

ABSTRACT

The participants of environmental management are able to contribute to the sustainable development of protected areas through organized cooperation that requires a complex approach. Therefore, identification and classification of attitudes or relationships between stakeholders are highly desirable as well as determining the factors influencing their thinking towards the existence of protected areas. The explanatory variables like age, education, local and ecological knowledge and employment are usually discussed to explain of residents' opinions on protected areas.

This work focuses on the residents of National parks Krkonose, Podyji and Ceske Svycarsko and a team of researchers under the leadership of a supervisor was systematically monitored residents' opinions since 1999 in these national parks. Four-block questionnaire field surveys were conducted in 19 villages influenced by national park management and 469 samples were collected. Chi-square test and logistic regression were utilized to analyse the dataset. There are significant relationships ($p < 0.05$) between selected demographic, environmental, social, economic and institutional-political indicators. Positive or negative respondents' opinions on the existence of the national park were significantly influenced by their age ($p_{\chi^2} = 0.026$), evaluation of national park regulation of nature conservation ($p_{\chi^2} = 2.391 \times 10^{-10}$), common awareness of the grant programs ($p_{\chi^2} = 0.019$) and assessment of the national park as an authority ($p_{\chi^2} < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$).

Following research of local peoples' opinions in national parks could include determining the key subjects of the current national parks management, evaluation and potential modification of local people's integration in an appropriate social network.

Keywords: environmental management, sustainability, national parks, residents' perceptions, Krkonose, Podyji, Ceske Svycarsko.