

PES in Application: Scenic Beauty

(Observations from the Experience of El Nido Resorts and Tubbataha Reefs National Park)



PES in General

- **A simple fundamental principle:**
somebody buys, somebody sells
(In this case: environmental services relating to scenic beauty)
- **Revenue that can then be used for the environment**
Using capitalist systems to attempt to correct/ arrest the damage that capitalism (well, capitalism in support of human consumption) has wrought upon the earth

PES vis-à-vis Scenic Beauty

- **Importance is often underestimated**
(urgency is often set aside in favor of the more “disaster-related” aspects)
- **But it is necessary, logical and deserved:**
When somebody pays for a room, he/she pays for the infrastructure and amenities, but what about the scenery that made it all possible?
What about the conservation efforts necessary to maintain the scenery?

PES vis-à-vis Scenic Beauty

- As usual, difficulty of defining “sellers” and “buyers”
(sellers are also users of environment and ecosystem services...)
- An advantage: Tourists come in with a budget
- A powerful tool for poverty reduction
(appealing to the better nature of communities is all well and good, but conservation takes time and effort; it asks people to spend productive time doing conservation work)
- In this context, PES has a real capacity to snowball, especially in its customizability

PES vis-à-vis Scenic Beauty

(Aspects requiring further definition)

- Buyers vs. sellers
- Uniformity and verifiability of fees set
(consultative, non-arbitrary, etc.)
- Disposition of proceeds/sharing of revenues among sellers/beneficiaries
(establishment of roles, etc.)
(contracts/binding agreements, etc.)
- Establishment of indicators for the performance of these roles (M & E?)
- The common concern re: non-use values

PES vis-à-vis Scenic Beauty

(Aspects requiring further definition)

- **Management regimes**
(one regime for the entire jurisdiction, or separate management mechanisms?)
- **The issue of monetary motivation and enforcement as opposed to voluntary conservation**
(and it must be remembered: within the framework of poverty reduction)

Thank you.

