

FEW FACTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS



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THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS: *MANY* PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT:

Coral Reefs provide

- Food as fish, crustaceans, algae etc.
- Income from tourism
- Income from aquarium fish & others
- Rock & sand for building
- Protection from waves & cyclones
- Protection from sea level rise
- Basis for cultures & a place to live

For the world

- Beauty, inspiration, biodiversity, medicines etc

Main contents of the slide provided by Dr. Clive Wilkinson

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS: SOME PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT:

- Only 284,300 km² of reefs
- Millions of people depend on reefs
- Worth \$\$\$ billions to economies
- Stores of Biodiversity
- Value \$100,000 to \$600,000 per sq km (UNEP)
- Or \$375 billion p.a. or \$1.319 million per sq. km (Costanza)
- Cost of MPA management \$775 per sq. km
- e.g. – Maldives spent \$10 million per km to replace reefs

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THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS: *FEW PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE FACT THAT:*

- Differences in common interests (more for goods or services, used or non-used from the ecosystem) among audiences (westerners & easterners, scientists & fishermen, advisors & local stakeholders ...; therefore:
- Challenges in harmonising approaches and seeking efficient way for common perspectives;

E.g. Difficulties in integrating outputs from cooperative projects into long term outcomes and impacts

- Value estimation done more theoretically in the large scale but poor data at the site level, therefore:
- Management practices based on insufficient and/or misunderstanding data and information

E.g. No input for South China Sea GIS database regarding species and production of target living resources of most characterised sites (43 coral reef site in the total)

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS: *FEW PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE FACT THAT:*

- Misunderstanding of serious decline of habitat goods' values under overfishing; therefore:
- Inappropriate management planning at the site level

E.g. Only fish resources (Grouper juvenile for cage culture, commercial grouper, fusilier, jack & travelly) left, providing 800,000USD per annum but high value - considered benthic resources (abalone, pearl oyster, sea cucumber) not observed in Phu Quoc Arch. (Viet Nam).

- Serious insufficiency of data on spawning, nursery & aggregation relating to coral reefs; therefore:
- Reduce of function of coral reef-based MPAs in supporting fisheries recruitment; *fisheries refugia* approach critical

E.g. Zoning MPAs in the South East Asia (& other regions?) not based on "real" data on this aspect

THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS: *FEW PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE FACT THAT:*

- High and increased benefits but poor responsibility of tourist sector to coral reef conservation, therefore:
- Increased negative impacts from tourist activities to coral reefs and insufficiency of management capacity

E.g. 500,000USD per annum for Phu Quoc - new tourist destination. Poor investment for management from tourist sector in most countries bordering the SCS

- Functions of coral reefs considered as those of forests but less global consensus in coral reef management and rehabilitation, therefore:
- Much less improvement in coral reef management & rehabilitation in comparison with forest ones

E.g. Targets of World Park Congress (2003) on Global Network of MPAs not achieved as perspective



**CORAL REEFS AND
HUMAN WELL BEING?**

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION