

National Environmental funds: Experiences in Germany

National Submission

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Various federal and private funding sources are used to finance nature conservation measures. State and supranational funds are made available by the EU, the German federal government and the regional states (*Länder*).

For international funding German development institution (GTZ, KfW, etc.) as well as various foundations and German non-governmental organisations contribute to funding of biodiversity related project worldwide.

State funds

The German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) holds several funds for nature conservation projects. These funds are administrated and technically and scientifically supervised by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

These funds cover:

- Large scale conservation projects
- Projects carried out by nature conservation NGOs
- Research and Development Projects
- Testing and Development Projects

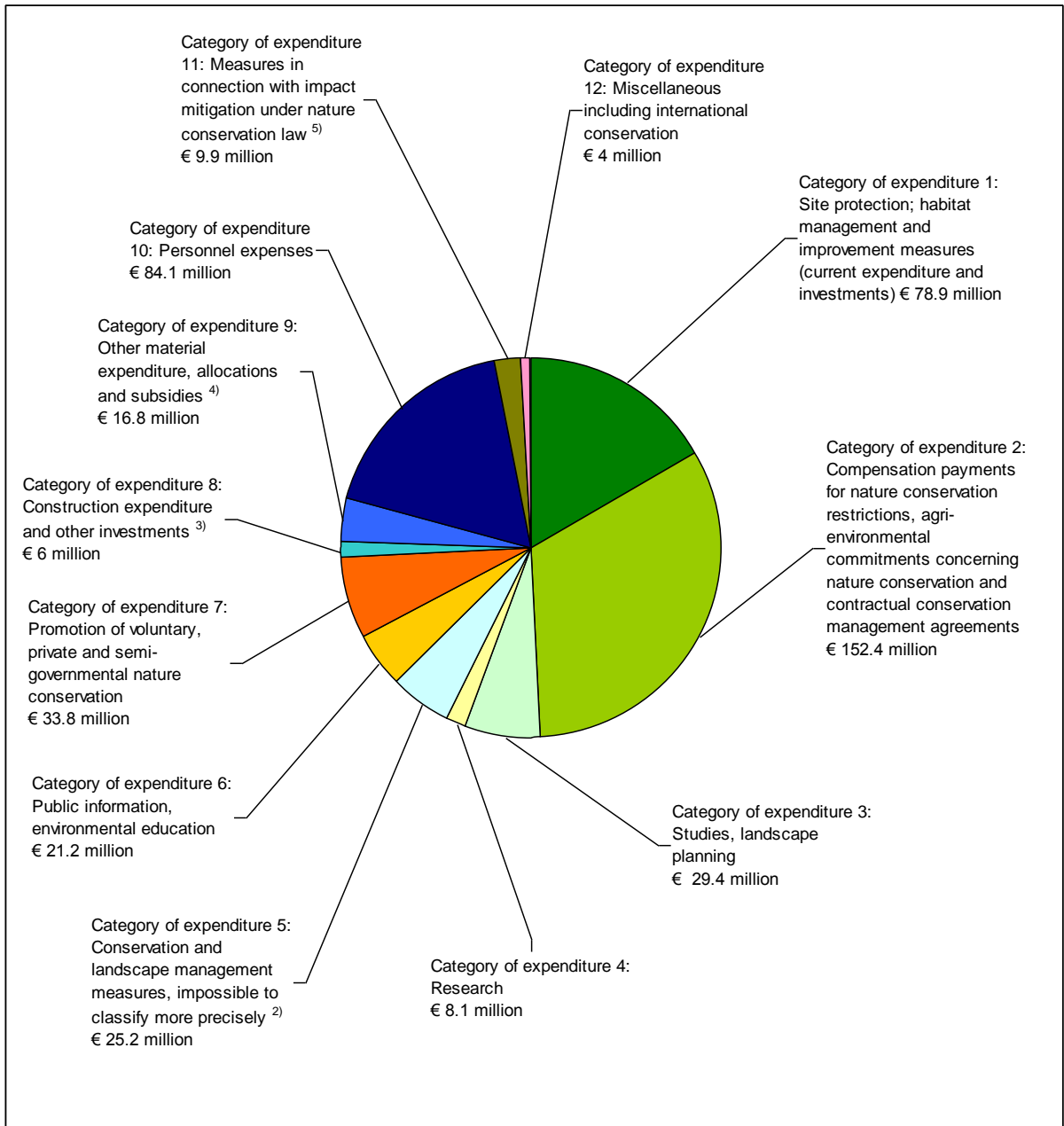
Further to this, each of the 16 Federal States is providing funding for nature conservation. There are also funding opportunities for conservation from local authorities.

In addition to expenditures specifically for conservation, some funding from other departments (including agriculture, forestry and fisheries management, water resources management, economic development and tourism, labour and education) can also promote conservation goals. Besides the specific budget items for nature conservation, only that portion of the agri-environmental measures that is relevant to conservation can be quantified with any confidence. There are very few estimates about the amount of money from other categories spent on conservation-related measures, or about the percentage of funds used for non-conservation measures out of the conservation budget.

In relation to overall spending on nature conservation by the federal government and the territorial *Länder*, expenditure on compensation payments for nature conservation restrictions, agri-environmental commitments concerning nature conservation, and contractual conservation management agreements has come to account for approx. 32 % of total funding (Fig. 1, based on 1999 expenditure).

The greater part – to varying degrees from one *Land* to another – is co-financed from the EU agriculture budget. The next largest batches of spending fall into the categories of site protection, habitat development and habitat improvement measures (approx. 17 %), and human resource expenses (approx. 18 %). Public information work accounts for 4.5 %, and support for voluntary, private and semi-governmental nature conservation for 7.2 % of expenditures.

Figure 1: Breakdown of conservation expenditure by German federal government and *Länder* (except city-states) by categories of expenditure 1999 ¹⁾



1) Figures are normally actual amounts spent; for data collection method see footnote to Fig. 209

2) Measures from areas 1-4 not more precisely classified

3) Construction expenditure and other investments not falling into areas 1 or 4-7

4) Material expenditure, allocations and subsidies not falling into areas 1-8

5) Various measures financed specifically from government income from the impact mitigation required under nature conservation law

Source: NATURE DATA 2004, BFN

Private Funds:

Private funds for financing nature conservation come from various sources. Funds are available from different organisations (e.g. private foundations, nature conservation NGOs, see Table 1) partly working on federal level, partly on Länder level.

In addition to monetary resources, a not insignificant portion of conservation support comes from non-monetary resources, specifically in the form of unpaid volunteer work.

German foundations that focus on environmental protection, at least € 100 million were used for the environment and conservation. It is estimated that of these, approx. three-quarters – i.e. € 75 million – are spent on conservation. Since this also includes state-funded foundations, which finance their grants to some degree with public monies, we cannot rule out overlap in the total value given for federal conservation financing.

Table 1: Private financing options for nature conservation

- Funds in connection with impact mitigation under nature conservation law (mitigation and environmental compensation measures, compensation payments) – financing and implementation of the measures is partly state-sponsored, partly private
- Financing through private foundations
- Sponsoring
- Donations including legacy gifts
- Contributions to conservation organizations
- Lottery revenue
- Fines
- Financing through cooperative agreements with corporations that have a similar mission (e.g. water resources management, companies operating in the tourism sector and the like)
- Financing through the sale of products and services (including marketing of premiums, sale of products from landscape management)

Source: Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), 2004