

# **BELOVEZHSKAYA PUSHCHA NATIONAL PARK (BELARUS) RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA**

**Group of specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas  
CoE, Strasbourg, 22 February 2018**



Hervé LETHIER, Switzerland

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **EUROPEAN INTEREST**
- **MANAGEMENT**
- **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **CONCLUSION**

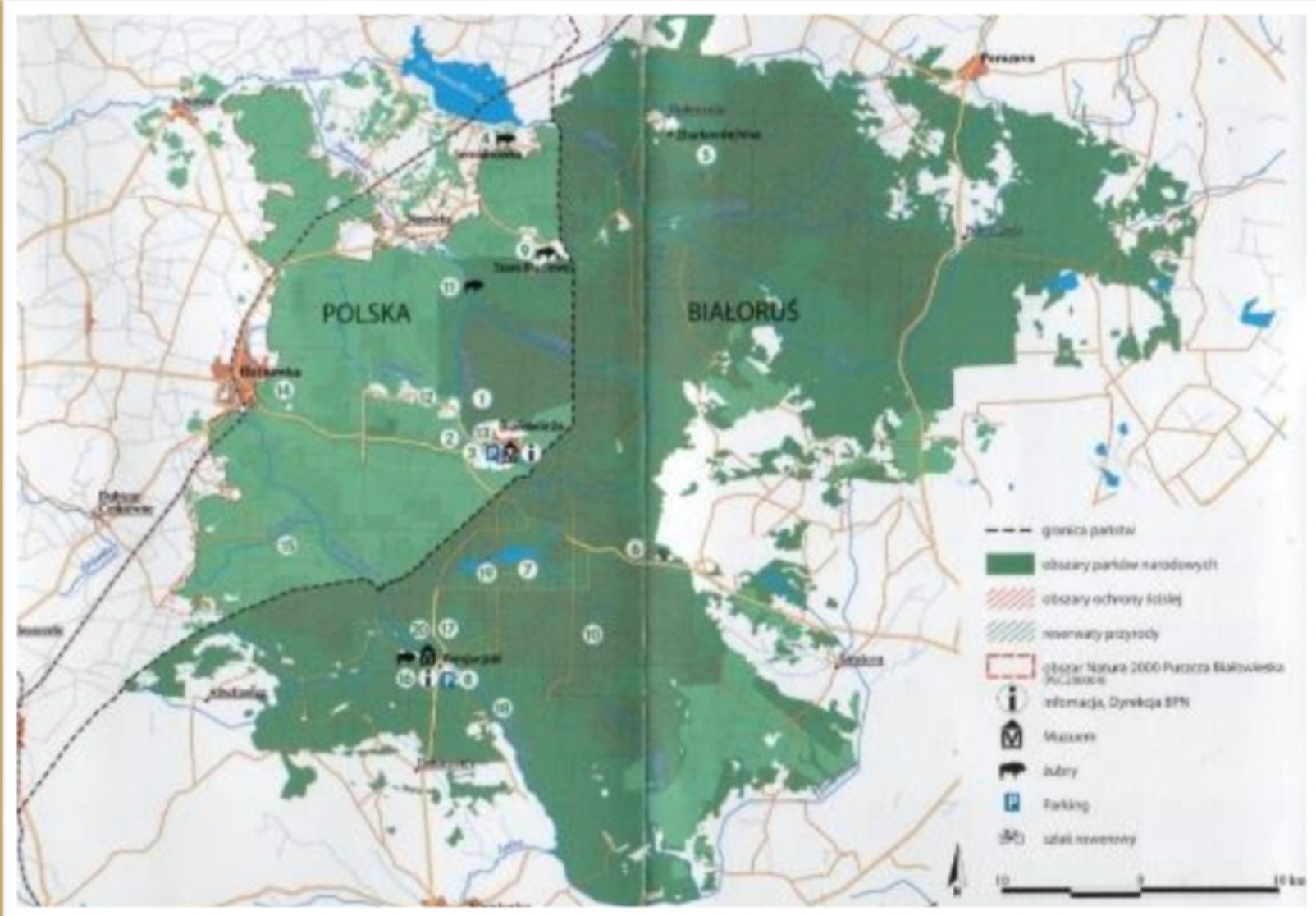
# INTRODUCTION

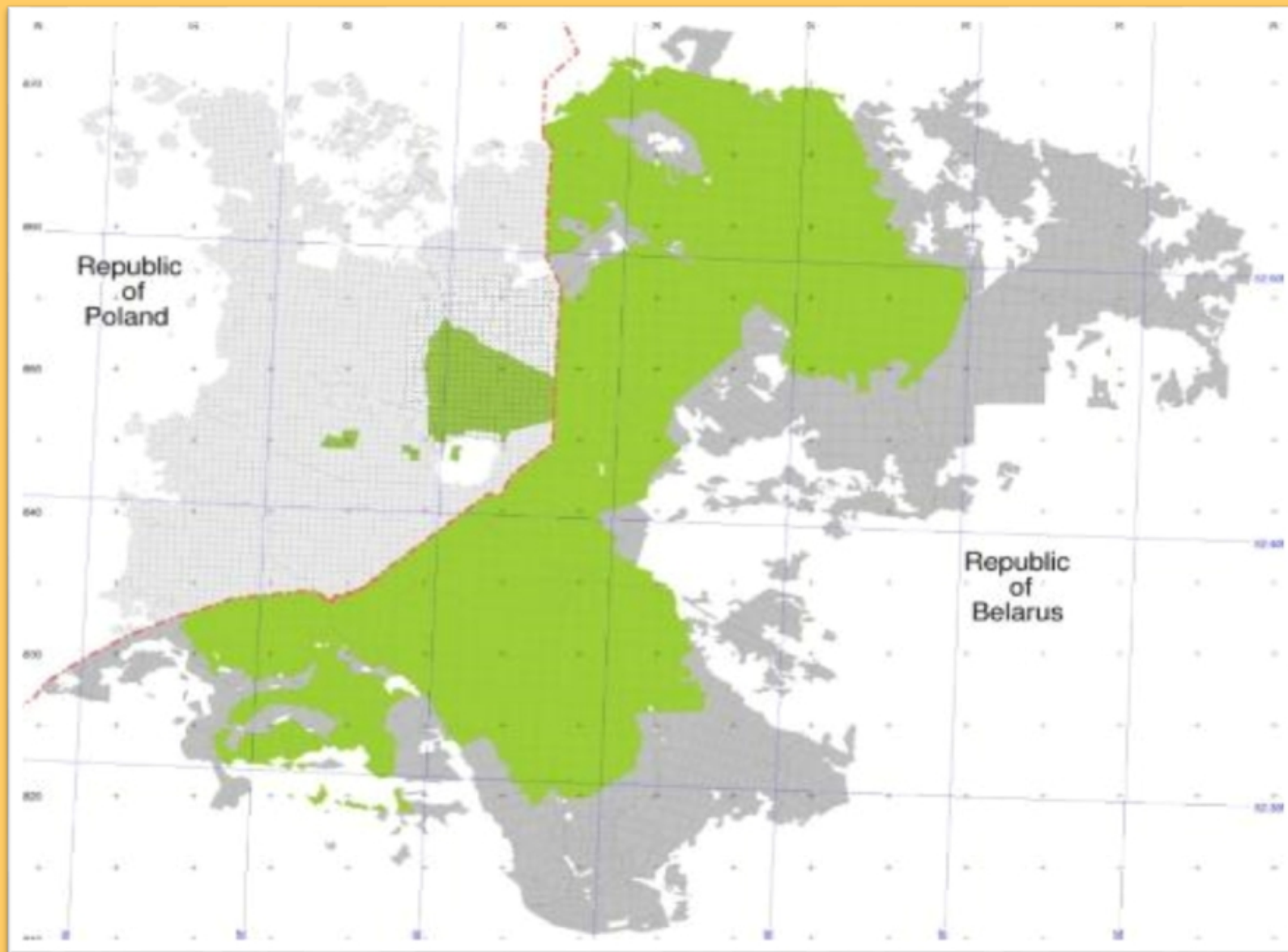
## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- AREA AWARDED IN 1997
- ED RENEWED IN 2002 AND 2013
- CATEGORY A : « *THE PROTECTION OF THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE OF FLORA AND FAUNA, ITS ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEM*»

