

**How circular economy accelerates the decoupling of the economic growth from natural
resource consumption**

Work in progress

Carlos Scheel (cscheel@itesm.mx)

Professor Emeritus. Tecnológico de Monterrey, EGADE Business School. Researcher. Systemic and circular innovation, technological innovation and sustainable strategies.

Daniel Maranto (dmaranto@itesm.mx)

Associate Professor. Tecnológico de Monterrey, EGADE Business School. Researcher. Business-level strategies for small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainability and service management.

Bernardo Bello (A00811462@itesm.mx)

Ph.D. student. Tecnológico de Monterrey, EGADE Business School.
Management Ph. D. student; focus on sustainability and circular economy business models.

Abstract:

Steady economic growth is one of the main objectives of industrial policies of developed countries; however, this growth is mainly associated with the industrialization of scarce natural resources, which are becoming more expensive to extract, as well as the cause of the decreasing of resource efficiency and large damages to the environment mainly for developing countries (Vieira et al., 2016).

Such is the case of the enormous natural wealth of Latin America and the Caribbean countries (LAC). If the resources of this region are used in a sustainable and balanced manner, this may represent a competitive advantage that could enable great part of their sustainable economic growth (UNEP, 2011).

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Regional policies and coordinated industrial strategies are required to develop a holistic management of natural resources capable to decouple economic growth from the excessive natural resource exploitation, the generation of extended volumes of waste and residues, the environmental impacts and the increment of the socio- economic gap, which developing countries have suffered for decades.

Based on success cases of decoupling in different countries, as well as the metrics that global organizations have defined, the main purpose of this study is to understand how circular economy can reduce the decoupling and make possible a substantially increasing returns of the residues and of the resource efficiency, in order to improve economic growth as well as quality of life, mainly for developing countries.

Keywords: decoupling, resource productivity, sustainable strategies, circular economy, circular value systems, disruptive innovation.