



***PAN-EUROPEAN BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE
DIVERSITY STRATEGY***

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GOVERNMENTAL INSTRUMENTS

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Governmental Instruments

Governments have been providing financial means for developing countries and for countries with economies in transition for environmental and nature protection for a long while.

The financial assistance can have several forms according to recipient:

- government to government
- government to civil society
- government to private sector

The type of financing can be “general support” or linked to projects – along various objectives. General support is usually available for governments through big, framework agreements, while the project support is time-bound and usually smaller scale. Project support is generally available for stakeholders as well. As the transaction costs for smaller projects are relatively high compared to framework agreements, governments often use an intermediary organization for fund management.

With regards to particular nature conservation objectives, the major differences in governmental support are:

- supporting the implementation of international agreements
- supporting the implementation of national legislation
- facilitating activities (travel support, studies, etc.)
- support for objectives identified by the recipient

The advantage of governmental support is that it does not necessarily need to follow the internationally recognized status (recipient) of the target country, but can follow its own internal decision, which is particularly important in the case of countries with economies in transition (new EU member states).

More over, governmental funding can be more flexible and less bureaucratic than the ones of the international agencies.

The challenge of such kind of support is that often there is a lack of coordination between the various (governmental) donors but also between governmental and non-governmental donors which can lead to unnecessary convergence of resources or to double funding of certain areas and a lack of fund for others. Thus, it is imperative that governments are also following the guidance set by the “Paris Declaration” to which over one hundred Ministers, Heads of Agencies and other Senior Officials adhered and committed their countries and organizations to continue to increase efforts in harmonization, alignment and managing aid for results with a set of monitorable actions and indicators.

The “Paris Declaration” was followed by the “Accra Agenda for Action” (AAA, 2008). The main elements of the Accra Agenda for Action:

- Predictability – donors will provide 3-5 year forward information on their planned aid to partner countries
- Country systems – partner country systems will be used to deliver aid as the first option, rather than donor systems
- Conditionality – donors will switch from reliance on prescriptive conditions about how and when aid money is spent to conditions based on the developing country’s own development objectives

- Untying – donors will relax restrictions that prevent developing countries from buying the goods and services they need from whomever and wherever they can get the best quality at the lowest price.

Besides a donor government providing financial means to a country it is also possible that instead of direct financing indirect support is provide (tax exempt, environmental investments, education). These way donor governments could stimulate private sector actors to pro-actively engage in environment and nature protection in the country without having to effectively set up funding schemes.

Questions:

- Are the various governmental programs as effective as the ones from Agencies?
- Is there a coordination mechanism needed between the governmental programs?
- Should the cross-border component of the governmental programs enhanced?
- Is it possible the governmental programs – elements of them – are earmarked for specific international targets and managed jointly?
- Should there be a coordination mechanism among recipient countries as well?

Further references:

The Paris Declaration: http://www.oecd.org/document/18/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_35401554_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Accra Agenda for Action http://www.oecd.org/document/6/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_18638150_1_1_1_1,00.html

Report on donors implementing the Paris Declaration: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/56/42803689.pdf>

List of documents related to the Paris Declaration and to AAA:
http://www.oecd.org/document/19/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_43554003_1_1_1_1,00.html

Homepage of the EEA Grant: <http://www.eagrants.org/>

Homepage of the Swiss Contribution: http://www.contribution-enlargement.admin.ch/en/Home/The_Swiss_contribution