

International Workshop

Evaluating Forest Conservation Initiatives: New Tools and Policy Needs

Date: 10-12th December 2013

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Venue: UAB-Casa de Convalescència, <http://www.uab-casaconvalescencia.org/>

Organizing Team

Kathy Baylis (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Jan Börner (University of Bonn)

Esteve Corbera (Universitat de Autònoma de Barcelona)

Driss Ezzine de Blas (CIRAD)

Jordi Honey-Rosés (University of British Columbia)

Martin Persson (Chalmers University Sweden)

Romain Pirard (IDDRI)

Alexander Pfaff (Duke University)

Our Sponsors

Robert Bosch Stiftung

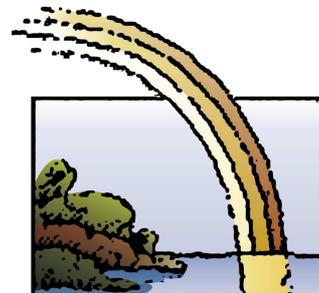


Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung
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E A E R E

Justification

This workshop will bring together advanced research teams and policy makers to review and discuss innovative methodological strategies to evaluate forest conservation policy instruments, such as protected areas, community forest management, payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, forest tenure reform, and regulatory enforcement, among others. The workshop responds to the need for:

- Improved methods for the evaluation of conservation policies (Miteva et al. 2012).
- Improved coordination among research teams experimenting with new (including spatial) impact evaluation tools and matching estimators.
- Improved integration of quantitative and qualitative research approaches in order to link impact evaluation to an impact pathway assessment i.e. “theory-based impact evaluation” (White 2009).
- A more nuanced understanding of the limits to quantitative assessments of conservation policy effectiveness when data and scale issues are considered.
- Assessing the real capacity (and limits) for new tools to generate reliable impact assessments depending on the policies under scrutiny.
- Informing forest conservation stakeholders about best practices in policy evaluation and their potential for improving conservation policy design and implementation.

Recent advances in quantitative and spatial evaluation methods have greatly improved our ability to measure the impact of conservation policies on their environmental and socio-economic dimensions (Miteva et al. 2012). In particular, matching methods are an increasingly popular empirical strategy used to quantify the impact of conservation measures by comparing forest plots subject to a conservation policy with similar control areas (Pfaff et al. 2008, Honey-Rosés, Baylis and Ramírez 2011, Gaveau et al. 2012, Alix-Garcia et al. 2012). The rapid rise in the application of rigorous methods in evaluations of environmental instruments represents new opportunities and challenges for the design of cost-effective and socially acceptable forest conservation policies. As in the development and aid sectors, for example, forest conservation programs will be under increasing scrutiny by donors if they are funded through the *Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation* (REDD+) framework. The success of REDD+ related policy options and similar forest conservation schemes will hinge on their ability to demonstrate genuinely additional conservation effects.

It is thus time to intensify both the technical debate across disciplines and the science-policy dialogue on how to integrate conservation policy design and evaluation. We expect the technical debate to help push scientific boundaries with respect to evaluation design and spatially explicit analytical methods. Special attention is paid to the capacity of impact evaluation to go beyond the mere measurement of effects and to provide sound explanations of the processes leading to positive impacts. Linking this methodological debate to the concrete demand from policy makers will increase the policy relevance of future research agendas and provide opportunities to feed research results back into the policy process.

Workshop Objectives and Planned Outcomes

This workshop aims at:

1. Critically assessing the potential and limitations of innovative research on the effectiveness of conservation policy instruments.
2. Promoting specialized exchange between research teams evaluating the impact of forest conservation policies.
3. Identifying opportunities for collaboration between research teams and selected policy makers and donor representatives.
4. Developing recommendations on how impact evaluations can be better integrated into conservation policy design and implementation.

Planned outcomes include:

- Recommendations on impact assessment of conservation initiatives (e.g., Barcelona Declaration)
- Build capacity among research teams and policy makers.
- Online documentation of key results, podcasts from participant presentations, and interviews.
- A special issue in a high-rank academic journal covering new research on evaluating conservation policy instruments.