# LOCATION







**ZONATION MAP  
of Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve  
(Republic of Belarus)**

1:100 000

**LEGENDS**

— State borderline

□ Area of Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park

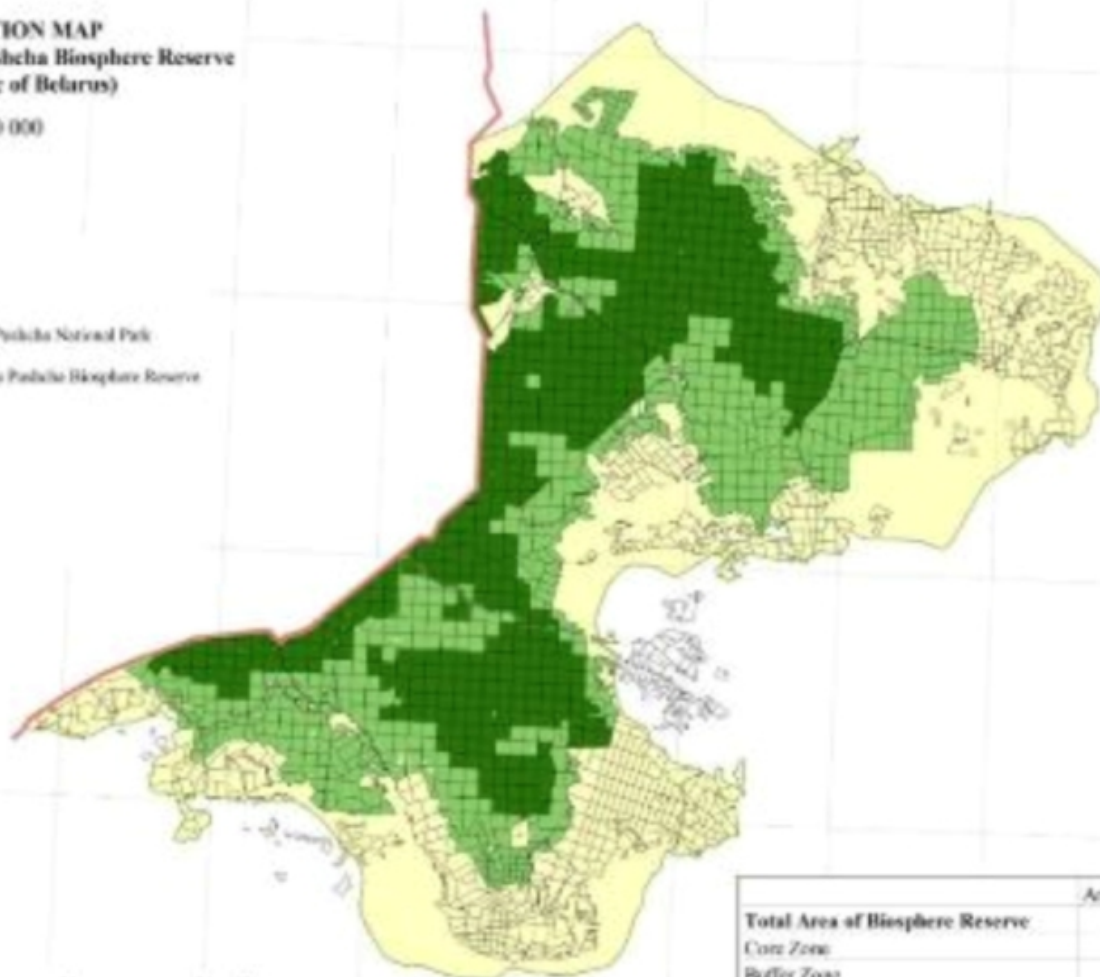
□ Border of Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve

