

## Coastal Capital – Studies 2005-11



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Photos: Crispin Zeenam (fisherman), Steve Linfield (wave break), K. Tkachenko (diving)



Coastal Capital – Impacts?



### Main research questions

- Which valuation studies have informed decision making in the Caribbean?
- What made those studies successful in informing decision making?

# Use of coastal ecosystem valuation in decision making in the Caribbean



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

#### **Ecosystem Services**

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoser



Use of coastal economic valuation in decision making in the Caribbean: Enabling conditions and lessons learned

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#### ARTICLE INFO

Artide history: Received 3 February 2014 Received in revised form 28 June 2014 Accepted 26 July 2014

Keywords: Coastal Marine Valuation Caribbean Decision Policy

#### ABSTRACT

Caribbean economies depend on coastal ecosystem services, including tourism, fisheries, and shoreline protection However, coastal ecosystems continue to degrade due to human pressures. Many pressures arise from decisions that fall to talle full range of ecosystem values and benefits into account.

Economic valuation can contribute to better-informed decision making about coastal resource use and development. More than 100 studies in the Caribbean contain monetary values of coastal ecosystem goods and services. However, only a minority of these studies have had an observable influence on policy, management, or investment decisions. Through a series of interviews, we identified 17 valuation studies that have directly influenced decision making, Due to the difficulty of tracking influence, our review was not exhaustive.

These IP "sucress stories" highlight the potential for economic valuation to improve decision making, building on literature on the challenges of integrating science into policy, we used these 17 cares to identify enabling conditions for informing decision making. These conditions include a dear policy question, strategic choice of study area, strong stakeholder engagement, effective communications, access to decision makers, and transparency in reporting results.

Our findings suggest that valuation practitioners can and should do more to ensure that valuation studies inform decision making.

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#### 1. Introduction

Perhaps the greatest rationale for conducting economic valuation – which puts a monetary value on ecosystems such as coral reefs or mangroves – is to encourage recognition of ecosystem services and their benefits in political and economic decision making. Valuation can be an influential tool to inform holistic decision making around development planning, conservation, and provision of public goods and services. Because of its promise, economic valuation is increasingly emphasized in public policies, regulations, and investment decisions. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (TEBB) initiated by the G84-5 environment ministers; the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's guide to corporate ecosystem valuation; and the World Bank's Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership are but three recent global examples.<sup>2</sup>

In the Wider Caribbean Region, there is also growing interest in economic valuation to inform smart choices about coastal conservation and management. For example, the Jamaican National Environment and Planning Agency is currently working to incorponate economic valuation into its environmental impact assessments, and the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CIME) project – which is working to promote an ecosystem-based management approach throughout the region – is gathering marine economic valuation data to support policy making. Furthermore, over the past 30 years, valuation literature on the Caribbean's coastal and marine resources has increased substantially. There are now more than 100

- Low observed use so far
- But, 20+ case studies offer lots of lessons

# Valuation supports MPA establishment

St. Maarten, Haiti, Cuba, Bahamas, USA



## Valuation supports establishment of entry fees

Bonaire, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Belize, St. Eustatius



