Expert Group Meeting on Valuation of Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Pacific
– mapping the ecosystem valuation initiatives and programmes

Overview of the project “Regional Guidelines for the valuation of ecosystem goods and services in the Pacific”

Fiji, 6 June 2024

Nobuko Kajiura
Economic Affairs Officer
ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific
Project background

• Interest of member states on the value of their ecosystem goods and services as a part of the economic strategy
  • 2050 Strategy – valuing region’s ecosystem goods and services for sustainable management of resources

• Various initiatives related to valuation of ecosystem goods and services
  • Limited capacity in the Pacific → need prioritization
  • Identifying the purpose of the valuation → to identify what ecosystem goods and services to be evaluated
  • Utilization of valuation → how the assessment is used to achieve sustainable management of resources?
Thematic Area – Resources And Economic Development

This thematic area highlights the importance of accelerating the region's economic growth aspirations through strengthened ownership, and by ensuring the sustainable management and development of the region's natural and human resources. The sustainable management of resources will require the development of control measures; environmental, social and cultural impact assessments; and by identifying and valuing the region’s ecosystem goods and services. This is critical for building the region's resilience and ensuring sustained economic development and growth.

The region already faces the dual challenge of fiscal sustainability risks in the short term and financing shortfalls in critical areas, especially in the fight against climate change, increasing the urgency to consider innovative financing instruments and mechanisms. Diversifying our investment portfolios, increasing the role of the private sector in important areas such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry,

- **Present Situation**
  - The region is a global leader in renewable management in some areas, including, for example, high value marine fisheries.
  - Despite this, the region continues to face a number of challenges linked to the impacts of climate change, declining herds and loss of biodiversity with a significant depletion of certain vital resources.

- **Strategic Pathways**
  - Strengthen regional mechanisms, including community involvement to reflect cultural values and traditional knowledge, to build a greater level of accountability and transparency in addressing the sustainable management and development of resources.
  - Increase opportunities for all Pacific peoples, including women and girls, to engage in resource management, including the development and further development of MSHEs, including in cultural industries and professional aspects.
  - Adapt appropriate scientifically based policies, technology and tools for innovation to enhance economic policy development and the sustainable management and value-related development of the region's resources.

- **Level of Ambition**
  - All Pacific peoples benefit from a sustainable and resilient model of economic development, accelerating public policy and strategic pathways, and increased private sector involvement to improve socio-economic wellbeing by ensuring access to employment, entrepreneurship, trade, and investment in the region.

- **Resilience and Wellbeing**
  - Strengthen the resilience of Pacific economies, including through the sustainable management and development of the region's resources, reflecting the value of our ecosystem goods and services.

- **Partnerships and Cooperation**
  - Ensure strategic and genuine regional and international partnerships to accelerate economic growth, valuate our ecosystem goods and services, and harness blue and green economies.
This thematic area focuses on the region’s stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent through collective responsibility, commitment and investment in its ocean and lands. This includes to invest in the region’s sovereignty and sovereign rights over its maritime zones and lands, such as to support its continental shelf claims.

Recognising the significant environmental and ecosystem-based services that the Blue Pacific provides to the planet, the region’s ability to benefit from its ocean and environment depends on its capacity to make the right policy choices, partnerships and investments, including by adopting a precautionary and forward looking approach to protect the region’s biodiversity, its environment and resources from exploitation, degradation, nuclear contamination, waste, pollution, and health threats.

**Present Situation**

The region has in place the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape which addresses the sustainable development and management of our oceans, the Framework for Natural Conservation and Protected Areas which guides nature conservative planning, prioritisation and implementation, and the Cleaner Pacific 2030, which is the region’s framework to address waste and pollution with thematic plans to address regional marine litter regional marine spill contingency. The region continues to face issues linked to the depletion of some areas of oceans, the degradation of marine ecosystems. This has led to security concerns, land and sea pollution, lack of waste management and disposal, and inefficient use of energy.

**Strategic Pathways**

- **Governance**
  - Strengthen regional coordination and cooperation, including policy, regulatory and legislative measures that reflect a precautionary approach to address both the sustainable use and environmental conservation of ocean and land-based environment.
  - Strengthen involvement by all Pacific peoples, including Non-State Actors, to ensure their cultural values and traditional knowledge are reflected in measures to conserve the ocean and land-based environment.
- **Education, Research and Technology**
  - Undertake scientifically based research innovation and the use of data and information to inform policies and practices to protect and safeguard the Blue Pacific Continent.
- **Resilience and Wellbeing**
  - Support community level efforts to protect and conserve the ocean and land-based environment.
- **Partnerships and Cooperation**
  - The region’s partners commit to protecting the Pacific’s environment and resources from exploitation, degradation and pollution.

