



National Nature
Park “SYNEVYR”

Best Practices of Protected Area Management in the National Nature Park “Synevyr” (Ukraine)

National Nature Park "Synevyr"

- NNP "Synevyr" was established in 1989 in order to preserve, reproduce and rational use of natural resources, complexes and objects that have special aesthetic and educational value within the various altitude zones of the southwestern macro slopes of the Gorgany Ridge. Total area of the park – 43,081.8 ha.
- Lake Synevyr (7 ha) is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (since 2005) and one of the seven natural wonders of Ukraine (in 2008).
- In the NNP "Synevyr" the forested areas covers 31,746.1 ha, of which 9,033.0 ha are natural, including 2,865.04 ha of true virgin forests. The buffer zone is 1,091 hectares. The ancient forests of the Synevyr National Nature Park in 2017 are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions in Europe".
- In 2017 the territory of NNP "Synevyr" was included in the Emerald Network of Europe.



Functional zoning of the NNP "Synevyr"

Based on the purpose and objectives of the park is divided into functional zones according to its values.

Protected zone - 14,88% , 6 414.8 ha.

Growing: pure spruce, mixed spruce-beech, oppressed spruce and other natural forests, meadows; separate areas with a strict protection regime.

Zone of Regulated Recreation - 54.51%, 23 484,3 ha.

Includes: pure spruce and mixed, pure beech forests, groves, post-forest meadows, wetlands.

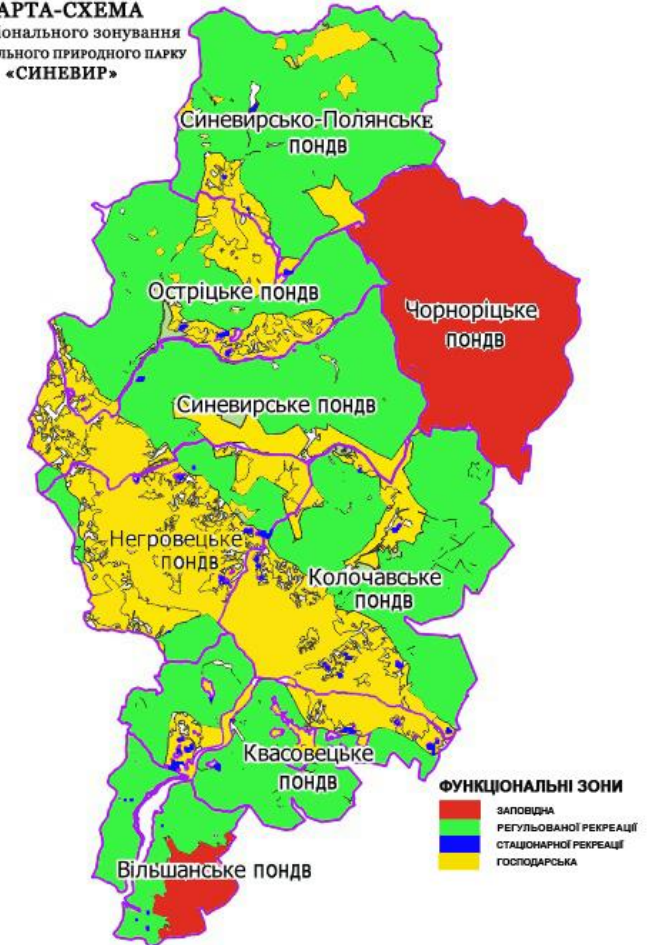
Stationary Recreation Zone - 0.04%, 19 ha.

It is characterized mainly by meadows and stationary recreational facilities.

Economic Zone - 30,57%, 13 163.7 ha.

Includes: settlements, homesteads and urban areas.

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«СИНЕВИР»



Management of biodiversity

Programs and measures for management of biodiversity in the NNP "Synevyr"

- Biodiversity Conservation Program for Rare Ecosystems and Species.
- Carrying out measures to preserve and maintain forests and post-forest meadows.
- Monitoring and reproduction of rare species of plants and animals.
- Monitoring of the population of large predators (bear, lynx, wolf) and birds (capercaillie, black grouse).



