



Universität für Bodenkultur
Department für Wirtschafts-
und Sozialwissenschaften

The Implementation of International Norms for Sustainability through National Strategies

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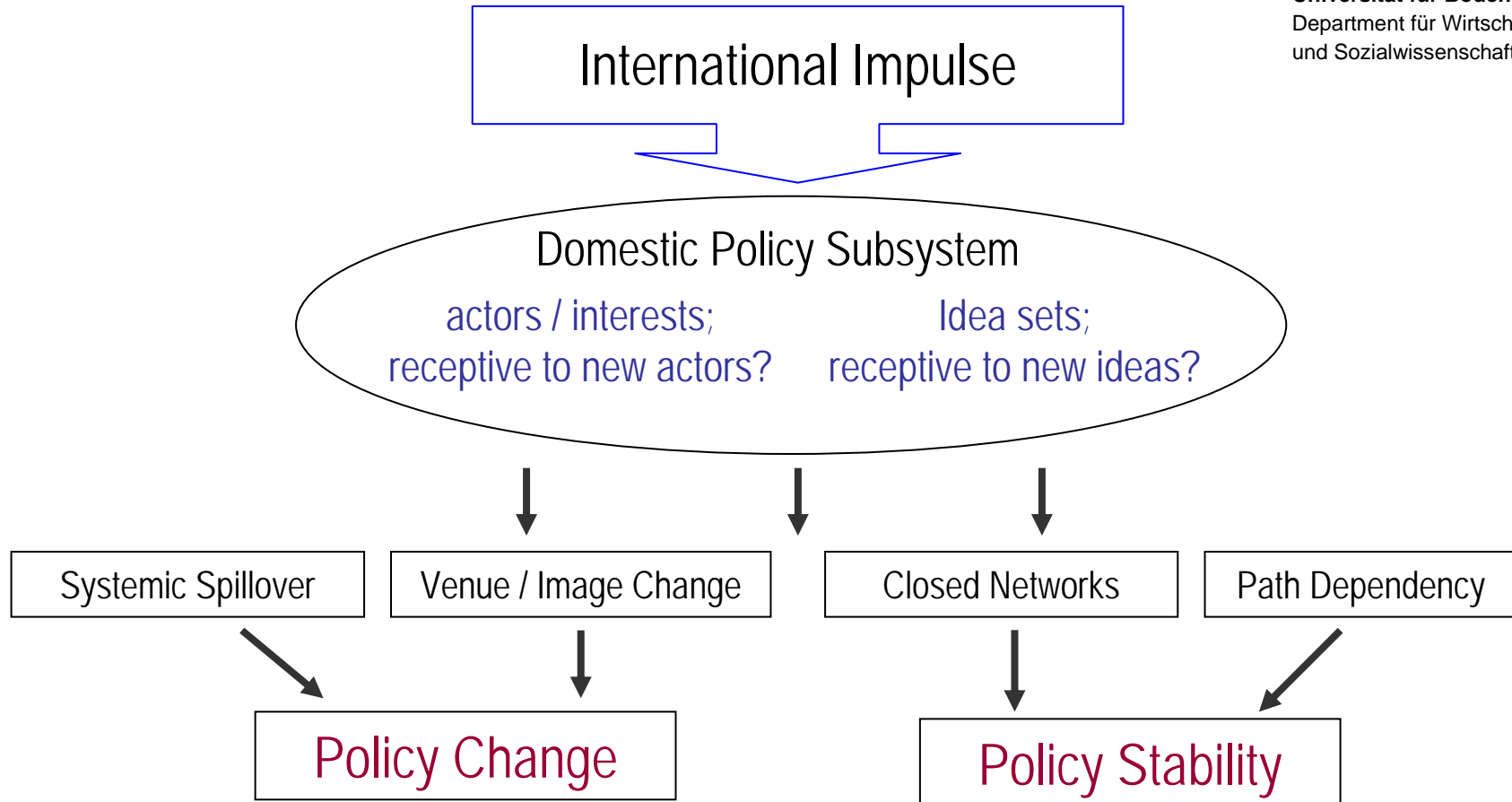


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Research Question

Why do similar international impulses to develop national strategies for sustainability lead to divergent domestic responses and outputs in the same country ?

