



RESEARCH PROPOSAL

I. BASIC INFORMATION

Program/Project/Study Title: Assessing the Economic Value of the Ecosystem Services Provided by Canigao Island in Matalom Leyte, Philippines

Project Leader : Zyra May H. Centino
Study Leader : Karl John A. Galvez
Implementing Unit : Department of Economics, VSU
Collaborating agency: Matalom LGU
Location : Matalom, Leyte, Philippines
Duration : 1 Year
Proposed Budget : 80,000
Discipline : Economics/Natural Resource Economics
Classification : Socioeconomics

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

A. Rationale

One of the mandates of the Visayas State University is to provide help in neighboring communities in the process of making informed decisions through research. This research endeavor will hopefully feature important parameters useful in the management of scarce resources, especially those of natural resource endowment, such as Canigao Island situated in the municipality of Matalom, Leyte. It is worthy to note that most of these resource capital, if not properly managed may be degraded and or depleted.

This islet is a natural resource that offers a wide variety of ecosystem services such as cultural, provisioning, regulating, and supporting services. In general, cultural services derived from an ecosystem service include recreation and tourism, well-being and aesthetics, spiritual and inspirations, education and research. Meanwhile, provisioning services cover food, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, freshwater, timber and energy. Conversely, regulating services include climate regulation, disease control, flood regulation, water purification, and waste treatment. In addition, the supporting services that a resource may provide comprise oxygen production (photosynthesis), soil formation, nutrient cycling, habitat, and water cycling among others.

Canigao Island is known among local and international tourists as a go to destination. It also served as the breeding ground of fish in the area as it has an established sanctuary. These services provided benefits to its users, hence, this valuation study to target key variables in the policy making process. There is a lacking concept of whether users and resource managers have considered the economic value of the island in their decision-making. It is necessary to earnestly determine the economic value of this resource endowment so as to provide policy and program options aimed at sustaining, maintaining, and conserving Canigao Island.

This project aims to investigate two services that the Canigao island might provide, (1) the provisioning services, and (2) the tourism services. It is also the objective of this project to establish a secure future linkage with the collaborating agency to be able to meaningfully identify sustainable programs for Canigao Island.

