



Developing conditions for cost-effective application of ecological compensation in Nordic Countries

(A project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, NCM)



Background

Environmental impacts are increasing due to human development, i.e. housing, energy infrastructure, mines, rail and road construction, dredging, etc. Cumulative losses of biodiversity and ecosystem services mean that ecological compensation is becoming an increasingly important policy tool. Yet, the scope of compensation remains limited as do the frameworks, guidance and lessons from implementation elsewhere.

Despite differences in legal and institutional contexts, there are a number of common Nordic challenges in improving the use of ecological compensation:

-  To identify measures to increase the use of ecological compensation;
-  To better understand the cost of compensation; and
-  To develop clear and predictable compensation frameworks for developers and regulators.

Project Purpose

This project provides an overview of key conditions for increased and cost-effective application of compensation and outlines potential frameworks for Nordic countries. The results will be relevant for the NCM, as well as policy-makers at national, regional and local levels.

The project's objectives are:

-  Provide a brief overview of legal, policy and institutional frameworks, current levels of implementation and lessons learned in compensation in the Nordic countries.
-  Define different categories of costs and explore flexible mechanisms that minimize costs and increase the use of compensation, based in part on an ecosystem services approach.
-  Briefly explore possibilities for cross-border cooperation between Nordic countries.



Organisation

The project team includes ecologists and environmental economists from Sweden, Norway and Finland, and is managed by Anders Enetjärn, CEO of the Swedish ecology consultancy Enetjärn Natur AB. The team will benefit from a reference group of international experts from England, France, Germany, Finland, and Sweden. The project is commissioned by the Working Group on Environment and Economy (MEG) and the The Terrestrial Ecosystem Group (TEG) under the Nordic Council of Ministeries



At the request of:



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers

