

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/81788> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Schild, J.E.M.

Title: The monetary valuation of water-related ecosystem services

Issue Date: 2019-12-11

Propositions

accompanying the thesis 'Monetary valuation of water-related ecosystem services'

by Johanna Schild

1. Estimating the monetary value of ecosystems is as ambiguous as estimating the monetary value of human life. (This thesis)
2. Although the intrinsic value of ecosystems is incommensurable, the use value of ecosystems – be it for (in)direct, optional or non-use ends – can be approximated in monetary terms. (Chapter 2)
3. When decisions are based on the monetary valuation of ecosystem services, ecologists should not look away but critically evaluate whether it is valid in ecological terms. (Chapters 2 and 4)
4. For the selection of the methodological approach to estimate the value of ecosystems, it holds that: *“the end cannot justify the means, for the simple and obvious reason that the means employed determine the nature of the ends produced”* (Aldous Huxley). (Chapters 2, 3 and 4)
5. The monetary value of ecosystems should not be the dominant logic in environmental policy making, neither should money in general be the quintessential value in public decision making. (Gómez-Baggethun et al., 2010)
6. Every scientist who is aware of the climate crisis should call out to politicians, the private sector and the general public: *“those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act”* (Albert Einstein). (IPCC, 2018)
7. Although climate change is the most urgent matter of our time, also land degradation and biodiversity loss require action to keep our planet habitable. (Reynolds et al., 2007; Johnson et al., 2017)
8. The recently-observed, large decline in insect biomass should be a wake-up call for initiating and scaling up nature-based solutions, amongst others in agriculture, the built environment and water management. (Hallmann et al., 2017)
9. Being one of the sole survivors of the mass extinction at the Earth Sciences and Economics group is less fortunate than it may seem.
10. The ‘publish or perish’ paradigm in current academia cuts short academic novelty and creativity.
11. The scientific debate in the Netherlands can be greatly enriched by a better representation of Dutch society in academia in particularly in terms of ethnicity and gender.
12. The accuracy of water quality perceptions suggests that women should rule the world. (Chapter 5)