

Keywords

Portugal, CENSE-UNL, WP7, Challenges, context and gaps, Impact evaluation, Scenario analysis, Policy instruments, Modelling, Ecosystem service needs, Goals, Resources, Implementation process, Final outcomes, Ecological fiscal transfers, Protected area enforcement, AEM

Main research question

What is the role and interactions with other policy instruments and what is the (potential) impact on forests and biodiversity conservation of two economic instruments (ecological fiscal transfers and agri-environmental measures) directed to public and private actors in the Portuguese conservation policy mix?

Research finding in brief

The economic instruments at play in the Portuguese conservation policy mix do interact and in some cases overlap. The multiplicity of regulations and land use planning mechanisms, linked with conflicts and overlaps between managing institutions has a negative impact on economic instruments uptake. There are potential positive complementarities not yet effective. Conclusions are derived regarding the way instruments effectiveness can be enhanced through design changes, in light of their co-existence with other current conservation instruments

Polycymix approach

A coarse grain analysis of two economic instruments - Ecological Fiscal Transfers and Agri-environment Measures, is presented, focusing on their main complementarities, synergies, overlaps and contradictions in the context of the Portuguese conservation policy mix.



Reference:

[Santos, R. et al. \(2012\) Assessment of the role of economic instruments in the Portuguese conservation polycymix a national coarse grain analysis. Report 6/2016.](#)

Contact:

rfs@fct.unl.pt



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

