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The tension between nature conservation and economic valuation of ecosystem services

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Propositions

The tension between nature conservation and economic valuation of ecosystem services

1. Empirical experience is needed on economic valuation strategies for nature conservation, so that the debate on this topic might shift from imagined applicability and side-effects to more clearly defined limits and usefulness (chapter 2).
2. If the ecosystem services framing replaces other frames of value, then ecosystem services can no longer be seen as just a tool in a toolbox of strategies for nature conservationists (chapter 3).
3. Biodiversity holds an insurance value for the provision of ecosystem services (chapter 4).
4. A biodiversity label based on accepted ecological indicators would be a promising way to combine economic valuation of nature with ecological knowledge for biodiversity conservation (chapter 5).
5. Economic valuation and ecosystem services are useful concepts for identifying personal values of stakeholders and creating social contracts. But the personal values that they identify do not fit inside the framework of economic valuation approaches (chapters 2 & 6).
6. Ecosystem services allows economists to incorporate the effects of environmental damages and benefits into an updated view of human welfare (Bockstael *et al.* 2000).
7. Using economic benefit to value biodiversity, you lose focus of the protection of rare species, for they hardly ever offer much monetary value (Ridder 2008).
8. Using only the economic metaphor to value nature, we may lose sight of structural causes of environmental degradation in our political and economic systems (Spash and Aslaksen 2014).
9. So-called "protest bids" in valuation surveys show that people may react negatively to the entire notion of expressing the value of nature in monetary terms (Halstead *et al.* 1992).
10. Ecosystem services is just nature with its hair combed and a tie on. But we value it for its wildness after working hours.
11. A sign of current trends in nature conservation is that the thematic emphasis of this thesis might become rare in the future.