



TEEB Newsletter - Volume 1 - Issue 1 - September 2009

Ecosystems have vital role in combating climate change

Berlin, 2 September 2009 – Investing in restoration and maintenance of the Earth's multi-trillion dollar ecosystems – from forests and mangroves to wetlands and river basins – can have a key role in countering climate change and climate-proofing vulnerable economies.



This is among the central findings of a new Issues Paper by The Economics and Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB).

Natural systems represent one of the biggest untapped allies against climate change, says the TEEB paper, part of a stream of work towards a final study in 2010. The paper underlines that an agreement on funding for forests is a key priority for governments attending the crucial United Nations climate convention meeting in Copenhagen in December. In a press conference in Berlin to release the TEEB findings, German Federal Environment Minister, Sigmar Gabriel said: "What we now need is a breakthrough in Copenhagen. We have to recognize that enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and maintaining the planet's biodiversity are key parts of the mitigation and the adaptation agendas."

It is estimated that 15 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions are being absorbed or 'sequestered' by forests, making them the "mitigation engine" of the natural world. Forests also provide services such as freshwaters, soil stabilization, nutrients for agriculture, eco-tourism opportunities and food, fuel and fibre – all of which will be key to buffering vulnerable communities against the climate change already underway.

The paper also highlights some of the consequences if governments fail to rise to the climate change challenge and Seal the Deal in less than 100 days. It underlines a 'Coral Reef Emergency' that is already here as a result of the current build-up of greenhouse gases.

Pavan Sukhdev, said the loss of the world's coral reefs would undermine one of nature's most productive assets and one that has a key role to play coastal defence against a predicted rise in storm surges and other extreme weather events.

"The ecosystem services from coral reefs are worth up to \$170 billion annually; an estimated half a billion people depend on them for livelihoods as do 25 per cent of marine fish species".

"The climate stabilization goals of many governments may prove sufficient for some ecosystems and some biodiversity but there is now a real question mark against the survival of coral reefs world-wide and their natural treasure troves," he added.

For the press release and issues paper visit: <http://www.teebweb.org>

What is TEEB?

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study is a major international initiative to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions moving forward.

Who is it for?

It is for national and international policy-makers; regional and local administrators and policymakers; business and enterprise and citizens.

Timeline

The final findings of the TEEB study will be presented in the autumn of 2010 at the CBD COP10 Meeting in Nagoya, Japan. Sections of the report will be released along this time line. The papers for the ecological and economic foundation of TEEB are on line from 2 September 2009, and the TEEB report for national and international policymakers will be issued in mid-November in order to facilitate ongoing dialogue for TEEB final findings. In 2010 the TEEB report for regional and local policy-makers and administrators will be released in Spring 2010 and the report for business and enterprise will be released in Summer 2010.

www.teebweb.org

TEEB Update



In addition to the climate issues update featured in our lead story, other TEEB content is also becoming available over the coming weeks. Draft chapters for discussion for the Ecological and Economic foundations of TEEB are starting to be placed on the TEEB website www.teebweb.org for information. Comments or submissions should be sent to the D0 co-ordinator, Pushpam Kumar, and TEEB's scientific coordination team at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ. Their email addresses are on the TEEB website.

In November this year a TEEB report for national and international policymakers will be released. This will be used to further engage stakeholders in dialogue on the issues and opportunities for responsible consideration of ecosystem services and biodiversity in the context of policy development.

TEEB co-chairs World Economic Forum Council on Ecosystems and Biodiversity Loss

The Global Agenda Council on Ecosystems and Biodiversity Loss is one of 78 groups of experts that the World Economic Forum has convened to form a network, in which council members interact to identify the most pressing issues on the Global Agenda.

Pavan Sukhdev, study leader for TEEB and Josh Bishop, Chief economist of IUCN and co-ordinator of the TEEB report for Business, are the respective Chair and Co-Chair of this specific council.

Throughout the next year, the council members will craft a set of recommendations that underline the economic impacts and opportunities that stem from ecosystems and biodiversity, which will be published in the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report and in the Global Redesign Initiative. Both of these will be delivered to the various communities that will be present at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

TEEB presented at UNCEEA meeting in New York

The Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was hosted in New York from 24–26 June 2009 by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Various policy frameworks linked to UNDP activities in climate change and UNEP's activities on the green economy; including resource efficiency, productivity and the economics of ecosystem services were

presented. TEEB findings were presented by TEEB D2 joint coordinator, Haripriya Gundimeda of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. The committee agreed that TEEB findings could serve as valuable input into the revised SEEA (The handbook of National Accounting: integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting).

UK Secretary of State says greatest challenge facing humanity is how we are going to deal with sustainability

On 9 July around 80 guests gathered at the Deutsche Bank offices in London for a special TEEB and Green Economy interactive seminar. The Rt Hon Hilary Benn gave a compelling key note address in which he stated that the greatest challenge facing humanity at the beginning of the 21st Century is how we are going to deal with sustainability, and strongly supported the work of TEEB as a mechanism for understanding the value of ecosystem services and applying it in the decision-making process.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner made the point that we are less than five years away from looking at the future of our economies through the lens of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Signs that this is already starting to happen were clearly articulated as Ciao Koch-Weser, Vice-Chairman of Deutsche Bank called for the finance sector and investment community to fully engage with TEEB in order to understand the 'Nature

value at risk'. He believes that late 2006–2008 will be recognised as a pivotal moment when mankind began to recognise more fully the economic, social and environmental implications of the threat of global warming to life on Earth and to the ecosystems that underpin our well-being and development.

