



Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation

Background

1. During the Tokyo General Meeting in April 2007, ICRI members, “Reiterated the need for a central area on the ICRI Forum to share [economic valuation] information and invited interested members to contribute information, case studies, relevant experts and approaches/methods relating to economic valuation activities.”
2. During the January 2008 General Meeting, a break-out session was held on economic valuation of coral reef ecosystems during which ICRI members had the opportunity to hear from a number of experts in the field of economic valuation. At that meeting, ICRI members decided to form an Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Valuation to take forward the work on this matter where ICRI could best provide value.
3. At the July 2008 general meeting, The Ad Hoc Committee was extended through the next two ICRI General Meetings under the chairmanship of the ICRI Secretariat and the World Resources Institute (WRI) and will continue to include but not be limited to the following ICRI Members: Australia (Great Barrier Reef Marine Protected Authority), Colombia, Conservation International, CRISP, IUCN, NOAA and UNEP-WCMC.
4. At the January 2010 GM, the Ad Hoc Committee was extended for one more year. (It has now expired.) There has been some discussion of development of a new TOR for the committee, but there has been only a limited response and no progress on development of a TOR. If no progress is made during ICRS or ICRI, it would seem there is insufficient interest in continuing this committee.

Current Activity / Progress to note

5. **Economic Valuation Committee.** Since the last GM, the Economic Valuation Committee has not convened or even had a conference call. So, one could say the Economic Valuation Committee is inactive / non-existent. That said, there have been important developments which are relevant to ICRI (and have often been supported by ICRI), which are worth reporting on. As such, this serves as a narrowly-focused, partial report on activities related to economic valuation which are relevant to ICRI.
6. **Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership.** During the last year, the Marine Ecosystem Service Partnership (MESP) continued to expand the database of valuation studies it includes and improved the interactive features of its website (<http://www.marineecosystems-services.org/>). Dozens of new value estimations and articles have been added to the database, with a focus on work coming out of the South Pacific. When available, pdf versions studies or articles referenced in the database were collected to generate a library that MESP hopes to make available to site visitors soon.

From a technical standpoint, the database structure and platform were overhauled to allow for more accurate, keyword-friendly searching. In addition, this overhaul allows for value estimates to be geographically placed more accurately on the site’s mapper. The database has become more interactive, with the ability for the public to contribute new studies and information directly through the site. MESP staff members are also using an improved interface which allows us to make “real-time” modifications to valuations and other aspects of the site, keeping it up to date and running smoothly.

Beyond updates to the website and database, Dr. Linwood Pendleton and Megan Jungwiwattanporn worked to integrate the MESP into the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP), based in the Netherlands. Megan will spend time “on-site” with ESP staff in Wageningen in September 2012. The

MESP has also taken a formal role with the National Ecosystem Services Partnership. Megan Jungwiattaporn will begin working for the Nicholas Institute full time in September 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Pendleton and with a focus on the MESP. Megan will plan upcoming meeting of MESP partners for late 2012. We are considering holding regional meetings so we can include new partners from Europe and the Pacific.

News

- New Article: A spatial model of coastal ecosystem services
Jun 04, 2012
- Duke Graduate Student Studies MESP
May 04, 2012
- "Why Value the Oceans?": New Discussion Paper
Apr 02, 2012
- Preview Summary of SEI's "Valuing the Ocean"
Mar 23, 2012
- ESP Conference 2012 Call for Abstracts
Feb 16, 2012
- More news...

Upcoming Events

- 5th Annual International ESP Conference
Jul 31, 2012 - Aug 04, 2012
- Upcoming events...

Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership

The Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership (MESP) is a virtual center for information and communication on the human uses of marine ecosystem services around the world.

Looking for a study?

Having trouble finding the original document for a study referenced in our database? We have a growing collection of pdfs. Contact us with the ID number of the particular value that you're interested in and we might be able to help you out!

The MESP is a project of

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Study	Location	Ecosystem type	Ecosystem service	Valuation (USD by default)	EEZ
14-12-0201-20108, Los Angeles, California	United States (American, Atlantic)	recreation / tourism (beach)			
Sloman, J. and Klok, M., 1987, The Recreation Benefits of Beach Renourishment, Clean and Shallow Management, U.S. 29-26	United States (American, Atlantic)	recreation / tourism		\$3.90 / person / day	United States
USACE, 1981, Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Study for Duval County, North of Ft. Walker Beach Park, Florida. Survey Report and EIS Supplement, Appendix 4, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers	United States (American, Atlantic)	recreation / tourism		\$3.69 trip	United States
Stolley and Neumann, 1978, The Recreation Benefits of Shore Quality Improvement: Analysis of Day Trips in an Urban Setting, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Technical Report, Contract No. 68-01-2262	United States (American, Atlantic)	recreation / tourism		\$7.29 / household / trip	United States

- Standardized Framework for Coastal Ecosystem Valuation.** Building on more than 15 years of experience highlighting threats to and the value of coral reef ecosystems, the World Resources Institute (WRI) is leading a broad partnership to produce a standardized framework for economic valuation of coral reefs in the Caribbean, which could also be applied in other regions. The framework will show the links between coastal ecosystems, human well-being, and the economy. With the framework as a guide, marine conservation NGOs, and government agencies will be able to conduct quick, accurate, comparable and cost-effective valuation studies, and evaluate trade-offs between different management options or future scenarios. Decision-makers in the Caribbean will increasingly take coastal ecosystem values into account, thereby improving coastal management and policy.

WRI has convened a core group of partners and experts, including: the Marine Ecosystem Services Partnership (MESP); Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies (UWI); Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University; Conservation Strategy Fund; MARES Program, Forest Trends; The Nature Conservancy; University of North Carolina Wilmington; Conservation International; and CARIBSAVE. Additional partners are welcome. Together, we have identified key policy and management questions for the Caribbean which one might address using economic valuation. In addition, we have evaluated the policy influence of previous coastal valuations in the region, including WRI's five *Coastal Capital* studies and other valuation studies identified by partners, and have drawn out key lessons learned for future valuations. Over the next few months, we will finalize our policy influence summary, work with partners to address outstanding methodological issues in coral reef valuation, and work together to develop the valuation framework.

Action Requested

- It would be ideal to have a discussion and final determination (at this ICRI GM) as to whether the AHC on economic valuation should continue or be terminated. If the conclusion is to continue, and a new TOR has not yet been developed, it would be ideal to have input on the goals of the AHC, which would help with the development of the TOR, along with the identification of a new co-chair for the AHC.