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The protection of biodiversity in forests: can regulation be effective by using voluntary policy instruments and standards?

Presentation is based on an article manuscript¹ in which the aim is to identify the shortcomings in Finnish forestry legislation in order to make regulation more acceptable and effective than it is presently. At the beginning of this article we introduce the tools for the evaluation of forestry regulation, and at the end we summarize the important conclusions about the evaluation for discussion of regulatory theory. The tools and conclusions can be used to assist evaluation of regulation in various countries.

In the evaluation, we have used concepts such as *lex imperfecta* as well as *the deficient and incoherence of regulation* to describe the possible shortcomings. The gaps may induce implementation deficits, and thus decrease the efficiency of regulation. We have *categorized three types of landowners* to describe that full voluntarism in policy instruments may lead to very different compliance results depending on the attitude of the landowners. Effectiveness of forest regulation cannot simply rely on the voluntary approaches, but well-designed strict policy instruments and standards which guarantee the minimum level of biodiversity protection as well. It is not a question of which one to choose, but of how to pass smart regulation with a sophisticated mix of policy instruments and standards.

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