

Keywords

Portugal, CENSE-UNL, UFZ, WP7, Challenges, context and gaps, Impact evaluation, Policy instruments, Goals, Implementation process, Ecological fiscal transfers, Agro-environmental measures

Main research question

How to conceive economic instruments targeting public and private actors that reinforce their individual contribution to a successful biodiversity conservation policy mix?

Research finding in brief

It is argued that a successful biodiversity conservation policy mix should include economic instruments directed at public and private local stakeholders, and that the selected instruments should be conceived in a way that is mutually reinforcing and targets decision processes regarding land use zoning and land management practices.

Taking the case of the ecological fiscal transfers and agri-environmental schemes that are currently in place in Portugal as an example, a proposal for coupling the two instruments, following a policymix approach is presented. This involves allocating part of the EFT funds to support nature conservation activities undertaken by private land owners and enabling public actors' participation in AES. Participation of the main actors in early stages of design of the instruments is an essential aspect in this context.



Policymix approach

The incentives provided to both landowners (in particular farmers and foresters) and public authorities by AEM and EFT, respectively, are analysed and their articulation is discussed.

Reference:

Santos, R., Antunes, P., Ring, I., Clemente, P., Ribas, T., Directing economic instruments at public and private local stakeholders for biodiversity conservation. The case of agri-environment schemes and ecological fiscal transfers. Environmental Policy and Governance

Website:

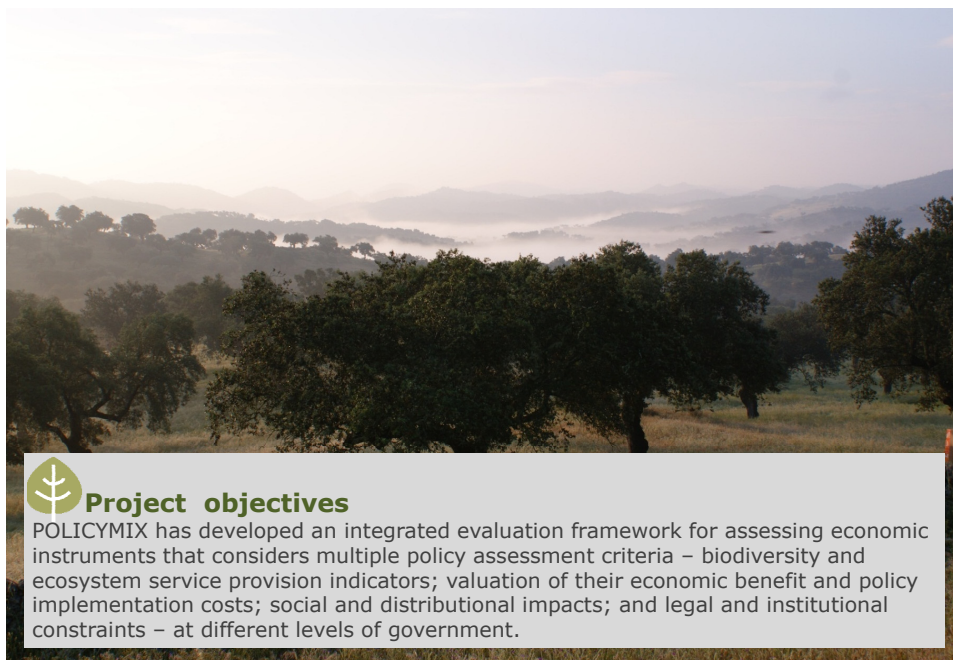
Forthcoming at <http://policymix.nina.no/>

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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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