



**UNDP/GEF PROJECT ENTITLED “REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS IN THE
YELLOW SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM”**

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**Economic Valuation as a Tool for Environmental Decision-making:
Theory and Practice of Cost-benefit Analysis of Environmental
Management Actions**

Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project

Note: This document, presented at the meeting “Economic Valuation for Large Marine Ecosystems” (Cape Town, South Africa, 29-30 July 2007), is provided as a reference for the Second SAP Ad-hoc Working Group meeting.

**Economic Valuation as a Tool for Environmental Decision-making:
Theory and Practice of Cost-benefit Analysis of Environmental
Management Actions**

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1 **Economic Valuation as a Tool for Environmental Decision-making: Theory and**
2 **Practice of Cost-benefit Analysis of Environmental Management Actions**

3

4 **1 Introduction**

5

6 **1.1 Background**

7

8 Marine and coastal ecosystems suffer from serious environmental degradation which
9 is attributable to various anthropogenic causes. The Yellow Sea ecosystem, a water
10 area adjacent to China and the Korean Peninsula, has experienced for a long time a
11 range of problems such as water quality degradation, declined fish stock, and
12 biodiversity loss (Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project [YSLME], 2000). The
13 loss of opportunities for recreation and tourism is also a major concern (YSLME,
14 2005a, Annex IV, p. 9). Anthropogenic activities such as fishing, mariculture, and
15 tourism might cause those problems (YSLME, 2005b, Annex IV, p. 3). To mitigate
16 those environmental problems, the UNDP/GEF Project on “Reducing Environmental
17 Stress in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem,” known as the YSLME Project,
18 was launched in 2004.

19

20 Bordering three countries: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), People’s
21 Republic of China (China), and Republic of Korea (ROK), the Yellow Sea ecosystem
22 is the semi-enclosed body of water with an area of about 400,000 km². The floor of
23 the Yellow Sea, submerged post-glacially, is unique geologically. The seafloor has
24 an average depth of 44 meters with the maximum depth of about 100 meters. The
25 slope of the seafloor is gentle near the Chinese continent while the slope is steep
26 toward the Korean Peninsula. The Yellow Sea is connected to the East China Sea in
27 the south, forming a linked circulation system. With its high primary productivity, the
28 Yellow Sea ecosystem supports substantial populations of fish, invertebrates, marine

29 mammals, and seabirds. In addition, people in the coastal countries have benefited
30 for hundreds of years from those abundant gifts from the Sea (YSLME, 2000).

31

32 The Project aims to develop a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a
33 Strategic Action Programme (SAP) - guides to assist in alleviating Yellow Sea's
34 environmental problems. Analysing historical data and trends in the region, the TDA
35 prioritises environmental problems which have a transboundary nature; then, it
36 identifies major causes of the problems. The SAP outlines management actions to
37 solve the priority problems. With the endorsement from the Project's participating
38 countries (i.e., China and ROK), the management actions will be implemented.

39

40 The SAP development process includes feasibility studies of suggested management
41 actions. The actions are examined in terms of their technical, economical, and
42 political suitability and viability. Cost-benefit analyses are employed as a tool to
43 assess the actions' economic feasibility.

44

45 **1.2 Topics**

46

47 This Guideline provides practitioners of marine and coastal environmental protection
48 with a set of instructions on how to conduct cost-benefit analyses on management
49 actions to mitigate ecosystem degradation. The Guideline presents the basics of
50 environmental economics, explaining valuation techniques and analytical procedures.

51 To compose the Guideline, a number of literature were reviewed, including:

52 Boardman, Greenberg, Vining, and Weimer (2006); Grigalunas, Opaluch,
53 Diamantides, and Brown (1995); and Lipton, Wellman, Sheifer, and Weiher (1995).

54 Those texts constitute the foundation of the Guideline.

55

56 What makes this Guideline unique is its focused and detailed description. There are
57 a number of literature available for cost-benefit analyses of environmental
58 commodities. The existing literature introduces a variety of valuation methods,
59 summarising earlier researches as case studies. However, those texts do not
60 provide enough details for those who have a limited knowledge of economics to
61 conduct the analyses. Practitioners need more detailed information on methods:
62 What data should be collected specifically? How should those data be analysed
63 econometrically. This Guideline is composed to meet such a need by focusing on a
64 few most important methods and by describing necessary data and statistical
65 techniques in detail.

66

67 First, the Guideline focuses on the following valuation methods which are the most
68 appropriate in the context of the Yellow Sea: the empirical technique (referred often
69 as the market price method or the productivity change method), the travel cost
70 method, and the contingent valuation method. Other methods such as the hedonic
71 property value method are not discussed in this Guideline due to their limitation in
72 data availability in the Yellow Sea region, though the methods are frequently used in
73 other regions, especially North America and Europe. “Benefit transfer,” using values
74 or functions estimated by existing studies, is not also discussed in this Guideline for
75 similar reasons.

76

77 Second, the Guideline specifies the selected methods, describing their necessary
78 procedures step by step. It discusses required data categories and basic statistical
79 techniques—regression analyses—employing commonly-used spreadsheet
80 programmes. The use of spreadsheet software is described in detail to calculate the
81 net present value of the benefits and costs of environmental management actions.
82 Following the Guideline’s instructions, an analyst could easily conduct necessary
83 numerical analyses.

84

85 The Guideline describes logistic regression analysis for the contingent valuation
86 method. To conduct logistic regression, a statistical package is necessary. Devoting
87 more space to this method than others, the Guideline explains the basics of logistic
88 regression as well as the use of statistical software to conduct the analysis. To fully
89 understand and apply the presented methods and statistical techniques to the
90 evaluation of management actions, especially if they are complex, readers are
91 recommended to consult literature cited in this Guideline.

92

93 **1.3 Target audience**

94

95 This Guideline targets a wide range of audiences, including not only economic
96 researchers of marine and coastal environmental protection, but also policy-makers,
97 development planners, and natural scientists. For practitioners, the Guideline
98 provides a handy guide to conduct cost-benefit analyses of environmental
99 management actions. For decision-makers, the Guideline offers an easy reference
100 to assess, interpret, and apply analytical results to marine and coastal management.
101 The Guideline focuses on the Yellow Sea ecosystem; however, most concepts and
102 techniques that are discussed in this Guideline may be applicable to other marine
103 and coastal ecosystems in different regions.

104

105 To understand the contents of the Guideline, it is useful, though not necessary, to
106 have a good understanding of basic applied microeconomics and statistical analysis.
107 Computer skills of operating spreadsheet programmes are a minimum requirement
108 for researchers to prepare the economic analyses presented in this Guideline;
109 however, the skills are not required for those who mainly use the analytical results.

110

111 **1.4 Organisation**

112

113 The Guideline mainly deals with two topics: (i) environmental valuation and (ii) cost-
114 benefit analyses. Chapter 2 describes the basics of environmental valuation,
115 defining the “value” of environmental goods and services in terms of economy. The
116 concept of consumer and producer surpluses is introduced, which forms the
117 economic value. The concept of externalities is then introduced; the chapter explains
118 negative externalities as a cause of welfare loss for the society as a whole because
119 they reduce the economic value of concerned commodities. Finally, the chapter
120 presents detailed explanation about valuation techniques, providing hypothetical
121 cases with numerical examples.

122

123 Chapter 3 presents the essentials of cost-benefit analyses, using the concept and
124 techniques discussed in Chapter 2. Benefits and costs are defined in the context of
125 assessing the economy of management actions. Providing simple decision criteria,
126 the chapter explains how to use the results of economic analyses for environmental
127 decision-making. An eight-step procedure of cost-benefit analyses is presented with
128 examples. The procedure includes important components of economic analyses,
129 such as the net present value calculation and the sensitivity analysis. This Guideline
130 explains the concept of discounting, suggesting a specific rate for its calculation, to
131 incorporate the time factor if benefits and costs accrue over time.

