

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 **Nathalie Rizzotti** of the Federal Office of the Environment, Switzerland, shared with the UNEP-TEEB Office her views on the role of TEEB and how to use TEEB results in national development planning.

UNEP-TEEB: Briefly tell us about your involvement with TEEB?

Nathalie Rizzotti: At the international level, Switzerland is a donor country to the TEEB Secretariat and is



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part of the International TEEB Coordination Group. At the national level, Switzerland could potentially develop a TEEB approach, more specifically TEEB could be part of its Action Plan for Biodiversity.

UNEP-TEEB: How useful a concept do you think TEEB is for Switzerland?

Nathalie Rizzotti: I think the ability to create a space to dialogue amongst different sectors, that don't feel dependent or related to biodiversity and ecosystem services is a very useful component of the TEEB concept. It is an efficient way of mainstreaming biodiversity and raising awareness about its importance, beyond environmental sectors by involving others, for example, the private sector, the cooperation and development work.

In Switzerland, this approach has already been used for example in river restoration programs. By restoring rivers, ecosystems services such as flood protection were also restored. Restoring rivers and wetlands is often less expensive than building infrastructure to protect against flooding from a cost-benefits analysis. More broadly, TEEB could be useful in Switzerland in the framework of the Action Plan of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy to support strategic goals related to sustainable use of biodiversity and to engage the private sector as well.

UNEP-TEEB: While countries agreed on international biodiversity targets, biodiversity continues to be lost at an alarming rate. How do you think TEEB could make a difference?

Nathalie Rizzotti: I think it is not enough to agree on targets, we also need actions and to develop conditions that enable implementation. For example by recognizing the values of biodiversity and then capturing into actions, it will also ensure the necessary funding to reach the targets. TEEB

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

Nathalie Rizzotti: TEEB supports countries to implement international engagements. The Secretariat supports global approaches and exchanges of experiences amongst countries and supports countries to adapt this approach to their needs. TEEB will, we hope, help to face common responsibilities and to change our approach and management of common goods.