

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Nature Pays Big Dividends

Jewell Cozort – City of San Antonio Park Biologist

Ecosystem Services Defined

Ecosystem Services: the goods and services provided by ecosystems that benefit, sustain and support **the well-being of people**

Aka "Natural Capital"

- An <u>ECOSYSTEM</u> includes all the living things in a particular area plants, animals and organisms, including people — interacting with each other and with the elements of the nonliving environments
 - Ecosystems vary enormously in size,
 - from a temporary pond in a pothole,
 - to an entire ocean basin.



https://www.nps.gov/blca/learn/nature/potholes.htm



Image from https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/4_Dr%20Dan%20Aga_P resents%20Final.pdf/

1833 William Forster Lloyd, English Economist

TWO LECTURES

ON THE

CHECKS TO POPULATION,

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,

IN MICHAELMAS TERM 1832.

BY

THE REV. W. F. LLOYD, M. A.

STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH,

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.

27.

OXFORD,

PRINTED BY S. COLLINGWOOD, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY,

FOR THE AUTHOR.

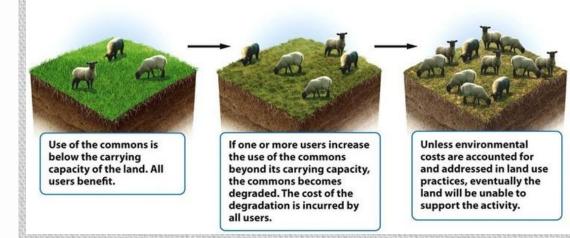
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484.

1968 Garrett Hardin, Ecologist Tragedy of the Commons, Science



1997 Costanza et. al



....

Altmetric: 218

Citations: 7569

More detail >>

Article

The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital

Robert Costanza, Ralph d'Arge, Rudolf de Groot, Stephen Farber, Monica Grasso, Bruce Hannon, Karin Limburg, Shahid Naeem, Robert V. O'Neill, Jose Paruelo, Robert G. Raskin, Paul Sutton & Marjan van den Belt

Nature 387, 253-260 (15 May 1997)

doi:10.1038/387253a0

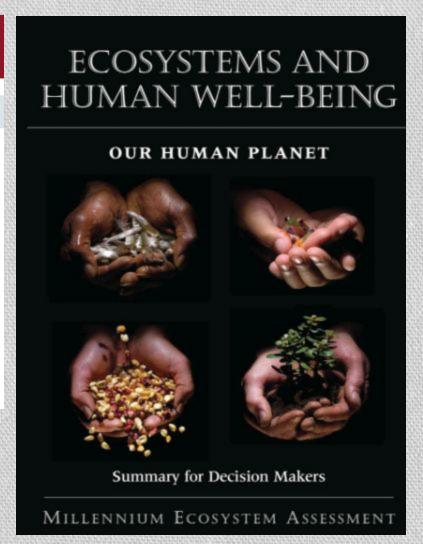
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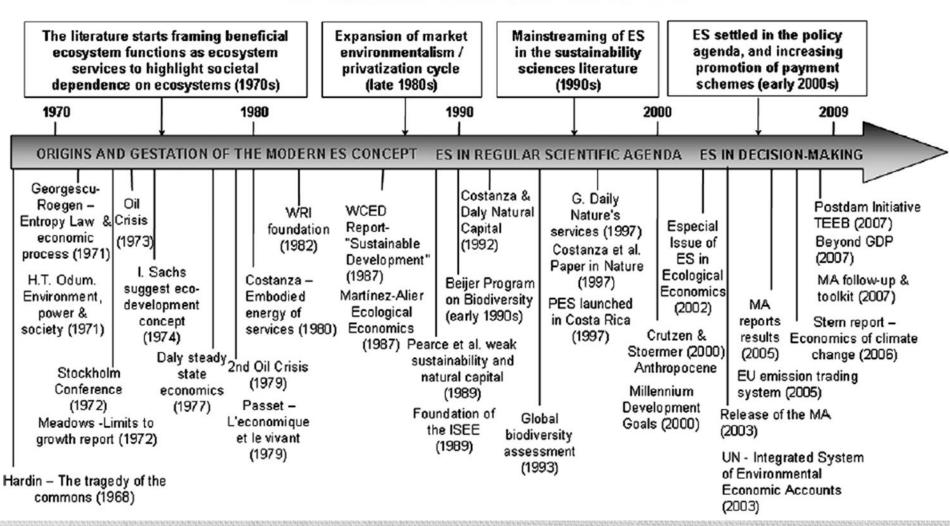
Received: 23 January 1997

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Published online: 15 May 1997

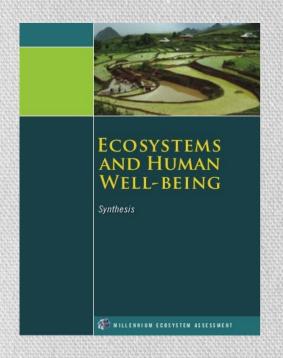
2000 United Nations, Kofi Annan

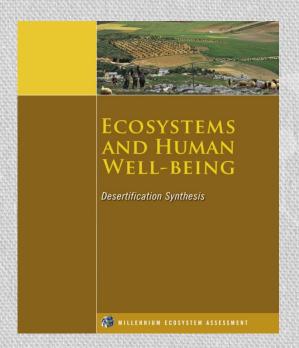


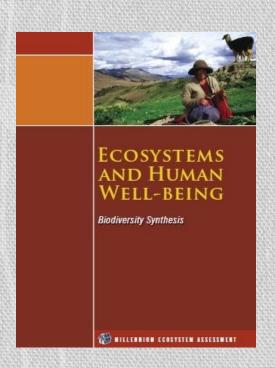


- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA)
- Called for by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000 and published in 2005.
- The main objective of the MEA was:

"... consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being ... establish scientific basis for actions to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems..."