132

133 **2 Basic environmental valuation**

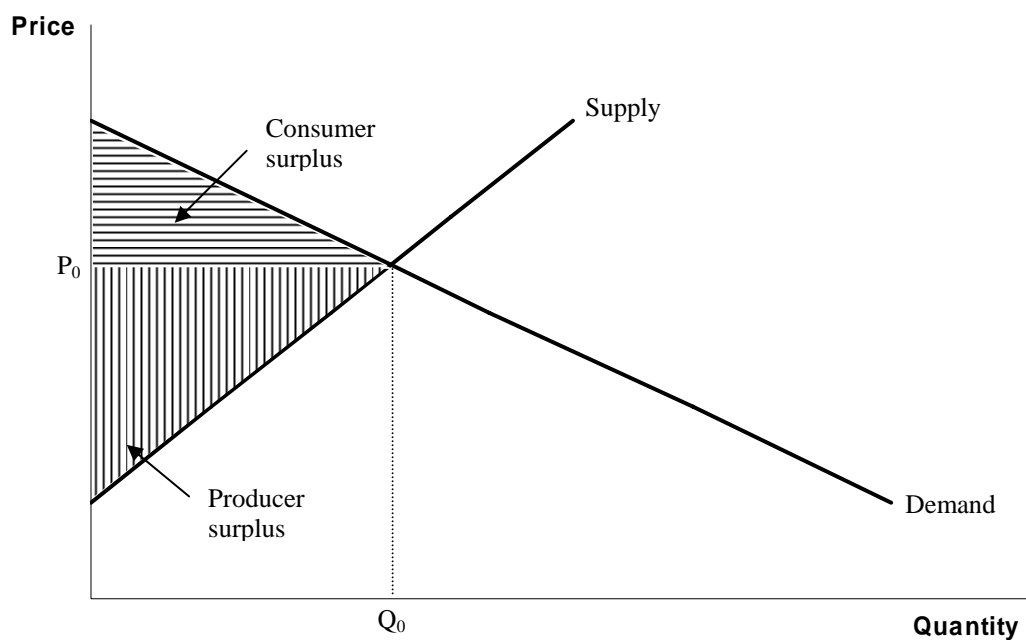
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135 **2.1 Economic value of goods and services**

136

137 The economic value of goods and services is defined as the sum of consumer
138 surplus and producer surplus. (For convenience, hereinafter, the term “good[s]”
139 includes both “good[s]” and “service[s]”.) The “consumer surplus is the difference

140 between what a consumer is willing to pay for a good and what the consumer
141 actually pays when buying it" (Pindyck & Rubinfeld, 1995, p. 113). The producer
142 surplus is "the difference between the cost of producing a commodity [good] and the
143 revenue received by selling the commodity [good]" (Grigalunas et al., 1995, p. 25).
144 Graphically, the consumer surplus is an area between the demand curve and the
145 market price for the good. Meanwhile, the producer surplus is an area above the
146 supply curve up to the market price for the good (Figure 2.1).
147



148
149 Source: Pindyck & Rubinfeld, 1995, p. 278

150

151 **Figure 2.1 Economic value of goods and services**

152

153 The downward demand curve is derived from consumer behavior: Consumers are
154 willing to buy more goods as their price becomes lower. The upward supply curve is
155 derived from producer behavior: Producers (e.g., firms) are willing to produce more
156 goods as their price becomes higher. The supply curve shows the information about
157 firms' production cost (i.e., marginal/incremental valuable cost).

158

159 The economic value is maximised if goods are provided at the price and quantity
160 when the demand curve and the supply curve for goods intersect; Figure 2.1 depicts
161 such a condition. When the economic value is maximized, a society is well-off; in
162 other words, social welfare is maximised, at least in terms of economy.

163

164 **2.2 Welfare loss due to negative externalities**

165

166 The economic value of goods or the social welfare is not maximised when negative
167 externalities exist. The negative externalities are defined as a condition such that
168 “the agent responsible must not take account of the effect that it has on the other
169 party” (Markandya, Perelet, Mason, & Taylor, 2001, p.94).

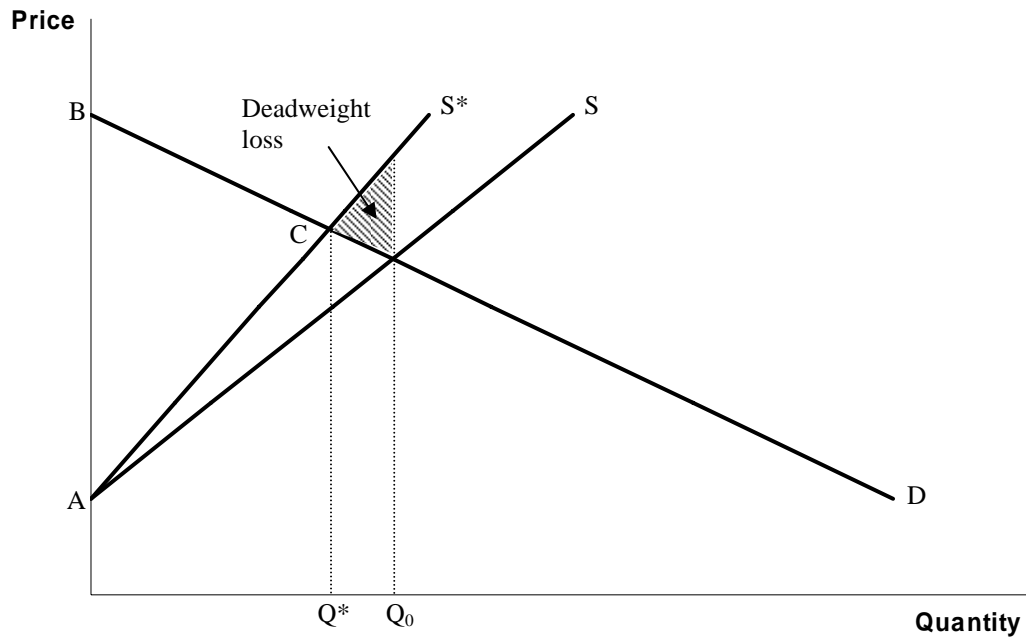
170

171 To understand the concept of the negative externalities, consider water pollution
172 caused by steel production. (This example is adapted from Pindyck and Rubinfeld
173 [1995, pp. 624-626].) Suppose that a company produces pollutants as it produces
174 steel, discharging pollutants through wastewater into a river without treating them.
175 As a result, fish die or disappear; fishermen operating downstream suffer from
176 catching fewer fish. This hypothetical example shows that river pollution costs not
177 the steel company, but the fishermen. The fishermen pay “cost” by losing the income
178 from catching fish because the company does not shoulder the cost of treating
179 wastewater. That is the case of negative externalities: An action taken by one party
180 (the steel company) negatively impacts other party (the fishermen). Those
181 externalities, as mentioned below, should be incorporated or “internalised” so as to
182 maximise costs to the other party (or society) by avoiding excess production of
183 goods, and therefore pollutants.

184

185 Figure 2.2 shows negative externalities, following the above example. The company
186 produces steel at Q_0 when the supply curve, S (that describes the company's
187 production cost), intersects with the demand curve, D , for steel. The supply curve S
188 does not reflect the cost of controlling the pollution. However, such a cost actually
189 exists; recall the "cost" paid by the fishermen in the example. The supply curve S^*
190 represents the actual cost of supplying steel (i.e., the cost of both producing steel
191 and treating pollution). From the perspective of a society, steel should be produced
192 at Q^* when the supply curve S^* intersects with the demand curve D ; it is when the
193 economic value for the society as a whole is maximised. Note that Q^* is less than
194 Q_0 . That is, without considering the pollution treatment cost, the company produces
195 more than it should from the perspective of the society. When the company
196 continues to produce steel at Q_0 , a loss called "deadweight loss" arises which the
197 society has to bear. The area marked with diagonal lines in Figure 2.2 represents
198 the deadweight loss due to the negative externalities caused by the excess steel
199 production (i.e. the difference between Q_0 and Q^*). The economic value for the
200 society as a whole is lessened by the deadweight loss. The total economic value of
201 producing steel at Q_0 without the company including the cost of controlling the
202 pollution is the difference between the area marked by ABC and the deadweight loss.
203 The society would not suffer from this loss if the pollution cost were internalised, and
204 therefore the company produced less steel in the amount of Q^* .

205



206

207 Source: Pindyck & Rubinfeld, 1995, p. 625

208

209 **Figure 2.2 Deadweight loss due to negative externalities**

210

211 **2.3 Valuation techniques**

212

213 One can estimate the economic value of goods, using their demand and supply
 214 information. An idea behind the value estimation is straightforward, although
 215 implementing the idea may not be easy. To estimate the economic value, first, one
 216 should estimate the demand and supply curves of concerned goods by using
 217 methods described below in this section; then, one can calculate the area of the
 218 consumer and producer surpluses of consuming/producing the goods.

219

220 If the goods are traded in the market, one can use the goods' market prices and
 221 trading volumes to estimate the demand and supply curves. If the goods are not
 222 traded in the market, however, one should use either the market information of
 223 relevant goods or the information collected by surveys about consumer preference

224 for the goods concerned. It should be noted that if a target is market goods, one
225 should consider both the demand and the supply for the goods. However, if a target
226 is non-market goods, one can consider only the demand for the goods because non-
227 market goods such as recreational opportunities (e.g., scenic views) and biodiversity
228 have “no producer, or the consumer is both the producer and consumer” (Lipton et
229 al., 1995, p. 42). The following sections discuss methods and procedures to estimate
230 the demand and supply for goods according to their nature of being traded in the
231 market or not. Table 2.1 summarises the techniques and their applications described
232 below.

