

Advisory Board and Stakeholder Committee

Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE is supported by an Advisory Board with high-level members from academia, the media and business and also by a Stakeholder Committee consisting of representatives from NGOs, business organisations, ministries, federal states (German *Länder*) and municipalities.

Project Advisory Board members

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- ▶ Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
 - ▶ Dr. Marion Potschin, University of Nottingham
 - ▶ Christian Schwägerl, biologist and journalist
 - ▶ Karsten Schwanke, television presenter and meteorologist
 - ▶ Dr. Antje von Dewitz, VAUDE
 - ▶ Prof. Dr. Angelika Zahrt, The German Council for Sustainable Development



The pollination of crops by insects is an indispensable contribution to food security, also in Germany.

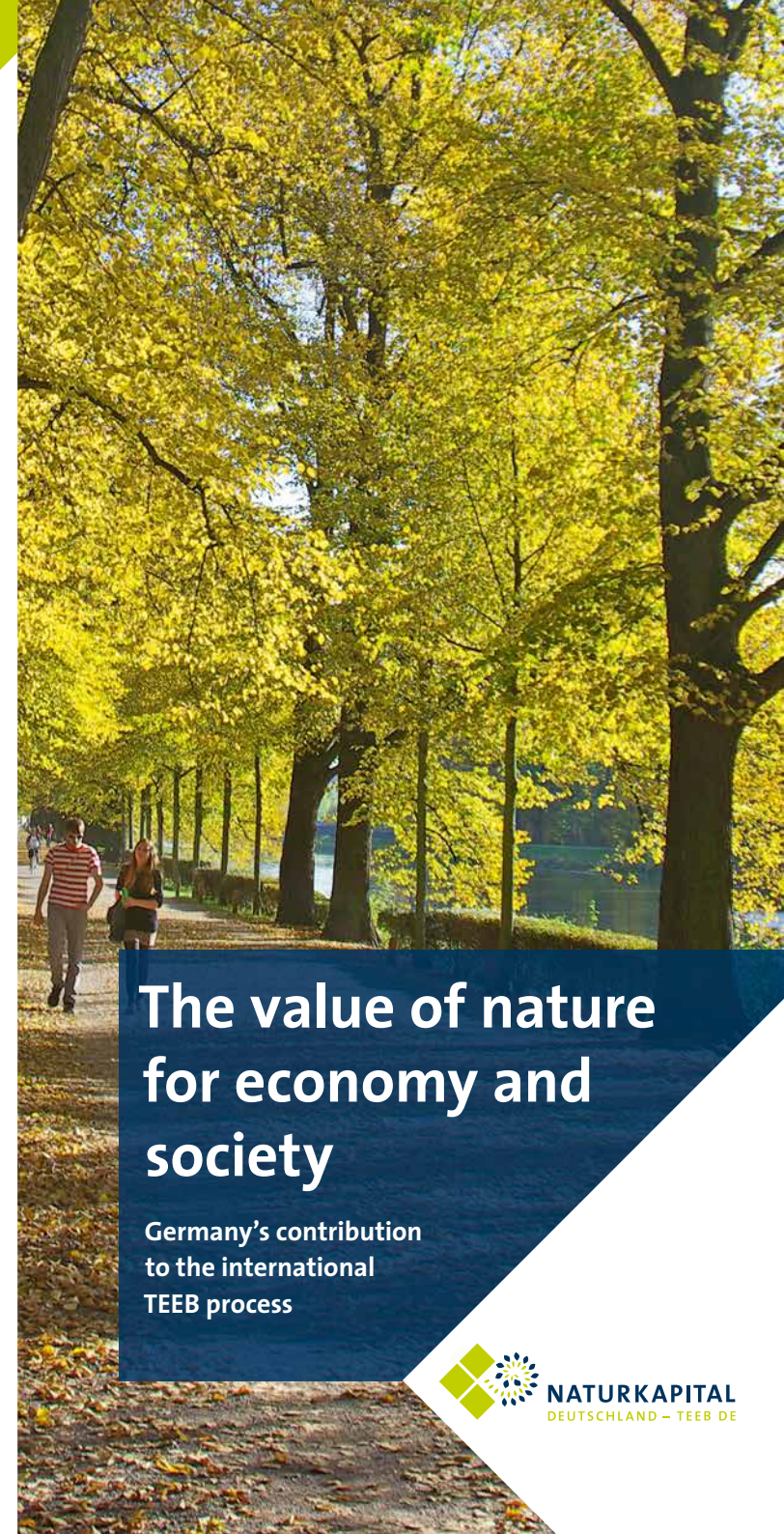
Project coordination

»Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE« (2012 – 2015) is coordinated by the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ and funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

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The value of nature for economy and society

Germany's contribution to the international TEEB process

Ecosystem services: Nature's gifts to us

Human well-being depends upon healthy ecosystems. They provide us with oxygen to breathe, clean water, food, natural medicinal substances, and raw materials for industrial goods; their many services include storing greenhouse gases and providing inspiration for technical solutions. They also provide a range of cultural services which considerably enhance our quality of life – a walk through the forest, the beauty of flora and fauna, opportunities for recreation and enjoyment, and so on.

However, loss of biodiversity along with the depletion of natural resources and the resulting degradation of ecosystems are becoming ever more apparent. When ecosystem services and the benefits they provide are lost, it is difficult and often highly costly to society to offset this loss.

Yet as numerous examples from around the world have shown, it is worthwhile – not least economically – to protect nature and ensure the sustainable use of biological diversity.

Compelling evidence for this has emerged from the international TEEB initiative »The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity« (2007–2010).

A key aim of »Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE« is to make these connections visible in the case of Germany.

Restoring peatlands helps to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aiding water regulation and conserving wildlife.

Why place a value on nature?

Nature is inherently valuable, which should be reason enough to preserve it. Additionally, nature's many and varied ecosystem services have a significant economic value. Often this value is absent from private and public sector decision making. In most cases this lack of consideration is unintentional, as decision makers are not aware of these free benefits from nature. An economic perspective can generate more transparency. The aim of economic valuation is not to put a price tag on plants and animals but rather to uncover the hidden value of biological diversity and ecosystem services – the value of »natural capital« – for society. By adopting an economic perspective, we can identify management options to better integrate the value of nature into private and public sector decision making and to promote a more sustainable use of natural resources.

»The Stern report quantified the costs of climate change and thereby raised the climate debate to a new level. The debate then captivated the whole of society. I hope »Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE« will have a similar impact in terms of understanding the importance of nature.«

▶ Karsten Schwanke, television presenter, meteorologist and member of the »Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE« Advisory Board

»Naturkapital Deutschland« ...



»Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE« focuses on nature's services at the national level. The main task is to produce four topic-based reports presenting the economic case for nature conservation, as a complement to ethical and ecological arguments. The following key policy issues are being addressed:

- ▶ What role do ecosystems in Germany play in climate mitigation and adaptation?
- ▶ How can we safeguard ecosystem services in rural and protected areas?
- ▶ How do urban parks and ecosystems contribute to the quality of life in cities?
- ▶ What options and policy instruments are available for better integrating the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision making and planning procedures?

... as an interactive and open process

Numerous individuals from academia, public policy, business and civil society are collaborating on the reports and are contributing via the project's interactive website (www.naturkapital-teeb.de). TEEB DE seeks to synthesize current research on ecosystem service valuation and to showcase successful examples of taking into account the social and economic importance of natural capital in Germany.