Main events:

- Forest plantations are constantly monitored. On the territory of NNP "Synevyr" there are 10 scientific landfills, 22 permanent test sites, 20 temporary test sites, 10 research and accounting routes at different altitude levels in the vertical zonation from the river valleys to the subalpine zone.
- Monitoring of rare species of flora and fauna, their localities and stations has been established.
- In December 2011 the Brown Bear Rehabilitation Center was opened. The main task of the center is to rehabilitate brown bear individuals who have been ill-treated or held captive in violation of the law. It covers an area of 12 hectares and is now home for 32 bears.
- In 2017 the Rehabilitation Center for Birds of Prey was built at the NNP "Synevyr" in order to protect rare species that are in captivity in violation of the rules of detention. The project is implemented jointly by the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds and NNP "Synevyr". After rehabilitation birds are released into those areas that are their natural habitats. To date 18 birds have been rehabilitated and there are 6 birds in the center.
- In 2020 a high-altitude mating point for Carpathian bees was established on the territory of NNP "Synevyr" to preserve its purebredness and improve genetic diversity.



Management of biodiversity (1)

Measures to preserve and restore the sphagnum oligotrophic swamp Hlukhanya (18 ha), which suffers from changes in the hydrological regime (reduction of groundwater levels due to land reclamation carried out in the 70s of the last century) and overgrowing with willows, birch and other trees and shrubby vegetation.

The program includes:

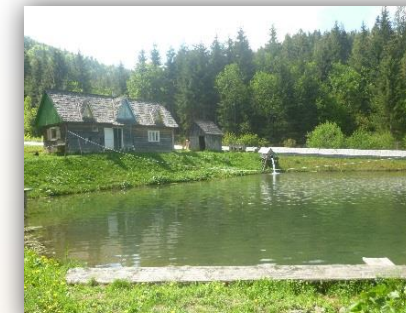
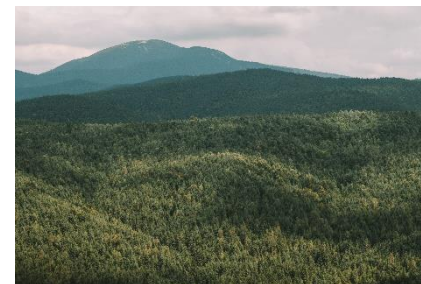
- Installation of additional obstacles and other hydraulic structures on the main reclamation canals to increase the groundwater level.
- Regular haymaking in the swamp Hlukhanya at a height of 10-15 cm to support the hygrophilous flora.
- Enclosure fencing.
- Regular security.
- Establishment of continuous monitoring.



Management of biodiversity (2)

The most problematic issues of Ecosystem Management and their objects on the territory of NNP "Synevyr":

- Carrying out restoration in the direction of creating forests close to natural ones. In the spruce area, deciduous species are preferred, forming complex plantings. It is held in the Economic Zone and the Zone of Regulated Recreation.
- There are 12 alien invasive species growing on the territory of NNP "Synevyr". Among them, the greatest threats to phytocenoses are: *Heracleum sosnowskyi* Manden (Sosnowski's Borschivnik) - 4 localities, *Ambrosia artemistifolia* (*Ambrosia polynolista*) – 3 localities, *Reynatria japonica* (Japanese Renutria) - 14 localities. These localities are in the Economic Zone and the Zone of Regulated Recreation.
- In 2011 monitoring of rare plant species was established at NNP "Synevyr". In the same year the Nursery for the Reproduction of Rare Flora of the Ukrainian Carpathians was established. Today, the Nursery has up to 65 species of plants belonging to 10 families.
- The NNP "Synevyr" now has a trout hatchery with a total incubation of up to 60,000 eggs. There are 5 ponds for breeding stock. Lake trout and brook trout are grown here. After reaching the age of 3, the fry is released into the hydrological network of the NNP "Synevyr".



Economic activities in the context of sustainable development

- Almost 20,000 people live within NNP “Synevyr”, which is about 7,000 households. There is no gas in the region, so firewood is mainly used to heat the homes of the local population. NNP "Synevyr" carries out the extraction of fuel wood for the residents of the region through sanitary measures in the forests of the park.
- The national park is repairing mountain roads and overcoming the consequences of natural disasters.
- Restrictive measures to visit ecosystems during mating and emergence of offspring of fauna are introduced annually.
- The main economic activities in addition to harvesting firewood by the population are haymaking and grazing. Although in recent years their livestock has decreased significantly.
- Picking mushrooms and berries is a traditional use of the local population from year to year. This type of use is constantly monitored.