Functional Zones of BR:

■ Core Zone

■ Buffer Zone

■ Transition Zone



	Area, sq. km.
<b>Total Area of Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>2162,12</b>
Core Zone	570,90
Buffer Zone	596,95
Transition Zone	994,67





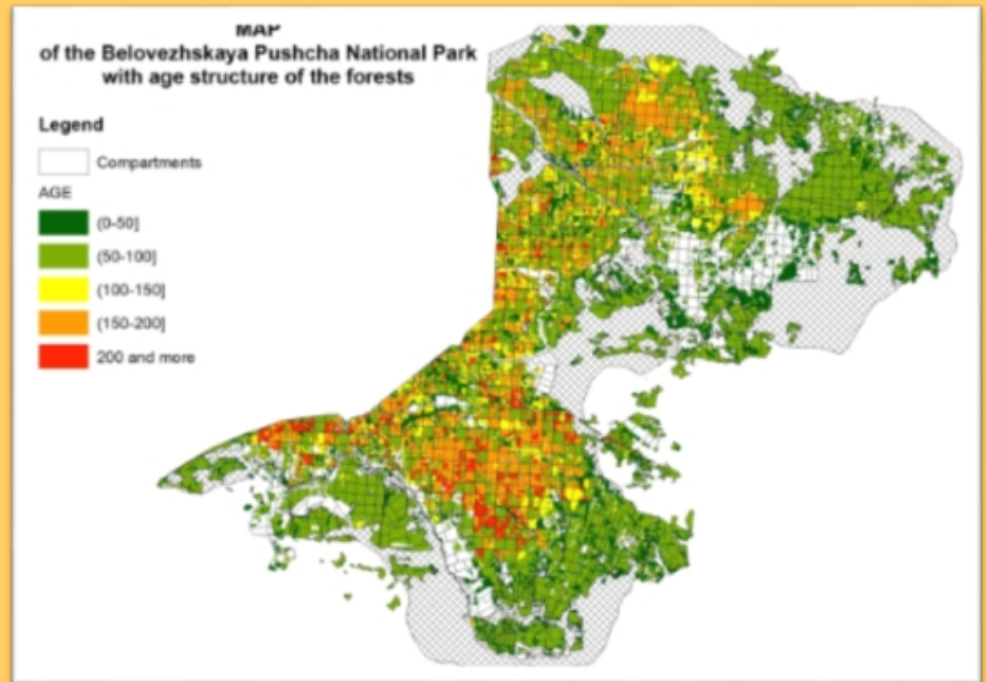
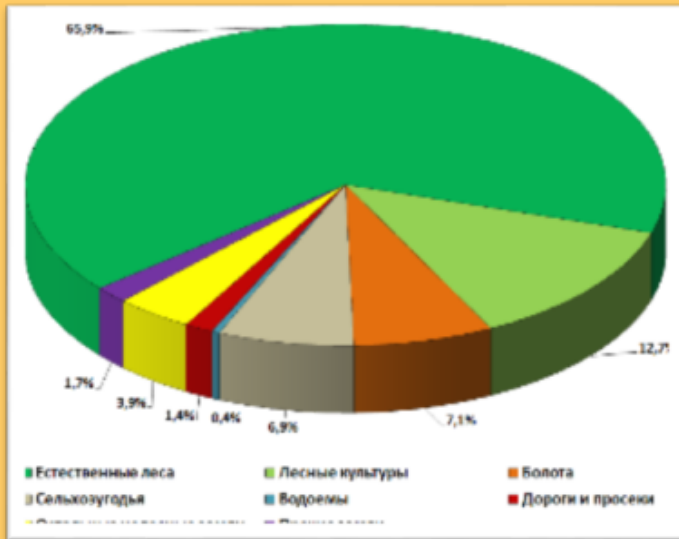








