

**REPORT ON THE PLANNING WORKSHOP-TRAINING
ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING FOR SOUTHERN PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES
WEALTH ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
(WAVES) PROGRAM**

03-04 September 2013
BSA Twin Towers, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong , Metro Manila
Philippines

I. Overview

The World Bank Philippines Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (Phil-WAVES) Task Team together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conducted a two-part Planning Workshop to review policy questions that will guide the case study development in Southern Palawan; examine practical applications of ecosystem accounting; and identify next steps in the stakeholder engagement process.

II. Objectives

The main objective of the workshop was to launch the Phil-WAVES initiative in Southern Palawan and orient the stakeholders from the various sectors on how ecosystem accounting can be useful in shaping effective policies for natural resources. The activity also aims to review tentative policy questions that will be used to guide the case study development in Southern Palawan, specifically, along the following lines:

- A. Better understanding of the Ecosystem Accounting tool and how it can be used to help shape effective environment and natural resource policies;
- B. Have more clarity on how to practically apply/adapt the ecosystem accounting tool to the policy priority questions and context in Southern Palawan; and
- C. Identify next possible steps to continue the engagement moving into the implementation of the initiative.

III. Participants

A total of **eighty nine (89) participants**, representing national government agencies (NGAs), non-government organizations (NGOs), academe, private sector, local government, civil society and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) were among those who attended the two-day planning workshop.

IV. Resource Persons, Facilitator and Guests

Three DENR officials were present during the Opening Program: Undersecretaries Manuel D. Gerochi (Policy and Planning) and Demetrio Ignacio, Jr. (Field Operations) and Assistant Secretary Rommel Abesamis (Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects).

Mr. Paul T. Mitchell, a Communication Consultant of the World Bank Task Team acted as the over-all facilitator.

The following acted as resource persons:

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| 1. Stefanie Sieber | World Bank Task Team Leader |
| 2. Michael Vardon | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| 3. John Francisco Pontillas | Palawan Council for Sustainable Dev't. |
| 4. Arnold Villanueva | Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Region IV-B |
| 5. Alejandrino Sibucan | Forest Management Bureau |
| 6. Dr. Ben Gonzales | Western Palawan University |
| 7. Dr. Gwendolyn C. Bambalan | Regional Technical Director,
Protected Area Wildlife and Coastal
Zone Management |
| 8. Glenn-Marie Lange | World Bank |
| 9. Torsten Bondo | European Space Agency |
| 10. Dr. Profirio Aliño | UP Marine Science Institute |
| 11. Dir. Roberto Almonte | National Commission on Indigenous People |

V. Highlights of the Workshop:

Overview of Phil-WAVES

Ms. Stefanie Sieber, Task Team Leader of Phil-WAVES Program, presented the overall objectives of the program.

In the Philippines, Phil-WAVES will aim to answer four (4) key policy questions/issues/concerns:

- (i) By constructing a national accounts for minerals, the Phil-WAVES Technical Assistance (TA) will be able to determine what the mineral wealth of the Philippines is today and how it could be shared equitably and sustainably;

By constructing an ecosystem account for Southern Palawan, the Phil-WAVES TA will be able to analyze different development options for Southern Palawan – one of the few largely untouched ecosystems in the Philippines;

- (ii) By constructing national mangrove accounts, the Phil-WAVES TA will be able to determine the value of the Philippine mangroves in the face of adverse climate change impacts; and

- (iii) By constructing an ecosystem account for the Laguna Lake basin, the Phil-WAVES TA will be able to study the different development options for the Laguna Lake basin – one of the most heavily used ecosystems.

The presentation of Ms. Sieber may be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Introduction to Ecosystem Accounting

Mr. Michael Vardon of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shared the experience of Australia in constructing environmental accounts through the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), a globally-agreed system for environmental accounting. He

emphasized the importance of having a standardized system to achieve consistency of data from the local to the national and international levels.

