

The Economics
of Ecosystems
& Biodiversity



TEEB for Oceans and Coasts



TEEB: Making nature's values visible

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global initiative focused on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as the costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. TEEB brings together expertise from ecology, economics and development in order to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into policy-making at all levels.

The TEEB initiative is an authoritative resource on recognizing, demonstrating and capturing the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services due in large part to the production of a series of reports targeting specific end-users, including ecologists and economists, national and international policy-makers, local and regional administrators, businesses and citizens.

Capitalizing on the momentum created by the initial TEEB reports, the initiative has now moved into an active phase of implementation and facilitation at the regional, national and sub-national level. As part of this work, a number of projects are currently being proposed that will build on initial findings and provide a deeper analysis of specific sectors and biomes. In particular, these initiatives seek to recognize the values provided by ecosystems and their services to relevant economic sectors, as well as to assess the costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, with an ultimate focus on integrating these findings into decision-making at all levels.

“Many, many pressures are in fact already impacting the oceans before we have properly understood their importance, both in terms of a functioning ecosystem and to us as human beings and our economies as a whole.”

Achim Steiner
 UNEP Executive Director and
 Under-Secretary-General of
 the United Nations



The TEEB approach

The TEEB approach: recognizing, demonstrating and capturing value.

Recognizing value

in ecosystems, landscapes, species and other aspects of biodiversity is a feature of all human societies and communities, and is sometimes sufficient to ensure conservation and sustainable use. This may be the case especially where the spiritual or cultural values of nature are strong.

Demonstrating value

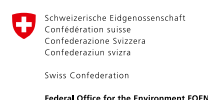
in qualitative and quantitative terms is, nevertheless, often useful for policymakers and others, such as businesses, in reaching decisions that consider the full costs and benefits of a proposed use of an ecosystem, rather than just those costs or values that enter markets in the form of private goods.

Capturing value

involves the introduction of mechanisms that incorporate the values of ecosystems into decision making, through policy incentives and price signals.



TEEB is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and supported by the following donors. Website: www.teebweb.org



“The invisibility of biodiversity values has often encouraged inefficient use or even destruction of the natural capital that is the foundation of our economies.”

Pavan Sukhdev
TEEB Study leader and
Chair, Advisory Board

■ Key objectives of study

TEEB for Oceans and Coasts will support the mainstreaming of new policies, practices, markets and agreements that will improve the ecological and economic productivity and sustainability of marine ecosystems around the world. The key objectives of the project are:

1. To identify policies that would benefit from better information about the economic, social and cultural value of ocean ecosystems and biodiversity;
2. To observe and map the societal, cultural and biophysical values we place on the oceans, identifying the underlying drivers for change;
3. To connect stakeholders to the existing knowledge on oceans, acknowledging the global economic and environmental challenges and exploring potentials for another frame of economic thought;
4. To develop concept designs and prototype a variety of possible solutions and evolutionary ecosystem-based economic frames;
5. To develop a research strategy that better leverages current knowledge, fills high priority gaps and enables improvement of knowledge over time; and
6. To ensure that all stakeholders collectively implement the recommended solutions and policy options in order to develop a compelling argument to achieve the sustainable development of oceans, and a more sustainable future.

“The world’s oceans are key to sustaining life on the planet. The ocean constitutes a conduit for ninety per cent of the world trade, and for connecting people, markets and livelihoods. In light of the ocean’s interconnectedness, all nations of the world should strive to make the oceans places of safety and sustainability of maritime activities for all humankind.”

Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of
the United Nations

■ Project statement

TEEB for Oceans and Coasts will seek to draw attention to the economic benefits of ocean and coastal biodiversity and healthy ecosystems and emphasize the unrealized benefits of preserved and enhanced whole ecosystem structures, functions and processes to the well-being of humans and nature. In order to achieve this, it will bridge the gaps in knowledge on ocean ecosystem services and functions and support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into both national policymaking and broader societal perspectives. This effort offers a critical and unique opportunity to carefully identify and bring to life the ways in which ecosystem valuation can change the incentives and policies that, to date, have resulted in the steady decline and loss of value of these economic engines for the planet.

TEEB for Oceans and Coasts will provide real world examples and clear guidance on better accounting for ecosystem value within policy decisions and will show decision makers at all levels and civil society stakeholders how new policies, practices, markets and agreements can improve the ecological and economic productivity and sustainability of marine ecosystems around the world.

Five project components

2

Knowledge

TEEB for Oceans and Coasts will develop a holistic ecosystem services framework in an effort to bridge the knowledge gap that exists between the demand for better information about the value of marine resources, and the understanding of how these values can be used to inform policy decisions. Building upon the original TEEB, this project will build the capacity of coastal and ocean decision-makers, so that they are able to take ecosystem service values into account in their decision-making.

1

Participatory Design

In order to ensure that the results of the TEEB for Oceans and Coasts will be useful to an established audience, collaborative project mapping and design will be used to secure the long-term engagement of relevant stakeholders and key partners in the policy, governance, industry and community/civil society.

3

Prototyping

A minimum of four ecosystem-level valuation exercises are planned (sites to be determined) as case studies to demonstrate how holistic valuation approaches can be adapted to respond to specific national policy questions.

4

Policy Integration

Two workshops will be held to present the holistic ecosystem services framework alongside an outline of the costs and benefits of implementation at two workshops with regional decision-makers. The workshops will promote the use of the tested framework in order to design cost-effective policy instruments and to ensure real policy implementation.

5

Comms & Outreach

TEEB for Oceans and Coasts will communicate information about the economics of ocean biodiversity and ecosystem services in a holistic, flexible fashion, across a wide variety of societal sectors. The project will make use of the media, print publications, in person communication, social media, and online tools, including a web-based knowledge portal to engage in targeted outreach and awareness-raising.



General enquiries and Media enquiries

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More information on the TEEB reports, projects and implementation can be found on the TEEB website – www.teebweb.org, or by contacting the TEEB Office