

Summary 08/09/09

Speaker: Augustin Berghöfer

## 1) TEEB – The economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Discussion

Q: How do you calculate the welfare loss?

A: It is the economic welfare.

Q: Is there a retrospective to take decisions?

A: It is an interesting idea.

[www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org) we can find the report there.

Q: I would like to hear your opinion about the revolution in the classical economy.

A: There are different opinions and a lot of good works. TEEB is a human pragmatical project.

## 2) TEEB – Challenges for valuing ecosystem services in local conservation politics.

Discussion

Q: Is there a change in the valuation of biodiversity over the time?

A: No, there is not. Actually, the environmental education evolved in the last 40 years. There is not an economic calculation about that.

Q: In India payment for ES works only on local but not on national level.

A: Theoretically convincing ideas have to be tailored to local circumstances and not all aspects can be anticipated.

Q: 1-Market maybe undeveloped and therefore their market price might be an unsuitable measure?  
2- Considering the cost benefit analysis: does it imply that there is no need to protect an area if the CBA is non-positive?

A: 2- CBA is not an instrument I favour.

1- Monetary valuing is a powerful tool but it might be used in the wrong direction. To avoid this danger implied CBA has to be properly designed. It is important to know which function you are investigating. It can be used for decision support, information, lobbying, fund raising and the intended appliance determines the level of „resolution“ of the CBA.

And of course, there is money and power involved, therefore it might be a messy and conflict-rich process. In this context, it is especially important to ensure a transparent deliberation.

Q: What happens to (indigenous) communities in terms of self-esteem etc. if they are being paid e.g. not to use their resources?

A: We cannot afford to spend money on inefficient conservation – therefore the question is whether we can afford not to be concerned with cost-efficiency issues.

Positive example: payments for hospitals and schools in the community in order to protect the mountain gorillas in Uganda. There are not linkages with ES, but in the long time is very good.

Q: Can you give any positive small-scale examples for collaboration between communities? (apart from the upstream-downstream communities depending on each other)

C: Positive example of water, biodiversity, carbon and fire management in Australia

A: e.g. habitat banking schemes („eco-points“) in Germany and Switzerland: eco-points as a currency that can be sold on a market and therefore be an efficient means of allocation

Q: but subsidized!

A: but a market mechanism of efficient allocation

Q: Money was invented to substitute exchange („substitution“ of ecosystem services by paying for it? Property rights? Readiness to exchange? Valuation?)

A: At the moment we lack incentives and therefore offsets/ positive incentives on private land can play an important role

a) Costa Rica is an example as incentive to maintain the Status Quo

b) Restoration: planting trees → delayed gratification: payments as a bridge to ensure compensation

A: Kala Oya as an example for several valuation methods being applied: market, prices, replacement prices, hedonic pricing

Q: How to measure something that is not measurable?

A: Focus on ES you can measure as a minimum threshold

... Q: but very selective!

Q: What is the role of business in there (that's where the money is and there are positive examples)

A: Is not always very easy to do NGO projects. There is a strong competition between the 3-4 big NGOs in USA. It depends very much on the people that are working about that. But there is political influence in developing countries, although there are difficulties for NGOs to communicate without losing funding.

vs.

strong culture of informed public in the US; things cannot be done in an intransparent way

vs.

cultures with extreme power inequalities

*Veronica Agostinelli*