Chapter 13

The Case Study in Bózsva, Hungary

László Szemethy
Szent István University, Hungary

Gyula Kiss
Szent István University, Hungary

Gergely Schally
Szent István University, Hungary

Judit Galló
Szent István University, Hungary

ABSTRACT

The case study in 16 km² around the Municipality of Bózsva surveyed attitudes and mapped an area that had been flooded. Further mapping, to plan a potential cycle route, revealed issues with bureaucracy and a need for training in the use of digital technology.

INTRODUCTION

The Hungarian case study was carried out in Bózsva, a small village located in the mountains. An economic study and two mapping projects were completed with the participation of 19 local people (9% of the inhabitants). We focused on the most important project in the village, the planning and construction of a cycle route.

Although central (EU or national) regulations are important in biodiversity management, the majority of management decisions and actions happen at local level. The local land users should have traditions, local knowledge and relevant information for decision making. However, we wondered whether they really still have these, in post-socialist countries where the central government used to play a dominant role in decision making by means of a “planned economy”.

BACKGROUND

Our case study was carried out in Bózsva, which is a small village (206 inhabitants) in the county of Borsod-Abauj-Zemplén in the Hegyköz region of Northern Hungary (See Figure 1). The local 16 km² municipality is directed by five elected
representatives and a mayor. Bózsva is bordered by forest and cultivated area, therefore local people are working in agriculture and forestry, and many of them are hunters. A majority of them are private land users, but there is also state forestry and a National Park in the area. In recent years the area around Bózsva has become more and more popular among nature tourists and the municipality has started a long-term program for ecotourism. The most important attraction of the area is the panoramic landscape.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECT

The case study was divided into two parts: a survey of the decision-making processes and two mapping projects.

Decision Making

One of our main objectives was to obtain information on the relation to nature and decision-making processes of different private and state land users. We had personal interviews with the relevant stakeholders about the identified difficulties, problems and also solutions during the project period.

The results showed that local people are interested in natural resources. They have a positive attitude to nature; they feed birds and do outdoor pursuits, etc. However, less than 50% of the local people hunt, due to the strict Hungarian hunting regulations. The local people collect fungi, wild plants, fruits and other plant materials. In spite of their use of biodiversity, they could neither put a value on these natural resources nor on venison.

More than 50% of the respondents engaged in farming, but they had difficulty estimating the number of their decisions related to biodiversity use. Nevertheless, it was clear that there were great differences between employees of state companies and private landowners. While a private forester made a lot of decisions, a state forester had to work to a year plan. We also found differences in access to information. While the employees of state companies were satisfied with the informa-

Figure 1. The location of Bózsva in north-east Hungary
Related Content

Lowlands Mapping in Forest Guinea
[www.igi-global.com/article/lowlands-mapping-forest-guinea/76650?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/lowlands-mapping-forest-guinea/76650?camid=4v1a)

A Hybrid Model for Rice Disease Diagnosis Using Entropy Based Neuro Genetic Algorithm
[www.igi-global.com/article/a-hybrid-model-for-rice-disease-diagnosis-using-entropy-based-neuro-genetic-algorithm/158095?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/a-hybrid-model-for-rice-disease-diagnosis-using-entropy-based-neuro-genetic-algorithm/158095?camid=4v1a)

The Effect Degree Analysis of Human Activities on Regional Groundwater Level Based on Variable Fuzzy Optimization Model

Climate Change Adaptation Polices
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/climate-change-climate-adaptation-policies/46412?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/climate-change-climate-adaptation-policies/46412?camid=4v1a)