

The Rural Areas: Sustainable Development of Residential Buildings in Relation to Protected Areas

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Abstract. This paper aims to considering whether protected areas (in particular Natura 2000 areas) are barrier the development of housing opportunities in rural areas. Research in this area, based on the available Polish-language and English- language scientific papers, was conducted in the following aspects: legal, spatial and social. The case studies have shown situations in which the areas have been an incentive for a potential investor to settle in the area, and on the other hand, will identify aspects where legal restrictions may constitute a barrier to settle in the area. The above considerations were indicated for sustainable development, which should be the desired state for any space, including rural areas. Presented results and other literature data indicate therefore a positive impact of Natura 2000 areas on sustainable residential development in rural areas, including the development of the residential function.

Keywords: environmental protection, Natura 2000, rural areas, sustainable development.

Conference topic: Environmental protection.

Introduction

The need to take into account the protection of nature in the real estate management of the State Treasury and local government units can be found among the records the Real Property Management Act, the Spatial Planning and Development Act, the Nature Conservation Act.

In the Spatial Planning and Development Act is the record:

“In planning and spatial development are taken into account in particular:

- 1) the requirements of spatial order, including urban planning and architecture;
- 2) architectural and landscape qualities;
- 3) environmental requirements, including water management and protection of agricultural land and forest.”

On the basis of the resolution of Polish Parliament of 2 March 1991, the government was obliged to submit by 30 June 1999, the relevant document defining the directions of development of the country until 2025. Emphasized therein that “(...) *the concept of sustainable development means a development model in which to meet the current needs of society and the needs of future generations will be treated equitably (...)*”. The resolution also expressed the expectation of the Polish Parliament, that this document “(...) *will combine in a harmonious way, concern for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage of the nation with the progress of civilization and economy being the participation of all social groups.*” Therefore, the “Strategy for sustainable development of the Polish till 2025” established, which aims to create conditions for stimulation of development processes, to as little as they threatened the environment. It is necessary, therefore, gradual elimination of processes and economic activities harmful to the environment and human health, while promoting management practices “environmentally friendly” and expediting processes restoration of the environmental damage, wherever there has been a violation of the natural balance. It should be emphasized that the Polish Constitution in Article 5 provides as follows: “*The Republic of Poland shall safeguard the independence and integrity of its territory and ensure the freedoms and human and civil rights and safety of citizens, safeguard the national heritage and to protect the environment, guided by the principle of sustainable development*”. In the Constitution also specifies that “*environmental protection is the responsibility of public authorities*” and pointed out that they should lead “*policies ensuring the ecological security of current and future generations.*” With regard to real estate management can be demonstrated that “Strategy for sustainable development of the Polish till 2025” also ensures that “*in every program of spatial development of the country and the region will be integrated elements of the environment, health, cultural goods, protection of biodiversity and natural monuments.*”

According to Article 2 of the Nature Conservation Act, the purpose to protect nature is:

- “1) the maintenance of ecological processes and ecosystem stability;

- 2) conservation of biodiversity;
- 3) maintenance of geological and paleontological heritage;
- 4) ensuring continuity in existence of species of plants, animals and fungi, along with their habitats, by maintaining or restoring them to favorable conservation status;
- 5) protection of landscape values, green in towns and villages and afforestation;
- 6) maintaining or restoring the favorable conservation status of natural habitats, as well as other resources, objects and elements of nature;
- 7) formation of appropriate attitudes of human in relation to nature through education, information and promotion in the field of nature conservation.”

These objectives are realized, among others, by “taking into account the requirements of environmental protection in national environmental policy, environmental programs adopted by local government bodies, the concept of national spatial development, development strategies provinces, spatial development plans of provinces, the development strategies of municipalities, studies of conditions and directions of spatial development of municipalities, local land use plans spatial planning and spatial development plans of internal waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone and in business and investment.”

