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| Op-ed published in the *Financial Times* on June 26, 2023, written by Heather Grabb, an academic. | Review (of a study from the science journal *Nature*) posted on the website of the University of York in August 2023. | Excerpt of *Nature*, an essay written by R.W. Emerson in 1849 | Cartoon posted on the website of the Green Finance Observatory, an independent think-tank. |
| Despite the larger costs entailed by the consequences of climate change, governments are slow to take action, because of their short-term, election-oriented vision. | Nature is undervalued in current political decisions that focus on the marketable assets rather than on non-market values. | Society mimics the way nature offers many services to man. The purpose of work and of occupations/trades is to offer similar services with increased comfort and consistency. | Nature is being reduced in a caricatural way to its marketable assets (denunciation of this phenomenon). |
| - In June, the EU created an economic security strategy to respond to various dangers, which acknowledged that interdependence and non-diversification were actually threats.<br>- H. Grabb criticises the strategy for being too little, very late since these threats have grown and gone ignored for decades but also because the strategy fails to address the huge cost of destroying nature.<br>- This is due to the way capitalism works. Capitalism doesn't value natural capital. As a consequence, the economy cannot protect the environment.<br>- This is also linked to democracy itself: because these issues take a long time to deal with and entail a cost on the electorate, national leaders are reluctant to implement unpopular measures that would safeguard nature but could undermine their chances of being reelected. Thus, the costs of inaction remain untold to the public.<br>- H. Grabb asserts that this is exactly why the EU should address the problem, that affects all Europeans. | - The environmental crisis that humans are currently undergoing is linked to an undervaluation of nature.<br>- In the current political and economic framework, nature is understood as the provider of a range of services and goods that have market value. This prevents lawmakers from implementing regulation to address the crisis.<br>- Furthermore, most of the time, the worldviews and values of Indigenous peoples are not included in decision-making, leading to their marginalisation, despite their frequently having a safeguarding role of biodiversity in their territories.<br>- Thus, a change of paradigm is needed, values have to shift so that the focus is on acknowledging, in the law as well, that the value of nature goes beyond its marketable goods, to promote change in the institutions and economic practices, in order to align the latter with sustainability.<br>- The study is praised for supporting recent efforts to promote more respect and inclusivity, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. | - Natural processes and cycles work in harmony and man can benefit from these cycles without interfering with them.<br>- However, man can recreate these cycles artificially in order to reap their rewards without waiting for nature to complete the cycle. Thus, society mimics the services that nature provides. Thus, work and technology are ways to achieve that; from book-shop keepers to postmen, society has found a way to ensure the profit of man. The steam engine is compared to Aeolus's bag. Other comparisons with birds to refer to the (much improved) speed of the animal-powered coaches.<br>- This benefit is not meant for man to be idle; on the opposite Emerson argues that its design is to feed men so that they work. | The comic is divided into two boxes: one features the illustration of a forest with a deer in the middle. The style of the drawing is realistic. It represents 'nature.'<br>In the second box, entitled 'natural capital,' however, the style is that of a caricature. The same scene is represented very differently. Each tree that is represented in the box on the left is also drawn here but, in a bag, ready to be transported and with the label 'ecosystem service 1.' The grass has another number and the deer is labeled with a species number. Its eyelids are low, thus suggesting that the deer is quite jaded about this situation and emphasising its absurdity.<br>- The cartoon aims at denouncing the approach of nature that reduces it to its marketable value. |

**TYPE CENTRALE**

The value of nature in a capitalist system

In the midst of the sixth wave of mass extinction of species, it appears more urgent than ever to bring political responses to the issue. Yet, as Heather Grabb argues in an opinion piece published in the *Financial Times* on June 26, 2023, there is no strong political will to do so. This happens despite calls for a different approach made in a study reviewed by the University of York on its website last August. The cynical representation of natural capital drawn in a cartoon posted on the website of the Green Finance Observatory contrasts with the assertion by Emerson, in his 1849 essay *Nature*, that nature has much to offer to men. This diversity of viewpoints prompts one to wonder how the capitalist interpretation of nature underestimates its true worth.

**First**, the worth of nature is determined in the capitalist system by its marketable value. Heather Grabb explains that in the euro area, many companies rely heavily on natural resources. Just like in the cartoon, these resources are labeled 'ecosystem services.' The cost of the loss of these services because of climate change should be anticipated and made clear to the electorate, according to her. The academics of the University of York also blame current decision-makers for being too focused on the marketable value of nature. The cartoon offers an ironical insight on the issue by literally labeling trees and animals with numbers and also bagging them to transport and sell them more easily.

**Indeed**, nature offers a number of resources and services that men use for various purposes, but chiefly for economic profit. Emerson describes the way natural processes and cycles work in harmony so that man can benefit from these cycles without interfering with them, but also the way in which society has shaped itself around the reproduction of these processes so that man does not have to wait for nature to run its course to benefit from its resources. Men use nature for their own profit, just like the cartoon represents, especially in the second box labeled 'natural capital.' This utilitarian view of nature is denounced by the authors of the review, as it is currently deterring lawmakers from making decisions that would protect nature, instead of simply focusing on its potential for profit.

**Thus**, some documents also call for a different, more sustainable approach, and call out political leaders for their lack of action in that regard. The study reviewed by the researchers of York University calls for a more inclusive view of politics, that would take into consideration Indigenous peoples, for they often live in harmony with their environment and tend to have sustainable ways of life. A change in economic practices and decision-making is advocated for here, but also by Heather Grabb, who blames national leaders for being too focused on the short term. According to her, this is due to their short mandates, which lead them to make decisions to please their electorate, with their reelection in mind. This is why she thinks transnational organisations such as the EU should be better equipped to address these issues, and she blames the latest security strategy designed by the EU for failing to address this dangerous, counterproductive focus on 'natural capital,' also denounced in the cartoon.

550 words

**TYPE X/ENS**

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**To conclude**, the documents under scrutiny show that men tend to have a utilitarian view of nature, which shapes society and institutions and drives them towards a profit-centered approach, which in turn leads to the destruction of the very assets that mankind needs to thrive.

619 words

**TYPE CCINP**

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**To conclude,** men tend to have a utilitarian view of nature, which shapes institutions and drives them towards a profit-centered approach, which in turn leads to the destruction of the very assets that mankind needs to thrive.

429 words