

Keywords

Costa Rica, IIED, CATIE, NINA, evaluation methodology, opportunity costs, ecosystem service value, social impact, modelling, Payments for ecosystem services (PES)

Main research question

Given the difficulties in measuring opportunity costs of conservation, can land prices be used as an aggregate indicator at the national level? What is their relation to existing criteria for PES contract allocation and to measure its impact?

Research finding in brief

We provide hard evidence on what policy makers know in their hearts: the time of “cheap” conservation of biologically important land is gone.

Policymix approach

The competitiveness of conservation policies will in future depend on a policy mix of PES acting in concert with national forest policy and local land use regulation. PES will need to act as a targeted complement of strengthened municipal level land use zoning regulations, both in rural and peri-urban areas.



Costa Rican best spots are expensive and are for sale. How will conservation and social justice fare in this new setting? Photo credits: D.N.Barton.

Reference:

Ina Porras, Adriana Chacon-Cascante, David N. Barton, Diego Tobar. To be published.

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
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