

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 comprehensive study on the economic valuation and spatial distribution of ecosystem services in the Colombian Pacific Basin presents a meticulous analysis of the region's natural capital. The research provides a robust foundation for understanding the economic value of the area's diverse ecosystems, shedding light on the complexities of balancing economic development with environmental conservation. The authors effectively highlight the urgent need for a more comprehensive assessment of ecosystem services, particularly focusing on underrepresented areas such as waste treatment, pollination, and cultural benefits.

The study's meticulous approach to mapping and valuing ecosystem services within specific biomes enhances its reliability. The authors have meticulously detailed the challenges faced by the Colombian Pacific Basin, including the impact of various economic activities such as mining, agriculture, and livestock production on natural capital. Furthermore, the identification of areas with the highest losses and potential threats provides valuable insights for policymakers and conservationists.

One notable strength lies in the emphasis on indigenous reservations, community lands, and protected areas, which comprise a significant portion of the remnant natural capital. The paper appropriately underscores the urgency of strengthening these management systems and offers critical implications for government policies. Additionally, the research provides valuable insights into potential future scenarios, allowing for a nuanced understanding of the region's vulnerabilities and potential areas for intervention.

However, the study would benefit from addressing the limitations and uncertainties associated with benefit transfer methods, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of the generalization errors. Furthermore, while the paper admirably explores the economic aspect, a more nuanced discussion of the social and cultural implications of natural capital loss could enhance the overall impact of the study.

In conclusion, this paper stands as a significant contribution to the field, emphasizing the importance of sustainable management and conservation efforts in the Colombian Pacific Basin. Its in-depth analysis, coupled with actionable recommendations, makes it a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and conservation practitioners working towards a more sustainable future for this ecologically vital region.

