Preliminary Analysis of Biodiversity and Human Well-being in the Coral Triangle

Objectives: The multiple goals of the “Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security” highlight the importance of understanding the links between marine biodiversity conservation and human well-being. To this end, the Coral Triangle Atlas seeks to include information on socio-economic variables and examine spatially whether locations in the region that are especially important to biodiversity are also particularly impoverished.

Methods: We mapped 1) existing areas of high marine biodiversity importance in the Coral Triangle (CT) identified through various prioritization processes (e.g. Biodiversity Visions, WWF; Ecoregional Plans, TNC), and 2) data for social variables, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), based on an internet search for countries within the CT that had MDG data at a sub-national level. Only the Philippines had this data accessible. We examined multiple social indicators through correlation and regression analyses.

Results, challenges and next steps: The results of our preliminary analysis were inconclusive due to challenges with both the data (lack of availability and/or quality) and the analysis (software and statistical issues); as next steps we seek to improve both. Please contact: Helen.Fox@wwfus.org or Charles.Huang@wwfus.org with comments or input.