ABSTRACT

JOAO XAVIER AMARAL. 2010. Economic Valuation of Coastal Resources in Timor Leste; Direct Use Values of Coastal Resources in Batugade, Balibo, Bobonaro District, Timor Leste. Graduate Student of Institute of Fisheries and Policy Development Study. University of the Philippines in the Visayas Miagao, Iloilo 5023, Philippines.

Coastal resources are important components of natural resources and they are also the important material fortunes of national economic and society development. The coastal resources economic valuation techniques adopt total economic value (TEV) framework and measure the incremental change in an individual's well being resulting from an incremental change in coastal resources quality.

The direct use value of the mangrove, coral reef and seagrass based on local use was assessed from the gross income generated by community, from the mangrove, coral reef and seagrass in terms of shellfish, crab, mollusks, fish, timber & poles, herbs and vegetables, fuel wood and other products. Market prices were used to calculate the gross income generated. The indirect use values considered in this study include value in terms of coastline protection and stabilization and value in terms of providing breeding ground for fish.

The country of Timor Leste and particularly its small island districts are highly dependent upon their marine resources for economic and social development. Fisheries is an important livelihood source and provides sustenance for the people of the country, contributing to food security, poverty alleviation, employment, foreign exchange earnings, development and the stability of rural and coastal communities, also providing for recreation and tourism.

This study synthesizes evaluation conceptual framework of coastal resources based on direct use values of coastal resources and integrated economic valuation in coastal resources management.

Based from the total of income from all ecosystems on consistent good catch all throughout the year, the average income per fisher amounted to (income from mangroves, $359.30 + income from coral reefs, $414.20 and income from seagrasses, $407.66) $1181.16 . Dividing this by 12, we get the estimated monthly income of US$98.43 per fisher per month. The total of income from each ecosystem where the good catch is only for half of the year, the average income per fisher amounted to (income from mangroves, $268.8 + income from coral reefs, $310.65 and income from seagrasses, $305.74) US$885.9. Dividing this by 12, we get the estimated monthly income of US$73.76 per fisher per month.

Keywords: coastal resources, fish, mangrove, coral reef, seagrass, values use, direct value, Batugade Bobonaro, Timor Leste.