

RESOLUTION
of the International Scientific Conference
«Problems of Mountain Ecosystem Conservation
and Sustainable Use of Biological Resources in the Carpathians» (Rakhiv,
Ukraine, October 22-25, 2018)

The International Scientific Conference was organized on the occasion of the 50th anniversary since creation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The conference organizers are the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve under the assistance of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

The events related to the Conference were funded by the Ukrainian-German project "Support to Nature Protected Areas in Ukraine".

The Conference was attended by scientists, representatives of public authorities, environmental institutions and NGOs from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Russia, Great Britain, Hungary, Switzerland, and Austria - about 133 people in total.

The Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mykola Rybak greeted the participants of the conference, followed by the Director of the Department for Ecological Network and Protected Area Network of Ukraine Victor Klid, and the representatives of regional and district authorities as well as the foreign delegations.

At plenary sessions and during meetings of the sections "Research and monitoring of biotic and abiotic environment as a basis for conservation and sustainable use of natural ecosystems" and "The role of the protected area system in research and conservation of a nature-resource potential and in implementation of the sustainable development concept" the problems of mountain ecosystems preservation and sustainable use of biological resources of the Carpathians were raised, the role of the Ukrainian protected areas in research and preservation of natural resource potential and the implementation of the concept of sustainable development were discussed along with the issues related to some historical aspects of nature management, establishment of protected areas and formation of the ecological network, research and monitoring of the biotic and abiotic environment, some problems of sustainable forest management, and environmental aspects of sustainable tourism development along with the problems related to moulding population's ecological culture.

18 reports and presentations were made and discussed at the conference. The Conference Volume of Proceedings of 567 pages was published.

Based at the presented reports and the discussions held, the participants of the conference:

1. Note that during the fifty years of its existence, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has secured conservation of natural ecosystems, has achieved significant success in scientific research, environmental education and awareness rising. It has made a significant contribution into conservation of natural ecosystems and sustainable development of the Carpathians, as well as into creation of the ecological network and development of the system of nature conservation in Ukraine. The international recognition of these achievements is confirmed by the diploma of the Council of Europe.

2. Note that the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is an active participant of the international cooperation processes due to such aspects as its geographical location, status of a MAB UNESCO biosphere reserve, presence of the UNESCO World Heritage Property on its territory, a significant share of employees who speak foreign languages.

3. Consider the expansion of CBR's territory from initial 12 600 hectares to over 58 000 hectares to be a great success of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's team, as well as establishment of a vast transition zone the, which has allowed the institution to meet the international requirements related to biosphere reserves; another big achievement of the reserve and its team, according to the conference participants, is designation of UNESCO World Heritage Property.

4. Consider that the main instrument to improve the ecological situation in Ukraine and its regions is the environmental component of the state regional policy. Ecological orientation of the territorial economic system development based on innovative approaches can give an impetus to the growth of strategic perspectives, including an extended reproduction of the environment with its ecosystems, protected areas, and nature sanctuaries.

5. Are convinced, that sustainable development of the society is possible only under the condition if the level of environmental education is increased, since it is an important means of moulding the ecological culture, consciousness and behavior of all the society members, and ensuring people's awareness as for the state of the environment. The way to increase ecological culture and consciousness is secured by an effective environmental education, which is provided by close interaction between protected areas and educational establishments.

6. Consider, that the main problems of mountain forests preservation in the Ukrainian Carpathians are the discrepancy between current forest site conditions for the existing forest types and types of forest stands, no correlation of logging methods with the forest types, a rapid decrease in the distribution range of spruce forests, and accumulation of significant stocks of dead wood in forests.

7. Are concerned with the pressure caused by business sector on natural complexes of the

Tatra National Park (Slovakia) that threatens the very existence of the park.

8. Consider it to be appropriate to support the initiative expressed by Tymur Bedernichek and the co-authors on establishing an inter-departmental research center of highland/alpine zone - the Deyl center for alpine studies - on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the National Botanic Garden named after M. Hryshko of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, in the territory of the Pop-Ivan of Maramures mountain massif.

9. Express an opinion that 7 of the highest mountain peaks of the Chornohora Mountain Range should receive the highest national conservation status in Ukraine.

10. Call for an immediate cessation of continuous felling activities in those mountain forests that, as a result of scientific examination, can be recognized as primeval forests.

11. Consider it to be necessary to introduce basic vocational education on mountain farming with minimal damage to the nature of the Ukrainian Carpathians for local population of 4 mountain regions of Ukraine.

The participants of the conference express their gratitude to the Government of Ukraine for their significant role in preserving the unique ecosystems of the Carpathians, as well as to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's team for many years of persistent activities directed at conservation and research of natural values of the Carpathians, and for promoting international ecological cooperation on the European continent. Also, the participants express their gratitude to the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for an excellent organization of this important international scientific forum.