Identification of benefits for the inhabitants of Someșul Rece Natura 2000 Site

Ecaterina PAULIUC*, Marian PROOROCU, Ioan OROIAN, Antonia ODAGIU

¹University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine Cluj - Napoca, Manastur Street, No. 3 - 5,400372 Cluj-Napoca, Romania· Tel.: +40264596384; Fax: +40 264593792

*Corresponding author: *sinzianapauliuc@yahoo.com*

Bulletin USAMV series Agriculture 72(2)/2015
Print ISSN 1843-5246; Electronic ISSN 1843-5386
DOI 10.15835/buasvmcn-agr: 11731

ABSTRACT

Natura 2000 ROSCI0233 Someșul Rece Site is a protected area of community interest; the site has natural richness and landscapes of great beauty and a big variety of important flora and fauna. An important piece to achieve the aim, consists of the local inhabitants of the area. In order to help local communities identifying the benefits of living in or near Natura 2000 area, 14 meetings took place, 2 in each of Someșul Rece Site 7 villages: Valea Ierii, Caps, Cerc, Plopi, Răcățău, Măguri and Muntele Rece. The meetings were submitted to informative materials in the form of power-point presentations, leaflets and various posters, and after this presentation, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions. The 14 meetings were a success, and we can say that most of the inhabitants of the area found many benefits compared to 2013, when 54% of the inhabitants asked, said they know no benefits of a Natura 2000 area.

Keywords: *local development, protected areas, Natura 2000 Network benefits.*

INTRODUCTION

Natura 2000 ROSCI0233 Someșul Rece Site is a protected area of community interest; the site has natural richness and landscapes of great beauty and a big variety of important flora and fauna. The area has been designated a site of community importance in order to maintain the biological diversity and for conservation of the habitats and species of community interest. They have to realise that living in or near a Natura 2000 Site brings them benefits and advantages that they could not have if living in an ordinary area (Grant Application, 2013).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Improving communication with target group, in order to achieve performant knowledge transfer, by organizing periodic meetings.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to help local communities identifying the benefits of living in or near Natura 2000 area, 14 meetings took place, 2 in each of Someșul Rece Site 7 villages: Valea Ierii, Caps, Cerc, Plopi, Răcățău, Măguri and Muntele Rece. The meetings were submitted to informative materials in the form of power-point presentations, leaflets and various posters, and after this presentation, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions. Randomly inhabitants were questioned, in October 2013, at the beginning of the awareness meetings, and in June 2015, at the end of all the meetings, about the benefits of a Natura 2000 Site. The research methodology used had a margin of error of 2%. Sociological investigation was conducted on a representative sample of the target area, comprising about 100 randomly selected people

within the local population (Research Report, 2015) The data contained in the questionnaires were entered into a computer database and were statistically processed and presented in the form of statistical indicators illustrative for the level of awareness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the possible benefits that could derive from following the implementation of the management plan for Natura 2000 Someşul Rece Site, the responses were varied but it has been noticed a change of perception. The number of those who choose *I do not know* decreased considerably from 38% to 15% and the number of those who do not see any relevance in this site it decreased by 10 percents compared with 2013. Overall, total number of respondents who see the advantages of a Nature 2000 Site is 70% and contrary to expectations, the sum of the respondents who see a disadvantage such a Site grew with 3%.

Regarding the possible benefits on several examples that could derive from following the implementation of the management plan for Natura 2000 Someşul Rece Site, the responses were varied but the most visible change you can see at option *I do not know/I do not answer* where the rate has fallen sharply from 54% to 8% which shows that information campaigns have managed to change people's mentality and show them that they can benefit from these Natura 2000. Overall, among the best seen benefits include the fundraising for agriculture from European Union with 13%, job growth in rural areas, which is selected by 11% of respondents, environmental protection of nature with a percentage of 12% followed by increasing ecological tourism with 9%, creation of leisure activities specific to the region with a share of 11% - As advantages are the existence of compensatory payments by 8% and getting certified for local products by 10% (Fig. 2).

CONCLUSION

Following the meetings, we could notice that the inhabitants knew and identified many benefits of Someşul Rece Site in 2015, such as: local economy development (8%), environmental protection (12%), ecologic tourism development (11%),

Fig. 1. Possible benefits of the management plan for Natura 2000 Someşul Rece Site

Fig. 2. Example of possible benefits of the management plan for Natura 2000 Someşul Rece Site

promoting local products (9%) or increasing European funding (13%). The 14 meetings were a success, and we can say that most of the inhabitants of the area found many benefits compared to 2013, when 54% of the inhabitants asked, said they know no benefits of a Natura 2000 area.

Acknowledgments to Sustainable development of Natura 2000 Someşul Rece Site Project – POS Mediu 2007-2013.

REFERENCES

- ***, (2015) Research Report concerning the level of awareness of local communities about Someşul Rece Area.
- ***, (2013). Sustainable development of Natura 2000 Someşul Rece Site – Grant Application