

Integrating **Biodiversity** into Poverty Reduction Strategies and Development

Best Practices in Asia



**Cases of best practices in:
Republic of the Philippines
Vietnam; and
Islamic Republic of Iran**

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Examples of Best Practices of Integrating Biodiversity into Poverty Eradication and Development

Empowering Communities and Mainstreaming Ecosystem Benefits thru ECOTOURISM.

1. *Integrated Coastal Resource Management Project- Ecotourism Enterprise Development – Philippines*
2. *Conservation of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) Mangrove Ecosystem and Ecotourism Project- Philippines*

Improving Biodiversity and Livelihoods thru Payments for Ecosystem Services

3. *Policy on Payments for Forest Environmental Services in Lam Dong, Viet Nam*

Biodiversity conservation and protection thru Sustainable Agriculture

4. *ASEAN Peatland Forests Project –Philippine component*
5. *Sustainable Agriculture Around Lake Parishan in Iran*

Empowering Communities and Mainstreaming Ecosystem Benefits thru ECOTOURISM.

◦ **1. INTEGRATED COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT- ECOTOURISM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT – PHILIPPINES**

2. CONSERVATION OF PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK (PPSRNP) MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM AND ECOTOURISM PROJECT- PHILIPPINES

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Integrated Coastal Resource Management Project (ICRMP): Ecotourism Enterprise Development



Key Features/Description

ICRMP aims to enhance coastal resources and uplift the socio-economic conditions of the fisher folks, farmer and stakeholders of Cagayan, Zambales, Masbate, Romblon, Cebu, Siquijor and Davao Oriental.

- ❖ promotes ridge-to-reef approach and aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources thru ecotourism development and
- ❖ Financial assistance were provided thru the Self Reliant Group (SRG) to help establish 32 ecotourism enterprises in seven provinces between 2011 and June 2013
- ❖ focal ecosystems for tourism products – forest, coral reefs and estuarine with mangrove forest for ecotourism activities such as snorkeling, paddling and hiking
- ❖ Target to scale up pilot provinces best enterprise development and income diversification initiatives and replicate these in other coastal communities nationwide



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Integrated Coastal Resource Management Project (ICRMP): Ecotourism Enterprise Development



Key Results/Outcome

- ✓ led to enhancement of tourism products and enhanced awareness on importance of natural resources
- ✓ people are now capacitated to provide various ecotourism services and goods
- ✓ Protocols and regulations being regulated to ensure sustainable management of natural resources
- ✓ 55 Ecotourism based enterprises established, as of 2013. Of the 55 awarded enterprises to 22 SRGs, 71% are implementing.
- ✓ Capability training of SRG members conducted., where 680 community members trained in promising enterprises and entrepreneurial skills.
- ✓ Development of livelihood related IEC for use by the SRGs and promotional IEC materials for potential private investors.

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Conservation of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) Mangrove Ecosystem and Ecotourism Project

Key Features/Description

- ❖ PPSRNP- one of the most important protected areas in the Philippines. The site has been declared as the new 7 Wonders of Nature in 2011
- ❖ Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour Association Inc (MPBTGAI), thru GEF SGP implements the project and provides ecotourism services to local and foreign guests
- ❖ The project aims to improve the biophysical condition and health of the sites; and enabling local communities to generate income while conserving the environment, while employing local-based innovative approaches.
- ❖ The Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour activity aims to enhance effectiveness of mangrove conservation thru integrating sustainable livelihood / enterprise initiatives with ecotourism activities.
- ❖ Project components (i) establishment of board walk for interpretative mangrove cruise (ii) establishment of monitoring station cum view deck and photo kiosk (iii) creation of small-scale on-resource and off-resource enterprises



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Conservation of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) Mangrove Ecosystem and Ecotourism Project



Key Results/Outcome

- ✓ *Revenues generated.* Direct employment and revenues being generated by the local community and Local Government can benefit directly from mangrove ecotourism. A 350-metre boardwalk, constructed across the mangroves is now a major attraction for both local and international tourist.
- ✓ *Revenue Sharing.* Project sustainability is very promising as the PO and the local government generates income from this activity.
- ✓ *Capacity building provided.* The project activities involve raising awareness, training and participatory monitoring of mangrove forests., basic Tour Guiding and First Aid Training.
- ✓ *Creation of Green Jobs.* The project demonstrates creation of green jobs as it employs members of the community in ecotourism services as a result of mangrove conservation and protection.
- ✓ *Improved conservation and management of mangroves.* Threats to mangrove conservation have been identified and addressed by the project thru sustained multistakeholder partnership
- ✓ *Improved community participation and public awareness and understanding mangrove conservation and management*