Forms of nature protection under the Nature Conservation Act, related to real estate are:

- National parks;
- Nature reserves;
- Landscape parks;
- Protected landscape areas;
- Natura 2000 areas;
- Natural monuments;
- Documentation sites;
- Ecological areas;
- Nature and landscape complexes.

European Ecological Network Natura 2000 has been developed for the maintenance and restoration of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats occurring in Europe. In the broader context of its creation it formed part of a global trend of creating regulations that contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, while taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional (sustainable development) requirements (Dziemianowicz *et al.* 2015). Natura 2000 program, implemented by the Member States of the European Union, aims to broadly understood environmental management. This objective should be achieved by improving the implementation of environmental law and the use of different tools to influence the decisions of producers, consumers and planners, especially at the local level where decisions are made about the use and land management (COM 2005). Protected areas within the Natura 2000 network are determined by the member states of the European Union in accordance with the provisions contained in Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (so-called the Birds Directive) and Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (so-called the Habitats Directive). Designation of protected areas is carried out solely on the basis of natural scientific criteria, not economic or social. This direction is supported by jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice (judgment of the ECJ of 19 May 1998. Case C-3/96/EC Commission v. The Netherlands, Coll. ECR. From 1998. p. I-03031, paragraph 70, case c-157/89 Commission v. Italy and C-60/05 WWF Italia and others Coll. ECR. 2006. p. I-5083, paragraphs. 27). The boundaries of Natura 2000 sites cannot, therefore, subject to change adjusting their course to the planned projects or other expectations of economic and industrial communities. It was only at the stage of operation of the network and management of the individual Natura 2000 sites (in the formulation of management plans or plans of protection tasks for each Natura 2000), they must also be taken into account local economic and social conditions. Projects of studies of conditions and directions of spatial development of municipalities, local spatial development plans, spatial development plans of provinces and spatial development plans of internal waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone in the part concerning existing or planned Natura 2000 area must be agreed with the regional director of environmental protection in the field of understanding these plans likely to have significant negative effects on Natura 2000 area. For Natura 2000 in the initial stage it is developed documentation which consists of a standard form data (SFD) with appendices and maps. Then, within a few years after the approval of the area by the European Commission, plans of protection tasks (basic instrument) or alternatively conservation plans (more detail, is prepared only if clearly needed) are made. The planning document, which is the plan of protection tasks, should be drawn up within six years of the establishment of a special protection area of birds or approval the area of Community importance by European Commission. It is also possible to develop a plans of protection tasks (PPT) for yet unapproved area, if it has been proposed to the European Commission as an area of Community importance. Described documentation is not be drawn up for the area, which already has a plan for the protection of Natura 2000 or for the area, which coincides with the national form of protection of nature or the area which is on the board of superintendence which planning documents take into account the scope of the plan of protection tasks, and also is located in marine areas. Detailed guidance for preparing such plans are presented in ordinance of Ministr of Environment of 17 February 2010 (Journal of Laws of 34 item. 186) on the preparation of the draft plan of protection

