What is TEEB?

TEEB is an international initiative that provides evidence of economic and social benefits of ecosystem services and biodiversity, consequently, highlighting the tremendous costs of their loss and degradation.

TEEB was initiated in 2007 at the G8+5 meeting in Potsdam, Germany, where Environment Ministers from eight developed countries (G8) and five developing countries (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) called for a study to analyse the global economic benefits of biodiversity, costs of biodiversity loss, and costs of failing to take protective measures versus conservation.

As a result, four reports were released over 2008 – 2012, targeting various audiences – national and international policymakers, local and regional policy makers, businesses, and academia (Fig. 1). The reports build conceptual arguments for valuing nature, and also synthesize practical experience of doing so for each of these actors. The reports have been instrumental in highlighting the tremendous loss of natural capital in recent times.
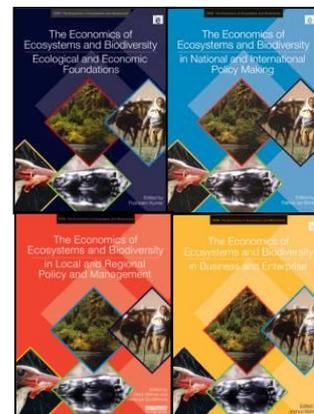

Figure 1 - TEEB Reports targeting various audiences (2008 – 2012)

TEEB Bhutan

Following the global TEEB reports, various countries expressed interest to undertake TEEB Country Studies – to map, assess and value biodiversity and ecosystem services at national and local levels (Fig. 2). These aim to back up national discussions on conservation and sustainability with additional economic arguments and to integrate them into the relevant decision-making processes. These may include, for example, determining payment schemes for encouraging reforestation, improving environmental impact assessments, and reflecting contributions of nature to human well-being in national accounts.

	Ecosystem Services (Adapted from MA classification of Ecosystem services, 2005)
Source: Lawrence Hislop (http://www.grida.no)	Provisioning Services - Fuel-wood - Improving water quality, including biological purity and sediment loading … Regulating Services - Moderation of extreme events such as flash floods and storm surges by creating natural barriers - Carbon sequestration … Habitat Services - Maintenance of cycles of migratory species (such as birds, or fish) - Nursery-services: reproduction habitat to many species of fish and crustaceans … Cultural Services - Opportunities for tourism and recreation …

Figure 2 - Examples of Ecosystem services delivered by mangroves

In this context, Bhutan has expressed interest to be part of a TEEB project "Reflecting the Value of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Policymaking"[1]. The project is financially supported by the European Commission and is to be implemented in-country over a period of three years. The project would be implemented in three phases – 1) project preparation and scoping 2) undertaking TEEB country study, and 3) review and dissemination of results (Fig. 3).
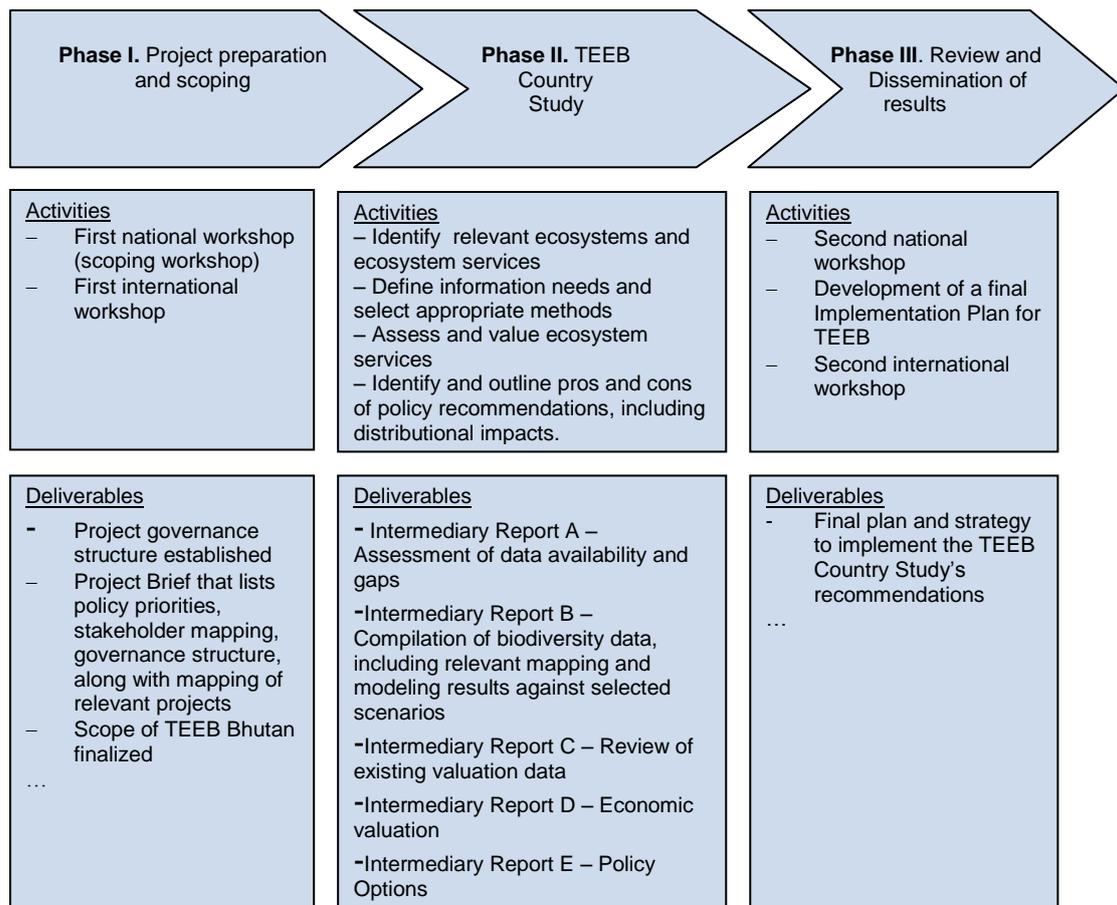
Phase I. Project preparation and scoping

