



The Sustainable Provision of Environmental Services: From Regulation to Innovation (CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance)

By Philipp Aerni

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The Sustainable Provision of Environmental Services: From Regulation to Innovation (CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance) By Philipp Aerni

This book addresses the ability of market-based instruments to improve the sustainable provision of environmental services. The author combines field research and insights from the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the FAO to analyze the gap between the predictions provided by theory and the corresponding outcomes in practice. In particular, the author challenges the theory behind Payments for Environmental Services (PES), a concept derived from neoclassical welfare economics, by demonstrating that PES projects often lack financial sustainability unless local entrepreneurs make use of the resulting new networks to create innovative markets for environmental goods. The author calls for a shift of focus from regulation to innovation in projects and policies designed to improve the provision of environmental services. Its spotlight on the positive social impacts of companies that engage in hybrid PES schemes will make the book appealing to practitioners and policymakers alike.

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Editorial Review

Review

“This book is a refreshing challenge to conventional approaches to payments for environmental services. It offers a more realistic framework that accounts for human creativity and innovation in environmental management.”

Professor Calestous Juma, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, USA (Author of the "The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa", Oxford University Press 2011)

"Philipp Aerni offers a most useful critical assessment of the theory and practice of payments for ecosystem services. His book helps us understand why such payments sometimes fail to reach their objectives, and what could be done about it, particularly in less developed countries."

Professor Thomas Bernauer, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

"Drawing on lessons learned from case studies in Kenya, this important book shows what is needed to improve environmental services and sustainability in the developing world."

Paul Slovic, President, Decision Research and Professor, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, USA

“This book vividly assesses the use and impact of PES (Payments of Environmental Services) in agriculture. Addressing the gap between PES theory and practice in the historical context, valuable lessons are learned from case studies in Kenya. They assist in refining future policies, linking PES to new business opportunities. The book is essential reading in the quest for squaring increasing food production and sustainable development and for the design of future rules of the international trading system.”

Thomas Cottier, Professor of Law, World Trade Institute, University of Bern.

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Philipp Aerni is Director of the Center for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CCRS) at the University of Zürich in Switzerland. He graduated originally in Geography and Economics at the University of Zurich and received his PhD from the Institute of Agricultural Economics at ETH Zurich. Subsequently he continued his postdoctoral research at Harvard University, ETH Zurich and the University of Bern. From May 2012 to September 2013 he was coordinator of a Swiss-funded project on the sustainable provision of environmental services at the Food and Agriculture Organisation FAO of the United Nations in Rome. His research interests are in the areas of corporate responsibility, science education, sustainable development, environment politics and the history of science and technology.

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