

### Keywords

Costa Rica, Social impact, Reforestation, Conservation, Payments for Environmental Services(PES), Modeling, Matching

### Main research question

What is the socio-economic impact of conservation and reforestation PES contracts in the Nicoya Peninsula?

### Research finding in brief

Families participating in the PES program are different from their counterfactuals; in general they are better endowed. Protection payments are more likely to be located in farms with lower opportunity cost. Nonetheless, payments for reforestation, concentrate in farms that are closer to markets.



There is no evidence of any socio-economic impact (either positive or negative) of any of the two PES modalities analyzed.

### Polycymix approach

This paper conducts an evaluation of socio-economic impact of two of the most extensively used PES contract modalities in Nicoya Peninsula. Data was collected from a family level survey in 2011 and later combined with Cadastre data. This combination of data sets added methodological value to the paper as it demonstrates the use of the recently completed Cadastre for Costa Rica in conducting policy evaluation at property level.

The overlap of policies can be seen as a policy mix. It allows us to assess for the policy mix effect and the policy separation effect. Then we could clearly compare the effects to conclude about substitutability or complementarity of policies.

#### Reference:

Chacón-Cascante et al. 2014. Social Impact evaluation of forest conservation and reforestation PES contracts in Hojancha

#### Website:

Forthcoming at <http://polycymix.nina.no/>

#### Contact:

[achacon@catie.ac.cr](mailto:achacon@catie.ac.cr)



## 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
- Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Costa Rica

### Contact:

David N. Barton,  
coordinator

[david.barton@nina.no](mailto:david.barton@nina.no)

