



Contribution of wild plants to human well-being in Apurimac, Peru: An ecosystem service perspective

Améline Vallet, Bruno Locatelli, Merelyn Valdivia

► To cite this version:

Améline Vallet, Bruno Locatelli, Merelyn Valdivia. Contribution of wild plants to human well-being in Apurimac, Peru: An ecosystem service perspective. 2016 Latin American and Caribbean Ecosystem Services Partnership Conference, CIAT, IAvH, ESP, Oct 2016, Cali, Colombia. hal-01674148

HAL Id: hal-01674148

<https://hal.science/hal-01674148>

Submitted on 1 Jan 2018

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Type of submission: Abstract (voluntary contribution)

T15 Contribution of ecosystems services to well-being of rural poor in Latin America

Contribution of wild plants to human well-being in Apurimac, Peru: An ecosystem service perspective

First author(s): Améline Vallet

Other author(s): Bruno Locatelli, Merelyn Valdivia

Affiliation: AgroParisTech, France

Contact: A.Vallet@cgiar.org

Research efforts are unevenly distributed between categories of ecosystem services, with regulating services receiving more interest from scientists than provisioning and cultural services. Whereas food provision is the most commonly studied provisioning services, products collected from ecosystems for medicinal and aromatic purposes are overlooked. Ethnopharmacologists have studied the contribution of wild plants to human well-being, but there have been few attempts to relate this contribution to the concept of ecosystem services. Existing studies highlighted the fact that the poorest populations are the most dependent on biological products for their two contributions to human health (medicine) and livelihoods (incomes through medicinal product trade). In developing countries, the cost and the accessibility of formal health care systems explains the use of alternative medicine and medicinal plants even though it has been observed that people may also prefer traditional medicine for cultural, religious or spiritual reasons. Plant collector are often rural dwellers that are economically marginalized, such as landless people or women. Using semi-structured interviews and participative workshops, we identified the most used wild medicinal plants in two watersheds of Apurimac region, Peru. We analyzed their distribution and harvesting patterns (maps of ecosystem service supply or use) and we described their uses and contributions to different component of well-being. Results showed that most people collected wild plants for medicinal purposes and that more than 80% of interviewees had a strong to medium economic dependence to plant harvesting. These elements offer interesting insight for local decision-makers since a restriction or control of harvest could deeply affect livelihoods with high economic dependence. Small-scale cultivation and the diffusion of sustainable harvesting practices could be considered as alternative strategies for wild plant conservation.

Keywords: Medicinal plants; Livelihoods; Peru