The event highlighted the need for urgent and continuing communication of the economic and ethical case for the inclusion of ecosystem services and biodiversity within economic, policy and business frameworks, something the TEEB study aims to do throughout the timeline towards the COP10 meeting in Nagoya in October 2010.



Hilary Benn speaks at TEEB London event

TEEB Study Leader to speak at high-level conference at Strömstad in Sweden

Pavan Sukhdev will address environment ministers and high level officials at the Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010 conference hosted by the Swedish Minister for the Environment, in Strömstad on 8 September.

The objective of the conference, which runs 7–9 September, is to prepare for the revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in particular the devel-

opment of new biodiversity visions and targets following the evaluation of the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Pavan Sukhdev will provide a briefing and the opportunity for direct roundtable discussions about the economic arguments and policy options for supporting biodiversity and ecosystems.



TEEB study leader, Pavan Sukhdev.

GLOBE sees mainstreaming of Natural Capital as crucial in bid to combat Climate Change

TEEB D1 co-ordinator, Patrick ten Brink of IEEP, presented an outline of TEEB findings and Phase II ambitions to around one hundred senior legislators from around the world when they met in Rome on June 11th and 12th, 2009 for the GLOBE International G8+5 Legislators Forum.

The legislators meeting organized by the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE), called on developed countries to show leadership prior to the UN meeting in Copenhagen in December to agree a post-2012 climate change framework.

This was built upon at the GLOBE International Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems meeting at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on the 18th and 19th of July 2009 at which Study Leader Pavan Sukhdev presented further TEEB findings. The Commission is chaired by Ian John-

son, former Vice-President of the World Bank, and draws together senior legislators and scientific advisors to develop proposed regulatory and legislative measures to address the key drivers of tropical deforestation as well as marine fisheries depletion.

The Commission emphasised the importance of environmental and social safeguards to underpin REDD and that indigenous peoples are duly accounted for in any credit payment structure. The commission also acknowledged the need for improved monitoring of tropical forests, in relation to both the carbon content and the broader ecosystem services, including biodiversity, which forests provide. The Commission's final tropical forests paper will be presented to the GLOBE Copenhagen forum on 24th–25th October, to be fed into governments prior to the UNFCCC COP in December 2009.

G8 Environment Ministers sign up to importance of TEEB Study

The G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in May concluded with the adoption of the Syracuse Charter after three days of discussions in Syracuse, Italy.

As part of the agenda, Pavan Sukhdev and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, were invited to give presentations on the findings of TEEB and the opportunities within the shift to a green economy.

The charter represents a fundamental reference point from which to revive the commitment to define new and joint strategies for the period after 2010. The importance of the TEEB study was mentioned specifically in the charter.



World Bank and Smithsonian launch joint Global Tiger Initiative

June 19, 2009 – The Smithsonian Institution and the World Bank Group announced a new program under the Global Tiger Initiative to help stabilize and restore wild tiger populations in its natural habitats.

The World Bank and the Smithsonian's National Zoo will establish a Conservation and Development Network to provide training in biodiversity management, with a specific focus on preserving and increasing wild tiger populations.

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick invited TEEB Study Leader, Pavan Sukhdev to speak at the inauguration of this new programme. The Year-of-the-Tiger Summit is scheduled to be held in the second half of 2010.

WWF give platform to TEEB at Annual Conference

Pavan was a speaker at WWF's Annual Conference in Copenhagen in May. The Conference brought together the Chief Executives and Chairpersons from WWF's national offices from across the world. Pavan covered "Green Economy and the

TEEB process" and found a willing audience given the common agenda that both organisations share. As a result of this, TEEB and WWF staff are in closer contact exploring further opportunities for collaboration.

TEEB strengthens links in Japan

In June, Pavan Sukhdev and TEEB D3 Coordinator Josh Bishop of IUCN travelled to Japan for a series of meetings with government and business to brief them about the TEEB initiative and to strengthen links with Japan in the lead up to the CBD COP10 meeting in Nagoya in October 2010. There were meetings with a number of organisations including the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Japanese Business Initiative for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Nippon Keidanren.

One of the outcomes of the visit was establishing a platform for citizen-faced TEEB messaging activity within the Japanese domestic market. "We are delighted to be developing opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity. It will be a key part of our D4 activity for citizens", commented Pavan Sukhdev. Plans are still to be finalised for this activity but it is expected to raise awareness about the value of ecosystem services and biodiversity in preparation of the Nagoya-conference in autumn next year.

European Network of Nature Conservation Agencies endorse TEEB study

At the 4th European Network of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA) plenary meeting in Locarno on May 12 this year, the ENCA member agencies formally endorsed the TEEB study. It was agreed that gaining a better understanding of the economics of ecosystem services may provide a rationale to safeguard and extend protected area and maintain biodiversity friendly land uses, showing how to realise and share their value with stakeholders and local communities without jeopardizing their biodiversity benefits.



The European Network of Nature Conservation Agencies brings together scientific evidence and knowledge of practical application together with experiences in administration and policy advice in the context of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services.

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