# STRUCTURE



# EUROPEAN INTEREST

## **BIODIVERSITY INTEREST**

- PRESENCE OF MANY SPECIES AND NATURAL HABITATS OF EUROPEAN INTEREST
- MOST OF THEM LISTED ON APPENDICES OF THE BERN CONVENTION (several IBAs)
- AN OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE UNDER CRITERIA (IX) and (X) OF THE WH CONVENTION
- EXAMPLE OF AN AREA WHERE THE NATURAL PROCESSES ARE STILL GOING ON
- DHA HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A POTENTIAL EMERALD SITE



## **SINCE THE LAST RENEWAL ...**

- **THE OVERALL STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE DHA HAS IMPROVED SINCE 2013 (POSITIVE TRENDS)**
- **NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED (including flora, vertebrates and insects)**
- **PRESENCE OF ICONIC SPECIES (European bison)**

# HIGH LEVEL OF INTEGRITY









# STILL OUTSTANDING BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE VALUES



## AND A STRONG CULTURAL POTENTIAL

- ARCHITECTURE







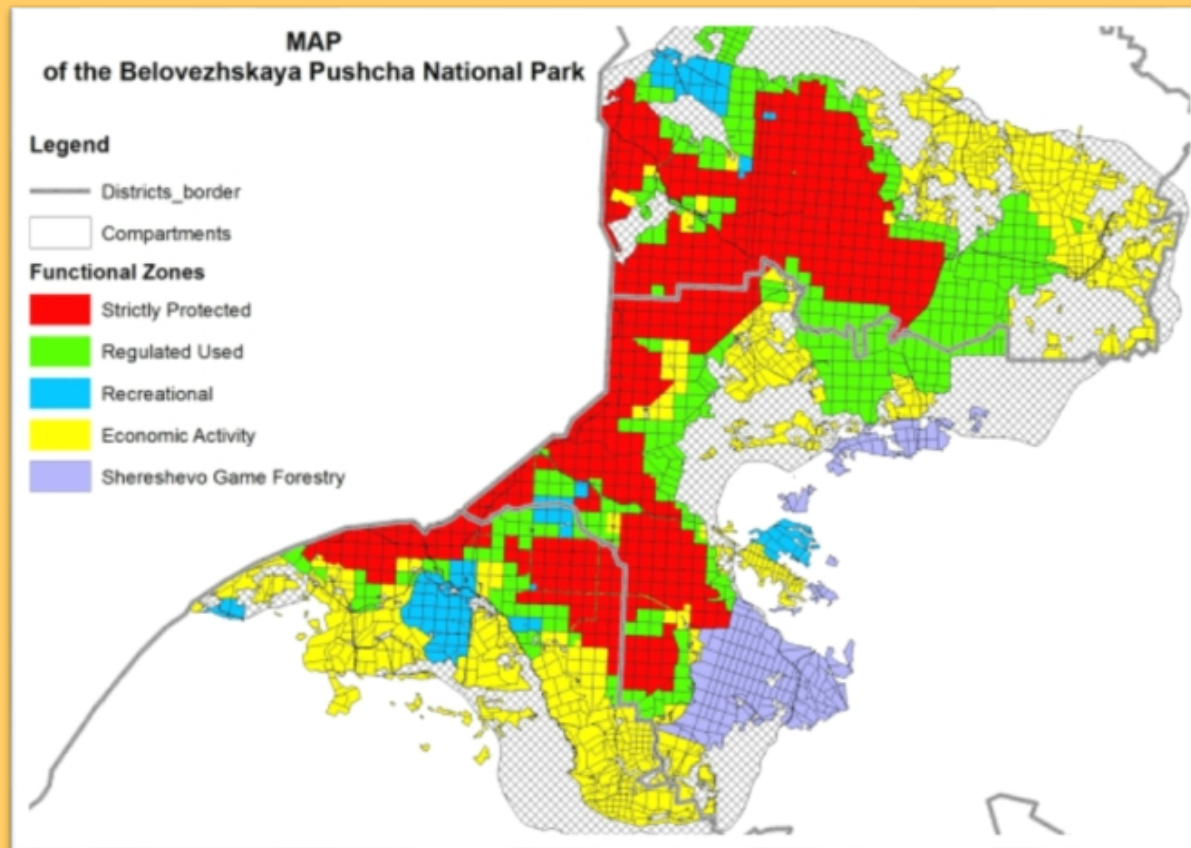
## AS WELL AS CULTURAL VALUES

- GENETIC RESOURCES (OLD ORCHARDS)



# MANAGEMENT

- A STRONG LEGAL PROTECTION (NATIONAL PARK)
- LISTED ON THE WH (1979)
- BIOSPHERE RESERVE (1993) + RAMSAR SITE (2015)
- ZONATION WITH STRICT PROTECTION IN THE CORE ZONE (38%), EXPANDED IN 2016



- 2016-2020 MANAGEMENT PLAN
- ADEQUATE HUMAN CAPACITIES (STABLE)
- STRONG AND GROWING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAMME
- HIGH STANDARD ACCOMODATIONS

- TOURIST CENTER (Father frost manor)





- HEADQUARTERS



- MUSEUM





## ... THE MAIN POTENTIAL THREATS

- **PRESSURES ON THE FOREST ECOSYSTEM FROM ABROAD (POLAND)**
- **HUNTING (ALLOWED ONLY IN A PART OF THE DHA)**