Phase II. TEEB Country Study

Phase III. Review and Dissemination of results

Activities
– First national workshop (scoping workshop)
– First international workshop

Activities
– Identify relevant ecosystems and ecosystem services
– Define information needs and select appropriate methods
– Assess and value ecosystem services
– Identify and outline pros and cons of policy recommendations, including distributional impacts.

Activities
– Second national workshop
– Development of a final Implementation Plan for TEEB
– Second international workshop

Deliverables
- Project governance structure established
– Project Brief that lists policy priorities, stakeholder mapping, governance structure, along with mapping of relevant projects
– Scope of TEEB Bhutan finalized
…

Deliverables
- Intermediary Report A – Assessment of data availability and gaps
- Intermediary Report B – Compilation of biodiversity data, including relevant mapping and modeling results against selected scenarios
- Intermediary Report C – Review of existing valuation data
- Intermediary Report D – Economic valuation
- Intermediary Report E – Policy Options

Deliverables
- Final plan and strategy to implement the TEEB Country Study's recommendations
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Figure 3 -TEEB implementation in phases, activities, and deliverables

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[1] Other countries supported as part of this EC funded project include Tanzania, Liberia, the Philippines, and Ecuador

First National Workshop

The scoping workshop is one of the first activities in phase I of the project. The mission would invite stakeholders to help identify the questions that a TEEB country would answer. This mission will be held from March 10-12, 2014. The mission's objectives are -
1. Identify relevant stakeholders;
2. Explain project aims to relevant stakeholders, and solicit policy priorities from these stakeholders through a working session;
3. Identify an institution to undertake technical components of the study (activities identified in Phase II); and
4. Discuss tentative project deliverables and timelines with the Government of Bhutan.

Your role as a stakeholder

A stakeholder is a person, group or organization with direct or indirect interests in the TEEB country study and its findings. Expected workshop participants include: Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Ministry of Finance, Gross National Happiness Commission, The Department of Forests and Park Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock, National Environment Commission, Druk Green Power Commission, Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Authority, Ministry of Health, Department of Energy, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, United Nations Development programme, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Center for Bhutan Studies, The Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation, World Wildlife Fund, and Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment .

The three – day workshop would be held at Thimphu. The first day includes the project launch and introduction to TEEB implementation. The day's longest event is a "working session" to specify and agree on key policy issues with stakeholders, identify the most relevant ecosystem services, and define information needs. The second day will include discussions on data gaps and identifying needed capacity for undertaking the TEEB Country Study. Refer to page 4 for the full agenda.

TEEB National Scoping workshop – Objective, Outputs, and Agenda

Background

Bhutan has expressed interest in implementing TEEB through the EC supported project "Reflecting the Value of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Policymaking". TEEB can assist countries in identifying ways to 'work with nature' to meet policy priorities; within a 'TEEB Country Study,' Ecosystem services that are vital to meeting the country's policy priorities are identified, examined in detail, and recommendations are made so that these services can be internalized into policies. Policy priorities may include, *inter alia,* poverty alleviation, avoiding desertification, addressing freshwater scarcity, and climate change adaptation. TEEB recommendations may cover a large spectrum, including subsidy reform, land use management, protected area management, and investment in natural infrastructure restoration. The project may be implemented in three phases – 1) project preparation and scoping 2) undertaking the study and 3) review and dissemination of results.

