

Opportunities and challenges in sustainable development and nature protection on site

“The opinion of those left behind – Jablanica Mt.”

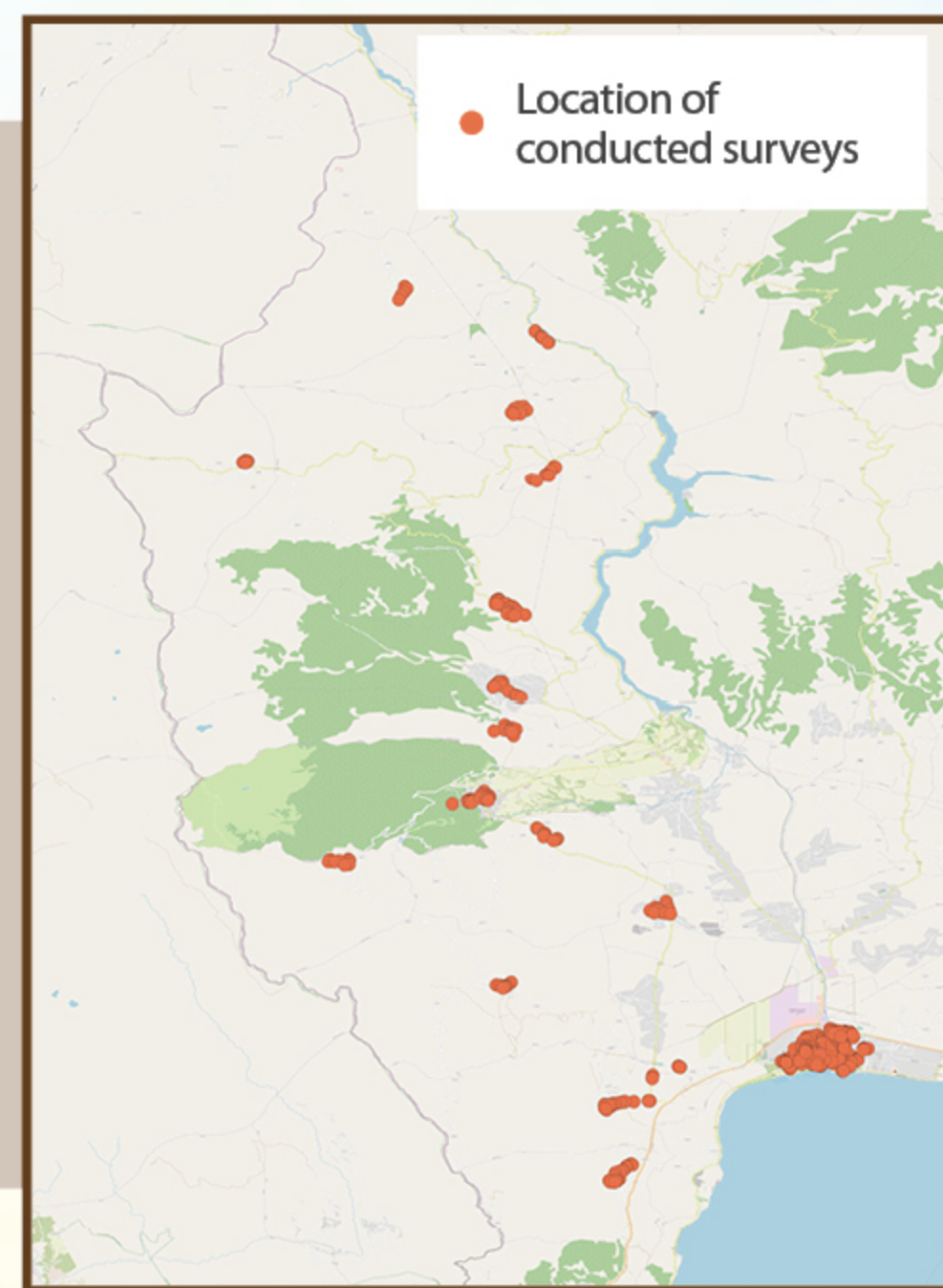
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Introduction

Jablanica Mountain is an area that has been recognized to abound in natural resources and biological diversity. Therefore, Jablanica Mt. is considered to be a priority area for conservation in different strategic national and international documents for nature protection. On the other hand, the natural resources of this mountain provide ample basis for the development and subsistence of the local communities. To provide information on peoples' attitudes on the ongoing initiative for establishment of PA, a structured quantitative survey was developed.



Methods

Goal: determine the public opinion of the residents in the region of Jablanica Mountain about nature conservation, the use of natural resources and declaration of a protected area on the mountain.

