

*NGO message to the Roundtable I*  
*The Green Economy and the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*

**HIGH LEVEL PAN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY**  
**7 July 2010**  
***Biological Diversity and the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals***

*This message was prepared by Pan-European NGOs at the NGO preparatory meeting preceding the Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010. It targets participants of the HIGH LEVEL PAN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY, which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 in Gabala, Azerbaijan.*

We, the NGOs of Pan-Europe, support the idea of ecosystem services valuation, but we emphasize that it should not be limited to economic valuation in monetary terms. We stand for a wider interpretation of valuation including use values as well as non-use or intrinsic values (such as educational or spiritual values) with the same priority.

We call the parties to the conference to adopt the appropriate evaluation of biodiversity related spiritual, religious and cultural values. This should include economic valuation of the non-use of biodiversity, specifically the value of ecosystem services such as CO2 collectors, etc.

We support further spreading the results of TEEB in the Pan-European region and call for further assessments. Financial resources should be re-allocated to environmental priorities according to these assessments.

Further development of the TEEB methodologies is necessary, including efforts to fit this methodology to regional circumstances. This may include finding regional definitions for sustainable use, as this may mean very different things in different regions.

We support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into economic decision making through:

- Starting assessment of ecosystem services at the national level so they can be included into accounting, considered by taxes etc.
- Implementing differentiated tax systems in support of biodiversity protection and sustained ecosystem services by 2015.
- Enhancing the cooperation between economic, financial and environmental government bodies using the Strategic Environmental Assessments and other relevant tools, and making use of fiscal mechanisms regarding environmental valuations
- Promoting pilot projects on the evaluation of ecosystem services