233
234

Table 2.1 Techniques for valuing environmental goods

Target goods	Valuation technique	Procedure	Necessary data	Reference
Market goods (e.g., commercial fish)	Empirical technique	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect empirical data on market data 2. Analyse data statistically 3. Calculate consumer surplus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market price and trading volume of target good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical technique: Regression analysis
Non-market goods (e.g., scenic views)	Zonal travel cost method	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect data on tourists 2. Analyse data statistically 3. Calculate and aggregate consumer surplus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost information associated with trip to target site • Wage information of visitors • Number of visits per person • Local government districts • Population statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical technique: Regression analysis
	Contingent valuation method (dichotomous choice method) *	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect data on willingness to pay 2. Analyse data statistically 3. Calculate and aggregate consumer surplus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual's willingness to pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical technique: Logistic regression analysis • Survey via interviews

235 Notes: *Applicable to a wide range of environmental goods, including biodiversity

236 **2.3.1 Market goods and services**

237

238 A procedure to estimate the demand and supply for market goods such as commercial fish
239 consists of the following four steps:

240

241 (1) Collect empirical data on the market prices and trading volumes of concerned goods;

242 (2) Collect empirical data on the marginal variable costs of producing the goods;

243 (3) Analyse statistically the market data collected in Step 1 to estimate the demand
244 curve; and

245 (4) Analyse statistically the cost data collected in Step 2 to estimate the supply curve.

246

247 Regression analyses are commonly used to estimate the demand and supply curves. One
248 can obtain functional forms of the curves, regressing the data by ordinary least squares.

249 (For more details on regression, see Pindyck and Rubinfeld [1995, pp. 659-667].) Widely-
250 used spreadsheet programmes have a function to conduct regression analyses. To illustrate
251 how to estimate the demand and supply for market goods, consider coastal commercial
252 fisheries as an example. Suppose that market information are collected as shown in Table
253 2.2. (This example is adapted from Lipton et al. [1995, pp. 33-40].)

254

255 **Table 2.2 Demand and supply for commercial fish**

256

Price (USD per kg)	Demand (kg per day)	Supply (kg per day)
1	21,300	0
2	16,000	3,200
3	10,600	6,400
4	5,300	9,600
5	0	12,800

257

258 The price in USD and the demand in catch rate per day are those which generally prevail in
259 the market (i.e., the price and quantity that prevail “on average” or when market conditions

260 are “normal”). The supply is a quantity that is produced corresponding to the price or the
261 industry’s marginal variable cost that results from producing one extra unit of goods. In this
262 example, the marginal variable cost is the incremental cost to supply fish by one additional
263 kilogram. (See Pindyck and Rubinfeld [1995, pp. 42 and 198].)

264

265 Regression analyses provide the estimated demand and supply functions as follows. (For
266 simplicity, linear regression analyses are used.)

267

$$268 \qquad \qquad \qquad \textit{Demand} : P = 5 - 0.000188Q$$

269

$$270 \qquad \qquad \qquad \textit{Supply} : P = 1 + 0.000313Q$$

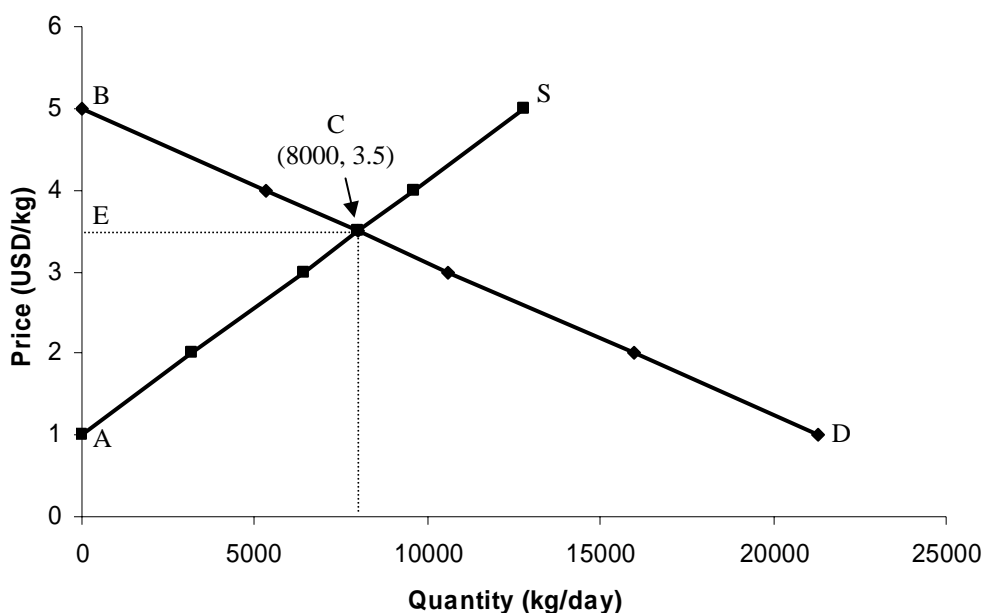
271

272 P and Q represent price and quantity, respectively. See Appendix XX for more information
273 on how to estimate those functions.

274

275 It is common practice for this kind of economic analysis to check with t-statistics whether
276 estimated coefficients are statistically significantly different from zero. As a rule of thumb, a
277 coefficient is different from zero if its t-statistic exceeds 1.96 in absolute value; then, one can
278 claim that there is an association with 95 percent confidence between a response variable
279 and an explanatory variable(s). Conventionally, t-statistics are presented with an estimated
280 function to indicate the significant level of estimated coefficients. In the example, the t-
281 statistics of the coefficients for the quantity in the demand and supply functions are more
282 than 1.96 in absolute value: -533 and 65535, respectively. The reason why the significant
283 level of those coefficients is very high in the example is simply that the demand and supply
284 data are prepared purposely in such a way that there is a strong (linear) correlation between
285 the price and quantity. Even if the estimated value of coefficients is not significantly different

286 from zero at the 95-percent confidence level, the value should be used for the purpose of
 287 cost-benefit analyses because those coefficients may be the best estimate of the true value
 288 with given samples. For more details on the statistical significance of estimated coefficients,
 289 see Boardman et al. (2006, pp. 328-329) and Pindyck and Rubinfeld (1995, pp. 662-663).
 290 Figure 2.3 shows the estimated demand and supply curves that fit the data. (In reality, data
 291 would not all lie exactly on estimated lines.)



292
 293 Source: Lipton et al., 1995, p. 38

294
 295 **Figure 2.3 Fitting linear demand and supply curves to data**

296
 297 According to the solution of the simultaneous equations of the demand and supply, the
 298 intersecting point, C, is where the price is USD 3.5 per kg and the trading volume is 8,000 kg
 299 per day. Given that, one can geometrically calculate the economic value as follows.

300
 301 *Economic value of commercial fisheries*

$$\begin{aligned}
302 \quad &= \text{Area } ABC \\
303 \quad &= \text{Consumer surplus (Area } EBC) + \text{Producer surplus (Area } AEC) \\
304 \quad &= (5 - 3.5) \times 8,000 \times 1/2 + (3.5 - 1) \times 8,000 \times 1/2 \\
305 \quad &= \text{USD } 16,000 \text{ per day}
\end{aligned}$$

306

307 Suppose that the total number of fishing days is 100 days a year; then, the economic value
308 of the commercial fish is USD 1.6 million per year (USD 16,000 x 100 days).

309

310 **2.3.2 Non-market goods and services**

311

312 If there is no available market information (i.e., price and trading volume) of target goods,
313 one should use either the information of other relevant market goods or surveyed information
314 about consumer preference for the target goods. In economics, it is common to call the
315 former way of using relevant good data as “revealed preference methods” and the latter way
316 of using survey data as “stated preference methods” (Freeman, 2003, p. 24). This section
317 discusses the travel cost method, a commonly-used revealed preference method; then, the
318 section describes the contingent valuation method, a commonly-used stated preference
319 method.

320

321 **2.3.2.1 Travel cost method (zonal travel cost method)**

322

323 The travel cost method (TCM) uses the cost information on how much people spend to
324 consume environmental goods as a proxy variable for their economic value. The method is
325 often applied to measure recreational services that environmental goods provide, such as
326 scenic views. The section below introduces the TCM, particularly the zonal TCM which uses

327 surveyed data of actual visitors with their departure points recorded and divided into areas or
328 “zones.” The zonal TCM consists of three steps:

329

330 (1) Collect data on the travel cost information of visitors to a site;

331 (2) Analyse the collected data statistically to estimate the individual visitor’s demand
332 curve; and

333 (3) Calculate and aggregate the consumer surplus for visitors from different zones.

334

335 First, to reveal the environmental value of a recreational site, such as a beach, one should
336 collect the following information about visitors to the site (this example is adapted from
337 Boardman et al. [2006, pp. 354-361]):

338

- 339 • Travel distance;
- 340 • Travel time;
- 341 • Operating cost of vehicles (e.g., gasoline cost);
- 342 • Opportunity cost of the travel time (e.g., forgone time wage);
- 343 • Admission fee of the recreational site, if any (the above information give the average
344 total cost per person); and
- 345 • Average number of visits per person per year.

346

347 Suppose that a visitor who lives 2 km away from a beach (the target site to value) spends
348 half an hour each way to get to the beach, driving to the site, park her car, and walk to the
349 entrance. She drives her car which consumes 15 cents per km of gasoline. She pays USD
350 10 for the entrance fee to the site. Her hourly wage is USD 9.4; she would get the salary of
351 that amount if she uses her traveling time for work. She visits the beach 15 times per year.
352 Then, the total travel cost of the visitor would be USD 20 per trip, as calculated in Table 2.3.

