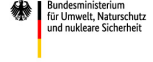




Leibniz Institute of
Ecological Urban and
Regional Development



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ПРИРОДНЫХ
РЕСУРСОВ И ЭКОЛОГИИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ



Results of the Moscow conference on values of nature

On November 19–20, the International Conference on Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity was held in Moscow. The conference was organized by the Biodiversity Conservation Center (Moscow) and the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Dresden), with the support of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Germany and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Russia.

The focus of the first day was on general questions: ecological transformation processes, assessments of ecosystem services (ES) and biodiversity, possibilities of the implementation of biophysical and economic ES in Russia, Germany and internationally as well as governance aspects, i.e. how these assessments can be incorporated into policy and management of land/resource use. The second day of the conference was mainly devoted to the results of the [TEEB-Russia II](#) research project – “Assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Russian Federation – management principles and international processes”.

The conference was attended by about 70 people – representatives of scientific, environmental, international and public organizations from Russia, Germany, Belarus and other European countries. Conference participants presented more than 40 reports on various topical issues of preserving ecosystem functions and taking ecosystem services into account when making decisions. Presentations were also made by representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the European Environment Agency, the TEEB Project and other international institutions.

The conference participants based on the results of their work came to the following conclusions: Ecosystems and ecosystem services in Russia are key to the well-being of the population and sustainable development of the economy of the country's regions. However, at present in Russia there is an unbalanced approach to the assessment and use of ecosystem services. Priority is given to the types of natural goods that provide immediate and directly profit, for example, the irrational use of forest resources and profit from the recreational use of natural territories. Making money at the expense of nature leads to degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity, undermining future opportunities to perform ecosystem services, including maintaining a favorable environment and sustainable provision of the population and economy with natural biological resources.

Formation of a monitoring and accounting system for ecosystems, biodiversity and ecosystem services in Russia is an important step towards their conservation and sustainable use. New systems must immediately be created in which diverse ecosystems and valuable components exist.

The reports of the conference participants showed that Russia has the scientific potential sufficient to begin such work. The results of the TEEB-Russia project formed the main methodological approaches for the formation of ecosystem accounts in Russia within the framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), which allows us to begin a phased discussion of this issue by interested departments (e.g., the Russian Federal State Statistics Service).

Ecosystem accounts should include indicators of the state of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as scientific, natural and economic indicators of the volume of ecosystem services provided by ecosystems and used by people. It is necessary to provide an assessment of the current change in these indicators as a result of human activities and a forecast of their future changes as a result of global climate change. Concrete starting points for this were presented at the conference, for example on air purification ES of suburban forests, on wetlands and peatland restoration as well as on fires on natural territories, on water regulating ES and recreational ES in urban or protected areas. It was also discussed to what extent monetarization is important in order to quantify the loss of natural capital in the event of ecosystem disturbances.

Additional information – <https://teeb.biodiversity.ru/en>

Conference Organizing Committee