Economic Tools for Evaluation of Infrastructure Projects
1.5 day Training

Course Description

The proposed session will include the following modules:

- Basic Economic Concepts
  An overview of economic theory and concepts as related to the environment, including market theory, supply and demand for environmental goods and services, environmental externalities, and impacts of public policies.

- Environmental Values and Valuation
  An overview of environmental values and how economists place monetary values on the environment. This module will include characteristics of public and private goods, discounting rates, and a broad overview of environmental valuation techniques as inputs into project analyses.

- Cost-Benefit Analysis
  An introduction to the concepts and practical applications of cost-benefit analysis (CBA), the major decision criteria used by policymakers and developers. This module will review the theory underlying cost-benefit analysis, financial versus economic analysis, how to incorporate environmental costs and benefits that are often left out of CBA, and the steps to implement CBA. A hands-on case study evaluating the economic feasibility of a hydroelectric dam project will be included.

- Communication Skills
  Groups will practice communicating the economic results of their case studies to various audiences, and will receive feedback and advice for strategic communication of economic information.

- Online HydroCalculator Tool
  Participants will be introduced to CSF's new online tool that evaluates the economic, social and environmental feasibility of hydroelectric dam projects. Participants will have the opportunity to practice using the tool and input data from actual projects in their regions.

Proposed Program

Day 1:

Morning: 9:00am – 10:30am
- Supply and Demand curves
- Consumer and Producer surplus
- Externalities
- Public Policies

Coffee Break: 10:30 – 11:00am

Morning: 11:00am – 12:30pm
- Environmental Values
- Public and Private Goods
- Discounting
- Valuation Techniques

Lunch: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Afternoon: 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Financial versus Economic
- Externalities
- Analysis Steps
- Example

Coffee Break: 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Afternoon: 3:30 – 5:00pm
- Case Study Introduction
- Group Work

Evening:
- Group Work on Case Studies

Day 2:

Morning: 9:00am – 10:30am
- Prepare Presentations
- Presentations of Case Study Results
- Strategic Communication Feedback

Coffee Break: 10:30 – 11:00am

Morning: 11:00am – 12:30pm

- HydroCalculator Tool Demonstration
- Practice Using Tool
- Course Closing

Lunch: 12:30pm – 1:30pm