

Willi Zimmermann, Kurt Bisang, Claudia Zingerli:

Challenges of Policy Integration: Intersectoral coordination in international and national forest policy

International organisations such as the United Nations Forum on Forests (2002), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (2003), and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (2003) emphasise the need for better mechanisms of intersectoral coordination and cross-sectoral cooperation in order to make use of synergies between policy sectors and to strengthen sustainable forest management in the long term. Intersectoral coordination appears, therefore, as a key element in international policy documents and more recently also in national forest policy processes. Drawing on a case study of the Swiss National Forest Programme, a new policy planning instrument in forest policy, we discuss the implementation of intersectoral coordination in Switzerland. We particularly shed light on the interaction between the participating actors in the policy process as well as on the attempt to enable an improved dialogue and cooperation between forest policy and other sectors such as agriculture, energy or regional development policy. We draw lessons learnt from the proactive approach of forest policy towards policy integration and discuss its potential and consequences for strengthening the environmental agenda in a number of other environmentally-effective policy sectors.