

PRIOKSKO-TERRASNY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Biosphere Reserve

The Zapovednik is highest form of land protection in Russia. The first protected areas were established in Russia between the end of 19th and the beginning of 20th centuries. Another form of land protection, such as National and Regional Parks, appeared much later. Zapovidniks are legislatively protected from any kind of human activities. Nothing must interrupt a natural way of wildlife, but it should be carefully studied and kept under ecological monitoring.

Prioksko-Terrasnyi Zapovednik was established after the end of World War II, on 19th of June, 1945. It's located in the central part of European territory of Russian Federation, 80 kilometers to the south from Moscow. Zapovednik's area is 50 sq. kilometers only and it is one of the smallest protected areas of Russia, but in spite of that, protected wildlife here is reach: 986 species of vascular plants, 135 species of birds and 54 species of mammals. Different types of forest communities makes up to 90% of the whole area of Zapovednik.

In 1978 the Zapovednik has joint the UNESCO program on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and received a status of Biosphere Reserve. Zapovednik's area made a core zone of Biosphere Reserve. According to the criteria of Biosphere Reserves the area of 45 sq. kilometers surrounding the core zone was added and became the buffer zone; together with cooperation zone established in 1984 it made in total 900 sq. kilometers in Serpukhov administrative district of Moscow oblast.

Research

Reconsideration of research results obtained earlier led to establishment of sample areas to cover all landscape features of the Reserve. Lots of efforts were exerted in order to establish a State Background Monitoring Station (1982). With help of this Station and using data previously accumulated local climate, relief, soils and other ecological characteristics of the region were precisely described and mapped. Systemic observations of ecological processes in core zone were made. The Seville Strategy (1995) introduced new trends in Biosphere Reserve's activities, based on its role as of experimental base for sustainable development. More that 100 thousand visitors come now to the Biosphere Reserve annually in order to learn our experience the results of work done.



Education

Students from 12 local schools are involved in different aspects of ecological education programs. They receive an opportunity to work on their own scientific projects, participate in ecological contests, including the annual festival of children's ecological theaters, voluntarily participate in land development activities held in buffer and cooperation zones. Local community also plays a very important role in the Reserve's everyday live. Local government considers the Seville Strategy principles while planning development of lands that are a part of cooperation zone.



The Reserve is participating currently in several ecological programs:

- transboard transition of pollution program (EMEP),
- impacts of atmospheric precipitation pollution (WMO),
- carbohydrates levels monitoring (PASPOP),
- greenhouse gases monitoring.

Concentrations of more than 30 common environmental compounds and pollutants (dust, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals, organic molecules) as well as radiation level are monitored too within the Biosphere Reserve area.



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