

The Economics
& Of Ecosystems
Of Biodiversity



MAINSTREAMING THE ECONOMICS OF NATURE
A SYNTHESIS OF THE APPROACH, CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF TEEB

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Authors

This synthesis has been prepared by Pavan Sukhdev, Heidi Wittmer, Christoph Schröter-Schlaack, Carsten Nesshöver, Joshua Bishop, Patrick ten Brink, Haripriya Gundimeda, Pushpam Kumar and Ben Simmons.

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TEEB Coordination Group: Pavan Sukhdev (UNEP), Lars Berg (Ministry of the Environment, Sweden), Sylvia Kaplan (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany), Georgina Langdale (UNEP), Aude Neuville (EC), Mark Schauer (UNEP), Benjamin Simmons (UNEP), Tone Solhaug (Ministry of the Environment, Norway), James Vause (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom), Francois Wakenhut (EC), Heidi Wittmer (UFZ)

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The TEEB team:

TEEB Study Leader: Pavan Sukhdev (UNEP)

TEEB Scientific Coordination: Heidi Wittmer, Carsten Nesshöver, Augustin Berghöfer, Christoph Schröter-Schlaack (Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ)

TEEB Report Coordinators: Pushpam Kumar (Univ. of Liverpool); **TEEB for National Policy:** Patrick ten Brink (IEEP); **TEEB for Local Policy:** Heidi Wittmer (UFZ) & Haripriya Gundimeda (ITB); **TEEB for Business:** Joshua Bishop (IUCN)

TEEB Operations: Benjamin Simmons (UNEP), Mark Schauer (UNEP), Fatma Pandey (UNEP), Kaavya Varma (consultant), Paula Loveday-Smith (UNEP-WCMC)

TEEB Communications: Georgina Langdale (UNEP), Lara Barbier (consultant)

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PREFACE

Pavan Sukhdev and the TEEB team

In 2007, environment ministers from the governments of the G8+5 countries¹, meeting in Potsdam, Germany, agreed to “initiate the process of analysing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation.”

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, which emerged from that decision, has delivered a series of reports (see insert) addressing the needs of major user groups: national and local decision makers, business and the wider public.

This synthesis complements, but does not attempt to summarize, the other products of TEEB (see insert, section 4 and Annex 1). The aim of this synthesis is to highlight and illustrate the approach adopted by TEEB: namely to show how economic concepts and tools can help equip society with the means to incorporate the values of nature into decision making at all levels.

Applying economic thinking to the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services can help clarify two critical points: why prosperity and poverty reduction depend on maintaining the flow of benefits from ecosystems; and why successful environmental protection needs to be grounded in sound economics, including explicit recognition, efficient allocation, and fair distribution of the costs and benefits of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The analysis of TEEB builds on extensive work in this field over the last decades. TEEB presents an approach that can help decision makers recognize, demonstrate and, where appropriate, capture the values of ecosystems and biodiversity (see section 2). TEEB also acknowledges the plurality of values which people hold for nature, as well as the multitude of techniques available for their assessment.

The values of nature vary according to local bio-physical and ecological circumstances and the social, economic and cultural context. Intangible values, which may be reflected in society’s willingness to pay to conserve particular species or landscapes, or to protect common resources, must be considered alongside more tangible values like food or timber to provide a complete economic picture.

Valuation is seen not as a panacea, but rather as a tool to help recalibrate the faulty economic compass that has led us to decisions that are prejudicial to both current well-being and that of future generations. The invisibility of biodiversity values has often encouraged inefficient use or even destruction of the natural capital that is the foundation of our economies.

The aim of TEEB is to provide a bridge between the multi-disciplinary science of biodiversity and the arena of international and national policy as well as local government and business practices. The scope of TEEB is intentionally broad and it should therefore be seen as an inspiration and as an invitation for others to deepen its findings and to develop more context-specific recommendations. Ideally, TEEB will act as a catalyst to help accelerate the development of a new economy: one in which the values of natural capital, and the ecosystem services which this capital supplies, are fully reflected in the mainstream of public and private decision-making.

The completion of the study and the publication of this synthesis come at a time when the global community has an unprecedented opportunity to rethink and reconfigure the way people manage biological resources. A new vision for biodiversity, with proposals for time-bound targets and clear indicators, is being drawn up by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in this International Year of Biodiversity. TEEB’s approach to incorporating nature’s values into economic decision making can help turn that vision into reality.

Crucially, TEEB's recommendations are aimed far beyond the remit of most environment ministries and environmental institutions. TEEB seeks to inform and trigger numerous initiatives and processes at national and international levels, including:

- the deliberations of the G8+5 and the G20 groups of nations, which have committed to move toward greener, more sustainable growth;
- the Millennium Development Goals, to which all nations subscribed and pledged to achieve by 2015;
- the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as the 'Rio + 20' Earth Summit, planned for 2012;
- efforts to mainstream the environment in financial services, spearheaded by the United Nations;

- the on-going review and update of Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which seek to promote responsible business conduct, by the OECD and several developing countries; and
- various voluntary declarations, codes and guidelines related to biodiversity and ecosystem services drawn up by, and for, industry.

In the following pages, we make the case for systematic appraisal of the economic contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being; and for routine steps to prevent that contribution being lost or diminished through neglect or mismanagement. It is an appeal to each of us, whether a citizen, policy maker, local administrator, investor, entrepreneur or academics, to reflect both on the value of nature, and on the nature of value.

Note to the reader

This synthesis builds on the results of **six TEEB reports** over the last 3 years. To make referencing easy, **we refer to these reports in the text with single letters** followed by the corresponding chapter number:

I	TEEB Interim Report
C	TEEB Climate Issues Update
F	TEEB Ecological and Economic Foundations
N	TEEB for National and International Policy Makers
L	TEEB for Regional and Local Policymakers
B	TEEB for Business

Example: (F5) refers to: TEEB Ecological and Economics Foundations, Chapter 5

Short summaries of all reports are provided in the insert.

Information on contributors can be found in Annex 3.

Glossary terms: The terms indicated with an → are further defined in the glossary in Annex 1.

TEEBcases: Examples from across the globe that illustrate how ecosystem services have already been taken into account in local/regional policy making. TEEBcases were reviewed by independent experts and are being uploaded to **TEEBweb.org** upon completion.

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This report includes an insert providing an overview of all TEEB reports.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_10183

