

Since the results from the TEEB report series were presented at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010, numerous countries have initiated TEEB studies with the aim to demonstrate the values of nature and to encourage policy-making that recognizes the values of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The international workshop on TEEB country studies: *Learning from experience and how to utilize TEEB results*, held at the Isle of Vilm, Germany from 21 to 24 May 2013, brought together national and international experts, involved in facilitating and implementing TEEB country studies to share their experiences.

In this interview held during the workshop **Isabel Renner, GIZ, Germany**, shared her views with UNEP-TEEB on how to use TEEB results to support national development planning.

**UNEP- TEEB: What do you see as the value of the TEEB concept?**

**Isabel Renner:** TEEB is indeed a useful concept and approach that provides orientation and guidance for agenda setting and communication. It serves as a general framework that can be adapted according to the specific needs for implementation in a specific context in order to put the ecosystem services approach into practice.



**UNEP-TEEB: How can implementing TEEB help to bridge the still existing gap between economic development and environment protection?**

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*It helps to communicate the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and development*

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**Isabel Renner:** The framework for biodiversity-related issues in the German Development Cooperation is the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and TEEB has become a cornerstone for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020. TEEB and the GIZ approach for Integrating Ecosystem Services into Development Planning have great potential to contribute significantly to highlight biodiversity-related risks and opportunities for development planning processes in our partner countries that arise from the dependence of and impact on ecosystem services. Using this information, the Integrating Ecosystem Services approach then offers practical tools and instruments to manage the resulting trade-offs and implement

the required changes. Furthermore, it helps to communicate the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and development.

**UNEP-TEEB: What is your advice to countries at the beginning of the TEEB implementation process?**

**Isabel Renner:** Engaging stakeholders beyond the environment community, agreeing on a common vision for the process as well as assuring policy relevance and then translating the discussions into concrete actions are some of the biggest challenges. In our experience, we learnt that in the initial phase, focus should be less on trying to solve everything but rather to starting the process and creating opportunities for adaptive management and improvement during the process. Another challenge is communication, when it comes to dialogue and negotiation with other sectors, it's important to have a sound understanding of the stakeholders and institutional frameworks and adjust the message to their interest and needs.