Abstract

SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

Marine Spatial Planning for Improved Fisheries Management: Resolving Spatial Conflicts in Balayan Bay, Philippines

Regina Bacalso
Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resources Management Specialist
Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project
Philippines

Nygiel Armada
Chief of Party
Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project
Philippines

The Balayan Bay represents the focal area of ECOFISH Project fisheries partnership and assistance in the Verde Island Passage, which is considered to be the center of the center of marine shore-fish biodiversity in the world. The area has benefited from many past and existing marine environment related initiatives led by several non-government organizations (NGOs) focused primarily on marine biodiversity conservation. However, the Balayan Bay hosts a multitude of coastal and sea-based activities including a fishery that is characterized by multiple gear types and operations from both the municipal and commercial fishing sectors. Further, the bay also provides space for mari-culture activities, marine-based tourism and recreation, transportation, and navigation. While these activities substantially provide income-generating opportunities for the constituents of Balayan Bay, they are also potential sources of conflicts borne from their competing demands of the limited coastal and sea space.

Guided by best practices and lessons learned from previous Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) initiatives such as the PEMSEA-assisted zoning of the neighboring Batangas Bay and the integrated upland-coastal-marine area zoning of Bataan Bay, the coastal LGUs of the Balayan Bay have endeavoured to pursue a bay-wide zoning scheme for their various fisheries and other sea uses. A crucial step involved the identification and evaluation of the nature of the uses' spatial interactions, the output of which served as basis for drafting a practical activity guide per designated sea use zone. This further entailed a review of existing local and national policies that can legally support enforcement of the regulatory measures they have outlined for each sea use zone. In this manner, the Balayan Bay LGUs seek to reconcile the various and often times conflicting demands of the uses of their coastal and marine waters, and further, provide managers, regulators, and future investors a rational basis for planning and decision-making.

EAS Congress 2015
THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015
16-21 November 2015 • Danang, Vietnam
Global Targets Local Benefits
Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About Regina T. Bacalso:

Regina Therese Bacalso is currently a fisheries resource management specialist of the Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project in the Philippines. She has been involved in engaging local partners and various stakeholders towards the development of fisheries zoning and marine spatial plans at the LGU and inter-LGU levels through a characteristically participatory process, from classifying and mapping of sea use patterns, identifying and evaluating of sea use conflicts, to the drafting of sea use zones and marine spatial plans. She likewise leads the development of trophic systems models in the project's 8 Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs) and explores through modelling and stakeholder consultations various fishing effort configuration scenarios for fisheries right-sizing. At the same time, she also conducts, facilitates, and provides technical inputs in the projects' other fisheries management-related interventions and field activities relating to fisheries monitoring and stock assessment.