



Nizhegorodskoe Zavolzhye Biosphere Reserve



Biosphere Reserve is the basis for developing and testing environmental monitoring methods and research as the assessment of numbers and condition appraisal of plant and animal rare species populations including Russian desman (*Desmana moschata*) and ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) listed in the Red Book of the IUCN and Russia



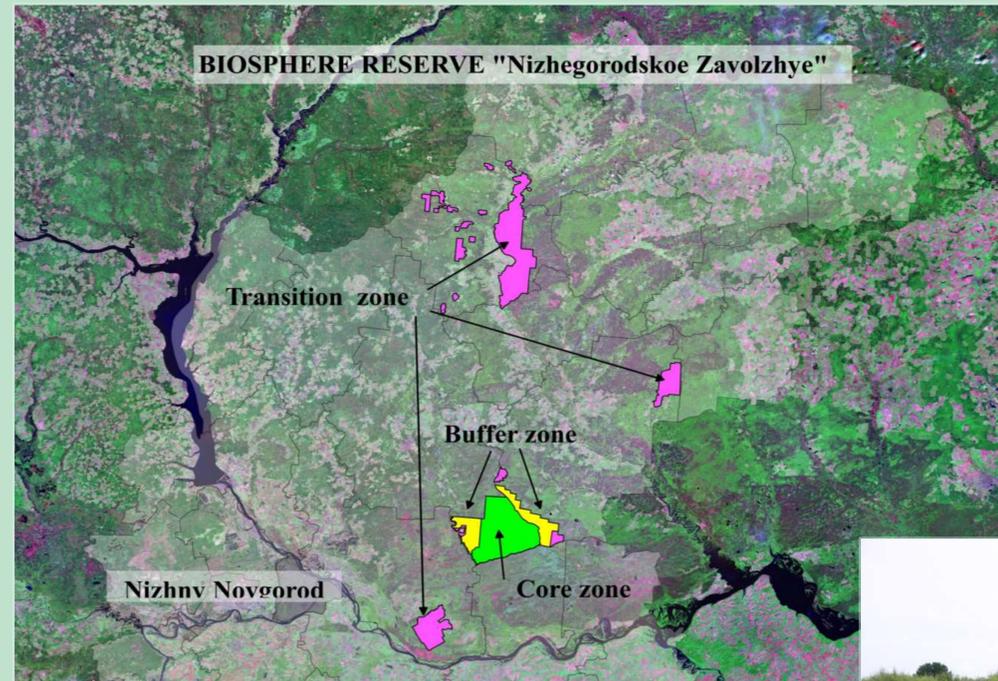
After the disastrous fire in BR happened in 2010 a study of self-restoration processes of natural systems has been conducted covering bird communities, populations of amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals, vegetation



O.Korableva, A.Chernov. Proceedings of the State Nature Biosphere Reserve «Kerzhensky» Dynamics of floodplain-channel complexes of rivers of Nizhegorodskoye Zavolzhye (by the example of Kerzhnets river). 2012



Reserve's researcher O.Korableva defended her dissertation based on studies of the dynamics of floodplain natural systems of Nizhegorodskoye Zavolzhye rivers and had got PhD in geographical sciences



To coordinate and manage the whole territory the Coordinating Council was established for nature management optimization and ecotourism development in BR «Nizhegorodskoe Zavolzhye» as well as at adjacent areas. The role of coordinator of joint activities in the area of environmental protection, scientific research, ecological education has been taken by the State Nature Reserve «Kerzhenskiy»



After receiving in 2002 a status of Biosphere Reserve «Nizhegorodskoye Zavolzhye» the State Nature Reserve «Kerzhenskiy» became its «core area». The part of BR is also included into the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance as Kamsko-Bakaldinskaya moors group. It is the largest peat bog-arrary in Europe south of the northern taiga and key ornithological territory of the World value (included in the catalog of Important Bird Areas in Europe)



One of plots in the transition zone of the BR a nature sanctuary of federal significance «Svetloyar Lake» is a famous center of event tourism in connection with the well-known legend of the Invisible Kitezh Town, concealed inside the waters of this lake. To create the conditions for eco-tourism on the territory of Voskresenskiy district in 2008 Natural Park «Voskresenskoye Povetluzhie» was created, with nature sanctuary of federal significance «Svetloyar Lake» within its buffer zone



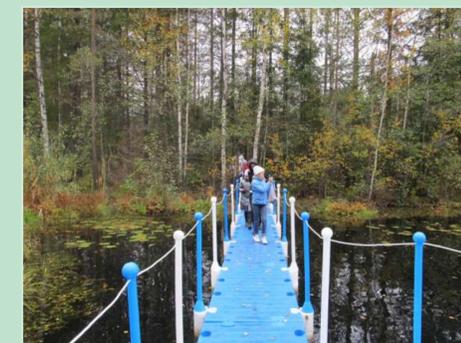
The program of tourism development in Voskresenskiy district promotes a wide involvement of local population in the tourism sector, the use of knowledge and traditions associated with local cultural values or events

The information exchange implemented through a special leaflet published by BR as well as reserve website and with help of some partners such as forestry, rural administrations, schools and environmental education stations



The function of local demonstration areas is conducted by Reserve's sites of limited economical activity, the cooperative «Forest», equestrian club «Grey Horse», etc. On territory of the cooperative «Forest» sustainable forest management is implemented and it has not only environmental benefits but also economic once

For community outreach programs realization visitor centers were created in Nizhny Novgorod, settlement Rustay and village Vladimirskoye



Working with children is conducted with help of two young naturalist clubs, nine ecological education stations of BR, campaign teams of pupils, organization or support of environmental camps and expeditions. Excursions in nature are conducted in the buffer zone in constructing landscape trails the priority was given to conservation of natural systems