

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018
FROM THE BEREZINSKY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

State: Republic of Belarus
Name of the area: Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve
Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: Year 8 after renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2010 (until 2020)
Protected Areas:

Central authority concerned:

Name: State Nature Protection Institution "Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve"
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Authority responsible for its management:

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1. Conditions:

1. *The protection regime and ownership of the land should be kept unchanged.*

Ownership of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve remained unchanged and thus, there were no changes in the reserve's current protection status. The protection regime of the area is carried out in accordance with the current nature protection laws.

2. Recommendations:

1. *Sufficient resources need to be generated both by the Government and by the Reserve – to protect effectively the biodiversity resources and to continue scientific research. In addition to extra-budgetary sources of income, other sources should be tapped especially in cooperation with NGOs such as Akhova Ptushak Batskaushchyny (APB) – BirdLife Belarus, and WWF.*

In order to increase the efficiency of the protection of natural systems and to conduct the scientific research, a full range of activities scheduled for 2018 has been performed in accordance with the State program "Environment protection and sustainable use of nature resources for the years 2016-2020": information and indication signs have been constructed and installed along the boundaries of the reserve; a number of measures aimed at control the invasive alien species of wild plants has been implemented; advertising and informational printed materials about the reserve have been prepared and published.

The realization of scientific project on the topic "Natural succession of forest ecosystems after different types of anthropogenic disturbances" has been finished at the expense of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research.

Members of NGO Akhova Ptushak Batskaushchyny (APB) took part in joint scientific researches. The results are published in the book of articles "Specially protected nature territories of Belarus. Researches" Vol. 13.

2. *Further efforts should be taken to prevent negative effects of fragmentation of the Reserve by the M3 road, and to preserve the integrity of the core zone.*

Monitoring has been continued to assess the impact of the M3 road on death of large mammals (registration of cases, places and time of death) and the effectiveness of the existing crossings for amphibians. 4 information boards about the need for the enforcement of speed limits to prevent the collision with large animal have been installed along M3 road.

3. Further study of the dynamics of the mammal populations, animal movements and fauna migration between the core and the buffer zones should be carried out – to monitor the current situation affected by hunting.

Implementation of the following parts of scientific and research work has been continued in 2018: “Analysis of modern state and perspectives of development of theriocomplexes of Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve”, “Analysis of modern state of diurnal birds of prey on the territory of Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve”. Measures for feeding and evaluation of the state of the free-living herd of bison in accordance with Action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of bison’s micropopulation in the Republic of Belarus for the years 2015 - 2019 have been realized. The network of photo-traps (15 pieces) is used in the places of big mammals’ (ungulates and predators) migration. A quadcopter is purchased to monitor migrations of the animals.

4. Continue with the efforts for ensuring that the development of tourism is well controlled.

Tourism development is controlled effectively on the basis of scientific research. One-day weekend excursions into the wildlife of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve were conducted from March to September of the current year under the guidance and supervision of the scientific department staff. Primary emphasis is made on the ecological education of the youth.

Changes and additions were made in the management plan of the Berezinsky Reserve in terms of determining ecological paths and routes on the territory of the reserve in accordance with the new edition of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Specially Protected Areas" for the development of ecological tourism.

A new equestrian rout has been developed.

Proper information policy to attract visitors for the purpose of environmental education is carried out (participation in exhibitions, advertising on the Internet and in the media).

5. In order to mitigate possible risks and hazards connected with climatic changes and possible large-scale disturbances on the reserve, the study program focused on these topics should be carried out.

Realization of research subject “Complex analysis of state and dynamics of nature ecosystems of Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, scientific support to its protection and sustainable use” continues in the Reserve in the frame of the state program "Biological diversity, biological and forest resources in terms of climate change and development of innovative environmental technology for 2016-2020” is being continued. In accordance with this recommendation, the studies are conducted on two themes: “Influence of climatic changes, anthropogenous and

zoogenous factors on the hydrological regime of wetlands of the Reserve” and “Dynamics of the structure of forest ecosystems of the Reserve in the conditions of long-term regime of strict protection”. A book “Complex evaluation of hydrological conditions of upper Berezina catchment area” has been published.

3. Site Management:

After annual audit conducted by the staff of the certificated organization FSC Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve has confirmed the certificate for the system of forest management and supply chain of FSC™ valid until 2020.

The main activities planned for the current year as part of the Berezinsky Reserve Management Plan for the five-year period 2015-2019 have been implemented.

During the reporting period new jobs were created, which increased the staff of the Berezinsky reserve by 12 people.

4. Boundaries:

The boundaries of the Reserve in the current year have not been changed.

5. Other information:

Employees of the Berezinsky Reserve took part in the work of the International Forum of CIS countries “Nature without boundaries” in Altai State Nature Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation).

Berezinsky Reserve has developed a new official website <http://www.berezinsky.by/> where in the sections “Our partners” and “International status” a logo and brief information on European Diploma award is given, as well as a link to the Council of Europe website. Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve extensively uses the logo of the European diploma. It is possible to acquaint oneself with the original of the European Diploma awarded to the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve in 1995 in the Museum of nature conservation history, which is located in the visit center.

Director of
Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, enclosed within an oval shape.

A. M. Prokoshin