The survey covered 19 settlements, 606 respondents, population 18+

Polling company: IPSOS DOOEL from Skopje

Time period: July 2021

Method: face-to-face questionnaire

The respondents are: 62% permanent residents, 13% weekend tourists, 15% summer visitors, 9% other

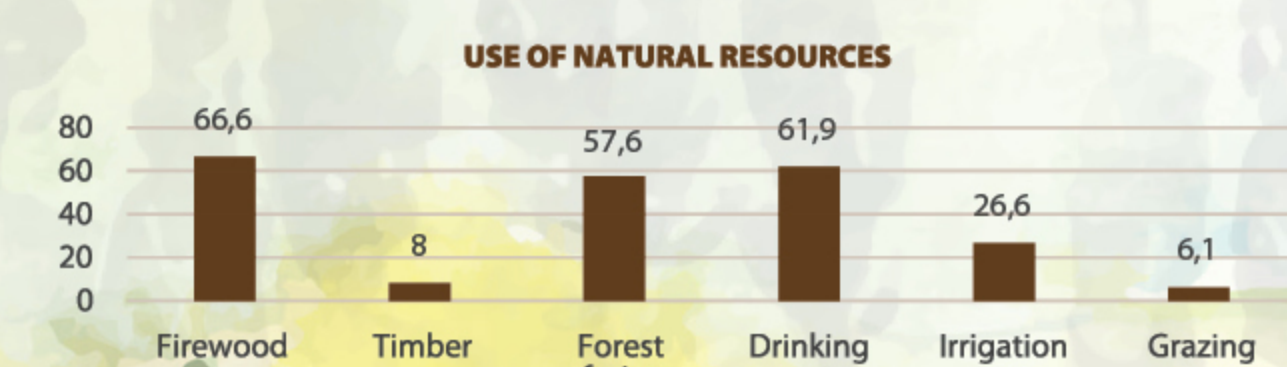
Results



LIFESTYLE OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND

(FROM NATURE CONSERVATION ASPECT)

Nature conservation is part of their way of life and their behaviour. They are aware that natural values can provide healthy and good quality life and want to live in a healthy environment (confirmed by 97% of all respondents) and claim that nature protection depends on people (94% of all respondents).



AWARENESS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND ABOUT NATURE CONSERVATION

- 97% want to live in a healthy and protected environment
- 93% enjoy the region's natural beauties
- 87% believe that economy is equally important as nature conservation
- over 90% believe that nature conservation depends on people
- 52.2% claim that the mountain resources are used sustainably
- 74% believe that the nature on Jablanica is not protected
- 56% think that nature conservation might be an obstacle for development of tourism
- 71% think that the whole nature on Jablanica should be protected
- around 97% are aware that natural values can ensure healthy and good lives

AWARENESS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

- The respondents fully or partially believe that the nature on Jablanica mountain (almost 80%) and people (more than 70%) are affected by climate change
- around 70% were affected by various disasters (floods, fires, heatwaves, etc.)
- over 70% think that the citizens who live on Jablanica and protect the mountain should be compensated
- over 75% think that citizens can individually impact climate change
- 82% believe that reducing climate change would contribute to better quality of life

