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A Partial Listing of Resource Economists and PES Experts in the Coral Triangle

By Abbie Trinidad¹, Environmental Economics and Payment for Ecosystems Services Specialist (EEPES) and Lydia Napitupulu, Resource Economist

During the course of the project's needs assessment on environmental economics and payment for ecosystem services (EEPES), there was a general observation that the relevant knowledge does not seem to be getting to the right people, i.e., the policymakers. This observation seems to be common to the six countries of the Coral Triangle (CT6) despite having varying degrees of in-country expertise available.

The information is not consolidated, and no guidance material exists on how to use this information in the implementation of the CTI National Plans of Actions (NPOAs) and the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA). Numerous studies have been conducted on coastal resource valuation for major ecosystems, but the impact of these studies on policies and decision making has lagged behind.

This is due to a number of factors including:

- the inability of resource economists and scientists to effectively communicate the message to the right people;
- inherent difficulty in understanding the concepts and application of environmental economics;
- lack of studies in some of the CT6, possibly due to a lack of in-country expertise; and
- lack of a comprehensive information management system that illustrates how the existing studies can be used for decision making.

The implementation of the RPOA and NPOAs is envisioned to be based on more informed decisions, and for inputs to this process to be sourced through the existing knowledge on the values of coastal resources. These decisions include investment planning, valuation, prioritization of alternative resource use, spatial planning, and appropriate pricing of government services for resource protection.



Relevant knowledge on PES does not seem to be getting to the right people partly because of the inability of resource economists and scientists to effectively communicate their message.

Valuation is a critical input for PES work and is one of the foundations for doing PES, i.e., the appropriate valuation of ecosystem services results from the exploitation/usage by one sector vs. the use by another sector.

This Experience Note is intended to initiate the process of connecting experts with policymakers and vice versa, i.e., the Council of Senior Officials, the National Coordinating Committees (NCCs), and Development Partners. The partial list of experts provided in this Note includes experts whom the ADB KM Team has contacted and who have given their express approval to be included in a database, be profiled, and introduced to the CT countries.

Table 1. Summary information on the existence of an EEPES Pool of Experts in the CT6 (culled from the Needs Assessment Report)

INO	Many universities, through small projects and post-graduate students (Bogor Agricultural University, Hassanuddin University, University of Indonesia, etc.)
MAL	PE Research with specific experts named
PHI	PES network exists plus an association of resource economists; universities
PNG	Commonwealth Scientific and industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO); Conservation International, with specific experts named
SOL	Yes, through international and WorldFish Center experts
TIM	A few Timorese alumni of overseas graduate programs; international experts

General description of PES experts per CT6 country

The CT countries themselves have identified experts or institutions where the experts are based (Table 1).

- 🌐 In Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, the NCC provided names of experts, some of whom are reflected in the database; those who are not, have not responded to our inquiry.
- 🌐 In Indonesia, the universities have been identified as sources of PES experts. Subsequent discussions with the Indonesia NCC identified two associations of experts in coastal-related sciences: Mitra Bahari (Sea Partnership) and HAPI (Association of Indonesian Coastal Experts).
- 🌐 The Philippines already has a professional association of resource economists, i.e., Resource Economics Association of the Philippines (REAP).
- 🌐 Solomon Islands (plus the WorldFish Center) and Timor-Leste rely upon international expertise for PES initiatives.
- 🌐 At the regional level, the Environment and Economics Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) has many experts listed here as researchers and recipients of research grants.

The authors hope that this preliminary listing of Resource Economists and PES Experts will expand to reflect the listing of experts in the other CT countries and eventually include experts who have been working in the region but who are not CTizens (nationals of CTI countries).

The partial list counts 20 resource economists and PES experts from the CT countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. For starters, this note provides contact details of the experts and their institutional affiliations and areas of expertise based on current and past research/ consultancy work (Table 2). A link is provided to the main CTI goal for which the expert has been most involved in, although because resource economics is not specific to a particular field,

such as marine protected areas (MPAs) or fisheries, an expert can adapt his/her skills to all CTI concerns. After all, economics is a cross-cutting science.

