

The control of socio-ecological criteria through private governance mechanisms

Biomass for energy- lessons from the Bioenergy Boom -
UFZ Leipzig

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Structure

1. Background
2. Methods
3. Case Studies
4. Results
5. Conclusions

1. Background

- Scope of certification schemes for biomass accepted under the EU Renewable Energy Directive
- Possibilities and limitations of certification schemes against the background of the rapid changing Brazilian agricultural sector
- Field work between 2010 and 2012



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2. Methodology

Hypothesis

- certification schemes and the herein anchored sustainability indicators can help to narrow down undesired social and ecological effects in the production chain
- but might not address negative socio-ecological side effects, that occur outside the production chain

2. Methodology

- **empirical, explorative analysis is based on semi-structured interviews** with representatives from ministries and state agencies, certification agencies, farmers, standard organizations, processing companies, farmer organizations, agricultural research organizations and representatives from civil society organizations (33 in total)
- objective: **to assess the effectiveness of sustainability certification for biomass** (assuming that the demand will rise in future)
- Case studies of six production sites

2. Methodology

- Desktop evaluation of standards

	RSB	ISCC	Bonsucro	RTRS
General – procedural effects				
Compliance with national laws	yes	yes	yes	yes
Transparent stakeholder consultation and participation	yes	yes ^a	yes	
Accessible complaints and grievance structure		yes ^a	yes	yes
Continuous improvement	yes	yes	yes	yes
Good management practices	yes	yes	yes	yes
Environmental effects – micro				
GHG balance	yes	yes	yes	yes
Good agricultural practices	yes	yes		yes
Water pollution	yes	yes	yes	yes
Soil preservation	yes	yes	yes	yes
Use of agrochemicals	yes	yes	yes	yes
Restriction of GM crops	yes ^d			
Biodiversity (HCV)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Air pollution	yes	yes		
Waste management	yes	yes		yes
Direct land-use change	yes	yes		yes
Wetlands		yes	yes	yes
No production on land with high carbon stock	yes	yes	yes	
Grasslands		yes		
Environmental Impact Assessment	yes	yes		yes
Socio-ecological effects - micro				
Compliance with labour laws	yes	yes	yes	yes
Land rights	yes	yes	yes	yes
Forced labour	yes	yes	yes	yes
Child labour	yes	yes	yes	yes
Worker health and safety	yes	yes	yes	yes
Discrimination	yes	yes	yes	yes
Minimum wages	yes	yes	yes	yes
Freedom of association and collective bargaining	yes	yes	yes	yes
Legal contract situation	yes	yes	yes	yes
Consultation with local community	yes	yes		yes
No contested land	yes	yes		yes
Adaptation for small holder				

