Equator Initiative Case Studies
Local sustainable development solutions for people, nature, and resilient communities
Local and indigenous communities across the world are advancing innovative sustainable development solutions that work for people and for nature. Few publications or case studies tell the full story of how such initiatives evolve, the breadth of their impacts, or how they change over time. Fewer still have undertaken to tell these stories with community practitioners themselves guiding the narrative.

To mark its 10-year anniversary, the Equator Initiative aims to fill this gap. The following case study is one in a growing series that details the work of Equator Prize winners – vetted and peer-reviewed best practices in community-based environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods. These cases are intended to inspire the policy dialogue needed to take local success to scale, to improve the global knowledge base on local environment and development solutions, and to serve as models for replication. Case studies are best viewed and understood with reference to ‘The Power of Local Action: Lessons from 10 Years of the Equator Prize’, a compendium of lessons learned and policy guidance that draws from the case material.
PROJECT SUMMARY

The Center for Empowerment and Resource Development works in the Caraga region of the Philippines to conserve marine and coastal resources while improving the sustainability of local fisher livelihoods. The Center’s approach has been to put management of natural resources squarely in the hands of fisherfolk associations, working with local governments to develop barangay resolutions, municipal ordinances, and community-based management stewardship contracts that establish zoned fish sanctuaries, marine protected areas, and ‘women-managed areas’ that are governed by local community.

Beginning in 1996 in Hinatuan Bay, by 2011 the initiative was working with seven fish sanctuaries (covering approximately 470 hectares) through its member fisherfolk organizations. Conservation activities have paid dividends for the local fishermen: in Hinatuan Bay alone, fish catch size increased over a three-year period from three to eight kilograms per day.

KEY FACTS

EQUATOR PRIZE WINNER: 2006

FOUNDED: 1996

LOCATION: Caraga region, Philippines

BENEFICIARIES: Fishing communities

BIODIVERSITY: 7 fish sanctuaries, 1,146 ha of mangroves

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The Philippines is endowed with diverse coastal and marine ecosystems. These ecosystems, however, are in sharp decline due to unsustainable exploitation and destructive fishing techniques. Particularly hard hit have been the region’s mangroves and coral reefs, which have been eroded by dynamite fishing. As of 2008, only 5 percent of the coral reefs in the Philippines were in excellent condition. In the early 1900s, mangrove forests covered roughly 500,000 hectares of the Philippines, as compared to 117,000 hectares in 2010. The loss of mangrove forests has not only resulted in the deterioration of sea grass and coral reef ecosystems, but also substantially lowered the productivity of coastal fisheries. A significant percentage of the world’s commercial fish species are dependent on mangrove swamps, marshes, sea grass beds, mud flats and coral reefs for their habitat. So too, fish biomass in mangrove swamps is estimated to be 6.8 to 11.5 times that of adjacent open waters. The degradation of mangrove ecosystems has translated to lost incomes for coastal communities, who depend on marine resources for their wellbeing and livelihoods.

A history of environmental degradation and poverty

Caraga is among the poorest regions in the Philippines. The jurisdiction contains the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Dinagat Islands. It has 70 municipalities with 1,346 barangays, a total land area of 18,847 square kilometers and, as of 2000, had a population of just over two million. The economy of Caraga was focused in the past on the timber industry, beginning in the late 1940s and peaking in the 1970s. During this period, the traditional practices of agriculture and artisanal fishing were relegated to secondary industries. In too familiar a story, decades of relentless and unsustainable deforestation resulted in the near collapse of the logging industry in the 2000s, not to mention the loss of forests and biodiversity. Forest workers found themselves without work, and reverted to fishing and farming practices.

The bulk of the overall fish production from the province of Caraga comes from municipal fisheries, coastal and inland waters, and small-scale, traditional fishing methods (relying on boats of three gross tons or less). There is significant pressure being exerted on the region’s marine ecosystems and resources, however. Destructive and illegal fishing methods are common. Use of dynamite and triple mesh nets (multiple nets of various sizes overlaid together) has led to the indiscriminate destruction of sensitive marine habitats. Commercial fishing vessels often intrude into municipal waters. Marine water pollution has escalated through siltation and sedimentation from limestone quarrying, and algal overgrowth due to domestic waste accumulation. Mangroves have been deforested to accommodate fishponds, reducing spawning and nursery habitats for juvenile fish.

