

# GROUP OF SPECIALISTS OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

Strasbourg 21-22 February 2018

## Oká National Biosphere Reserve Russian Federation

Blanca Ramos  
Spain



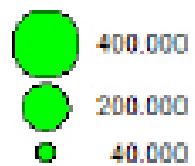
- 
- European Diploma Category “A” awarded in September the 5th, 1994
  - Renewed in 1999, 2004 and 2010
  - To be renewed in 2019
  - The Group of Specialists decides an on-the-spot visit at its meeting of 8 March 2017.
  - Visit: 13th and 14th September 2017



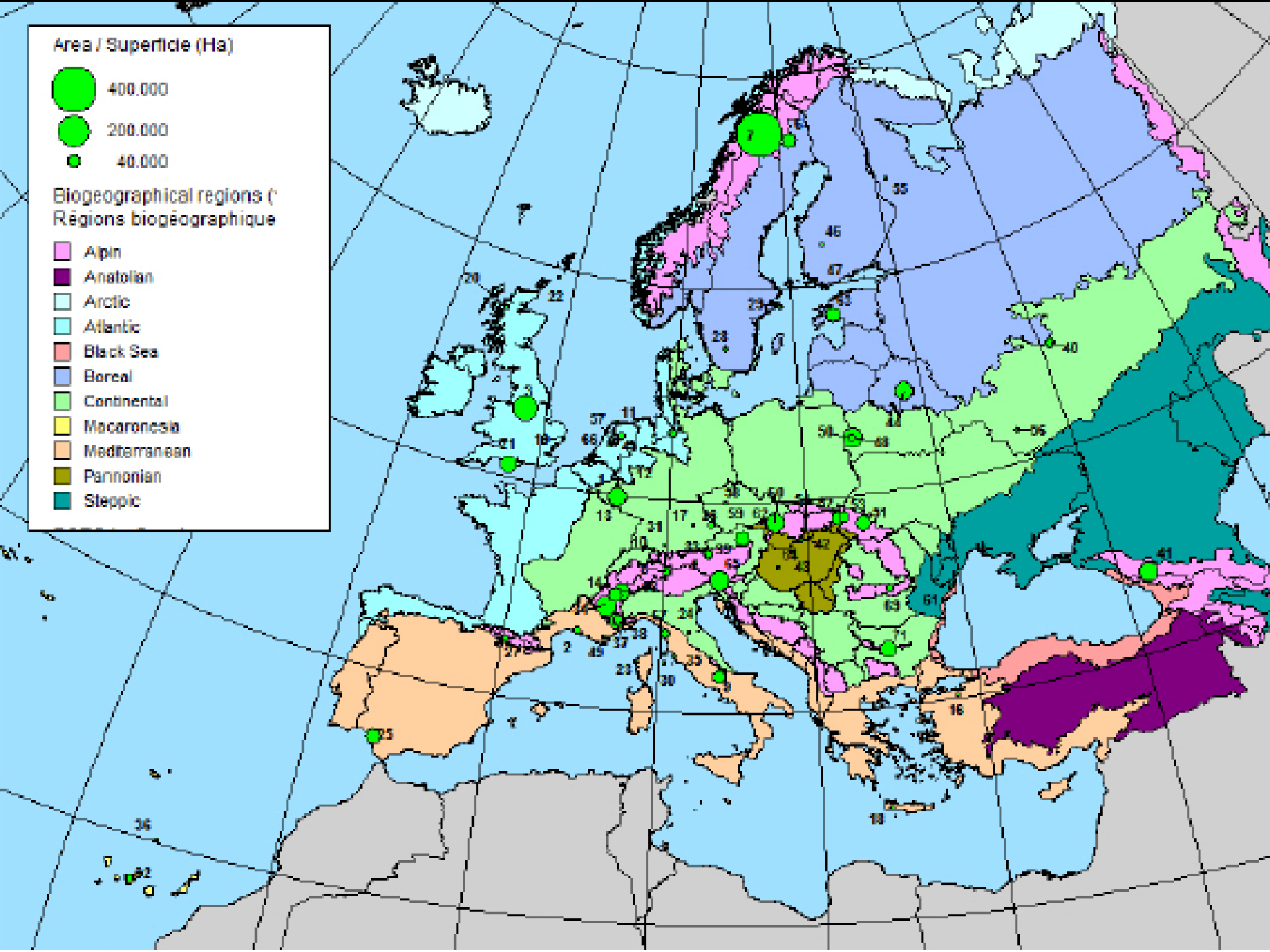
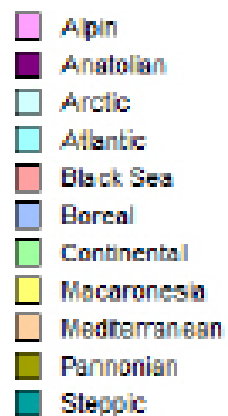


