

Estimating the economic benefits arising from the Iranian presence in Antarctica

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Abstract

Polar Regions, especially Antarctica, provide a wide range of regulating, cultural and supporting ecosystem services that directly and indirectly benefit human being. The most important feature of Antarctica is relatively untouched area which makes it the unique place in the world for scientific studies. These studies help our understanding of global environmental issues including climate change, ozone depletion, and sea level rise.

For doing that, being in Antarctica is inevitable. It should be mentioned that alongside with scientific benefits, there are wide range of other economic benefits that could be a justifier for existing 45 year-round stations and 30 summer stations. The purpose of this research is to highlight economic benefits of being in Antarctica and estimate this benefit for national economy.

Economic benefits are divided to three categories including renewable resources, non-renewable resources and non-extractive resources but there is no economic activity in Antarctica at present except for fishing and small-scale tourism.

Although there is no business activities in South Pole, scientific studies play the the main role for 30 countries to spend millions of dollars each year to maintain their stations.

According to our estimation, total economic benefit from all kind of resources in Antarctica at least could be from \$3.7 to 3.8 billion annually.

Keywords

Economic benefits, Natural resources, Benefit transfer methods, Antarctica