Where there have been gains in production for municipal fisheries, these have not always translated to increases in local incomes. Post-harvest and value-added secondary processing in the region are practically non-existent and not widely available to local fishermen in need of capacity development support. Fish are caught and either immediately peddled to the community, or are sold to local fish traders who serve as middlemen to vendors in local and regional markets. Traditional fishermen often come out on the losing end of this equation, as dependence on middlemen translates to an absence of bargaining power.

CERD: ‘empowered, self-reliant coastal communities’

The Center for Empowerment and Resource Development (CERD) evolved to address a number of these issues. It has a vision of empowered, self-reliant coastal communities that live in harmony with an abundant and diverse coastal and marine environment. CERD’s mission is to save and restore the coastal environment through the strengthening of local institutions, to implement a ‘community-based fishery integrated resource management framework’, to create model fishing communities and learning areas for the replication and transferring of best practices, and to achieve...
all of this through strong and effective partnerships. Protection of the rights and entitlements of traditional fishermen is CERD’s raison d’etre.

The project began in 1996 following a rapid rural appraisal of several coastal communities in Surigao del Sur. The appraisal found Hinatuan Bay to be a promising project site, as it contains a diverse range of marine resources, different species of sea grass, and large areas of intact mangroves (with illegal logging activities pushing at the margins). Despite this resource abundance, and despite the fact that the coral reef was in fair condition, fish populations were markedly low and average fish sizes were relatively small.

By extension, the catch size and incomes of local fishermen were also low, averaging only PHP 3,000 (Philippine Pesos) per month, per family. CERD worked with local fishermen (both men and women) to form fishing organizations in seven project sites, entailing an extensive process of community mobilization. After encountering some resistance from local governments, CERD expanded the scope of its mission to building relationships between traditional fishermen and local government units.

**Promoting participatory coastal resource management**

CERD is governed by a 5-year strategic plan, which aims to improve the quality of life for its target population (local fishermen), boost the productivity of marine habitats in five project sites, popularize and mainstream a participatory coastal resource management governance strategy, and improve the responsiveness of community-based organizations on gender issues. These objectives play out differently in different project sites, but are all actualized through capacity building and training, sustainable fisheries plans, political advocacy, networking and partnership building, livelihoods diversification, gender mainstreaming, and household-level mobilizing.

Capacity building is a primary focus, both at the level of local institutions and at the individual level. Local leadership and strong local institutions are perceived to be the foundation of viable long term conservation and livelihoods strategies. As such, capacity building and training covers organizational development, livelihoods management, individual coaching and mentoring, biodiversity monitoring and evaluation, negotiations and lobbying, and youth training in research and ecological assessments. Traditional fishing households are provided with training in business management skills and with start-up capital for small ecosystem-based businesses; are given technical assistance where needed; connected to market supply-chains; and are supported to diversify their incomes through ventures such as prawn fry and abalone cultivation and hatchery management.

**Close collaboration with local government authorities**

Perhaps the CERD activity with the most far-reaching effects is its work integrating community fisheries management plans into municipal and barangay development plans. This is accomplished through cooperation and partnerships with local government agencies and units. Through the municipal and barangay development plans, CERD lobbies for the enactment of community resolutions and ordinances to ensure that traditional fishermen are positioned to both inform and benefit from marine resource management policy. The community fisheries management plans also have a strong conservation component, and include the zoning of fish sanctuaries and marine protected areas, the reforestation and management of mangrove forests, the creation of ‘women-managed areas’ (discussed in more detail below), fisheries law enforcement, and conservation provisions for endangered plant and animal species. All efforts are community-managed and led by traditional fishermen at the village level.

**Empowering women and youth to improve sustainability**

Women’s empowerment, and awareness-raising on gender issues, is a cross-cutting theme of CERD’s work. Local women are provided with leadership and management training, and supported to participate in decision-making processes at the household level as well as at project sites. More than 50 percent of leaders in each self-help group (what CERD refers to as ‘fisherfolk organizations’) are women, which is a substantial improvement from the almost nonexistent presence of women in leadership roles before the initiative began. For each fisherfolk organization that is formed, a corresponding gender and health committee is created.

