



ABOUT ROBIN

ROBIN has assessed the role of biodiversity in terrestrial ecosystems in South and Mesoamerica in mitigating climate change. It has evaluated socio-ecological consequences of changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services under climate change.

PES AND REDD+ SCHEMES SHOULD BE LINKED TO AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ADDRESSED AT SMALLHOLDERS

Key findings

We compared 40 Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) cases (including biodiversity, landscape, water, carbon) in Latin America and examined their rate of success according to criteria that are especially relevant for a developing country context. The most relevant factors for a successful PES scheme – that benefits ecosystem conservation and human wellbeing – were:

- The combination of livelihood improvement together with the provision of a critical resource
- Regional and local scale PES schemes with a duration between 10 to 30 years
- In-kind contributions rather than only cash payments
- Private actor involvement with no intermediaries.

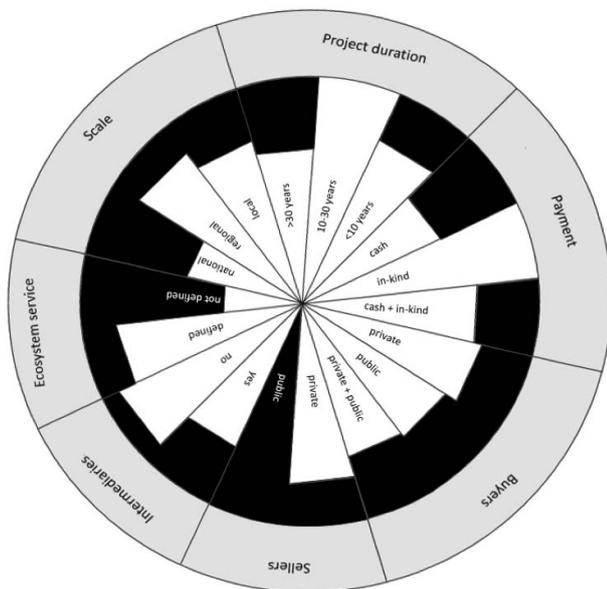
Recommendations

- PES and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) schemes should be managed by actors known and trusted by the community
- Always combine PES provisioning services with livelihood components that have a clear (communal) benefit
- Ensure medium- to long-term funding before starting a PES scheme
- Start local and/or regional pilots and conduct a rigorous impact evaluation before expanding the scheme.

Evidence

To assess the success of PES schemes in Latin America we defined 'success' as a combination of (a) the extent to which the original goals of the PES scheme are met, and (b) the added value in terms of overall improvement in the ecological, economic and social conditions of the region, beyond intended objectives. The criteria used to analyse the PES cases were: (1) ecosystem being traded (i.e. biodiversity, landscape, water, carbon); (2) scale (i.e. spatial, temporal); (3) transaction types (i.e. cash, in-kind); and (4) actors involved (i.e. buyer, seller, intermediaries).





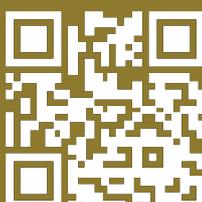
Factors enhancing success rate of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes

The figure (left) displays the factors enhancing the success rate of PES schemes. We found that the potential characteristics of a successful PES scheme are:

- (a) **Ecosystem services being traded:** PES schemes that secure the continued provisioning and quality of a critical resource while positively contributing to local livelihoods are quite successful.
- (b) **Scale:** Local and regional scales are the most widely used, both with high rates of success. Concerning the optimal time frame, projects operating within a period between 10 to 30 years, are regarded as most successful.
- (c) **Transaction types:** The use of in-kind contributions reduces the probability of failure. Those transactions are preferable rather than using only cash payments.
- (d) **Actors involved:** There is a dominance of successful PES schemes where mostly private actors are involved. Also, schemes with no intermediaries between the buyers and the sellers tend to be more successful.

ROBIN outputs

- Grima, N., Singh, S., Smetschka, B., Ringhofer, L. (2015) Payment for Ecosystem Services in Latin America: Analysing the Performance of 40 PES cases, submitted to Ecosystem Services
- Ringhofer, L., Singh, S., Smetschka, B. (2013) A report on current approaches to climate change mitigation in Latin America, project report for ROBIN – Role of Biodiversity in Climate Change, Social Ecology Working Paper 143.
- Singh, S., Smetschka, B., Ringhofer, L., Grima, N., Petridis, P., Biely, K. (2015) SMCE Toolkit OPTamos software tool (Deliverable 3.2.1.)



More information
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This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 283093
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