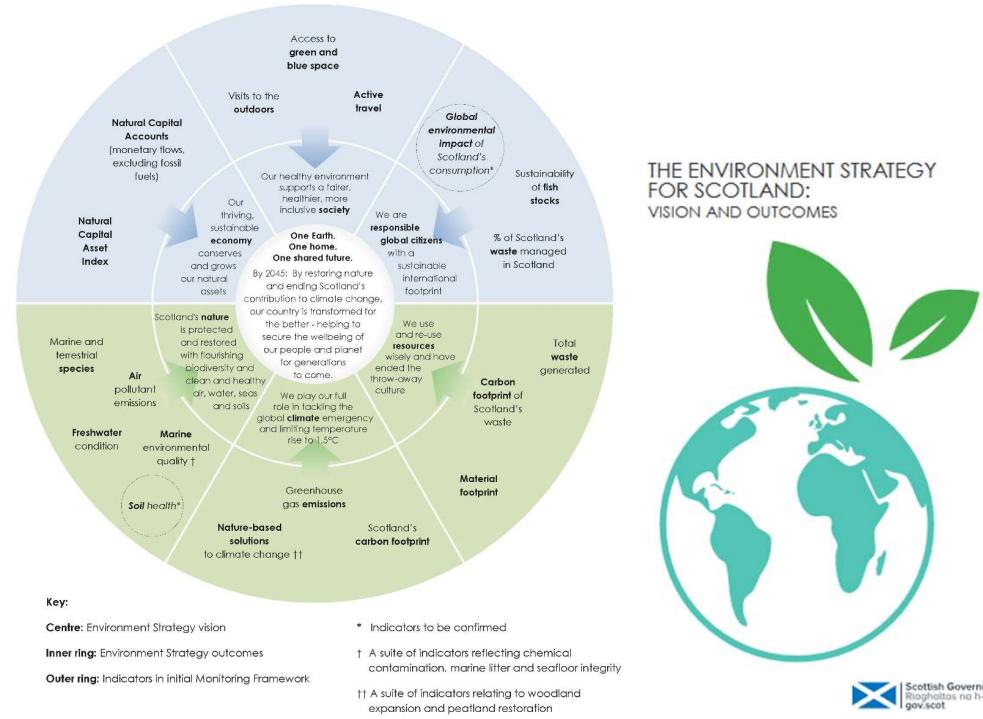


- Neither required by any environmental policy
 - E.g. separate to monitoring RBMP, FRMPs, N2K, SBS..
- NCAI feeds into a measure for the National Indicator 'Increase our natural capital' in the National Performance Framework

<https://www2.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/naturalcapital>

Use or influence?

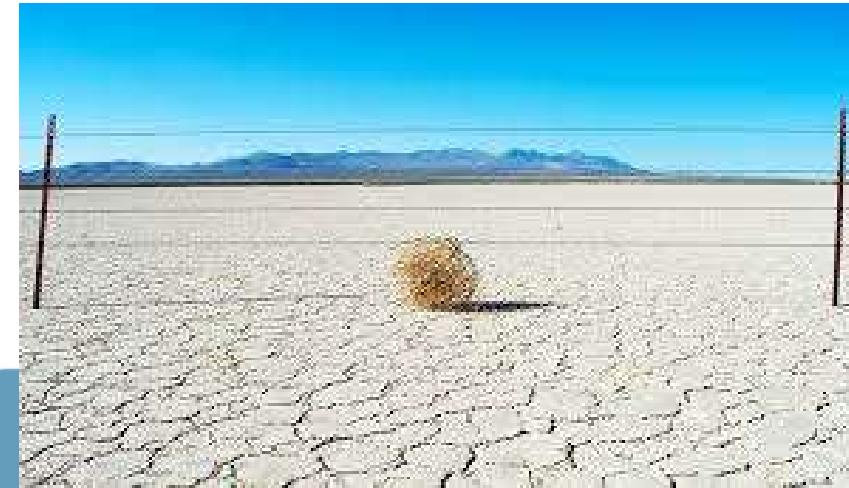
- Both feed into monitoring of Scotland's Environment Strategy



[https://data.gov.scot/
environment/](https://data.gov.scot/environment/)

Use or influence?

- Accessible but uninteresting?
 - Both published online, - graphics, webpages, pdfs – data, graphs, also explanation and methodologies
 - Little media coverage



Driving transformative change?



- Limited – some concern over lack of salience
- Additional work commissioned using other methods (input-output modelling) and/or to show value of NC to Scotland in other economic/societal terms

“estimating £40 billion economic output and 261,000 jobs supported”

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/importance-natural-capital-scottish-economy/pages/5/>

Conclusion



- So far limited 'mainstreaming' of nature via NC...
...ironic and frustrating given the framing is intended to make nature salient across sectors.
- Does influence in policy need clearer policy 'customers'? To sector or societal concerns?
Scales?



Thank you

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