A complementary cross-cutting issue is long-term sustainability and the fostering across generations of a conservation ethic. In each of the fifteen fisherfolk organizations that constitute CERD, training is offered to two generations within the community. By including youth in capacity building programs, CERD looks to ensure sustainable capacity for effective coastal and marine resource management well into the future.

“The current state of our resources will not be able to continuously support the growing world population. Policy makers must be serious to honor and implement their commitments to address global warming, end poverty and hunger. Biodiversity conservation efforts must lead equally towards a resilient resource base and upholding human dignity.”

Jovelyn T. Cleofe, Executive Director, CERD
Key activities vary for each project site and for each fisherfolk organization. CERD carries out assessments to identify specific challenges or problems facing an individual group or area, and then customize strategies which are tailored to meet the particular livelihood and ecosystem needs of each group. Some challenges and solutions are common to multiple communities, however. CERD supports several fisherfolk organizations with coastal and marine resource management plans as a response to declining fish stocks and threats to certain endangered species. Technology transfer is provided to fill local capacity gaps, particularly in value-added secondary processing. Livelihoods diversification strategies are promoted to avoid overdependence on a single resource or sector. Advocacy is undertaken and partnerships forged to address existing or emerging communication gaps between local fishermen, local government officials and other relevant stakeholders. Gender mainstreaming is provided to improve the standing of women within fisherfolk organization, and the community at large.

**Resource management transfers: from state to local**

Beyond these general activities, CERD focuses on a project delivery model called Fisheries Integrated Resource Management and Economic Development (FIRMED) program. This site-specific term is more or less synonymous with community-based marine resource management efforts. The common thread of the FIRMED program model is community control and management of marine resources. This involves the transfer of tenure and resource entitlements – e.g. management of fisheries – from the state to the local level. CERD is involved in all aspects of this authority transfer: advocacy, community mobilizing, formation and strengthening of local development structures, marine resource management planning, capacity building and training, and network development. The goal is enhanced capacity for community-based fishing organizations towards the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and improved local incomes.
based management stewardship contracts. CERD is active in establishing co-management bodies, which are subsequently used for advocacy efforts in fishery policy.

**Sustainable management and appropriate technologies**

Among the activities promoted by CERD which have become the foundation of local management plans are the creation of fish sanctuaries (no-take zones), the demarcation of marine protected areas, mangrove reforestation and management, regulation of open and closed seasons, endangered species protection, shellfish cultivation, and sea grass farming. Emphasis is given to environmentally-friendly technologies (specifically in the areas of fry and fingerling production, feed formulation, and processing techniques), which are tested through public demonstrations, piloting and ongoing research. CERD is also using coral gardening and coral reseeding technologies in an attempt to speed the recovery and regeneration of particularly degraded marine habitats ecosystems. Capacity building focuses on knowledge and skills development of CERD members in areas such as membership recruitment and organizing, resource management, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and lobbying, and gender awareness.

In addition to their focus on fisherfolk organizations, CERD also targets environment and development strategies at the household level. All members are encouraged to participate in a social mapping exercise, where target households explore different ways in which they can effectively and realistically engage in the sustainable resource management work of each fisherfolk organization. The rationale is that successful community-based resource management strategies are highly dependent on the full participation, support and commitment of individual households and members. An understanding of household level challenges – and potential barriers to full and complete participation – will only strengthen the capacity of CERD to deliver high-impact and effectively tailored solutions.

**Marine area under conservation; women-managed areas**

In effect, CERD manages a protected area which covers roughly 5.7 percent of the offshore municipal waters of Hinatuan. Through its member fisherfolk organizations, CERD manages seven fish sanctuaries over an area of 476.3 hectares, as well as a mangrove conservation area of 1146 hectares, of which 200 hectares have been reforested as of 2011. Conservation activities have paid dividends for the local fishermen. In Hinatuan Bay alone, fish catch size increased over a three-year period from three to eight kilograms per day.

