

Cross-sectional analysis of economic 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.

The main goal of this study is to estimate the cultural benefits of naturally valuable forests. The Białowieża Forest was chosen as a case study - an object of exceptional natural and cultural importance.

Analysis of the stream of recreational benefits provided by The Białowieża Forest was carried out against the background of the forests of the Podlaskie Voivodeship using two approaches:

- the mapping of recreational potential and recreational value based on forest characteristics and data from a nationwide survey on recreational use of forests,
- the estimation of recreational benefits provided by the Białowieża Forest based on a study of actual tourist traffic.

The tourism study was conducted using two approaches:

- a) direct interviews conducted in the Białowieża Forest on a sample of 560 people,
- b) and based on passenger car traffic research and license plate analysis.

Both studies were conducted in September 2022; in both approaches, the estimation of recreational benefits provided by the Białowieża Forest was made using the travel cost method in case (a) it is an individual Individual Travel Cost Method, and in case (b) Zonal Travel Cost Method.