

Keywords

Portugal, France, Germany, Poland; UFZ, CENSE-UNFL; WP6; Challenges, context and gaps, Impact evaluation; Policy instruments; Institutional Fit; Ecological Fiscal Transfers

Main research question

Although recommended for introduction in a number of European countries (such as Germany and Poland), to date only Portugal and to some extent France have implemented fiscal transfers for biodiversity conservation in Europe. In this paper we 1) analyse this policy instrument by providing a review of existing experience and concepts proposed, 2) identify design features critical for success and 3) develop recommendations for improving existing or introducing new ecological fiscal transfer schemes.

Research finding in brief

We reviewed the state of EFT schemes in four European countries at different stages in the policy cycle and discussed critical design features of the instrument, such as type of costs / benefits considered, indicators, scale of application or funds used. Promising avenues for future EFT design and implementation include transfers based on qualitative indicators, alongside the quantitative PA-based indicators currently in use in Portugal and France. Further challenges lie in addressing the sustained provision of ecosystem services.

Polycymix approach

By spotlighting nature conservation as an important public responsibility eligible for fiscal transfers, EFTs may help to mainstream biodiversity conservation in regional state and local development policies. The major drivers of biodiversity loss imposed by local development and related policies, such as habitat destruction through urban sprawl, infrastructure development and land-use intensification, could thus be counterbalanced.

Reference:

Schröter-Schlaack, C., Ring, I., Koellner, T., Santos, R., Antunes, P., Clemente, P., Mathevet, R., Borie, M., Grodzińska-Jurczak, M. (2014): Intergovernmental fiscal transfers to support local conservation action in Europe. Submitted to The German Journal of Economic Geography

Website:

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

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Design feature	Characteristic	PT	FR	DE	PL
Status		Implemented	Implemented	Proposed	Proposed
Date		2007	2003	Since 1996	Since 2012
Type of costs or benefits acknowledged	Management costs			X	X
	Opportunity costs	X	X		X
	Spillover benefits	X	X	X	
Indicators	Quantitative	Size of PAs	Share of PAs as a proportion of total area of jurisdiction	Share of PAs as a proportion of total area of jurisdiction e.g., weighted PA categories; fragmentation	Under discussion
	Qualitative				
Scale	Small		Only municipalities in national and marine parks		
	Large	All municipalities with any PA category		All regional states or municipalities with any PA category	X
Funds	Fixed budget				Under discussion
	Percentage of total transfers	Along with other indicators	Along with other indicators	Along with other indicators	Under discussion
EFT resources transferred	Low	X	X	X	X
	High				
Type of transfers	Lump sum	X	X	X	X
	Ear-marking				

Design features of EFT schemes in Europe



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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