

VI.A.1. Natural Resource Accounting in Protected Areas: A Framework

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Natural resource accounting is emerging as a management tool for sustainable use of natural resources at various levels. Attempts are being made to follow such accounting at national, regional, sectoral and organisational level. The present study is an attempt to develop a framework for natural resource accounting in the protected Areas of India. The adoption of the practice of natural resource accounting in the protected areas would help the management authorities to regularly monitor different indicators and take appropriate steps timely to conserve bio-diversity in these areas as well as maximise. Such accounts would also enable the policy makers to look at the role of protected areas in proper perspective and to evolve suitable policies related to these areas. The study also attempts to apply the proposed framework to the extent possible by using the secondary information available from one or more protected areas.

The natural resource accounts, as usual, may be developed in the form of stock and flow accounts. A flow account would include use and production of resources during a given period of time while a stock account would indicate the levels of different assets at a given point of time. The changes in a stock would form part of a flow account. Each flow and stock account could indicate measurements at three levels, namely, physical, financial and economic.