

The 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sangeeta Mangubhai** from IUCN and **Jan Steffen** from GIZ are both working towards a Germany (BMU) funded "Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls" (MACBIO) project.



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**UNEP-TEEB: What do you see as the value of applying the TEEB concept to the context of the Pacific region and its marine biodiversity?**

**S.M & J.S:** The Pacific region covers over 100 million square kilometres of ocean. Coastal and marine ecosystems are important to Pacific Island countries and territories in terms of the ecosystem services they provide and their economic values. However, the relationships between healthy ecosystems and the services they provide to society, culture and human well-being are poorly understood or under-valued, and therefore do not feature strongly in national planning, national policy or other decision-making processes. The incorporation of economic values of ecosystems into national budgetary and

planning/policy in the Pacific Islands processes has the potential to create greater market and non-market incentives for investing in effective protection, and the sustainable use of species and habitats, while supporting the life and aspirations of the Pacific Island people.

**UNEP-TEEB: In general, how does MACBIO intend to integrate the TEEB approach and general findings into its study?**

**S.M & J.S:** MACBIO will use the TEEB approach to undertake economic valuations of coastal and marine ecosystems and the services they provide in five Pacific Island countries – Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. We hope to use the results of the evaluations to guide and influence development strategies and policies in these countries, and provide economic arguments for investing in marine protected area networks to protect and maintain island biodiversity. It is anticipated that many of the TEEB approaches we will test out and apply in the Pacific will contribute to the larger global efforts to develop clearer guidance on how to apply TEEB to ocean environments.

**UNEP-TEEB: Can you provide a solid example of a problem or threat in the Pacific for which the TEEB approach could help make marine ecosystem values more visible?**

**S.M & J.S:** Climate change is one of the greatest threat facing Pacific Island nations. Countries are being encouraged and supported to develop climate change adaptation strategies. By demonstrating the economic value of key coastal and marine ecosystems, there is an opportunity to demonstrate to our political leaders the value and cost effectiveness of investing in natural infrastructure, rather than hard engineering solutions, to address the growing impacts from climate change related stressors.