The MEA groups ecosystem services into four broad categories:

 Provisioning Services: food and water, wood, fuel, fiber, pharmaceuticals and material for industrial products.



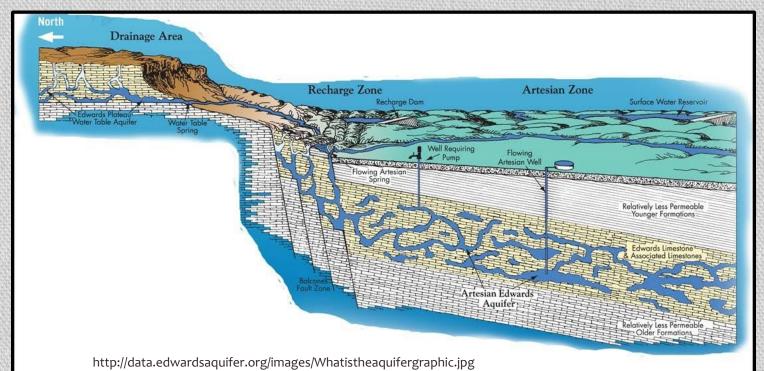






2. Regulating Services:

- Local climate and air quality
- Carbon Sequestration and storage
- Moderation of extreme events
- Waste-water treatment
- Decompose waste
- Erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility
- Pollination
- Biological Control and regulating pests

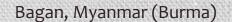


3. <u>Cultural Services</u>:

- Recreation
- Mental and physical health
- Tourism
- Aesthetic appreciation and inspiration for culture, art, and design
- Spiritual experience and sense of place
- Sites for education



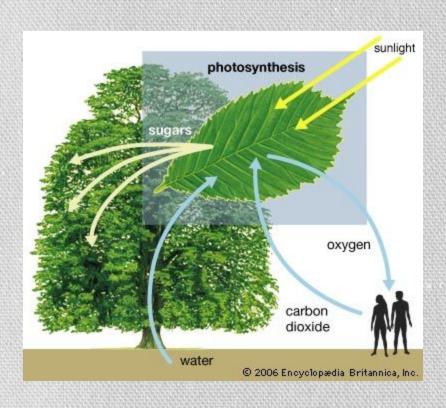
https://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel-tips-and-articles/the-worlds-best-places-to-get-a-yes/40625c8c-8a11-5710-a052-1479d2767118





http://thehabitualhiker.com/best-hiking-trails/

Supporting Services: Nutrient cycling, soil formation, primary production, habitats, and genetic diversity





https://www.technologyreview.com/s/531131/sharing-flood-mitigation-strategies-with-at-risk-countries/

MOUNTAIN AND POLAR

Food
Fiber
Fresh water
Erosion control
Climate regulation
Recreation and ecotourism
Aesthetic values
Spiritual values

INLAND WATER Rivers and other wetlands

Fresh water
Food
Pollution control
Flood regulation
Sediment retention
and transport
Disease regulation
Nutrient cycling
Recreation and
ecotourism
Aesthetic values

CULTIVATED

Food Fiber Fresh water Dyes Timber Pest regulation Biofuels Medicines Nutrient cycling Aesthetic values Cultural heritage

COASTAL

Food
Fiber
Timber
Fuel
Climate regulation
Waste processing
Nutrient cycling
Storm and wave protection
Recreation and ecotourism
Aesthetic values

FOREST AND WOODLANDS

Food
Timber
Fresh water
Fuelwood
Flood regulation
Disease regulation
Carbon sequestration
Local climate regulation
Medicines
Recreation
Aesthetic values
Spiritual values

DRYLANDS

Food Fiber Fuelwood Local climate regulation Cultural heritage Recreation and ecotourism Spiritual values

URBAN Parks and gardens

Air quality regulation
Water regulation
Local climate regulation
Cultural heritage
Recreation
Education

MARINE

Food Climate regulation Nutrient cycling Recreation

ISLAND

Food Fresh water Recreation and ecotourism

Direct Benefit

Provisioning

(Products from ecosystems)

Food
Fresh water
Fuel wood
Biochemicals
Genetic Resources

Cultural

(Nonmaterial benefits from ecosystems)

Spiritual and Religious
Recreation and ecotourism
Aesthetic
Inspirational
Educational
Sense of place
Cultural heritage

Indirect Benefit

Regulating

(Benefits from regulation of ecosystem processes)

Climate Regulation Disease regulation Water regulation Water purification

Supporting

(Services necessary for production of all other services)

Soil formation Nutrient cycling Primary Production

Direct Ecosystem Services

Provisioning

Service	Cost
apple (food)	\$ 1.29
2 x 4 lumber (1) (wood)	\$ 2.79
Amoxicillin (pharma)	\$ 8.00
Saws water Bill / month (water)	\$ 40.00

Cultural

Service	Cost
Entrance Fee Government Canyon (recreation)	\$ 6.00
Camera for nature photography (Inspiration)	\$ 300
Trip to Grand Canyon (recreation)	\$ 500 – 1000
Aesthetic Beauty	Priceless?
Sense of Place	Priceless?

