

Mangroves are important to our survival

TEEB to account for the real value of mangroves, in terms of food security and climate change



- About 70% of the Liberian population depends on natural resources for their livelihood. Poor coastal communities rely directly on the services provided by mangroves, such as nesting ground for fish and buffer against coastal flooding
- Food security is another concern for over half of the population. 60-70% of the population of Liberia derive their protein from fish for which the mangrove forest serve as the nesting ground.

We cannot manage what we do not measure

- Mangroves in Liberia suffer from continual degradation, with an estimated loss of 65% mangroves since 1980.
- However, the value of coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands and mangroves, are being neglected in decision-making in Liberia. The return on private investment from overexploiting mangrove forest for fuelwood is easily quantifiable. But coastal protection and other benefits that can be linked to mangroves and wetlands, are often taken for granted.
- Taking into account the *real* value and the invisible benefits would potentially result in mangroves being more valuable economically per unit area than any other land use
- This will lead to economic development strategies not being based on extraction of natural resources, but the conservation of coastal ecosystems

Project Results: TEEB Liberia – informing coastal and marine planning policies

- The EPA is providing policy evidence on the benefits of the establishment of marine protected areas via community based conservation agreements, in combination with the introduction of alternative livelihood activities.
- The EPA generates awareness on the true values of mangroves and wetlands in 10 local communities