Mr. Vardon introduced key concepts on environmental accounting such as stocks and flows, physical and monetary measures, as well as the information needed in constructing ecosystem accounts. He also presented the possible sources of data and information, which could really help in the process.

Presentation of Southern Palawan Profile

Officers of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) Mr. John Pontillas and Mr. Madrono Cabrestante presented an overview of the socioeconomic profile of Southern Palawan. Palawan has rich natural resources, which provide different economic activities such as mining, fishing and agriculture. However, it also has major issues such as over-extraction, competing uses and poaching. Moreover, the presentation showed available data and existing valuation studies which can be used in the construction of ecosystem accounts

The PCSDS presentations maybe viewed by clicking [here](#).

Highlights of Group Discussion

1. *Inclusion of the agricultural sector.* The presentations and discussions had mostly focused on mining. However, the agricultural sector should be included the profile of Palawan because it is one of the major industries and it is fraught with environmental issues. Available information about the 64,000 hectares of plantations and croplands that will be affected by the mining applications will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the Phil WAVES Project.
2. *International classification of ecosystem services.* The different ecosystem services such as provisioning, regulating and controlling of services and how they are valued were discussed. In addition, other factors that may affect the integrity of the ecosystem were discussed. For example, industries dispose their effluent to the river system and water bodies; the impact of this on the value of the ecosystem would be discussed.
3. *Impact on agriculture.* The PCSD representative noted that the impact of activities and the agricultural areas were not mentioned.
4. *Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).* Provincial Environmental Officer (PENRO) Johnny dela Cruz gave an overview of the PAMB as a multi-sectoral group, mandated and tasked to govern and manage the protected areas. It is composed of representatives from the national government, local government units, civil society and the barangay level. It is the highest policy-making body for protected areas and is usually chaired by the DENR Regional Executive Director and co-chaired by the Chairman of the PCSD. The possible role of the PAMB as a local focal point and liaison for national DENR was discussed and will be further explored.
5. *Indigenous people (IP).* Questions about the coverage of eco-system accounting were raised. Specifically, how cultural aspects and practices could be accounted for. A

second round of public consultations will be done to include the IPs of Southern Palawan. The Phil-WAVES Task Team will also closely liaise with the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) when engaging with IPs.

6. *Data collection and availability.* Given that collecting data can be a long and expensive process, the group agreed that the immediate next step following this workshop is to check the available data and evaluate the suitable data for the ecosystem accounts. A diagnostic workshop was conducted on Day 2 of the workshop-planning session to guide participants on evaluating data and its relevance to the Phil- WAVES program.

Some of the available data that was identified included the Total Economic Value of Mt. Bulanjao Forest Ecosystem Conservation and Economic Cost and Benefit Analysis of the Proposed Mineral Development Option in the Mt. Bulanjao Mountain Range

To help possibly augment information and data collection, the use of remote sensing in measuring ecosystem services was presented and connected by Mr. Torsten Bondo of the European Space Agency who was patched in via Skype.

7. *Next steps based and key policy issues* Based on the [key policy issues identified](#), the participants agreed on definition of roles, including the creation of a steering committee, working arrangements, and delineation of responsibilities among agencies.

Proposed action plans covered the areas of policy, including policy harmonization; appraisal and assessment of resources; data collection and availability; land classification; implementation; monitoring; information dissemination; financing and sustainability.

Immediate next steps included setting a Technical Working Group meeting to further discuss workshop outputs and evaluate available data. A second public stakeholder consultation meeting which will include the IPs and the tourism sector will be scheduled.

Presentations were made on geology and mineral resources; land and cover change analysis; coastal resource management; and protected areas were also made during the two-day planning workshop.