Indirect Ecosystem Services

Regulating

Service	Cost
Edwards Aquifer (Water Regulation/ purification)	?
Dragonfly nymph feeding on Mosquitos (Disease Regulation)	?
Climate	?

Supporting

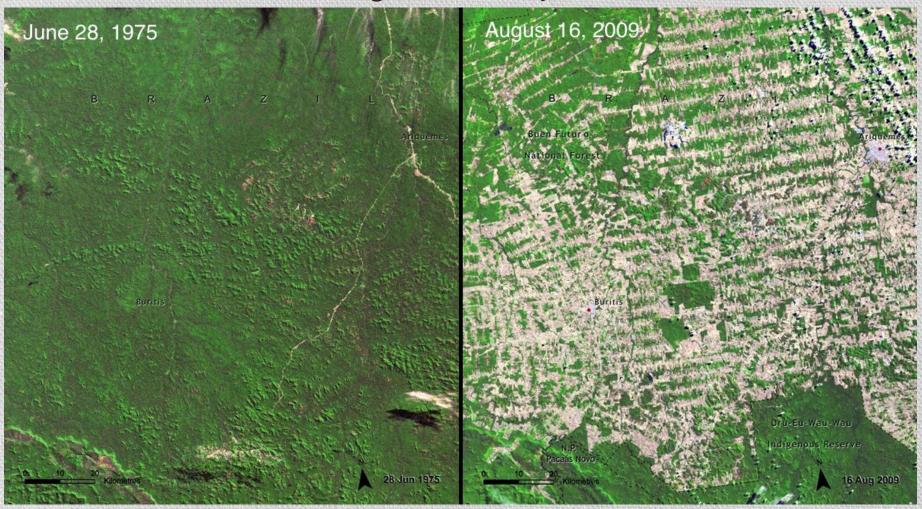
Service	Cost
Nutrient Cycling	?
Soil Formation (100 years/ cm of soil)	?
Primary Production (basis of food chain)	?

Indirect Ecosystem Services

- Undervalued
- Not traded in formal markets
- When supply or condition changes it may not be reflected in the market
- Few people are conscious of the role natural ecosystems play in generating goods

Hard to quantitate

Rainforests get swallowed by farms in Brazil



Water regulation, oxygen, carbon sequestration... etc.

Erosion, habitat loss

Furthermore, ecosystem services...

- existed long before humanity
- basic fundamentals of life
- easily taken for granted
- so large in scale it's hard to imagine humans could disrupt them
- but when we do the damage it's not easily reversed on a timescale relevant to society

Putting a price on nature is not easy

Several methods exist to estimate monetary value

- Market Price Estimates value for ecosystem products or services that are bought and sold in commercial markets.
- Travel Cost How much are people willing to pay to travel to a destination for recreational purposes?
- Contingent Valuation How much are you willing to pay for an environmental service?
- Damage Cost Avoided, Replacement Cost, and Substitute Cost How much would it cost to replicate manually what the ecosystem service does for us?

Criticism

Monetary values make conservation reliant on markets that fluctuate

It assumes all ecosystem services are financially beneficial to people Wolves taking cattle, wolves critical in regulating prey populations

If we always put things into the context of economic welfare, officials and the public will opt for policy that promises economic growth and more jobs

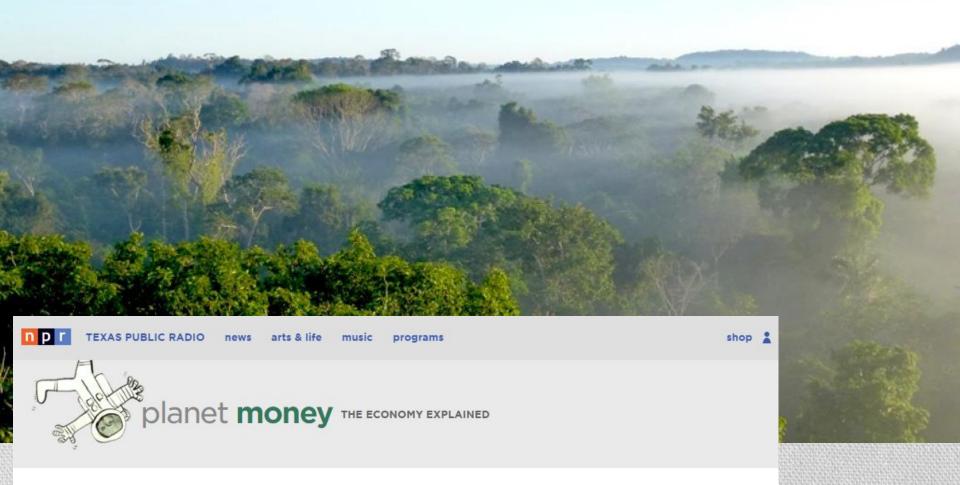
Morality and ethics should be driving force behind conservation and environmentalism



The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity

Assumptions: the process of valuation

- ☐ When asking Willingness To Pay we assume that people:
 - Hold values in advance or can easily generate them
 - Have sufficient information and understanding of what they are valuing
 - Can decide (alone) on the values they attribute to ecosystems
 - Value consistently
 - Value according to individual rationality





4:13



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RADIO

Ecuador To World: Pay Up To Save The Rainforest. World To Ecuador: Meh.