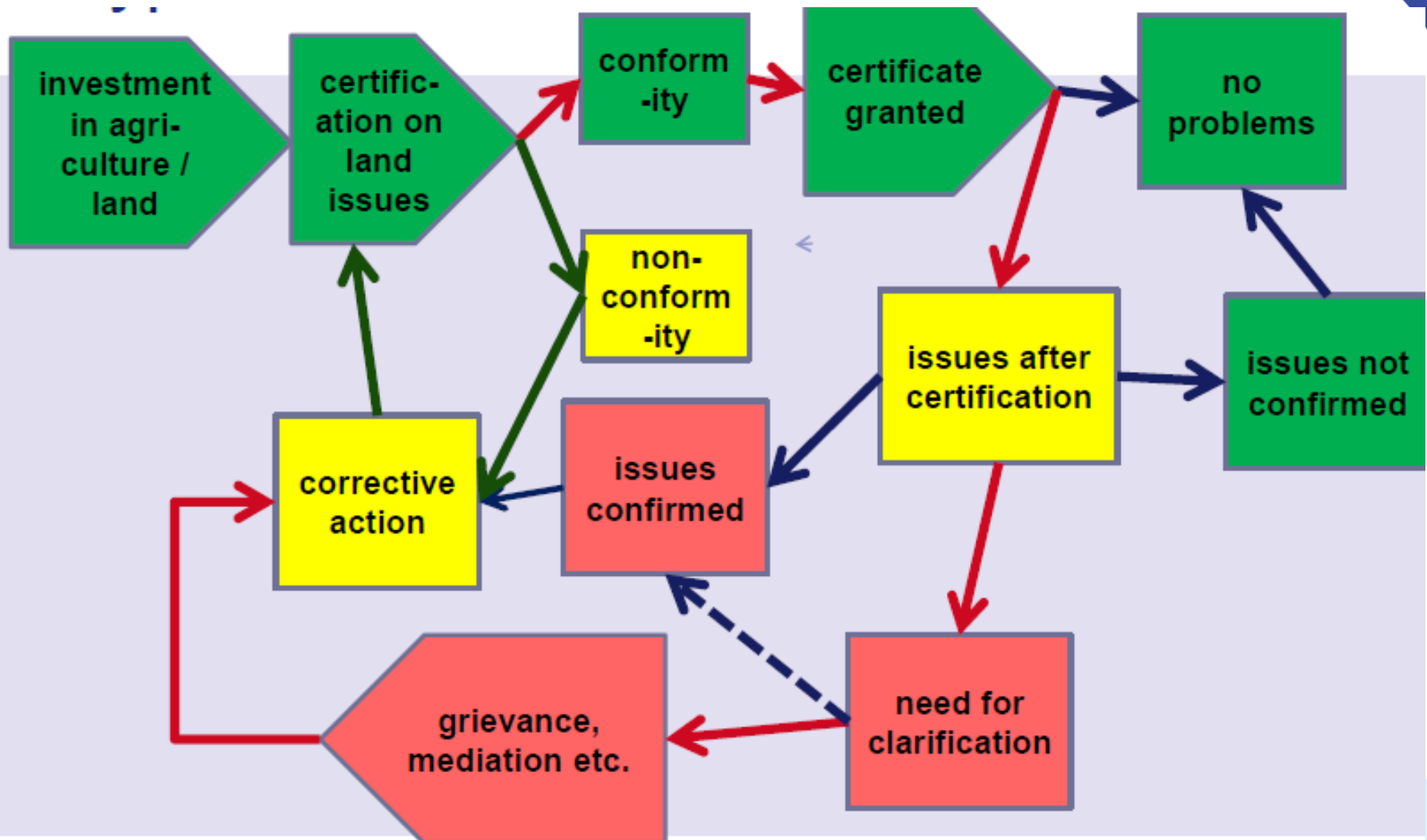
3. Case Studies

- 2 RTRS certification
- 1 RSB certification outgrower scheme
- 2 ISCC pilot certification
- 1 interest in certification