Improving Biodiversity and Livelihoods thru Payments for Ecosystem Services

POLICY ON PAYMENTS FOR FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES IN LAM DONG, VIET NAM

Policy on Payments Forest Environmental Services in Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

Key Features/Description

- ❖ The Asia Regional Biodiversity Conservation Program (ARBCP), funded by the USAID, developed a sustainable PES based financing mechanism thru the PFES pilot policy implemented in two pilot areas in Vietnam in 2009-2010 under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- ❖ The Lam Dong's Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP) provides the framework for using funds generated by Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanisms to support and sustain the province's priority conservation targets to be achieved by 2020.
- ❖ Implementation of the pilot policy included scientific studies, national and local awareness raising initiatives, provincial capacity building and training activities
- ❖ The policy facilitated payments ensuring continuous forest protection & management services while improving the economic condition of local communities providing the services.

Policy on Payments Forest Environmental Services in Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

The pilot policy created legal framework for the collection and distribution of the portion of the economic value of forest ecological services.

*The pilot policy set *payment levels at:*

- *20 VND per kilowatt hour from commercial hydropower production businesses*
- *20 VND per cubic meter from clean water production businesses*
- *Between 0.5% and 2% of annual revenue from tourism businesses*

**based on 2009 payment level*

Policy on Payments Forest Environmental Services in Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

Key Results/Outcome

- ✓ The pilot approach supported natural resource management and conservation in ways that provide real economic opportunities to rural communities, using sustainable financing pinpointed at reducing poverty.
- ✓ Provided local stakeholders with a significant role in managing the forest resources that contribute to their livelihoods, helping ensure continuing local support for conservation.
- ✓ Led to improved livelihoods of over 40,000 rural poor while promoting biodiversity conservation in Lam Dong Province and across Vietnam.
- ✓ PFES payments (paid into the Forest Protection and Development Fund) reached US \$4.46 million (as of Dec. 2010). The average annual payment per household was US \$540-615*
- ✓ PFES activities have resulted in enhanced protection of 209,705 hectares of threatened forest land.
- ✓ The successful pilot project led to a national scaling up of PFES in Vietnam, and also being considered as model for SEA countries in search for mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation efforts.

Biodiversity conservation and protection thru Sustainable Agriculture

1. ASEAN PEATLAND FORESTS PROJECT – PHILIPPINE COMPONENT

2. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AROUND LAKE PARISHAN IN IRAN

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**ASEAN Peatland Forests Project- (Philippine Component)
Pilot Demo Site in Agusan Marsh**

Key Features/Description

- ❖ **APFP** *Philippine Component* is to promote the sustainable management and wise use of peatlands through awareness raising, capacity building and enhanced inter-agency and multisectoral cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and the benefit of the local communities
- ❖ The Project determined the need for more active collaboration in the community led demonstration projects on sustainable agriculture in degraded peatlands and hydrological assessment and water management in Project Pilot Sites. (i.e. Agusan Marsh)
- ❖ The project promotes sustainable agricultural method/approach through raised bed/sorjan farming and floating vegetable garden suitable for peatland management



Sustainable management and wise use of Peatlands thru Sustainable Agriculture ASEAN Peatland Forests Project- (Philippine Component) Pilot Demo Site in Agusan Marsh

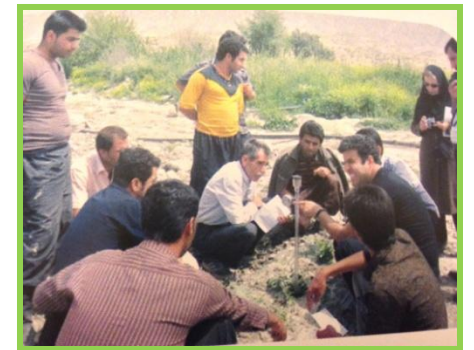
Key Results/ Outcome

- ✓ The communities are now managing the demonstration sites, wherein the vegetable crops harvested are provided to the nearby families/communities for their consumption
- ✓ Confirmed and mapped areas of peatlands in the country
- ✓ Capacity building activities initiated involving concerned national and local agencies including local communities.
- ✓ Awareness raising activities conducted in the form of community dialogues, print and other mass media campaign with partners from Academe and other stakeholders.
- ✓ Land use planning were initiated to avoid further conversion of peatlands
- ✓ Local Ordinance in Agusan Marsh issued on Protection and Sustainable Use of Peat Swamp Forests
- ✓ Leveraged additional local level projects supporting peatlands

