

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
November 19, 2010 No. 1707**

**ON SOME ISSUES
RELATED TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE
OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

(as worded in the Resolutions of the Council of Ministers
of September 3, 2015 [No. 743](#); of September 30, 2016 [No. 793](#))

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus DECIDES:

1. The Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity as attached hereto shall be approved <*> (hereinafter referred to as “the strategy”) (as worded in the [Resolution](#) of the Council of Ministers of September 3, 2015 No. 743)

<*> Not to be distributed.

2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection shall bring the Strategy to the attention of the concerned.

3. The Republican bodies of State Administration and other state organizations subordinated to the government of the Republic of Belarus, local executive and regulatory bodies and other organizations shall pay due consideration to the Strategy provisions in the development of State program projects, action plans, schemes and other documents on the issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4. The [Resolution](#) of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of June 26, 1997 No. 789 “On Approval of the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity of the Republic of Belarus” shall be declared to be no longer in force (a Collection of Presidential Decrees and Ordinances and the Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Belarus 1997, No. 17-18, Article 653).

5. This Resolution shall enter into force after its official publication.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus

S. Sidorsky

APPROVED
Resolution
of the Council of Ministers
of the Republic of Belarus
November 19, 2010 No. 1707
(as worded in the Resolution
of the Council of Ministers
of the Republic of Belarus
September 3, 2015 No. 743)

STRATEGY ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

(as worded in the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of September 30, 2016 No. 793)

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Among the main environmental challenges of our time, the loss of species and ecological systems diversity holds a special place. Now, the world is intensively transforming natural ecological systems and living organisms' species are disappearing. Natural ecological systems are completely changed on the fifth terrestrial part of the globe. The Red List of the World Conservation Union includes more than 17 000 species of rare and endangered wild animals and plants. About 21% of mammal species, 30% of amphibian species, 12% of bird species, 28% of reptile species, 37% of freshwater fish species, 35% of invertebrate species and 70% of wild plant species are in danger of extinction.

Further loss of biological diversity may lead to destabilization of biota, loss of biosphere integrity and its ability to maintain essential qualities of the environment indispensable to life. Conservation of living systems' diversity on Earth is a prerequisite for human survival and sustainable development of civilization since the functioning of natural ecological systems ensures the availability of clean air, drinking water and food.

To ensure the resolution of these global issues, the [Convention](#) on Biological Diversity was signed on 5 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, which aims to conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by providing the requisite access to genetic resources and the proper transfer of appropriate technologies taking into account all rights to such resources and technologies, as well as through proper funding.

By [Resolution](#) of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus of June 10, 1993 "On Ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity" (Vedamastsi of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, 1993, No. 27, Article 347), the [Convention](#) on Biological Diversity was ratified by the Republic of Belarus.

To implement the Provisions of this [Convention](#), the [Resolution](#) of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus was adopted on June 26, 1997 No. 789 "On Approval of the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity of the Republic of Belarus" (a Collection of Presidential Decrees and Ordinances and the Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Belarus 1997, No. 17-18, Article 653).

An analysis related to the realization of these documents shows that the Republic of Belarus has made significant efforts to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity. In addition to that, it became necessary to develop this strategy taking into account the changes (global warming, invasion of alien species, and etc.), as well as the adoption at 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which took place on 18-29 October 2010 in Nagoya (Aichi Prefecture, Japan), of the "Strategic Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2011-2020".

CHAPTER 2 CURRENT STATE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Natural complexes and ecological systems of the Republic of Belarus occupy 11 417.1 thousand hectares or 55% of the country's territory (20 759.8 thousand hectares) and are represented by forests – 8630.7 thousand hectares (41.5%), shrubs – 664.4 thousand hectares (3.2%), meadows – 794 thousand hectares (3.8%), marshes – 859 thousand hectares (4.1%) and water objects – 469 thousand hectares (2.2%).

The territory of the Republic of Belarus belongs to two geobotanical regions – Eurasian coniferous (taiga) and European broad-leaved.

Among ecological systems, broad-leaved, coniferous broad-leaved and black alder forests, wet or seasonally flooded meadows, bogs, lakes and ecological systems of river valleys and river beds are of extrinsic value for biological diversity.

About 14 thousand of species are known in the flora, including about 4.1 thousand of higher plants (1.4 thousand – native species), 442 species of bryophytes, 669 species of lichen and more than 9 thousand species of lower plants (algae and fungi). Over the last century, about 50 native species of wild plants have disappeared in Belarus.

76 species belonging to 6 orders – insectivorous (11 species), bats (19 species), carnivores (13 species), lagomorphs (2 species), rodents (25 species), and cloven-hoofed (6 species) represent the mammal fauna. 325 species of birds have been registered, among them at least 230 species nest in Belarus

The current state and trends of biological diversity changes in the Republic of Belarus are primarily determined by the dynamics of changes in the areas, in the condition and nature of the use of basic natural ecological systems. The process of territorial forest coverage growth continues. From 2006 to 2014, the forest area increased from 38% up to 39.3% of the country's territory. In view of the high stability of forest ecological systems and the increase of the territorial forest coverage, including the transition to environmentally oriented forms of forest management, the stability of forest ecological systems and associated biological diversity will predominantly remain. However, due to natural processes (forest diseases, drying) and deforestation of old-aged forests, there is a general decrease in the number of wild animals and plants inhabiting and growing in old-aged broad-leaved forests, including birds (the stock dove *Clintucha oenas*, the roller *Coracias garrulus*, the green woodpecker *Picatus viridis*), bryophytes (*Neckera pennata*, *Porella platyphylla*), lichens (*Calicium adspirum*, *Chaenotheca gracilenta* and etc.).

