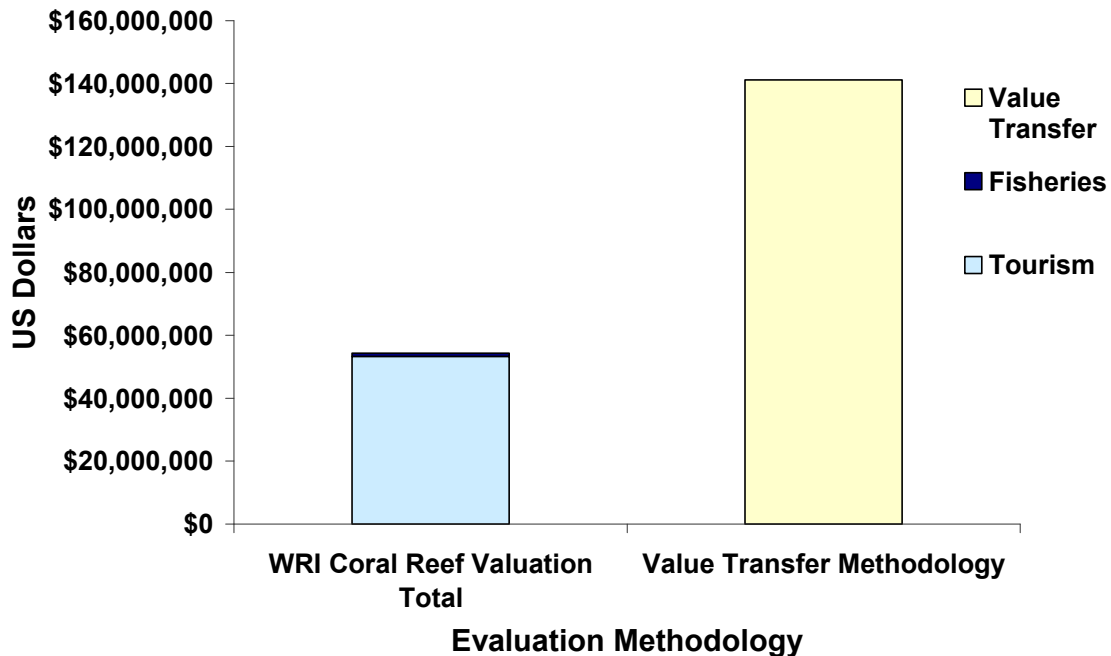


ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
INTER-AMERICAN BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION NETWORK (IABIN)
ReefFix: An ICZM Ecosystem Services Valuation Capacity Building Demonstration Project for the Caribbean

THE REEFFIX PROJECT JUST COMPLETED A WORKSHOP IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES THAT VALUED THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT DERIVE FROM THE TOBAGO KEYS MARINE PARK. The healthy coral reefs and marine ecosystems of the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) support tourism and fisheries and provide important buffers to hurricanes and climate change.

Three methods to value the economic benefits from marine ecosystems were applied. The combined gross Fisheries and Tourism values contributed US\$ 54.3 million in annual gross revenue which is dwarfed by the US\$141 million derived from the Value Transfer methodology.



Comparison of the results from the three methodologies for Tobago Cays Marine Park

There is scientific consensus that losses of the Earth's biological diversity is significant and increasing as new adverse drivers of change occur. The political processes are ineffective. A more integrated approach to evaluating biodiversity in terms that are meaningful to the larger community is needed that can provide understandable metrics of the consequences to society of the losses that are occurring. Greater attention is also needed in forecasting likely diversity-loss scenarios in the near term and strategies for alleviating detrimental consequences. An ecosystem-service approach to conservation can bring new understanding to the value, and hence the need for protection, of the existing natural capital.

The project is a value added product of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) that was officially mandated by the Presidents of the countries in the Americas, at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, convened by the OAS in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in December 1996. The Presidents reiterated their interest in IABIN in the Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009, by vowing to *promote the exchange of scientific knowledge on biodiversity, such as through the **Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)***.

IABIN is an Internet-based forum for technical and scientific cooperation that seeks to promote greater coordination among Western Hemisphere countries in the collection, sharing, and use of biodiversity information relevant to decision-making and education.

The objective of IABIN is to promote sustainable development and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Americas through better access to and management of biological information. While IABIN is envisioned as a distributed system of data providers in which the data are maintained and controlled by the provider, coordinated access to the integrated resources of the network is a key component of IABIN.

ReefFix GOAL The ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) Capacity Building Program component will assist the IABIN Caribbean Protected Areas Database Initiative – CPADI through a REEFIX activity in several case study sites (Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Barbados) that transfers information between OAS CARICOM Member States specific to ICZM and marine parks.

PURPOSE ReefFix is an ICZM tool that has multi-level linkages that trains participating countries in ecosystem valuation methodologies and management techniques to restore coral reef, mangrove ecosystems, and watersheds through integrated marine park management.

OUTPUTS Strengthen management frameworks that regulate coastal activities and develop a plan for adaptation to coral reef and mangrove responses to climate change effects. Outputs will be:

- 1) improved ecosystem valuation technical capacity of individual Caribbean countries to collect and manage their protected areas data in a way that meets their specific needs and context;
- 2) improved individual country's protected areas data management systems based on output from several case study sites;
- 3) Centralized data management system for the Caribbean region (drawing from protected areas databases where they exist or from other sources of protected areas information) which serves as a regional node for input to the Americas Database on Protected Areas and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).
- 4) Capacity building activities in ICZM that will lead to healthy marine ecosystems and improved human well being.