Linking Ecosystem Services, Landscape Preferences and Human Well-being: a Case-study from Belarus

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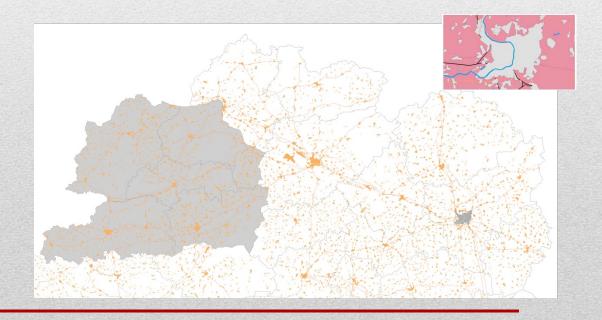
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Aim of Research

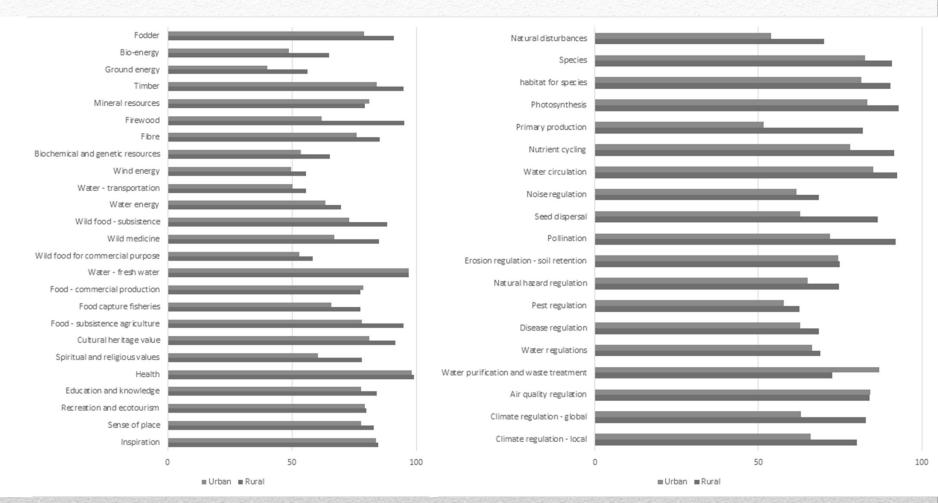
- To find out the preferences of residents on ecosystem services (ES),
- identify landscapes that provide multiple ES important for human wellbeing in Belarus
- and how people correlate these landscapes with the delivery of ES important for their wellbeing

Methodology

In total 403 interviews were done with urban and rural residents in 48 settlements in Vitebsk region



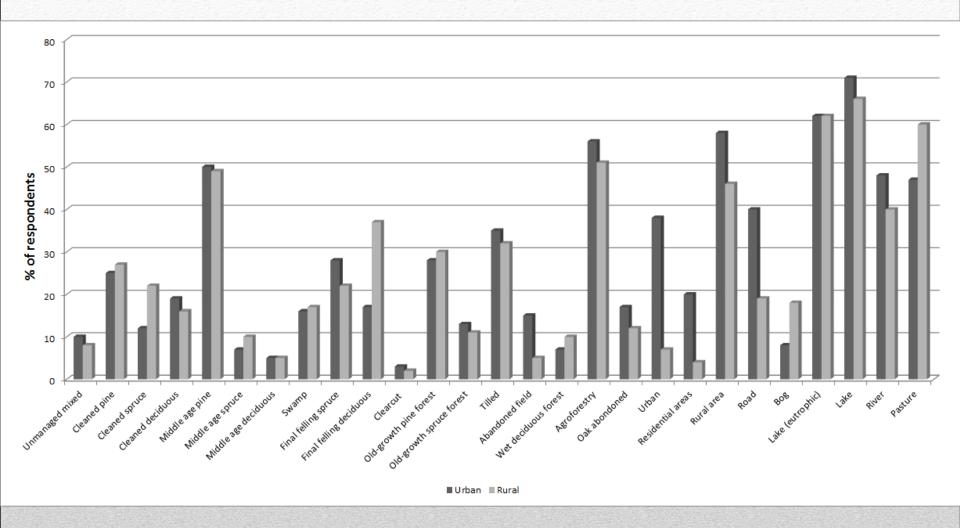
Results



Importance of benefits of landscapes for urban and rural respondents

on Belarusian project area

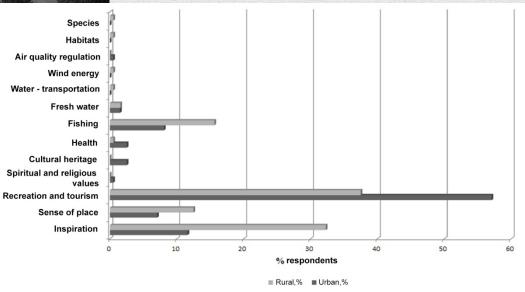
Results



Lakes



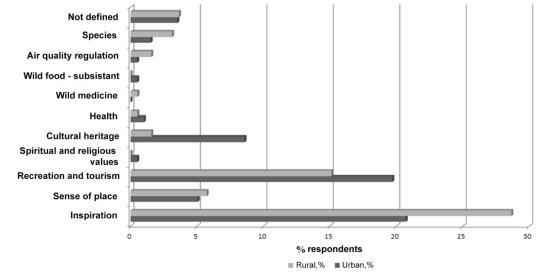
selected by 71% urban respondents and 66% rural respondents