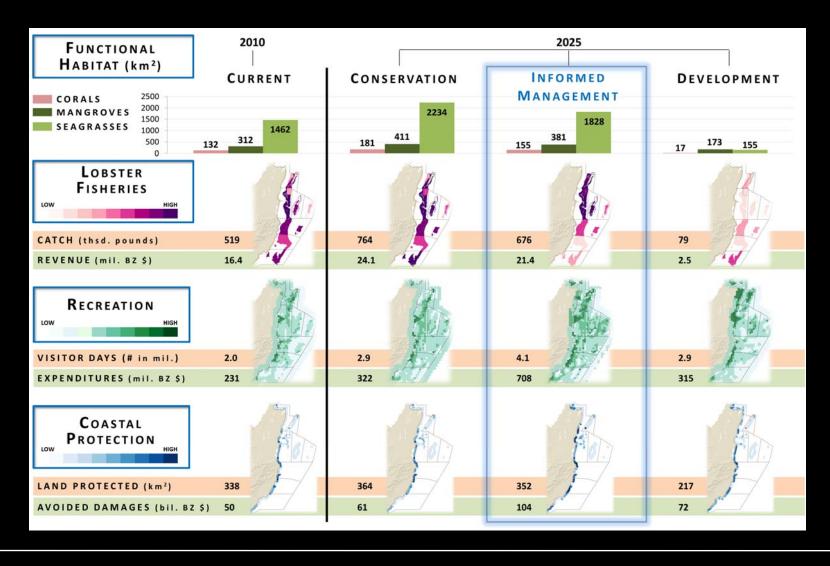
# Valuation supports damage claims

Belize, Jamaica, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten



# Valuation informs marine spatial planning

#### Belize

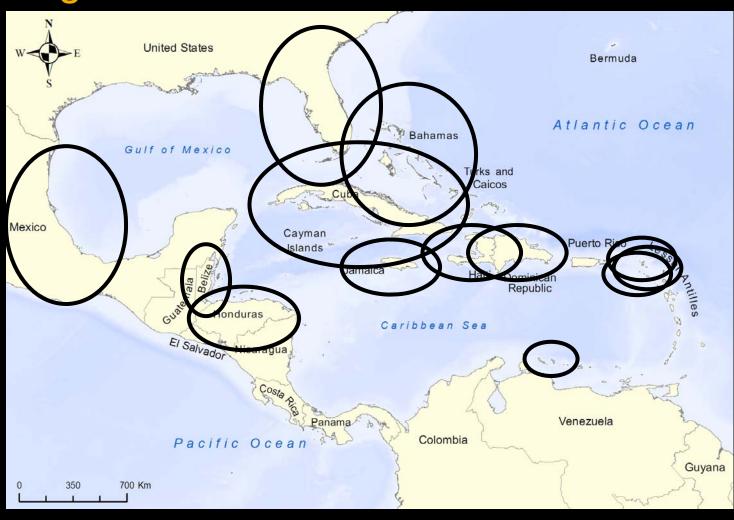


#### How else have valuation results been used?

- Justify other policy changes (e.g., fishing regulations, offshore oil drilling ban)
- Justify investment in management/conservation/ enforcement
- Design Payments for Ecosystem Services schemes
- Raise awareness/highlight economic importance



# Valuation results have informed decision making across the Caribbean



## Why were these 20+ studies influential?

...enabling conditions for use in decision making

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

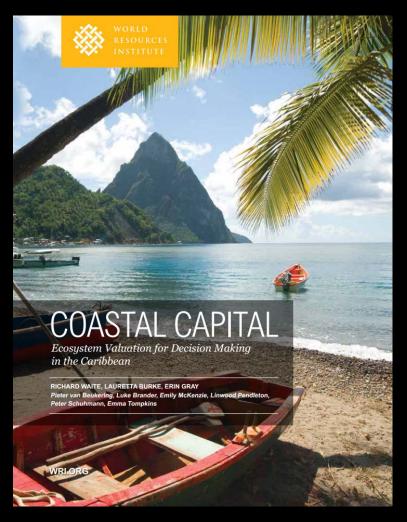
- ✓ Conduct a sound analysis
- ✓ Link to a clear policy question (and use appropriate methods/data)
- ✓ Engage stakeholders and decision makers
- ✓ Value relevant ES
- ✓ Be transparent
- ✓ Communicate strategically

#### WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FOR

- ✓ Highly threatened coastal ecosystems
- ✓ High economic dependence on coastal resources
- ✓ Good governance
  - Transparency in decision making
  - Legal framework, enforcement ability
  - Local control over resource management / revenue

#### New Guidebook:

Replicating the enabling conditions



- The CARIBSAVE Partnership
- Centre for Resource Management andadapiten/nuerdatestudies (CERMES), University of the West builds on our co-Indies (UWI), Cave Hill, Barbados
- Caputs exist 2000 international
- Conservation Strategy Fund toolkit...
- Coral Reef Alliance
- Marifier組dssystem Services
   Partnership (MESP) olkit
- Natural Capital Project
- The Nature Conservancy
- Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University
- Organization of American States
- United Nations Environment
  Programme Caribbean
  Environment Program (UNEP-CEP)
- University of North Carolina
   Willington
- WWF Conservation Science Network

#### New Guidebook:

Replicating the enabling conditions

1. Scoping / Engagement

2. Analysis

3. Outreach / Use of Results

### Phase 1: Scoping / Engagement

- 1.1 Identify policy question
- 1.2 Consider the context
- 1.3 Review previous valuation studies
- 1.4 Identify and begin to engage stakeholders
- 1.5 Identify decision makers and other target audiences and draft communications strategy

#### Phase 2: Analysis

- 2.1 Develop scenarios
- 2.2 Analyze changes in ecosystem services
- 2.3 Choose valuation method(s)
- 2.4 Collect and analyze data
- 2.5 Account for risk and uncertainty
- 2.6 Apply decision support tools
- 2.7 Report all valuation results clearly

#### Phase 3: Outreach and Use of Results

- 3.1 Develop non-technical products for decision makers
- 3.2 Communicate results to decision makers
- 3.3 Share study and results with valuation community
- 3.4 Monitor and assess impact

#### Other resources and next steps

- 2-page checklist
- Spanish translations
- Pilot applications
- Training and capacity building



# Thank you! wri.org/coastal-capital rwaite@wri.org

Photo: Olivier Langrand