

Discussion on the correlation between professional characteristics and willingness to pay for ecosystem services

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Abstract

Most decision-making processes would take the economic practice as the core component. To recent years, more and more decision-making processes have centered the environmental consideration as one of the major components because of raising awareness and concern of climate change. This study continues the previous published results to simulate the effects of ecosystem services by climate change, and further to conduct a trial to quantify the change. Based on provided new information, we use the Contingent Valuation Method to explore the non-market value of ecosystem service functions.

Through a questionnaire survey to collect expert opinions in the fields of water resources, ecological engineering, and social sciences, we aim to understand the willingness of experts to pay for maintaining ecosystem service functions and the due level they are willing to pay. The correlation between personal experience and professional fields as well as their willingness are statistically analyzed. Our result shows that income and willingness to pay are positively correlated. In addition, the average willingness to pay for experts who have experienced the participation in ecosystem service related research projects is higher than those who have no experience in related research projects. This result allows us be more thoughtful in planning the integration of climate-change related ecosystem services into our decision-making process.

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