353

354
355

Table 2.3 Travel cost to a hypothetical recreational site (a sample visitor)

	Cost (USD)	Reference
Opportunity cost	9.4	USD 9.4 x 0.5 hour x 2 trips
Operating cost	0.6	USD 0.15 x 2 km x 2 trips
Admission fee	10	One-time fee per trip
Total travel cost	20	Visits 15 times per year

356

357 Suppose that the information of other four visitors are also collected as shown in Table 2.4.

358 Each visitor is categorised by zone according to distance to the beach. In practice, it is

359 common to use local government jurisdictions as zones. The (average) total cost per person

360 is calculated in a similar way as described in Table 2.3.

361

Table 2.4 Travel cost to a hypothetical recreational site (five sample visitors)

362
363

Zone	Travel time (hours)	Travel distance (km)	Average total cost per person per visit (USD)	Average number of visits per person per year
A	0.5	2	20	15
B	1.0	30	30	13
C	2.0	90	65	6
D	3.0	140	80	3
E	3.5	150	90	1

364 Source: Boardman et al., 2006, p. 356

365

366 Second, regressing the data on the average total cost per person and the average number

367 of visits per person reveals the (representative) individual's demand curve for visits to the

368 beach as follows.

369

370

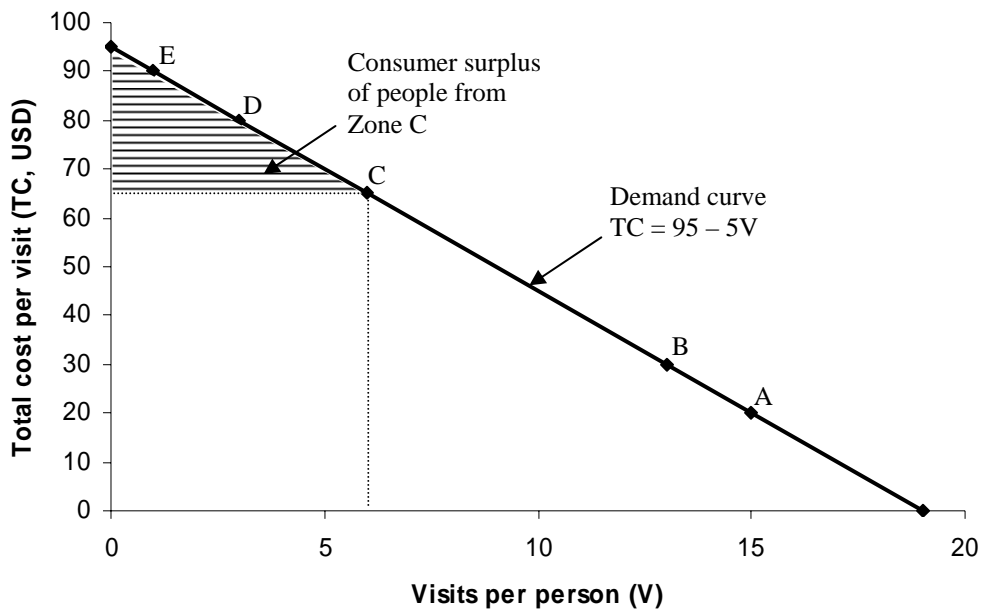
$$TC = 95 - 5V$$

371

372 where *TC* and *V* represent the travel cost per visit and the visits per person, respectively.

373 See Appendix XX for more information on how to estimate this demand curve. Figure 2.4

374 shows the estimated demand curve. (For simplicity, the above data were prepared so that
 375 they would all lie exactly on the estimated line.)



376
 377 Source: Boardman et al., 2006, p. 357

378
 379 **Figure 2.4 Estimated demand curve for a hypothetical recreational site**

380
 381 Third, using the Figure, one can geometrically calculate consumer surplus for people from
 382 different zones as Table 2.5 shows; for example, the consumer surplus for those who are
 383 from Zone C is USD 90 per person ($[(\text{USD } 95 - \text{USD } 65) \times 6 \text{ visits} / 2]$).

384
 385 **Table 2.5 Travel cost to a hypothetical recreational site (five sample visitors)**

Zone	Average number of visits per person per year (1)	Consumer surplus per person per year (2)	Population (3)	Consumer surplus per Zone per year (USD thousand) (4) = (2) x (3)	Trips per Zone (thousand) (5) = (1) x (3)
A	15	562.5	10,000	5,625	150

B	13	422.5	10,000	4,225	130
C	6	90.0	20,000	1,800	120
D	3	22.5	10,000	225	30
E	1	2.5	10,000	25	10
Total				11,900	440

387 Source: Adapted from Boardman et al., 2006, p. 356
388

389 If population statistics are provided, one can estimate consumer surplus in each zone by
390 multiplying the consumer surplus per person in each zone by corresponding population (for
391 example, the consumer surplus of Zone C is USD 1.8 million [USD 90 x 20,000 people]).
392 Then, an analyst can estimate the total consumer surplus for the visitors by summing those
393 products: The total consumer surplus in this example is USD 11.9 million per year.

394

395 **2.3.2.2 Contingent valuation method (dichotomous choice method)**

396

397 The contingent valuation method (CVM) estimates the economic value of environmental
398 goods, using survey results from an individual's willingness to pay (WTP) for the goods.
399 Providing plausible hypothetical scenarios (i.e., carefully describing the current and future
400 status of concerned ecosystems with and without conservation efforts), this method asks
401 respondents how much they would pay or whether they would pay a certain amount of
402 money to prevent environmental degradation. The CVM is applicable to a wide range of
403 environmental goods, including the goods that people have not yet used and/or will not use
404 (e.g., biodiversity) (Mitchell & Carson, 1989, p. 90).

405

406 According to Boardman et al. (2006), the CVM mainly consists of two groups of sub-
407 methods: the direct elicitation (nonreferendum) method and the dichotomous choice
408 (referendum) method (pp. 370-374). The former method, includes the open-ended
409 willingness-to-pay method, the closed-ended iterating bidding method, and the contingent
410 ranking method. Those methods, at one time commonly used, are no longer in use due to

411 various limitations. The latter method was recommended as the method of choice in most
412 circumstances by a blue-ribbon panel of social scientists, that was convened by the National
413 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Boardman et al., 2006, p. 370). The section
414 below, adapted mainly from Boardman et al. (2006) and Loomis (1988), illustrates how to
415 use the dichotomous choice method to measure the economic value of environmental
416 goods.

417

418 Suppose that a coastal site faces serious environmental problems. A local government that
419 has jurisdiction over the site decides to develop rehabilitation plans. The government also
420 decides to implement a study to understand the environmental value of the site, expecting
421 that the study results will contribute to developing the plans. To measure the value of the
422 site, one can employ the dichotomous choice method as follows:

423

- 424 (1) Collect data on individual's WTP for environmental goods (in the example, the
425 coastal site);
- 426 (2) Analyse the collected data statistically to estimate the individual's WTP; and
- 427 (3) Calculate and aggregate the WTP to reveal the consumer surplus of having the
428 goods for the society as a whole.

429

430 First, one should collect data on individual's (e.g., city residents and visitors who use the
431 site) WTP for rehabilitating the site. Using a questionnaire, interviewers can ask
432 respondents whether they would pay a certain amount of money to prevent environmental
433 degradation. Given one randomly drawn price, referred to as "bid prices," a respondent is
434 asked to state whether he would be willing to pay the price (Boardman et al., 2006, pp. 371-
435 372). The following is a simplified sample question:

436

437 The site you are visiting is deteriorating due to lack of management and
 438 maintenance. [Here, interviewers provide the detailed information about the site and
 439 the environmental problems it faces.] Let us assume that the local government is
 440 planning to rehabilitate the area and that, due to budget constraints, it is also
 441 considering asking visitors to contribute to investment costs by paying an entrance
 442 fee for a visit. [Here, interviewers provide the detailed information about not only the
 443 rehabilitation plans but also the consequences of implementing or not implementing
 444 them.] Would you be willing to pay the following fee? [Here, interviewers offer the
 445 respondent one bid price.] (Markandya, Harou, Bellu, & Cistulli, 2002, p. 453)

446

447 See Appendix XX for a sample survey questionnaire with detailed information and specific
 448 questions.

449

450 The data from the example survey are shown in Table 2.6 . In this example, there are 12
 451 respondents who are suggested different prices ranging from USD 5 to USD 60. If a
 452 respondent replies “yes,” that is recorded as 1. If he replies “no,” that is recorded as 0
 453 (Loomis, 1988, pp. 209-213).

