**Case studies to advance Combining Forces**

Expression of Interest Template

**September 2019**

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Background

Since 2017, the Natural Capital Coalition, with the support of IDEEA Group, has been working on the delivery of the Combining Forces program. The objective of this initiative is to establish and promote a common and harmonized understanding of the different natural capital approaches used by businesses and governments, with the greater aim of ensuring that the value of nature is included in decision-making across the board.

Combining Forces brings together many of the leading players in this space. It is an open, cross-cutting network of experts from all sectors including civil society, science and academia, business, finance, government and international organizations. Combining Forces operates as a convening network to initiate ideas, work collaboratively and identify opportunities. It is not a standard project and it does not have a governance structure, with boards and committees. The network is open to anyone who would like to join.

Building on the ‘Combining Forces: Priority Areas for Collaboration’ report, we are preparing a multiple-year program to develop Combining Forces case studies to deepen knowledge and interaction. For this purpose, we are seeking Expression of Interest in conducting a Combining Forces case study. This program has been made possible with the support of the MAVA foundation.

## Expressions of interest

This Expression of Interest (EOI) template is the first stage of a two-stage process to developing a pipeline of Combining Forces case studies. The first stage is seeking expressions of interest from those wishing to develop and possibly co-fun and/or implement a case study and the second stage will involve development of a more detailed proposal.

Following the completion of the second stage, case study proposals will be submitted to funders (including MAVA, among others) on behalf of the Natural Capital Coalition to seek supporting funding. The likelihood of success for any given project EOI will depend on:

• the level of potential financial and in-kind resources committed by the applicant;

• available from the side of project partners, the financial and in-kind resources funding the applicant can attract from partners; and

• its ability to address the project EOI selection criteria and how it delivers on the objectives of the Combining Forces program.

Finally, the case studies selected will be chosen to ensure appropriate coverage by industry, sector, region and type or component of natural capital. For an indication of the relative importance of each section in the EOI please refer to the section on [EOI Evaluation](#Ref19872340).

The following template includes questions and guidance for those wishing to submit an expression of interest. All sections must be completed, and your expression of interest be forwarded to combiningforces@ideeagroup.comby **30th November, 2019**. If you have any questions, please contact: Mark Eigenraam at mark.eigenraam@ideeagroup.com or Marta Santamaria Marta.Santamaria@naturalcapitalcoalition.org

EOI Applicant details

**Name:**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Skype:**

Natural capital context

Please provide a short description of your experience in natural capital approaches and its relevance in your operational and decision-making context

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| --- |
| **Max 250 words** |

Proposed Project Overview

**Project Title:**

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**Project description:**

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| **Max. 250 words** |

**Proposed Project Resourcing**

Please provide indicative estimates for the total value of the project and potential sources of funds.

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| --- | --- |
| **Funding type (please add values described in *Project Partnership* below)** | **Value (Euro)**  |
| Financial contributions from project partners:  |  |
| In-kind contributions from project partners:  |  |
| Value of funding being sought via Combining Forces project:  |  |
| Total project value: |  |

**Timelines**

Please provide indicative dates for the project to start and finish (e.g. Start-Q1 2020, finish Q3 2021). Please note the maximum time for a project is 2 years with outputs being delivered in stages.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Commence:  |  |
| Finish: |  |

Project partnership/s

Please name the lead organisation (this will be the organisation that will be responsible for delivering on the projects work program) and other partner organisations. Please note a key focus for the Combining Forces program is bringing together public and private organisations to share knowledge and experience in natural capital accounting and assessment to overcome barriers and create synergies in methods and approaches. Please ensure you have at least one public and one private organisation included in your EOI.

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| --- |
| **Lead Organisation: (**☐ **public,** ☐**private)****Key contact (name, position, address, email):****Previous experience in natural capital accounting and assessment (Max. 250 words):** **Funding contributions:**Financial:In-kind (please detail the type of in-kind contribution e.g. person days):  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Partner Organisation 1: (**☐ **public,** ☐**private)****Key contact (name, position, address, email):****Previous experience in Natural Capital Accounting and Assessment (Max. 250 words):** **Funding contributions:**Financial:In-kind (please detail the type of in-kind contribution e.g. person days):  |

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| --- |
| **Partner Organisation 2: (**☐ **public,** ☐**private)****Key contact (name, position, address, email):****Previous experience in Natural Capital Accounting and Assessment (Max. 250 words):** **Funding contributions:**Financial:In-kind (please detail the type of in-kind contribution e.g. person days):  |

If there are additional organisations, please copy the above box.

Project coverage, focus and objectives

**Sector and Industry coverage:**

Please describe the industry/s and sectors (private/public/NGO) that your project will be focusing on. Also include an explanation of your choices.

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| **Max. 250 words** |

**Geographic location and coverage of the project:**

Please describe the intended location and spatial coverage of the project, for example, global, country, region, catchment, firm.

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| **Max. 250 words** |

**Short statement on project objectives:**

Briefly describe the project objectives and motivation.