Agroforestry



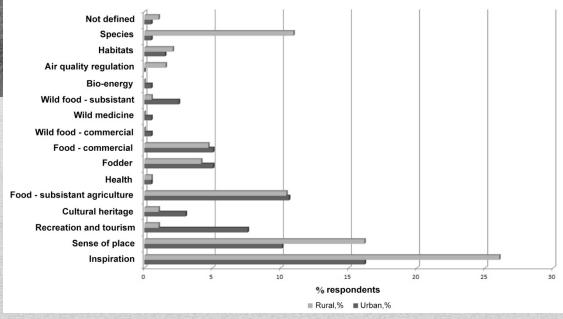
selected by 56% urban respondents and 51% rural respondents



Pasture



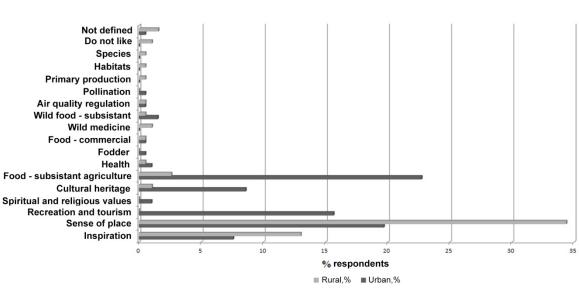
selected by 47% urban respondents and 60% rural respondents



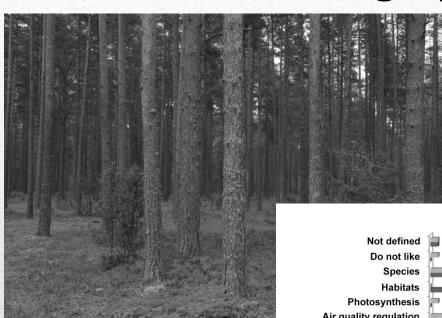
Rural Areas



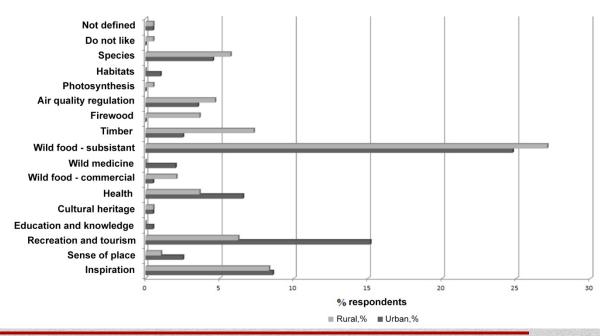
selected by 58% urban respondents and 46% rural respondents



Middle-age pine forest



selected by 50% urban respondents and 49% rural respondents

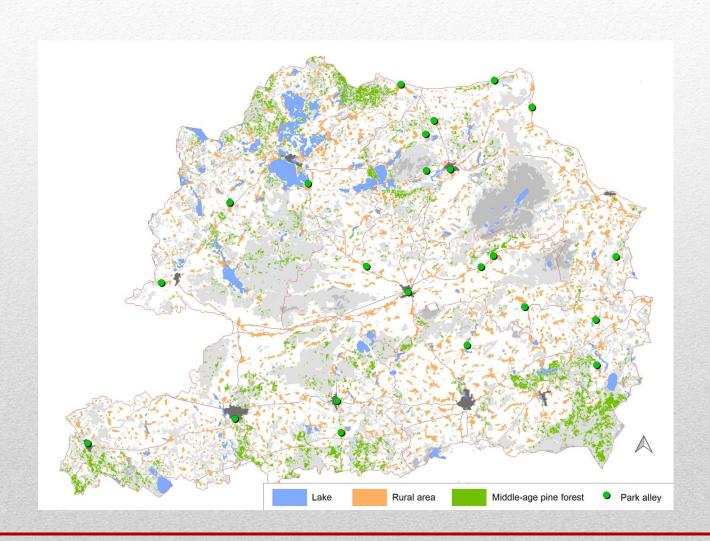


Undesired Landscape



selected by 43 % of respondents

Priority Land Covers in Project Area



Respondents' citations

RESPONSE

- wild food subsistence,
- fishery,
- dacha

- etc.

In nature I only relax, do not use any resources

Nothing depends on me. Why do I need to care on climate changes?

RESPONSE

- timber,
- hunting,
- garden for market,

- etc.

Conclusion

- Answers are often declarative (esp. regulating and supporting services);
- Nature remained an important source of psychological comfort and health.
- There is no big urban-rural gradient in opinions.
- Public surveys help to understand the request existing in the society on ES delivered by specific landscapes. It can be used for adjusting local policies and planning of public services in the region.

Thank you for attention!