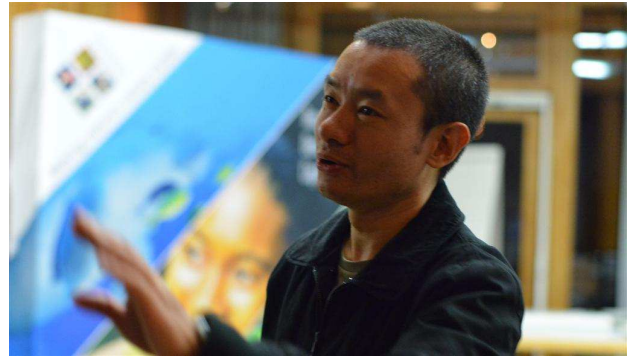


Since the results from the TEEB report series were presented at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010, numerous countries have initiated TEEB studies with the aim to demonstrate the values of nature and to encourage policy-making that recognizes the values of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The international workshop on TEEB country studies: *Learning from experience and how to utilize TEEB results*, held at the *Isle of Vilm, Germany from 21 to 24 May 2013*, brought together national and international experts, involved in facilitating and implementing TEEB country studies to share their experiences.

In this interview held during the workshop, **Nawang Norbu, from the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment, Bhutan**, shared his views with UNEP-TEEB on how to use TEEB results to support national development planning.



**UNEP-TEEB: What do you see as the value of the TEEB concept?**

**Nawang Norbu:** I think the TEEB concept is useful for countries to better understand how to improve policy-making. In Bhutan, for example, we already have a very good environmental record. So, in my opinion, TEEB could help strengthen the case for having more than 50% of the country under protected areas. TEEB could also help in the establishment of payment for ecosystem schemes, for instance in the context of hydropower.

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*It was very clear that stakeholder involvement is important if we want to make TEEB useful.*

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**UNEP-TEEB: How does one ensure that TEEB results are useful and will support national objectives of economic development and nature conservation?**

**Nawang Norbu:** I think from this workshop we have heard that there are many ongoing initiatives related to TEEB. In Bhutan, I am aware that within the Government the Finance Ministry is actually looking into "green accounting". I think the challenge is to find synergies so that TEEB does not become an isolated exercise, which nobody really looks at. Right from the beginning, we need to get

people from the finance ministry involved. I think that in this workshop it was very clearly stated that stakeholder involvement is important if we want to make TEEB useful. Otherwise it would be only an academic exercise.

**UNEP-TEEB: Why is applying economic thinking to the use of biodiversity important for Bhutan?**

**Nawang Norbu:** I think that TEEB would be very useful to understand the value of our protected areas. Our argument for maintaining them is currently based on species conservation. This, however, is not working well anymore because people are starting to ask why we need so many protected areas and yet the land can be developed. So, in that sense, I think TEEB may have come at the right time as we could demonstrate to people that there is value in conserving nature. The economic case will be an important additional argument. Furthermore, what is important for a country like Bhutan is to show foreign donors the "sacrifices" Bhutan has made to preserve its nature. While the value of nature is very high, we Bhutanese people pay the cost for conserving it. So there is, in a sense, a moral obligation for other countries to support the conservation initiatives and to invest in this unique natural capital.