454

455 **Table 2.6 Sampled individual’s willingness to pay for coastal site rehabilitation**

456

Bid price (USD per visit)	Response (1 = “yes,” 0 = “no”)
5	1
6	1
7	1
9	1
10	1
11	0
25	1
30	0
35	0
50	0
55	0
60	0

457 Source: Loomis, 1988, p. 210
458

459 Second, one should analyse the data statistically to estimate the individual's WTP for the
460 site. The logistic regression, using the logit model, helps in estimating the relationship
461 between bid prices and responses, although there may be a number of other possible
462 models applicable. The logit model is defined as:

463

$$464 \quad L_i = \ln\left(\frac{P_i}{(1-P_i)}\right) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i$$

465

466 where $P_i / (1 - P_i)$ is the ratio of the probability that an event occurs to the probability that it
467 does not occur; this ratio is called the "odds ratio." L , called the logit, is the log of the odds
468 ratio (Gujarati, 1995, p. 555). X , an explanatory variable, represents bid prices, while β_1 and
469 β_2 are coefficients. Taking the exponential of L gives:

470

$$471 \quad \exp(L) = \exp\left(\ln\left(\frac{P_i}{(1-P_i)}\right)\right) = \exp(\beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i)$$

472

$$473 \quad \frac{P_i}{(1-P_i)} = \exp(\beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i)$$

474

$$475 \quad P_i = \frac{\exp(\beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i)}{1 + \exp(\beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i)}$$

476

477 where P_i is, as defined above, the probability that respondents would be willing to pay or
478 reply "yes" at given bid prices, X (Taromaru, 2005, p. 176).

479

480 Using the logit model with the raw data in Table 2.6, one can estimate the individual's WTP
481 function as follows (Loomis, 1988, p. 211).

482

$$483 \quad RY = \ln\left(\frac{P_{yes}}{(1 - P_{yes})}\right) = 3.321 - 0.156BP$$

484

485 RY is the log of the odds ratio or the ratio of the probability that respondents would reply
486 "yes" at given bid prices, BP , to the probability that respondents would reply "no." To
487 estimate this equation, a statistical package is necessary. See Appendix XX for more
488 information on how to use a statistical software to estimate logistic regression. Taking the
489 exponential of RY gives:

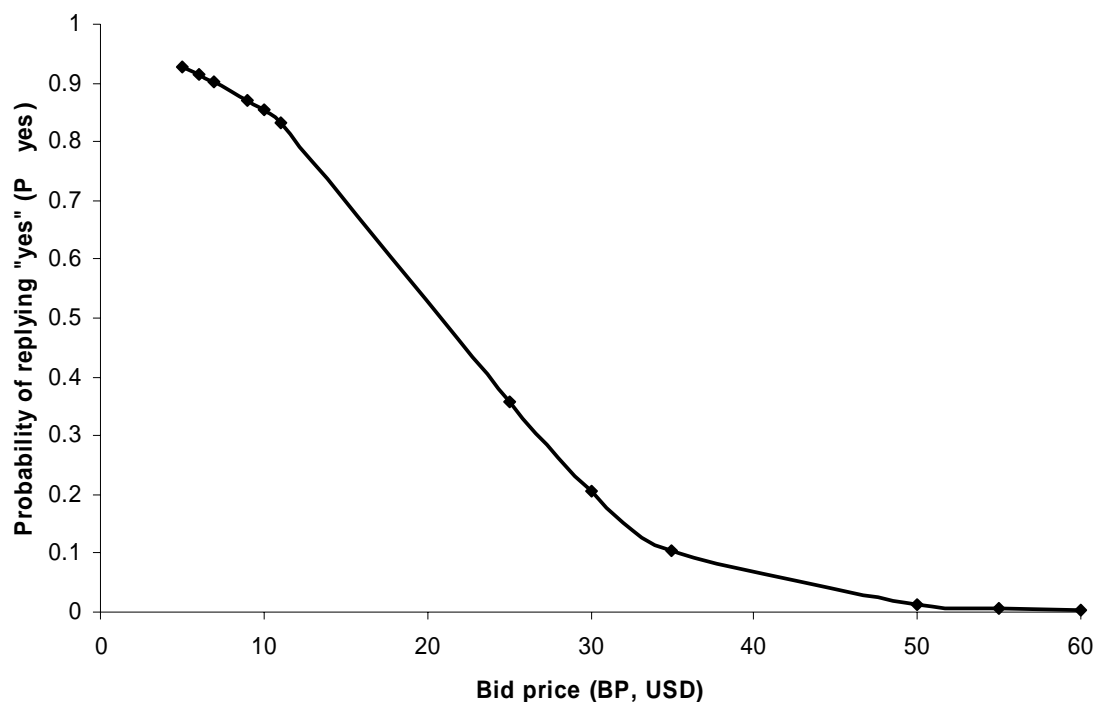
490

$$491 \quad P_{yes} = \frac{\exp(3.321 - 0.156BP)}{1 + \exp(3.321 - 0.156BP)}$$

492

493 This estimated function explains the relationship between the bid prices and the probability
494 for an individual to reply "yes" to pay for rehabilitating the coastal site. For example, when
495 the bid price is 11 (i.e., $BP = 11$), the probability of an individual agrees to pay that amount is
496 approximately 0.83 ($P_{yes} = \exp(3.321 - 0.156 \times 11) / (1 + \exp[3.321 - 0.156 \times 11]) = 0.832$).

497 Figure 2.5 shows the estimated logistic regression based on the data.



498

499 Source: Adapted from Loomis, 1988, p. 212

500

501 **Figure 2.5 Estimated relationship between the bid prices and the probability for an**
 502 **individual to reply “yes” or accept the prices**

503

504 Third, considering the estimated logistic regression function as the demand curve for the
 505 coastal site concerned, one can estimate consumer surplus for the site. The area under the
 506 function approximates the individual’s mean maximum WTP or the individual’s consumer
 507 surplus for the site (Loomis, 1988, p. 212). According to Boardman et al. (2006), the area
 508 can be calculated by the following five procedures:

509

510 First, divide the range of X [BP in the example] into equal segments of width n .

511 Second, calculate the probability of acceptance at each of these points. Third, find

512 the average acceptance value for adjacent pairs of points. Fourth, multiply each of

513 these averages by n . Fifth, sum all these products to get the estimate of the area
514 (pp. 397-398).

515

516 With the above procedures followed, the estimated individual's consumer surplus for the site
517 is approximately USD 21. See Appendix XX for more information on how to calculate the
518 individual's consumer surplus. Then, one can estimate the aggregate consumer surplus or
519 the economic value of the site for the society as a whole by multiplying the individual's
520 consumer surplus by the number of relevant individuals or households (Grigalunas et al.,
521 1995, p. 88; Lipton et al., 1995, p. 54). Assuming that there are 300,000 people concerned
522 in our example and that everybody visits the site at least once a year, one would estimate
523 the economic value of the site at approximately USD 6.3 million per year (USD 21 x 300,000
524 people x 1 time per year).

525

526

527 **3 Cost-benefit analysis of environmental management actions**

528

529 **3.1 Basic framework of cost-benefit analysis**

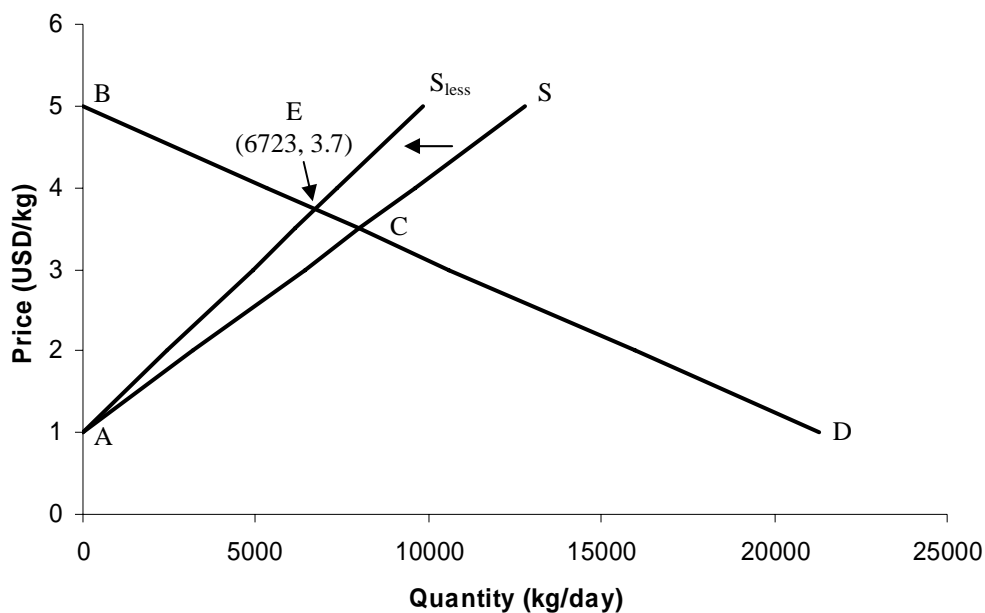
530

531 **3.1.1 Change in economic value due to environmental degradation**

532

533 The economic value of environmental goods decreases because of environmental resource
534 degradation. For example, consider the decline in landings of commercial fish due to the
535 decline in fish stock, which is attributable to the overexploitation of the fish. The size of fish
536 catch depends on both the size of fish stock and the amount of fishing efforts (Tietenberg,
537 2003, p. 310). If the fish stock declines, fishermen have to increase fishing efforts (e.g.,
538 employing better equipment or more people) to maintain fish catch at the same level as

539 before: That costs fishermen. Put simply, reduced stock size increases fishing cost. As a
 540 result, the supply curve of catching fish shifts to the left (Lipton et al., 1995, p. 37); recall the
 541 supply curve of producing goods is modeled as a function of a producer's marginal variable
 542 cost (see Section 2.1). Figure 3.1, using the example discussed in Section 2.3.1 in this
 543 Guideline, illustrates the shift in supply for commercial fish due to the decline in fish stock.



