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Uniwersytet Warszawski **Warszawski Ośrodek Ekonomii Ekologicznej**



Value of Transboundary Nature Protected Areas Situated near the EU Outer Borders (TRANPAREA Project)

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Motivation

Transboundary Nature Protected Areas (TNPA) – contiguous natural complexes, artificially divided with the state borders, protected on the every side of the border

- 188 TNPA in 112 countries S=3.2mio km2 (≅India), 17% of total PAs' (Conservation International, 2005)
- Significant scientific and popular literature in natural disciplines
- Minimal literature in economics (Busch, 2007)



TRANPAREA Project

- Partnership: WNE UW & TØI
- Support: Polish-Norwegian Research Programme/Norway Grants (Core 2012 call)
- Comparison of the two cases:
 - Fulufjället/Fulufjellet (Sweden/Norway);
 - Białowieża/Biełavieskaja Pušča (Poland/Belarus)

Are TNPAs international public goods?

- Natural sciences: definitely
- Economics: far from trivial
 - Non-exclusion principle applies
 - Non-rivalry principle applies
 - Not sold out or exchanged on regular markets => no market prices for them exist

Many natural goods theoretically qualify for being the public goods...

...but empirical verification is needed if the theory is consistent with people's real preferences

Methodology: Stated Preferences

- Simply asking the individual about her preferences;
- Accounts for the non-use values;

Two elicitation formats:

- contingent valuation (CVM);
- choice experiment (CE).

[Carson&Groves, 2007]

Choice Experiment (CE):

- Respondent makes a series of discrete choices amongst alternatives organised into choice sets;
- Each alternative is described with several attributes including a monetary one;
- Each attribute exists on different levels;
- The respondent is asked either to make her best choice or range the alternatives, taking into account their attributes and levels and thus making trade-offs between them;
- Requires the survey of representative sample of population to be conducted to ensure scientific/political soundness (N=1000x4 countries within TRANPAREA)



Parameters of utility function and willingness to pay (WTP) for the entire good and its particular components are calculated following the Random Utility Modelling technique

$$U_{ni} = V_{ni} + \varepsilon_{ni} \qquad P_{ni} = \Pr(V_{ni} + \varepsilon_{ni}) > V_{nj} + \varepsilon_{nj} \forall j \neq i)$$

Under IID assumption – MNLModel

$$P_{ik} = \frac{e^{\beta x_{ni}}}{\sum_{j} e^{\beta' x_{nj}}}$$

R'r

x explanatory variables' vector, a β – parameters' vector. Ranking [Train, 2003]. $P_{(Ranking C,B,D,A)} = \frac{e^{\beta' x_{AC}}}{\sum_{i=A}^{e} B C D} \frac{e^{\beta' x_{AB}}}{\sum_{i=A}^{e} B D} \frac{e^{\beta' x_{AD}}}{\sum_{i=A}^{e} B D}$

Under assumption of preferences' heterogeneity RPL model (panel version)

$$P_{ni} = \int \prod_{t=1}^{T} \left[\frac{e^{\beta'_n x_{nit}}}{\sum_j e^{\beta'_n x_{njt}}} \right] \phi(\beta | b, \Omega) d\beta,$$

Expected results

- WTP calculated.
- Comparison between cases and between the national samples within each case conducted.
- Hypothesis: 'TNPAs are international public goods in accordance with people's preferences' tested.

TRANPAREA: Respondent's utility function draft specification

 $V = \beta SD + \beta SF + \beta COST Bid,$

where

SD – strict reserve area on domestic side, ha

SF – strict reserve area on foreign side, ha

Bid – individual annual tax for the conservation programme, \$

Results' Interpretation

Comparison of βsp against βsF in the subsample of respondents assigning **non-use value only**. Three possible profiles of respondents according to their individual preferences:

- "Patriot": $\beta SD > \beta SF$, maximises SD on average;
- "???" (various explanations) $\beta_{SD} < \beta_{SF}$, maximises SF;
- "Citizen of the Earth" $\beta SD = \beta SF$, maximises SF+SD.

If βsp= βsF in the subsample of those who assign non-use value only => TNPA is the international public good in accordance with preferences of the given population.

Otherwise two separate national public goods exist instead of the common one

Pilot study: Białowieża case (Belarus, July 2012, N=32)

BIAŁOWIEŻA FOREST



Pilot survey: attributes and their levels

Expansion of the strict reserve protection regime on Belarusian part of the Białowieża forest

Expansion of the strict reserve protection regime on Polish part of the Białowieża forest

Cost (annually paid tax)

Additionally enlarging 1) +0 ha protection level of the reserve 2) +28 600 ha in the Belarusian part of 3) +57 200 ha Białowieża forest from the 4) +85 900 ha current area. $BAU^*=+0$ ha

Additionally enlarging 1) +0 ha protection level of the reserve 2) +13 950 ha in the Polish part of 3) +27 900 ha Białowieża forest from the 4) +41 900 ha current area. $BAU^*=+0$ ha

Annual cost per person (2012)	1)003D
prices)	2) 12 USD
BAU = 0	3) 18 USD
	4) 24 USD

Pilot survey: choice-set example



Pilot survey: results (best choice)

Variables	Coeff.	t-rat.
SQ**	-1.407	-6.994
S_BY**	0.127D-04	6.024
S_PL*	0.945D-05	2.410
Bid**	-0.091	-9.405

Thank you for your attention!

Literature

- Busch, J. 2008. Gains from configuration: The transboundary protected areas as a conservation tool. Ecological Economics 67: 394 404.
- Carson , Richard T. and Theodore Groves 2007 Incentive and informational properties of preference. Environmental and Resource Economics 37:181–210
- McFadden, D. (1974) Conditional logit analysis of qualitative choice behaviour, in: P.Zarembka, editor. Frontiers in Econometrics, New York, Academic Press, pp. 105-142
- Train, K. 2003, Discrete Choice Methods with Simulation. Cambridge University Press, New York