



ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNT IN TERMS OF THE EMERALD NETWORK PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN BELARUS IN 2015

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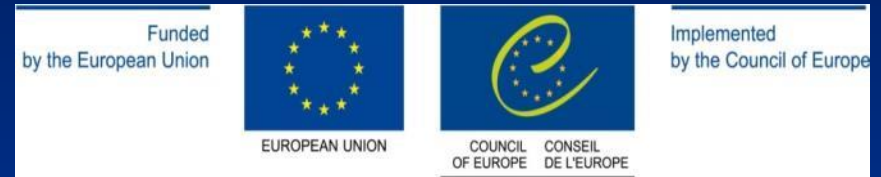
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Financing and implementation

- Financed and coordinated by the European Union and the Council of Europe
- Implemented in Belarus by NGO “Ecological Initiative”
- Coordinated in Belarus by the Ministry of Environment



Main results of 2015 work

- Inconsistencies in the 2014 national Emerald databases, following the QA/QC reports/remarks of the scientific experts to the Program, were corrected;
- Based on the results of the biogeographical seminars, scientific analyses and field trips, 72 new potential Emerald sites were identified.



Main results of 2015 work

- The database for all the Emerald sites (previously identified and additional ones), with all data in the Emerald Standard Data Form, is prepared;
- A single GIS package for all sites (previously identified and additional new sites), with all polygons in one layer and the “sitecode” as attribute to each polygon, is prepared.



Main results of 2015 work

- The National Emerald Seminar aimed at explaining the Emerald process and upcoming biogeographical evaluation to scientific community, representatives of relevant Ministries and environmental NGOs was held;
- The key actors including scientific experts, representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, environmental NGOs participated in the biogeographical workshops in Russia (Petrosavodsk) and Belarus (Minsk);



Main results of 2015 work

- Based on the results of the biogeographical evaluation made during the workshops held in 2015 the relevant corrections/amendments have been added to the data about 33 potential Emerald sites previously included in the Emerald database;
- The country reference database was revised according to the QA/QC report conclusions and results of the biogeographical evaluation.




Main results of 2015 work

- The main political effect from the implementation of the Emerald Program in our country – the accession of Belarus to the Bern Convention in February, 2013



Difficulties encountered during the Program implementation

- Specific national approach to identification of habitats – the habitats classification is not in conformity with the Bern Convention
- 70% of the potential Emerald territories in Belarus are not enough studied  the lack of information causes difficulties in identifying possible presence of certain species and habitats in those areas



Overcoming the difficulties encountered

- All possible stakeholders have been involved in data collection on presence of species and habitats on potential Emerald sites: governmental institutions (Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture); directors of all republican protected areas; local municipalities, responsible for management of regional protected areas; environmental NGOs.



Overcoming the difficulties encountered

- Some national financing for detailed study of the potential Emerald sites was included in the State Program of Nature Protected Area Management in Belarus for the period until 2020 (approved by the Government).



Thank you for your attention!

- Emerald team
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Visibility

- 1 article in the central national newspaper “Respublica” and 6 articles on the popular national scientific web – sites on implementation of the Emerald Programme in Belarus in 2015 were published;
- 500 hundred leaflets “Implementation of the Emerald Network Program in the Republic of Belarus” were disseminated among the stakeholders.





The Republic of Belarus has made the following progress in the Emerald Network program implementation:

- information (including maps with digital boundaries) about 63 potential Emerald sites with an overall coverage of 1,916,256.61 hectares, or 9.21% of the country's territory, has been collected and entered into the Emerald Network electronic database;
- country reference lists with all species from the Bern Convention Resolution 6 (1998) and habitats from Resolution 4 (1996) existing in the Republic of Belarus have been defined;
- all species and habitats mentioned in the Bern Convention Resolutions 4 and 6 and existing in Belarus have been distributed by biogeographic regions and populations;
- GIS maps of distribution of 55 species and 24 habitats (mentioned in the Bern Convention Resolutions 4 and 6) in Belarus have been developed;
- 8 national seminars on the Emerald Network program implementation have been held with the attendance of the representatives of governmental authorities, academic institutions, nongovernmental ecological associations and organizations, and mass media.



Preparation, assessment and updating of information about all potential Emerald sites in Belarus is to be completed by 2020.

The implementation of the Emerald Network Program promotes conservation and sustainable use of unique biodiversity of Belarus, as well as enhancement of the existing national policy in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.



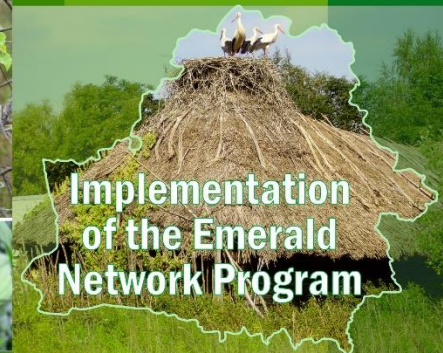
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Belarusian public association
"Ecological Initiative"



Ministry
of Natural
Resources and
Environment
of the Republic
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Implementation of the Emerald Network Program

in the Republic of Belarus

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Cooperation with our environmental projects

- The exchange of information regarding the identification of the potential Emerald sites was organized with the UNDP/GEF Project “***Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits***”;
- Due to the information received from the above Project new 11 potential Emerald sites were identified.

