

The 6th Annual International Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) Conference held in Bali from 26-31 August 2013 focused on the practical application of the ecosystem services concept in planning, management and decision making, and the development of case studies.

During a post-conference professional training session on “Mainstreaming the value of water and wetlands into decision-making”, a “Spotlight on Asia” roundtable was organized to discuss local management and stakeholder issues with regard to water and wetlands and the potential benefits of communicating nature’s values to decision-makers at local, regional and national levels. .



Mr. **Danial Lee bin Abdullah** shared his experiences working for the Conservation and Environment Management Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Malaysia.

UNEP-TEEB: What are the main threats/pressures to water and wetlands in Malaysia?

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Danial Lee bin Abdullah: There are various examples of pressures on water and wetlands in Malaysia, for example economic activities such as agriculture, aquaculture and plantations. Unsustainable management and farming practices eventually pollute the water through the release of pesticides and waste. Land use and land conversion is another pressure as it gives way to development, which may lead to sedimentation, runoff or soil erosion especially

for those developments which are located near rivers or sources of water. Also, the level of stakeholder and public awareness and knowledge on wetlands and the services they provide is still low.

UNEP-TEEB: What is the potential contribution of TEEB and the ecosystem approach to promote wetland wise management in your country?

Danial Lee bin Abdullah: The ecosystem approach will allow biodiversity and ecosystem services to be integrated into planning processes. TEEB is an easy and visible tool for stakeholders to value their natural resources and implement suitable regimes and management strategies in protecting those resources them. TEEB can also help to increase the awareness among stakeholders and wider public on the importance of conserving wetland since it becomes easier to get buy in from people if it relates to monetary values.

UNEP-TEEB: Can you provide an example of a good practice related to wetland wise management in your country?

Danial Lee bin Abdullah: Malaysia has developed several policies and action plans toward the sustainable management of wetlands. In fact, several wetlands have been classified as “rank 1” environmental sensitive area in which development and logging are prohibited, and only low impact activities such as tourism, education and research are allowed. Under Malaysia’s new economic model, biodiversity has been recognized as one of the potential areas that will drive the country to achieve high income by the year 2020. It showed the importance and value of biodiversity and the need for sustainable management and conservation.