



LIFE15 CCM/DE/000138

*Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by restoring degraded peatlands in Northern European Lowland*  
(LIFE15 CCM/DE/000138)

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## LIFE Peat Restore

# Socio-economic impact assessment Poland

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December 2018





## SITE LEVEL

### DIRECT ECONOMIC INTERESTS FORM THE SITES

- All project sites are part of national park area, designated solely for nature conservation. Sites are not directly used for any economic purposes and does not provide any direct economic benefits. No products are harvested directly form the project sites. Hunting, picking berries is not allowed. According to National Park conservation strategy, there are no possibilities nor intentions of any economic interests also in the future.

### INDIRECT IMPACT

- The project sites are part of more complicated hydrological system, which influence economic use of meadows and everyday life of citizens of villages Kluki (95 inhabitants), Izbica (248 inhabitants) and Gać (35 inhabitants).
- In particular, in 2017 the meadows and local roads are overflowed indeed (rather due to intensive rains and local topography, with no impact of surrounding bogs, nevertheless such incidents are interpreted by stakeholders as an argument against bogs conservation).
- The potential project impact on local hydrology will be followed by impact on the risk of flooding and the risk of fire.
- The real impact of the hydrology of the project sites on hydrology of grounds significant for the inhabitatns will be explained after finalizing hydrological study (2018). Only then the impact of hydrology of the project sites on local economy of grounds in neighborhood, can be described.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TO THE NATURE CONSERVATION & BOGS CONSERVATION

- The attitude of the local stakeholders to the national park and to the nature conservation in general is diversified, and was not studied in details. There are visible and strong voices against and the impression of general opposition of the local community against nature conservation, nevertheless quantitative data are not available.
- In the opinion of some inhabitants of these villages *"villages and meadows are flooded by water due to existence of bogs in neighbourhood and not enough effective draining.... national park, by protecting surrounding bogs, make life more difficult... national park is main barrier for local development"*.
- The main conflicts are outside the project scope and cannot be solved by the project – the main challenge is rather to implement project successfully in so difficult social environment.

### TOURISM

- Educational path "Torfy", created by the Slowinski National Park, is located in the northern part of Żarnowska-Krakulice site. The number of visitors can only be very roughly estimated and is ca 1500 persons/year. These are mainly not specific visitors of the path, but accidentally visitors cycling or walking between Gać and Żarnowska. Nevertheless, some education groups may visit the trail. As a result of the project implementation, the landscape around the trail may became more swampy, nevertheless the impact on visitors number is not foreseen.
- Tourist marked trail Kluki-Izbica partially cross Cieminskie Blota site. The trail is used by ca 5000 cyclers and hikers yearly. The project site itself is not the 'attractor' for visitors and is





rather crossed only. The boggy character of the site negatively influence accessibility of the trail. The bog conservation is in the conflict of interests with the comfort of tourists. The natural values of the site are rather invisible for the tourists crossing it. As a result of project implementation, the accessibility of this path may be improved. The impact on tourists number is not foreseen, nevertheless the project may improve the “comfort” of the tourists and improve their general impression.

- With the exception of the path mentioned above, the most of the sites are not accessible for tourists. According to National Park conservation strategy, there are no possibilities nor intentions to open such access also in future.
- The project sites in general are not significant “tourism attractors”. They are overweight by much stronger atactors, as the sea, seashore, moving dunes, lakes, open-air museum in Kluki.
- Slowinski National Park is visited by ca 350.000 visitors by year, but for 98% of them the main motivation is to visit the seashore and moving dunes. The project sites are not (and never will) be important components of “tourism attractiveness” of the Park, and do not (and never will) influence visitors number (and local tourism economy) significantly.

#### **JOBS MARKET, LOCAL SERVICE MARKET**

- The local level of unemployment in the communities Smołdzino and Główny is presently (2016) ca 4%. The job marked is characterized rather by lack of people ready to work, in particular ready to do physical work in the field. There is no need to provide jobs.
- The project will provide job for ca 10 local persons yearly during the project time (trees removing, ditches blocking). It can be estimated as ca 3% of local forest services market. Nevertheless, due to low level of unemployment, new job positions will not be created.

#### **REGIONAL LEVEL**

The work with regional level, so as the regional level impact is not foreseen in the Polish part of the project. No useful data on the regional level are available.

#### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

#### **PEAT & PEAT EXTRACTION**

- According to data of National Geological Institute (Państwowy Instytut Geologiczny), the peat in 2016 was extracted from 64 deposits in Poland. The annual national peat extraction was 1.157.000 m<sup>3</sup> (=0,007% of the peat volume in Polish peatlands), with the slightly decreasing trend. Most of the mines are small. Only 30 mines work permanently, in the rest extraction is accidental only. Only 20 of them extract more than 10.000 m<sup>3</sup> yearly; only two of them – more than 100.000 m<sup>3</sup> yearly. The biggest peat mine is Przybiernówko-Grądy in West Pomerania, with annual production 129.000 m<sup>3</sup>. The biggest mines works with former raised bogs, extracting brown peat.
- The peat is used mainly in gardening, in a small scale for balneology, not as the source of energy.
- The annual GHG emission (2014 data, official Inventory Report 2016 for Climatic Convention by KOBIZE) without LULUCF is declared as 310.307 t CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Together with LULUCF sector the declaration is 277.703.000 t CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. The emission form degraded





peatlands is estimated by Wetlands International as 14.000.000 t CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (ca 5% of the total emission).

- The project is not foreseen to change numbers mentioned above significantly.
- The public awareness of peatlands importance for GHG balance is low. The governmental propaganda is focused only on the potential CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by forests, with the estimation that some improvements of forest management can accumulate ca 4.000.000 t CO<sub>2</sub> yearly. The accumulation by peatlands is not considered at all in national strategies. Nevertheless, the quantitative estimations of the awareness of politicians, officers or experts do not exist. The project is foreseen to change public awareness of relevant experts; nevertheless quantification of this change would require wide national research and is outside the project scope. Only the estimation of the number of experts targeted seems to be possible.





POLAND									
	INDICATORS								
	DIRECT					INDIRECT			
Units	Economic contribution	Ecosystem regulating services (GHG emissions, water quality, biodiversity)	Awareness raising	Scientific knowledge	Social capital	Ecosystem supporting services	Ecosystem provisioning services	Fire/flood prevention	Ecosystem cultural services
Stakeholder and Duty holder involvement			3		3				
Information boards/panels	0		0	0	0				
Employment (Individuals/companies hired by the project)	10								
Amount spent (€)	€340,294.87								
Number of jobs (FTE and PTE)	10								
Number of events and conferences organised / participated	6		6	6	6				
Number of participants in Events / Conferences			730	730	730				
Number of hectares restored		0 ha				0 ha	0 ha	0 ha	0 ha
GWP (tons of GWP equiv CO <sub>2</sub> -eq/yr)		18.802,80t							
Number of Print media			1	1	1				
Number of Publications/Reports, promotional material produced			17	17	17				
Website – visits (to website in Polish)			13.790	13.790	13.790				