- **TURISM (NEED FOR A SUSTAINABLE TURISM STRATEGY)**
- **AGRICULTURE (LOCAL THREATS ON WETLANDS)**
- **INVASIVE (RESTORATION PROGRAMME)**
- **ROAD INFRASTRUCTURES (OUTSIDE THE DHA)**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE (2) CONDITIONS AND (11) RECOMMENDATIONS  
ATTACHED TO THE 2013 RENEWAL**

- THE 2 CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN **FULLY IMPLEMENTED**
- 5 RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN **FULLY IMPLEMENTED**
- ALL 6 OTHERS HAVE BEEN **AT LEAST PARTLY IMPLEMENTED** AND SHOULD BE ADAPTED AND PURSUED IN THE FUTURE

# CONCLUSION

# CONCLUSION

- **THE EUROPEAN INTEREST STILL THERE**
- **THE MANAGEMENT MAY BE CONSIDERED AS SATISFACTORY BUT SHOULD BE IMPROVED IN SOME AREAS**
- **RECOMMENDATION TO RENEW THE ED FOR TEN YEARS WITH 1 CONDITION AND 6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **1 CONDITION** : THE STATE PARTY SHOULD BE INVITED TO START THE PROCESS OF RENEWING AND UPDATING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
- **6 RECOMMENDATIONS** : AND
  - EXPAND THE STRICT PROTECTED ZONE OF THE DHA TO THE HISTORICAL LIMITS OF THE FOREST AND MANAGE THIS ZONE IN A NATURAL WAY (natural processes)
  - IMPROVE THE MONITORING PROGRAMME (bio and socioeco database)
  - SUSTAIN ITS EFFORTS AND PROVIDE THE DHA APPROPRIATE CAPACITIES (funding)
  - BUILD UP A CLEAR AND SUSTAINABLE TURISM STRATEGY AND ENGAGE A MORE ACTIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
  - FORBIDE WOLF HUNTING BY LAW AND DEVELOP A LONG TERM VISION FOR THE EUROPEAN BISON IN COOPERATION WITH POLAND (Bialowieza)
  - DEVELOP A SPECIFIC CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION/MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION