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SUPPLY OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES BY NATURA-2000
PAYMENTS
ANALYSIS OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ITS
IMPLEMENTATION

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SUPPLY OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES BY NATURA-2000 PAYMENTS

ANALYSIS OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Summary

The paper presents the results of mid-term-evaluation of rural development plans of five German Federal States. It focuses on a comparative analysis of the implementation of Natura-2000-Payments (Code 213) and shows the relationship between voluntariness on one hand and administrative law in Natura-2000 areas and Cross Compliance Standards on the other hand.

Keywords

European agri-environmental policy, Evaluation, Natura-2000 payment, dead weight effect.

1 Background

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is the most important financial fund to implement the Natura-2000 network of protected areas. Within EAFRD, Natura-2000 payments are - beside agri-environment-measures (AEM) or payments for conservation and upgrading of rural heritage - a core instrument aiming at farmers in Natura-2000 areas. Farmers applying for Natura-2000 or AEM payments have to comply with Cross Compliance (CC) Standards. While AEM payments compensate only those commitments going beyond the relevant CC-Standards, Natura-2000 payments compensate for farmers' additional costs and income forgone related to the handicap for agricultural production in Natura-2000 areas. Thus, handicaps resulting from CC-Standards directly linked to Natura-2000 sites can be compensated, too.

2 Methods

The evaluation of Natura-2000 payments is conducted according to the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the European Commission. Output indicators as UAA supported are based on an analysis of IACS-data. Target areas supported are based on an additional geographic intersection of UAA supported (IACS-GIS-Data) with Natura-2000 sites. To quantify the share of UAA which show additional environmental effects resulting from the Natura-2000 payments (net effect) of the total UAA supported, dead weight effects have to be estimated. Roughly, dead weight effects occur on those Natura-2000 areas supported for which the standard legal requirements are similar to the commitments according to the Natura-2000 payments.

3 Results

Fig. 1 shows options of Natura-2000 payments realised in the evaluated Federal States in relation to the different protection levels. The blue blocks reflect the different CC-Standards for no-Natura-2000 sites, Natura-2000 sites and Natura-2000 sites under higher protection level resulting from additional State by-laws ("Naturschutzgebietsverordnungen", NSG-VO). The two latter categories are characterised by higher CC-Standards resulting from the Natura-2000 management plans and the applicable legal obligations of the NSG-VO. The hatched blocks reflect options of Natura-2000 payments. If Natura-2000 payments solely compensate handicaps resulting from legal obligations, these payments do not trigger additional environmental services but have to be regarded as dead weight effects.

Figure 1: Schematic presentation of options of Natura-2000 payments

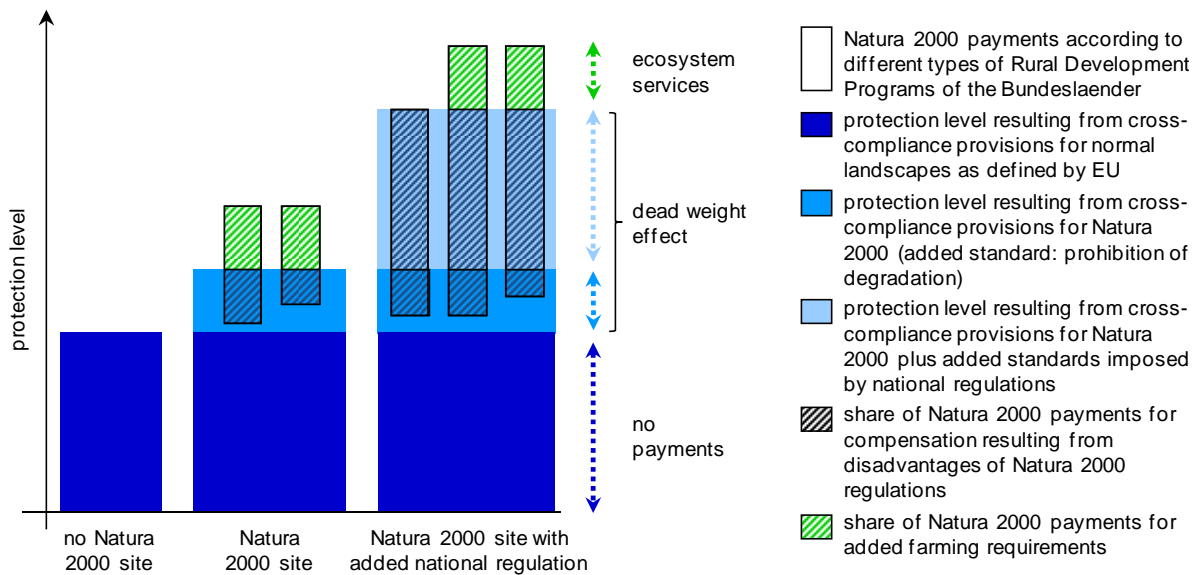
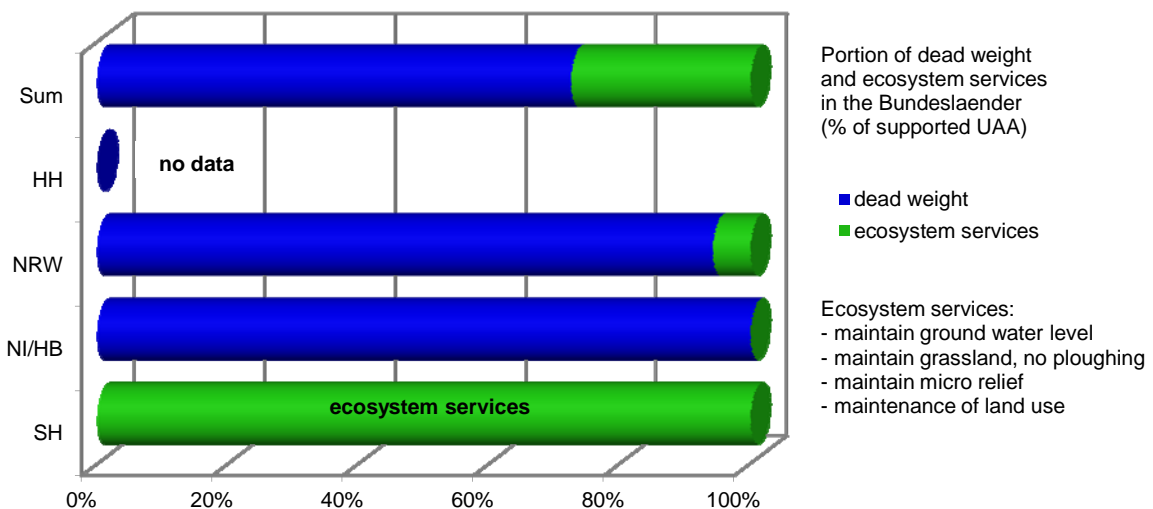


Fig. 2 shows the relation between net and dead weight effects in the evaluated Federal States. We determine the effects by intersecting the different GIS layers and comparing the commitments of Natura-2000 payments with the legal obligations imposed by the various NSG-VOs.

Figure 2: Ecosystem services triggered by Natura-2000 payments



Source: Extrapolation on the basis of case studies (Reiter & Sander 2010)

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