September 2, 2013 · 3:21 AM ET Heard on Morning Edition

DAVID KESTENBAUM

Stored carbon value for Coalition for Rainforest Nations

All figures come from the latest Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations data.

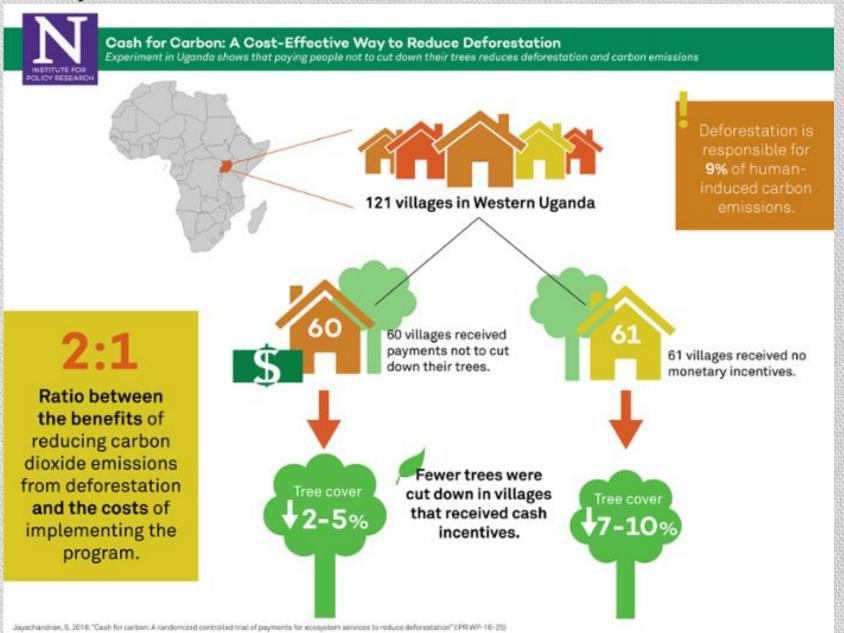
	To	tal	Change	Primary	Change in	Total	
	forest area		in forest	forest cover	primary forest	forest carbon	Value of
Country	20	005	00-05*	2005	00-05	2005*	carbon*
(300)	1000 ha	land area	percent	1000 ha	percent	M tons	\$million
Bolivia	58,740	54.2%	-2.2%	29,360	-2.3%	5,877	\$117,540
Central African Rep.	22,755	36.5%	-0.6%	0 <u></u>	N/A	3,008	\$60,160
Chile	16,121	21.5%	-0.4%	4,142	-0.1%	3,232	\$64,640
Congo	22,471	65.8%	0.6%	7,464	-0.4%	5,181	\$103,620
Costa Rica	2,391	46.8%	1.8%	180	0.0%	214	\$4,280
D.R. Congo	133,610	58.9%	-1.2%	0 <u>—</u>	N/A	32,152	\$643,040
Dominican Rep.	1,376	28.4%	0.0%	0 <u></u>	N/A	94	\$1,880
Guatemala	3,938	36.3%	-6.4%	1,957	-6.4%	572	\$11,440
Nicaragua	5,189	42.7%	-6.3%	1,849	N/A	795	\$15,900
Papua New Guinea	29,437	65.0%	-2.3%	25,211	-4.7%	4,710	\$94,200
Total	296,028		-1.4%			55,835	\$1,116,700

^{*} Total change in forest, 00-05 — negative numbers represent deforestation, positive numbers reflect the growth of plantations and secondary forests.

^{*} Total forest carbon, 2005 — Includes carbon stored in above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, dead wood, leaf litter, and soils of forests.

^{*} Value of carbon — Figures assume a rate of \$20 per ton

Money Talks



If you add it all up... 1997 Study

The entire biosphere

- a minimum of \$33 trillion/yr
- Global Gross National Product is \$18 trillion/yr



ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics 25 (1998) 3-15

The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital¹

Robert Costanza a,b,*, Ralph d'Arge c, Rudolf de Groot d, Stephen Farber c, Monica Grasso b, Bruce Hannon f, Karin Limburg g, Shahid Naeem h, Robert V. O'Neill l, Jose Paruelo J, Robert G. Raskin k, Paul Sutton l, Marjan van den Belt m

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Abstract

The services of ecological systems and the natural capital stocks that produce them are critical to the functioning of the Earth's life-support system. They contribute to human welfare, both directly and indirectly, and therefore represent part of the total economic value of the planet. We have estimated the current economic value of 17 ecosystem services for 16 biomes, based on published studies and a few original calculations. For the entire biosphere, the value (most of which is outside the market) is estimated to be in the range of US\$16−54 trillion (10¹²) per year, with an average of US\$33 trillion per year. Because of the nature of the uncertainties, this must be considered a minimum estimate. Global gross national product total is around US\$18 trillion per year. © 1998 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Ecological systems; Capital stocks; Ecosystem services

Ecological Economics Research and Applications Inc., P.O. Box 1589, Solomons MD 20688, USA

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¹ This article is reprinted with permission from Nature, vol. 387, May 15 1997, pp. 253-260. In order to retrieve the full article, please go to the Nature website at http://www.nature.com.