The first phase entails various activities to lay the foundations for being able to effectively undertake the study. These include a) establishing the project governance structure to ensure overall management of the project in terms of timelines, deliverables, and involvement of relevant stakeholders, b) organize a scoping workshop to identify the questions that a TEEB country study would answer; c) first national workshop to present the scope of the TEEB study and get agreement on this from various stakeholders; and d) first international workshop so that all five countries selected for the project (Philippines, Ecuador, Liberia, Tanzania and Bhutan) may share their scoping phase results.

Objectives
The objectives of the scoping workshop are -
- o Identify relevant stakeholders – these may include ministries/ departments, NGOs, the private sector, and academia.
- o Explain project aims to relevant stakeholders and solicit policy priorities from these stakeholders through a working session. These policy priorities would form the basis of the TEEB Country Study and would be validated during the first national workshop.
- o Identify a host institution to undertake the technical components of the study
- o Discuss tentative project deliverables and timelines.

Outputs
Deliverables include:
- **Project Brief**[2]:
  - o Specifying national policy priorities - an initial rationale for undertaking TEEB at the country level
  - o A preliminary stakeholder mapping and stocktaking - Identification of key policy questions to frame the biophysical data compilation and valuation component
  - o A preliminary mapping of relevant projects
  - o The governance structure of the project and overall planning of the project, including deliverables and timelines.
- Host Institution is identified (Small Scale Funding Agreement – SSFA - to be concluded)[3]
- List of Members of National Steering Committee and Expert Panel with Terms of Reference

These deliverables would help the host institution to prepare inputs for the first national workshop aimed at confirming national priorities and key policy issues with stakeholders.

, Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Authority, Ministry of Health, Department of Energy, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, United Nations Development programme, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Center for Bhutan Studies, The Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation, World Wildlife Fund, and Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment.

Annex 1: TEEB six-step approach

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[2] To be developed by the Host institution with inputs from MoAF and UNEP TEEB Office
[3] The host agency may commence work on the scoping study/ proposal as soon as the SSFA is signed. The draft of the study would be circulated to stakeholders prior to the national workshop for validation.

Steps	Step 1. Refine objectives of the TCS through consultations on important policy issues with stakeholders	Step 2. Identify most relevant ecosystem and ecosystem services	Step 3. Define information needs and select appropriate methods	Step 4. Asses and value ecosystem services	Step 5. Identify and outline pros and cons of policy options, including distributional impacts	Step 6. Review, revise and report study results
Key outputs	• Clearly defined objectives and scope for the study, with the appropriate level of stakeholder involvement, especially from national and local policy-makers • Basic grasp of the differences in perspectives and potentially conflicting interests across different policy dependencies as well as impacts • Understanding of which institutions currently govern ecosystems and biodiversity and how decisions are made • Brief problem statement that can be referred to in order to guide the study	• Basic understanding that can guide assessment of how different stakeholders value and prioritize ecosystem services • Key concerns identified with regard to ecosystem degradation or loss, the main drivers and trends, and related stakeholder groups • List of prioritized eco-system services which are linked to the objectives of the study	• Clarity on what information needs to be generated and how this information will be used to further the overall objectives of the study. • Decision made regarding methods to be used, with justifications for the choice provided • Clarity on key data base and matching of intended methods with data time, capacity and resources available for conducting the analyses.	• Assessment and valuation of relevant ecosystem services, including the trends in usage, degradation, ecosystem health, and resilience • Detailed understanding and assessment of the key drivers of changes (what and by whom) in ecosystem service provision, and how stakeholders are affected by the changes • Understanding of how the benefits associated with ecosystems services and the costs associated with their degradation are distributed	• Broad outline of currently existing policies and alternative policy options or measures, tested against consistent criteria including distributional implication • List and brief description of policy options or measures which show promise, giving a broad rationale • If relevant, assessment of ecosystems service provision under different policy scenarios or use options, including the trade-offs involved • Recommendations on how to best deal with un-avoidable negative distributional impacts that may arise	• Review of study with recommendations either integrated into the study or clear reasons given for non-integration • Final reporting appropriate to the needs of targeted decision-makers and other audiences • Statement of recommended criteria and indicators to be considered for impact analysis and regular reporting of outcomes, after recommended policy changes are implemented.