

Valuing biodiversity for access and benefit sharing considerations

Calvin R. Bernard
Department of Biology
UG-RSERG (Convener)
ISSRNC (Board Member)

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Outline

- Introduction
- Two worlds collide
- Current dominant value system
- Significance of intrinsic value of nature
- An example of intrinsic value applied
- Alternatives to utilitarian or economic benefits
- Recommendations for consideration

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Introduction

- Life requires functioning systems
- Resource definitions are too narrow
 - Only components and processes in systems that directly benefit humans
- Long term sustainability impossible under narrow view
- Basic assumptions:
 - Access not guaranteed
 - Terms of access not set
 - Appropriate benefits must be determined



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Indigenous humans and the 'new world'

- Reason for coming to the 'new world'?
 - Natural movement for survival
- Dominant world view?
 - Animism
- Interactions with nature
 - Extraction and transformation restricted to needs
 - Cyclic patterns
 - Respect for the right of other life to exist




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Europeans and the 'new world'

- Reason for coming to the 'new world'?
 - Exploration for world dominance and wealth accumulation
- Dominant world view?
 - Anthropocentrism
- Interactions with nature
 - Unrestricted extraction, transformation and destruction
 - Control of natural processes
 - Domination of other life forms



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Current dominant value system – Anthropocentrism

- Spatial dominance
 - Premium on land ownership
 - Machinery
 - View of other life forms
- Cultural dominance
 - Spatial dominance
 - ‘Education’
 - Religion
- CBD as an example:
 - “... with actual or potential use or value for humanity.”



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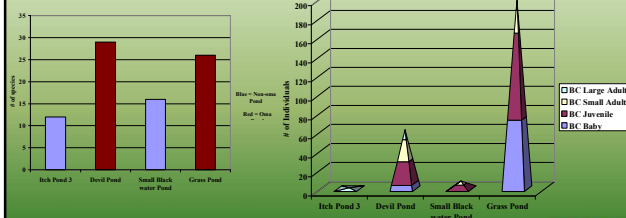
Intrinsic value

- Refers to the value of a thing in its own right as an end in itself
 - Usually focuses on the collective, i.e. all jaguars rather than an individual animal
- Recognizes: 1. value beyond human use; and, 2. not all values can be measured
- Requires consideration of the rights of a component or process in nature to persist
- Traditions implicitly reinforce intrinsic value for nature
- All religions support intrinsic value for nature



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Intrinsic value and resources



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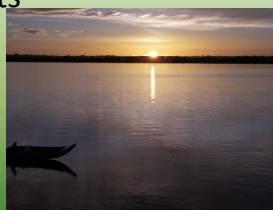


Intrinsic value applied



Alternatives to utilitarian or economic benefits

- Targeted research
- Collaborative research
- Knowledge sharing
- Informal training
- Technology transfer
- Formal education



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Recommendations

- Have long term vision based on shared values of the community
- Know that status of traditional systems in your communities and to what extent they support your vision
- Consider the impact of every application for access to your genetic resources and knowledge
- Grant access under specific terms
- Negotiate specific benefits at individual, group and community levels
- Understand national level systems that relate to ABS
- Have systems for intercommunity decision making

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