

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, **Kees Hendriks, Wageningen University, Netherlands**, 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 the Netherlands ?**

**Kees Hendriks:** I think TEEB is a very useful concept, particularly for communication. When we started the TEEB regional studies,

we had very interesting discussions with all kinds of academic groups. They all had their own vision, but with the TEEB approach we were able to reconcile these.

---

*By balanced decisions, I mean they not only take traditional economic values into account but also the values of nature.*

In the Netherlands even though we have a history of protecting nature we are conscious that we have limited space and yet we want to further develop our economy. Sometimes it is hard to combine both protection and development and therefore it is vital to integrate the benefits of nature in economic development and to find ways to combine the benefits of nature with doing business. I believe it is a matter of communication between economic and ecological worlds,

the people from these two different worlds need to be connected if we are to find solutions.

**UNEP-TEEB : The Netherlands has previously undertaken TEEB Regional studies what was the aim of these studies?**

**Kees Hendriks:** In the Netherlands, the main objective of the TEEB regional studies was to discover how we can supply local and regional decision-makers with the information to make well-informed and balanced decisions. By balanced decisions, I mean they not only take traditional economic values into account but also the values of nature. So we had to find ways to express values of nature, and one way this can be expressed is in monetary terms, for example the contribution of ecosystem services to the provision of drinking water or people's health.

**UNEP-TEEB: So having produced the interim results of the Dutch TEEB report on regional cases, do you expect any policy changes based on the outcomes of this report?**

**Kees Hendriks:** I certainly hope so and I have good hope because the outcomes of the study make it clear that by using the TEEB approach, you find new solutions which have been overlooked by the methods we formerly applied. We have a better understanding now of the benefits nature is able to give to humans and also what the costs and benefits of biodiversity loss are.

**UNEP-TEEB: What is your advice to countries starting TEEB implementation?**

**Kees Hendriks:** I think it is important not to expect miracles from TEEB, but it is certainly a tool to move a step forward to a more sustainable economy and to select sustainable options for the future.