tasks for the Natura 2000 area. Currently, most of the newly proposed Natura 2000 areas in Poland was approved by the European Commission and therefore work is underway over the implementation of plans of protection tasks for the areas. The draft plan or plan of protection tasks for the protection of Natura 2000 areas prepares the supervisor this areas, ie. The Regional Director for Environmental Protection, sometimes Director of the National Park. It should be stressed that, in accordance with the recommendations of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection “*in this procedure is necessary participation of persons and entities operating within the natural habitats and the habitats of species for which the protection of designated Natura 2000 site, as well as the possibility of submitting comments and proposals from the public*” (Opracowanie palnu... 2012). On the basis of the draft plan of protection tasks, the Regional Director of Environmental Protection issued “*decree (...) on the establishment of a plan of protection tasks for the Natura 2000*”. On the other hand, conservation plans for Natura 2000 area or part thereof shall be established by the minister responsible for the environment by Regulation (the Nature Conservation Act). It should be emphasized that the SFD as well as PPT, consists of documentary, made largely on the basis of field research, expert knowledge about habitats and species occurring in the area and the analysis of vector maps made by different institutions administering a given area. In addition, in procedure for the preparation of these documents it is necessary to participation of persons and entities operating within the natural habitats and the habitats of species for which the protection of designated Natura 2000 area, as well as the possibility of submitting comments and requests from the general public. Projects of plan of protection tasks and issued on their basis the draft of directives on the establishment of plans of protection tasks, developed within the project POIS.05.03.00-00-186/09 entitled “Development of plans of protection tasks for the Natura 2000 areas on Polish territory” are posted on the platform of information and communication (website pzo.gdos.gov.pl, for details see: website <http://www.gdos.gov.pl/conservation-measures-plans>). This tool enables a common work during creating these documents for persons and institutions that may affect or whose activity is affected by Natura 2000 network. The functioning of the platform gives interested parties the opportunity to make comments or requests for these documents, which are currently subject to public consultation arising Article. 28 paragraph. 4 of the Nature Conservation Act. It should be added that the Natura 2000 network program is the youngest form of nature protection in Poland, at the same time is the least known and most controversial (eg. Grodzińska-Jurczak, Cent 2011; Niedziałkowski *et al.* 2012; Blicharska *et al.* 2016). Due to the above, we decided to show how really the presence of Natura 2000 sites it affects sustainable residential development in rural areas.

Methods

We performed an in-depth review and analyses of published Polish-language and English- language scientific papers applying a legal, spatial and social science perspective in conservation research focused on Natura 2000 network on rural areas in Poland. We are aware of the fact that some social aspects of Natura 2000 network on rural areas in Poland may be addressed in the “grey literature” or local manuscripts or reports. However, here we focused on the peer-reviewed literature only because (1) we wanted to concentrate on scientific knowledge, with a reliable level of scientific rigor, (2) it would have been logistically impossible to directly cover the diversity of “grey literature” characterized by a multiplicity of languages, and (3) the peer-reviewed literature builds to a large extent on analyses of various types of non-scientific texts (reports, legal texts, articles, etc.) published in different languages, and hence our approach does indirectly capture substantial parts of the information contained in these publications. The main unit of our analysis was an individual article. Below are the results of our analysis of the data on the effect of presence of Natura 2000 network in rural areas in Poland on the development of their residential function understood as a permanent settlement, but also as a temporary stays (tourism).

Results and discussion

Protected areas (under different forms of protection) currently occupy 32.5% of the area of Poland (BDL GUS 2013) (Fig. 1), so it is a factor having potentially very large role for rural development, in some locations even determines the manner and directions of development.

Natura 2000 network now covers almost 20% of the land area of Poland (GDEP 2017), it comprises 1300 of all 2,479 Polish municipalities, in the predominantly rural areas. The Natura 2000 network is distributed unevenly, the consequence of this fact is that not every municipality has a keen interest in issues of Natura 2000 areas (Fig. 2).

There are the municipalities that are fully covered Natura 2000 sites, there are also those where this form of nature protection does not occur. The largest number of municipalities have Natura 2000 areas in the range of 1–10% of their surface. The biggest part of Polish Natura 2000 areas are located within the West Pomeranian Province (about 16%), Warmia-Mazury and Podlasie (about 11%). The least Natura 2000 areas are located in the Opole province (less than 1%) and in the provinces of Łódź, Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Świętokrzyskie (about 1%) (Fig. 2). It should be noted that protected areas in Poland are usually located where there are: lakes, marshes, bogs, ponds, oxbow lakes, ponds, rivers, etc., a large forest cover, a small population, poor soil, as well as insufficiently developed transport infrastructure and entrepreneurship. In addition, the protection of the area in the Natura 2000 network does not exclude its economic use. According to the regulations in relation to Natura 2000 areas it does not establish no prohibitions or injunctions