OPINION OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROTECTED AREA

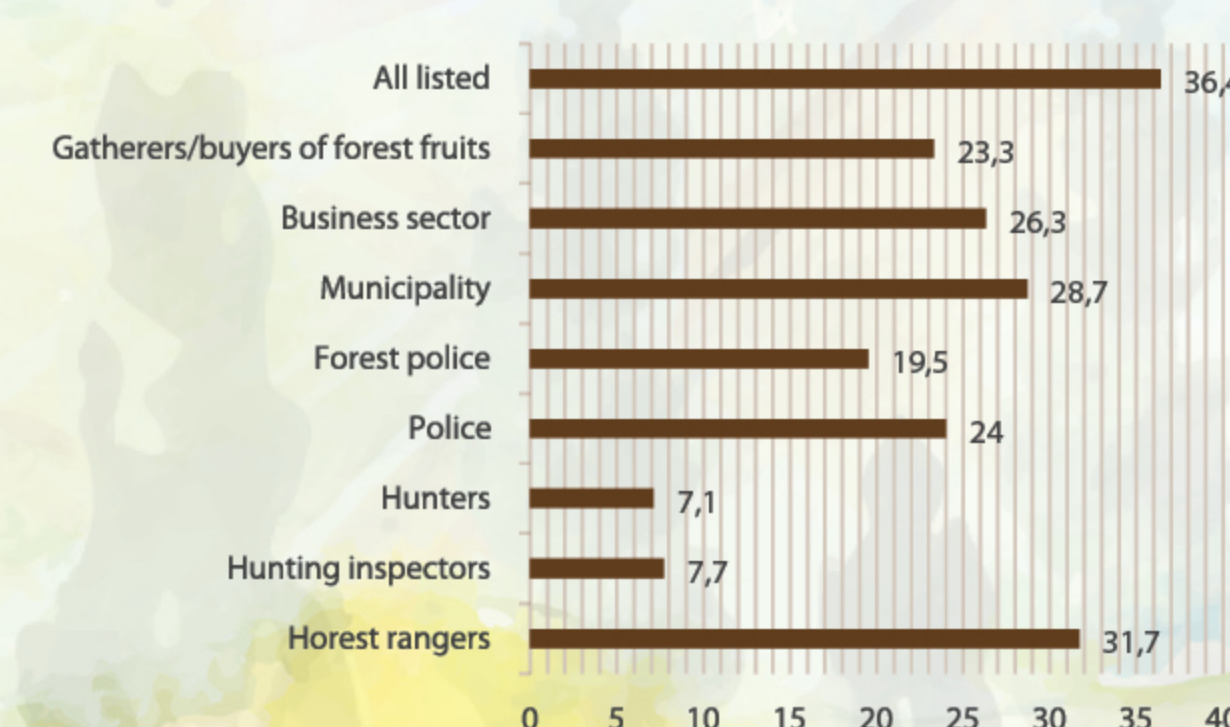
- 86% claim they know what a protected area is
- 92% have a positive opinion about Jablanica becoming a protected area
- 92% would sign an initiative for declaring Jablanica a protected area
- 92% think that the changes resulting from the declaration of Jablanica a protected area would be positive
- 87% claim that the local population's life would improve if the mountain is protected

CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

- Opinions of those left behind about disagreements on conservation
- 76% think that the local population would not have disagreements if Jablanica is declared a protected area
 - 8% think there will be disagreements and
 - 16% don't know.

- Disagreements would be due to:
- 53% limited access to natural resources
 - 36% illegal wood cutting
 - 11% illegal personal interests

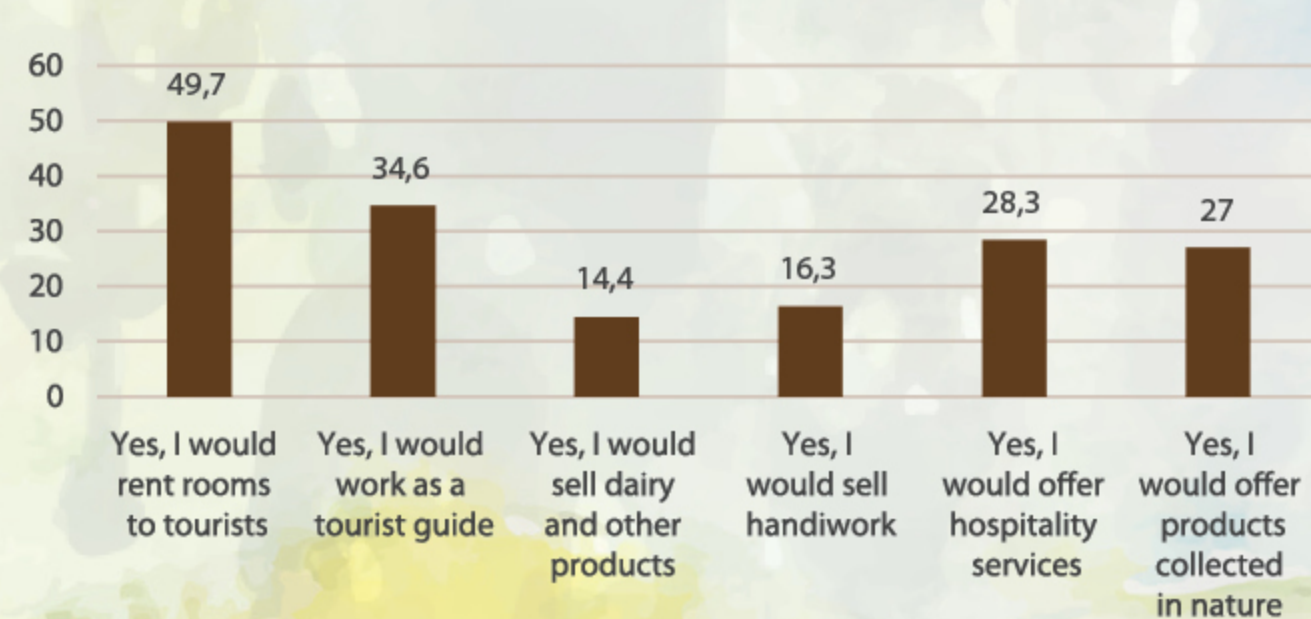
EXPECTED CHALLENGES/DISAGREEMENTS WITH:



