

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.



Prof. Dr. Dolf de Groot is Associate Professor in Integrated Ecosystem Assessment & Management with the Environmental Systems Analysis Group of Wageningen University, the Netherlands as well as chair of the ES Partnership.

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- **UNEP-TEEB: In your view, why is making nature's values more visible an important topic? What can it achieve?**

de Groot: Raising awareness about the many benefits and economic value of nature is extremely important. In everyday decision making - personal, corporate and political - the value of nature is still underestimated, leading to over-exploitation and neglect which, in turn, causes great economic damage. And as a recent TEEB report demonstrated, up to 13% of GDP is already being lost (or squandered) due to damage and repair costs of lost or degraded ecosystem services. Awareness is essential to change this and to "make ecosystem services count"!

UNEP-TEEB: The 6th annual ESP conference is host to a number of TEEB events and activities this year - what value do the TEEB concept and approach bring to the ESP audience?

de Groot: I assume most participants of the conference will have at least a basic understanding of the ES concept and economic valuation methods; however, a big 'added value' of the TEEB involvement is the authority of its publications which are carefully edited and supported by a globally respected community of scientists and people from the business and policy community. TEEB shows how the concept can be brought into practice which is especially important for young ES scientists to inform and stimulate them so I am very pleased that TEEB organised a post-conference training session in Bali which was well attended.

UNEP-TEEB: What advice can you share with those interested in undertaking a TEEB country study?

de Groot: Make sure to consult the TEEB website first and inform yourself about all the ongoing and already existing TEEB and TEEB-relevant studies. There is already a wealth of information out there so make use of it. This is something we also want to stimulate with the ES-Partnership: bring parties together so they do not re-invent the wheel and provide easy access to partner organisations, databases and other sources of information.