2011 Study

The entire biospherea minimum of\$125 trillion/yr

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Global Environmental Change

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/gloenvcha



Changes in the global value of ecosystem services



Robert Costanza ^{a,*}, Rudolf de Groot ^b, Paul Sutton ^{c,d}, Sander van der Ploeg ^b, Sharolyn J. Anderson ^d, Ida Kubiszewski ^a, Stephen Farber ^e, R. Kerry Turner ^f

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- Environmental Systems Analysis Group, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands
- Department of Geography, University of Denver, United States
- ⁴ Barbara Hardy Institute and School of the Natural and Built Environments, University of South Australia, Australia
- "University of Pittsburgh, United States
- University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

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ARSTRACT

In 1997, the global value of ecosystem services was estimated to average \$33 trillion/yr in 1995 \$US (\$46 trillion/yr in 2007 \$US). In this paper, we provide an updated estimate based on updated unit ecosystem service values and land use change estimates between 1997 and 2011. We also address some of the critiques of the 1997 paper. Using the same methods as in the 1997 paper but with updated data, the estimate for the total global ecosystem services in 2011 is \$125 trillion/yr (assuming updated unit values and changes to biome areas) and \$145 trillion/yr (assuming only unit values changed), both in 2007 \$US. From this we estimated the loss of eco-services from 1997 to 2011 due to land use change at \$4.3–20.2 trillion/yr, depending on which unit values are used. Global estimates expressed in monetary accounting units, such as this, are useful to highlight the magnitude of eco-services, but have no specific decision-making context. However, the underlying data and models can be applied at multiple scales to assess changes resulting from various scenarios and policies. We emphasize that valuation of eco-services (in whatever units) is not the same as commodification or privatization. Many eco-services are best on sidered public goods or common pool resources, so conventional markets are often not the best institutional frameworks to manage them. However, these services must be (and are being) valued, and we need new, common asset institutions to better take these values into account.

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1. Introduction

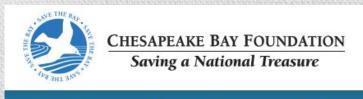
Ecosystems provide a range of services that are of fundamental importance to human well-being, health, livelihoods, and survival (Costanza et al., 1997; Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), 2005; TEEB Foundations, 2010; TEEB Synthesis, 2010). Interest in ecosystem services in both the research and policy communities has grown rapidly (Braat and de Groot, 2012; Costanza and Kubiszewski, 2012). In 1997, the value of global ecosystem services was estimated to be around US\$ 33 trillion per year (in 1995\$US), a figure significantly larger than global gross domestic product

(GDP) at the time. This admittedly crude underestimate of the welfare benefits of natural capital, and a few other early studies (Daily, 1997; de Groot, 1987; Ehrlich and Ehrlich, 1981; Ehrlich and Mooney, 1983; Odum, 1971; Westman, 1977) stimulated a huge surge in interest in this topic.

In 2005, the concept of ecosystem services gained broader attention when the United Nations published its Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA). The MEA was a four-year, 1300-scientist study for policymakers. Between 2007 and 2010, a second international initiative was undertaken by the UN Environment Programme, called the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) (TEEB Foundations, 2010). The TEEB report was picked up extensively by the mass media, bringing ecosystem services to a broader audience. Ecosystem services have now also entered the consciousness of mainstream media and business. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development has actively supported and developed the concept (WBCSD, 2011, 2012). Hundreds of projects and groups are currently working toward

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(S.J. Anderson), ida.kub@gmail.com (I. Kubiszewski), eofarb@pitt.edu (S. Farber), R.K.Turner)

Biome	Unit values			
	20079	S/ha/yr	Change	
	1997	2011	2011-1997	
Marine	796	1,368	572	
Open Ocean	348	660	312	
Coastal	5,592	8,944	3,352	
* Estuaries	31,509	28,916	-2,593	
* Seagrass/Algae Beds	26,226	28,916	2,690	
* Coral Reefs	8,384	352,249	343,865	
Shelf	2,222	2,222	0	
Terrestrial	1,109	4,901	3,792	
Forest	1,338	3,800	2,462	
Tropical	2,769	5,382	2,613	
Temperate/Boreal	417	3,137	2,720	
Grass/Rangelands	321	4,166	3,845	
* Wetlands	20,404	140,174	119,770	
* Tidal Marsh/Mangroves	13,786	193,843	180,057	
Swamps/Floodplains	27,021	25,681	-1,340	
Lakes/Rivers	11,727	12,512	785	
Desert	-	-	0	
Tundra	-	-	0	
Ice/Rock	-	-	0	
Cropland	126	5,567	5,441	
Urban	-	6,661	6,661	



About CBF

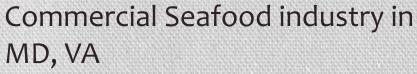
About the Bay

The Issues

Home > Issues > What We Have to Lose

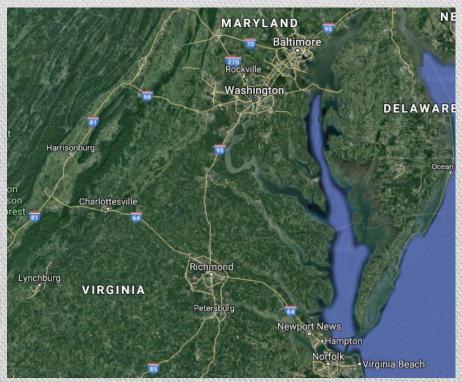
What We Have to Lose

Saving the Bay is Worth the Investment



- \$3.9 billion in sales
- \$890 million in income
- 34,000 jobs

Clean Water Act (1972) is estimated to have benefited the Chesapeake Bay by \$357.9 million to \$1.8 billion for recreational boating, fishing, and swimming alone.