Oka National Biosphere Reserve – Russian Federation

Area / Superficie (Ha)

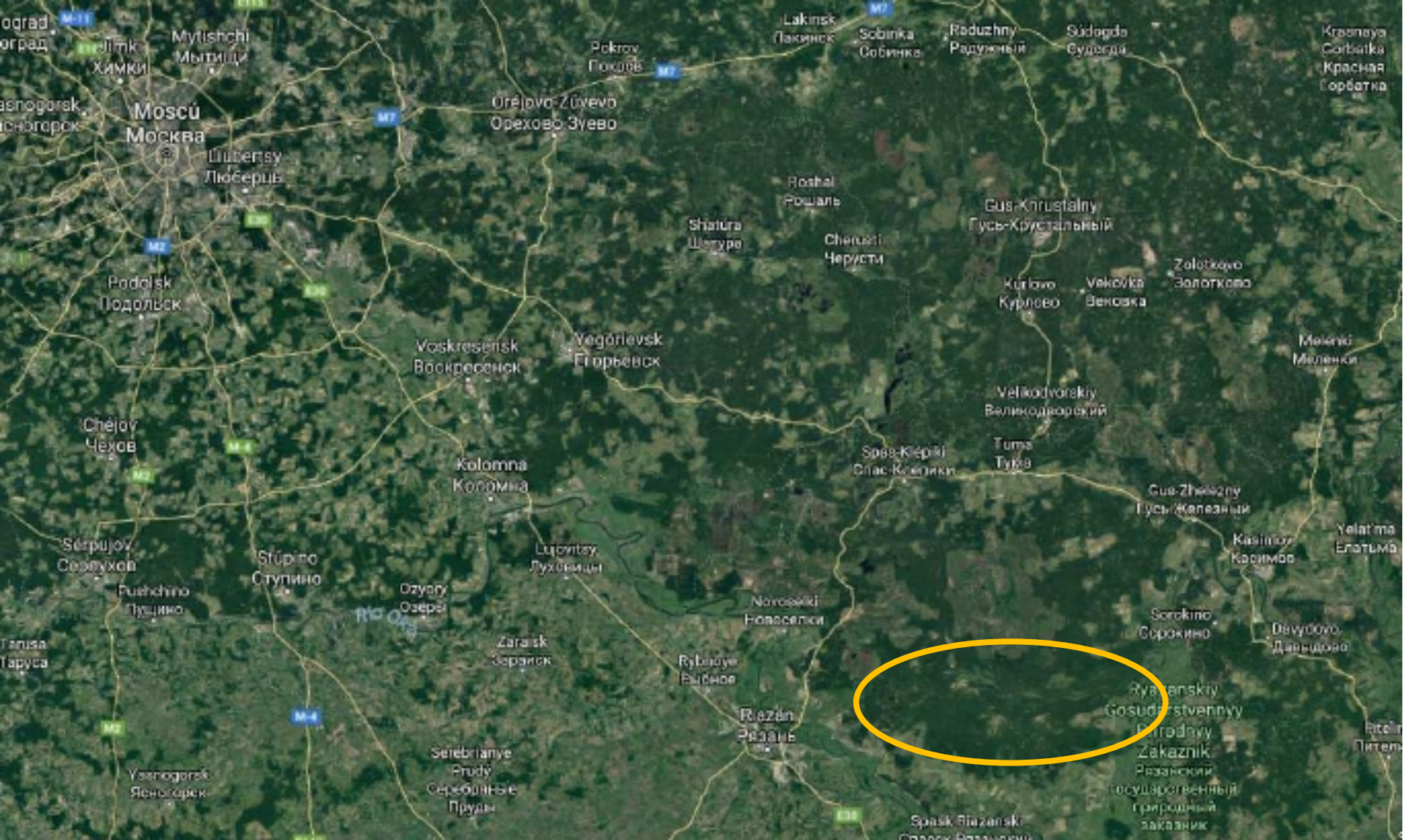


Biogeographical regions (\*  
Régions biogéographique



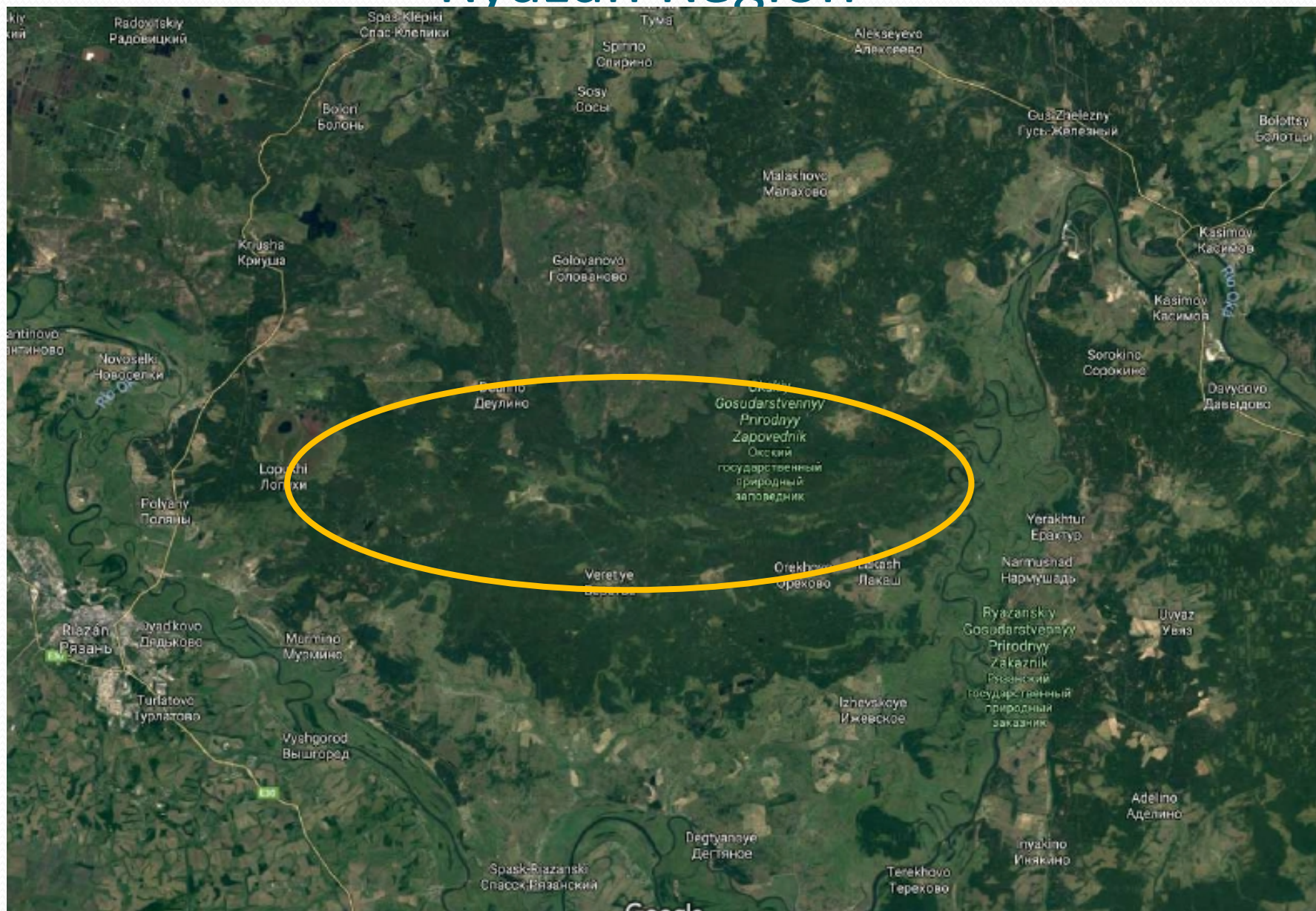


# Location





# Ryazan Region





# Floodplains of Pra and Oka rivers



Oka National Biosphere Reserve Russian Federation

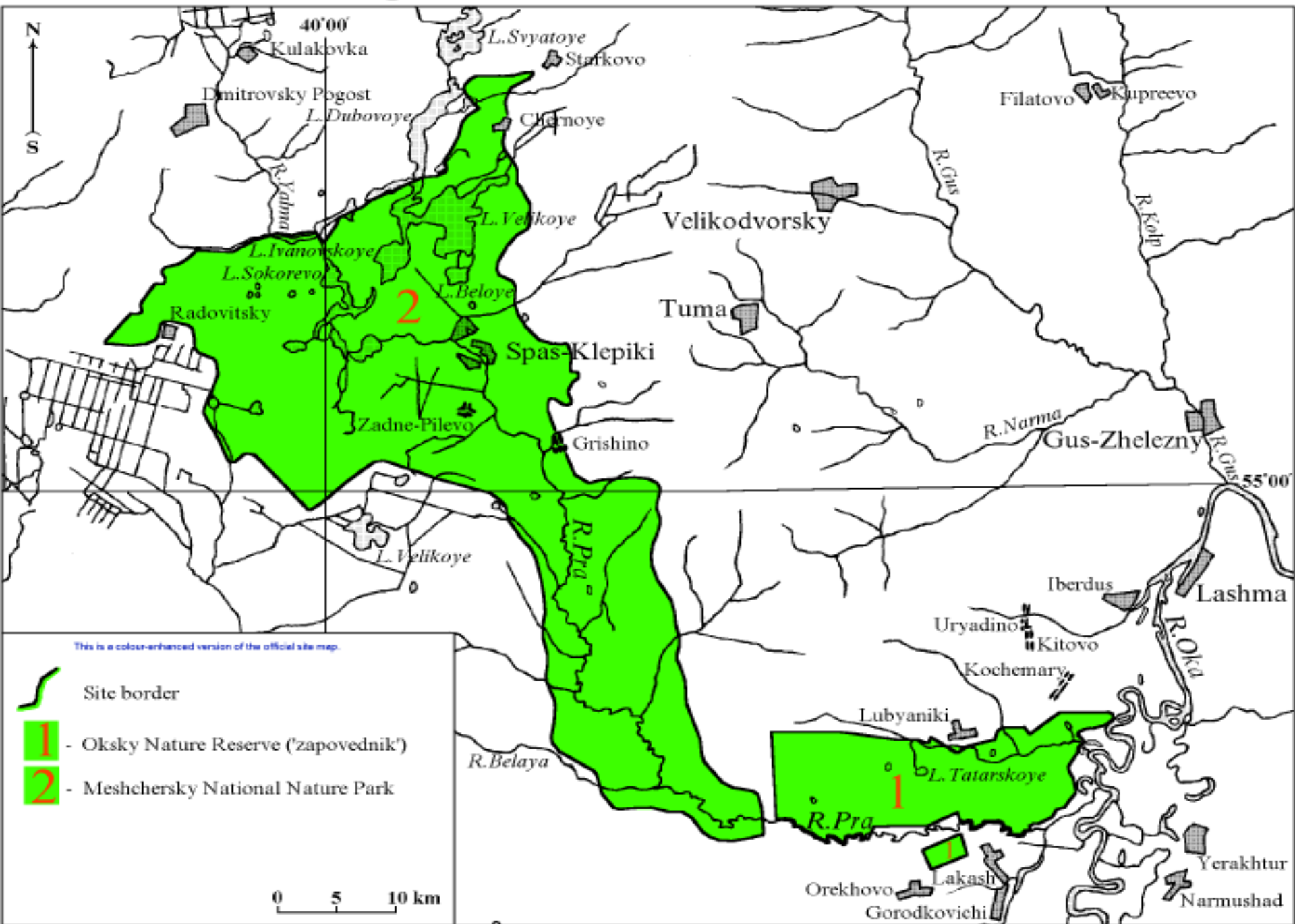


