

Connecting Valuation with Conservation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site



EEPSEA Beginnings

*My EEPSEA involvement started in 1998 Regional course on environment and natural resource economics (ENRE)

*I was looking for direction on research to pursue in UPV and was contemplating to do PhD studies (possible topic: marine conservation)

EEPSEA Inputs and Enabling

* ENRE training directed me to what I pursued for my PhD studies

* My dissertation research: on non-use values for marine biodiversity conservation of the Tubbataha UNESCO World Heritage Site

* My dissertation proposal was presented in the May 2001 Biannual Meeting for EEPSEA funding. It was subsequently accepted and funded.



Figure 1. EEPSEA May 2001 Bi-Annual Meeting where I presented my dissertation proposal. Dr. Dale Whittington and Dr. Viktor Adamowicz provided technical inputs on this research

• EEPSEA Training Courses on Coastal Ecology and on Environmental Econometrics provided me the needed technical inputs in pursuing my dissertation topic

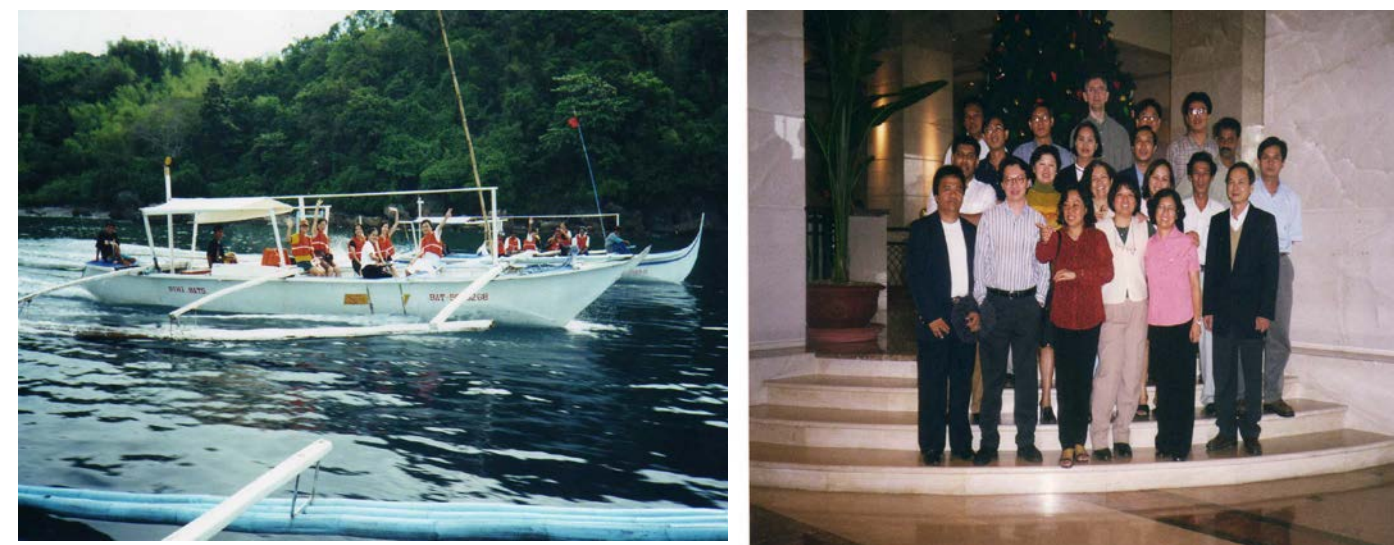


Figure 2. EEPSEA May 2001 Coastal Ecology Training Course and November 2001 Environmental Econometrics Course

Disseminating and Utilizing Research, Influencing Policy

* Many of the 3000 respondents realized how important the Tubbataha reefs that several of them would give actual contribution, and not just expression of their willingness to pay.

* In the years that follow, several papers from my dissertation were presented in various conferences.

* My dissertation has been cited in several WWF reports and in the business plan for the reefs' sustainability & conservation. Moreover, the key results have been cited in globalgiving.com, which is a web-based fund-raising effort that solicited donations for Tubbataha's conservation.

* I had several discussion with WWF Officers and the Tubbataha Management Office, which were lobbying for more government support and the expansion of the TRNMP area for wider conservation.

* President Arroyo issued an executive order in September 2007, expanding the area to 90,000 hectares, to cover adjacent reefs

Furthering Research, Connecting with Conservation

* After my PhD, WWF requested my assistance to design and undertake a social survey on Cagayancillo, the municipality covering Tubbataha, and which hosts potential conservation partners, some of them were formerly illegal fishers in the reefs. The survey provided inputs for the conservation projects and programs, as well as recommendations on sustaining such efforts. Among the recommendations, which was implemented, is the regular data gathering being done through summer fellowships of students. They undergo screening process prior to their deployment for the fellowship- data gathering

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