Social and Environmental Considerations, Resource Management, and the Sustainable Development Goals

Considering Connections

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WEEK 2024

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Natural Capital is defined as stocks of natural assets such as geology, soil, air, water, ecosystems, and all living things. Natural capital provides ecosystem services to us, such as food, water, fuel, medicine, climate regulation, flood and fire defense, carbon storage, and cultural inspiration that we receive.

A country is making progress toward SDG 12 if it is growing as it aspires to without degrading the environment.
Growth in Natural Capital per capita and GDP per capita (%), 1996-2018

Growth in natural capital per capita and GDP per capita (%), 1996-2018

Growth in GDP

Growth in Natural Capital

Data: World Bank (2021)
https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgatlas
Growth in Natural Capital per capita and GDP per capita (%), 1996-2018
Both of these Examples Illustrate the Importance of:

- Considering the social and environmental aspects of projects and policies involving natural resources – our natural capital
- Incorporating how people and natural landscapes interact with resources as we consider how to best utilize them
- Managing our natural resources to deliver economic and social wellbeing for people and industry for the long term, while also
- Ensuring that we maintain the health of our ecosystems
There’s more to it...

“...while the “nexus” [concept] has various key strengths, it fails to adequately acknowledge the environment as its irreplaceable foundation.”

The E-axis
And Other Ideas

- An E-Axis “Menu” focusing on 3 “E’s – equity, ecosystems, and economies
- Connect to other tools and frameworks
  - InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services & Tradeoffs)
  - The UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA)
- Use methods and consultants from the social sciences
- What are your ideas?
Thank you!

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Date 24 March 2024, Geneva