

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013
FROM THE BEREZINSKY BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

State: Republic of Belarus
Name of
the area: Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve

Central authority concerned:

Name: State Nature Protection Institution "Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve"
Address: 211188, Tsentralnaya St., 3, Domzheritsy, Lepel District, Vitebsk
Region, Republic of Belarus
Tel: +375 (0) 2132 263-44
Fax: +375 (0) 2132 263-42
e-mail: info@berezinsky.by
www: berezinsky.by

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Presidential Affairs Management Department of the Republic of
Belarus
Address: 220016, K. Marx Street, 38, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Tel: +375 (0) 17 222-61-54
Fax: +375 (0) 17 222-35-56
e-mail: info@pmrb.gov.by
www: pmrb.gov.by

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve is situated in the temperate boreal nemoral zone. The territory of the reserve totals 85,192 ha. During the period from July to September 2013 a weak atmospheric precipitation have been observed, in consequence of which the level of water in rivers and lakes was low. Temperature rates are close to standard.

There were no changes in flora and vegetation.

The list of insects has increased on 2 new species of bugs: *Mezira tremulae* and *Gonocerus acuteangulatus*

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

There is a permanent exhibition “History of the reserves of Russia and Belarus in XIX-XXI centuries” in the Ecological Education Centre, and an exhibition of pictures of nature made by nature photographer, a scientific worker of the reserve, Denis Ivkovich, named “Inimitable images of Berezinsky Reserve”. Since October 2013 there is an exhibition of Polish photographers, given by administration of Kampinoski National Park.

Financing from the state budget is 22.0 billion Belarusian rubles in the yearly balance of the reserve, by the Republican Conservation Foundation 6.9 billion Belarusian rubles were given. A part of the monetary funds comes from tourism and other economic activities on the territories outside the reserve.

3. Education and scientific interest

In 2013 two new guest houses each with 8 beds were opened up at the tourist complex “Nivki”. Till the end of the current year a café at the territory of the “Nivki” complex and a guest house with 6 beds at the territory of ecological and tourist complex “Palik” will be opened up as well. Since March 2013 there is a complete overhaul and art exhibition decoration in the Museum of Nature which will be completed in December of the current year. Due to closedown of the Museum during the repair work, there was some decrease in the number of visitors.

Three types of promotional booklets were published, about thirty kinds of souvenirs were issued, and flags, pennants, scarfs with the Berezinsky Reserve's symbols have been produced as well.

During 9 months of 2013 25,280 visitors, including 4,297 foreigners, came to the reserve as tourists and excursionists for ecological education purposes. During this period 4,193 tourists, including 856 foreign guests, stayed in hotels and lodges. Burst of tourist activity is observed from May to August, while the largest number of visitors falls on July.

Among special visits, the following might be noted:

- Mr. Petras Kurlavičius, an expert of the Joint European Union and United Nations Development Programme Project "Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus" (Lithuania);
- Mrs. Annik Schnitzler, professor of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Continental Ecosystems of University of Lorraine (LIEC) in Metz (France);
- Mr. Stiven J. Cole, Head of the International Cooperation with Russia and East Asia in the field of environmental protection department of the Wildlife management services of the USA;
- Dr. Helena V. Shaverdo, a research worker of Zoologische Abteilung Naturhistorisches Museum in Wien, organizer of the Balfour-Browne Club meeting, Austria;
- Prof. Garth N. Foster, a secretary of the Balfour-Browne Club (Great Britain);
- Dr. David Bilton, an associate professor of Plymouth University (Great Britain);
- Dr. Ignacio Ribera, a senior staff scientist of Institut de Biologia Evolutiva, a member of CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas) (Spain);
- Dawid Marczak and Danuta Peplowska-Marczak, the research workers of the scientific and nature monitoring department of Kampinoski National Park, and Radomir Jaskula, a lecturer in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Hydrobiology of Lodz University (Poland);
- Delegation of Kampinoski National Park with Director Jerzy Misiak on the head (Poland);
- Mr. Michael Weber, a President of SYCOPARC (France);
- Mr. Jean-Claude Genot, a chief of the department at the Regional Nature Park Vosges du Nord (France);
- A.S. Kochergin, a director of the National park «Smolensk Lakeland» (Russia).

