

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 **Strahil Christov, European Commission**, 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?**

**Strahil Christov:** TEEB is a useful information tool to mainstream biodiversity in other policies and to make an



economic case for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services. For example, TEEB can provide information on how jobs depend on nature and it will make the case for the close link between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation when it comes to development policies. It can also inform investment decisions for a green economy transition and for infrastructure projects. But I also think it is key before starting a national TEEB project to look into existing policies to determine how TEEB can provide additional information.

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*TEEB is a great way to unite biodiversity and nature targets with development and cooperation aid targets*

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**UNEP-TEEB: The European Commission is supporting several TEEB projects in developing countries. Why exactly do you support these initiatives?**

**Strahil Christov:** TEEB has gained a lot of momentum since the initiative started in 2007. We think that momentum is continuing and as TEEB is often discussed and well communicated in the international community it is a great way to advance policies. The TEEB national implementation project in developing countries is a great way to unite biodiversity and nature targets with development and cooperation aid targets, and in this respect we think TEEB is an effective way to advance international policies that are priorities of the European Commission.

**UNEP-TEEB: Many countries decided to develop Green Economy Strategies after Rio+20. How do you think TEEB fits in the Green Economy concept?**

**Strahil Christov:** The Green Economy concept is a relative term depending on who you ask for a definition. For some people it is low carbon development, for others it is most closely linked to resource efficiency and for others it just means to reach sustainable development more broadly. In that sense and in my opinion the main contribution that TEEB can make for a green economy transition is to inform policy-makers about how investments in biodiversity and ecosystem services can lead to a more sustainable economy that takes environmental and social as well as economic considerations into account.