

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.

Norman Emmanuel Ramirez, from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, presented the findings of a TEEB ASEAN scoping study during a TEEB session on country studies.



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

Norman Emmanuel Ramirez: We would like government officials from the different sectors (at the policy and technical level) from the ASEAN region to gain more understanding, but also be appreciative of nature's values through capacity-building and awareness raising activities. The development of case studies would provide sufficient evidence and basis to influence the target audience.

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

Norman Emmanuel Ramirez: The TEEB approach shows an alternative way to persuade key actors from both the government and non-government sectors to work together in protecting and conserving the region's biodiversity. It helps generate visual scenarios and

projections on the current and future status of biodiversity as an 'eye opener' for those who do not have full understanding of the importance of the region's biodiversity resources.

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

Norman Emmanuel Ramirez: In the ASEAN region, many studies have already been attempted and undertaken to value ecosystem services but a substantial number of documented results are just kept in shelves of offices or libraries. For some also, the challenge would be the usability and replicability of the studies due to language issues or because of questionable methodologies.