

The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP
Briefing Session – Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
16 March 2017
Gigiri, UN Office at Nairobi
Conference Room 4

Background information for the briefing to CPR members on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) project to take place on March 16th from 10:00-12:00 in room 4

This briefing will be presented by two members from the TEEB Advisory Board:

PAVAN SUKHDEV: TEEB Study Leader - UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, and founder and chair of GIST Advisory, and ALEXANDER MÜLLER: TEEBAgriFood Study Leader and former Assistant Director General of FAO

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global initiative focused on “making nature’s values visible”. Its principal objective is to mainstream the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels. It aims to achieve this goal by following a structured approach to valuation that helps decision-makers recognize the wide range of benefits provided by ecosystems and biodiversity, demonstrate their values in economic terms and, where appropriate, capture those values in decision-making.

The TEEB report series were presented at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010; they include TEEB for Policy Makers, TEEB for Business, TEEB for Local and Regional Policy Makers, TEEB Ecological and Economic Foundations and Mainstreaming TEEB.

Following up from those reports, a number of countries have initiated TEEB-inspired studies with an aim to demonstrate the values of nature and to encourage policy-making that recognizes the

recommendations - depending on the country context - can include policies for poverty alleviation, subsidy reform, land use management, protected area management, securing livelihoods, investment in natural infrastructure restoration and national accounting to include natural capital. The TEEB Office is implementing an EC-funded TEEB Country project in five pilot countries (Bhutan, Ecuador, Liberia, Philippines and Tanzania). values of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

A TEEB Country Study identifies the ecosystem services that are vital to meeting the country's policy priorities and makes recommendations on how these services can be integrated into policies. These

In addition to this project, The TEEB Office provides a platform for TEEB-inspired country studies that are financed and managed by governments or other development partners. The TEEB Office has, in some cases, had no direct involvement with the studies, while for others it has provided support inter alia project design and fundraising, technical assistance on ensuring that the project follows the TEEB approach, and formal endorsement as a “TEEB Country Study” by the TEEB Advisory Board.

TEEB has also embarked in various Sector and Biome studies, such as Water and Wetlands, Oceans and Coasts, and the Arctic. The latest and largest study is the TEEB study on Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood). It seeks to bring together economists, business leaders, agriculturalists and experts in biodiversity and ecosystems to provide a comprehensive economic evaluation of the 'eco-agri-food systems' complex, and demonstrate that the economic environment in which farmers operate is distorted by significant externalities, both negative and positive, and a lack of awareness of dependency on natural capital.

A TEEB AgriFood interim report was launched in December 2015 and presented at UNEA2, it introduces the key questions, issues and arguments to be addressed by TEEBAgriFood and can be found here: http://img.teebweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/TEEBAgFood_Interim_Report_2015_web.pdf