Nature and wildlife tourist activities

\$674 million annually – over 50% of overall visitor spending
 12,914 jobs

VULTURES CLEAN UP CARCASSES WITH VULTURES > ONE HOUR They clean carcasses bare before disease spores can form WITHOUT VULTURES > A FEW DAYS They reduce the spread of diseases like Anthrax, Rabies, Tuberculosis, Botulism, Brucellosis

Diclofenac caused renal failure and death (up to 99.9% decline in vulture species)

Feral dogs filled niche = rabies 1

VULTURES ARE WORTH MILLIONS





A single vulture is worth over US \$ 11,000 dollars just for its cleaning services.

By halting the spread of disease, they are worth much, much more to governments in saved health service costs, not to mention tourism, etc.







We don't see the Value of an Ecosystem Service until it stops

VULTURES ARE WORTH MILLIONS





A single vulture is worth over US \$ 11,000 dollars just for its cleaning services.

By halting the spread of disease, they are worth much, much more to governments in saved health service costs, not to mention tourism, etc.



CORNELL CHRONICLE

Topics

Campus & Community

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Expert Quotes

Ezra Magazine

Insect pollinators contribute \$29 billion to U.S. farm income

By Krishna Ramanujan | May 22, 2012

66% from honeybee (\$19.14 million)

Begins to become a national security issue!







2013 government shut down (16 days)

cost \$ 500 million in lost revenue from tourism alone (\$31.25 million/day)

Assuming the same rate lost/day this 3 day shut lost \$93.75 million

Not to mention disruption to scientific research!

Bracken Bat Cave San Antonio, Tx

Saves south Texan cotton farmers \$740,000 per year

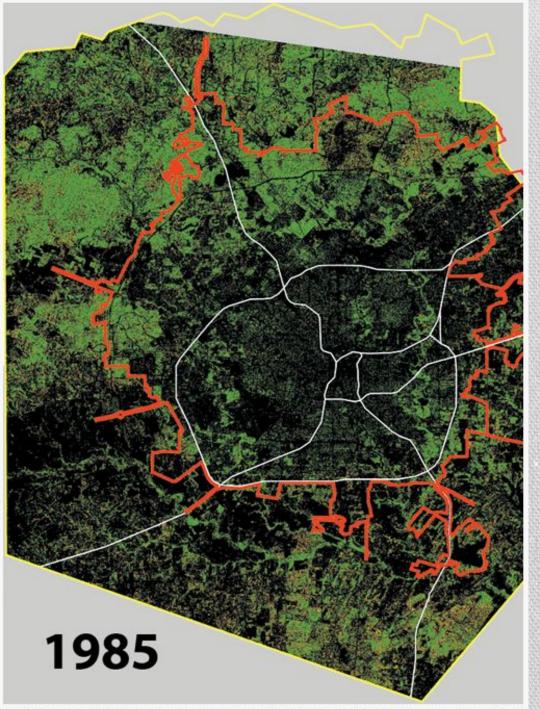
Worth \$3.7 billion in U.S. in reduced crop damage and pesticide use

- Bat Conservation International









Alamo Forest Partnership

Animation showing tree canony loss in Revar County 1985-2001. City limits are outlined in red



Animation showing tree canopy loss in Bexar County, 1985-2001. City limits are outlined in red



1985 – 2001 (16 year period)

Lost 45,000 acres of heavy tree canopy (22% of dense forest) potential for 3.7 million pounds of pollutants (value of \$8.9 million/yr)

storm water flow increased by an estimated <u>73 million cubic feet</u> est \$2/cubic foot to build a storm water system to mitigate that's a cost of \$146 million

