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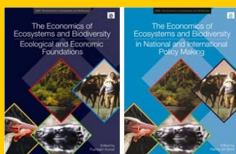
# TEEBrief

## Special Edition on Water and Wetlands

### About TEEB

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global initiative 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 ecosystem science, economics and development policy to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations in policy making.

### TEEB Reports



TEEB has produced four

### Launch of TEEB Water and Wetlands Report

The Report Launched on 1 February 2013, on the occasion of World Wetlands Day, underlines the fundamental importance of wetlands in the water cycle, and presents insights to encourage additional policy momentum, business commitment and investment in the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands. The report was initiated by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and developed by IEEP, IUCN, UFZ, CBD, UNEP TEEB Office, with financial support from the governments of Norway, Switzerland and Finland. [View the report.](#)

### TEEB Nordic Report Launch

Following in the footsteps of the global The Economic of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) and the NCM Finnish Presidency have carried out a TEEB inspired synthesis in the Nordic context (TEEB Nordic). The synthesis, carried out by the Institute for Environmental Policy (IEEP) and Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) published on 31 January 2013, provides evidence on the socio-economic role and significance of nature in the Nordic countries (i.e. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), urging policy and decision-makers to show necessary leadership and foresight in building truly 'green' green economies, with due respect to region's natural capital. [View the report.](#)

### Himalayas: water towers of Asia

On the first episode of BBC News' 1 "Power of Nature" series, TEEB Advisory Board Chair, Pavan Sukhdev and D4-TEEB for Citizens co-designer Trista Patterson, talk and show viewers the value of the Himalayas and the ecosystem services they provide. There are six episodes planned so stay tuned for the rest of TEEB related series. [View the episode](#)

### Watershed investment regarded as a cost-effective solution to municipal water woes

According to a new report from Forest Trends' Ecosystem Marketplace, published January 2013, the number of initiatives that

principal reports and a synthesis report aimed at various stakeholders including national decision-makers, local and regional policy-makers and businesses.

Several other publications on thematic topics can also be found on the [website](#).



## Quicklinks

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protect and restore forests, wetlands, and other water-rich ecosystems has nearly doubled in just four years, as governments urgently seek sustainable alternatives to costly industrial infrastructure. \$8.17 Billion USD was spent in 2011 to safeguard drinking water and regional supplies an increase of \$2 Billion above 2008 Levels. Read the study.

## Economic value of forest hydrological services in Vietnam

The paper by Nguyen et al published on December 2012 discusses the conceptual framework for economic valuation of forest hydrological services. The framework is applied to a case study in Vietnam, of the Hoa Binh hydroelectric plant. Read the abstract.

## Economic valuation of regulating services provided by wetlands in agricultural landscapes

The paper by Brander *et al.* published in January 2013, presents a meta-analysis of the economic valuation literature on ecosystem services provided by wetlands in agricultural landscapes. The research focused on the value of three regulating services, namely flood control, water supply and nutrient recycling. Read the abstract

## IPBES takes big steps for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

A new international science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems set up the administrative and staffing structure to enable it assist governments and citizens to better understand the state, trends and challenges facing the natural world, and humanity in the 21st century. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), conclude the arrangements at the first plenary meeting, of the platform (IPBES-1), held in Bonn, Germany from 21 to 26 January 2013. IPBES was set-up to provide scientific support for policy-making to protect the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the services they provide to humanity. Read UNEP Press Release

## What is the medical value of marine biodiversity?

According to a recent study, undiscovered cancer treatments from marine organisms could be worth between US\$563 billion and US \$5.69 trillion. There may be over 594,000 novel compounds waiting to be discovered in unstudied marine species, and that these could lead to new anti-cancer drugs. Read the study

## Ethical Considerations for On-Ground Applications of the Ecosystem Services Concept

The paper by Luck et al. published December 2012 discusses ethical considerations of applying the ecosystem services concept across major on-ground applications and group them into the following categories: anthropocentric framing, economic metaphor, monetary valuation, commodification, sociocultural impact, changes in motivations, and equity implications. The paper concludes that the ES concept should be considered as only one among various alternative approaches to valuing nature and that reliance on economic metaphors can exclude other motivations for protecting ecosystems. Read the paper

## Ecological compensation: an evaluation of regulatory compliance in New Zealand

The paper by Brown et al., published January 2013 demonstrates the importance of understanding the nature of non-compliance and of providing a consistent and robust decision-making framework for the consideration of ecological compensation in practice. Ecological compensation is an example of a trade-off whereby loss of natural values is remedied or offset by a corresponding compensatory action on the same site or elsewhere, determined through the process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). [Download the report](#)

### **A Review of the Emerging Domain of Ecosystem Services Tools**

The Buisness for a Better World (BSR) published on 29 January 2013 a report on various tools aimed at assessing corporate ecosystem services impacts and dependencies. The report highlights the opportunities and challenges for their use in the private sector and lays out ways forward for piloting, verifying, and validating ecosystem services tools. The report is intended to help corporate decision-makers understand and assess the current state of play within the ecosystem services tool landscape. [Read the report](#)

### **Legal effectiveness of natural areas protection compared to road projects in France**

The paper by Mallard and François published in January 2013 presents France as a case study on environmental protection. The paper analyzes the effectiveness of the legal system, official legal texts and laws on natural areas protection to identify where they show a weakness in the approval of road projects. The authors provide legal suggestions for conservation of natural areas improvement. [Read the paper.](#)

### **Urban ecosystem services assessment of European cities**

The paper by Larondelle and Haase to be published in Ecological Indicators in June 2013 presents an assessment approach for ecosystem services in an urban context covering the local and the regional scale. It was applied to different European cities. The results of the present paper provide insights into potentials and trade-offs between different urban ecosystem services that should be considered during urban planning when setting targets and establishing thresholds to protect environmental resources, ecosystem services and biodiversity for residents. [Read the paper.](#)

### **The costs for the compensation of damaged ecosystem services**

The paper by Vaissière et al. to be published in Ecological Indicators in June 2013 compares different maintenance costs of ecosystem service arising from a hypothetical case of environmental damage in order to help to understand how the different ecosystem services are considered in decision making processes. Maintenance costs are high for regulating services, low for provisioning services, and more difficult to determine for cultural services (high or low depending on the indicator selected). [View the abstract](#)

### **Contact**

For further information about the TEEB initiative, for media inquiries, or to submit content to TEEBbrief please contact:

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