



Picture © Stefan Simis


Valuing and building on our natural capital protected areas as natural solutions for water security

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- how socio-economic assessment and valuation of water related benefits can support creating sustainable solutions for PA management ?
- while at the same time creating cost-effective and equitable solutions for water management ?
- matching assessment with needs and solutions !

A large waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff in a lush green forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls over dark grey rocks. The surrounding forest is dense with green trees and foliage.

**New IUCN
definition gives
us a mandate to
develop the
potential of
ecosystem
services within
protected areas**

...

**... while
respecting
underlying
protected area
objectives.**

**Tapping into these
opportunities requires:**

- ✓ treating PAs as
(a source of)
natural capital
- ✓ being able to
demonstrate
importance /
assess the value
- ✓ integrating
the value into
PA management and
creating solutions
for / with PAs



Socio-economic importance of PAs

- ✓ Valuable to economy (direct or indirect)
- ✓ Valuable to broader wellbeing (direct or indirect)

Tip of the iceberg only!

Monetary

Monetary: market price of products from PAs, value of carbon storage, avoided costs of water purification etc.

Quantitative

Quantitative: amount of people enjoying products from PA, volume of stored carbon, volume of purified water etc.

Qualitative

Qualitative: range of various benefits provided by PA, dependency of people on these benefits etc.

**Full range of benefits underpinned by biodiversity
(e.g. yet unknown benefits)**

The true value of nature is not a number with a pound sign in front



George Monbiot

guardian.co.uk, Monday 6 June 2011 20.00 BST

[Article history](#)

Putting a price on nature can't be worse than giving it all away for free

The natural world gives us clean air and water, fertile soils and immense wellbeing. Putting a price tag on it might just stop us mistaking free for worthless

**DAMIANCARRINGTON'S
ENVIRONMENTBLOG**

Posted by
Damian Carrington
Thursday 2 June 2011
10.02 BST
guardian.co.uk

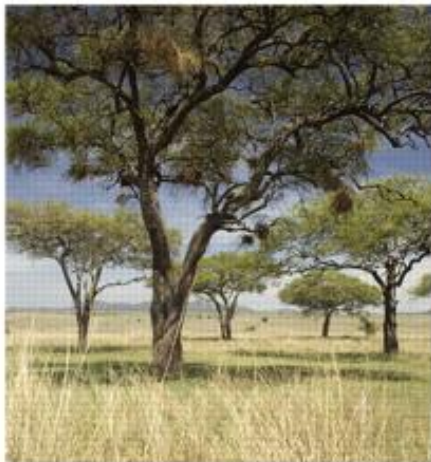


SOMETIMES IDENTIFYING THERE IS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE / ECONOMIC VALUE IS ENOUGH.

Example: private water plant in a small water catchment (San José, Costa Rica) → sustained by payments to landowners as compensation for sust. management practices.

SOMETIMES (ECONOMIC) VALUATION IS BENEFICIAL.

Example: annual payment to acknowledge PA's role in water provisioning (Bogota) → current level of payment does not reflect the real value of the water provided by the PA



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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PROTECTED AREAS

An Assessment Guide

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