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G. General sessions: G1 An appraisal of policies and interventions for the promotion of ecosystem services in Latin America

How have ecosystem services been incorporated into public policies and programs in Brazil?

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Ecosystem services (ES) have been increasing in the public policy arena since the late 1990s. However, a great variation is expected in the application of the concept into legal frameworks and conservation actions, which impact its effectiveness. We will present a synthesis which will contribute to understand how ecosystem services have been incorporated into key conservation policies and programs, and at what levels, in Brazil. We have identified the main policies and programs launched in the country at the national and state level, including laws, national plans, decrees and programs. We conducted an overall evaluation of each, considering the following aspects, among others: i) if the term ES was explicitly used, ii) if services were considered bundled or separated, iii) which services were specified, iv) if payment for ecosystem services was considered, v) if the possible beneficiaries were identified. We found more than 23 pieces of Brazilian legislation that explicitly include Ecosystem Services in their scope. A high number of relevant legislation and programs were launched between 2002–2017, such as: the National Biodiversity Policy (2002), the water producer Program (2005), the Climatic Change National Policy (2009), Bolsa Verde (2011), the “Forest Code” – the National Legislation for Protection of Native Vegetation (2012), the Low Carbon Agriculture Plan (2012), the bill for the National Policy for Payment for Environmental Services (2015) and the National Policy for Recovery of Native Vegetation (2017). We finish by discussing the incorporation of the Ecosystem Services concept into Brazilian public policies over the last 15 years, and the many limitations that persist and hinder the advancement of its application in conservation and sustainable development in the country.

Keywords: Brazilian legislation, legal frameworks, conservation policies and programs