

Keywords

Portugal, CENSE-UNL, WP7, Challenges, context and gaps, Impact evaluation, Biodiversity and ecosystems impact, Social impact, Policy instruments, Goals, Implementation process, Outputs, Protected area enforcement, AEM

Main research question

How do farmers perceive the implementation process and performance of a specific Portuguese AEM scheme oriented for biodiversity conservation in a Natura 2000 montado landscape?

Research finding in brief

The Integrated Territorial Interventions (ITI), an innovative AEM, are a locally-based approach designed to compensate farmers for the costs of managing agricultural and forestry systems in areas of special interest, failed to deliver any ecological outputs in the case study area.

There are four key constraining factors: low level of incentives, poor participation of relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation processes, lack of information provided to farmers, and constraining institutions.

Policy mix approach

AEM were analyzed in the scope of the conservation policy mix at play, adopting the POLICYMIX framework for assessing the role of instruments in policy mixes for biodiversity and ecosystem governance, complemented by a survey used to capture the perceptions, motivations and expectations of local farmers and other relevant stakeholders.



Reference:

Clemente, P., Santos, R., Antunes, P., Pinto, R. Assessing farmers' perceptions and performance of agri-environmental schemes in a multifunctional agro-forest system: lessons for instrument design in a conservation policy mix.

Website:

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

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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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