



BIOFOREV-PAS

Biodiversity and Forest Recreation: Economic Valuation in Protected Natural Areas in Serbia

Project leader: ABILDTRUP Jens, BETA INRAE

With the collaboration of :

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Summary —

Context —

It has often been suggested that tourism and recreational services could help fund the ever-growing number of protected areas (PA), as the traditional reliance on government sources is often untenable. This applies also to the protected areas in Serbia where the public enterprises responsible for the management of the PA are partly financed by user fees. However, to assure a sustained funding it is important to account for preferences of both users and the general population who contributes to the parks through their taxes.

Objectives —

The project aims at:

5. a better understanding and a more accurate assessment of preferences for biodiversity protection in natural protected areas;
6. improving the basis for developing market-based mechanisms for financing biodiversity protection in natural protected areas;

Approaches —

We will achieve these aims through a national (Serbia) survey of preferences for outdoor recreation and biodiversity protection. Compared to more standard approaches to assessing preferences for biodiversity conservation or economic valuation of ecosystem services, we will distinguish between non-visitors, potential future visitors and current visitors of natural PAs, including preferences for different strategies for biodiversity protection and visitor infrastructures. The preferences are assessed, applying environmental valuation methods.

Expected results and impacts —

1. An assessment of the preferences for biodiversity protection and visitor infrastructure in Serbia protected areas.
2. Improving the user-based funding for the protection of natural areas in Serbia.
3. Establishing the basis for comparing the public investment costs in PA management with the benefit provided by the parks for the Serbian population.
4. further development of the research cooperation between BETA and the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Belgrade in Serbia.