Among the many noteworthy CERD innovations has been promotion of ‘women-protected areas” or women-managed areas (WMAs). This unique management model engenders the creation of resource management zones which exclusively utilize female fishers in conservation and livelihood activities. The first of these areas was established in 2009 in Mahaba Island, Hinatuan. By 2011, two more WMAs were established in two barangays, covering a total area of 17.8 hectares of mangrove forest. A key management feature of the WMA in Hinatuan is the regulation of shellfish harvesting, with open and closed seasons. For two months, half of the area is open for harvesting, while the other half is closed, thereby allowing the shellfish to regenerate. After this cycle, the open area is closed while the other site is opened for harvesting. Between cycles, monitoring is done by the women to determine changes in the abundance and diversity of different shellfish species. The model is an accurate reflection of CERD’s commitment to gender mainstreaming in community-based natural resource management, the empowerment of women, and awareness-raising on gender issues in the fisheries sector.
Biodiversity Impacts

Marine biodiversity conservation, as well as the regeneration of damaged and degraded coastal ecosystems, has been an important outcome of CERD activities. Conservation gains have been achieved largely through the creation of seven fish sanctuaries. The sanctuaries have been particularly important for coral reef ecosystems, which were being steadily and dangerously eroded from illegal and destructive fishing practices. Within the sanctuaries, fish species diversity and marine resource biomass has increased dramatically. Mangrove forests have also been protected, resulting in reduced rates of deforestation and illegal logging. Mangrove conservation efforts have been complemented by community-managed reforestation activities.

Monitoring of biodiversity results

With the full and complete participation of fisherfolk organizations, CERD regularly records and monitors the status of coastal and marine resources. Particular focus is given to fish abundance and diversity, coral reef cover, mangrove health, and reforestation areas. The drivers of biodiversity decline and ecosystem degradation are identified so that appropriate actions can be taken. Sightings and poaching of endangered species (such as sea cows and turtles) are reported in order to track changes in populations.

Ecological assessments use community-based monitoring tools. Different tools and approaches are applied to different resources and ecosystems. For mangrove surveys, a transect plot method is most regularly employed. A 100-meter transect line is laid out and 10x10 meter plots established at 10-meter intervals. Mangrove species are identified and categorized into mature, sampling or seedling. Each category is then counted within the transect plots. For coral cover, a point intercept transect is the preferred methodology. The approach measures the percentage of live and dead coral cover, as well as algae, substrates, and invertebrate species. A 50-meter transect line is laid out along the coral reef area. Areas of between 25-50cm intervals are marked, and organisms recorded along the transect line. For sea grass bed surveys, a 1x1 meter quadrat is used within an area of 100 meters. This quadrat is then thrown at random into the sea grass beds. Where it lands, sea grass species are identified, as are the number of other species in each square. For fish abundance, participating community members employ a visual census, using the same 50-meter transect as in coral cover surveys. An imaginary 5x5 meter plot is used to identify and count fish species.

Socioeconomic Impacts

Project outcomes in Hinatuan Bay alone tell the story of CERD’s far-reaching impacts on the economies of participating communities. This initial pilot project was carried out over a three year period and was delivered through capacity building support to fifteen fisherfolk organizations, as well as the creation of one fishing federation.

Resource management plans and financial management strategies were developed with each fisherfolk organization. Support was extended to 320 target households with the aim of diversifying local incomes. Three groups were supported to establish seaweed farming projects, another three to establish fish ponds, and a further three to establish market outlets for prawn, seaweed and abalone products. In some cases, household incomes increased by more than PHP 13,500 over the three-year period. Another key objective was to build fisherfolk organizations’ capacity to engage in environmental education at the community level, and enforce regulation of fishery ordinances on the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. Based on capacity assessments, tailored capacity building plans were developed for each organization. Collectively, the groups were successful in reducing illegal and destructive fishing practices by 80 percent; persuading six barangay and one municipal government units to allocate a budget for dedicated “fish wardens” to support access regulations; lobbying for seasonal fishing ordinances in ten barangay government units and two municipal
councils to protect the habitats of key endangered marine species; and establishing community-based regulatory mechanisms. CERD was also able to establish three ‘women-managed areas’ within Hinatuan Bay. More than 40 women were involved in leading the marine and coastal resource management activities at these three sites, with each creating a management committee and gender and health committees.

