

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.

Nicolas Pascal, from the Insular Research Centre and Environment Observatory, is an environmental economist working on the economic valuation of Jeannette Kawas National Park in Honduras, which he presented during a TEEB session on country studies.



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

Nicolas Pascal : This economic valuation shows the benefits that the national park brings to the people. It benefits at the same time nature and people when looking at the economic valuation of five main ecosystem services: provision, cultural, bioremediation, coastal protection and carbon sequestration. The results were shared with

different stakeholders - at provincial levels, environmental agencies, finance ministries, NGOs, bilateral agencies and local communities - to raise awareness and curb public budget allocation.

Moreover, economic valuation is important for finding financing sources that fit the needs of national parks. The budgets are decreasing and the pressures (like palm oil) are increasing. Parks depend on official development assistance, which needs to change. We have tried to identify two short-term instruments to generate cash flows for the park. The selection came from the identification of the beneficiaries of the ecosystem services as part of the completed pre-feasibility study.

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

Nicolas Pascal : TEEB offers a framework for developing methodological approaches, an efficient stakeholder process and a process of peer-reviewing, all of which bring major credibility to the organisation.

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

Nicolas Pascal : Don't forget to value the costs of conservation - for policy makers it can be just as important as knowing the benefits they produce. In developing countries, impacts on awareness may be low as budgets and regulations are weak. A Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) approach may be more practical.