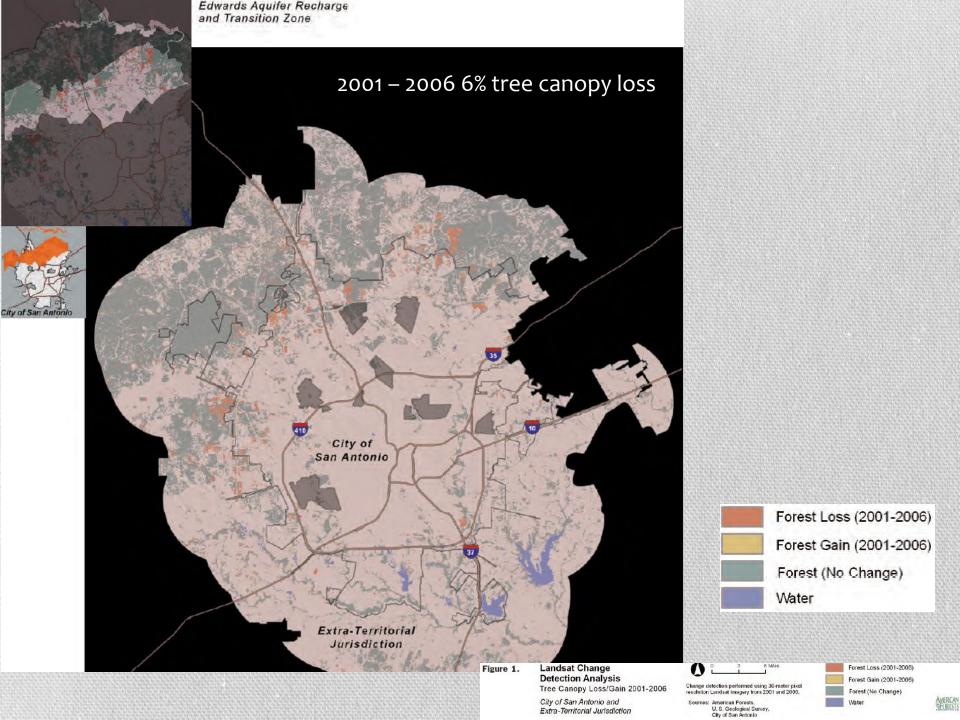




Table 2. San Antonio Change in Ecosystem Services as Measured with Landsat Data*

2001-2006	Tree Canopy Change	Loss of Air Pollution Removal	Loss of Air Pollution Removal Value dollar value	Loss in Stormwater Value	Loss in Stormwater Value @ \$.64/cu ft.	
	acres			cu. ft.	dollar value	
ETJ	-2,632	-295,714	-\$704,327	-93,036,121	-\$59,543,117	
COSA	-1,833	-205,968	-\$490,572	-57,957,865	-\$37,093,034	
EARZ	-3,207	-360,132	-\$857,757	-40,652,214	-\$26,017,417	

Incentives

Choose from 2 options to get your 50-gallon

SAWS Rain Barrel



MAXIMUM 2 RAIN BARREL COUPONS PER SAWS RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNT

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY RETAILER.



Notable Policies in San Antonio that protect ecosystem services

Edwards Aquifer Protection Program – City of San Antonio

Voter approved

1/8th of a cent addition to local sales tax to purchase sensitive properties over EA

Proposition 3 (2000) \$45 million

•Proposition 1 (2005, 2010, 2015) \$280 million

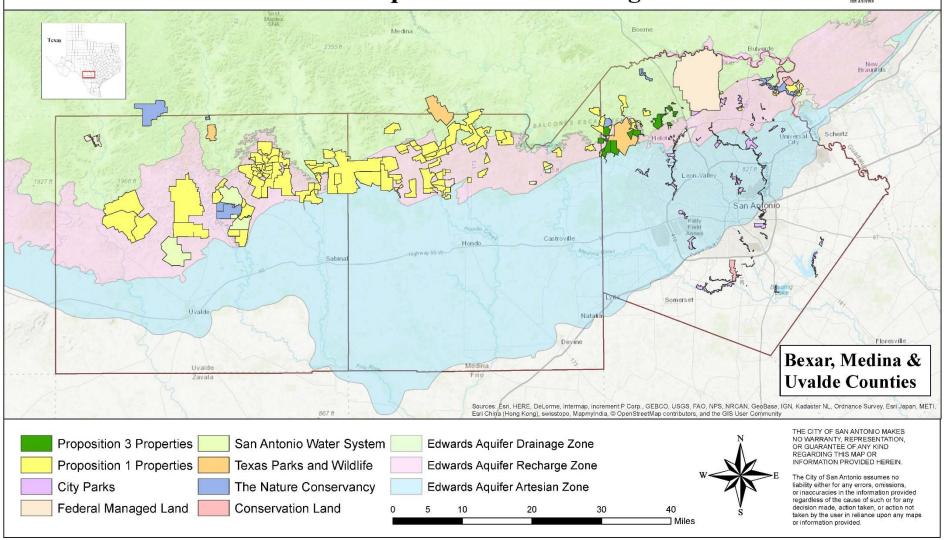
GRAND TOTAL: 160,330 acres





City of San Antonio Edwards Aquifer Protection Program





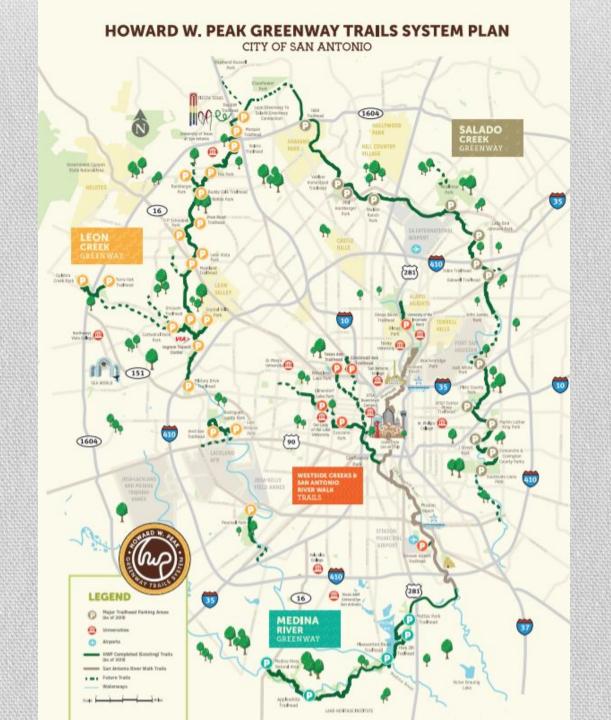
Notable Policies and initiatives in San Antonio that protect ecosystem services

- City of San Antonio Tree Preservation Ordinance
- Edwards Aquifer Authority Act (1993) passed in Texas Legislature
- San Antonio River Improvements Project



