



## TEEB Phase III briefing note

### ■ Objective

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is an independent initiative hosted by UNEP, which is focused on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity, highlighting the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and drawing together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations in policymaking.

### ■ Background

The TEEB initiative is being conducted in different phases. The first phase of TEEB was launched in response to a proposal by the G8+5 Environment Ministers (Potsdam, Germany 2007) to develop a global study on the economics of biodiversity loss. A TEEB Interim Report, which provided strong evidence of significant economic losses due to ecosystem degradation, was presented at the High-Level Segment of the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-9) in Bonn, Germany, in May 2008. The launching of the Interim Report stimulated further interest in the TEEB initiative and led to calls for additional economic analysis and the production of a series of reports focused on specific stakeholders. The second phase of the TEEB initiative, which was initiated in September 2009 and came to a close in June 2011, responded to the call for additional analysis by producing four key publications:

1. **TEEB Ecological and Economic Foundations.** A report on the fundamental concepts and state-of-the-art methodologies for economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
2. **TEEB for National and International Policy Makers.** A report providing analysis and guidance on how to value and internalize biodiversity and ecosystem values in policy decisions;
3. **TEEB for Local and Regional Policy.** A report providing analysis and guidance for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem values at regional and local levels, illustrated with case study examples; and
4. **TEEB for Business.** A report providing analysis and guidance on how business and enterprise can identify and manage their biodiversity and ecosystem risks and opportunities.

These publications have been released on the TEEB website ([www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)) and Earthscan is commercially publishing each of the studies individually as part of a TEEB volume.

### ■ Results to Date

#### **National and Regional Studies**

The TEEB initiative has been uniquely successful in raising the interest of policymakers in biodiversity and ecosystem valuation. Governments in Brazil, Georgia, Germany, India, Norway, and the European Commission, to name a few, have all committed to undertaking national and regional ecosystem and biodiversity valuation studies. A number of developing country governments have also requested capacity building in ecological/ environmental economics, notably for ecosystem and biodiversity valuations, policy analysis and the design and evaluation of payments for ecosystem services (PES).

Support for the TEEB findings and for building on the TEEB analysis at the national-level has also been highlighted in several government statements and decisions, including the G20 Leaders Statement from the Seoul Summit, the G8 Carta di Siracusa, and a series of CBD COP-10 decisions.

### **TEEB in the Media**

TEEB has also been widely referenced and discussed in the media as a result of TEEB outreach and communication efforts. Over 1100 news articles in 65 countries have referenced TEEB, as well as more than 1300 websites and 1800 social media fora.

One of the strengths of the TEEB initiative has been the development of a strong network of economists and policymakers. Over 500 professionals from 55 countries participated in the development of the various TEEB reports and over the last two years the TEEB initiative and its outcomes were presented at over 200 international, regional and national events.

### **TEEB Phase III**

In February 2011, the TEEB Advisory Board confirmed their support for the establishment of a small UNEP-hosted TEEB Office within the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (Geneva, Switzerland). The role of this Office will be to facilitate the following three components of the next phase of TEEB activities:

1. Communications and Outreach;
2. Expansion of the TEEB Network of Experts; and
3. Supporting TEEB National and Sectoral activities.

#### **1. Communications and Outreach**

A key function of the TEEB Office will be communication and outreach activities, including the continuous update of the TEEB websites, production of a regular e-newsletter, coordination with global media partners, and development of media and information materials.

These activities have been a key aspect of TEEB activities in the past, and it is intended that they continue so that a maximum amount of leverage is gained from the high level of recognition and outreach achieved to date, and so momentum can continue to grow.

#### **2. Expanding the TEEB Network of Experts**

The success of the TEEB initiative is due in large part to its open-architecture nature that has allowed the development of a rich network of experts and associations committed to biodiversity and ecosystem valuation and improved policy making. The key to TEEB's future success will be to ensure a continued focus on expanding and supporting this network of experts and associations. With this objective in mind, the TEEB Office will support the development of an e-newsletter to allow experts to exchange information and provide links to relevant studies and analysis. The web-based newsletter will be complemented by the organization of occasional meetings/workshops among the experts and TEEB advisors to ensure the vitality of the overall network. This activity will also include replying to general queries about the TEEB initiative from the public and media, and referring highly technical questions to relevant individuals within the TEEB network of experts.

#### **3. Supporting national and sectoral level implementation**

The production of the TEEB reports, coupled with the outreach events and media coverage, has created an international "buzz" surrounding TEEB and has led to numerous requests by governments, in both developed and developing countries, for support in applying TEEB methodologies. The TEEB Office is responding to these requests via the TEEB network of experts and by building national, regional and local government capacity to produce tailored economic assessments of ecosystems and biodiversity. These efforts will continue to rely on key TEEB partners, including IUCN, IEEP, UFZ, IIT Bombay, and others, who have been instrumental to the success of the TEEB initiative.