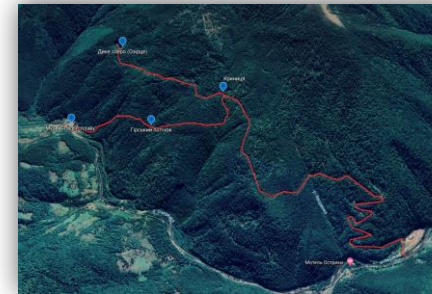
Ecoeducational works:

- NNP "Synevyr" carries out ecological and educational works with various target audiences, starting from youth, ending with locals and tourists.
- Students of 8 secondary schools of the region and student youth join the ecological and educational activities of NNP "Synevyr".
- With the participation of students from schools in the NNP "Synevyr" traditional regional children's drawing competitions are held in order to draw young people's attention to the problems of nature protection from household waste pollution and the formation of a conscious position on environmental protection.
- Forums of young naturalists are held annually - educational and practical events with the participation of local schoolchildren.
- Eco-educational meetings are held with local residents and community leaders.
- Environmental actions at NNP "Synevyr" are an effective way to draw public attention to the region's environmental problems.
- NNP "Synevyr" publishes a regional environmental and educational magazine "Synij Vyr", booklets, leaflets, books and so on.



Recreation

- Typical and rare corners of wildlife and their biological diversity and historical and cultural heritage, attract the attention of many tourists from all over Ukraine and abroad. For the last 3 years the number of visitors to the park is approx. 200 thousand people a year.
- The most visited places are: Lake Synevyr and Wild Lake, Rehabilitation Center for Brown Bears, Rehabilitation Center for Birds of Prey "Sapsan", sphagnum oligotrophic swamp Hlukhania, waterfall White Spring.
- There is a visit center and two tourist information centers "Ostriki" and "Hlukhanya" in NNP "Synevyr". Excursions to natural sites and local museums are constantly available for visitors.
- A network of 8 tourist routes, 2 ecological and 2 scientific and educational trails with a total length of 138 km has been created.
- 328 information boards, stands, banners, signs and pointers were installed.
- There are more than 80 gazebos for temporary recreation.
- Today NNP "Synevyr" has the opportunity to accommodate 60 people in the rooms of their motels.
- NNP "Synevyr" annually participates in the organization of festivals "On Synevyr" trembits call ", " Farewell flocks to the meadows ", which promote local folklore and recreational potential of the region.



Cooperation with local communities:

- Annually NNP "Synevyr" pays more than 1 million (UAH) land tax to the territorial communities, situated within the area of its activity.
- NNP "Synevyr" cooperates with three territorial communities. Measures to improve the infrastructure of the region (repair of local roads, construction of bridges, etc.), raising environmental awareness of the population are being implemented jointly.
- Joint projects are being implemented with Synevyr United Territorial Community the project "Interpretive cultural and cognitive journey" Synevyr. Goryani».
- NNP "Synevyr" involved the heads of village councils and local people to actively participate in the discussion of the expansion of the park, which were considered at meetings, and in 2015 within the project "Preservation of Carpathian virgin forests" held a seminar "Exchange of experiences between local communities and national parks ". As a result of this work, village heads supported the issue of enlargement.
- Heads of territorial communities are regular participants in the meetings of scientific and technical councils of NNP "Synevyr".
- There are 15 Orthodox and Greek Catholic communities in the region of NNP "Synevyr", with which the institution cooperates in the field of environmental education, by informing parishioners through priests about the importance of caring for the environment, preventing pollution of water bodies with household waste.



International cooperation

NNP "Synevyr" cooperates with foreign national parks "Krkonoši" and "Šumava" (Czech Republic), "Gortobat" (Hungary), "Slovenian Paradise" (Slovakia), the environmental association "Machaon International", the Union for Nature Protection and Biodiversity - NABU (Germany) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

In recent years, NNP Synevyr, together with international partners, has participated in the implementation of the following projects:

- "Life of the great predators of Europe"
- "Preservation of Carpathian virgin forests";
- "Support of nature reserves in Ukraine";
- "Wooden architecture in the cultural landscape: challenges of modernity";
- "Territories of inspiration";
- "Interpretive cultural and cognitive journey" Synevyr. Goryany ».
- "Youth School of Sustainable Development of the Carpathians"
- "BAT4MAN -" Raising environmental awareness of the local population through the joint conservation of bats in the border areas of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine "
- "Churches and public organizations for environmental education in national parks"





THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

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