4. Impacts of certification



4. Impacts of certification

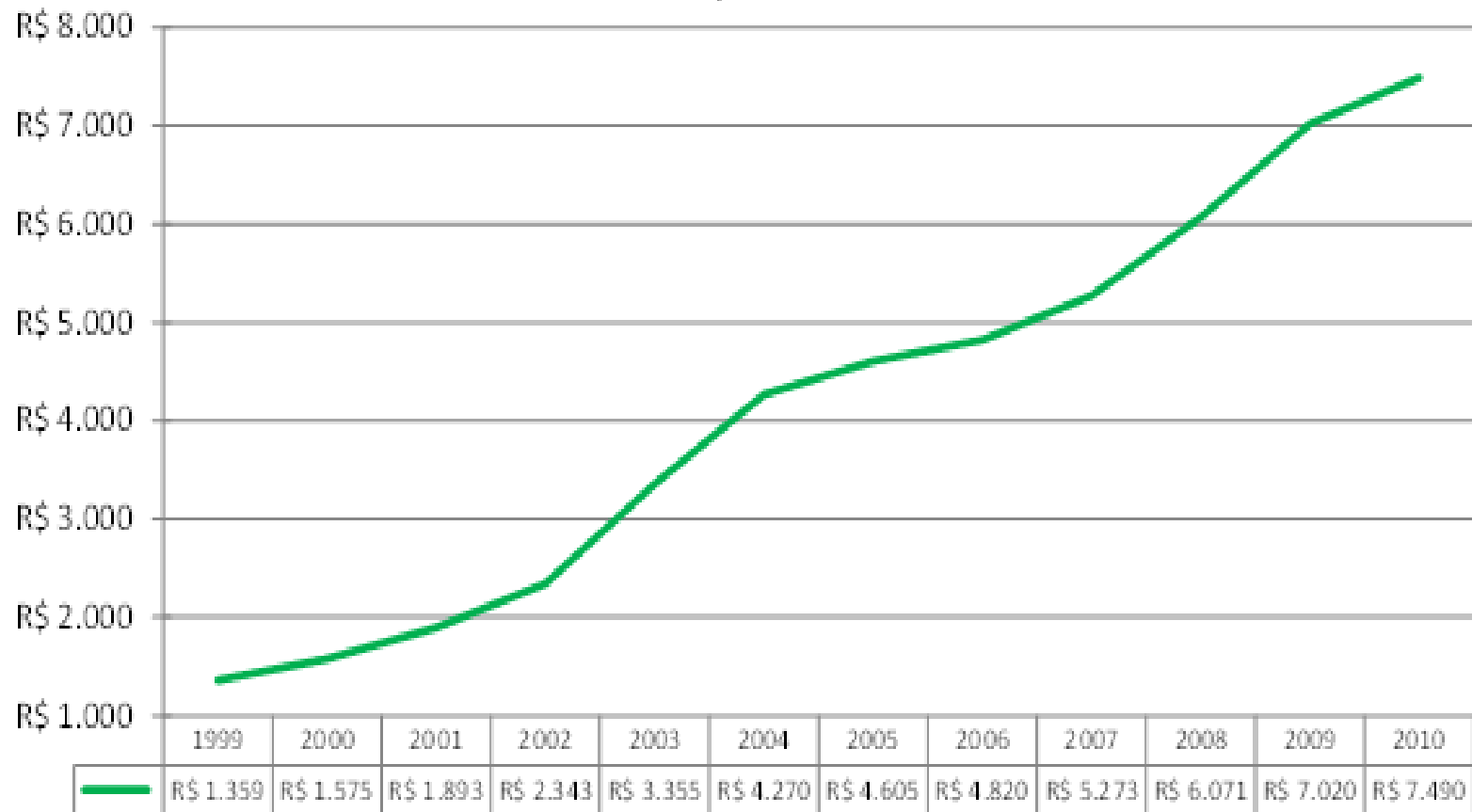
Social impacts:

- Labour
- Grievance mechanism
- Land rights and displacement



4. Impacts of certification

Evolution of land prices in Brazil from 1999-2010



4. Impacts of certification

Social impacts:

- Labour
- Grievance mechanism
- Land rights and displacement
- Food security



4. Impacts of certification

Environmental impacts:

- The calculation of GHG releases
- Change of land use – indirect change of land use
- Natural resource management
- Use and handling of agrochemicals and fertilization
- Deforestation and biodiversity
- Environmental law
- Mechanization of harvest – less GHG, social dimension



5. Conclusion

- Impact of sustainability standards should be improved!
- High variability between regions
- Learning process based on experience
- Food security remains unaddressed
- Focus on practical implementation, not principles
- Indirect social side effects are hardly discussed
- Still high importance of national regulation and enforcement, e.g. reduce of land concentration (indirect social effects)
- Possability for pushing the bar higher year by year – development criteria

Questions

How may other disciplines/methodologies contribute to evaluate the effectiveness of commodity certification?

Could the effectiveness of certification be improved by coupling certificates with other instruments, e.g. in regards to land use or displacement?



