RDP-Support and Natura 2000: the Bavarian approach

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Natura 2000 in Bavaria

(SACs) Special Areas of Conservation

(SPAs) Special Protection Areas

total area (SACs + SPAs): 800,000 ha

56% woodland
44% agricultural area, waterbody, etc.
Required Measures and EU-Money

- Bavarian Conservation Programme
  dark green Agri-environment-climate Measure -> mainly with RDP-Support

- Bavarian Conservation Programme for forests
  No RDP-Support (Bureaucracy, Cross Compliance, …)

- Investment Measures
  No RDP-Support (Bureaucracy, Selection criteria for operations, …)

- Consulting, Planning, Public Relations, Monitoring, Evaluation
  No RDP-Support (Bureaucracy, partly not eligible)
Bavarian Conservation Programme

Modular system: you can combine about 50 different measures, e.g.:

- mowing not before the first of July: 350 € / ha
- no fertilizers and pesticides: 150 € / ha
- additional requirements: 400 € / ha:
  - sickle bar mower: 270 €, 5 – 20 %
  - fallow land: 50 €, very wet area: 80 €

Sum: 900 € / ha
Bavarian Conservation Programme

Modular system: you can combine about 50 different measures:

**advantage**
- Very targeted to Natura habitats and species etc.
- Proven effectiveness
- Obligatory counseling interview by nature conservation authorities
- High acceptance: more than 18,000 farmers; 41 Mio. € annual premiums

**disadvantage**
- EU-Commission wants simple measures
- Controllability and verifiability are more difficult, some important measures have to be implemented in national programmes
Alpine pasture and landscape elements
Involvement of stakeholders in the Bavarian Conservation Programme

- More than 20 workshops with farmers and ecologists whilst program planning
- Regular meetings with representatives of farmer associations, shepherds, mountain farmers
- Obligatory counselling interviews with participants by authorities of nature conservation (at least every 5 years)
Bavarian Conservation Programme in forests

- Started in 2005, co-funded by EU until 2013: little acceptance by forest-holders, hardly ecologically efficient (only 5 years commitment period)
- Withdrawal from co-funding in 2015 essential for implementation of Natura 2000, demand increasing (2017: approx. 4.5 million €), especially for biotope tree measure (one-off payment for 12 years)

→ less bureaucracy:
  → no submission to the cross-compliance system, no annual payments order

→ more efficiency:
  → deadwood, biotope trees and non utilization with 12 years commitment period, no detailed determination for forest parcels
Conclusion

- Targeted, dark green Agri-environment-climate Measures are a very good option (and challenge) to implement Natura 2000 with farmers
- Forest: implementation of ecologically reasonable measures hardly possible due to EU-restrictions

→ need for change!

Policy paper about Financing Natura 2000:
https://www.lpv.de/themen/agrar-und-regionalpolitik/agrarreform.html

-> integration strategy to implement Natura 2000 not successful (common position of the nature conservation administrations in Germany)
Thank you very much for your attention!