Livelihoods diversification and improved fish stocks

Fifty men and women fishers have been engaged in seaweed farming to raise their income and reduce pressure from capture fisheries. Seaweed farms serve as *de facto* fish sanctuaries, fish habitats and feeding areas. By 2010, five women fishers were trained in dried seaweed trading and marketing. Increased household incomes resulting from these activities has allowed some participants to purchase fishing boats and equipment, send their children to school, and invest in housing repairs.

Across all of its project sites, CERD has been able to work with fisherfolk organizations to increase fish stocks, which ultimately translates to improved livelihoods for local fishermen. Studies conducted by CERD confirm that the size and length of fish caught in project sites since the initiative began have increased substantially. Prior to the project interventions, fishermen averaged a catch size of 2-3 kilograms per fishing trip. After six years of the project, these same fishermen now average 5-8 kilograms per fishing trip. This increase has catalyzed a change in local attitudes, where marine resource conservation and protection is now viewed by the majority of the local population as critically linked to improvements in the fishing sector.

POLICY IMPACTS

CERD has been particularly adept at fostering relationships between local fisherfolk organizations and the central government, which has various departments at the municipal level. Specifically, the initiative has worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Fisheries of Aquatic Resources, the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, and the Philippine National Police. Beyond these departments, collaboration with local government units has proven essential for the ongoing work of the fisherfolk organizations, for communities to access funds, for direct lobbying on municipal activities, and for inclusion in development plans and project implementation. At the national level, CERD is actively engaged in fisheries policy reform through the NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR) network. Several national policies have been passed based on CERD input, including the 2009 Philippines “Magna Carta of Women” – which gives equal recognition to women fishers, as distinct from women in the agricultural sector – and several guidelines for municipal water delineation.

During implementation of its project in Hinatuan, and the development and strengthening of fifteen community-based fishing organizations, CERD was able to influence government programs and policies both at the barangay and municipal levels. This bridge-building resulted in local governments passing several ordinances that were responsive to the demands and needs of local fishers. The use of and access to coastal municipal waters was more closely monitored. There was closer regulation of fishery activities, as well as local rights within those fisheries. Registration of fishers was promoted. License and permit systems were put in place. Zonation of municipal waters accounted for marine protected areas and fish corrals. Greater controls were placed on illegal and destructive activities.

In Batangas Bay, CERD was highly successful in influencing the barangay-level coastal and fishery resource management strategies. Through these plans, fisherfolk organizations were able to engage in mangrove restoration efforts, marine reserve creation, and the establishment of fish sanctuaries. Co-management bodies such as the Fishery Aquatic Resource Management Council (FARMC) were formed at the barangay, municipal, and bay levels to maximize the input fisherfolk organizations had into fisheries policy processes.
SUSTAINABILITY

CERD's partnership model is the foundation of its long-term sustainability. In particular, its ability to ensure linkages between community-based fishing organizations and local government units is critical. Equally important is a commitment to community participation, engagement and ongoing education. CERD activities cannot succeed without a committed and active membership base. As such, local fishermen must be regularly and adequately informed about the common environmental and socioeconomic issues that confront them, as well as the benefits that are possible from collective action. The initiative offers training courses on business planning and management, marketing, market supply-chains, technical and enterprise management skills, seaweed farming, crab breeding, fish-drying, and household level planning – all to ensure that participating communities continue to see the benefits and incentives of conservation and sustainable marine resource management. Social cohesion and community ownership are also maintained through multi-stakeholder trainings which bring together fishermen, local government officials, police, and church officials.

A positive step to advance CERD sustainability was the creation of the united fisherfolk federation, Nagkahiusang Mangingisda ng Hinatuan (NAMAHIN) in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, which combined into an alliance a number of coastal villages and previously disparate community-based organizations. The federation also provides a common platform for program development and natural resource management, and has ultimately strengthened CERD capacity to reach out to coastal communities in an integrated and comprehensive way. At the regional level, CERD is connected to the Pacific Locally Managed Marine Area Network, which allows for ongoing learning on what is working and what is not in marine area management. CERD is also working with more than 100 local schools to ensure long-term sustainability and the uptake of sustainable practices by future generations of fishermen.

In 2011, CERD facilitated the construction of the NAMAHIN Women Technology and Development Center, which serves as a training and display area for the different products produced by fisher households. Beyond helping members advertise and sell their products, NAMAHIN also serves as a clearing house for locally-produced products such as dried fish, fish sauce and paste, shell and nito handicrafts, household decorations made from recycled materials, tea, and novelty items.

