**ENVIROMENTAL VALUATION – AN OVERVIEW**

**AUSTIN OTEGBULU PhD, FNIVS, RSV**

**INTRIDUCTION**

Environmental valuation deals with the valuation of environmental goods and services, in relation to the utility they provide.

Environmental goods and services are the biogeochemical process, attributes or the products there of that relate to the self-maintenance of an ecosystem provision if wild life habitat, cycling of carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, sulphur, water or the tripping of nutrients and make the basis of sustenance as well as property to the human society. Only some environmental goods and services have markets, and therefore prices of only few of them are available as data.

These prices are only the indicators of the mineral payment at which the consumers and producers have agreed to enter into transactions.

( Mishra 1998) it could be said that environmental goods and services are partially priced in the market as their worth include these unaccounted surplus, but their prices do not generally reflect their worth (Mishra1998). Environmental valuation is a veritable tool for decision and policy making.

Decision makers need to understand how and where economic valuation can support their decision. There is currently a gap in the knowledge about the fuel contribution natural assets to Nigeria | global economic.

Wellbeing: this creates a risk that natural resources will be undervalued Ecosystem and the valuable services they provide will be lost or environmental assets can fill the knowledge gap.

What constitute natural asset.

Natural asset include land (or fragment of land) in an unmodified natural state, river, lake and marine fire share, and species found on them.

It includes highly tangible resources such as mineral deposit and Len tangible resources such as clean air.

Viewing thing as asset is partly semantic but it has the important function of focusing the mind on natural resources as stocks or stores of value. They have value because they produce beneficial services.

We also have Man made asset like road, drainages, electricity etc. All these constitute environments asset. The value of these assets is best explained in term of the services they produce. When viewed from the perspective of services provision it clear that environmental assets have an economic value. Natural asset produced commodities that are valued in the markets or perform functions that would be costly to obtain in the absence of their ecological provision.

It is relatively

Environmental asset dos not restrict the values of ecosystem services to the kind of value found in money and markets.

The value of environmental assets and their service ton people can take a number of forms. The total economic value of natural assets comprises use values, future use values and non-use values.

Total

Economic value

Non- use value

Use value

Existence value

Direct use- consumption Non -consumption

Indirect use value

Option and Bequest value

USE VALUES

Direct use value – commercial of timber, tourism, fruit etc. noncommercial recreation, health and safety.

Indirect use- (functioned) values, most of related to environmental services that support or protect economic production consumption or asset (ie regulating services) future use.

Future use values arise or reflect the value of an asset from not using if now but in future. These include.

Option value- the value of asset arising from differed use hoping that it will be useful in future. These also include potential increase in scarcity or new or improved technology.

Quasi Option value- the value of retaining resource until future information reduces uncertainly over its potential value.

Bequest value- this is the value of retaining an asset or resources not in anticipation of future use but of passing it to future generation.

Non- use value.

Non- use values (at times knows as passive use values) reflect the enjoyment derived from an assets existence other examples include cultural benefit heritage protection.

Non use existence values: include the regret felt when Land scape element species or their habitats are irretrievably lost, weather motivated or aesthetic, cultural or ethical concerns for other species and future generations.