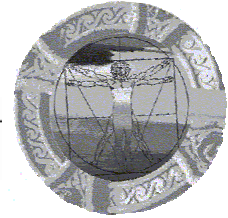




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International Conference on:

Payments for Ecosystem Services and their Institutional Dimensions

- 10-12 November 2011, Berlin, Germany -

Excursion to the Spreewald Biosphere Reserve

The field trip to visit a German PES example in practice will be a guided tour to the Spreewald region, located about 100km south-east of Berlin. The region was designated a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 1991 and maintains a landscape characterised by traditional irrigation systems, alder forests on wetlands and traditional agricultural land use practices and covers an area of 475km². Along these waterways and channels, meadows, fields and forests, rich in indigenous species make up the landscape. Many animal and plant species found here are threatened or extinct in other regions. Roughly 25% of the biosphere reserve is covered by forests while agriculture takes up about 60% of its area.

In Germany, the PES concept usually refers to the maintenance of cultural landscapes (“Kulturlandschaften”) and multi-functional land uses. These are distinct geographical areas and landscapes created by mankind, which preserve and generate distinct ecosystem goods and services. Germany, as well as the EU in general, has a wider view on what constitutes a positive externality within agricultural lands. This includes for example traditional farming practices, cultivation of rare and ancient plant seeds, the husbandry of certain endangered animal breeds as well as the maintenance of distinct landscapes.

Schedule & Program

08:30 Bus departs from Berlin city centre.

10:00 Arrival at the Biosphere Reserve Spreewald.

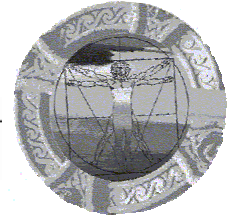
Welcome and introduction to the Biosphere Reserve Spreewald at the “*State Office for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection*” in **Luebbenau**.

10:30 Depending on weather conditions, we will visit **Lehde** either by bus or by “*Stechkahn*” a punt typical for the region.

We will visit the village of Lehde and its open-air museum.
A discussion is also planned in the museum’s seminar room.



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The following topics will be discussed:

- the difficulties of preserving old crops
- how to preserve traditional land use in present times
- the Spreewald community foundation and their work will be introduced
- the importance of civil engagement will be highlighted
- land use practices, settlement structures, demographic change, shrub encroachment and succession will be explained

Our next stop is **Goeritz**. There we will visit the farm market of the Goeritzer Agrar farm. (<http://www.die-spreewaldbauern.de/texte/seite.php?id=31384>)

Here the **importance of direct and regional marketing** will be explained and discussed. This is especially relevant in times of decreasing public funding, where sustainable value chains must counterbalance the diminishing public funding. Sustainable value chains therefore compensate for what public authorities can no longer provide. And this entire process flows back economically to the fields determining what should be cultivated.

An example would be the **Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)**. This helps the region market its niche at higher prices, thus enabling the preservation of traditional breeds and plants. The marketing of products appears to be more sustainable than receiving public funding for projects.



Next, how the agricultural farms were adapted to **comply with nature conservancy** will be explained. Assessments are made to find out what productivity possibly complies with nature conservancy (e.g. suckler cow production etc.).

Finally the importance of the “**Eingriffs-Ausgleichs-Regelung**” (*impact mitigation regulation*) will be explained, demonstrating how this compensation payment is spent for preserving ecosystem services and goods. More will be said about the instrument itself. The kind of landscape maintenance that can be financed via this instrument will furthermore be demonstrated.

Lunch will be provided during the field trip.

15:00 Bus leaves for Berlin.

16:30 Arrival in Berlin city centre.