

# Celebrating Biodiversity and Culture

## NEA Initiative's Networking Event

### Evening Reception and Exhibition

Venue: The David Attenborough Building

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September, Thursday

Time: 1700 – 1900

## Background

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), through its [National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative \(NEA Initiative\)](#) and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) supports countries to assess the status and drivers of change of biodiversity and ecosystem services to transform policies to account for people and nature. The conceptual framework and assessment methodology of the Intergovernmental Panel of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is used as a guide to support countries in their assessment process, aspiring the assessments to be credible, legitimate, and relevant.

The NEA Initiative aims for impact by supporting the development of a knowledge-base on biodiversity and ecosystem services for decision and policymaking, promoting national platforms and networks that strengthen the engagement between practitioners, policymakers, knowledge holders and stakeholders, supporting national engagement with international processes, including IPBES and the Convention of Biological Diversity, and strengthening a robust and diverse community of practice that builds capacities, promotes knowledge exchange, shares experiences and lessons learned.

National ecosystem assessments are nationally-driven processes, contextualized to suit national needs and aiming to respond to specific policy questions. These assessments provide an up-to-date and critical synthesis of knowledge contributing to the knowledge base for the development and implementation of national policies and strategies, and the compliance of international commitments under multilateral environmental agreements, including under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

[An annual global workshop](#) is organised with the participation of ecosystem assessment teams, assessment authors, government representatives, experts on Indigenous and local knowledge, as

well as practitioners from country partners. The workshop serves as a platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, and for identifying key priorities for implementing the assessment process and the use of assessment findings. This year, the annual global workshop will be held in Cambridge, UK from 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

On the margins of this year’s workshop, an evening reception is being organised to facilitate conversations between the NEA Initiative country partners and experts from the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) organisations (University of Cambridge, Birdlife International, BTO, Cambridge Conservation Forum, Fauna & Flora, IUCN, RSPB, Traffic, Tropical Biology Association, UNEP-WCMC, and WCS) to learn about each other's work, and explore synergies to address biodiversity and conservation issues.

The reception will include an exhibition titled “Cultural Mosaic: Celebrating Natural and Cultural Heritage Across the NEA Initiative” showcasing a diverse array of items from country partners and including souvenirs and artefacts, literary, musical and audiovisual works, artwork and crafts and foods.

## Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks	Neville Ash (Director, UNEP-WCMC) Melissa Leach (Executive Director, CCI) ILK Move Working Group	15min
Celebrating Natural and Cultural Heritage Across the NEA Initiative	Juanita Chaves (Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC)	5min
Networking		1hr 40mins

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