

6. GOVERNANCE

This document describes the governance strategy for TEEBAgriFood. It presents the TEEB “open architecture” approach and identifies the roles and responsibilities of different individuals and units that support overall project management.

I. The TEEB “open architecture” approach

Considering the complexity of this study, and the multitude of perspectives and opinions surrounding a variety of agriculture and food systems around the world, it is useful and necessary to set up the governance of TEEBAgriFood as an “open architecture” in which the science and knowledge of all major stakeholder groups can be acknowledged and incorporated into the analysis. This approach will contribute to the generation of balanced and evidence-based findings that represent a complete analysis, and is based on the following four key principles that were (and remain) central to TEEB overall:

- **Quality** and independence of the assessment
- **Inclusion** of all major stakeholders and perspectives
- **Transparency** in terms of process and governance
- **Change** towards more holistic economic decision-making

II. Project governance

This project will operate under three levels of internal decision-making, with well-defined roles for the Study Leader (Alexander Mueller) and Special Advisor (Pavan Sukhdev).

The **TEEB Advisory Board (TAB)** is the highest decision-making authority for the entire TEEB initiative. Members of the Advisory Board¹ are bound by a clear set of Rules and Procedures (see Annex I) that allow them to oversee all TEEB-related activities (including areas of work, partnerships, finance, and communications/outreach) and to ensure coherence and consistency across the entire TEEB portfolio, of which TEEBAgriFood is one single (albeit important) component.

The TAB will receive periodic (two to three times per year) updates regarding TEEBAgriFood activities and next steps, and provide high-level feedback and approval regarding the strategic direction of the project. For instance, the TAB was influential in deciding the criteria for recruiting a Study Leader as well as identifying different sector-specific studies that produced an early evidence base for the project.

The **TEEBAgriFood Project Steering Committee (PSC)** is the second-highest decision-making authority, dealing solely with project-related issues for TEEBAgriFood. Members are largely responsible for the more substantive elements of work, including for instance peer review of draft outputs, nominations of/suggestions for the contracting of experts and contributors and technical guidance. As such, their role will be more active and engaged than the TAB.

This Committee is chaired by the Study Leader, Alexander Mueller, and will convene in both physical meetings and regular phone calls.

¹ <http://www.teebweb.org/about/teeb-advisory/>

The **UNEP TEEB Office** in Geneva has the 'process' role, and will handle all matters relating to administration, contracts, donor relations, event and meeting organization and communication/outreach, for TEEB in general and TEEBAgriFood specifically. Salman Hussain is the TEEB Coordinator, supported by three technical consultants, one communication consultant, and an administrative consultant.

The **Study Leader** and **Special Advisor** have been elected by the TAB to fulfil important managerial roles, due to their valuable expertise, experience and networks. As Study Leader, Alexander Mueller will bring an important agriculture and food policy perspective from his time as Assistant Director General in FAO and his involvement in related policy and expert circles. As Special Advisor, Pavan Sukhdev will be applying his rich and ongoing experience as the Study Leader of TEEB Phases I and II. (We are currently in TEEB Phase III.) This duo will work together and permeate each of the three groups above in order to ensure smooth and efficient project operations and delivery. Both are actively involved members of the TAB, while the Study Leader will fulfil an important role as liaison between the project Steering Committee (in his capacity as Chair) and the TAB.