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REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE TRAINING SERIES: From Wetland Ecosystem Services to Nature-based Solutions

ADB HQ on 27–30 June 2023



A person wearing a blue head covering and a light-colored shirt is fishing in a shallow mangrove wetland. The water is blue, and the background is filled with dense green mangrove trees. Several white birds are flying in the clear blue sky. The scene is framed by an orange L-shaped graphic in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

Key Takeaways

RFI Training Series: “From Wetland Ecosystem Services to Nature-based Solutions”

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KEY TAKEAWAYS OF THE WORKSHOP

- 1) Leveling of understanding on the precarious state of the EAAF, being the most threatened flyway;
- 1) Necessity for a comprehensive assessment of wetland ecosystem services for better informed decisions and build a strong case for wetland site interventions;
- 2) Range of tools for ecosystem services assessment are available, and their appropriateness or utility depends on the objectives of the assessment i.e TESSA, InVEST, RAWES for potential application in RFI interventions;
- 3) TESSA process to include identification of wetland type, coverage, ecosystem services, drivers of change, and comparison of the site's current and alternative states;
- 4) Importance of stakeholder engagement and partnerships in ES assessment and in wetland management;

KEY TAKEAWAYS OF THE WORKSHOP

- 6) Nature based solution techniques to address the requirements for restoration, rehabilitation, enhancement, and stabilization;
- 6) The policy environment in the Philippines is supportive of wetland conservation given the laws and regulation though competing priorities in land use and water use is still a common problem. And so there might be a need for RFI to consider interventions at the national level on policy concerns;
- 6) Need to build a strong case for wetland conservation base on its contribution to broader national plans, especially to climate change and DRR, including international framework such as target 2 of the KMGBF on maintaining ecological connectivity.

KEY TAKEAWAYS OF THE WORKSHOP

From the Exposure Trip

- 1) Management of wetlands as local conservation area with local government (or OECM) can be an effective modality for ecosystem management as showcased by Balanga LGU's role in the management of Balanga City Wetland Park;
- 2) Synergism among DENR, LGU, and the community, being pivotal in intensifying conservation efforts;
- 3) The realized wetland benefits heightened the community's sense of pride and responsibility to conserve and sustainably manage the wetland;
- 4) Glimpse of the common pressures in maintaining an RFI priority site, e.g. land and water use conflicts, pollution, etc which may serve as entry point for intervention by the RFI



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