



Connecting with Nature for the Benefit of Mankind. For 190 years.

Models for Sustainable Development in Times of War

First results of a workshop with Ukrainian Biosphere Reserves

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27/09/2023

Open Seminar "Environmental Damage Assessment. Post-war Recovery"

Organised by Chornobyl Radiation and Ecological Biosphere Reserve, NGO "Ecological Space 2020"





Overview

- Background
- The workshop
- Results
- Next steps





Background (Why this workshop?)

- Long developed cooperation and friendship
 - Since 2006 excursions to and projects with Carpathian BR
 - Since 2016 projects with Ukrainian National Forestry University and other BR partners in German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) East West Dialogue programme (https://www.centreforeconics.org/consultancy-and-projects/transformation-processes/)
 - 2019-2021 project with 3 Ukrainian Biosphere Reserves for fostering ecosystem-based adaptation to Climate Change strategic development and activities in Ukrainian Biosphere Reserves (https://www.eba-ukraine.net/)





INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)













Background

- Biosphere Reserves Institute (BRI)
 - at Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development
- Since 2019
- Education, research and training with a focus on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves



International Master's course
Biosphere Reserves
Management (BIOM)



Doctorate Programme
Research in, for, and with
biosphere reserves



Research Group Coordinates biosphere reserves' research & transfer





Background

 support biosphere reserves in their transition towards being model regions for sustainable development

Co-Existence

More than "just" a Protected Area

Cooperation and communication

Learning and training

Ideal sites for sustainability research

Socio-ecological systems approach

Social & economic transformation

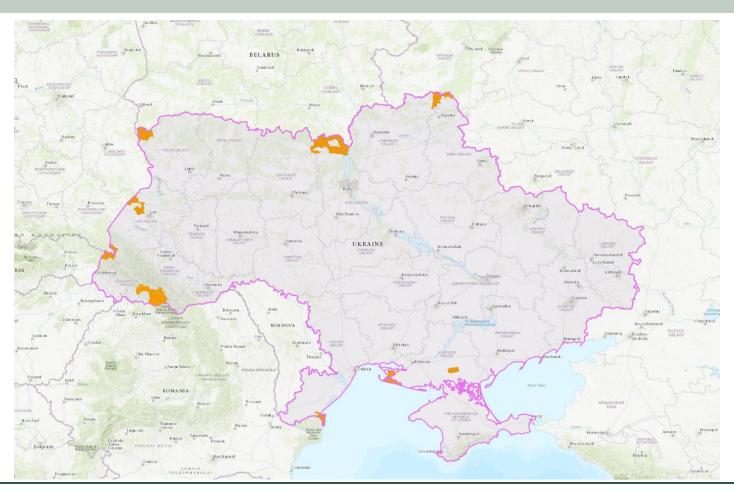
Participatory governance models

A network of > 700 sites worldwide





Ukrainian Biosphere Reserves







Workshop

Biosphere Forests and Rivers - Building Support Systems and Connections for Conflict Transformation

DAAD East-West Dialogue programme 2023



Workshop Agenda

- Topic: The role of Ukrainian Biosphere Reserves in times of war
- Date: 4 8 September 2023
- Location: Eberswalde and Lenzen, Germany

Goal

- Understanding the range of circumstances and challenges that Ukrainian Biosphere Reserves are facing currently as well as further risk in future.
- Elaborating recommendations and ideas for possible initiatives and projects that could support the management to be learning sites and model regions for sustainable development in times of war and recovery.

	Sunday 03/09/23	Monday 04/09/23	Tuesday 05/09/23	Wednesday 06/09/23	Thursday 07/09/23	Friday 08/09/23	Saturday 09/09/23
Morning 9:00-12:00	Arrival in EW	Welcome by Prof P. Ibisch (aula) Setting the scene (introductions, agenda, goals setting, tour through the campus)	Conflict transformation KonKoop (Nafisa Mirzojamshedzoda)	Mental health (Kateryna Shkuropat) psychological impact of climate crisis and an increasing uncertainty of the future	• Ecosystem restoration (Pierre Ibisch)	Research needs TLN network (Yuliya Nikitchenko) Eberswalde Declaration Synthesis and Way forward	Departure
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
Afternoon 14:00-17:00	Arrival in EW	Situation analysis Presentations by biosphere reserves & PA representatives Synthesis of insights of current state, challenges and risks	Travel to Lenzen (Elbe) Welcome and introduction	Excursion in the Elbe River Landscape Biosphere Reserve (Sonja Biwer BUND Visitor Centre Burg Lenzen) History, remembrance and processing as a local action	• Travel to Eberswalde	Bundestag visit meeting with MP Niklas Wagener	Departure





