



Strategies for adjusting policies to institutional, cultural and biophysical context conditions: The case of conservation banking in California (and Germany?)

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(The presentation will be in English due to quotations based on interviews with various US agencies. The discussion will be in German)

Background: Dr. Carsten Mann is Deputy Head of the BMBF-financed Innovation in Governance Research Group at the Center for Technology and Society (ZTG) and the Department of Sociology (IfS) at the Technische Universität Berlin. As a forest and environmental scientist, he has specialized in social-ecological research, carrying out various research projects on national and international strategies for nature conservation, and on governance structures for sustainable development. Working in an interdisciplinary manner, policy and governance research approaches are largely combined with those of social-ecological and sustainability research. In addition, the transfer of scientific results concerning human impact on natural systems in policy and management practice is central to his research interests. In this context, methods of scenario building and –evaluation are developed and applied. More information can be found under: www.innovation-in-governance.org

Topic: Carsten Mann will present an empirical case study describing how policies on mitigation/conservation banking emerged in the US and established as an exemplar for application in other countries such as Australia, France and Great Britain. The creation of the policies' "fit" to the US environmental governance domain, and in particular to species protection in the State of California are analysed to understand the instrument's emergence and development towards an established policy solution. The focus is on the political dimension of policy design work, i.e. on negotiation processes among the enrolled actors and their strategies in matching the instrument to relevant institutional, cultural and biophysical context conditions. Changes in policy design, its underlying influences, interests, conflicts and power struggles are identified along the instrument's "innovation journey".

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