as in relation to other forms of protection of nature, eg. National parks. However, Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act, may include part of or all of the areas and objects covered by other forms of nature protection, which in practice means that “the plan of protection established for the national park, nature reserve or landscape park which located within the Natura 2000 area (...) becomes a plan of protection for this part of the Natura 2000 area”. European Ecological Network Natura 2000 for some is one of the main elements of environmental policy, while for others it is a part of the policy of socio-economic development. At the local level Natura 2000 network is regarded by local authorities as both a factor of development, as well as a barrier. Development of the Natura 2000 network in Poland since the beginning aroused much controversy. This new form of nature protection, introduced with the Polish accession to the European Union, met the major concerns among both local governments and businesses, often resulting in real spatial conflicts. Their sources include poor preparation for the implementation of networks in Poland. Very rigorous approach to the designation of special protection areas of birds and habitats at the same time a low financial outlays for the implementation of the system, caused a procedural chaos and limited opportunities for effective implementation of these regulations (Kruk *et al.* 2010; Dziemianowicz *et al.* 2015). In addition, the lack of socialization process of designation of Natura 2000 network caused a strong reluctance to this form of nature protection at the time of its establishment (and in some cases even before accession of individual area to Natura 2000 network). The negative impact was also inconsistent information system, causing numerous spatial conflicts involving representatives of the governors of municipalities. Analyzing the theoretical assumptions of the network, this program does not seem to be a significant barrier to the development of local, on the contrary – it should promote this development. The priority of the existence of Natura 2000 network is prevention any deterioration of protected natural values, and their protection presupposes a proper use, depending on the needs of habitat and species. One basic rule is that the project of each venture with a potential negative impact on protected resources and natural values, must be assessed in terms of the impact in the form of an environmental impact assessment. In individual areas it is recommended that while the individual application of the regulation and conservation actions needed to achieve the objective of protection (Boltromiuk 2012).

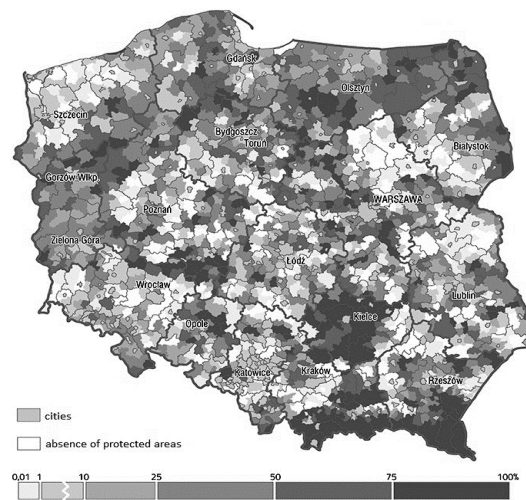


Fig. 1. Contribution of protected areas in the municipalities (source: Bański 2016)

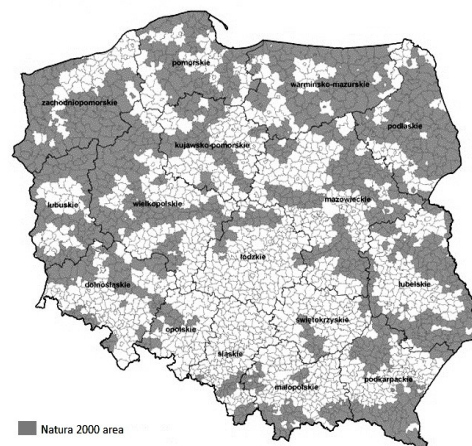


Fig. 2. Contribution of Natura 2000 areas in the municipalities (source: based on Bystróński 2011)

Research conducted by IRWiR-PAN on determinants of sustainable development of rural areas Ecological Network Natura 2000 started in mid-2008. Research was located in the “Polish Green Lungs” covering the area of 5 provinces (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Location of Polish Green Lung (source: emazury.com)

