

Proposals and Models of Legal and Economic Conservation Instruments

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Seeking to promote the conservation of the Cerrado in its territory, the government of Goiás proposed the development of a State Policy on Environmental Services and Climate Regulation, which would help preserving the biome in rural properties through financial compensation mechanisms. From this perspective, this study aims to structure operative models of economic and legal instruments to operate as compensatory mechanisms of that Policy.

Analyzes were performed to identify territorial (land use, priority areas for conservation), economic (emphasizing on agricultural activities) and legal (institutional models) issues of Goiás State. Additionally, studies were conducted to explore national and international experiences about Payments for Environmental Services. These studies allowed identifying elements for developing operative models according to the best model for Goiás.

Considering those analyzes, two programs were developed to achieve the proposed goals: (i) Payment for Environmental Services, which has four sub-programs - "Carbon", "Water", "Biodiversity" and "Other" (traditional knowledge, cultural values, tourism, etc.), (ii) Legal Reserve. Analyzes were conducted for each program and subprogram to identify aspects of contextualization, technical characteristics, sources of funds, challenges and barriers. Once these aspects were evaluated, the operative model and the legal embasement were developed for each subprogram, also considering its potential of incentivizing farmers to promote environmental conservation.

This study also suggested the establishment of a state institution which would be responsible for the development and regulation of Goiás public policy on environmental conservation with economic incentives for farmers. This institution would have the legislative competence to all outstanding environmental assets through every Programs and Subprograms. This institution would also be responsible for raising funds to incentivate Payment for Environmental Services markets, and would have a Think Tank with focus on the Cerrado in order to generate and disseminate information related to this biome and its projects.

Considering the programs and subprograms formulated, it was found that the government of Goiás will have a key role as the regulator of the economic mechanisms to incentivize farmers to promote environmental conservation through the proposed tools. Therefore, for creating and implementing the Programs and Subprograms, it is important that the government of Goiás consider the implementation of a similar institution

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structure as suggested in this study, which would have functions that are extremely important to enable the proposed mechanisms and operative models, also ensuring the contribution to the conservation of the Cerrado in the state of Goiás.

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