

Abstract

Nowadays growing urban areas and their demands for agriculture and infrastructure put increasing pressures on natural resources. The consequence is biodiversity and ecosystem service loss. This results in increasing demands for biological offsetting in order to compensate for the harm to the environment that was created by the impact. In addition, it requires the EU within its Biodiversity Strategy to compensate for damages in Natura 2000 areas. Nevertheless, the implementation process of ecological compensation shows major deficiencies. Most projects turn out to be insufficient in terms of planning, goal setting and conduction. Adequate long-term monitoring and maintenance are mostly missing. The goal of this thesis was to examine different compensation processes in European countries and to elaborate what successful compensation would look like. This was done by conducting a systematic literature analysis to gain a broad overview over different compensation strategies. Four semi-structured interviews with experts from Sweden, France and Germany were conducted. Three countries that differ strongly in their experience with ecological compensation. These compensation strategies were analysed and compared. The analysis showed that up to this day compensation approaches still need improvement. There was a high demand for a stricter legislation that obliges compensation for impacts of all kinds. In addition, there was a strong need for further research in order to obtain more knowledge about the processes that are involved in ecological compensation. But also, the implementation process itself proved to be deficient in many cases. Therefore, improvement options are suggested here, in order to contribute to the overall knowledge about compensation and to help to better adapt the implementation process to the current circumstances in the future.