

Report of the Belarus MAB National Committee for 2020-2021

Being a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme, national Belarusian Biosphere Reserves - Berezinskiy BR (1978) and Belovezhskaya Pushcha BR (1993) and Belarusian part of the West Polesie Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, Belarus-Poland-Ukraine (2012) - former Pribuzhskoye Polesie BR (2003) - expand effort to reduce the direct pressure on biodiversity and promote sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for a healthy environment and society.

During implementation the number of scientific and education projects, Belarusian Biosphere Reserves accomplishes a conservation function, which main aspect is conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic biodiversity.

Active work is underway in educational and social aspect - to involve volunteers, students and schoolchildren in the activities of the Belarusian Biosphere Reserves, such as following:

Berezinskiy Biosphere Reserve. To participate in the international creative art project within the framework of the 50th anniversary of the MAB program, a series of photographs reflecting the relationship between cultural and biological diversity of the Berezinskiy BR was prepared and sent to the MAB secretariat.

In August 2021, the II Republican Festival of Slavic Mythology “The Way of the Dragon /Shlyakh Tsmoka/”, timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the MAB Program, took place in the central estate of the BR. Many guests of the festival got acquainted with interest with the activities of the Berezinsky BR and with the mythological side of the Belarusian culture, local residents as artisans presented and offered their own products. Holding such events serves to increase the interest of local residents in the development of the region and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The book "The Wonderful World of Nature of Berezinskiy BR" has been released in February'21. The Book was prepared by Master Anastasia Ryzhkova, a graduate of the UNESCO Chair of Science Education at the Belarusian State University and a participant of the First Youth MAB Forum in Italy - the publication of the book is an example of active involvement and participation of young people in the activities of the Berezinskiy Biosphere Reserve.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve. Information about the activities of the "Man and the Biosphere" Programme for 50 years, the participation of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve in the MAB Programme and the results achieved are presented on information stands in the Museum of Nature, a series of lectures on the role of biosphere reserves in harmonization of human-nature

relations was conducted to youth, students and schoolchildren. An anniversary collection of scientific works “Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Research. Issue 18”, timed to the 50th anniversary of the MAB Programme is preparing to edition.

Conducting a volunteer camp to restore the hydrological regime in the northern part of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha BR in summer of 2021 is the result of extensive educational activities and increasing the interest of the local population in the development of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve.

Active work is underway to strengthen trilateral contacts between the participants of the *West Polesie Transboundary Biosphere Reserve* and to attract volunteers, students and schoolchildren to the activities of the *Belarusian part of the West Polesie TBR, Belarus-Poland-Ukraine*.

XIII International Ecological and Tourist Festival "Secrets of Pribuzhskoye Polesie", timed to the 50th anniversary of the MAB Programme, is held in September-November 2021 with participation of the teams from 25 educational institutions. The exhibition of herbariums collected by students of Brest City and Brest region on the territory of West Polesie TBR is one of the competitions of the Festival, and testifies to the active participation of younger generation in the educational activities of the Biosphere Reserve.

The Belarus MAB National Committee thanks the Secretariat of the UNESCO Programme "Man and the Biosphere" for constant support in implementation of the ideas of harmonizing the life of nature and man on Earth, congratulates on the 50th anniversary of the MAB Programme and wishes successful development of further activities.