

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

Luisa Lievano¹

¹ International Institute for Sustainability

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The authors presented an important work, where they evaluated the ecosystem services of the Colombian Pacific Basin. This region has few information available, and any effort to enhance its knowledge is valuable. The paper could positively impact the academic community. However, I have some suggestions that might help to improve it.

Firstly, you can improve your writing. There are some paragraphs that are difficult to understand. For example: "The extraction (legal or illegal) of wood has been in force in different regions of the Pacific basin since the beginning of the 19th century, generating deforestation and degradation of the different types of forests (Contraloría General de la República, 1943; Leal & Restrepo, 2003; Vélez et al., 2020)." (section 4.2.2). Furthermore, avoid the use of contractions. For instance, you can replace "it's" for "it is" along the text.

In the Introduction, you can talk more about the ES and the principal threats of the Pacific Basin. You can also highlight the importance and the novelty of your work.

Please review the color scale used in the maps. You can try color-blind friendly palettes. Furthermore, you can show your results about ES using figures such as pie charts or bar plots.

You found biomes with few ES. Do you think that it is a result of information shortfalls? Do you consider that there are more information for biomes near cities or research centers?

You can consider that non-Colombian readers did not know the Colombian ecosystem classification. Thus, you can explain what "orobioma," "helobioma," etc., mean (maybe in the supplementary material). In addition, you can present the information in a more friendly way for non-Colombian readers. For instance, instead of writing "the highest values (Int.\$2020/ha/year) occur in the original biomes: Orobioma de Paramo Cauca medio, Orobioma de Paramo...", you can say "the highest values occur in montane biomes...", and add the complete information in a table or supplementary material.

Still, you can show where are located the protected areas and indigenous and afro Colombian territories, and their overlap with ES in a map. Do you explore the impact of climate change on those areas?

In the Discussion section, please review and add references. For instance, you need references for the following

sentences:

- "Thus, the post-conflict scenario constitutes a challenge for the public administration since it is called upon to formulate and manage public policies to guarantee peace, development in the territories, and the sustainable management of its immense natural capital."

- "Cattle ranching accounts for the most significant emergent land use in the Pacific basin. Those poorly managed pasture systems typically entail soil compaction, acidification, losses of organic matter, and soil erosion, leading to soil health impairments and ecosystem services losses."

Finally, you mentioned the oil palm crops as a main threat for the region. Please explain more why. You can mention studies of oil palm crops impacts on other Colombian regions. Please see

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0197539>, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2018.08.026>, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2019.10.035> among others.