















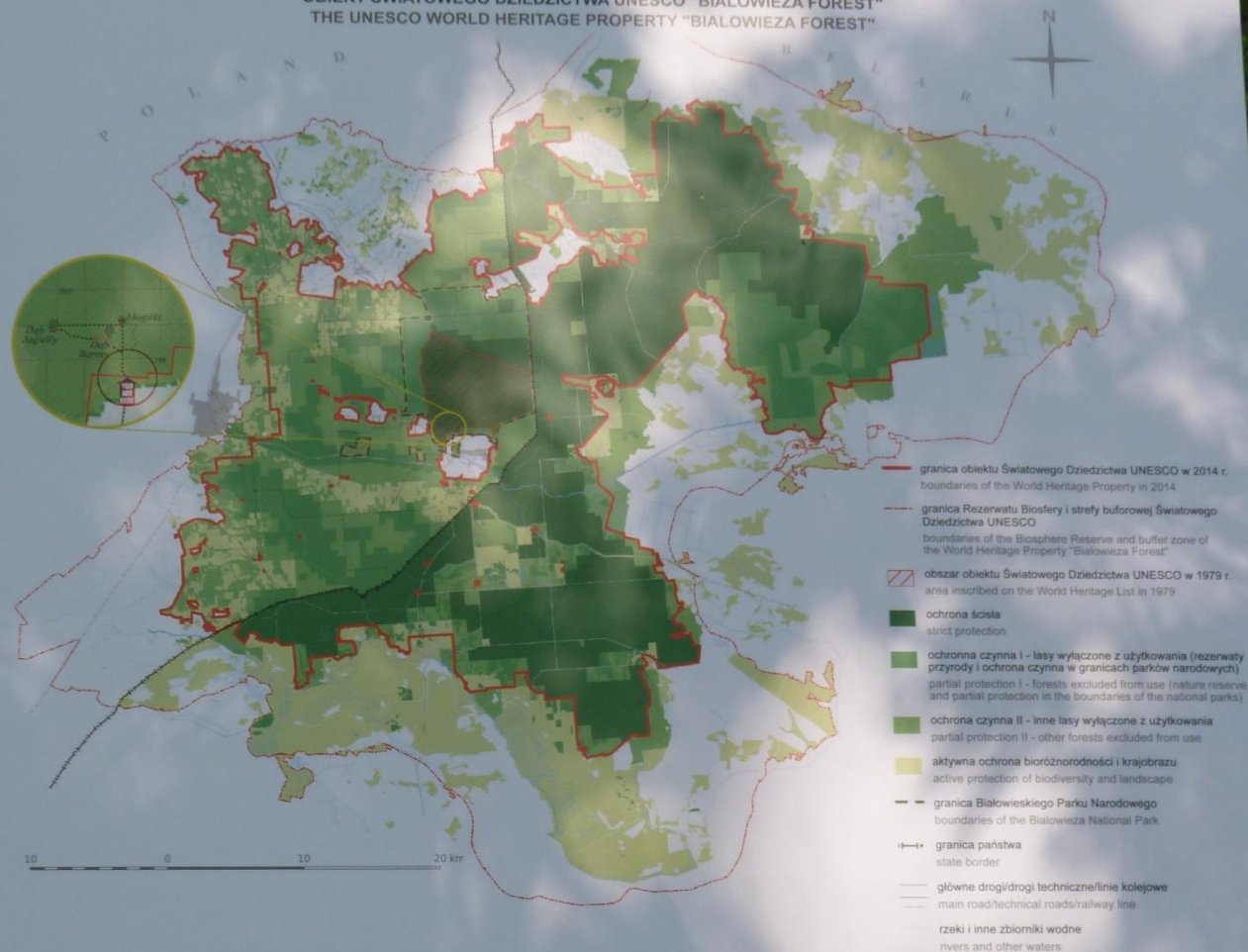






# BIAŁOWIESKI PARK NARODOWY

OBIEKT ŚWIATOWEGO DZIEDZICTWA UNESCO "BIALOWIEZA FOREST"  
THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "BIALOWIEZA FOREST"



## Drogi turysto,

Stoisz przed bramą do niezwykłego lasu. Jest to ostatni na niżu europejskim las naturalny o cechach pierwotnych, unikalny w skali światowej. Od tysięcy lat zachodzą tu spontaniczne procesy przyrodnicze. Podlega on ochronie od 1921 roku. Ten fragment Białowieżskiego Parku Narodowego stanowi najcenniejszą część transgranicznego polsko-białoruskiego obiektu Światowego Dziedzictwa UNESCO „Białowieża Forest”. Jest centralną strefą Rezerwatu Biosfery. Podlega ochronie ścisłej.