544
 545 **Figure 3.1 Shift in supply for commercial fish due to the decline in fish stock**

546
 547 S_{less} represents the supply for commercial fish when less stock is available due to
 548 overexploitation, assuming that the cost of catching fish increases by 30 percent as an
 549 example. The estimated function of the new supply curve, S_{less} , is as follows.

550

551
$$Supply_{less} : P = 1 + 0.000407Q$$

552

553 Note that the coefficient for the quantity in demand in this new supply function with less stock
 554 is 30 percent more than that in the original supply function with more stock ($0.000407 =$

555 0.000313 x 1.3). The demand and supply curves intersect at E where the price is USD 3.7
556 per kg and the trading volume is 6,723 kg per day. (Solving the simultaneous equations of
557 the two functions—the demand function $[D]$ and the new supply function $[S_{less}]$ —gives the
558 intersecting point. For the demand function, see Section 2.3.1.)

559

560 Given the above information, one can calculate the reduced economic value by taking the
561 difference between the economic values of goods before and after environmental resource
562 degradation. In our example, the economic value of commercial fisheries before
563 environmental degradation is USD 1.6 million per year (see Section 2.3.1). Meanwhile, the
564 economic value of commercial fisheries after environmental degradation is approximately
565 USD 13 thousand per day as calculated below, or USD 1.3 million per year on the
566 assumption that the total number of fishing days remains the same at 100 days a year (USD
567 13,446 x 100 days).

568

569 *Economic value of commercial fisheries with less fish stock*

570 = *Area ABE*

571 = $(5 - 1) \times 6,723 \times 1/2$

572 = *USD 13,446 per day (Area AEC)*

573

574 The reduced economic value of commercial fisheries is about USD 300 thousand per year,
575 that is the difference between USD 1.6 million and USD 1.3 million.

576

577 Environmental resource degradation also reduces the economic value of goods by affecting
578 the demand for them; for example, people might decide not to visit a beach where the water
579 is polluted. Suppose that the number of tourists to the beach in our example decreases by
580 10 percent as water quality degrades. Table 3.1 illustrates that change as the 10-percent

581 decline in the number of visits per person per year. For example, the average number of
 582 visits per person from Zone B decreases by 10 percent from 13 times to 11.7 times.

583

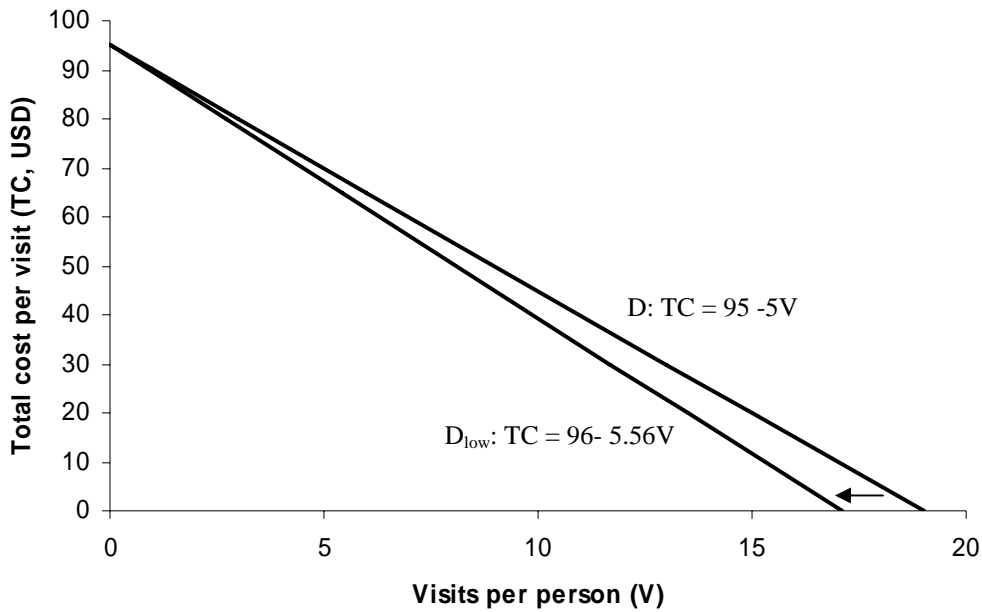
584 **Table 3.1 Decline in the number of visits to a hypothetical recreational site due to**
 585 **environmental resource degradation**
 586

Zone	Average total cost per person per visit (USD)	Average number of visits per person per year (before degradation)	Average number of visits per person per year (after degradation)*	Consumer surplus per person per year (after degradation)	Population	Consumer surplus per Zone per year (after degradation) (USD thousand)
A	20	15	13.5	506.3	10,000	5,063
B	30	13	11.7	380.3	10,000	3,803
C	65	6	5.4	81.0	20,000	1,620
D	80	3	2.7	20.3	10,000	203
E	90	1	0.9	2.3	10,000	23
Total						10,710

587 Notes: *10-percent decline in the number of visits assumed

588

589 Figure 3.2 shows the shift in demand, due to water degradation, for recreational
 590 opportunities that the beach provides. D represents the original demand for the site, $TC =$
 591 $95 - 5V$; whereas, D_{low} represents the reduced demand for the site due to low water quality,
 592 $TC = 95 - 5.56V$, estimated by ordinary least squares regressing the reduced number of
 593 visits on the total cost per visit (the t-statistics of the coefficients of this estimated function
 594 are more than 1.96 in absolute value).



595

596

Figure 3.2 Shift in demand for a hypothetical recreational site due to water degradation

597

598

599

600

601

602

603

604

605

606

607

608

609

3.1.2 Benefit of management actions as prevented loss in economic value

610

One can calculate the annual consumer surplus per zone in the same way as described in Section 2.3.2.1. For example, the annual consumer surplus for those who are from Zone A is approximately USD 5 million ($[(\text{USD } 95 - \text{USD } 20) \times 13.5 \text{ visits} / 2 \times 10,000 \text{ people}] = \text{USD } 5,063 \text{ thousand}$). The total consumer surplus for the visitors with the reduced demand is USD 10.7 million per year, that is the sum of all the consumer surplus per zone. Then, the reduced economic value of the beach is about USD 1.2 million per year with the difference taken between the economic value under the original demand, USD 11.9 million, and that under the reduced demand, USD 10.7 million.

611 The benefit of management actions to mitigate environmental problems can be defined as
612 the prevented future loss measured in economic value. Recall in the example that the
613 reduced economic value of the commercial fisheries is about USD 300 thousand per year.
614 Suppose that a management action will be taken to prevent the decline in fish stock by
615 controlling overexploitation of the fish (e.g., reducing illegal fishing) and that the action will
616 reduce fishing cost so that the supply curve of catching fish will shift to the right. For
617 simplicity, assume in Figure 3.1 that the supply curve shifts from S_{less} to S ; then, the benefit
618 of controlling overexploitation is USD 300 thousand per year, that is the prevented future
619 loss in commercial fisheries.

620

621 **3.1.3 Cost of management actions**

622

623 The cost of management actions is relatively straightforward; it is defined as the cost
624 incurred to implement proposed actions. The cost consists of “both the direct costs of
625 implementing conservation measures, and the opportunity costs of foregone uses” (Pagiola,
626 Ritter, & Bishop, 2004, p. 7). Direct costs may be divided into the following two categories:
627 (i) the cost to establish and initiate proposed management actions (installation cost); and (ii)
628 the cost to operate and maintain the actions (O&M cost). The opportunity costs are forgone
629 future benefits, which otherwise would be realised through other benefits, due to the
630 implementation of the actions. For example, the opportunity cost of preserving mangrove
631 forests is the forgone profit from deforesting and converting the land for commercial use. If
632 one protected mangrove forests, he would give up future revenues from the sale of
633 agricultural crops, for instance, that were cultivated in the deforested area (Markandya et al.,
634 2001, p. 144). In our example of the commercial fisheries, the cost of management actions
635 may include the following: the direct costs of establishing and enforcing laws and
636 regulations, that include monitoring costs.

