

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES

*Nature is the only one book,
which offers great content on all pages.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
(German poet, statesman, thinker, 1749-1832)

Human activities often inflict irreversible damage upon nature. The awareness of this fact has led to setting up conservation areas.

The main objective of establishing national parks and nature reserves is to preserve the unique natural formations, to sustain biological and landscape diversity, and to conserve the gene pool of wild plant and animal species.

In Belarus there are two nature reserves with a total area of 301 thousand hectares, four national parks covering 391 thousand hectares, and 334 habitat/species management areas which cover 1 124 thousand hectares.

Nature reserve is a specially protected natural area designated as such to:

- **preserve** reference and other high-value natural habitats and features;
- **study** flora and fauna natural ecosystems and landscapes;
- **create** conditions for the natural flow of processes in nature.

National park is a specially protected natural area designated as such to:

- **restore and/or preserve** the unique, reference and other high-value natural habitats and features;
- **serve for nature protection**, research, education, tourism and recreational purposes.

Habitat/species management area is a specially protected natural area designated as such to restore, preserve and/or regenerate natural ecosystems and features, particular species and habitats, with limited use of other natural resources.

NATURE RESERVES OF BELARUS

State environmental research institution

Polessky State Radiation and Ecological Reserve

(set up in 1988, covers area of 216.1 thous. ha)

located in Bragin, Narovlya and Khoyniki districts of Gomel region, in the areas of radioactive contamination as a result of the catastrophe at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, from where the population was evacuated and resettled;

designated for limiting access of people to the radioactive contamination zone, ensuring radiation protection of the population, preventing the spread of radionuclides, radiation monitoring, radioecological research, study of flora and fauna, typical and unique ecosystems and landscapes, natural flow of processes specific to Pripyat Polesye. Featured with high levels of contamination of the environment as a result of the catastrophe at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, including transuranic isotopes, and restoration of natural state of biogeocenoses associated with the relieve of anthropogenic burden.

State environmental research institution

Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve

(set up in 1925, covers area of 85.2 thous. ha)

located in Dokshitsy and Lepel districts of Vitebsk region and Borisov district of Minsk region;

designated to preserve the natural state of reference and other high-value natural habitats and features, to study flora and fauna, typical and unique ecosystems and landscapes specific to the mixed-forest zone of the Eastern Europe, and to create conditions for conserving natural processes. Featured with the unique complex of forest and wetland ecosystems, almost unchanged in their natural form.

NATIONAL PARKS OF BELARUS

State environmental institution

National Park «Belavezhskaya Pushcha»

(set up in **1939**, covers area of **150.1** thous. ha)



located in Kamenets and Pruzhany districts of Brest region and Svisloch district of Grdno region;

designated for preserving the natural state and comprehensive study of the reference and unique features of the Belovezhsky forest, of biological and landscape diversity of the area, for restoration of disturbed natural habitats and features of special ecological, historical, cultural and aesthetic value, as well as for conservation, research, education and recreational purposes.

State environmental institution

National Park «Narochansky»

(set up in **1999**, covers area of **87.4** thous. ha)



located in Myadel and Vileyka districts of Minsk region, Postavy district of Vitebsk region, and Smorgon district of Grodno region;

designated for preserving the unique natural habitats linked by Lake Narach as a reference sample of natural landscapes and repository of genetic pool of flora and fauna of Belarusian Poozerye and their fuller and more efficient use in conservation, research, education, tourism and recreational activities.

State environmental institution

National Park «Pripyatsky»

(set up in **1969**, covers area of **88.6** thous. ha)



located in Zhitkovichi, Petrikov and Lelchitsy districts of Gomel region;

designated for preserving natural ecosystems of the valley of the Pripyat river as a reference sample of natural landscapes and repository of genetic pool of flora and fauna of Belarusian Polesye and their use in conservation, research, education, tourism and recreational activities.

State environmental institution

National Park «Braslav Lakes»

(set up in **1995**, covers area of **64.5** thous. ha)



located in Braslav district of Vitebsk region;

designated for preserving natural ecosystems of the Braslav Lake group as a reference sample of natural landscapes and repository of genetic pool of flora and fauna of Belarusian Poozerye and their use in conservation, research, education, tourism and recreational activities.