

A person wearing a green cap and dark clothing is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that winds through a dense, lush green forest. The trees and bushes are vibrant and appear to be in full bloom. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down the path.

When protected areas support local and national economies

Nigel Dudley
Natural Solutions, WCPA



The Dyfi
Biosphere
Reserve in Wales,
UK





The floodplain prevents downstream flooding – a ecosystem service from the protected area ...

... only a handful of people in the valley would see it that way





Bogota gets 80% of its drinking water from Chingaza National Park, worth millions of dollars every year, but most residents have no idea of this link

Governments know the value of ecosystem services in principle but seldom prioritise them over new roads, mines and agricultural development in practice...





Knowing that protected areas are not just “wasted space” but have their own economic benefits can be an important way of gaining support ...

... although it is dangerous to link all protected areas to economic benefits

The value of a penguin on the Great Coast Road in Australia



Some people
have profound
ethical
misgivings
about putting a
value on
nature.

For that matter
so do I; but I
have become
convinced that
sometimes it
can be a very
useful tactic





With support from the CBD, we are collecting a set of case studies of immediate economic benefits from protected areas...

...ignoring potential benefits, such as possible value of genetic materials from biodiversity



Economic values from protected areas vary in scale, security, sources of funding and particularly in who benefits



Iceland – nature-based tourism now
the largest contribution to GDP



Tanzania – tourism largest source of foreign exchange



However, far fewer people benefit from this money in Tanzania than they do in Iceland

Principles for Justice and Equity in Access to and Distribution of Benefits from Ecosystem Services in Protected Areas

In 2013, Finland's national parks earned €115.5 million total visitor spending and supported 1,484 jobs; of which €56.2 million and 716 jobs were the result of visitors solely or mainly attracted to the area because of the national park



This secured support from an otherwise unsympathetic government



Total revenue from Ranthambore National Park in India was estimated at US\$3,163,753 in 2011



Lake Skadar National Park in Montenegro produces over €4 million (US\$4.6 million) a year from fish production and honey alone.



In 2014, the pine nut harvest in Bikin National Park and surrounding reserves in Russia earned villagers around US\$60 million. Verified Carbon Standard funds to compensate for the Sochi Olympics' emissions earned over US\$550,000



A lush green forest scene with various types of trees. In the background, a large, flat-topped acacia tree stands prominently against a bright sky. The foreground is filled with dense foliage and tree trunks, creating a sense of depth and a vibrant natural environment.

Revenue earned from Bwindi National Park in Uganda supports the rest of the country's national system



▶ There are undoubtedly major economic benefits from many protected areas

▶ These often come in places where there are few other economic options

▶ They can build support from otherwise unsympathetic governments...

▶ ... but only build long lasting support for conservation if the values reach the people living in or near protected areas

▶ Not all protected areas can “pay their own way” and we must not over-emphasise economic values



<http://wcpa-naturalsolutions.com/>