# Mixed forests and wetlands: Ramsar site





# Floodplains of the Oka and Pra Rivers





# EUROPEAN INTEREST OF THE SITE

- Diversity and quality of the environment
- Feeding and resting habitats for migratory species
- Large tradition in scientific research and large monitoring series of data



# EUROPEAN INTEREST OF THE SITE

- Hydrology: intact floodplain natural regime
- Vegetation : pine and broadleaved forests with oxbows, fens, bogs, ponds, lakes, etc.
- Flora +800 spp vascular plants, 69 rare taxa
- Fauna: 38 fish spp., 10 amphibians, 240 birds, 50 mammals, ...
- Optimum habitat for the Russian Desman
- Migratory birds, Wolf, Moose



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## LEGAL PROTECTION

- State property 100%
- Designated as strict Reserve under the Russian Law since 1935
- Biosphere Reserve since 1978



# CONSERVATION MEASURES



## Biosphere Reserve (1978)

- Core Area: 22.749 ha.
- Transition Zone: 33.346 ha (added in 1989).
- Buffer zone: 22.975 ha



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## PERMANENT STAFF (2017):

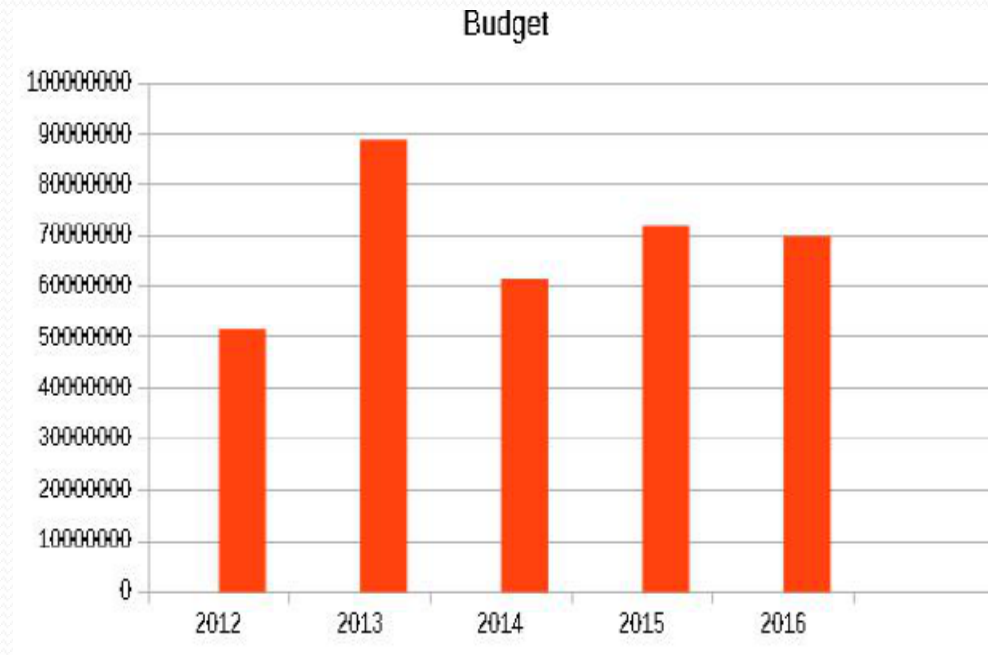
- Director and 3 Deputy Directors
- Scientific Department: 37
- Warding: 43
- Environmental Education Department: 7
- Administration and legal issues: 13
- Economic Support Department: 22
- Others: 5



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## BUDGET

Year	Euro	Ruble
2012	740.880	51.861.621
2013	1.271.035	88.972.482
2014	877.067	61.394.707
2015	1.026.382	71.846.765
2016	999.001	69.930.096



Expert report 2010 by Mr. Lethier: 360.000 € / 16.400.000 Rubles in 2009



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Monitoring Programme since 1935 (incl. Meteo station)
- New species:
  - 2013: 4 fungi/plant species and 29 invertebrate species
  - 2014: 2 fungi and 6 invertebrates
  - 2015: 2 plants and 1 invertebrate
  - 2016: 5 fungi and 9 invertebrates
  - 2017: 14 fungi and 28 invertebrates
- Annals of Nature (since 1936)
- Russian Academy of Sciences and Universities



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

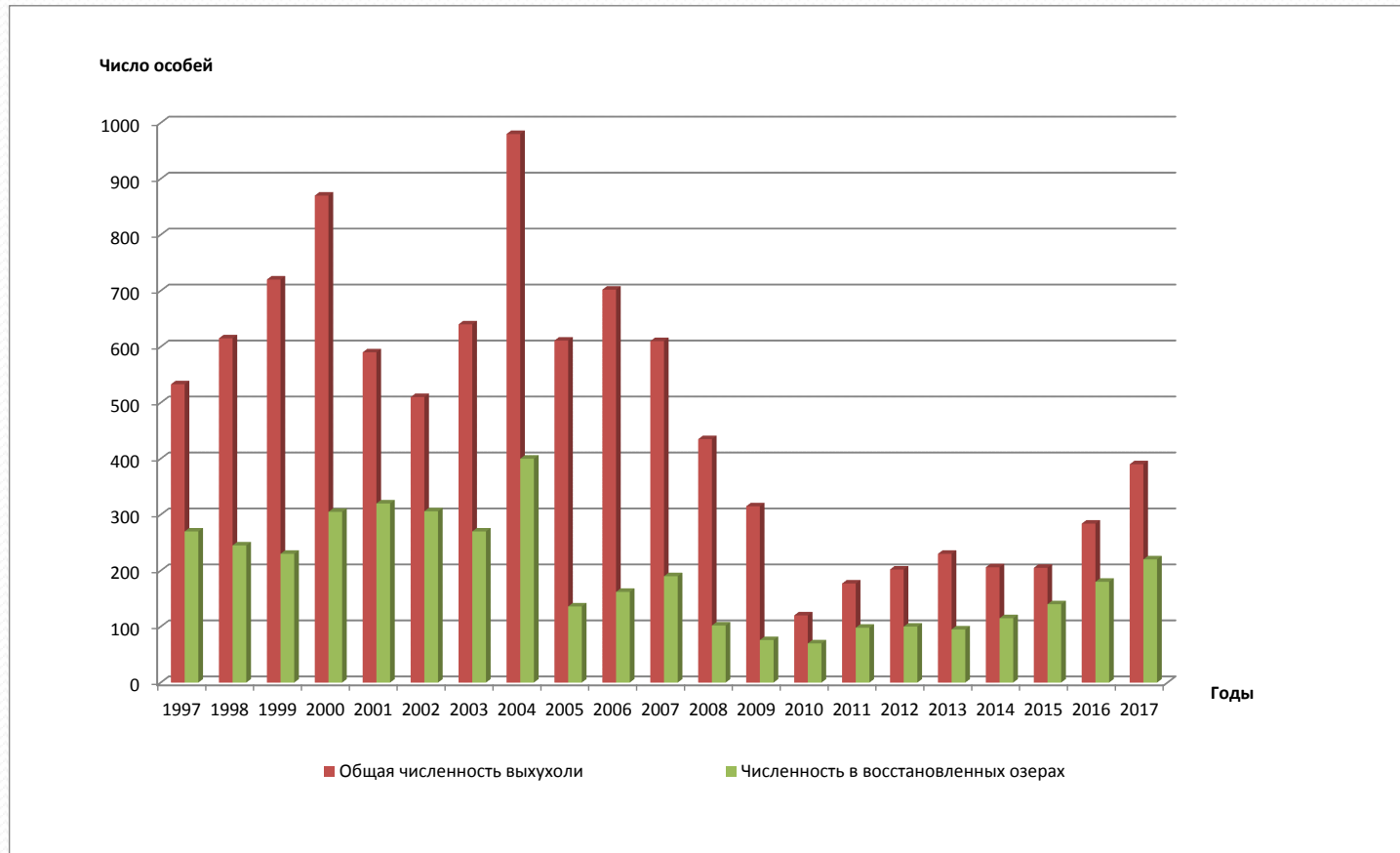
- Monographs  
Flora of the Oka Reserve (2014)
- Amphibians and Reptiles of the Ryazan Region (2014)
- Structure and Dynamics of aquatic vegetation in Oka Biosphere Reserve (2014)
- 80 Anniversary of the Oka Reserve (2015)
- 2 special volumes of the Annals of Nature (2015)
- The Russian Desman in Oka basin (2016)
- The ecology of the Kingfisher in Sounthern Meschera (2016)



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Situation of the Russian Desman





# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## CAPTIVE BREEDING CENTERS

### EUROPEAN BISON

- Created in 1959



### CRANES

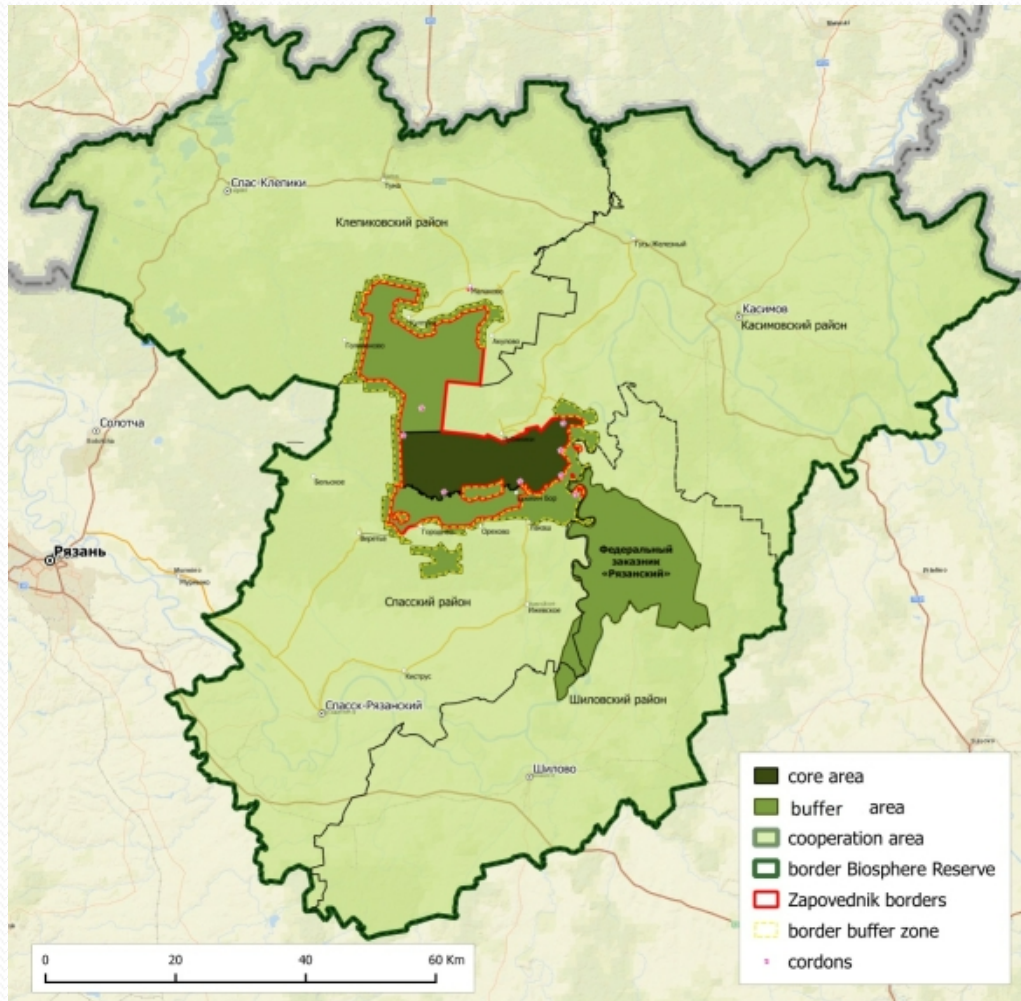
- Created in 1979





# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## BOUNDARIES OF THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE



Category	Until 2016	After 2016
Core Area	22749	22406
Buffer Area	33201	91950
Conservation Area	22975	
Cooperation Area		1011541



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

### MAIN PLAN

1. Reserve managers: Action Plan each year for the 4 Departments: Science, Environmental Education, Protection and Economic Activities
2. Submitted to the Ministry
3. Approved by the Ministry → budget allocated

### MAXIMUM PLAN

Extra-budgetary funds earned by the Reserve or donated: additional actions



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

- Guided tour “Meet the Reserve”
- Excursions (500 / year)
- Visitors: 12.000 / year
- Museum and Visitor Center: +4.000 visitors/year
- Participation in events: Parks March, Bird Day, Crane Day, ...
- Traditions, competitions, folk theater, ...
- Cooperation and training with Universities



# CONSERVATION MEASURES

## EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING





# CONDITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**CONDITION:** *Any regionalization or privatization measures must not affect the Reserve's current protected status.*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. *To continue the efforts made over the last five years to provide the awarded area with sufficient resources to ensure the proper conduct of scientific research;*
2. *To conserve habitats of the Desman population:*
  - *the reserve should be extended south-eastwards in the Lopata zone, as far as the river Pra, in order to include some typical water meadow habitats not yet represented in the reserve, a number of oxbow lakes and a portion of the Oka river bank;*
  - *the prime Desman habitats, currently located near but outside the diploma-holding area, should also be incorporated into the diploma site. Furthermore, efforts should be made to encourage the handover to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the Pra, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section;*

# CONDITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## RECOMMENDATIONS:(cont.):

3. *Adequate resources should be provided for the purpose of raising the level of public education and information and developing links with local communities, while making full use of the reserve's assets and the large amount of available scientific data. Additional efforts should be made by the authorities with a view to making suitable educational material available, particularly to a young audience;*
4. *The measures to regenerate habitats of the Desman in the Oka plain should be continued;*
5. *A management plan for the reserve should be produced and implemented as soon as possible.*



# PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Design and adopt in the next three years a management plan for the long term conservation of the area consistent with the duration of the renewal of the European Diploma. This management plan should include strategic aims, goals and targets, an estimated budget and a timeframe for its full implementation, as well as monitoring mechanisms for the assessment of the implemented management measures. Adequate resources, both financial and human, need to be deployed

# PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Secure sufficient resources to ensure the proper conduct of scientific research
3. Ensure the conservation of the habitats of Desman populations:
  - i. Extend the Reserve south-eastwards in the Lopata zone up to the river Pra in order to include some typical water meadow habitat not yet represented in the Reserve, a number of oxbow lakes and a portion of the Oka river bank.
  - ii. Integrate in the Biosphere Reserve the prime Desman habitats, currently located nearby but outside the Diploma holding area. Explore the feasibility of the transfer to the Oka National Biosphere Reserve of the hay meadows located on the left bank of the river Para, to the south of grid squares 169 to 171 in the central forest section
  - iii. Intensify efforts to regenerate the habitats of the Desman in the Oka plain.



# PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Allocate adequate resources to general public awareness raising and strengthening links with local communities, while making full use of the Reserve's assets and the large amount of available scientific data. Make suitable educational material available to a young audience.
5. Explore the feasibility of making the significant collections of scientific research available to the international scientific community by translating highlights of findings in English

# Окский заповедник



**спасибо**





Thanks for your attention