Use Case: Identifying Beneficiaries of Mangrove Management in Suriname and Guyana

http://bit.ly/NI-ESUC

CONTEXT

The governments of Suriname and Guyana established a project with partners Conservation International and the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions to evaluate the size and distribution of the ecosystem services that mangrove systems provide to local communities in the two countries. Both governments plan to use information generated by this project to inform the development of updated coastal management plans. An important part of this project involved assessing who specific beneficiaries of mangrove services are, and therefore determining what communities are likely to be affected by changes in mangrove management or ecosystem health. This use case describes how ESCMs were used to help perform that assessment of beneficiaries.

PROCESS

The project team adapted a general mangrove ESCM to the context of Suriname and Guyana. The model was then extended by adding beneficiaries (affected communities) of mangrove ecosystem services for each country context (Figure 1). The extension of the model does two things: 1) it makes explicit the specific groups who use, enjoy, or depend on mangrove services, and 2) it illustrates how mangrove ecosystems connect to those groups. The model extension was based on a preliminary literature review and workshops with focus groups in a sample of coastal communities in each country. Workshop attendees included local community members and leaders, as well as local NGO representatives.

RESOURCES USED

Mangrove ESCMs. A general mangrove ESCM was adapted to the specific context of Suriname and Guyana.

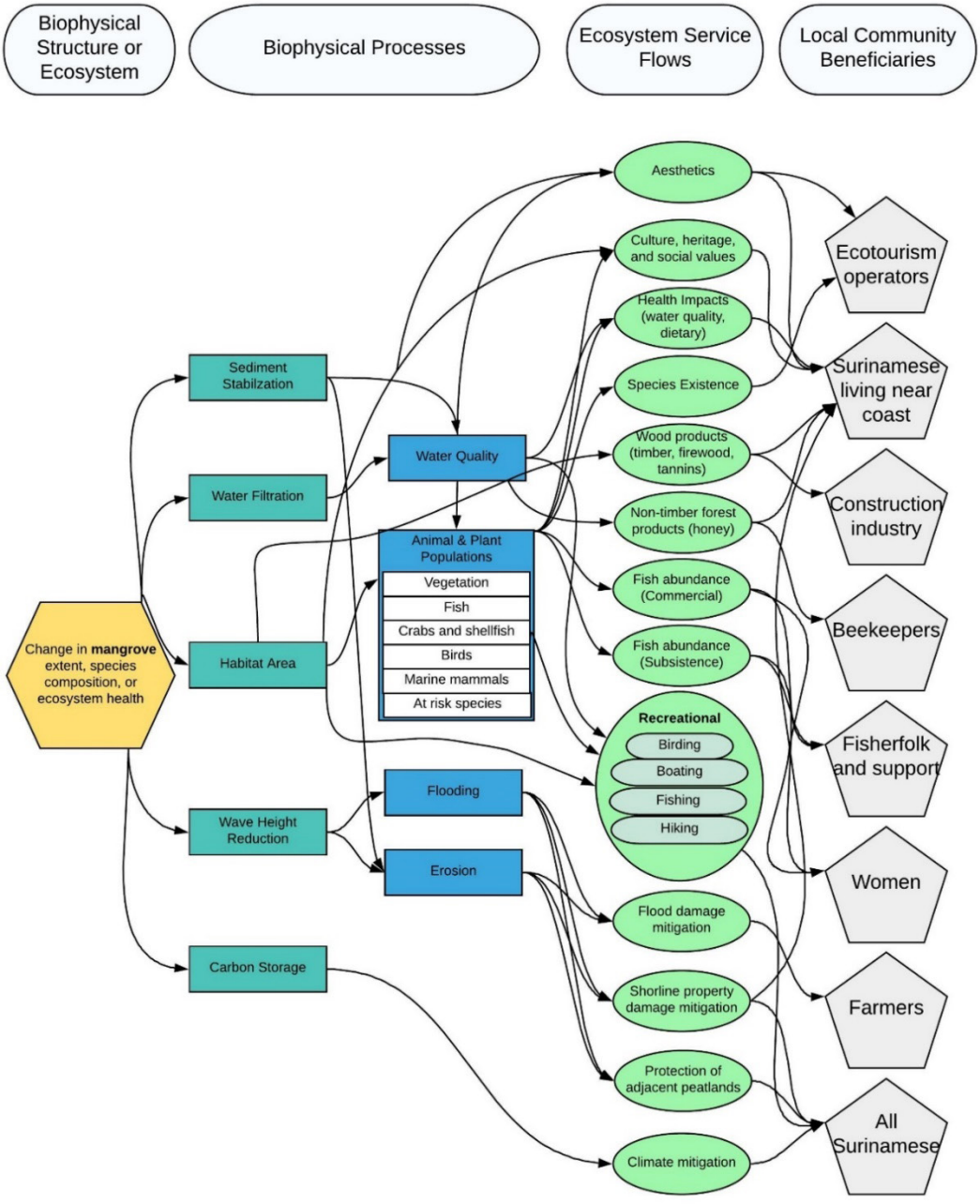
Workshop Guide. The structure of the community workshops is described in Section 5 of the linked workshop guide.

APPLICATIONS

Getting everyone on the same page. The extended mangrove ESCM was used to get everyone at focus group meetings on the same page about linkages between mangroves and specific subsets of coastal communities. The model provided a structure to build these conversations. When the project was presented to regional and national stakeholder groups in Guyana and Suriname, including representatives from nongovernmental organizations, government, and environmental interest groups, using the model as a mental map facilitated discussions on the completeness of the list of local community beneficiaries.

Clearly communicating ecosystem services information in official reporting. During discussions at the regional or national level, the models were proven to be efficient in conveying the linkage between mangrove ecosystems and people who benefit from the ecosystem services supplied. The model with beneficiaries identified was also included in the project report to convey information about specific groups likely to be affected by changing mangrove management or ecosystem health.

Figure 1. Extended Mangrove ESCM Showing Specific Beneficiaries of Mangrove Ecosystem Services in Suriname.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bollini, C., E. Millar, T. Vegh, and J. Virdin. 2019. Local Community Benefits from Ecosystem Services Provided by Mangroves on the North Brazil Shelf. Report by Conservation International and the Research Team at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University.