

Abstract

Villages occur in many Czech and central European large protected areas (LPA). Some inhabitants and local politicians occasionally publish, that occurrence of the LPA can inhibit regional development and cause negative demographic and socioeconomic changes in the region. This diploma thesis tests this assumption and studies the effect of existence and establishment of the LPA on socioeconomic parameters of villages and their inhabitants. The case study was conducted in the south-west border region of the Czech Republic, the area of high conservation value. The Šumava National Park (inside of already existing Šumava Protected Landscape Area, PLA) and Český les PLA were established 1991 and 2005, respectively. Also Novohradské hory PLA was proposed several times but have not been proofed till now. Statistical analysis (ANCOVA) for selected socioeconomic and demographic parameters of 39 villages and their cadasters were used to study development of the region between years 1991 – 2011. The results found the village size (number of permanent residents living in the village) to be more significant predictor for most of studied parameters than occurrence of the village in/out of the LPA. The results are discussed with results of similar studies conducted in other protected areas. Peripheral character of the border region together with underutilized potential of LPA existence are identified as the most important reasons of limited development of the region. At the end the adequacy of used parameters is evaluated and possible additions for the following comprehensive research are suggested.

Key words

Protected areas, NP Šumava, PLA Český les, ANCOVA, socioeconomic development, border region