Natural Capital Accounting in Mexico: Valuating Nature for Better Policymaking

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Background and context

1991
INEGI
WORLD BANK AND UNSD
Publication of pilot study: Environmental accounts and derived macroeconomic aggregates in Mexico, including Green GDP

1996
INEGI
System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA-MX)

SEEA-MX
SATELLITE ACCOUNTS
• Forest resources
• Ground water
• Soil degradation
• Solid waste
• Air & water pollution

TOTAL COSTS OF DEPLETION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, AS % OF GDP

NCAVES
NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
2017-2021
• Ecosystem accounting pilot project (SEEA-EA)
• Sponsored by the European Union, with technical support from UNSD and UN-Environment
• Participants: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa
NCAVES: Extension & condition accounts

Annual agriculture
Settlements
Oak forests
Semi-deciduous forest
Grasslands
Dry woody shrublands
Deciduous forest

Net changes, 2002 – 2014 (km²)

Ecological Integrity Index
1. Further research and development
   - Stronger links between physical & value accounts
   - Non-monetary concepts and methodologies
   - Geospatial dimension
   - Additional accounts and services (e.g. biodiversity, coastal protection)

2. Implementation
   - Institutionalization
   - Involvement of academia and business
   - Studies at local level
   - Policy scenario analyses
   - Links with other multilateral processes

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**Valuation of Ecosystem Services**

- **Sustainable and nature tourism**: 0.22%
- **Pollination**: 0.20%
- **Supply to agricultural production**: 1.00%
- **Carbon sequestration**: 0.15%
- **Water**: 0.05%
- **Carbon storage**: 1.49%
- **GDP**: 3.11%
IN CONCLUSION

• Mexico’s NCAVES experience demonstrates that the biophysical and economic components of ecosystems, and the services they provide, can be compiled into an ecosystem accounting framework.

• NCA matters. Ecosystem accounts are essential in decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.

• Evidence on the positive economic impacts of key decisions of sound environmental policies should guide Green Recovery efforts.
Thank you

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