

Abstract

The environment is the essential basis for human existence, for providing basic needs and for achieving health, prosperity and well-being. Yet the value of natural resources is often not fully reflected in political and economic decisions. One way in which this can be achieved is by seeking to place a monetary value on a healthy environment.

This bachelor thesis focuses on the possibilities of expressing the value of a healthy environment through monetary valuation. The thesis describes the importance of the environment and ecosystems to humans using the concept of ecosystem services and its link to the provision of human well-being and health. It also discusses different types of value, including an economic perspective on the value of nature and its inclusion in societal decision-making processes. The main part of the thesis analyses different approaches to monetising the value of a healthy environment and explores the application of these methods in deciding between different alternatives, understanding the dynamics of decision-making processes and quantifying the benefits to human well-being. It concludes with a discussion of the limitations and critical reflection on the use of these methods.

The thesis provides a comprehensive perspective on the issue of environmental valuation and highlights the complexities and challenges associated with monetizing the value of ecosystems.