CSIRO AusAID
Research for Development Alliance

Project Title: Climate change and ecological assets in the South East Asia region

Project Contact: Craig Miller

Project Objectives:

- To develop a systematic process for developing effective conservation policy in South East Asia.
- To work with scientists and policy makers from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam to evaluate the method with respect to socio-economic trends and climate change in their respective countries.

Key Project Outputs:

Workshops

CSIRO-AusAID Alliance climate change and ecological assets project: Workshop Los Banos, Philippines, 2008.

CSIRO-AusAID Alliance Tigum-Aganan watershed management project: Workshop, Iloilo City, Philippines, 2009.

CSIRO-AusAID Alliance Pathways to impact, climate adaptation issues and options in Tangerang Regency, Indonesia: Workshop with Pelangi Indonesia, Jakarta, 2009.

Reports

Miller, C. (2008). Key conservation issues in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. Report to the AusAID-CSIRO Alliance, Canberra.

Miller, C., Alexander, K.S., Jovanovic, T. (2009). Towards Regionally Relevant Biodiversity, Poverty and Climate Change Policy: A Report on the Los Banos Workshop. Report to the AusAID-CSIRO Alliance, Canberra.

Miller, C. (2009). A preliminary proposal to conduct climate adaptation and poverty reduction research in Kabupaten Tangerang, Indonesia.

Alexander, K.S., Miller, C., Jovanovic, T., Moglia, M. (2009). CSIRO-AusAID Alliance Tigum-Aganan Watershed Management Project: Workshop Report, Iloilo City, Philippines: CSIRO: Climate Adaptation Flagship.

Papers

Salas, J.C., Miller, C, Alexander, K.S., Jovanovic, T.A 2009. A community's way of managing conflicts in the Tigum-Aganan Watershed: A Philippines case study. Proceedings of the 12th International River Symposium, Brisbane, 21-24 September 2009.

Others in preparation.

Presentations

Miller, C., Indriani, G., Suroso, D., Jovanovic, T., Alexander, K.S. (2009). Re-integrating native biodiversity into Indonesia's agricultural landscapes: reducing the vulnerability of the rural poor to climate change. Presentation to the Climate Science Congress, Copenhagen.

Miller, C. (2009). Menilai kerentanan Kabupaten Tangerang terhadap perubahan iklim (Assessing the vulnerability of Kabupaten Tangerang to climate change). Presentation to the Wakil Bupati, Kabupaten Tangerang.

Salas, J.C., Miller, C, Alexander, K.S., Jovanovic, T.A (2009). A community's way of managing conflicts in the Tigum-Aganan Watershed: A Philippines case study. 12th International River Symposium, Brisbane, 21-24 September 2009.

Project Outcomes and Impacts:

The original intent of this project was to test whether a systematic and spatially explicit social-ecological classification system could be used to inform the development of conservation policy in south east Asia, taking climate change into consideration. The process engages stakeholders in a whole system process to consider social, economic and ecological trends, put these through a climate change filter, and develop innovative policies for future conservation management. It quickly became apparent that this process could be used for the purpose, but that considering conservation in isolation from livelihoods and poverty reduction was inappropriate and inadequate. The challenges are totally different in south east Asia when compared to those in Australia, where the prototype system was initially developed and used.

The key outcome from the initial workshop was the development of an informed and interested network of potential collaborators throughout the four countries engaged in the process, and their linking via a project wiki. The key message for AusAID from the workshop was the need to take a whole of systems approach to understanding and addressing issues, rather than taking an issue by issue approach. This message is reinforced by a number of the other Stage 1 projects.

Two pathways to impact emerged from the project. The first one resulted from an internet search by a member of a watershed management board in the Philippines, which located one of the projects. Subsequently Kim Alexander, Tom Jovanovic and Craig Miller ran a week long workshop with the Tigum-Aganan Watershed Management Board (TAWMB) that combined the methods of this project with the methods from the "Regional and Country Scale Water Resource Assessment: Informing Investments in Future Water Supply in the Asia Pacific Region – a Decision Support Tool" project to address the interrelated water security in the face of climate change and increased water demand, increased vulnerability to natural hazards due to climate change, and livelihood options in the face of climate change. The process enabled to stakeholders to begin to take a whole of systems view of the issues and has identified a portfolio of aid/development investment options that will be provided to the Philippines AusAID office and the TAWMB.

The second pathway to impact involved Craig Miller spending a week working with an Indonesian NGO (members of which had attended the Los Banos workshop) to examine climate change vulnerability issues in Kabupaten Tangerang (Tangerang Regency) and to help them frame an adaptation research program that they will conduct in conjunction with the Kabupaten, and also with the AusAID-CSIRO Alliance if that proved possible.

A subsequent development by the project managers of a number of the Stage 1 projects is an innovative experimental method to evaluate the success of socially focussed research for development (and pure development) projects. This method seeks to combine the framework of Cash *et al* (2003) which determines the credibility, salience, and legitimacy of the participatory engagement process, with Habermas's theory of communicative action, which allows an inclusive analysis of how dialogue can be practiced with the aim of reaching mutual understanding. The project managers will be seeking funding from the Alliance to develop and test this method, using a number of the Stage 1 projects as the case studies. The intention is to provide AusAID with an internationally recognised, scientifically rigorous, method for evaluating the success of its future projects.