

Report on the State of Conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Bialowieza Forest”.

The area of the Belarusian part of the World Heritage Site is 82306 ha.

The territorial protection regime has not been changed and corresponds to the data presented in the Nomination Dossier.

A draft Management Plan for the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park for 2022-2031 was developed in 2021. The management plan reflects the activities aimed at the fulfillment of the requirements for the management of the World Heritage Site “Bialowieza Forest” (hereinafter referred to as the World Heritage Site) in terms of stopping artificial reforestation.

In 2021 the following activities aimed at the restoration of hydrological regime were taken on the territory of the World Heritage Site and its protected zone:

design specifications and estimates on the restoration of the natural channel of the transboundary river of Narevka on the territory of the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park were developed;

a scientific rationale for the restoration of the Zubritza and Galevo Boloto wetlands on the area of 616,0 ha was developed;

construction works on the restoration of hydrological regime of the «Zharkovshchina channels network » on the area of 1227,0 ha were carried out.

Forestry activities on the territory of the World Heritage Site:

In 2021, in order to comply with sanitary and fire safety requirements as well as to ensure security of visiting tourists and moving vehicles, the following activities on forest felling were undertaken on the territory of the World Heritage Site: clearing compartment lines, cleaning or landing dangerous trees. On the territory of zones 0; 1; 2, all wood remained in place, and on the territory of zone 3 it was removed. Totally 26.7 thousand cubic meters of wood were felled on the area of 2,317.0 ha. 23.0 thousand cubic meters of this wood were removed.

In accordance with the Regulation on the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park, the territory of the World Heritage Site is divided into functional zones as follows: the strict protection zone – 58 178,0 ha (70,7% of the territory of the World Heritage Site), the regulated use zone – 22 176,0 ha (26,9% of the territory of the World Heritage Site), the recreation zone – 1 734,0 ha (2,1% of the territory of the World Heritage Site), the economic zone – 2 152 ha (2,6% of the territory of the World Heritage Site).

The following restrictions on economic activities were imposed on the territory of functional zones, which are not under strict protection: a complete ban on any felling – 8 496,6 ha (10,3% of the territory of the World Heritage Site); a ban on any type of felling, except for clear sanitary felling in the event of the loss of forest stands – 3 713, 2 ha (4,5% of the territory of the World Heritage Site); a ban on any type of felling except for activities undertaken with the aim to protect rare plant species – 64,9 ha (0,1% of the territory of the World Heritage Site); a ban on any type of felling during the period from 1 March to 30 August – 1 995,4 ha (2,4% of the territory of the World Heritage Site).

Therefore, the area of the World Heritage Site, including the strict protection zone, where the legal ban on any type of felling was imposed, is 66 673,6 ha (**81,0%**). The area including the area, where the ban on any type of felling except for clear sanitary felling in the event of the loss of forest stands was imposed is 70 386,8 ha (**85,5%**).

In 2021 one surface fire on the area of 0,01 ha was on the territory of the World Heritage Site.

In 2021, an inventory of the distribution of plant species included into the list of dangerous invasive species in the national park was carried out.

The area of the distribution of such species (Canadian goldenrod – *Solidago canadensis*) on the territory of the protection zone of the Site is 260,0 ha. The activities aimed at combating the invasive species were carried out on this territory.

Data on recreational impact on the territory of the World Heritage Site: in 2021 470,0 thous. tourists visited the National Park. The major part of them visited the Museum of Nature and demonstration animals' enclosures located in the protection zone of the World Heritage Site. During the year 32 thous. people were on the territory of natural complexes.

In accordance with the approved plan of scientific research, the research on «Research and practice of conserving and managing natural complexes of the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha”» was carried out.

As a result of this research, information on the state of habitats of protected species of plants, insects, birds located on the territory of the World Heritage Site was obtained.

The recommendations for the conservation and management of the bison population were developed on the basis of an assessment of their long-term population dynamics.

As a result of repeated research on monitoring sites of typological diversity of forest formations, main directions of dynamic processes of forest complex occurring on the World Heritage Site were determined.

The scientific rationale for a new plan for management of the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park, and in particular the restoration of the straightened channel of the river of Narevka as well as four meliorated wetlands (53,8 sq. km.) was drafted.

The recreational capacity as well as the historic and cultural heritage of the National Park and its protection zone were studied.

In 2021, the scientific research for the period from 2021 to 2025 has begun. It is planned that there will be the following results:

compiling and updating digital maps of the state of natural ecosystems of the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park with the use of the data of the Earth remote sensing;

analyzing and forecasting changes of water regime on the territory of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha and developing recommendations for its support.

Fulfillment of recommendations in part of the Belarusian Part of the World Heritage Site:

Point 10. (43COM), point 7 (44COM). In 2021 a Management Plan for the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park was drafted taking into account the requirements for the management of the World Heritage Site “Bialowieza Forest”. The abovementioned management plan was considered at public hearings from 4 December 2021 to 3 January 2022. The results of these hearings were included into the report posted on the official website of the “Belovezhskaya Pushcha” National Park at the following link: <https://npbp.by/> .

This year the abovementioned management plan will be translated into English and then presented to the World Heritage Centre.

Point 11. (43COM) A new Management Plan for the National Park will be binding in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Specially Protected Areas” №150-3 as of 15 November 2018.

Point 12. (43COM) A new Management Plan includes the activity on strengthening protection status of wolf on the territory of the World Heritage Site. In accordance with this activity it is envisaged to introduce a legal ban on wolf hunting on the remained territory where there is no such ban.