

Economics DA

The thesis of this disadvantage is that restricting bioprospecting will negatively affect the economy.

A. Uniqueness

The Economy is doing well

Harlan 2016

(Article from the Washington Post: "U.S. added 242,000 jobs in February, new data shows", written by Chico Harlan, March 4th, 2016.)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/03/04/u-s-to-release-jobs-data-for-february/>

U.S. employers continued their rapid hiring in February, new government data showed Friday, a sign of the nation's economic durability during a tumultuous global slowdown. The U.S. added 242,000 jobs as the unemployment rate held at 4.9 percent, the lowest mark during the seven-year recovery from the Great Recession. That pace, consistent with gains over the last year, indicates Americans are returning rapidly to the labor force, helped by steady consumer spending that is bolstering demand and prompting employers to expand their workforces. In data released Friday by the Department of Labor, sluggish wages provided the only disappointing note — a signal that labor market still has room to improve. Though stock markets from New York to Shanghai have signaled alarm bells about the stability of the global economy — particularly amid a period of volatile oil prices and diminished demand in China — the U.S. performance of late is likely to boost confidence among investors. "The financial markets' panic over a possible recession in the U.S. has been misplaced, if the string of jobs reports are any indication," said Mark Hamrick, a senior economic analyst at Bankrate.com. The data also showed improved jobs numbers for December and January. Combined, gains in those months were revised upward by 30,000. In remarks Friday afternoon, President Obama highlighted the economy's performance and said that American businesses were "creating jobs at the fastest pace since the 1990s." February's increase beat the expectations of economists, who had predicted the U.S. created 191,000 new jobs for the month. U.S. stock markets showed modest gains on the news. The U.S. has now posted 65 consecutive months of uninterrupted jobs gains; in all but eight of those months, payrolls have exceeded 100,000, the total necessary to keep pace with population growth. In that span, the unemployment rate has fallen from 9.5 percent. "Look at new car sales. Look at the fact that more people are entering the labor market. They're buying homes. They're going out to dinner," Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez said in an interview. "These are all indicators of an economy that continues to move in the right direction and weather the headwinds."

B. Link

Bioprospecting restrictions will result in less investment

Glowka 2000

(Tulane Journal of Law: "Bioprospecting, Alien Invasive Species, and Hydrothermal Vents: Three Emerging Legal Issues in the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity", Lyle Glowka 2000)

http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/glowka_alien.pdf

Lawyers are often asked to draft access laws without the benefit of a multi-stakeholder policy planning process to guide the drafting exercise. The result is ill-formed laws whose transaction costs perversely hinder scientific research and drive bioprospectors away. States often fail to realize that the goal is to control access to ensure benefit sharing, not merely to control access per se. Many laws are defensive reactions to a political, industrial, and scientific climate that places the entire burden of ensuring benefits on the country providing the genetic resources. Providing countries are justifiably suspicious of those seeking access to their genetic resources. These countries are concerned about biopiracy: the removal and subsequent use of genetic resources without prior informed consent. This, however, is not a reason to avoid planning. If a law is too cumbersome, genetic resources will not be sought. There will be no chance to derive benefits, and opportunities will be lost.

C. Internal Link

Pharmaceutical gets significant revenue from bioprospecting plants

TORRANCE 2000

(Andrew W. Torrance, BIOPROSPECTING AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 2000, Harvard Law School LEDA,

https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/8965586/Torrance,_Andrew_00.html?sequence=2)

“Of the estimated 250,000 known plant species in the world today, perhaps 5,000 have been screened for their medicinal potential. Yet, any one species could be the cure for a disease that is considered incurable. Consumers in the United States spend more than \$6 billion annually on medicines derived from tropical plants. That lucrative market is the incentive pharmaceutical companies need to scour the rich rain forests of the tropics for the virtually limitless supply of active compounds, some of which could contain compounds for the next miracle drug.”

D. Impact

No cure for evolving viruses

Kursar 2006

(THOMAS A. KURSAR, Researcher at the University of Utah, CATHERINA C. CABALLERO-GEORGE, TODD L. CAPSON, LUIS CUBILLA-RIOS, WILLIAM H. GERWICK, MAHABIR P. GUPTA, ALICIA IBAÑEZ, ROGER G. LININGTON, KERRY L. MCPHAIL, EDUARDO ORTEGABARRÍA, LUZ I. ROMERO, PABLO N. SOLIS, AND PHYLLIS D. COLEY, “Securing Economic Benefits and Promoting Conservation through Bioprospecting”, Oxford Journal 2006, [http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1641/0006-3568\(2006\)56\[1005:sebapc\]2.0.co;2](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1641/0006-3568(2006)56[1005:sebapc]2.0.co;2))

Many considerations point toward the need for bioprospecting-based research on these neglected diseases. Most treatments now available are not safe, effective, or affordable (Trouiller et al. 2001, Gelb and Hol 2002), and the loss of economic productivity caused by mortality and cost of treatment attributable to these diseases is substantial (Marsh 1998, Cohen 2006). In the case of malaria, for which nearly all therapeutic drugs derive from natural products, resistance to the highly effective drug artemisinin (derived from the plant *Artemisia annua*) has appeared (Jambou et al. 2005, Towie 2006), with no new medicines to replace it. In the case of Chagas disease, treatment with nifurtimox and benznidazole results in serious adverse side effects (Viotti et al. 1994). In our in vitro bioassay of nifurtimox, activity is quite low, with an inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) of only 2 to 11 µg per ml. With sufficient investment, the discovery of natural products that have in vitro activity much superior to that of nifurtimox seems likely. The challenges presented by the need for treatments for tropical diseases also provide an opportunity for biodiversity-rich countries to develop research capacity and establish small biotech companies.