

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

*Measuring the interaction between the economy
and the environment*

About the Program

The Global Development Network (GDN) conducted a two-year research capacity building program to help three ecologically fragile countries — Madagascar, Mauritius and Morocco —to understand and measure the interaction between socio-economic activity and natural resources. The program bridged the gap between local knowledge and high-quality data in the field of natural capital accounting, in order to bring policy-relevant evidence to the forefront of debate and practice. It involved local researchers in the global reflection on how to measure natural capital and ecosystem services, both physically and monetarily.

The program provided mentorship and guidance to three teams of researchers to conduct research on measuring natural capital: beaches in Morocco, water in Mauritius and a protected area in Madagascar. GDN provided the researchers with a holistic framework to acquire best practices, tools and concepts, as well as the capacity to use them. Today, the researchers have mastered the tools and concepts, both applying them in their own countries and using the evidence derived from them to inform ongoing debates on the environment. Findings helped to raise awareness on local environmental issues through dissemination workshops and a policy dialogue in Paris in December 2015. The studies showed that gathering evidence was a critical first step to incentivize key stakeholders toward action.

Advisors

-  Didier Babin, Senior Researcher, CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)
-  Bernard Barraqué, (AgroParis Tech)
-  Harold Levrel, (Centre International de Recherche sur l'Environnement et le Développement)
-  Ricardo Martinez-Lagunes (Inter-American Development Bank)
-  Claire Plateau (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques)
-  Jean-Louis Weber (International Consultant)

Program

Natural Resource
Management – Natural
Wealth Accounting

Funding

US\$ 386,000 from
Agence Française de
Développement (AFD)
and the French Ministry
for Foreign Affairs and
International Development

Location

Madagascar,
Mauritius & Morocco

Duration

Sep. 2014 - Nov. 2016