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Global Targets

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Workshop 3 Conclusions and Recommendations: Valuation of Coastal Ecosystem Services and Benefits and Coastal Use Zoning: Tools for Better Planning and Implementation

Prepared by the Workshop Chair, Dr. Jungho Nam, KMI, and Prof. Chul Hwan Koh, Technical Session Chair, EAS Partnership Council, based on workshop presentations, moderated panel discussions and interactions between panellists and participants

Workshop Highlights

1. Several case studies on the linkage between valuation and coastal use zoning were presented during the workshop. The case studies related the experiences from implementers and researchers from China, Indonesia, RO Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and other regional and international organizations and projects.
2. The case studies presented the use of tools and methodologies on valuation and zoning and their application to management of specific habitats and resources such as sea grass, coral reefs, mangroves, fisheries, tourism, reclamation and other management activities in the coastal areas.
3. Application of valuation results to coastal use zoning/marine spatial planning is still limited at the local level and, in many cases, these two processes are still done independent of one another.
4. While there are rich experiences in valuation and zoning in the region, guidelines on the application of these tools at the local level are still limited.

5. Communication of results on valuation to policy/decision-makers is still limited/poor due to technical jargons being used and ineffective process of communication by experts to policy-makers.

Workshop Conclusions:

6. There is no single tool or methodology that can accommodate the varying objectives of zoning in different sites. Stakeholder engagement is important in identifying the objectives of valuation and zoning and getting their perspectives on the right balance between environmental protection and the pursuit of development objectives. Policy- and decision-makers should be engaged in the process to create the support needed to legislate.
7. There is a wide array of experiences in ecosystem service valuation and its linkage to coastal use zoning/marine spatial planning within and outside the region. However, guidelines on the application of these tools at the local level are still limited and a challenge due to the varying conditions and objectives of sites on their valuation and zoning initiatives.
8. There is a general recognition that ecosystem service valuation plays a critical role in lobbying and decision-making, but efforts to link results of valuation to policy and decision-making is challenged by limited/poor communication to policy- and decision-makers.
9. **Some elements of success in valuation and zoning include:**
 - Consideration of all benefits that flow from ecosystems including non-monetary values
 - Fully addressing issues of equity, that is, maintaining access to resources, anticipating the needs of people and ensuring the availability of the widest array of services for people
 - Using science to pinpoint the areas of greatest ecological and social importance, the protection of which can serve as foundation for blue growth.
10. The linkage between policy and science has not been established in many cases. The results of valuation are sometimes not made available to policy- and decision-makers, or are not effectively communicated, resulting in poor uptake of results and recommendations.
11. Valuation and zoning can be used to assess societal priorities and understand trade-offs and benefits, and if done properly and communicated well to policy- and decision-makers, it can lead to effective management of coastal, marine and watershed resources.
12. There is a need to have a system-level understanding of issues by looking at the linkages of socio-economic issues, including major threats and concerns on the environment, anticipated changes and developments, new opportunities for livelihoods, and peoples' aspirations. Stakeholders must therefore be engaged in the process.
13. Effective ecosystem service valuation and coastal use zoning consider all benefits derived from the resources and a zoning that addresses the issues of equity by allowing availability of widest array of services for people.

14. Valuation and zoning can be used not only to look at areas that can be protected but to identify the areas that need to be restored.

Workshop Recommendations

15. ***Convince the unconvinced.*** There is a need to communicate the results of valuation studies to convince the “unconvinced” and to create actions on the ground. This is particularly important in the case of local officials who will need to use the results of the valuation in their policy and decision-making processes.
16. ***Strengthen the participation of local stakeholders in the process of valuation and zoning*** to take into account community preferences and create buy-in/support for the zoning.
17. ***Link the science into policy and decision-making.*** The science behind valuation must be connected with policy and decision making.
18. ***Immediate action using the best available data.*** It is usually difficult to generate a complete set of information in conducting valuation and zoning but implementers must use the best available data and information to conduct the valuation and zoning.
19. ***Review of zoning plans.*** Zoning should be seen as an iterative process and that zoning plans can be adjusted as new information comes in and based on new priorities of communities or local governments.
20. ***Promoting transparency on the objectives of zoning and valuation*** so that stakeholders will be guided properly on the decisions/choices on the trade-offs that need to be made in the process of negotiation.
21. ***Broader/holistic approach to zoning.*** There is a need to consider the interaction between land-based activities and sea uses in order to come up with better and a more holistic approach to zoning.
22. ***Conduct anticipatory valuation.*** There is a need to think about what might exist in the future – the potential ecosystems values as a way to plan for areas for targeted investment for degraded areas and the type of values that might be enhanced in the future.
23. ***Strengthen capacity for valuation and zoning*** by encouraging training (by KMI) and providing opportunities for application of the tools and skill learned from such training at the local level.
24. ***Strengthen the capacity of the members of the PNLC*** on valuation and zoning so that they can be mobilized to provide support to local governments on the use of tools and methodologies on valuation and zoning.