

Session title: 7.22. New approaches to valuing ecosystem services: what can socio-cultural and deliberative methods offer?

Title: Stakeholders' views on ecosystem services use, social values and participation: Q-sort methodology applied in Wielkopolska Province, Poland.

Conflicts related to the ecosystem services management, within Natura 2000 network in particular - are abundant (Henle et al. 2008; Young et al. 2005; Hiedanpaa 2002; Alphandéry and Fortier 2001; Visser et al. 2007; Apostolopoulou and Pantis 2009; Julien et al. 2000). Establishment of Natura 2000 network in Poland involved significant controversies and the further implementation has been contested as well (Grodzinska-Jurczak and Cent 2011). Relations between the public administration and the environmental NGOs have been strained and this tension is seen as an obstacle for the proper conduct of Natura 2000 management. Despite large literature on conflicts about nature conservation, the causes of conflicts over the uses of ecosystem services are rarely examined in a systematic way (Bullock et al. 2011; Niedzialkowski et al., 2014), particularly in the respect to monitoring of the intensity of the conflict between stakeholders (Henle et al. 2008). It can be argued (based on existing observations) that, from a managerial point of view, conflicts are caused by: a) structural causes (e.g. different interests of the actors); b) contextual variables (access to information, methods of decision making processes); c) mental variables (related to psychological attributes of actors).

Payments for Ecosystem Service schemes are intended to deal with the structural aspect of conflicts (of interests). The contextual variables are coped with via various participation methods. In this paper the last set of the variables is tackled – the role of mental causes of conflicts. The question is posed: to what extent the strained relations between the public administration and the environmental NGOs in the management of Natura 2000 sites in Poland can be attributed to the difference between the parties in terms of: the understanding of ecosystem services use (views on nature and the role of man); the difference in social values (world views); difference in attitudes towards participation (views on a fair decision making process). The aim of the study is to detect whether the difference between the parties can be observed and if so, whether there would be a possible way to overcome this gap.

The study refers to the research carried by Visser et al. (2007), who studied the role of various actors views in the agri-environmental policies related to the turlough management in Ireland. The analysis revealed that the views of turlough users and non-users were divergent. Authors suggested that in the policy making it was important to pay attention to communication, as decision-making led by non-users, that have different view from users, could lead to ineffective policies. At the same time, the results showed that farmers' and conservationists' perspectives were less opposed than expected and were mostly based on the mutual ignorance. Thus, a better communication strategy could turn conflict into compromise.

In our study, referring to the approach applied by Visser et al. (2007) the Q-sort methodology was chosen to be used as a tool for measuring the difference of views. It is a method developed in psychology and used also for studying environment related attitudes (Ioppolo et al. 2013; Bacher et al., 2014; Armatas et al., 2014). Q-methodology was applied by Visser et al. (2007) to explore views of experts (both users and non-users), representatives of interest groups and research bodies on turlough management, farming, nature, designation, and broader agri-environmental policy issues. It enabled to differentiate between the stakeholders' views concerning the agri-environmental schemes application.

In our study, the q-sort research tool comprised 60 statements, formulated through analysis of the literature, existing questionnaires, the minutes of the stakeholders meetings, and interviews with experts. After testing the tool it was applied in interviews, which were

conducted during the series of workshops carried in the Wielkopolska province (in the Western Poland). Representatives of the public administration responsible for implementation and management of the Natura 2000 sites and representatives of the environmental NGOs were interviewed.

Analysis of 30 interviews allowed to identify differences between the views' syndromes of the two parties, and further - to detect particular dimensions of the views which helped to propose recommendation about the decisions making, consultations and other public participation techniques in Natura 2000 management.

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