



**RESOURCE**

# Ecosystem Services Auctions: The Last Decade of Research

|

**Author(s)**

Bingham, Logan R. Da Re, Riccardo Borges, José G.

**Description / Abstract**

Auctions offer potential cost-effectiveness improvements over other mechanisms for payments for ecosystem services (PES) contract allocation. However, evidence-based guidance for matching design to application is scarce and research priorities are unclear. To take stock of the current state of the art, we conducted a systematic review and thematic content analysis of 56 peer-reviewed journal articles discussing ES auctions published in the last decade. Auctions were approached from three overlapping perspectives: mechanism design, PES, and policy analysis. Five major themes emerged: (1) performance, including measures like cost-effectiveness and PES criteria like additionality; (2) information dynamics like price discovery and communication effects; (3) design innovations like risk-integrating and spatially coordinated mechanisms; (4) contextual variables like policy context and cultural values; and (5) participation factors. Additional attention from policymakers and continued efforts to coordinate research in this diverse and interdisciplinary subfield may be beneficial.

**Publication year**

2021

**Publisher**

Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute - MDPI

**Keywords**

Payments for Ecosystem Services Market-based Instruments

**Thematic Tagging**

Urban Water services

Language English

[View resource](#)

**Related IWRM Tools**



Tool

### **Generating Basic Revenues for Water**

D2.03

---

**Source**  
**URL:** <https://iwrmaactionhub.org/resource/ecosystem-services-auctions-last-decade-research>