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#### Value of Transboundary Nature Protected Areas Situated near the EU Outer Borders



Midterm Evaluation. Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegorzewskiej, 8th December 2015, 14:00









**Basic Facts:** 

- Project promoter: University of Warsaw, Faculty of Economic Sciences (WNE UW)
- Project partner: Transportøkonomisk institutt (TØI)
- Principle investigator: Prof. dr hab. Tomasz Żylicz
- Duration: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016
- Total project cost: 2 096 832 PLN
- Core2012 Grant: 2 096 832 PLN

## TRANPAREA EVENTS & CORE TEAM



- •Kick-off meeting
- •Two interdisciplinary workshops
- •Fulufje/ället fieldtrip
- •Four national field surveys

- Academic writing workshop
- •Two *in situ* workshops for local stakeholders



## **Project objectives**

**General aim** – to find out empirically whether transboundary nature protected areas (NPAs) under consideration located at EU's outer borders qualify to be international public goods:

- 1. To conduct comparative valuation exercise for the 'Eastern' and 'Scandinavian' cases of transboundary NPAs
- 2. To work out appropriate recommendations based on the study's implications and communicate study's findings to professional community, authorised bodies and stakeholders of the countries involved

#### Study sites: Białowieża/Biełavieskaja Pušča



#### Study sites: Fulufjellet/Fulufjället





#### Intact Natural Forest vs. Production Forest



#### Project's expected outcomes: short-term

- •The insights will be provided into how people's preferences concerning transboundary NPAs are being shaped.
- •Results of the study will be used in order to develop recommendations on economic optimisation of transboundary NPAs' management.

## Project's expected outcomes: long-term

- •Economic performance of the transboundary NPAs' conservation will be improved.
- •The obtained results will serve as reference point for the further valuation studies.

•Discussion on transboundary NPAs initiated by the academic publications will develop within the professional community.

# Project's methodology

- Stated preferences valuation framework choice experiment (CE)
- Framing into interdisciplinary context
- Two representative CE national surveys: Poland/Belarus and Norway/Sweden
- Econometric analyses and hypotheses' testing Random Utility Modelling
- Deriving policy relevant implications
- Academic writing and publishing
- Development and dissemination of hands-on recommendations for transboundary NPAs management and stakeholders

## Project progress so far:

- Datasets obtained for Norway, Sweden and Belarus;
- Preliminary results of econometric modelling assessed for these countries;
- Preliminary conclusions derived

### Steps to go:

- Polish dataset obtained;
- Finalised data analyses and modelling;
- Results and conclusions reported to the concerned audiencies (academic circles, hands-on professionals, local stakeholders)

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Nature plays a more important role in the economy than what is often realised. The impact on social welfare from functioning ecosystems might be "invisible" or taken as granted. However, society utilises ecosystem services for human ends, either as inputs to consumption goods or capital assets. These include food, freshwater, timber, cleaning/purification services, climate regulation, protection from natural hazards, erosion control, pharmaceutical ingredients, wildlife habitats, and recreation. Many of these services are crucial for supporting human populations directly, as they contribute to satisfying essential human needs whilst also preserving aesthetic, patriotic, or religious values. Though intact ecosystems also provide significant input to common marketed goods, the so-called public goods (that are neither sold nor bought in markets) prevail in the nature area domain. Competitive markets are known to fail providing optimal allocation of public goods and thus undervalue them and communicate misleading signals to decision-makers. This calls for application of economic analyses in public decision-making including valuation techniques as a tool to provide rational use of natural resources and ensure their socially optimal allocation in order to mitigate the risk of taking unbalanced decisions resulting in public welfare loss occurrence. As the very project title prompts, the TRANPAREA ("Value of Transboundary Nature

As the very project title prompts, the IRANPAREA (Value of Iransboundary Nature Protected Areas Situated near the EU Outer Borders') project is dealing with the transboundary nature protected areas (NPAs), scrutinising upon the economic aspects of their functioning. Artificially divided by political borders, contiguous almost intact natural complexes which are granted certain legal protection status on the each part of the border are referred to as transboundary NPAs. In accordance with somewhat outdated data, in the beginning of the XXI century there were almost two hundreds of transboundary NPAs in the world with the total surface equal to that of India, the fact that makes them an important element of the global green infrastructure. Taking the latter fact into account, one could conclude that transboundary NPAs relatively seldom fall within the focus of economic studies in general and empirical studies in particular.

Many of the remaining large nature areas in Europe have transboundary character, e.g., some of the remaining intact ecosystems of the Alps and the Donau area. In particular, many valuable intact and semi-intact natural sites are located in the periphery of the EU due to historically lower pressure of economic activities upon natural communities and wildlife in the EU outer border regions. In many cases the situation is symmetric on the both sides of the border. For transboundary NPAs located at the EU's outer borders efficient conservation of biodiversity and landscape values is a special challenge concerning differences in national wildlife conservation systems of the EU and non-EU countries, conservation mangement techniques applied as well as in general socioeconomic context. For instance. In Central and

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#### Thank you for your attention!