Target audience and expected number of participants

The workshop targets individual or groups of researchers involved in ongoing research on forest conservation policy evaluation. A dozen of researchers are expected to report on new and unpublished work and should, in principle, be interested in submitting their work to the planned special journal issue.

A group of selected policy makers and donor representatives will be invited to participate in both the technical debate and a subsequent "policy-informed/informing" day open to the general public.

Day 1 - Evaluating the effectiveness of conservation initiatives

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcome and introduction to workshop objectives <i>by Organizing Team members</i>
9:15-10:00	Keynote address: How can impact evaluation help to make conservation more cost-effective and fair? (30+15) <i>Alexander Pfaff, Duke University</i>
10:00-10:45	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:00	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
12:00-12:45	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
12:45-13:00	Summary/wrap-up by Organizing Team members
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:45	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
14:45-15:30	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-16:45	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
16:45-17:30	Case study presentation (30 min + 15 min) <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
17:30-18:00	1 st day afterthought: <i>by David Kaimowitz, Ford Foundation (TBC)</i>
19:30	Workshop dinner <i>in a city center Restaurant (TBA)</i>

Day 2 - Understanding causal impact pathways in conservation initiatives

9:15-10:15	Beyond average effects: heterogeneity and causal mechanisms (30 min + 15 min) <i>by Paul Ferraro, Georgia State University</i>
10:15-10:45	Moderated questions & discussion
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:00	Case study presentation <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
12:00-12:45	Case study presentation <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
12:45-13:00	Summary/wrap-up by organizing team member
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:45	Case study presentation <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
14:45-15:30	Case study presentation <i>by selected speaker (TBA)</i>
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-16:15	Summary/wrap-up + Instructions by organizing team member
16:15-17:30	Working groups to systematize and draw lessons learned from days 1 & 2, and to define possible directions for research and policy
17:30-18:00	Plenary discussion on workshop lessons/messages
19:30	Free evening

Day 3 - Evaluating Forest Conservation Initiatives: Tools and Policy Needs

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcome and background information <i>by Organizing Team members</i>
9:15-10:00	A summary from the 2-day scientific workshop <i>by Alexander Pfaff, Duke University</i>
10:00-11:00	Roundtable A with 4 policy makers / implementers related to specific case studies presented on days 1 and 2 <i>Moderated by Organizing Team member</i>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	Presentations by invited donor and policy representatives (20 min each)
12:30-13:00	<i>Moderated questions and discussion by Organizing Team member</i>
13:00-14:00	Lunch + Coffee
14:00-14:45	“How much impact evaluation do we really need?” <i>Public debate by Paul Ferraro, Georgia State University and Sven Wunder, CIFOR</i>
14:45-16:00	Roundtable B: Mainstreaming Impact Evaluation in Conservation Programs (selected scientists, NGOs and policy makers) <i>Moderated by Organizing Team member</i>
16:00-16:30	Key summary & messages <i>by Organizing Team member</i> Closing remarks <i>by Catalonia's Government Officer</i>
19:30	Workshop dinner (by invitation only) <i>in a city center Restaurant (TBA)</i>

Venue & Hotel Information

The workshop will be held in Barcelona, 10th-12th December, 2013, at " Casa de Convalescència", located on the historical site of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau.

<http://www.uab-casaconvalescencia.org>

How to get there?

Underground

- Yellow line (L4) - GUINARDÓ – HOSPITAL DE SANT PAU station
- Blue line (L5) - SANT PAU – DOS DE MAIG station

By bus

- Lines: 15, 19, 20, 45, 47, 50, 51, 92 and 192.

From the airport

- Train + Underground. At the RENFE station, take the train to Sants-Estació. Once there take the Underground's blue line (L5) till SANT PAU – DOS DE MAIG station.
- Bus + Underground. Outside the airport terminal, take the AEROBUS to Plaça Catalunya. Walk one corner till Plaça Urquinaona and take the Underground's yellow line (L4) to GUINARDÓ – HOSPITAL DE SANT PAU station.

Hotel

Invited participants will be hosted at the Hotel Amrey Sant Pau, located near the venue (<http://www.hotelsantpau.com/en>) or at a similar price-range hotel. They can also opt for more expensive or different options at their own cost.