Ecosystem Services Urban Parks and City Trees

- Carbon Removal
- Soil Conservation
- Wildlife habitat
- Water control
- Air quality
- Health benefits
- Community enrichment
- Real estate values
- Business benefits
- Noise reduction



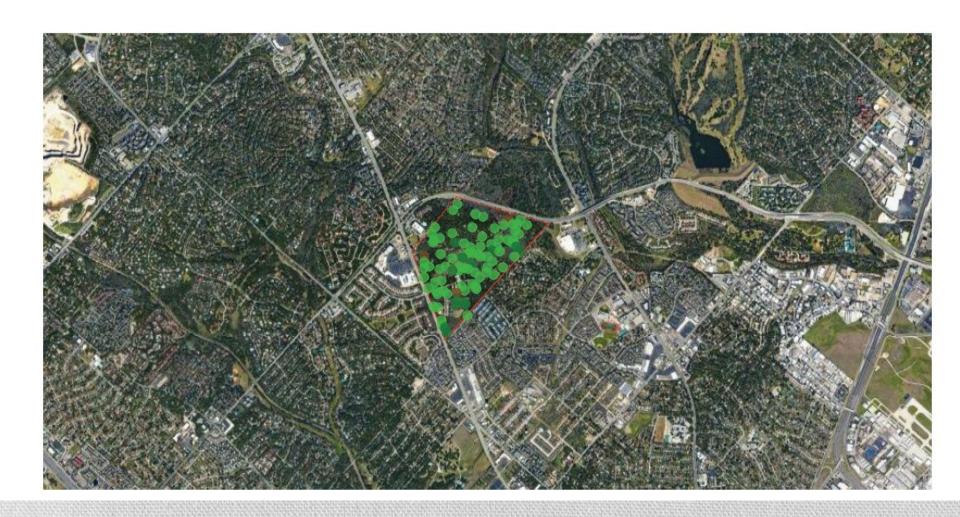
8/11/2020 i-Tree Canopy

i-Tree Canopy v7.0

Cover Assessment and Tree Benefits Report

Estimated using random sampling statistics on 8/11/2020





Tree Benefit Estimates: Carbon (English units)

Description	Carbon (T) ±SE		CO ₂ Equiv. (T)	±SE	Value (USD)	±SE
Sequestered annually in trees	227.38	±11.42	833.74	±41.89	\$38,781	±1,949
Stored in trees (Note: this benefit is not an annual rate)	5,710.47	±286.92	20,938.38	±1,052.04	\$973,924	±48,934

Currency is in USD and rounded. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Amount sequestered is based on 1.365 T of Carbon, or 5.005 T of CO_2 , per ac/yr and rounded. Amount stored is based on 34.281 T of Carbon, or 125.697 T of CO_2 , per ac and rounded. Value (USD) is based on \$170.55/T of Carbon, or \$46.51/T of CO_2 and rounded. (English units: T = tons (2,000 pounds), ac = acres)

Tree Benefit Estimates: Air Pollution (English units)

Abbr.	Description	Amount (lb)	±SE	Value (USD)	±SE
CO	Carbon Monoxide removed annually	150.20	±7.55	\$6	±0
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	819.01	±41.15	\$11	±1
O3	Ozone removed annually	8,157.02	±409.85	\$573	±29
SO2	Sulfur Dioxide removed annually	516.12	±25.93	\$2	±0
PM10*	Particulate Matter greater than 2.5 microns and less than 10 microns removed annually	2,732.30	±137.28	\$416	±21
PM2.5	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	396.36	±19.92	\$1,184	±60
Total		12,771.03	±641.67	\$2,192	±110

Currency is in USD and rounded. Standard errors of removal and benefit amounts are based on standard errors of sampled and classified points. Air Pollution Estimates are based on these values in lb/ac/yr @ \$/lb/yr and rounded:

CO 0.902 @ \$0.04 | NO2 4.917 @ \$0.01 | O3 48.968 @ \$0.07 | SO2 3.098 @ \$0.00 | PM10* 16.403 @ \$0.15 | PM2.5 2.379 @ \$2.99 (English units: lb = pounds, ac = acres)



"These things [species] count, whether or not there is anybody to do the counting"

Holmes Rolston III
 Philosopher and theologian who pioneered the field of environmental ethics and environmental philosophy

University Distinguished Professor Department of Philosophy Colorado State University

Resources

- teebweb.org
- Millenniumassessment.org
- http://www.aboutvalues.net/case studies/
- http://www.wbrcouncil.org/Departments/Mosquito-Abatement/Natural-Mosquito-Killers
- http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/abouthabitat/ecosystemservices.html
- https://www.greenfacts.org/en/biodiversity/figtableboxes/3011-ecological-surprises.htm
- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/analysis-the-economic-value-of-birds/
- iTreetools.org
- http://www.ecosystemvaluation.org/dollar_based.htm
- https://www.vox.com/2015/4/7/8352381/anthropocene-NASA-images
- http://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/about/news/2017/infographic-jayachandran-deforestation.html
- http://www.cbf.org/issues/what-we-have-to-lose/index.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/
- stedc.tamucc.edu/files/Tourism 2014.pdf
- Morgan, et al. 2001. Benefits of water quality policies: the Chesapeake Bay, *Ecological Economics*, Volume 39, Issue 2, November 2001, pp. 271-284.
- http://www.globalvaluexchange.org/valuations/8279e41d9e5eobd8499f5956
- https://news.mongabay.com/2005/11/developing-countries-pay-us-to-save-rainforests/