LIFE Nature projects

"Evolution of socioeconomic (and ecosystem) assessment at MHPWF LIFE Projects"

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The puzzle of socioeconomic assessments

- Mandatory action since 2011 before part of the overall project assessment in the IR and FR
- "Environmentalists in unknown territory"
- Usually one of the last things to prepare for the application
- How to make it the easiest way...
- Two approaches
 - The simple (no clue, but something)
 - The simple (better clue) and targeted actions (separate assessments)



Saimaa Ringed Seal LIFE (LIFE12)

- D1 Water owner's and fishermen's attitudes towards Saimaa ringed seal and its' conservation: an enquiry to monitor attitudes towards fishing restrictions (LUKE)
- D2 Expert evaluation of the results and impacts of the projects (2018)
- D3 Attitudes towards the Saimaa ringed seal and awareness of the conservation measures (MH)
- D4 Pre- and post-project attitudes for Saimaa seal conservation at the regional and national levels (UTU)
- D5 Assessment of sosio-economic impacts and ecosystem services of the project (2018)





Saimaa Ringed Seal LIFE

The socio-economic study includes assessment on the effects on local economy and employment such as fisheries, nature tourism etc... the study uses the same methods as the study of effects of the National Parks on local economies made yearly by Metsähallitus for National Parks Investments made for maintenance and recreational facilities of the national parks and hiking areas are paid back to society many... on the basis of data on visitor numbers and survey findings on visitors' spending levels, and factoring figures that account for the cumulative impacts of visitors' spending in local economies.

The project includes several activities targeted to increase social awareness and acceptance of nature conservation efforts including the Natura 2000 network.... (the other D actions, attitudes...)

Budget 10 230€

NO INDICATION OF ACTUAL INDICATORS...



Light and Fire (LIFE13)

D2. Assessment of the impact on local socio-economy and on the ecosystem functions

• The same but now more clear indicators

- 1. Total income impact million € / project area
- 2. Total impact on employment (man-year) / project area
- 3. Number of visits / project area
- Additionally, inquiry for visitors (65) on the attitudes towards habitat restoration, case Örö
- Bugdet 1 635€ (total now 7 100€)









Hydrology LIFE (LIFE16)

- 1. General interest and awareness on restoration and the project actions: (Web surveys before-after)
- 2. Costs and employment effects of restoration activities
- 3. Local stakeholder opinions on the benefits and losses by restoration (survey)
- 4. Recreational and tourism opportunities at two project sites (interviews)
- 5. Overall project socio-economic assessment
- **Budget:** 0,17M€
- KPIndicators: Job creation, Total expenditure, Operating expenses after the project, Entry into new sectors

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The evolution of socioeconomic assessments

- More focus on indicators but...
- More requests from the EASME/Commission
- Separate more in depth analysis engaging research sector (but natural resource sector only)
- How to secure that the assessment is for the whole project?

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Several projects soon reaching the reporting stage?

TIME TO DEVELOP A NEW TOOL!!!!



Analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of (LIFE) projects

- Based on sector based factors calculated from the National Statistics; takes into account salary cost and other costs
- Factors for each county
- Restoration costs must be allocated to other sectors (no sector called restoration)
- Direct and indirect local economy impacts
- Direct and indirect employment impacts
- Done by professor emerita on economics...



Case: Boreal Peatland LIFE (2010 - 2017)



- total costs app. 7,13 M€

Total direct economic impact in all counties 11,7 M€ 54 person-years The leverage effects The household and company acquisitions (using the income from the project) 5,8 M€ 24 person-years

The total socioeconomic impact of the project 17,5 M€ 78 Person-years

Still on a bit unfamiliar territory



