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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article discusses a very relevant topic: the need to preserve an extremely valuable natural capital in a conflictive context concerning social agents, some with the highest levels of poverty, low government presence, and the existence of illegal armed groups. The article effectively describes the conflicts and provides an economic valuation of ecosystem services, along with a first spatial distribution of natural capital.

However, a challenge of this magnitude cannot be exclusively addressed through tourism and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). It is necessary to integrate the different stakeholders, and try to find fair ways to share benefits from natural capital. To achieve these objectives, there are growing research lines on trade-off management, adaptive governance, and even the concept of inclusive conservation.

Project-based collaboration with local stakeholders can be an instrument for the needed capacity and trust building. And capacity also means new knowledge to find ways to make economic activities such as cattle ranching, rice crop, and logging,..less damaging through ecological understanding and zone planning.

I suggest a detailed reading of the following 3 references and consider to add a brief chapter about research needs and ways to make this research operational :

Schultz, Lisen, Carl Folke, Henrik Österblom, y Per Olsson. 2015. «Adaptive governance, ecosystem management, and natural capital». Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 112 (24): 7369-74. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1406493112.

Ulug, Ciska, Miguel A. Cebrián-Piqueras, Marc Metzger, Christopher M. Raymond, y Peter H. Verburg. 2024. «Navigating tensions in inclusive conservation: Learning from the Utrechtse Heuvelrug National Park in the Netherlands». Environmental Science & Policy 151 (enero): 103620. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2023.103620.

Su, Boru, y Moucheng Liu. 2023. «An ecosystem service trade-off management framework based on key ecosystem services». *Ecological Indicators* 154 (octubre): 110894. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2023.110894.