

Several questions about the ecological loss concept in the socio-economic context

Viet-Phuong La

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In Nguyen Minh Hoang's doctoral dissertation, entitled "Exploring the Involvement of Urban Residents in Biodiversity Conservation within Protected Areas: Empirical Findings from Vietnam," the primary focus of the mentioned inquiry is thoroughly examined [1].

Regarding the inference results and the analytics applied to the data, they all underwent peer review, gained approval from editorial boards, and were officially published [2-3].

The dissertation's author also concurs with the analysis and findings of the thesis [1], which have effectively integrated the constituent results, as evidenced by documentary sources [2] and [3].

The screenshot shows the journal article page for "Predictors of support for biodiversity loss countermeasure and bushmeat consumption among Vietnamese urban residents" by Minh-Hoang Nguyen and Thomas E. Jones. The article is published in Conservation Science and Practice, Volume 4, Issue 12, December 2022, e12822. The abstract states: "Biodiversity loss is happening at an unprecedented rate, especially in countries like Vietnam, with rich biodiversity and a high population growth rate. One of the main causes of biodiversity loss in Vietnam is the unsustainable bushmeat consumption rate in urban areas. To help mitigate the demand for bushmeat, this study aims to examine the associations between biodiversity loss perceptions, perception toward the prohibition of illegal wildlife consumption, and bushmeat consumption behaviors among urban residents in Vietnam. The investigation employed the Bayesian Mindsponge Framework (BMF)—an analytical framework that combines the strengths of the mindsponge mechanism and Bayesian inference to facilitate investigation into psychological and behavioral issues—on 535 respondents from urban areas across Vietnam (mostly in the...". The page also includes a search bar, login/register options, and a recommended articles section.

In this context, two questions arise from reflections upon reading R. L. Nuwer's book "Poached: Inside the Dark World of Wildlife Trafficking" [4]. This book is also cited in the dissertation [1].

Question 1: Is there a possibility that policies and information related to animals and plants in protected areas, which reflects a declining "supply" of natural products, stimulate curiosity and the tendency to "experience"?

Question 2: If the answer to the preceding question is yes (either partially or entirely), could there be a shift from "consumption driven by personal needs" to "consumption driven by fear

of future unavailability,” where people may believe they won’t have another chance to experience? If it happens this way, there can be severe consequences since it represents a consumption trend that damages the environment, regardless of awareness of ecological consequences.

Nuwer’s book [4] depicts instances of the consumption of rare and wild animals locally. Nevertheless, it also highlights a practice often referred to as “Bait and Switch” (treo đầu dê, bán thịt chó), where claims are made regarding dishes containing rare wild animals, although in reality, such dishes do not exist. This tactic is merely employed to allure customers to “try and experience.”

However, similar to the analysis of [1], the above issues come under the value system of consumption culture and the propensity of value-shifting, with many similarities to the Duesenberry effect [5]. If the two previously indicated questions are answered, the value of [1-3] will be enhanced and translated into insights suggesting environmental policies with more practical meaning.

I look forward to reading articles that address the new answers mentioned above someday.

References

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- [2] Nguyen, M. H., & Jones, T. E. (2022). Predictors of support for biodiversity loss countermeasure and bushmeat consumption among Vietnamese urban residents. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 4(12), e12822.
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- [5] Chính, P. M., & Hoàng, V. Q. (2009). *Kinh tế Việt Nam: Thăng trầm và đột phá*. Nxb Chính trị Quốc gia.