

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. A number of participants shared their experience with using the TEEB findings and approach in their own projects.



Bernd Hansjuergens, from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), presented Naturkapital Deutschland, or TEEB Germany, during a TEEB session on country implementation.

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UNEP-TEEB: How will Naturkapital Deutschland make nature's values more economically visible, and why is this important?

Bernd Hansjuergens: In our German national TEEB study, we focus on providing good examples to interested stakeholders and the public that make the inherent value of nature visible. We do this by focusing on four reports led by independent scientists. They look at (i) the relationship between climate mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity, (ii) ecosystem services in rural areas, (iii) urban ecosystem services and quality of life, and (iv) improving instruments for preserving nature and halting the loss of biodiversity. An important part of our efforts is devoted to building up a TEEB community, i.e. people from academia

and practice that support the TEEB ideas. We seek to achieve this by including many experts in the writing and editing of the reports, intensive communication, training and presentations.

UNEP-TEEB: What do you see as the added value of the TEEB approach for Germany?

Bernd Hansjuergens: In Germany we are not starting from scratch. There is a broad discussion on nature conservation and biodiversity loss. Since 2007 there is a biodiversity strategy and there exists also an extensive regulation in various forms, though this regulation is not always adequately enforced. Against this background our project is an important supplement to ongoing activities. We focus on economic arguments for the protection of nature, in addition to ecological and ethical ones. One of our main goals is raising awareness, especially for those who are not familiar with nature conservation and who do not take nature into account when making decisions, so mainstreaming nature into political decisions is essential.

UNEP-TEEB: What lessons learned can you share with others interested in undertaking similar activities, especially towards a full TEEB country study?

Bernd Hansjuergens: I'd like to mention two challenges. Compared to other countries, there is already a lot of information available. In Germany it is not easy to develop new and innovative cases. Many examples are on the table. The mainstreaming of nature into decision-making is the hardest part. After more than one and a half years, we can say that we received fairly strong support from the side of nature conservationists, green NGOs etc. But we are still struggling in addressing other stakeholder groups that do not belong to nature conservation (local authorities, business, interest groups responsible for agriculture or traffic or water etc.). As part of our project we have implemented - with the support of the German environmental ministry - a stakeholder group where people from all these

other sectors are involved. We hope that we are able to foster mainstreaming via this stakeholder board and its members.