

**WILEY ONLINE LIBRARY** >> SEARCH BY  
**ADVANCED SEARCH** over 5 million articles  
Journals | Books | Databases | Lab Protocols

- Titles
- Authors
- Keywords
- References
- Funding Agencies

# The Equity and Legitimacy of Markets for Ecosystem Services

1. Esteve Corbera<sup>1</sup>,
2. Katrina Brown<sup>2</sup>,
3. W. Neil Adger<sup>3</sup>

Article first published online: 25 JUL 2007

DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x

Issue



## Development and Change

Volume 38, Issue 4, ([/doi/10.1111/dech.2007.38.issue-4/issuetoc](https://doi.org/10.1111/dech.2007.38.issue-4/issuetoc)) pages 587–613, July 2007

Additional Information

### How to Cite

Corbera, E., Brown, K. and Adger, W. N. (2007), The Equity and Legitimacy of Markets for Ecosystem Services. *Development and Change*, 38: 587–613. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x

### Author Information

- 1 Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia
- 2 School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia
- 3 School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia

The authors would like to thank the anonymous referees of this journal for helpful comments on an earlier version of this article, and acknowledge the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research for financial support under the programme on international development.

## Publication History

1. Issue published online: 25 JUL 2007
2. Article first published online: 25 JUL 2007

- Abstract
- [Article \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/full\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/full)
- [References \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/references\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/references)
- [Cited By \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/citedby\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/citedby)

[View Full Article \(HTML\) \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/full\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/full) [Get PDF \(172K\) \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/pdf\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/pdf)

## ABSTRACT

Markets for ecosystem services are being promoted across the developing world, amidst claims that the provision of economic incentives is vital to bring about resource conservation. This article argues that equity and legitimacy are also critical dimensions in the design and implementation of such markets, if social development goals beyond economic gains are to be achieved. The article examines this issue by focusing on two communities involved in a project for carbon sequestration services of forests in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The perceived legitimacy of the activities and the distribution of economic outcomes and project-related information are found to be mediated by organizational allegiances and the history of social relations regarding access to property and forest resources. Political affiliation determines the project's legitimacy, while the poorest farmers and women have been excluded from project design and implementation. The authors argue that pitfalls such as these contribute to reinforcing existing power structures, inequities and vulnerabilities, and suggest that this is a product of the nature of emerging markets. Markets for ecosystem services are, in effect, limited in promoting more legitimate forms of decision making and a more equitable distribution of their outcomes.

[View Full Article \(HTML\) \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/full\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/full) [Get PDF \(172K\) \(/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/pdf\)](/doi/10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x/pdf)

## More content like this

Find more content:

- [like this article \(/advanced/search/results?articleDoi=10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x&scope=allContent&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](/advanced/search/results?articleDoi=10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00425.x&scope=allContent&start=1&resultsPerPage=20)

Find more content written by:

- [Esteve Corbera \(/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria\[0\].queryString='Esteve Corbera'&searchRowCriteria\[0\].fieldName=author&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria[0].queryString='Esteve Corbera'&searchRowCriteria[0].fieldName=author&start=1&resultsPerPage=20)

- [Katrina Brown \(/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria\[0\].queryString="Katrina Brown"&searchRowCriteria\[0\].fieldName=author&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria[0].queryString=)
- [W. Neil Adger \(/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria\[0\].queryString="W. Neil Adger"&searchRowCriteria\[0\].fieldName=author&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria[0].queryString=)
- [All Authors \(/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria\[0\].queryString="Esteve Corbera" "Katrina Brown" "W. Neil Adger"&searchRowCriteria\[0\].fieldName=author&start=1&resultsPerPage=20\)](/advanced/search/results?searchRowCriteria[0].queryString=)