

ABSTRACT

Copper mining and Contingent Valuation in Dominica, and an exploration
of Cultural Bias

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This dissertation investigated the responses of four social groups to a Contingent Valuation Survey that sought to measure the non-market values of a rainforest area once targeted for copper mining in Dominica. With the use of a MANOVA technique, the study investigated whether 'culture' influenced responses to the yes/no Vote regarding willingness to pay for preservation of the area under potential threat by a copper mine. The contention throughout is that while Contingent Valuation is a reliable method for passive-use valuation of environmental resources even in developing countries, culture can create bias in responses to CV surveys, which has implications for sample selection in developing countries with identifiable population subgroups.

Keywords: Emaline Harris-Charles, Dominica, Contingent Valuation and Cultural Bias.