This same information has been uploaded in the Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network, www.coraltriangleinitiative.net under the Knowledge Hub's PES Document Library. Copies of some of the publications of the experts are also found in the KM portal, for those who have given approval to upload and share them. Most of the experts are affiliated with consulting firms, academic institutions, private or government think-tanks, and programs supported by multilateral/bilateral agencies. Most of the experts worked in countries other than their own, but there are not many who have worked both in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the two main regions of the CTI.

From this analysis, there are only three experts who have worked in both regions. By scanning through the body of work of each expert, notably their contribution to the literature, a crude connection to the goals of the CTI was made, which resulted in fisheries and marine protected areas (MPAs) being a well-studied issue. Climate change also emerged to be an important area for the experts as well as cross cutting themes such as valuation and resources accounting.

Contributing to the Knowledge Processes in the CTI

The PES and valuation experts in the CTI region can contribute to the implementation of the RPOA and NPOA.

Indonesia

Indonesia's NPOA targets several development activities targeting small-scale fisheries, women, and specific locations such as those in border and remote areas. The role of valuation/PES experts in this regard may include establishing baseline levels for incomes, livelihood opportunities, and access to services in areas or sectors targeted for development.

Standard feasibility and cost-benefit analysis of development interventions can be implemented and



enhanced by ensuring that values of coastal resources and potential use rates/losses are explicitly considered in investment models. A collaboration with fisheries scientists may help in establishing EAFM (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) models.

Indonesia is also interested in removing harmful incentives/subsidies that threaten the sustainability of fisheries resources and the integrity of MPA management. Expertise in valuation and PES is also needed to translate economic impacts of climate change and provide some socioeconomic metrics to conduct management effectiveness ratings for MPAs.

Malaysia

In Malaysia, PES/valuation expertise is required to conduct cost-benefit analysis of various conservation options (mangrove forestry vs. rehabilitation of shrimp ponds vs. shifting to other sustainable aquaculture uses). There is also interest in providing economic incentives for protection and management of marine turtle populations, which may draw on willingness to pay studies on turtle conservation.

As in Indonesia, there is interest in applying economics to the assessment of vulnerability to climate change. Vulnerabilities of particular sites may be informed by socioeconomic parameters, such as incomes and livelihood dependencies of populations, poverty levels, and availability of basic services and infrastructure.

Papua New Guinea

PNG needs experts on tuna, specifically value chain analysis, funds reallocation, and disbursement procedures for grants and loans. As in the other CT countries, the inputs of economists in vulnerability assessments are needed. Experts who can enhance investment planning by calculating environmental costs and benefits of alternative development scenarios (coral protection vs. coastal infrastructure such as seawalls) and the “costs of doing nothing” would be needed.

Philippines

The same expertise is needed in the Philippines in addition to expertise in the implementation of sustainable financing schemes for seascapes and MPAs. PES and valuation experts are also required for site-level work, such as preparation of management plans for tuna spawning areas and live reef fish and development of regulatory functions and revenue generation.

Solomon Islands

A phased approach is adopted by Solomon Islands in the identification of provinces where the NPOA will be implemented, and socio-economic weigh heavily in the selection, with Human Development Index (HDI), marine resource dependency, and subsistence dependency being among the selection criteria. The activities for province-level implementation include the scanning of livelihood options using value chain analysis. Under Goal 2, Fisheries, the government targets a sustainable live



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reef and reef-based ornamental fishery, which is being partially addressed through a joint project of the WorldFish Center and the ADB RETA. Under Goal 4, climate change, cost considerations would certainly be useful in assessing adaptation options, as in the other countries.

Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, the role of a PES/valuation expert will focus on the basic assessment and mapping of marine resources and the population dependent on them. Some basic fisheries statistics are required, and there are numerous knowledge sharing possibilities with other CTI countries that can be accomplished.

Inherent also in Timor-Leste's NPOA is the need to enhance incomes in reef-dependent rural communities. In this case, the role of valuation experts would be to advise the government on value-adding livelihoods that do not inflict ecological and economic damage to coastal resources. Vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation approaches are also mentioned prominently in the NPOA. Lastly, decision support tools to derive impacts of population growth, mobility, urbanization on coastal resource health would be useful for management purposes.

The CT6 are encouraged to connect with the experts who may have worked in areas currently prioritized in the NPOAs, i.e., in developing research proposals and consulting on specific research questions. Some of their work has been uploaded onto the Coral Triangle Learning Resource network. The list is a partial one and will evolve to include more experts including non-CTIzens working in the Coral Triangle region.

