

Call for an MSc research project

Commons and markets: best enemies forever?

Requisite: Student of the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (MEISAES, ICTA-UAB) or alike. She/he must be fluent in English. Knowledge on basic database management statistical data analysis will be valued. She/he must be willing to do mostly desk work.

Research context: In the last few decades, the scope of management solutions for environmental problems has increased substantially. The old trichotomy of governance by government, governance by markets and governance by communities has been replaced by a new interest in hybrid solutions in the recognition that no single governance mode possesses the capabilities to address the multiple facets, interdependencies, and scales of current environmental problems. This paper takes stock on experiences that combine community and market-based solutions. We approach the matter through three vantage points: (1) the coexistence of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) systems and market economies at large (e.g., the influence of market dynamics on CBNRM, the emergence of collective certification labels and buying/selling cooperatives); (2) the introduction of competition in community-based natural resource management systems (e.g., water markets across water user associations in the irrigation sector, tradable concessions between forest communities and other actors in the forest sector); and (3) the involvement of communities in the management of market-based instruments (e.g., community-based payments for ecosystem services, pooled transferable quotas in the fisheries sector)

Description & Objectives: Based on a bibliometric analysis and a qualitative meta-analysis of existing case studies the student will develop a database that will be the basis for quantitative and qualitative analysis to assess the merits and promise of hybrid community-market solutions to natural resource management.

Technical details: The thesis will be directed by Sergio Villamayor-Tomas (ICTA) and another co-supervisor chosen with the student. We expect that a revised version of the MSc Thesis is published in a reputed journal.

If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact
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