The reason for this choice was the fact that in this area there is the greatest concentration of protected areas. In presented study, inter alia, 14 municipalities in which the surface of the Natura 2000 network accounted for between 80 to 100% of the municipalities and 5 comparative municipalities without Natura 2000 network were examined. In these 19 selected municipalities, several thousand questionnaire interviews with farmers, entrepreneurs, members of the local governments, non-governmental organizations, Directorates of Parks, Directorates of State Forests etc. were conducted. It was noted that the location of the farm in areas of Natura 2000 network is associated generally with less favorable natural conditions for agricultural production, especially plant, which to some extent can be compensated by additional agri-environment payments. This more difficult economic conditions will result (predicted by the farmers) in end of the functioning of a large part of the farms – appropriates those with less acreage. Part of the land previously used for agriculture may be left and then, taken over to the function of settlement pattern as a “second homes”. Most of the representatives of local government from 14 communes belonging in the network Natura 2000 declared that rural tourism is the basic direction of the diversification of the local economy. Presented results suggest that a change in the perception of the natural environment among the residents of the villages was taking place. It has been shown that the overview of the socio-economic situation created on the basis of statistics data storage was quite different from the subjective feelings of the inhabitants of the Natura 2000 areas and entities prospering there. In the event of a significant part of the local government units, the coverage by the Natura 2000 network did not have even greater chance of clear disclosure in the finance and in the pace of development of municipalities. For example, no reduction in budget revenues of municipalities with a high share of the Natura 2000 network (over 60%) or reduce their investment activities in 2005–2008 in relation to the period 2001–2004 was observed. Also, the results of research on the determinants of the sustainable development of rural areas covered by the Natura 2000 network in the region Green Lungs of Polish indicate that, based on available data (from 2002–2006) a statistically significant correlation between the level of economic and social development and the state of the environment of the 341 municipalities in this region could not be observed. A correlation exists in relation to the factor of economic and social development. Thus, there are indications that the real barriers and factors boosting the growth lie not so much in the Natura 2000 network but more in other, pre-existing economic, social, and environmental conditions (Bołtromiuk 2012).

The results of the survey research conducted in 2013 by the Cent *et al.* indicate that there were no data unambiguously allowing to identify the negative impact of the Natura 2000 network on the income situation and economic situation in municipalities (Cent *et al.* 2015). Cited studies show that the views of local stakeholders on the impact of the Natura 2000 network for local development were divided. There is to deal with nor with a clear negative attitude towards the program, nor with unambiguously recognition of opportunities to improve local welfare, as compared to studies carried out in previous years, before the preparation of plans of protection tasks (Guzal-Dec, Zwolińska-Ligaj 2010). It indicates that attitudes to this issue has improved. Presented studies confirm earlier observations that the investment barriers are one of the main reasons for the negative opinions and concerns related to Natura 2000 network. To support the development of rural communities, it is important to support the existence of socio-economic and non-agricultural, in which the new nature conservation programs could play a potential role (EC 2010). With the increasing role of the village in maintaining and sharing natural resources for urban residents and the wider tourism and recreation,

it is important to support primarily service activities (Kłodziński 2012). Although the development of municipal housing or sector of small and medium-sized enterprises was seen in rural areas, it was the shortage of business entities and more difficult conditions for business development than in urban areas are indicated as the main barriers to development of entrepreneurship on the country side. Conflicts around the Natura 2000 network were connected also with the question of ownership of the lands included to protected areas (Kamal *et al.* 2013, 2015), which took place already in the case of longer functioning forms of nature protection (Królikowska 2007). The research results presented showed, however, that not only to situations requiring eg. access to private property in order to implement actions active protection or management of specific limitations were vulnerable to conflicts. Based on tourism, a small service entities (including accommodation) could develop, so that this development does not interfere with the need to preserve the values of attractive tourist ecosystems. Also a chance, of which it does not speak about often, and which has been identified in presented research, is the use of Natura 2000 areas to improving the quality of local life in other aspects than the strictly economic. The development of rural areas was heavily influenced the natural conditions of a specific region and though versatility is a common necessity, it thrived mainly where there was no uniform, good conditions for agriculture (Zawalińska 2012). On the one hand, it pointed to the huge potential of the program as a support for the development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas (EC 2010). On the other hand, the development of entrepreneurship in the Natura 2000 network requires specific methods of operation, which allows to treat an environmental factor in an innovative way, going beyond the mere extraction of natural resources and the use of space (Liro 2008). It was stressed that areas covered by the Natura 2000 must be parallel protected against marginalization, which may be a consequence eg. repricing opportunities offered by the program (Zawalińska 2012). In retrospect it is clear that during implementation of Natura 2000 in Poland did happen with committing numerous errors, including such as insufficient communication with stakeholders, not sharing information about the program or the introduction of new regulations in such a way that local municipalities noticed Natura 2000 network as a factor inhibiting the development (Kłodziński 2012). As a result, till 2013, this program was perceived negatively as too complex, unfriendly to investors, local governments and private land owners, rigorous and expensive. Efficient implementation and functioning of the Natura 2000 program and its interplay with the objectives of local residents, and not to compete with rural development, requires the ability to compromise (Cent *et al.* 2015).

Results of other studies conducted by Dziemianowicz *et al.* in 2013 show that the socio-economic indicators pointed to the predominance of the municipalities with the highest proportion of Natura 2000 areas over the units, which were not covered by the network (Dziemianowicz *et al.* 2015). This was the most apparently seen in the area of tourism. Number of accommodation sites per 1000 inhabitants in the municipalities with the highest share of Natura 2000 areas amounted to nearly 5600, and in municipalities not covered by this form of nature protection was less than 700. The dynamics in this field in the municipalities with the highest share of Natura 2000 areas was more than three times higher than in municipalities not covered by the network. In addition, in the municipalities with the highest proportion of Natura 2000 areas in 2006–2012 larger (almost 2%) the population growth than in municipalities not covered by the network (1.4%) was observed. They also were characterized by higher levels of income per 1 inhabitant – respectively 1502 zł per capita for municipalities with the highest proportion of Natura 2000 areas in 2012 and 1327 zł per capita for municipalities not covered by the network. The most positive ratings were related to the impact of Natura 2000 areas for the development of tourism (68% positive and 9% negative). It was visible a regularity, where the larger the municipality then the greater the share of positive votes (94% in municipalities with over 50 thousand inhabitants). The influence of the presence of Natura 2000 areas on the attractiveness of the municipalities as a place of residence was evaluated as a beneficial (58% positive responses and only 8% negative). In this aspect, there is also a relationship between made ratings and the size of municipalities. In the municipalities with over 50 thousand residents 80% of respondents felt that the presence of Natura 2000 areas has had a positive impact (there were no indications of negative). In both cases you can see that most votes about the positive impact of Natura 2000 areas came from municipalities, where it was one of the endogenous riches, which could encourage other or even alleviate some of the negative characteristics of urban areas (Dziemianowicz *et al.* 2015). Presented results and other literature data (eg. Strzelecka, Wicks 2010; Piekut, Pawluśkiewicz 2012; Pietrzyk-Kaszyńska *et al.* 2012; Kamal *et al.* 2015) indicate therefore a positive impact of Natura 2000 areas on sustainable residential development in rural areas, including the development of the residential function.