PROTECTED AREA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND

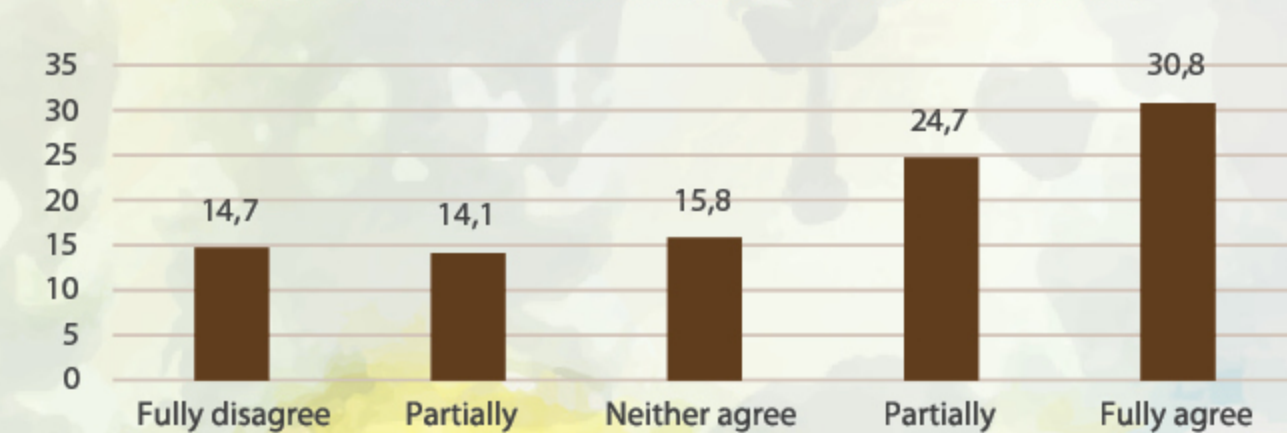
- They think that the protected area provides opportunities for:
- local economic development (86%)
 - new jobs (81%)
 - nature protection (88%)
 - tourism development (91%)
 - branding of products from Jablanica (88%)
 - their children using the same natural resources (75%)
 - the region to become a popular tourist destination (85%)

OPPORTUNITIES THAT THOSE LEFT BEHIND WOULD USE



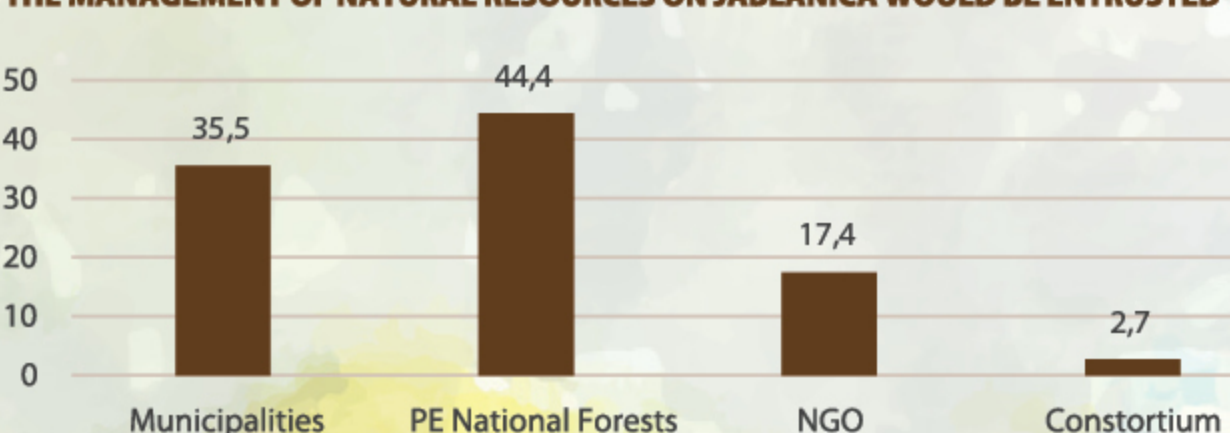
WHAT IS THE OPINION OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON JABLANICA

IS THE CURRENT SYSTEM FOR REGULATION OF RESOURCES GOOD?



VIEWS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUTURE PROTECTED AREA ON JABLANICA

THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON JABLANICA WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO:



Conclusion

Results refer to high level of support by the local population for establishing a PA on Jablanica Mt. with 92 % and provide important information that should serve as a baseline for tailoring future conservation approaches, communicating conservation priorities and promoting benefits from nature conservation and awareness raising activities in the region.