

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

BASIS FOR HUMAN WELLBEING
AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Summary for decision-makers

Christoph Schröter-Schlaack, Christian Albert, Christina von Haaren,
Bernd Hansjürgens, Sebastian Krätzig, Ingrid Albert

CONTENTS

Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE:	
Overall project and positioning of this report	6
Foreword and acknowledgements	8
Key messages	12
1 A central challenge in rural areas: Conserving natural capital	16
1.1 Natural capital in rural areas: Conflicting uses of many ecosystem services	16
1.2 The economic perspective: Approach, objectives and procedure	25
1.3 Structure, content and target group of this report	30
2 Uncovering the value of natural capital in rural areas: It pays to invest	32
2.1 Preserving nature's multi-talented resources: Giving more effective protection to species-rich grassland	32
2.2 Implementing cost-effective solutions: Bringing land use and water protection into harmony	38
2.3 Investing in landscape elements: Creating a big impact in a small area.	45
2.4 Putting a value on cultural ecosystem services: Capitalising on intangible benefits	51
2.5 Investing in large nature reserves and »national nature landscapes«: Creating regional value	54
3 Protecting the natural capital of rural areas: Highlighting the benefits, implementing measures, integrating policies	58
3.1 Highlighting the benefits: Adding an economic perspective of ecosystem services to enrich decision-making processes	58
3.2 Implementing measures: Striking a better balance between protection and use	63
3.2.1 Minimising the forces that destroy natural capital: Implementing environmental targets more resolutely	63
3.2.2 Rewarding the diversity of ecosystem services: Linking agricultural payments more closely to societal benefits.	69
3.3 Integrating policy areas: Facilitating expedient macro-economic solutions	75
4 Concluding remarks: Sustainable use of our natural capital	80
Glossary	84
Bibliography	91
Note on the long version of the academic report	105