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| **Max. 250 words** |

**What type or component (land, water, carbon, biodiversity, etc) of natural capital will be the focus of the project?**

Please list the main types or components of natural capital that will be the focus of the project, for example land, water, soil, ecosystem services, timber, wetlands, biodiversity (what specific component of biodiversity), etc. Also describe the issue associated with the natural capital you have selected and how your project will be considering that issue. Please be as specific as possible when describing how the project will use natural capital approaches to address the issue and the public/private challenges that exist.

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| **Max. 250 words** |

**Project outcomes:**

Please describe the outcomes you (and your project partners) expect from the project and how they will contribute the furthering the Combining Forces initiative?

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| **Max. 250 words**Please use dot points that are clear and concise (minimum of three dot points).  |

Combing Forces Priority Areas for Collaboration

How will the project address the five priority areas identified in the *Combining Forces: Priority Areas for Collaboration,* *A thought leadership paper on advancing natural capital approaches* report?[[1]](#footnote-1) ). These areas are: Build the Community, Narrative, Data, Harmonisation and Case Studies.

All proposals should demonstrate a contribution to “Build the Community” and contribute to at least one of the other three areas (noting the area of Case Studies is naturally satisfied). Please provide a clear description of how your proposal will contribute to “Build the Community” and then select which of the other areas will you address and explain how your EOI will contribute to it. Data, Harmonisation and/or Narrative.

|  |
| --- |
| **Build the Community (max. 250 words) – Please be explicit about how your EOI will further develop the ongoing integrated dialogue on natural capital.** |

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| --- |
| **Narrative (max. 250 words) –Will you contribute to this area and, if so, please be explicit about how your EOI will further investigate, promote and enhance the case for natural capital approaches and combining forces.** |

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| **Data (max. 250 words) – Will you contribute to this area and, if so, please be explicit about how your EOI will clarify data needs, map data availability, streamline data collection and enhance data accessibility** |

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| **Harmonisation (max. 250 words) – Will you contribute to this area and, if so, please be explicit about how your EOI will identify and detail what is needed to further harmonize approaches and develop standards.** |

Proposed project methods and approach

The environment, our natural capital, is a resource that is used and managed by individuals, corporations and governments. Our capacity to continue to secure the benefits we receive from the environment relies on the availability and sustainability of this natural capital base. Natural capital has both private and public dimensions that are reflected in different perceptions, management and decision-making approaches. These differences often lead to overuse and poor management of natural capital – often referred to as the tragedy of the commons – at both global and local scales.

A key feature of the differences between public and private approaches to natural capital concerns the language that is used to describe and discuss the relevant environmental stocks and flows. Central to improving the management of natural capital is having a common language to define, measure and report on it. Establishing a common language would facilitate a movement towards an agreed framework to account for the use of natural capital and its changing state. As part of this, aligning private and public perspectives on defining and measuring our natural capital is an important objective.

Please provide an explanation of how your project will use the Natural Capital Protocol, the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), and any other methods you think are relevant to natural capital accounting and assessment and meeting the objectives of Combining Forces.

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| **Please detail your proposed approach and describe connections to Natural Capital Protocol, System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) and other approaches.**  **Max. 500 words** |

EOI Evaluation

The follow table is provided as a guide to the relative importance of each section in the EOI. This will be used as a guide to rank and assess the EOIs.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Weight**  |
| Proposed Project Resourcing - The greater the contribution of the applications the higher the score. | 20% |
| Sector and Industry coverage – The applicant has effectively described and demonstrates an understanding of the sector industry | 5% |
| Geographic location and coverage of the project | 5% |
| What type or component (land, water, carbon, biodiversity, etc) of natural capital will be the focus of the project? Demonstrates a clear understanding of the natural capital in their EOIClearly describes the issue and the links to natural capital Clearly describes the public/private links and the issues involved  | 15% |
| Project outcomes - Clearly describes the expected outcomes and how those outcomes are linked to Combining Forces priority areas | 5% |
| Combing Forces Priority Areas for Collaboration – Effectively addressed each of the priority areas | 30% |
| Proposed project methods and approach - Clearly describes the method/s proposed and how the issues will be addressed. | 20% |
|  | 100% |

EOI Reference Documents

* Natural Capital Coalition (2016) Natural Capital Protocol. <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/natural-capital-protocol/>
* Combining Forces Briefing Note. <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Combining-Forces-Plan-20180212.pdf>
* Combining Forces: Priority Areas for Collaboration. A thought leadership paper on advancing natural capital approaches. November 2018. <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Combining-Forces-Priority-Areas-for-Collaboration_Print-PDF_28pg_Final.pdf>
* Combining Forces on Natural Capital – Introduction <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/projects/combining-forces-on-natural-capital/>
* Combining Forces on Natural Capital. <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Natural-Capital-Coalition_Combining-forces_20172411.pdf>
* European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and The Work Bank (2014a) System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 – Central Framework. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seearev/>
* United Nations, European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and The Work Bank (2014b) System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seearev/>
* Natural Capital Protocol – System of Environmental Economic Accounting Toolkit. Discussion paper September 2017. <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NCP-SEEA-Toolkit-Sep-2017-IDEEA-Group-1.pdf>
1. Available at: <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Combining-Forces-Priority-Areas-for-Collaboration_Print-PDF_28pg_Final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)