



## The Economic Rationale for Investing in Live-Supporting Ecosystems

Paul Jefferiss <sup>1</sup>

Roundtable C: Finance-I: Building Blocks for a Sustainable Future

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**Dr. Paul Jefferiss** discussed the global economic value of ecosystem services, and compared the global economic costs of the loss of those services with the the global economic costs and benefits of conserving those ecosystem services. He concluded that conserving them has a 1 to 100 cost/benefit ration, and then tried to analyze the reasons why it has been so difficult to mobilize political support for financing these costs. He made 3 recommendations:

- Gain a better understanding of the economic value of natural services.
- Commitment from developed countries to provide developing countries with sufficient funding and support to conserve valuable natural ecosystems.
- Reflect the value of ecosystem services in economic activities through taxes, subsidies and standards; and the removal of perverse subsidies.

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