

Review of: "Unlocking Natural Capital in the Megadiverse Colombian Pacific Basin: Navigating Challenges and Governance Gaps"

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In this research, the economic valuation method is applied to ecosystem services, changes in terrestrial biological diversity, changes in terrestrial biodiversity of the Colombian Pacific basin, the above is expressed in average species abundance (MSA), and Shared Socioeconomic Trajectories (SSP) combined with different levels of climate change (based on Representative Concentration Trajectories (RCP)) in such a way that provides a monetary value for any ecosystem service.

It is noteworthy that there was no research aimed at identifying the Natural Capital of the Pacific Basin and that in this case study they identify significant loss of ecosystem services due to changes in land use due to crops, cultural, community and traditional production systems, to name a few

On the other hand, this research shows that estimates of ecosystem services vary significantly between ecosystems even within the study region; Therefore, the results as indicated by the authors should be interpreted as a first approximation and should be complemented with additional information regarding solid waste, pollination, extreme events, soil fertility, raw materials, cultural, maintenance of genetic diversity, mining, illicit crops, armed violence, etc.

It is relevant to recognize that efforts in valuing ecosystem services focus on recreation and tourism, as well as fishing, climate regulation in mangrove ecosystems; while in relation to those of biodiversity, being difficult to evaluate economically because they are based on revealed preference techniques and in the same sense are the cultural, spiritual and aesthetic benefits, they imply a variety of perceptual value and not of economic value, leading to underrepresentation

In this case study, it is estimated that natural capital in the Colombian Pacific basin is equivalent to 51% of Colombia's GDP by 2020, which highlights the social, natural and political relevance of the region, and in the same way the urgency to rethink management strategies in order to maintain the benefits of environmental services. In the same sense, this document shows that 75% of the remaining natural capital of the Colombian Pacific basin is present in community lands of Afro-descendants and 10% in indigenous reservations and that in both cases the invasion of their territories by non-indigenous people, who are generating violence, looting and coercion by industries and foreigners.