**Level of Ambition**

All Pacific peoples live in a sustainably managed Blue Pacific Continent, while steadfastly maintaining resilience to threats to its environment.
Project focus

• Build the capacities of Pacific member governments in understanding and applying ecosystem valuation

Project will not

• Delve into methodologies of ecosystem valuation
• Conduct valuation of ecosystem goods and services
Building on the various ecosystem valuation initiatives...

**Purpose of assessment**
- Undertaking scoping and situation analysis
- Identifying livelihood, development and investment opportunities
- Advancing monitoring and evaluation
- Comparing alternative policies, programmes and projects
- Sourcing new conservation funding
- Designing environmental policy instruments and incentives
- Conveying environmental messages, arguments and evidence
- Enhancing environmental awareness and education
- Resolving environmental conflicts
- Calculating environmental damages, losses and compensation requirement

**Policy areas**
- Nature conservation and protected areas
- Economic development and poverty reduction
- Infrastructure planning or assessment
- Water resources management
- Agriculture and forestry
- Climate change or disaster risk reduction
- Spatial planning
- Fisheries and coastal / marine management

**Valuation methodologies**
- Estimate value of ecosystem goods and services
  - What are (can be) measured and not measured?
  - Appropriate selection of methodologies?

**Experience and insights** in application of valuation?

Sensitizing where/how ecosystem valuation can be effectively used

(ValuES Method Database)
Pacific island countries have better understanding and recognizes the benefits of tools for valuing ecosystem goods and services.

Enhanced knowledge on existing initiatives and guidelines on ecosystem valuation, especially through south-south cooperation frameworks.

Improved clarity of priority areas to apply ecosystem valuation for the Pacific subregion.

Enhanced understanding of ecosystem valuation appropriate for the Pacific region, noting the best practices and experiences from the Asia-Pacific region.

A1.1: Undertake mapping of the ecosystem valuation initiatives and identification of stakeholders/existing framework, including best practices and experiences (background study).
A1.2: Convene an EGM to review the study.
A1.3: Prepare and convene a Pacific regional workshop for experience sharing to gauge the interest and priority areas for ecosystem valuation.

A2.1: Prepare a synthesis paper that Identifies opportunities and challenges for using ecosystem valuation in policy-making.
A2.2: Organize a workshop for scoping of needs and priority areas of ecosystem valuation for the Pacific.
A2.3: Organize a workshop for consultation and validation of the report.

A3.1: Develop the ecosystem valuation guidelines based on A1.3 and A2.3 activities.
A3.2: Develop communication materials.
A3.3: Organize and convene validation workshop of the guidelines with stakeholders.
A3.4: Disseminate communication materials / guideline.
Purpose of the EGM

• **Feedback on the mapping** of ecosystem valuation initiatives in the Pacific

• **Advice on further information** (key ecosystem valuation initiatives) to be reflected in the mapping exercise

• **Views on challenges and opportunities** in the use of ecosystem valuation for policy-making

• **Suggestions on key policy areas** where ecosystem valuation may (potentially) be used as an effective tool for decision-making
Building on the various ecosystem valuation initiatives...

**Purpose of assessment**
- Undertaking scoping and situation analysis
- Identifying livelihood, development and investment opportunities
- Advancing monitoring and evaluation
- Comparing alternative policies, programmes and projects
- Sourcing new conservation funding
- Designing environmental policy instruments and incentives
- Conveying environmental messages, arguments and evidence
- Enhancing environmental awareness and education
- Resolving environmental conflicts
- Calculating environmental damages, losses and compensation requirement

**Policy areas**
- Nature conservation and protected areas
- Economic development and poverty reduction
- Infrastructure planning or assessment
- Water resources management
- Agriculture and forestry
- Climate change or disaster risk reduction
- Spatial planning
- Fisheries and coastal / marine management

**Valuation methodologies**
- Estimate value of ecosystem goods and services

**What are (can be) measured and not measured?**
- Appropriate selection of methodologies?

**Experience and insights in application of valuation?**
Gaps?
(collaboration / external support required in the project)

• Information on ongoing initiatives in valuation of ecosystem goods and services (e.g., relevance in the Pacific)

• Lessons learned and applications of ecosystem valuation in economic policies / decision making (e.g., how MACBIO project was utilized on the ground, and in what areas (awareness building, decision on MPA, advocacy, etc)

• Production of good communication materials