Effects of Internationalization on Domestic Policy Change – Analytical Framework



Types of Policy Subsystems I: Policy Networks

Table 1: A Taxonomy of Policy Networks

Dominant Actors	Number of Members	
	Few	Many
State	Bureaucratic, Clientele, or Corporatist Networks	Pluralist Networks
Societal	Participatory-Statist, Captured, or Triadic Networks	Issue Networks

Types of Policy Subsystems II: Idea Sets

Table 2: A Taxonomy of Policy Ideas

Dominant Idea Sets	Number of Idea Sets	
	Few	Many
Yes	Hegemonic	Fractious
No	Contested	Chaotic

Source: Howlett and Ramesh 1998: 471

Basic Policy Subsystem Configurations

Table 3: Basic Policy Subsystem Configurations

		Receptive to new actors	
		No	Yes
Receptive to new ideas	No	Closed Subsystem	Resistant Subsystem
	Yes	Contested Subsystem	Open Subsystem

Source: Howlett and Ramesh (2003, 157)

Four Ideal Types of Sustainability Strategies

Table 4: Four ideal types of sustainability strategies - related to the presence of new actors and ideas

	Presence of new actors	Continuity of old actors
Presence of new ideas	<i>Innovative strategy</i>	<i>Output-oriented strategy</i>
Continuity of old ideas	<i>Process-oriented („legitimizing“) strategy</i>	<i>Rhetoric strategy</i>



Three Empirical Case Studies

- Austrian Forest Programme (AFD; 2005)
- Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity (ABS; 1998)
- Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy (ASSD; 2002)



International Impulse: legally binding and non-binding

- **AFD:** Non-legally binding agreements at UN- and Pan-European levels; EU Forestry Strategy &, Council Regulation on Support of Rural Development by the EAFRD
- **ABS:** International obligation for elaboration of National Biodiversity Strategy (Art. 6 CBD)
- **ASSD:** Non-legally binding agreements by UN and EU

The policy subsystems

	Prior to international impulse	Changes induced (for the process)
<i>Forest Dialogue</i>	Actor network: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Corporatist, introverted Idea set: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "SFM" a hegemonic paradigm;▪ Common values, perceptions, interest	
<i>Biodiversity Strategy</i>	Actor network: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pluralist, dominant economic coalition Idea set: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Resource use vs. Nature conservation	
<i>Sustainability Strategy</i>	Actor network: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No policy subsystem for sustainability▪ Issue and bureaucratic networks Idea set: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Econ. growth vs. environm. protection	

The policy subsystems

	Prior to international impulse	Changes induced (for the process)
<i>Forest Dialogue</i>	<p>Actor network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporatist, introverted <p>Idea set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "SFM" a hegemonic paradigm; ▪ Common values, perceptions, interest 	<p>Actor network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad range of new actors / interests <p>Idea set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall paradigm SFM +/- unchallenged ▪ Significant change in process principles
<i>Biodiversity Strategy</i>	<p>Actor network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pluralist, dominant econ. coalition <p>Idea set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource use vs. Nat. Conserv. 	<p>Actor network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuity of old actors /interests <p>Idea set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystem Approach as new idea, but failed to become dominant idea set
<i>Sustainability Strategy</i>	<p>Actor network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No policy subsystem for sustainability ▪ Issue and bureaucratic networks <p>Idea set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Econ. growth vs. environm. protection 	<p>Actor network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad range of new actors (formulation) ▪ Administrative actors (implementation) <p>Idea set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sust. development, but no clear definition

Output – types of sustainability strategies

Table 5: Classification of the empirical cases, i.e. three sustainability strategies

	Presence of new actors		Continuity of old actors
Presence of new ideas	<i>Innovative strategy</i>	ASSD	<i>Output-oriented strategy</i>
Continuity of old ideas	AED <i>Process oriented („legitimizing“) strategy</i>		<i>Rhetoric strategy</i> ABS



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