



# Participation possibility in the designing of PES by civil society

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## Background

Environmental policy could so far only find solutions to environmental problems in certain areas. Therefore, demands for a stronger **civil society** and extensive civic engagement will become greater. In the area of environmental and nature conservation, two different expectations of the government are founded based on the desire for more participation.

### Deliberative Politics

Produce decisions in discursive practices, while binding control to the arguments.<sup>1</sup>

### Strategy of "managerial states"

Decisions through participation processes equipped with consensus.<sup>2</sup>

A state that increasingly supports decision making in participatory processes and promotes through equal educational opportunities, a society that opens up the opportunity to people of all income levels to interfere self responsibly in political / social events produces a perspective that is different from those of the above mentioned paradigms.

Part of the research is also to link the investigation of case studies from different regions with the socio-political context of the region.

## Goals

- Overview of participation opportunities in civil society organizations (especially in the various types of foundations)
- Overview of the use of participatory approaches in the design of remuneration instruments for environmental services (through the answering of questions according to the employed methods, the motives, and the effects of participatory processes)
- The investigation of participation opportunities in foundations and in the designing of PES (in the various study regions), which will provide opportunities for drawing conclusions on the social conditions that either promote or restrict participation.

## Database/ Methods

The data will be collected with the help of databases, an online survey, interviews with: experts, representatives of organizations, and participants of the participation processes.



## Research Questions

Foundations are institutions that operate according to the goals set by their respective founders. In addition, they are endowed by the founders with assets, from which proceeds they are to maintain commitment to the foundation's goals. Foundations are primarily not participatory forms of organization. They are, unlike clubs for example, not designed to include third parties in their decision-making processes.<sup>3</sup> They nevertheless do shape social life, including environmental and nature conservation. Due to their legal possibilities in asset management, they seem to be the ideal institutions for remunerating ecological services. Or are they really?

Two branches of research questions were formulated from the perspective of participatory research. The first deals with the variability in the form of foundation. The second are application-oriented research questions with the example of PES (payments for ecosystem services).

### 1. Research questions with regard to the variability in the form of the foundation

- What participation opportunities do foundations offer (in comparison to other forms of civil society organizations)?
- How do various types of foundations differ in terms of opportunities for participation? Do public foundations or foundation networks for example that are independent of social influence and income distribution allow opportunities for involvement?

### 2. Applied research questions using the example of PES

- Do foundations develop PES schemes in a participative manner? What participatory approaches for the design of remuneration instruments exist?
- What are the motives that establish the participatory strategies used in the development of PES schemes? (Increase in effectiveness and / or societal goals [encourage participation])
- How does the participation of citizens in the design of PES affect their commitment and interest in environmental problems?



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#### Literature

<sup>1</sup> Habermas, J. (1996): Die Einbeziehung des Anderen. Studien zur Politischen Theorie, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, S. 284 ff.  
<sup>2</sup> Dahme, H.-J./ Wohlfahrt, N. (2009): Zivilgesellschaft und „managerieller“ Staat. Bürgerschaftliche Sozialpolitik als Teil instrumenteller Governance, in: Bode, I./ Evers, A./ Klein, A. (Hg.): Bürgergesellschaft als Projekt, Wiesbaden, VS-Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, S. 256f.  
<sup>3</sup> Anheier, H. K./ Daly, S. (Hg.) (2007): The Politics of Foundations. A comparative analysis, London, New York: Routledge, S.4.