

# THE VALUE OF NATURE FOR ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

A SYNTHESIS OF NATURAL  
CAPITAL GERMANY – TEEB DE

Bernd Hansjürgens, Christoph Schröter-Schlaack,  
Augustin Berghöfer, Heidi Wittmer

*with assistance from Urs Moesenfechtel*

# CONTENTS

Preface by Pavan Sukhdev	6
Authors' foreword	10
Acknowledgements	14
The project »Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE«	18
Summary	20
<b>1 Nature – a valuable form of capital</b>	<b>26</b>
1.1 Why worry about biodiversity loss?	27
1.2 Nature and the economy – how do they go together?	29
1.3 The objective of TEEB DE and structure of this report	35
<b>2 Selected case studies on the economic importance of nature</b>	<b>36</b>
2.1 Conservation and renaturation of floodplains: Making room for rivers	36
2.2 Arable farming on peatlands and peatland rewetting: Costs and benefits	38
2.3 Ploughing up grassland: A loss to society	41
2.4 Pollination: Diverse flora and fauna ensure a diverse diet	44
2.5 River bank buffer zones: Multifunctional use for society	47
2.6 Nitrogen surpluses: Cause of environmental pollution and higher drinking water prices	49
2.7 Forests: Multifunctional ecosystems	52
2.8 Large-scale protected areas: Protected natural areas generate regional value	55
2.9 Heat stress and pollutants: Urban nature reduces health costs	58
2.10 Green spaces near home: Urban nature increases life satisfaction	61
<b>3 Key messages from »Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE«</b>	<b>64</b>
3.1 Loss of natural capital and ecosystem services results in high costs to society	64
3.2 Maintaining and restoring our natural capital is worthwhile	66
3.3 Usage strategies must take account of the diversity of ecosystem services	67
3.4 Biological diversity is the basis of natural capital	68
3.5 Monetary valuations can demonstrate the social importance of natural capital	69
3.6 Values must be realised	71
<b>4 Recommendations from »Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE«</b>	<b>72</b>
4.1 Measure the development of natural capital and disclose long-term costs of its loss	75
4.2 Policy integration and cross-sectoral cooperation	79
4.3 Visible and implementation-oriented targets	88
4.4 Statutory standards and economic incentives	92
4.5 Businesses: Taking responsibility and utilising opportunities	98
4.6 Preserving natural capital in an interconnected world	100
<b>5 Outlook</b>	<b>108</b>
Glossary	110
References	116
Contributors to »Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE«	128