REPLICATION

CERD recognizes that improvements in marine ecosystems require the wide-scale uptake of sustainable approaches, and that isolated projects will not suffice in rejuvenating damaged environments. Accordingly, significant emphasis has been placed on transferring the FIRMED model to other communities and replicating the approach across different locales.

Replication of the FIRMED model within Samar

For example, CERD has been active in eight barangays in Biri, Northern Samar since 2004, working to establish fisherfolk organizations and to grow their membership (now totaling over 80 people). This work ultimately led to the establishment of a fish sanctuary and a number of spill-over projects in potable water management and public health issues and mangrove protection and management efforts. Mangrove protection and management is now expended to three more municipalities in Northern Samar, namely Lavesarez, San Jose and Rosario. In 2002, CERD also established a FIRMED program in Mondragon, Northern Samar which has led to the formation of a fisherfolk federation composed of six fisherfolk organizations and a total membership of 211 people. Three locally-managed fishing areas have also been demarcated, covering more than 3,400 hectares of coastal water. In addition, one barangay was able to establish a community-managed mangrove replantation project.
Lastly, a partnership with the Department of Science and Technology and the Mondragon local government unit paved the way for the establishment of a salt processing plant, which is managed by one of the traditional fisherfolk organizations.

Another set of FIRMED programs were established in Tinambakan District, Calbayog City, and Kerikite Island as early as 1996, which led to the formation of thirteen fisherfolk organizations in ten barangays. In addition to a focus on artificial reef installation, fish sanctuaries and regeneration sites, these organizations have successfully established fishery law enforcement teams, which apprehend illegal fishers and commercial fishing vessels intruding into municipal waters. The groups have also come together to form a Coral Reef Network.

In 2008, the FIRMED program was expanded to four barangays in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur wherein four fishers’ organizations were established, mangrove planting and protection efforts initiated, and one women-managed area declared.

**Independent management beyond CERD**

The lasting impact of CERD’s interventions is evidenced by the many cases in which it has phased out its involvement in an area, with its work now being carried out independently. In 1996, CERD phased out from Western Samar, where coastal resource management efforts have since been sustained by the provincial fisherfolk federation Gugma han Maqueda Bay Iguin Ondong han Organisasyon Samarnon (GIOS). In 1998, CERD programs in the municipality of Calatagan, Western Batangas, were ended: the municipal-level Organization of Small Fisherfolk in Calatagan has since carried on this work. Likewise, in 2001, CERD involvement in the municipality of Balayan ended, where the municipal-level fisherfolk organization, ANAK Balayan, now operates and implements a community-based resource management project in coastal barangays.

**PARTNERS**

CERD partners fall into four different categories: community partners, local government units, donors, and NGO networks. Partners often vary between project sites.

**Community partners:** Local fishermen and community partners contribute to CERD through Nagkahiusang Mangingisda ng Hinatuan (NAMAHIN), a municipal-level fisherfolk federation. The federation is made up of traditional fisherfolk organizations which participate on a voluntary basis. Community members provide material, labor and energy for the implementation of project activities. The community members engage in the establishment and management of resource management strategies such as fish sanctuaries, mangrove management plans, and the monitoring and regulation of coastal waters.

**Local government units:** Essential partners in CERD work are local government units, at the barangay, village or municipal levels. They provide support through enabling policies related to fisheries management and biodiversity conservation. Support is also provided through budget allocation from local development funds.

Counterpart funds are also provided for potable water, community infrastructure, and fish sanctuary projects.

**Donors:** A number of donors have provided and continue to provide CERD with financial support, including the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund, the Lutheran World Relief, IPADE-AECID, Oxfam International, and Oxfam Great Britain.

**NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR):** This umbrella network lobbies the national government and individual line ministries for fisheries policies that protect the interests of municipal fisheries and traditional fisherfolk organizations.

**Locally Managed Marine Area Network:** The LMMA network helps to build the capacity of traditional fisherfolk organizations in data monitoring and evaluation, both for biophysical and socio-economic data.

**SALIGAN:** This NGO has provided CERD with legal advice and training on fisheries and environmental law.
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

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