637

638 **3.1.4 Cost-benefit analyses for decision-making**

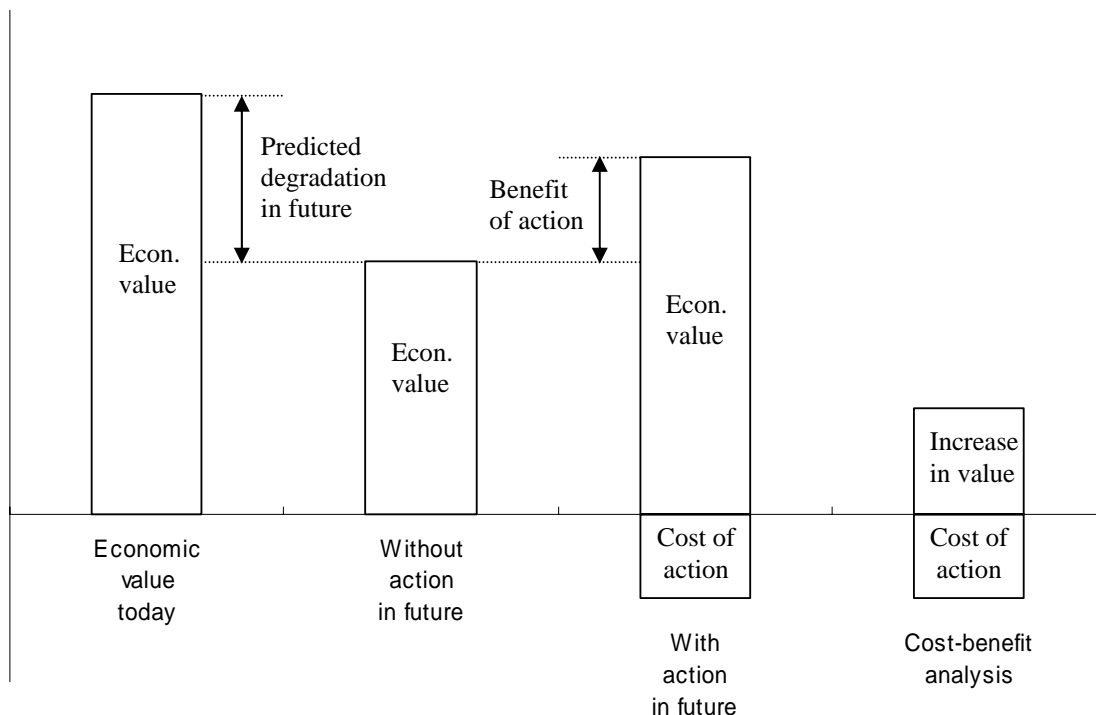
639

640 Analysing the benefits and costs of proposed management actions helps decision-makers
641 decide whether to implement the actions. Comparing the net benefits (i.e., the difference
642 between [gross] benefits and costs) of management actions under two scenarios, with or
643 without the actions, cost-benefit analyses address a research question: “What would happen
644 if conservation measures [management actions] were implemented to what would have
645 happened if they were not” (Pagiola et al., 2004, p. 19). The analyses then use a simple yet
646 effective decision criteria: Comparing the gains (benefits) with the losses (costs) of an action,
647 if the former exceeds the latter, support the action; otherwise, oppose it (Tietenberg, 2003, p.
648 19). With analysis results given, it is logical for decision-makers to accept the proposed
649 actions if the net benefits are positive, or to decline the actions if the net benefits are
650 negative.

651

652 Figure 3.3 illustrates the concept of a benefit-cost analysis under with or without scenarios.
653 Properly measured, the economic value of goods today may be illustrated as the leftmost
654 column in the figure. Suppose that these benefits will decrease in the future because of
655 environmental degradation; then, the benefits would be as shown in the next column to the
656 right. This situation with decreased benefits is a “baseline,” which is defined as the “reality in
657 the absence of the regulation [management actions]” (U. S. Environmental Protection
658 Agency [U.S. EPA], 2000, p. 21). The difference in the amount of the economic value
659 between today and the future is the scale of predicted degradation. With management
660 actions implemented, however, this degradation might be less (third column from the left).
661 Comparing the results of the two scenarios, with or without management actions, would
662 reveal the benefit of the actions. In the subsequent cost-benefit analysis (the rightmost

663 column), the benefit of implementing the management actions is compared with the cost of
 664 implementing them. The cost might consist of both direct costs and opportunity costs. If the
 665 benefits exceed the costs, it is reasonable to support the management actions.



666
 667 Source: Adapted from Pagiola et al., 2004, pp. 13-21

668
 669 **Figure 3.3 Cost-benefit analysis of environmental management actions**

670
 671 It is important to note that the cost-benefit analysis should compare the benefit and cost
 672 “with and without” the management actions, rather than “before and after” implementing
 673 them. In other words, the analysis does not compare the economic value today and that in
 674 the future with the actions. This is because many other factors may have changed in the
 675 period of intervention (i.e., between today and sometime in the future); it is difficult to see
 676 whether the increase in the economic value is attributable to the concerned management
 677 actions or other unaccounted factors (Pagiola et al., 2004, p. 19).

678

679 **3.2 Procedure of cost-benefit analysis**

680

681 The procedure of a cost-benefit analysis consists of the following eight steps (adapted from
682 Boardman et al. [2006, pp. 7-17]):

683

- 684 (1) Specify management actions to analyse;
- 685 (2) Predict future environmental degradation;
- 686 (3) List expected benefits and costs of the actions;
- 687 (4) Predict the benefits and costs quantitatively;
- 688 (5) Monetise the benefits and costs;
- 689 (6) Calculate the net present value of the benefits and costs;
- 690 (7) Conduct a sensitivity analysis; and
- 691 (8) Make recommendations.

692

693 To explain each step specifically, image a hypothetical case as follows. There is a coastal
694 development plan to convert a wetland into various industrial usages. The development is
695 expected to bring economic profits to a local community. However, there is a concern about
696 the adverse impact of the development on the ecosystem in the proposed development site
697 and on the local economy near the site, such as coastal fisheries and tourism. The site
698 provides habitat for unique marine wildlife, including those in danger of extinction. The
699 wildlife would disappear if the plan were materialised. Additionally, the development might
700 pollute the seawater and cause decline in coastal fish stock and catch, and in beach bathing
701 areas. Considering the above situation, the local government decided to take management
702 actions to both reduce the converted wetland area and control pollutants from the industries
703 on the reclaimed land. The government also decided to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of

704 this action to see whether it would be justifiable economically. Using the above hypothetical
705 case, the following sections explain the eight steps for the cost-benefit analysis.

706

707 **Step 1: Specify management actions to analyse**

708

709 First, one should specify a set of management actions to analyse. In our hypothetical
710 example, the management actions are to reduce the reclaimed land area and the pollution.
711 As mentioned above in this chapter, cost-benefit analyses compare the net benefits of taking
712 management actions (with scenario) with that of taking no action (without scenario).

713

714 **Step 2: Predict future environmental degradation**

715

716 Second, one should predict likely environmental degradation in the future if no action is
717 taken. An estimated environmental value of goods with the predicted future loss is then
718 considered as a baseline to be compared with an estimated increased environmental value
719 of goods as a result of management actions. The prediction might require scientific
720 knowledge (e.g., environmental modeling).

721

722 **Step 3: List expected benefits and costs of the actions**

723

724 Third, one should identify expected benefits from and costs of taking proposed actions. The
725 benefits of the actions are the difference between the economic value of goods under a
726 without-action scenario (baseline) and that under a with-action scenario. The costs of the
727 actions are all expenses incurred to install, operate, and maintain the actions. Those costs
728 might include opportunity costs caused by taking the actions.

729

730 In this example, the anticipated benefits of reducing the reclaimed land area and the
 731 pollution may be an increase in the number of marine wildlife, coastal fish stock, and beach
 732 tourists. Meanwhile, the anticipated costs may include not only the direct costs of
 733 administering regulations to reduce the reclaimed land area (e.g., compliance monitoring
 734 and enforcing the regulations) and of installing, operating, and maintaining pollution control
 735 devices, but also the opportunity cost of forgone future benefits that would be realised if the
 736 reclaimed area were not reduced. Table 3.4 summarises the benefits and costs expected as
 737 a result of taking the actions.

738

739 **Table 3.4 Categories of expected benefits and costs of management actions to reduce**
 740 **hypothetical reclaimed land area**
 741

Benefit	Cost
Increase in the number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine wildlife • coastal fish stock • beach tourists 	Direct cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulation cost (e.g., compliance monitoring and enforcing cost) • installation, operation, and maintenance cost of pollution controlling facilities Opportunity cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forgone future benefits if the reclaimed land area are not reduced

742

743 **Step 4: Predict the benefits and costs quantitatively**

744

745 Fourth, one should quantitatively predict at this stage the benefits and costs of management
 746 actions in terms of their magnitude, not monetary value. On one hand, as was the case in
 747 Step 2, predicting the benefits may require environmental modeling as well as socio-
 748 economic survey to reveal cause-and-effect relationships between the actions (cause) and
 749 the benefits of them (effect). On the other hand, to estimate the costs, there are three
 750 approaches: survey approach, engineering approach, and combined approach with the
 751 above two approaches (Tietenberg, 2003, pp. 47-48). The survey approach is to ask those

752 who know the most about the proposed management actions; the engineering approach is to
753 use general engineering information. The combined approach collects information on
754 possible technologies as well as special circumstances; then, it derives the actual costs of
755 those technologies with the special circumstances considered. The combined approach is
756 preferable because it provides balanced information while minimising the problems of the
757 other two approaches.