The reserve employees participated in 5 international exhibitions, including 3 abroad (Russian Federation, Latvia, and Poland). On the base of the reserve 9 international and national seminars took place, including the International meeting of the Balfour-Browne Club “Biological diversity of the aquatic Coleoptera at the protected areas of special importance of the Republic of Belarus”, and the Republican educational training seminar for young ecologists of the National Environmental Center for Children and Youth.

The reserve workers participated in 6 conferences and 20 seminars, 24 scientific articles and report synopses were published. A collection of scientific articles “Special Protected Territories of Belarus. Part 8” with the size of 224 pages, a book “Integrated geochemical background monitoring” with the size of 220 pages, and a photo album “Land of wilderness” with the size of 131 pages were issued.

A new official symbols of the Berezinsky Reserve were approved (emblem, flag, standard, plaques, armbands, badges), which reflect the essence, specifics and natural features of the reserve.

In spring 2013 Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve joined the international network of PAN Parks Foundation, becoming thus a Wilderness Partner, and was awarded Wilderness Diploma for a guaranteed protection of wilderness area with a wilderness area 27,204 hectares within the protected territory.

Realisation of the State Programmes «Development program of the National environmental monitoring system of the Republic of Belarus» and «Development program of the specially protected natural areas of the Republic of Belarus» is continued.

4. Site description

There were no changes in laws governing functioning of the territory. All lands of the reserve are owned by the state. Protection status has not changed.

5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

Census of background animal species was taken for fauna control purposes.

During 2013 the plan to protect the reserve from forest fires was fulfilled, incl. air patrol, ground control, maintenance of fire-breaking lanes (223 km) and serving them (454 km). In 2013 there were registered two fires with the total area of 4.2 hectares within the reserve’s area due to careless handling of fire.

89 information billboards, 14 posters, and 10 barriers were erected, 10 barriers were repaired on the roads within the reserve.

The reserve employs 349 persons, 209 of them are financed from the state budget. Since the beginning of 2013 eight young professionals started to work at the Reserve after graduation.

Protection personnel count 168 persons. During the current year, 135 cases of violation of the protective regime have been registered. Totally 27.62 mln Belarusian rubles of fines have been collected.

Work is underway to strengthen ecological education through infrastructure development, improving scientific research and protection for natural complexes, implementing new policies in international cooperation, and attracting investments.

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

Renewal of the European Diploma raises the status of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, aids to form its international image, helps to strengthen the protective regime of the territory, and improves scientific research and ecological education.

III. CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENEWAL

Conditions and recommendations attached to the renewal are observed and implemented in stages for a 10-year period:

- Protection regime of the reserved area is carried out in accordance with the current nature protection laws and stays unchanged.
- The reserve constantly widens its international contacts to promote its image and attract additional finances. On the Reserve's wetlands the Common project of APB (Akhova Ptushak Batskaushchyny) - BirdLife Belarus, Michael Succow Foundation (MSF), Germany and Royal Society for the protection of birds (RSPB), UK named «Restoring peatlands and applying concepts for sustainable management in Belarus – climate change mitigation with economic and biodiversity benefits» is being implemented.
- Berezinsky Reserve is included in the work of EU/UNDP Project «Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for the international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus».
- Implementation of the following parts of scientific and research work are continued: «Assessment of seasonal and long-term changes in the structure of theriological complexes at the Berezinsky Reserve», «Seasonal and long-term dynamics in structure of ornithological complexes at the Berezinsky Reserve».

- Tourism development is controlled effectively on the basis of scientific research. With the consent of the scientific department a new bicycle and water route “To the Upper Berezina” has been developed.
- The research programs «Dynamic characteristics of the phytocoenosis floristic composition in association with changes of weather and climatic conditions» and «Dynamic assessment of meadow and bog phytocoenosis under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors» are being executed.
- New proposals to the State development program of the protected areas system in the Republic of Belarus for 2015-2019 have been worked out.

Director of the Berezinsky
Biosphere Reserve

Andrej M. Prokoshin