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**ŁUKASZ ZBUCKI – “IMPACT OF THE SARS-COV-2
 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ON TOURIST TRAFFIC IN POLISH
 NATIONAL PARKS” – REVIEW**

**ŁUKASZ ZBUCKI – „WPŁYW PANDEMII KORONOWIRUSA
 SARS-COV-2 NA RUCH TURYSTYCZNY W POLSKICH PARKACH
 NARODOWYCH” – RECENZJA**

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The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic has affected virtually all areas of economic and social life in Poland, particularly those involving relocation. Commonly used – as a way to stop the spread of the disease – quarantine, involves isolating an individual (or a small group of people) and staying in one specific place. Thanks to developed technological means, while remaining in isolation, one can function relatively “normally”, work or study (for example, remotely), as well as rest, not only passively (for example, using a computer or TV, home gym or garden), and even socialise (for example, thanks to social media). On the other hand, you certainly cannot travel nor engage in tourism.

As a result, tourism is among those industries particularly affected by the pandemic. This is because, in addition to its economic importance for many regions, tourism is an important social phenomenon; Therefore, changes in tourism affect both the multitude of those offering travel services and, to a similar extent, their consumers.

In Poland, during the first phase of the COVID restrictions, it was virtually impossible to practice tourism, even in the form of single-day, individual excursions – there was even a ban on entering forests. Fortunately, this restriction was withdrawn rather quickly, correctly recognising that it was more conducive to the spread of the pandemic to stay – altogether necessary for the

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functioning of a household – on city streets. A short time later, the ban (more justified by the possibility of crowds gathering in some places) on entering the perimeter of national parks was lifted. On the other hand, various restrictions were in place for a long time, strongly impeding or even preventing movement between different countries. Clearly, this has become a serious blow to international tourism. Even after the resumption of suspended air services, it was mandatory to perform a control test just before departure. A positive result of this test not only prevented the planned trip from going ahead but also, in many cases, resulted in the loss of the funds invested in the trip. This effectively discouraged people from taking trips abroad and, at the same time, concentrated tourist activity to domestic destinations. Among the most attractive of these are the national parks, which became the subject of the study by Łukasz Zbucki.

The author set out to study how the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has affected tourism in national parks. This is a particularly important issue due to the fact that the amount of tourist pressure on the nature of national parks is fundamental to their functioning. This is because there could have been both an increase and a decrease in this pressure. Both hypotheses were justified in this case. There could just as well have been a phenomenon of “flipping” of tourist activity from attractive areas abroad to those in Poland, as well as a general decrease in activity caused by the fear of becoming ill and, at the same time, the accumulation of funds for trips after the pandemic ceases.

To achieve his goal, Łukasz Zbucki used an original research method based on the use of passive positioning of cell phones as an objective measure of the amount of tourist traffic at a given place and moment. Disregarding the various difficulties here (of which the author is perfectly aware), such as the impossibility of distinguishing the logins of visitors from permanent residents or the necessity of assuming that one user = one smartphone, which is not always true, or the necessity of assuming that all users have a phone active all the time, the method used creates possibilities incomparably greater than traditional methods of determining the volume of tourist traffic, including single-day visitors, who by traditional methods are often not recorded. The very testing of such a method, in addition to being performed on a large research sample, seems to be an important contribution to tourism geography, even if the results obtained were not particularly significant. The developed method can (and should!) be used and thus tested to study, among others, tourist traffic and, more broadly, all population movements, especially over short periods of time, not recorded by traditional measurement methods.

Equally important, the author did not focus on just one selected national park; as many as six, located in different landscape belts of Poland, were analysed. These were: the coastal Słowiński Park, the young-glacial Wigier Park, the old-glacial Białowieża Park, the highland Roztocze Park, the middle-mountain Bieszczady Park and the high-mountain Tatra Park. These parks are characterised not only by their diverse landscapes but also by the different size and nature of the tourist traffic within them.

An important methodological problem of the work is undoubtedly the certain inconsistency of the research area. The author studies traffic in national parks and has data from areas that are definitely larger in area, with no way to separate this data. The solution to this problem was to assume in advance that the test areas studied include national parks along with their surroundings; these surroundings, and not just the parks themselves, are equally important places of activity for tourists visiting the parks (where they mainly stay overnight), so the changes in the number of passive phone positioning on which the work's analyses are based are just as important in the parks' areas as in their surroundings. It can be surmised that what happens in the surroundings of the parks determinately affects the terrain of the parks.

The results of the work were very interesting, and the impact of the pandemic on tourist traffic turned out to be diverse and not at all unequivocal, depending on many factors: the phase of the pandemic, the type of restrictions applied, the size, location and type of national park, as well as a number of other factors. I will not discuss them in detail here, rather I encourage you to reach for the monograph, as it is certainly worth it. The work also has a significant utilitarian dimension and can be used for tourism management in national parks. In conclusion, Łukasz Zbucki's monograph: *“The impact of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic on tourist traffic in Polish national parks”* is a valuable and necessary work and is certainly worth reading, both by specialists in the nature, economic and medical sectors as well as tourists visiting Polish national parks.