- a. Geology and Mineral Resources was presented by Mr. Arnold Villanueva, Sr. Science Specialist of MIMAROPA
- b. Land and Cover Change Analysis of Southern Palawan: 2003 vs. 2010 Forestry was presented by Mr. Jun Sibucan
- c. Coastal Resource Management by Dr. Ben Gonzales
 - i. Lack of holistic approach in coastal management
 - ii. Resource-based source of livelihood; hunting stage
 - iii. Balance between development and resource conservation
 - iv. Illegal, unrecorded, unregulated trade of marine fishes (trans-boundary)
 - v. Insufficient data resource-based

- vi. No or unimplemented municipal CRM plans
- vii. Lack of livelihood and support group
- viii. Not enough manpower, equipment and facilities to conduct policy-related researches

d. Protected Areas: Issues and Concerns and Initiatives undertaken

i. Wildlife poaching in the municipalities of Quezon and Rizal (Palawan)

- Intensive IEC to concerned areas/hotspots
- Dalaw Turo conducted in elementary schools in Quezon and Rizal
- Conduct of Paralegal Training in Bataraza, Palawan
- Law Enforcement Briefing Kit for distribution prepared by ELAC
- Distribution of reading materials on endangered wildlife species of Palawan and other threatened species

ii. Timber poaching in Quezon, Rizal and Bataraza (Palawan)

- Multi-sectoral Team (existing)
- Confiscations of illegally-cut and transported timber
- Filing of cases in court
- Linkaging with the LGU and the communities through focus group discussions

iii. LGU policies, ordinances related to wildlife poaching and gathering is insufficient or some do not have prohibitions on these resources

- Scheduled Wildlife Management Forum on September 19, 2013 to solicit commitment of LGU particularly in Southern Palawan in protection of the resources
- Concerned members of the PA who regularly attend meetings are also informed of the illegal activities in their respective jurisdiction to help in the protection of wildlife resources

iv. Tan Barking of mangrove areas in Rizal, Quezon and Balabac (Palawan)

- Intensive campaign on mangrove protection with other concerned agencies
- To date no confiscations were done
- Denuded mangrove areas are priority sites of the NGP

v. Marine Turtle poaching within the marine areas of Balabac (Palawan)

vi. Charcoal making in Southern Palawan

Workshop Output Annex

The participants of the two-day planning workshop were divided into three groups and tasked to craft a vision statement, identify the data/information needed to achieve this Vision, and list any risks, threats and opportunities.

To guide the discussion and flow of ideas, the participants were asked to answer the following questions:

1. What is the vision for sustainable development in Southern Palawan and how your sector will contribute to this vision?
2. How can we contribute to attain the vision?
3. What are the Threats/Risks/Problems?
4. What are the data needs?
5. What are the opportunities?

Highlights of Output Results on Key Policy Issues (Summary Table)

Group 1: Protected Areas, Biodiversity and Forestry	Group 2: Mining and Mineral Development	Group 3: Coastal Resource Management and Fisheries
Wildlife poaching in the municipalities of Quezon and Rizal;	Efficient implementation of the law in order to have responsible mining;	Low number of resource management interventions;
Timber poaching in Quezon, Rizal and Bataraza;	Stakeholders should be properly consulted into the detailed feasibility study to ensure sustainable ecology;	Lack of political approach in coastal management;
LGU policies, ordinances related to wildlife poaching and gathering is insufficient or some do not have the prohibitions on these resources;	Conduct of post mining land use (cost of ecosystem after mining) with local government and communities using a conceptual framework;	Resource based source of livelihood; monitoring stage;
Tan Barking of mangrove areas in Rizal, Quezon and Balabac;	Revenue sharing of IPs;	
Marine turtle poaching within the marine areas of Balabac; and	Impacts of agriculture in mining; and	Balance between development and resource conservation;
Charcoal making in Southern Palawan	Reconciliation/harmonization of data and more/lower disaggregation	Illegal, unrecorded, unregulated trade of

		<p>marine species ;</p> <p>Insufficient data to be used for management decision; absence of resource database; need to harmonize data for valuation</p> <p>No or non-implemented municipal CRM plans;</p> <p>Lack of livelihood and market support;</p> <p>Unmanaged large of unique ecosystem;</p> <p>Not enough manpower equipment, facilities to conduct policy related researches; and</p> <p>Challenge to address trans-boundary issue</p>
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