

Keywords

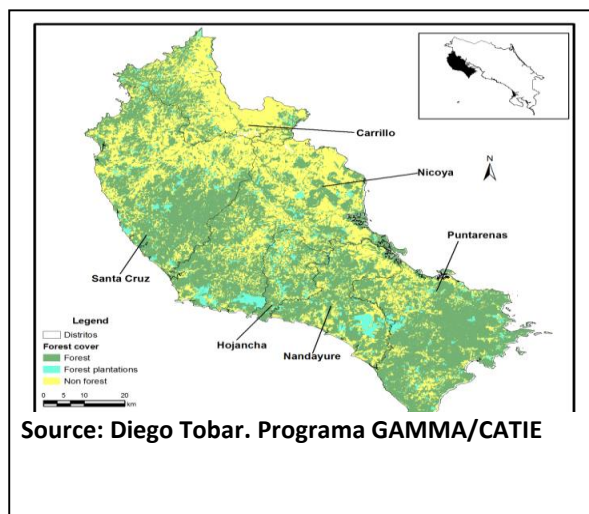
Costa Rica, Biodiversity conservation, Payments for Environmental Services, Certification, Protected areas

Main research question

What are the main conservation policies historically implemented in CR for biodiversity conservation and what are their main interactions?

Research finding in brief

Based on existing literature, this report analyses the effectiveness, efficiency and social impacts of several existent instruments aimed at biodiversity conservation in CR. Main instruments included are the payment for environmental services (PES) program, forest certification, mandatory regulations and REDD+ as a proposed instrument (not currently adopted).



Also, an interaction analysis between the different instruments was performed. It was concluded from this exercise that although there are complementarities between the different instruments, they also relate in a counterproductive manner limiting their potential effectiveness and decreasing their cost efficiency.

Polycymix approach

This report discusses Costa Rican biodiversity goals and the main policies historically implemented to reach conservation objectives. The study first discusses national current biodiversity status and challenges; then an assessment of the existing economic instruments is presented to later analyze their roles in the policy mix for forest biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service provision. Instruments considered in the analysis are the national payment for ecosystem services program, protected areas, certification and law-enforced measures.

Reference:

Chacón-Cascante et al. 2012. Costa Rica: National level assessment of the role of economic instruments in the conservation polycymix

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

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