758

759 In the example, an analyst should estimate the benefits by predicting how much marine
760 wildlife, coastal fish stock, and beach tourists would increase as a result of reducing the
761 reclamation area and pollution. Environmental modeling would help in estimating those
762 increases by predicting the relationship not only between the wetland area as habitats and
763 the marine animals, but between the pollution caused by the industry located on the
764 reclaimed land and the fish stock. Socio-economic survey is necessary to reveal the
765 relationship between the pollution and the number of tourists, predicting how many tourists
766 would visit the beach if the pollution were to decrease. The cost estimation in the example
767 requires interviews with those who know the most about administering the regulations and
768 developing the reclaimed land for industrial use. It is also necessary to evaluate specific
769 pollution control technologies by collecting information on possible technologies as well as
770 special circumstances facing firms or areas where the technologies are introduced. The
771 information source may include the following: local government agencies which deal with
772 coastal management and development, land developers, manufacturers of pollution control
773 devices, operators of existing pollution control facilities, technical people of local coastal
774 industries, and universities with expertise in relevant fields.

775

776 **Step 5: Monetise the benefits and costs**

777

778 Fifth, one should place monetary values on the benefits and costs of management actions,
779 using techniques described in the Guideline. To measure the benefits, there are three
780 valuation techniques suggested in Section 2.3: empirical technique, zonal TCM, and CVM.
781 Using those techniques, one can estimate the economic values of goods without
782 management actions, or the baseline. Given the information obtained from Step 4 about the
783 benefits of management actions in “impacts,” then, an analyst can estimate the economic
784 values of goods with the actions. The benefits of management actions in “monetary terms”
785 is the difference between the economic values of goods with and without the actions (see
786 Section 3.1.2). Monetising the costs of the actions is relatively easy; in fact, in most cases,
787 those costs are already in monetary terms.

788

789 **Step 6: Calculate the net present value of the benefits and costs**

790

791 Sixth, one should calculate the net present value (NPV) of the benefits and costs of
792 management actions. The benefits and costs might accrue over time. To incorporate this
793 time factor, an analyst assesses the NPV of a stream of net benefits $\{NB_0, \dots, NB_n\}$ that arise
794 over time, which is computed as

795

$$796 \quad NPV[NB_n] = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{NB_i}{(1+r)^i}$$

797

798 where r is a social discount rate and NB_i is net benefits—the difference between the present
799 value (PV) of the gross benefits and the PV of the costs—accruing in various timings
800 (Tietenberg, 2003, p. 24). One can easily calculate both NPV and PV using widely-used
801 spreadsheet programmes. The idea of this calculation is to discount future net benefits by
802 interest rates so that they represent today’s values.

803

804 Setting the discount rates is not an easy task; there is neither a single rate to apply nor a
805 consensus on how to set the rates. However, for practical purposes, Boardman et al. (2006)
806 recommend a discount rate of 3.5 percent for most projects whose main impacts occur
807 within 50 years and whose financing does not “crowd out” other investments (p. 270). U.S.
808 EPA suggests 2 to 3 percent for the intra-generational discounting (a relatively short term,
809 e.g., several decades) based on historical rates of return on relatively risk-free investments
810 such as government bonds, which are adjusted for taxes and inflation (2000, p. 48);
811 Freeman (2003) supports this recommendation (p. 199).

812

813 [DISCUSS RATE MANDATED BY THE GOV. IN CHINA AND ROK.]

814

815 Considering the rates suggested by literature, this Guideline recommends 3 percent as a
816 social discount rate for the cost-benefit analysis of environmental management actions. The
817 Guideline also recommends conducting a sensitivity analysis with respect to the discount
818 rate. For more information about the sensitivity analysis, see Step 7 below.

819

820 In the given example, suppose that the benefits of the management actions as well as the
821 costs of them accrue in various timings as described in Table 3.2. It is assumed that the
822 annual economic value of increased marine wildlife, coastal fish stock, and beach tourists
823 would be USD 6,300 thousand, USD 300 thousand, and USD 1,200 thousand, respectively,
824 following the example discussed in this Guideline. (See Section 2.3.2.2 and 3.1.1 for how to
825 estimate the increase in the economic value.) For example, the increase in the value of
826 wildlife value accrues from the first year soon after taking the actions, while the value of
827 coastal fish stock accrues from the fourth year; there is a time-lag before any effect of the
828 actions on the fish stock is seen. It is plausible to assume that the management actions do

829 not immediately affect “external” goods such as fish stock and beach tourism. (For details
 830 about externalities, see Section 2.2.) The total benefit (Column 7, Table 3.2) is the sum of
 831 the increased economic values, while the total cost (Column 3) is the sum of direct costs and
 832 opportunity costs. The opportunity costs are assumed here to be the forgone future benefits
 833 from industries that would be established if the reclaimed land area were not reduced. The
 834 net benefit is the difference between the total benefit and the total cost.

835

836 **Table 3.2 Benefits of management actions from a hypothetical case (Units: USD**
 837 **thousand)**
 838

Year	Cost			Benefit				Net benefit	
	Direct cost (1)	Oppor- tunity cost (2)	Total cost (3) = (1) + (2)	Marin e wildlife (4)	Fish stock (5)	Beach tourist s (6)	Total benefit (7) = (4) + (5) + (6)	Undis- counted (8) = (7) – (3)	Disco- unted (r = 3%)
0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	-1,000	-1,000
1	1,000	0	1,000	6,300	0	0	6,300	5,300	5,146
2	1,000	7,500	8,500	6,300	0	1,200	7,500	-1,000	-943
3	1,000	7,500	8,500	6,300	0	1,200	7,500	-1,000	-915
4	1,000	7,500	8,500	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-700	-622
5	1,000	7,500	8,500	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-700	-604
6	500	7,500	8,000	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-200	-167
7	500	7,500	8,000	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-200	-163
8	500	7,500	8,000	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-200	-158
9	500	7,500	8,000	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-200	-153
10	500	7,500	8,000	6,300	300	1,200	7,800	-200	-149
Total			76,000				75,900	-100	272

839

840 It is worth noting that the signs of total net benefits are different depending on whether they
 841 are discounted or not. Without discounting, the total cost exceeds the total benefits; the
 842 undiscounted net benefit is negative. However, discounted with the 3-percent interest rate,
 843 the net benefit (i.e., NPV) is positive; that is, the management actions are preferable
 844 according to the decision criteria discussed in Section 3.1.4.

845

846 **Step 7: Conduct a sensitivity analysis**

847

848 Seventh, one should conduct a sensitivity analysis to not only incorporate uncertainties but
 849 also check the robustness of analytical results. There might be uncertainties about the
 850 impacts—benefits and costs—of management actions, that were predicted in Step 4, or
 851 about the discount rates used in Step 6. To incorporate the uncertainty with respect to the
 852 discount rates, an analyst should recalculate net benefits, using different rates. If net
 853 benefits still remains positive (or negative), one can be confident about supporting (or
 854 opposing) the proposed management actions.

855

856 For example, consider using different discount rates that are either slightly higher or lower
 857 than the original 3-percent discount rate. Table 3.3 shows estimated discounted net benefits
 858 or NPVs in the example with the following three different rates used: 1, 3, and 5 percent. In
 859 this example, the signs of net benefits for all three discount rates are positive. That is, an
 860 analyst can conclude with confidence that the proposed management actions make sense
 861 economically.

862

863 **Table 3.3. Sensitivity analysis results: Net present value of management actions from**
 864 **a hypothetical case (Units: USD thousand)**

865

Year	Net present value		
	r = 1%	r = 3%	r = 5%
0	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
1	5,248	5,146	5,048
2	-980	-943	-907
3	-971	-915	-864
4	-673	-622	-576
5	-666	-604	-548
6	-188	-167	-149
7	-187	-163	-142
8	-185	-158	-135
9	-183	-153	-129
10	-181	-149	-123
Total	34	272	474

866

867 **Step 8: Make recommendations**

868

869 Lastly, one should prepare recommendations based on the results of cost-benefit analyses.

870 Following the decision criteria discussed in Section 3.1.4, an analyst should recommend that

871 decision-makers adopt management actions with a positive NPV (or with the largest NPV),

872 or dismiss the actions with a negative NPV (or with small NPVs). Explaining the

873 methodology and data processing used in the analysis, the analyst should also present (as

874 displayed in Tables 3.2 and 3.3) the flow of benefits and costs in addition to a summation of

875 values (i.e., NPV) (U.S. EPA, 2000, p. 48). That would provide decision-makers with an

876 opportunity to examine the validity and reliability of an estimated NPV(s).

877

878 **4 Case studies**

879

880 [TO BE PREPARED]

881

882 Mariculture: Cost-benefit analysis of reducing area for mariculture (change-in-production

883 method)

884

885 Reclamation: Cost-benefit analysis of reducing area for reclaimed land (TCM and/or CVM)

886

887 **5 Summary and conclusions**

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