

ABSTRACT

Wetland ecosystems are among the most productive ecosystems on the Earth's surface. They are thriving ecosystems that have the ability to support a wide range of flora and fauna and sustain the well-being of the dependent biota. Their public-good characteristic often results in them being undervalued and receiving less consideration in decisions related to their usage and conservation. The present study focusses on a recent assessment of the value of prioritized wetlands in Tamil Nadu (Venkatachalam, 2022) to analyze patterns and factors influencing the valuation. In this study, the monetary value of prioritized wetlands of Tamil Nadu is re-estimated using a set of benefit transfer values sourced from India-specific studies to reassess the range of the values. The study examined the socio-economic factors affecting the willingness to pay (WTP) for the conservation of wetlands. The results based on statistical analysis suggest that apart from wetland area and literacy rate, other socio-economic factors have no statistically significant influence on the WTP. For a careful assessment of WTP function, future research may use micro-level data on WTP, so as to identify appropriate policy interventions for the conservation of wetlands.

Keywords: *wetland, ecosystem services, monetary valuation, benefit transfer method (BTM), willingness to pay (WTP)*

JEL codes: C21, C87, Q51, Q57