

(2022 July 12) Market-based economics doesn't value nature, a cause of climate extinction (UN)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/11/humans-value-nature-survive-un-report-a-ge-of-extinction>

This new report from the UN biodiversity division validates with statements of top scientists backed up by thousands of studies what many of us have been saying for decades: that the official governmental way of evaluating environmental conditions and impacts is not at all unbiased but is skewed in favor of commercial exploitation largely because the metrics for evaluation are based on typically short-term business models intrinsically geared to profit-making, and so undervalue or simply ignore the literally invaluable benefits of nature, the spiritual, cultural and emotional contributions non-human being provides.

For example: despite study after study showing that cattle grazing in general and in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) in particular is detrimental to the environmental health of arid lands ecosystems, the BLM continues to permit grazing on the SPRNCA, basing its decisions (which are in opposition to the majority of public opinion and to the SPRNCA enabling legislation) on a definition of natural resources and what in the jargon are called "ecological services," as economic resources and benefits in the narrow profit-based sense.

Here, the BLM is in accord with most federal, state and local agencies, all of which are tied to profit-driven definitions of natural resources so that their environmental impact statements inexorably favor economic development and human use while devaluing protection of and benefits to the natural resources themselves and the less-easily quantifiable benefits.

Although the rights of nature concept is growing worldwide, and the indigenous understanding of reciprocity between the human and non-human is becoming recognized more widely, most government agencies, like the business interests they are linked to, continue to operate on the destructive models of exploitation and non-sustainable development that have brought us to the climate catastrophe we now face.

As conservationists, environmental activists, indigenous peoples and earth scientists have been telling ears deaf to all but endless-growth narratives, sustainability requires our valuing the world we live in qualitatively as well as quantitatively, knowing and acting upon the knowledge that the web of life functions on the basis of give-and-take steady state (homeostatic) models, not the more-more- more me-me-me model of traditional fundamentalist economics which has become the de facto state religion of contemporary techno-civilization.