Workshop

 12 participants from Biosphere Reserves and Protected Areas across Ukraine

Topic	Presenter / Moderator
Impact of Russian aggression on Ukrainian Protected Areas and biodiversity	Nastia Drapaliuk (UNCG)
Chornobyl Reserve during and after the occupation by Russian invaders	Valeriy Maliarenko (Chornobyl BR)
Problems of the Biosphere Reserve of Roztochcha caused by the war	Oksana Viytyk (BR Roztochya)
Consequences of the war for the Desnyansky Biosphere Reserve	Serhii Kubrakov (Desnianskyi BR)
Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve during the war, current status and risks	Natalia Korinets (Askania-Nova BR)
Carpathian Biosphere Reserve - activity under challenges caused by the war with russia	Mykola Rybak & Vasyl Pokynchereda (Carpathian BR)





Results

- Varying types of impact and scale
 - no direct military activities (Carpathian BR)
 - some impact through military training areas (Roztochya BR)
 - de-occupation (Chornobyl BR)
 - continued occupation (Askania-Nova BR)
 - constant terror (Desnianskyi BR)





Results – Impact on

Ecosystems

- Large-scale fires in forest ecosystems
- Mining, contamination with explosives
- Pollution and destruction of the topsoil
- Changes in the hydrological regime
- Succession of abandoned agricultural land (bush und tree encroachment)
- Intensified tourism in safer places
- Intensified timber (over-)exploitation

People

- Threat of injury and death
- Destroyed infrastructure and public services (private homes, schools, ...)
- Lost access to traditional natural resource use and traditional livelihoods

Institutions

- Destroyed infrastructure (buildings, bridges, roads, energy, ...)
- Loss of expertise and human capacities due to mobilisation and migration
- Reduced budget





Results – Main Conflicts

- Already before the war
 - People don't see benefit of living in a biosphere reserve
 - Restrictions in access to natural resouces (nature conservation measure)
 - Absence of compensation mechanisms
- Since intensified invasion
 - Even more access restrictions (mortal and health danger)
 - Reduced land tax payments to forest communities
- -> intensifies tensions with & frustration of local communities





Results – Needs for Recovery and Sustainable Development

- Degraded ecosystems
 - Monitoring and analysis of the situation to determine further strategy
 - Mine clearance of priority areas
 - Restoration of natural hydrological regime
 - Supporting natural processes through non-interference
 - Combining natural restoration processes with economic measures





Results – Needs for Recovery and Sustainable Development

- Biosphere Reserves specific
 - Shifting to close-to-nature forestry (e.g. abandonment of clear-cutting)
 - Prioritise restoration measures in regards to Climate Change impacted ecosystems
 - Involvement of the local population in ecosystem restoration
 - Education for sustainable agriculture (forest belts, crop rotation control)
 - Alternative and energy-saving technologies
 - Official status for UNESCO biosphere reserves
 - State program of compensation for restricted use





Results - Additional Ideas

- Experiences, relations and structures developed during war time show more horizontal communication between park/reserves management and the local population (e.g. they became hubs for humanitarian aid).
 - -> Building trust
 - -> This needs to be transferred to peacetime!
- Re-wilding of most destroyed or/and depopulated places, esp. in Eastern Ukraine
 - -> Need for a BR in Eastern Ukraine?
- Variety of challenges and ecosystems could create opportunities for BRs to specialise and become Ukrainian Showcase regions (e.g. Askania-Nova could focus on steppe regeneration and rewilding)





Next Steps

- Scientific publication
- New project in Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships programme
 - with Ukrainian universities as main partners and biosphere reserves as associated partners
 - Foster sustainability in recovery of Ukraine (role of universities and BRs)
- A delegation of the German Bundestag (parliament) is planning a visit to the Carpathian region in the first half of next year (focus: Carpathian-BR)





Щиро Дякуємо за Увагу

