

Is costless biodiversity protection possible? NATURA 2000 network introduction in Poland.

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In the paper it is investigated what is the relative role of economic, regulatory (legal) and informational/educational incentives in the biodiversity protection in the case of NATURA 2000 network introduction in Poland. The analysis is based on the review of the legislative and policy documents as well as on the interviews with the stakeholders.

It is argued that the policy on NATURA 2000 network introduction in Poland relies on regulatory approach, while missing the economic ones. The educational tools are used in order to defend the regulatory framework. As introduction of NATURA 2000 network involved substantial reallocation of assets (basically loss of land value due to land use restrictions) restricting local governments and private owners their property rights, a compensation would be required. This however, was not fiscally feasible. Local governments' problems with NATURA 2000 are of economic nature, including mainly: (a) concern on restrictions on various types of economic development (e.g. tourism, enterprise, general rise in costs) and (b) concern referring to infrastructure development (e.g. tourism, roads) (Grodzińska-Jurczak, Cent 2010)

Moreover, know-how about economic compensation was missing. At the same time, protection of biodiversity as the public good was hardly reasoned. It resonated only to narrow society of environmentalists. Educational and informational instruments were applied in order to explain the regulations (with limited success) (Pietrzyk et al. 2009, Grodzińska -Jurczak et al. 2010).

The particular mixture of policy types and their sequence, as observed in the analyzed case, is explained in accordance with the Europeanization concept, claiming that the national policies and politics are adapted to the EU requirements (Böhme, Waterhout 2008). The particular policy mix in the introduction of the NATURA 2000 in Poland was driven by the urgency of the task to comply with the EU directive combined with relatively weak institutional capacity. Designing the borders of NATURA 2000 sites was done before of species inventory was done.

Implications of the path-dependant development is discussed. Authors examine the environmental legislation, and complication of environmental policy is found. In several instances, policy acts exclude one another and replicate - there are many similar documents on the same policy level.