

Mapping and economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by a wetland site in Danube

Ecosystem services of the Divici-Pojejena wetland in Romania

A mixed methods approach.

- Qualitative part with focus groups and interviews to identify key stakeholders and services.
- Benefit transfer (BT) for the monetary valuation of the ecological services of the site.

Mapping ecosystem goods and services (Fig 1.)

- Two focus groups were conducted
 - one in Oslo with experts on the wetland ecosystem services of the area
 - one on the policy site in Romania with local stakeholders.
- The experts described several non-use option values of the wetland – especially in terms of bird-watching and recreation.
- Interviews with local actors, inhabitants, and tourists show that there is limited awareness of the wetland as a special protection site.



Figure 1: Identified main services of the Divici-Pojejena wetland.

Economic evaluation of the ecosystem services in the area (Fig 2.)

- With BT, environmental benefit estimates from existing case studies (i.e., study sites) are transferred to a new, policy case study (i.e., policy site).
- After exploring different approaches we chose a meta-regression model as a basis for our evaluation.
- Bird watching opportunities, water quality, and flood prevention services provided by the wetland are among the highest valued services, while the amenity services are the least valued among all wetland services.

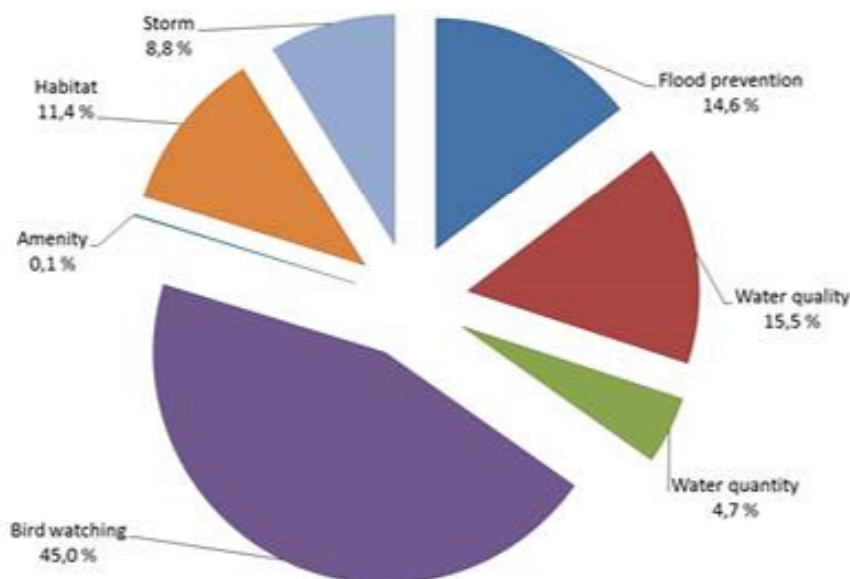


Figure 2: Relative contribution of ecosystem services.