Table 2. Partial list of PES experts in the CTI.

#	First Name	Last Name	Institution	CTizenship	CTI Goal Linked to Experts' Work	Illustrative listing of relevant work
1	Yeo	Bee Hong	Expanse Economic Policy and Environmental Consulting y.beehong@gmail.com	MAL	2	Recreational benefits of coral reefs; climate change economics; coastal and fisheries valuation
2	Maribec	Campos	University of the Philippines Open University cmaribec@yahoo.com	PHI	2 and 4	Fisheries economics; Climate change adaptation
3	Gem	Castillo	REECs CASTIL16@gmail.com	PHI	2	Decision support tools for fisheries management
4	Mangunsong	Farma	Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia fmangunsong@yahoo.com	INO	2, 3	Public policy and finance; resource economics
5	Marisa	Garcia	Asian Development Bank Magarcia.consultant@adb.org	PHI	2,4	Fisheries economics
6	Danny	Israel	Philippine Institute for Development Studies danny_israel1@yahoo.com	PHI	2 and 4	Weather and climate change related disasters: the cost of inaction; fisheries and natural resources accounting
7	Tridoyo	Kusumastanto	Bogor Agricultural University tridoyo@indo.net.id	INO	3	Coastal and marine resource economics
8	Noela	Lasmarias	Resources, Economics, Environment Consultants, Inc. nlasmarias@gmail.com	PHI	4	Climate change action planning; PES design and implementation; natural resources accounting
9	Paul	Lokani	The Nature Conservancy Plokani@gmail.com	PNG	3	Scientific design of a resilient network of MPAS
10	Lydia	Napitupulu	Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia; ADB Knowledge Management Project lnapitupulu@hotmail.com	INO	2 and 3	Economic development; resource valuation
11	Jose	Padilla	UNDP Jose.Padilla@undp.org	PHI	2,3,4	Fisheries economics, resource valuation, natural resource accounting
12	Rina Maria	Rosales	Resources, Economics, Environment Consultants, Inc. rrosales@reecs.org	PHI	1 and 3	Seascape and protected area management best practices; valuation studies including stranding of ships; sustainable financing

#	First	Last Name	Institution	CTizenship	CTI Goal Linked to Experts' Work	Illustrative listing of relevant work
13	Giselle	Samonte-Tan	Conservation International gsamontetan@conservation.org	PHI	1, 2, 3, 4	Coastal resources valuation, including fisheries; Seascape and protected area management best practices; decision support tools; cost-effectiveness for ecosystem-based adaptation for climate change.
14	Naneng	Setiasih	Indonesia Reef Check Foundation; Coral Alliance nsetiasih@reefcheck.or.id	INO	3, 4, 5	Coastal resource valuation; species conservation; climate change adaptation
15	Rodel	Subade	University of the Philippines in the Visayas redabus@yahoo.com	PHI	2, 3, 5	Coastal resources valuation including MPAs, coral reefs and mangroves; Non-use valuation of biodiversity and threatened species; fisheries socioeconomics; socio economics of climate change
16	Zeny	Sumalde	University of the Philippines in Los Banos zcms_06@yahoo.com	PHI	2 and 3	Fisheries and aquaculture socioeconomics; natural resources accounting; Climate change
17	Abbie	Trinidad	ADB Knowledge Management Project abbietrinidad@gmail.com	PHI	2 and 4	Coastal resources valuation; decision support tools; PES design;
18	Kuperan	Viswanathan	Universiti Utara Malaysia kuperan@uum.edu.my or kuperan@gmail.com	MAL	2	Coastal resources valuation; fisheries and aquaculture socio-economics;
19	Chang	Yii Tan	PE Research yiitan@yahoo.com	MAL		Coastal resources and fisheries valuation; sustainable financing mechanisms
20	Arief Anshory	Yusuf	Padjajaran University arief.yusuf@fe.unpad.ac.id	INO	4	Climate change economics; national resources accounting

RETA 7307 supports ongoing CTI efforts via knowledge management in the preparation of a State of the Coral Triangle Report, sustainable financing, and environmental economics and payment for environmental services

Visit the Coral Triangle Learning Resource Network

<http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.net/>

