

RESEARCH BRIEF

Valuing the unvalued recreational ecosystem services in developing cities of sub-Saharan Africa: urban parks in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Being mostly rural, Dar es Salaam has always been characterized by greenery and more recently by green space development. However, the values of these spaces are often not known. Note that these unknown values are common to sub-Saharan Africa. In order to make informed decisions in the management of these spaces, it is important that the values are assessed and documented. In this study, we do so by estimating the economic value of recreational parks in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This is achieved by surveying a random sample of households in Dar es Salaam chosen to be representative of all the different districts of the city. This survey asked residents how much they would be willing to pay for different kinds of parks. We found that residents place a fairly value on nature parks. As for neighborhood parks, they are more willing to pay if they are close to their homes.



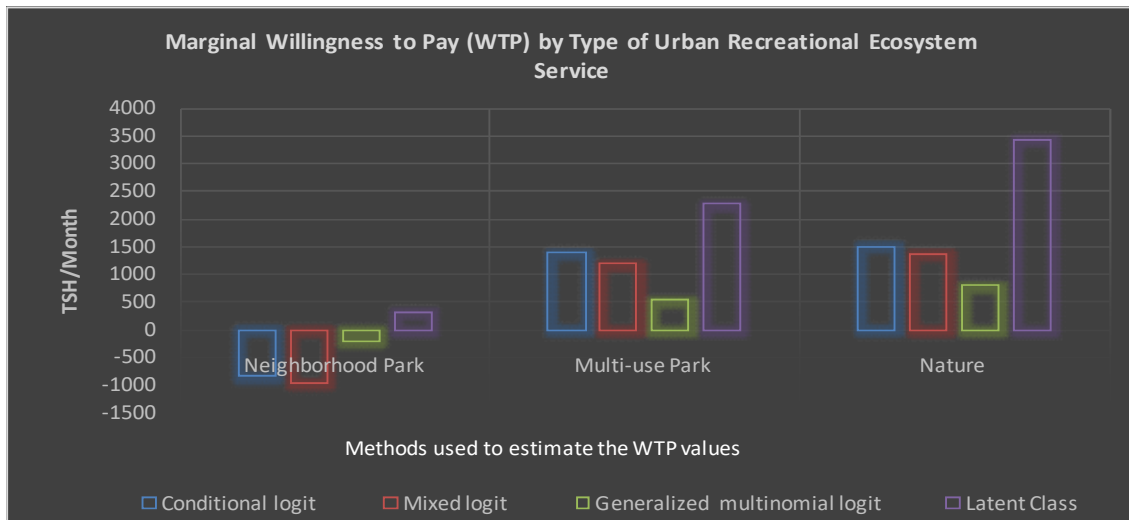
Urban recreational ecosystem services

- Urban recreational ecosystem services are declining in sub-Saharan Africa. With the rapidly spreading urbanisation, which continues to occur, this will further worsen the pressure on these services.
- Urban recreational ecosystem services are benefits we derive from ecosystems, such as urban forests. A continuous supply is crucial for sustainable urban development and human wellbeing.
- Despite the global recognition of this need, there is slow paced interest in recreational ecosystem services in many cities of sub-Saharan Africa.



Our results

- Our findings show that the marginal willingness to pay is highest for nature parks, followed by multi-use parks and neighborhood parks.
- The willingness to pay for neighborhood parks decreases as distance increases. That is, the marginal willingness to pay for nature parks ranges between US\$0.40 – US\$0.79 per month. Households are willing to pay US\$0.27 – US\$0.69 per month for multi-use parks. For neighbourhood parks, this value is \$0.10 - US\$0.47.



- This study adds to the growing body of literature by providing evidence from a developing region where urban recreational ecosystem services are limited and offers information to facilitate sustainable green urban planning in Tanzania.



About the brief

- This brief is based on “Valuing recreational ecosystem services in developing cities: The case of urban parks in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania” by Byela Tibesigwa, Herbert Ntuli, and Razack Lokina
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2020.102853>

Further reading

- Byela Tibesigwa, Razack Lokina, Fred Kasalirwe, Richard Jacob, Julieth Tibanywana, and Gabriel Makuka. In Search of Urban Recreational Ecosystem Services in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
<https://www.efdinitiative.org/publications/search-urban-recreational-ecosystem-services-dar-es-salaam-tanzania>

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- This paper is an output of the Ecosystem Services Accounting for Development (ESaFD) project, conducted by the Environment for Development (EfD) initiative and the Swedish EPA, and funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- See EfD Natural Capital Collaborative (NatCap)
- <https://www.efdinitiative.org/natural-capital-collaborative-natcap>



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