Zwiedzając ten cenny obszar pamiętaj, że:

1. Możesz w nim przebywać tylko z przewodnikiem turystycznym licencjonowanym przez Park, w grupie nie większej niż 20 osób.
2. Ze względów bezpieczeństwa przebywanie w nim w czasie burz i silnych wiatrów oraz w porze nocnej, tj. od pół godziny po zachodzie słońca do pół godziny przed wschodem słońca, jest zabronione.

## Dear Tourist,

You are standing in front of the gate leading into extraordinary forest. It is the last European lowland forest with primeval character and thus is unique in the world. Spontaneous natural processes have been going on here for thousands of years. It has been protected since 1921. This area of the Park is most valuable part of the Polish – Belorussian trans-boundary UNESCO World Heritage property “Białowieża Forest”. It is also a core area of the Biosphere Reserve. It remains under strict protection.

While visiting this precious area please remember that:

1. You can visit area only with a tourist guide licensed by the Park and in a group of up to 20 people.
2. For safety reasons, visiting the area during storms, strong winds and at night, which is from an half an hour after the sunset to half an hour before sunrise, is not allowed.
3. For proper protection of this area it is not allowed to:

# Conditions

1. Draw up a peer-reviewed 20-year management plan for the National Park by the end of 2017 in coordination with the planned Natura 2000 management plan for the whole area of the Bialowieza forest;
2. Continue the close cooperation between the forest and conservation authorities in view of achieving a coherent and coordinated management of the whole forest area, which will permit maintenance and improvement of the ecological characteristics of the Bialowieza forest including in particular; present and future old growth stands, which shall be excluded from harvesting, including salvage logging and sanitary felling
3. Wildlife, including in particular the bison population of the Bialowieza forest, but also populations of other larger wide ranging animals like wolves, is managed by the Bialowieza National Park .

## Recommendations

1. The management of the whole Natura 2000 zone should focus on forest conservation;
2. Existing forestry policy and practices be reviewed with a view to maximising biodiversity outside protected areas as well as by maintaining the ban on cutting down old trees (more than 100 years old) and significantly increasing the volume of dead wood by ceasing to market wood from sanitation felling and protected reserves; that all data with regard to the characteristics of trees felled within the Białowieża forest complex (species, age, amount of sanitation felling and commercial exploitation) are communicated to the Council of Europe every year and analysed, in order to improve conservation measures;

## Recommendations (ctd)

3. Consider proposing the whole area of Natura 2000 as a European Diploma area, where the National Park and the old-growth stands would receive a high level of protection and the rest of the forest area and the adjacent pastures and meadows would play the role of a large buffer zone including functional corridors between the National Park and nature reserves outside the National Park, as this would permit a coherent management of the whole area;

## Recommendations (ctd)

4. Town planning be critically reviewed with a view to preventing the fragmentation and disappearance of buffer zones;
5. Tourist access to fully protected areas be kept under control; kayaking and other aquatic leisure activities on the Narewka and Hwoźna rivers should remain strictly prohibited;

## Recommendations (ctd)

6. Education and training activities be stepped up further so as to support the redistribution of jobs, with a shift away from the forestry sector towards the conservation and sustainable eco-tourism sector, thereby increasing the number of interesting local jobs for young people;

7. Seek contacts with respective Belarus authorities with the aim of exploring ways and means to (a) avoid further depletion of the water table thus ensuring the protection of the forest from drought; (b) allow animal dispersion and migration across the border; and (c) improve cooperation in the conservation, science and tourism sectors.