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BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN RURAL AREAS
IN VIEW OF THE COMMUNE PROGRAMMES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

S u m m a r y

The loss of biodiversity is one of the most important contemporary global environmental problems. Commune environmental protection programmes can be an important tool for biodiversity conservation at local level. The aim of the study was to assess the biodiversity conservation measures in environmental programmes of communes with high natural values. The study was based on the analysis of environmental protection programmes, in 20 communes of the Łódź region. Results of the study indicate that most references relate to the protection, maintenance and development of forest resources; such records appeared in almost all documents. Another important biodiversity conservation measure is the support of the existing and establishment of new protected areas. However, too general financial schedules do not guarantee the fulfilment of these tasks. Therefore, more research is needed to assess implementation of the programmes.

Key words: biodiversity, environmental programme, environmental policy, Łódź region, rural communes