



Mainstreaming Nature in Policy and Investment Decisions

Pilot Project Fact Sheet Philippines

Enhancing integrated watershed management planning using ecosystem services assessment and valuation



Country context

The Philippines is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia, in the western Pacific Ocean. The country's watersheds provide essential services, including clean drinking water, water for irrigation and energy production, and flood mitigation. Water quality in the country has declined due to sediment and nutrient pollution issues, and landscape degradation is widespread, driven by deforestation, unregulated development, and unsustainable farming practices – exacerbated by rugged, geologically unstable terrain, monsoons, extreme weather, and climate change. Significant efforts are being made to guide sustainable development and protection of critical ecosystems, through the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB). ERDB is the principal research arm of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), and it is providing technical guidance for watershed managers developing Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMPs). The Philippines has piloted several ecosystem accounts and is now requiring a national system of natural capital accounting.

What will this pilot project do?

DENR, through ERDB, has proposed an enhancement to its existing IWMP management approach that incorporates ecosystem service assessment and valuation. This pilot project will focus on training regional and national watershed managers to model and map the critical ecosystem services provided by watersheds. The pilot will also incorporate ecosystem services valuation — aligned with the United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting (UN SEEA) framework — to calculate benefits and the net-present value (NPV) of the identified watershed management interventions. This will help DENR with investment prioritization and policy planning. This will feed into a larger, two-year project led by the DENR to create a workflow that uses natural capital assessments and accounting to inform enhanced-IWMPs for watersheds nationally.

Note that this is an iterative process and the specifics of the project may evolve.

Key steps

Provide in-depth training between April-July 2024 to support DENR and regional watershed office staff to map, model, and value the baseline supply of select services in two watersheds

Contribute to DENR documentation to develop a workflow for applying ecosystem service valuation approaches at a national scale

Provide guidance and technical support for valuing watershed ecosystem services in the UN-SEEA framework

Co-develop a roadmap for DENR to (a) characterize watersheds and their values; (b) set quantitative targets for ecosystem service enhancement; (c) prioritize watersheds for IWM implementation; (d) track progress of the IWM program towards achieving quantitative targets; and (d) adaptively manage the IWM program



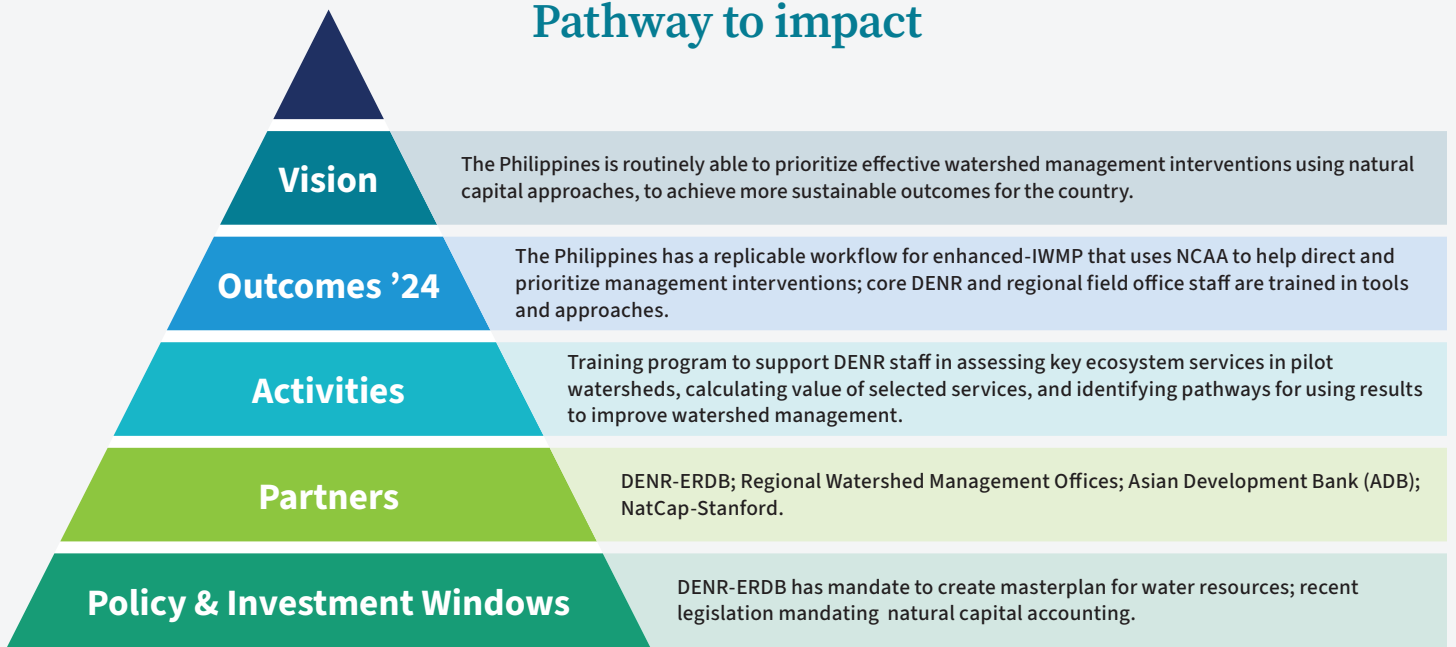


Project-at-a-glance

Enhanced Integrated Watershed Management

Type of policy or finance mechanism this will inform:	Spatial planning; enhanced integrated watershed management planning framework
Planned methods for natural capital approach:	Modeling, mapping and quantifying the baseline net present value using the UN SEEA framework; capacity development
Key issues/scale to be addressed:	Watershed
Location:	Luzon Island
Ecosystem services to be assessed:	Water supply, water quality (sediment and nutrient), and flood risk mitigation

Pathway to impact



For more information, please visit the project page: bit.ly/peopleplanetprosperity.
Please contact naturalcapitalproject@stanford.edu with questions about this project!

