Value of transboundary nature protected areas, located at the EU outer borders

Fulufjellet/Fulufjället case

Knut Veisten, Askill Harkjerr Halse, Iratxe Landa Mata
Kick-off, Białowieża, Poland, 15-17 September 2013
Fulufjället / Fulufjellet

*Fulufjället/Fulufjellet*, mountain range on the border between Norway (*Trysil, Hedmark*) and Sweden (*Älvdalen, Dalarna*). On the Norwegian side is the mountain peak *Slottet* (“the Palace”), 1047 m; the highest point on the Swedish side is *Slohangflöjet*, 1044 m. In the northern part is *Njupeskär*, Sweden's highest waterfall, 93 meters high. The area represents one of the few remaining larger areas in Scandinavia with pristine nature, old-growth (mixed/coniferous) forest, and all the four large predator mammals.
Fulufjället / Fulufjellet

Fulufjället/Fulufjellet ≈ 470 km² (Fulufjället in Sweden 385 km² / Fulufjellet in Norway 83 km²)

Established in 2002

Established in 2012

Trysil

Sälen
Establishing Fulufjället national park

- Opposition

Establishing with rising conflicts

- Reduce impacts of traditional use
- Unclear benefits
- Mistrust, strong emotions

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Europarc Conference Workshop B6
2009-09-12
Establishing Fulufjället national park

- Change of perspective

**Improved, “inside-out” process**

- Deal with park surroundings
- Benefits *outside* area boundary
- Focus on possibilities

Socio-economic benefits

Resource opportunities
Establishing Fulufjället

I Undisturbed zone
II Low activity zone
III High activity zone
IV Structure zone

- Express area resources
- Communication tool
- National and local interests provided
## ROS-zone spectrum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Zone I ------------ Undisturbed</th>
<th>Zone IV Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-site management</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor impact</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social interaction level</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability to experience:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✧ solitude</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium/low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✧ silence</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium/low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✧ unspoilt nature</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>medium/low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Establishing Fulufjellet national park

- Decree of 27 April 2012 (Norwegian Government)
  - Fulufjellet national park 82.5 km²
  - Fregn nature reserve: 3.9 km²

- Reasons/arguments for establishing the park:
  - Large, partly undisturbed/pristine area (some old-growth forest)
  - Habitat for large mammals and rare fungi/lichen species
  - The advantage of an attachment to a larger park area on the Swedish side of the border
Establishing Fulufjellet national park

- **Opposition**
  - >50% public lands, the rest mostly private forest
  - A growing chalet/ski tourism area adjacent to the park

- **Specific threats**
  - *Without park*: extension of chalet/ski area, cutting of old-growth forest, increased conflict with large carnivores?
  - *With park*: similar threats, but under control?
Establishing Fulufjellet national park

- Management proposals that had to be abandoned:
  - *Zoning* (which is implemented at the Swedish side), abandoned because local stakeholders (land owners) would not accept ban on hunting in any zone of the park (and the park is possibly a mix of “low activity zone” and “high activity zone”)
  - Had to give up some *areas in original park plan*, because these were already “taken” by ski/chalet activity (parking) or by forestry activity (cutting and planting of non-autochthonous tree species)
Establishing Fulufjellet national park

- Ski tourism in Ljørdalen
  - Extension of Trysil ski resort
  - Fulufjellet ski resort (Ljørdalen/Trysil) is situated just south of the national park
Fulufjellet ski resort: planned extension (ski slopes, lifts, chalets, etc.)
Establishing Fulufjellet national park

- Support and opposition

  Wish from Sweden of extension of park across the border

  Some on the Norwegian side argued against “Swedish pressure”

Heterogeneity of preferences – local vs. national / forestry vs. environmental interest
Establishing Fulufjället national park

- Intense local debate
- The yes-side emerges
- Political acceptance
- Local vision realizes
- Concrete actions
Establishing Fulufjället national park

Local & regional benefits

- Improved infrastructure
- Stakeholder cooperation, social networks
- Improved marketing, rising attention
- Long-term jobs
- New confidence in the future
- Sustainable profile of municipality
Visitor study before-and-after NP

- 40 % more visitors
- 80-90 % satisfied
- NP as main motive for the visit: 15 %
- NP influences choice of visit: 45 %
- NP improves visitor outcomes: 80 % (+ 15 %)
- NP improves regional values: 85 % + (15 %)
A tourism strategy

Zone IV: Njupeskär waterfall, naturum visitor centre, carpark, access road

Fig 1 Zone map

Fig 3 Fulufjället region with major ski-resorts within 50 km
A tourism strategy

The national park
in the regional
economy

Fulufjället National Park

NJUPESKÄR / SÄRNA
Öjvallberget
Särna
Mörkret
Gördalen

LJØRDALEN
Ljørdalen
Stöa
Östby
Nesvoldberget

SÖRSJÖN
Sörsjön
Nornäs
Horrmund
Gråshedén

Trysil

Sälen
A tourism strategy

The national park in the regional economy

Fulufjället National Park and vicinity

IDRE
12 000 BEDS

TRYSIL
23 000 BEDS

SÄLEN
55 000 BEDS