

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, **Jerome Nyenka**, lecturer in Forest Economics and Policy and advisor to the Environmental Protection Agency, University of Liberia, shared his 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 for Liberia?

Jerome Nyenka: I think that globally, we do not know a great deal of what we need to know about ecosystem services and biodiversity. In my opinion the TEEB platform is going to enable us in Liberia to explore and investigate both, the economic values of ecosystems services and the potential cultural and social values.

UNEP-TEEB: In your view can the TEEB approach help link the goals of economic development and nature conservation?

'A platform like TEEB is going to assist Liberia strike a balance between biodiversity protection and economic growth and development'

Jerome Nyenka: I would say yes, because Liberia is a biodiversity hotspot. The whole country is almost entirely covered by tropical forest and biological resources constitute one of the most significant resources of Liberia. So I think a platform like TEEB is going to assist Liberia strike a balance between biodiversity protection and economic growth and development.

UNEP-TEEB: Why is applying an economic approach towards biodiversity conservation important for Liberia?

Jerome Nyenka: The Liberian development policies mention the economic values of ecosystems services and biodiversity. For example, there are two current national development plans, a medium term development plan called BRS2 that covers a five year period and the long-term National Vision 2030. In these two separate development programs there is a section on sustainable development and peace building and a significant proportion of the programs are dedicated to environmental management. Once we start implementing these plans we hope that we can capture the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