Sustainable Agriculture Around Lake Parishan

Key Features/Description

- ❖ The Conservation of Iranian Wetlands project was conducted by the Departments of Environment and Agriculture, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility
- ❖ Established a **field farm school as a demonstration site** for nine different agricultural and water management techniques, to help us use water more efficiently, and consequently, preserve the wetland
- ❖ FFS includes both theoretical classes and practical demonstrations for various types of irrigation, covering soil with plastic sheetis to reduce evaporation, no soil tillage, non-chemical composting and alternative crop selection.
- ❖ Participating farmers work on the pilot site and replicate these sustainable methods in their own farms.



Sustainable Agriculture Around Lake Parishan

Key Results/Outcome

Results from the sustainable techniques implemented thru the Project:

- ✓ With the application of various agricultural and water management techniques, the crops will only need shorter period of time with water
- ✓ From 10,400m³ of water requirement to quench 1 hectare of land, now sustainably farmed plots need only 6,000m³ of water, saving 4,400m³ water
- ✓ Increase in yield per hectare through sustainable agriculture techniques
- ✓ Capacity building activities, thru the field farm school led to better understanding and awareness of people on the importance of sound environmental management to ensure better business opportunities
- ✓ Micro credit constituted that can be utilized in the development of alternative livelihoods.
- ✓ The success of the sustainable farming initiative around Lake Parishan has been replicated around the Lake Urumieh Basin, and leveraged funding from government.

Biodiversity into Poverty Reduction

Existing mechanism/s used to exchange best practices in the region

- ❖ Through various platforms and venues of regional networks (CHM, publications, websites, regional/international fora/training, among others), cooperation and coordination among countries can be facilitated to raise awareness, exchange knowledge, tools and experiences that can be useful at national/subnational implementation of CBD targets and commitments.

Biodiversity into Poverty Reduction

Conclusions/Recommendations

Success elements from the best practices presented include:

- ✓ Enhancement of ecotourism products and services will encourage more revenues that may support/ strengthen conservation efforts/targets as well as improve economic condition of local communities.
- ✓ Community based natural resources management is a key element to sustain efforts of biodiversity conservation and integration.
- ✓ Biodiversity conservation efforts can be pursued with development and implementation of sustainable agricultural techniques and methods
- ✓ It is important to have continuous capacity building and mobilizing communities for biodiversity conservation and livelihoods, law enforcement, good governance
- ✓ Development and implementation of innovative financing such as PES can ensure sustainable management of NR, while improving the economic condition of local communities
- ✓ Multistakeholder participation must be ensured in addressing biodiversity related issues
- ✓ Integrated approach in the design and implementation of biodiversity plans and activities.

Biodiversity into Poverty Reduction

Conclusions/Recommendations

- ✓ Ensure sufficient funding support and capacity building to help countries strengthen their efforts on biodiversity mainstreaming in country level PPAs.
- ✓ consistent national-level support to enable the LGUs/local communities contribute to biodiversity conservation
- ✓ Strengthening the environmental education and awareness of communities, and stakeholders
- ✓ Ensure active people's participation on biodiversity related initiatives, including their involvement in the M&E of the interventions, enforcement of policies and agreements to ensure ownership among the people/communities and sustain the gains/outcome from interventions
- ✓ Co-management, partnership and collaboration should be ensured across all levels of project
- ✓ Resource valuation is crucial in decision making as well as in the collection and distribution of benefits from the conservation of natural resources.

Biodiversity into Poverty Reduction

Conclusions/Recommendations

- ✓ Strengthen the integration of biodiversity concerns in landscape planning and development, through making these local plans biodiversity enhanced/or environmentally sensitive.
- ✓ Strong coordination and partnership between the national and LGUs play critical role in providing the proper and conducive implementation of ecotourism efforts and in unleashing local governance potentials.
- ✓ Gaps and constraints identified at country level efforts on Biodiversity mainstreaming may be considered in the development action plans in the ongoing process of updating of NBSAPs based on the new CBD Strategic Plan and its accompanying Aichi Targets, taking into consideration national circumstances, needs and capacities.



Maraming Salamat po!