

Cross-sectional analysis of cultural values
of ecosystem services
Case Study no. 3

12.2022

Services provided by main types of ecosystems in Poland
- an applied approach

The project 'Services provided by main types of ecosystems in Poland - an applied approach' received funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in the amount of 1,489,999 EUR, and from budget of Poland in the amount of 262,941 EUR. The aims of the project are transferring of scientific knowledge on ecosystem services which exists in Europe to the process of mapping and assessment of ecosystem services in Poland, as well as increasing the scientific potential and the ability of administration and interested social groups to Implement this approach in environmental management.

This report concerns cultural ecosystem services in the Miłakowo commune (Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship). It contains a diagnosis and analysis of these services in the context of planning the commune's development.

Cultural ecosystem services (CES) are intangible benefits derived by humans from nature. Unlike provisioning, and regulation & maintenance services, their distinguishing feature is that they result from human interaction with their environment. These include, for example, the benefits resulting from the aesthetic values of nature or its importance for recreation, education and relaxation. This nature of these services makes them highly variable than in the case of other services that are material in nature. The fact that cultural ecosystem services are derived from human interpretations makes them challenging to study and interpret. Recognizing users' opinions and behaviours is crucial here and requires using research tools from the field of social sciences.

The study was conducted in the Miłakowo commune in the western part of the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship. This commune was selected deliberately. It has similar natural characteristics as the previously analyzed Węgorzewo commune. Still, it is characterized by a different use of them, primarily in tourism development, commonly indicated as an essential factor in shaping cultural relations between man and nature.