

Keywords

Portugal, CENSE-UNL, IVM-VU, WP7, Scenario analysis, Policy instruments, Modelling, Implementation process, Outputs, Protected areas, Agro-environmental measures, Test

Main research question

How can the uptake of agri-environmental agreements (AEA) implemented in Portuguese Natura2000 conservation sites be increased by varying the institutional and economic terms and conditions underlying current contract design?

Research finding in brief

Current uptake rates of AEA are very low, but we find interest among landowners for AEA, both inside and outside the currently designated protection areas. There are clear trade-offs between willingness to accept financial compensation and opportunity costs, measured through varying cattle and endemic tree density levels. Also contract duration plays a significant role. Minimum willingness to accept financial compensation for the currently fixed contract is higher than current pay-out levels by a factor of six.

Polycymix approach

The conservation mix of policy instruments at play in the case study area relies on the typical regulatory approaches directed towards the conservation of species and their habitats. This regulatory approach is complemented with a set of locally designed AEM - the Integrated Territorial Intervention for Alentejo Natura sites, to promote a proper management of agricultural and forestry systems in these areas of special interest. Landowner preferences are elicited for different agri-environmental contractual agreements using choice experiments in the Portuguese Montados, an agro-forestry ecosystem with high conservational value.



Reference:

[Santos, R., Clemente, P., Brouwer, R., Antunes, P., Pinto, R., Landowners Preferences for Agri-Environmental Agreements to Improve the Conservation Value of the Montados' Ecosystem in Portugal \(to be submitted in May 2014\)](#)

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ASSESSING THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS IN POLICYMIXES FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVISION



Project objectives

POLICYMIX has developed an integrated evaluation framework for assessing economic instruments that considers multiple policy assessment criteria – biodiversity and ecosystem service provision indicators; valuation of their economic benefit and policy implementation costs; social and distributional impacts; and legal and institutional constraints – at different levels of government.



Methodology

POLICYMIX focuses on the role of economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provided by forest ecosystems. The cost-effectiveness and benefits of a range of economic versus regulatory instruments are being evaluated in selected POLICYMIX case studies in Norway, Finland, Germany, Portugal, Brazil and Costa Rica. Comparative analysis evaluates the possibilities for transfer of policy success stories between Europe and Latin America, and promoting learning from policy failures.



Training and dissemination

POLICYMIX actively used advisory boards including land users, local managers and national policy-makers, who collaborated with our researchers in the feasibility assessments of economic instruments. A web-based [POLICYMIX TOOL](#) encompassing policy impact assessment guidelines, case stories and demonstrations of policy assessment methods is aimed at supporting dissemination and learning.



Results

POLICYMIX research discusses improvements in the design, targeting and implementation of economic instruments for biodiversity conservation through better understanding of (i) the linkages and complementarities between impact assessment tools, (ii) complementarities between different policy instruments in a policy mix, and (iii) trade-offs in design of a policy mix between economic, environmental and social impact criteria.

EC Contribution:

3 458 312 €

Duration:

2010-2014

Consortium:

9 partners from 8 countries

Project Coordinator:

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) (Norway)

Project Web Site:

<http://policymix.nina.no>

Key Words:

Biodiversity, ecosystem services, policy mix, social ecological systems, economic instruments, payments for environmental services, ecological fiscal transfers

Partners:

- Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Norway
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany
- Foundation of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, New University of Lisbon (FFCT-UNL CENSE), Portugal
- Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (IVM), Netherlands
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK
- Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Finland
- Rede de Desenvolvimento, Ensino e Sociedade (REDES), Brazil
- Fundação de Apoio a Pesquisa Agrícola (FUNDAG), Brazil
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