Conclusions

As seen from the above, economic activity, agricultural or touristic on the designated Natura 2000 areas it is permissible as the European Union does not give absolute priority to protect the environment before social or economic considerations. The management relating to the protection of our most valuable habitats and species of animals and plants in these areas are different in relation to the native forms of nature protection. In contrast to the reserves or national parks, a large part of the Natura 2000 does not require sharp protective regimes, and the basic requirement is not to change the existing functions of the area and not worsening the current state of habitats. This means that the location in the area of Natura 2000 is not tantamount to the suppression of sustainable development of the municipality, including the housing function. On the contrary – the management of Natura 2000 sites, in a way that respects the need to protect

nature, it can be an opportunity for the sustainable development of the region, only the method of preparation and realization of investments must take into account the presence of these areas so that interference with the natural environment was on the one hand adequate to the developmental needs municipalities, on the other hand exhibited the potential of the resource. Incorrectly therefore, the issue of emerging barriers to economic development such as investment risk is raised. These fears stem from insufficient knowledge, misunderstanding of the rules governing the network. In many cases, these areas do not need to be avoided by investors. Investors wishing to implement the project on the Natura 2000 areas should look for information that will allow them to determine whether the site or near the planned investments there are a natural habitat or habitat of plant and animal species as well as species for which protection has been designated a Natura 2000 area. Natura 2000 network can not restrict the development of local communities and contribute to impoverishing of any interest group. Natura 2000 network program must combine the need for economic development area with the improvement of living conditions. However, the directions of development of Natura 2000 areas should be determined deliberately in order to preserve the natural values of these areas and protect what is most precious in them. Leading the economy, it is necessary avoid conflicts, and minimize the negative impacts resulting from the to human activity. Most misunderstandings related to Natura 2000 program is due to a lack of knowledge about the functioning of the new system of protection of nature and concerns the possibility of use of areas included in the network. Natura 2000 network differs from the national parks, nature reserves and parks, in which are protected all the natural resources located within their borders. While on Natura 2000 areas only certain species and habitats are protected, and thereby their places of occurrence and the places important for their proper functioning and behavior in the future. Natura 2000 areas and their surroundings can be used economically, respecting certain rules to prevent the emergence of new threats to the protected elements of nature. It should be emphasized that the requirements for nature conservation in the Natura 2000 network are not uniform in all areas. Diversified regime of protection depends on the specifics of the elements to be protected, the state of nature in the specific location, the type of the current economic use of the area. It's all decide, how to protect individual places. It is worth knowing that previously pursued economic activities, the existing spatial management or the use of land does not change due to the establishment of the Natura 2000 area. Previously conducted business can therefore be continued if it complies with the conservation regulations. In Poland, there are examples of large enterprises, which operate on the border of the Natura 2000, through these areas run a busy railway lines and roads, power lines and in their boundaries there are also the villages and towns. In order to social and economic activity in Natura 2000 sites and in their immediate vicinity did not affect negatively on protected species and habitats, first of all it is necessary to avoid new threats. Each proposed action must be assessed from the point of view of their impact on Natura 2000 sites. Membership a particular area in the network of areas of priority importance for the conservation of biodiversity European Union, namely the Natura 2000 network, is a kind of labels indicating in the country and abroad about unique natural beauty around. On the basis of these natural values of the area the so-called. green business can be built. Examples of business opportunities in Natura 2000 areas related to the sustainable development (including the residential functions) of rural areas:

- Organic farming;
- Biodynamic Agriculture;
- Agritourism;
- Qualified tourism for example: hiking, cycling, equestrianism;
- Culinary Tourism;
- Environmental education, green schools, rallies young people and students;
- The development of arts and crafts;
- Preservation of endangered profession (embroidery, pottery, blacksmithing, etc.);
- Development of services (hotels, catering, transport, equipment rentals and other tourism);
- Promotion of the region through a strong European brand which is a Natura 2000;
- To promote their own regional products;
- Organization of regular themed outdoor events;
- Gaining funding for projects and programs to improve the state infrastructure (sewage system, roads, bicycle paths, biomass boilers, programs education and training, competitions, etc.).

It should be also mentioned about the observed recently in Poland trend of migration from the city to the country by people who flee urban noise, bustle, rush, for which proximity and/or the presence of Natura 2000 areas, without having to worry about the appearance of troublesome investment, in additionally with silence, peace and a better climate, may be decisive when choosing a place of residence.

Disclosure statement

Authors declare that they have not any competing financial, professional, or personal interests from other parties.

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