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Using Ecosystem Services Valuation to Strengthen Integrated Landscape Management in Mexico's Watersheds

[Seminar Recording](#) | [Presentation](#)



There are strong links between the unsustainable conversion of land to meet growing agricultural demand and the collapse in ecosystem services essential to human well-being (such as water filtration and erosion control). Coupled with the impacts of climate change, this is increasing vulnerability and hampering the achievement of the poverty reduction and sustainable development objectives that are particularly critical in vulnerable and populated countries such as Mexico.



To tackle these pressing issues and support informed policy and decision-making, Mexico is working to scale-up ecosystem services valuation through the Mexico Connecting Watershed Health with Sustainable Livestock and Agroforestry Production Project (CONNECTA, P172079), financed by the [Global Environment Facility](#). Aiming to improve integrated landscape management (ILM) and promote climate-smart productive practices, CONECT is strengthening the technical and economic underpinnings of the ILM approach through a [Global Program on Sustainability](#) Technical Assistance Grant: Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services to Strengthen Integrated Landscape Management in Selected Watersheds in Mexico.

The seminar discussed how the [GPS](#) Grant is expected to promote the adoption of climate-smart practices by incorporating ecosystem services considerations into public policies and contribute to the design, development and implementation of ILM.

Speakers



María del Pilar Salazar Vargas is the Director of Environmental Economics and Natural Resources at the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), Government of Mexico. She has a Degree in Economics and a Master's Degree in integrated environmental management. Pilar has collaborated in economic, environmental and climate research projects at the federal level and in academia and monitoring of corporate environmental responsibility in the aeronautical sector. Her experience covers monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to climate change, environmental economics, climate finance, economic valuation of ecosystem services, socioeconomic analysis of adaptation to climate change and design of business models for sustainability in artisanal productive activities. She has several own and institutional publications, including a book "Social vulnerability due to the decrease in water supply in the Federal District" and reports supporting the monitoring of the international climate change agenda and adaptation actions in Mexico.



Debora Lithgow is a Researcher at the Ecology Institute (INECOL) in Xalapa, Veracruz. Her research focuses on the design of strategies to recover key ecosystem services. Therefore, she specializes in decision-making systems, valuation of ecosystem services, and Nature-Based Solutions. Debora has participated in more than 20 articles, 14 books, and ten chapters. Her research has been recognized by co-receiving the Miguel Urquijo award, granted by the College of Engineers of Mexico for her contributions to finding management solutions from a multidisciplinary approach, and she is a member of the National System of Researchers of Mexico.



Juan Jose Miranda is a Senior Environmental Economist at the World Bank, where he started in 2013. He holds a PhD in Economics at Georgia State University with focus on environmental, behavioral and development economics. He leads analytical work on impact evaluation, conducts policy research and provides analytical economic support on sustainable development issues. Juan Jose has published in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, The American Journal of Political Science, and American Economic Review (P&P), among others.



Tuuli Bernardini is a Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank, where she started in 2009. Currently based in Mexico City, she works as a Task Team Leader of three landscape projects in Mexico and Colombia and leads the environmental management of the World Bank portfolio in Mexico. Tuuli has over 15 years of experience in working on climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental and increasingly also social risk management, and integrated landscape management. She has worked on projects across all sectors in 14 LAC countries and led environmental projects also in Argentina and Nicaragua. Prior to joining the WB, she worked as a Climate Change Specialist at the GEF Secretariat.