

CCSF Topical Lunch - 21 Jan 2009

In attendance:

Laura Harrington
Drew Harvell
Kelly Zamudio
Chris Barrett
Helene Schember
David Dieterich
Frank DiSalvo
David Filiberto
Megan McDonald
Daryl Nydam
Cory Lang
David Sahn
Mark Lawrence
Samuel Bell

The focus of this topical lunch (January 21, 2009) was Estimating the Economic Impacts of Climate Driven Disease Outbreaks. Our specific goals were twofold:

- 1) Assess whether some of the economic impact valuation of disease in our project might not benefit from more interactions with Cornell faculty and researchers with expertise in that area.
- 2) Explore ideas on what direction or focus this part of our project should take.

The researchers in attendance had some very good advice on contacts, and other people on campus with expertise in assessing economic impacts that might be relevant to our combined studies, and the hosts will follow up on making those links on campus.

The main focus of discussion was a session on pinpointing various avenues of measuring economic impacts, with particular emphasis on those that would be most appropriate or relevant to each of the study systems. Discussion topics included 1) the value of taxa as umbrella or flagship species, 2) different pathways for valuation including direct effects as well as indirect effects via changes in the value of property, 3) how small holder system models might be relevant to each study system, 4) existence value and what factors are included, 5) behavioral changes that might result or be encouraged as an outcome of this assessment.

We ended with a useful discussion of the need to identifying our target audience or “customers”, and discussed how commercial enterprises, hospitality industry, government and NGO agencies, the insurance industry, and ecotourism, might be stakeholders in our economic assessment of the consequences of climate change in relation to disease.