

Supplemental Appendix

“Nature Loss and Climate Change: The Twin-Crises Multiplier”

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January 7, 2025

The planner chooses physical capital K_1 and land conservation $c = 1 - u$ to maximize

$$W = U(F(K_0, (1 - c)L, E_0) - K_1) + \beta U(Y_1(K_1, \bar{u}L, E_1, Z_1)) \quad (1)$$

where $Y_1 = (1 - D(Z_1, E_1))F(K_1, \bar{u}L, E_1)$ is output net of climate damages, subject to the two constraints

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= G(c, Z_1) \\ Z_1 &= H(K_1, E_1) \end{aligned}$$

which capture how ecosystem services E_1 are affected by conservation and climate change, and climate change is affected by production, respectively. Define

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^K &= \frac{\partial \log H}{\partial \log K_1} \\ \theta^E &= \frac{\partial \log H}{\partial \log E_1} \\ \delta &= \frac{\partial \log G}{\partial \log c} \\ \gamma &= -\frac{\partial \log G}{\partial \log Z_1} \end{aligned}$$

The Lagrangian is

$$W + \lambda \{G(c, Z_1) - E_1\} + \mu \{Z_1 - H(K_1, E_1)\}$$

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and the first-order conditions with respect to c, K_1, E_1, Z_1 are:

$$\begin{aligned} -U'_0 F_{L,0} + \lambda G_c &= 0 \\ -U'_0 + \beta U'_1 F_{K,1} - \mu H_K &= 0 \\ \beta U'_1 F_{E,1} - \lambda - \mu H_E &= 0 \\ \beta U'_1 F_{Z,1} + \lambda G_Z + \mu &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Without climate change, we can ignore the last equation and replace $\lambda = \beta U'_1 F_{E,1}$ to obtain two equations

$$\begin{aligned} U'_0 &= \beta U'_1 F_{K,1} \\ U'_0 &= \beta U'_1 \frac{F_{E,1} G_c}{F_{L,0}} \end{aligned}$$

that characterize the standard optimal consumption-saving decision and equalize the marginal returns on physical capital and natural capital.

With climate change, the solution becomes

$$\begin{aligned} U'_0 &= \beta U'_1 \left\{ F_{K,1} + \frac{F_{Z,1} + F_{E,1} G_Z}{1 - H_E G_Z} H_K \right\} \\ U'_0 &= \beta U'_1 \left\{ F_{E,1} + \frac{F_{Z,1} + F_{E,1} G_Z}{1 - H_E G_Z} H_E \right\} \frac{G_c}{F_{L,0}} \end{aligned}$$

Instead of the simple marginal returns on physical capital $F_{K,1}$ and on natural capital $\frac{F_{E,1} G_c}{F_{L,0}}$ we have modified marginal returns taking into account the feedback loop between nature, economic activity, and climate change. These can be further simplified as

$$\begin{aligned} F_{K,1} + \frac{F_{Z,1} + F_{E,1} G_Z}{1 - H_E G_Z} H_K &= \frac{Y_1}{K_1} \tilde{\eta}_{K,1} \\ F_{E,1} + \frac{F_{Z,1} + F_{E,1} G_Z}{1 - H_E G_Z} H_E &= \frac{Y_1}{E_1} \tilde{\eta}_{E,1} \end{aligned}$$

where we define the modified capital and ecosystem elasticities as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\eta}_{K,1} &= \eta_{K,1} + (\eta_{Z,1} - \eta_{E,1} \gamma) \Phi \theta^K \\ \tilde{\eta}_{E,1} &= \Phi [\eta_{E,1} + \eta_{Z,1} \theta^E] \end{aligned}$$

respectively. Therefore, in the case of log-utility $U = \log$, the optimality conditions become

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{s^*}{1-s^*} &= \beta \tilde{\eta}_{K,1} \\ \frac{c^*}{1-s^*} &= \beta \tilde{\eta}_{E,1} \frac{\delta}{\eta_{L,0}}\end{aligned}$$

where we denote $s^* = K_1/Y_0$ the optimal savings rate in physical capital, which yields

$$\begin{aligned}s^* &= \frac{\beta \tilde{\eta}_{K,1}}{1 + \beta \tilde{\eta}_{K,1}} \\ c^* = 1 - u^* &= \frac{\delta}{\eta_{L,0}} \frac{\beta \tilde{\eta}_{E,1}}{1 + \beta \tilde{\eta}_{K,1}}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore the ratio of optimal savings rates is

$$\frac{1-u^*}{s^*} = \frac{\delta}{\eta_{L,0}} \frac{\tilde{\eta}_{E,1}}{\tilde{\eta}_{K,1}}.$$