Abstract

It can be said that development without protection has much, if not the most, to do with the critical state of the environment today, whose symptoms can hardly be ignored (deforestation, global warming, biodiversity losses, poverty, and so on). Were not because of these symptoms, development without protection could go on forever. This brings environmental concerns to the forefront of current development issues, and makes relevant the need to design environmental policies that can support protection efforts and which can accelerate either the preservation of remaining natural areas or the recovering of non-natural areas. However, environmental solutions to the above symptoms must be systematic so that they can have some form of logic or predictability or can account for internal and external impacts or can be proactive. Otherwise, we can create a situation where protection in one area/region accelerates environmental degradation in other areas/regions (a situation that later may undermine any gains made in the targeted area/region), but we can not even see it when we are using a non-systematic framework or state of mind. The framework presented below is based on sustainability theory and qualitative comparative techniques, and it is defined in such a way as to allow us to point out what to expect when specific green policies are aimed to a systematic structure where protected area and unprotected area based development is the rule. Then, some specific and general conclusions are presented.