Organizing Team

Kathy Baylis is an assistant professor in Agriculture and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois. She joined the department after several years as an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia where she is still an adjunct. She earned her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 2003, where she specialized in agriculture and trade issues. Kathy has worked in agricultural policy in both Canada and the United States. In 2001/02, she was the staff economist in charge of agriculture for the Council of Economic Advisors in the White House, and in the mid-1990s, she worked as Executive Secretary with the National Farmers Union in Canada. She has published a number of journal articles on agricultural trade and environmental policy and has coauthored a textbook on Canadian-U.S. agricultural policy.

Jan Börner is an agricultural and environmental economist with applied research experience in Africa, Latin America, and Europe. He is a professor for economics of sustainable resource use at the Center for Development Research (University of Bonn, Germany) where he leads a research group focusing on the analysis of environmental and conservation policy tools for tropical forest conservation. As a senior associate researcher of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) he is involved in several global research projects on REDD+ and human environment interactions.

Esteve Corbera is an environmental scientist and a senior research fellow at the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. His research focuses on the assessment of land-use management options for climate mitigation across scales, including biofuels and biodiversity conservation related instruments, such as carbon offsets and PES. He is a lead author in the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Driss Ezzine de Blas is junior researcher at CIRAD since 2008. He has a PhD on environmental economics, a degree on management of natural resources and a master on anthropology. His research focusses on impact evaluation and analysis of human-nature coupled systems. His priority fieldwork areas are tropical and subtropical countries in Latin America, Africa and South-east Asia.

Jordi Honey-Rosés is a researcher on the subject of sustainability specializing in ecosystem services and its role in ecological planning. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. He received his PhD in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and holds undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Martin Persson currently holds an Assistant Professor position at Physical Resource Theory, Chalmers University of Technology. His research focuses on global land use issues, particularly environmental and socio-economic impacts of a large-scale expansion of biomass, global land use linkages, and climate and forest conservation policies. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Costa Rica (2010-2011) and at the Department for Environmental Earth System Science (EESS) at Stanford University in USA (2011-2012).

Alexander Pfaff is an associate professor of public policy, economics and environment at Duke University's Sanford Institute of Public Policy. He is an environment and natural-resource economist whose work frequently focuses on developing countries. His current

research examines the impacts of roads, protected areas and payments for ecosystem services on deforestation (Brazilian Amazon, Costa Rica, Mexico); what drives decisions that lower harmful exposures, such as to indoor emissions (Pakistan, Tanzania, Ghana) and arsenic in drinking water (Bangladesh); how households respond to climate and water shocks in daily production decisions and when faced with new tradeoffs by water policies (N.E. Brazil); and how regulators might shift the incentives for firms to provide environmental information.

Romain Pirard is an environmental economist who has worked on the dynamics of tropical deforestation and the design of related public policies for several institutions, including CIFOR, the World Bank, CIRAD and CERDI. He joined IDDRI in 2008 is currently coordinating an European project on market-based instruments for biodiversity and economic services, economic valuations and their effective use for decision-making.

Supporting Literature

- Alix-Garcia, J. M., E. N. Shapiro, and K. R. E. Sims. 2012. Forest Conservation and Slippage: Evidence from Mexico's National Payments for Ecosystem Services Program. *Land Economics* 88 :613-638.
- Gaveau, D. L. A., L. M. Curran, G. D. Paoli, K. M. Carlson, P. Wells, and D. Ratnasari. 2012. Examining protected area effectiveness in Sumatra: importance of regulations governing unprotected lands. *Conservation Letters* 5:142-148.
- Honey-Rosés, J., K. Baylis, and M. I. Ramirez. 2011. A Spatially Explicit Estimate of Avoided Forest Loss. *Conservation Biology* 25:1032-1043.
- Miteva, D.A., S.K. Pattanayak, P.J., Ferraro. 2012. Evaluation of biodiversity policy instruments: what works and what doesn't? *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 28: 69-92.
- Pfaff, A., G. A. Sanchez-Azofeifa, and J. A. Robalino. 2008. Payments for Environmental Services: Empirical analysis for Costa Rica Payments for Environmental Services: Empirical analysis for Costa Rica.
- White, H. (2009). Theory-based impact evaluation: principles and practice. *Journal of development effectiveness* 1(3): 271-284.