Nature Transition Support Programme (NTSP)

The NTSP seeks to support countries with strategic ambitions to reconcile economic prosperity and improvements in the state of nature. Through applied research, the NTSP will explore the hidden social and economic costs of economic development paths which do not account for their relationship with nature, as well as identifying alternative development pathways, and building a roadmap of potential actions and policy options for countries to realise national ambitions for sustainable development.

Currently operating in Ecuador, Colombia, Ghana, and Viet Nam, the NTSP is funded by the United Kingdom government's Global Centre for Biodiversity for Climate (GCBC) with the current phase of the work to be completed by March 2025.

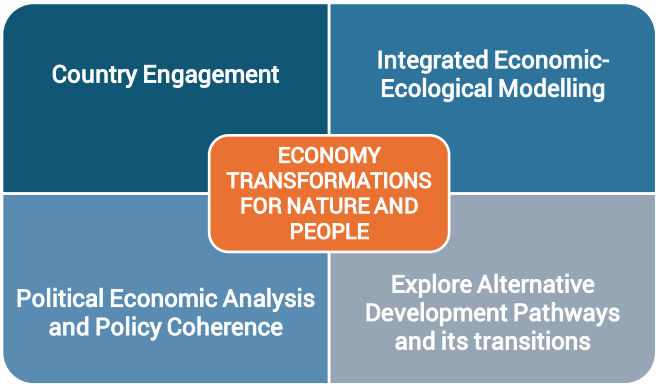
Across the globe, the economy, as well as peoples' wellbeing depends on nature. This relationship is most visible through the impacts of economic activity on ecosystems. However, the dependencies of the economy on biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services, as well as the impact of the decline in nature on essential assets, are often overlooked. This oversight can lead to various risks to the global economy and wellbeing, and so recognizing the importance of nature in developing a resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and just economy is crucial for stakeholders involved in national planning and policy.

In this regard, the NTSP presents an opportunity for partner countries to explore risks and align national economic planning with sustainable development ambitions to improve outcomes for people and nature.

The NTSP started in 2022 initially with Ecuador and Colombia, and expanded its work with Ghana and Viet Nam in early 2024. The programme is implemented by UNEP-WCMC with UNDP Nature for Development, the University of Minnesota, and in-country

research institutes in each partner country including the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute (Colombia) and the National Institute of Biodiversity (Ecuador).

Key focal areas for the NTSP are:



- Country engagement to ensure that the work is driven by government priorities and delivers outputs that are consistent with the local and national context. For this purpose, the NTSP includes various online and in-person webinars, workshops, and regular meetings across all partner countries.
- Integrated ecological-economic modelling, including integrating macroeconomic models with spatial ecosystem services models and incorporating feedback between the system components.
- Political-economic analysis including policy coherence, to highlight the scope of integrating national economic, social, and environmental goals with international commitments related to sustainable development.
- Exploring alternative development pathways and their transitions based on the national context, in a bid to enhance the evidence base that decision-makers can draw upon to meet their national policy goals and multilateral commitments.

Building on the key areas above, NTSP offers a suite of demand-led analysis and models to understand the impacts, dependencies, and risks in the relationship between nature and the economy and the opportunities to rebalance those at the national level. In doing so it establishes the case and key steps towards embedding the economy within nature.

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