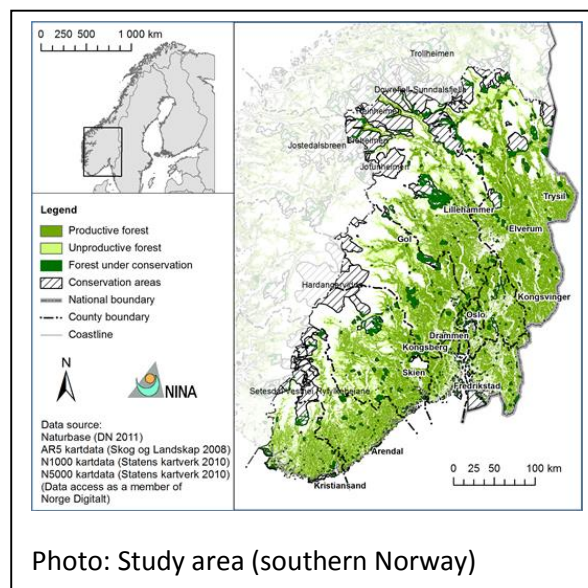


This paper analyzes what motivates non-industrial private forest owners to participate in a Norwegian nationwide voluntary forest conservation program. The ownership of the reserve remains with the forest owner, but he has to relinquish all rights to forestry activities for perpetuity. This time feature makes the Norwegian scheme quite unique. This can be a big downside for biodiversity conservation, as it is likely that owners will need much stronger motivation, beyond the mere compensation incentive, to seriously consider participation.

Our econometric analyses suggest that forest owners' expectation of sustainable non-timber income from reserve-related commercial activities over and above the compensation payment itself, attitude towards conservation regulations, and the percentage of mature forest have strong and robust effects on the likelihood of their participation. Interestingly, our results are confirmed by the thinking of the public committee behind the new Nature Diversity Act in Norway from June 2009. This committee recommended stimulating future conservation by allowing and providing support to income-generating activities both within and around forest reserves. Results of the practical implementation of this intention remain to be seen, but our study confirms that it may indeed be a good idea if long-term biodiversity conservation is to be substantially increased.

Photo: Study area (southern Norway)

This study does not conduct a standard policy mix analysis as such, but results suggest that for the main conservation instrument in Norway to become more effective, it should perhaps be combined with regulations that allow or stimulate to a larger degree than today commercial opportunities in and around reserves that at the same time do not compromise conservation objectives. This may enhance uptake rates compare to any one instrument implemented in isolation.



Mitani, Y. and H. Lindhjem (2014) "Forest owners' participation in voluntary biodiversity conservation in Norway: What does it take to forego forestry for eternity?" ... Resubmitted and under review, Revised April 2014.

Full text available from
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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:

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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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