Because of the bog reclamation, over the last 40 years their area has significantly decreased and comprises 859,000 ha. In view of this, and also as a result of the continuous degradation of remaining bogs and floodplain meadows (bushing and reeding of open bogs), a large number of wild-growing helobious plants and helobious wild animals were included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus. The number of bird species threatened with global extinction continues to decrease (the aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, the spotted eagle *Aquila clanga*, the great snipe *Gallinago media*, the black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, the European curlew *Numenius arquata*) being the state indicators of ecological systems of open bogs and floodplain meadows.

In recent decades, significant progress has been achieved in conservation of the European bison – a species under the threat of global extinction. With a view of its preservation, 10 free-ranging micropopulations of more than 1200 animals have been raised in the Republic of Belarus.

In recent years, the trends in flora and fauna changes are largely determined by climatic factors as supported by the data on the northward expansion of the areas of wild plants' species, wild animals, birds, and invertebrates that are characteristic of steppe and forest-steppe zones.

CHAPTER 3

STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE AREA OF CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

With a view of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, the following laws of the Republic of Belarus were adopted: the Law “On the Environmental Protection” of [November 26, 1992](#) (Vedamastsi of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, 1993, No. 1, Article 1; the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2002, No. 85, 2/875); the Law “On Specially Protected Natural Areas” of [October 20, 1994](#) (Vedamastsi of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, 1994, No. 35, Article 570; the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2000, No. 52, 2/171); the Law “On the Plant World” of [June 14, 2003](#) (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2003, No. 73, 2/954); the Law “On Safety in Genetic Engineering Activity” of [January 9, 2006](#) (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2006, No. 9, 2/1193); the Law “On the Animal World” of [July 10, 2007](#) (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2007, No. 172, 2/1354) and other normative legal acts.

The Republic of Belarus is a Party to a number of International Treaties related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including:

The [Convention](#) on Biological Diversity signed in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 (the [Resolution](#) of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus of June 10, 1993 “On Ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity” (Vedamastsi of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, 1993, No. 27, Article 347);

The Cartagena [Protocol](#) on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (the [Law](#) of the Republic of Belarus “On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity” of May 6, 2002 (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2002, No. 53-54, 2/846);

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (the [Decree](#) of the President of the Republic of Belarus of May 22, 2014 No. 235 “On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the International Treaty” (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of May 27, 2014, 1/15028).

The [Convention](#) on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (the [Resolution](#) of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus of December 20, 1994 “On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora” (Vedamastsi of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, 1995, No. 24-25, Article 339);

The [Convention](#) on the Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (The [Decree](#) of the President of the Republic of Belarus of May 25, 1999 No. 292 “On Succession of the Republic of Belarus in respect of the Convention on the Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat” (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 1999, No. 41, 1/377);

The [Convention](#) on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the [Decree](#) of the President of the Republic of Belarus of March 12, 2003 No. 102 “On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals” (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus of 2003, No. 32, 1/4443);

The [Convention](#) on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the [Decree](#) of the President of the Republic of Belarus of February 7, 2013 No. 70 “On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats” (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of February 9, 2013, 1/14069).

Established by the [Decree](#) of the President of the Republic of Belarus of July 21, 2015 No.

333 “On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the International Treaty” (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of July 24, 2015, 1/15946), starting from 1 January 2016, the Republic of Belarus shall accede to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds signed in Hague on 16 June 1995.

Both the [strategy](#) to implement the [Convention](#) on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of February 10, 2009 No. 177 (the National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus 2009, No. 44, 5/29297) and the National [Strategy](#) for the Development of the Specially Protected Natural Areas System until 1 January 2030 approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of July 2, 2014 No. 649 “On the Development of the Specially Protected Natural Areas System” (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of July 11, 2014, 5/39101) and the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Land Degradation (including soils) for 2016-2020 approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of April 29, 2015 No. 361 “On Some Issues related to the Prevention of Land Degradation (including soils)” (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of May 6, 2015, 5/40478) are being realized.

Both the [Concept](#) of the Hunting Sector Development in the Republic of Belarus approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of October 31, 2014 No. 1029 (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of November 6, 2014, 5/39652) and the [Concept](#) of the Fishing Sector Development in the Republic of Belarus approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of June 2, 2015 No. 459 (the National Legal Internet portal of the Republic of Belarus of June 6, 2015, 5/40616) are being realized.

The conservation of biological diversity in the Republic of Belarus and its sustainable use is one of the priority directions of the State environmental policy and shall be implemented through different mechanisms, including:

- maintaining the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus on rare and endangered species of wild animals and plants. Now, this includes 202 species of wild animals and 303 species of wild plants;

- ensure functioning and development of the specially protected natural areas system of the Republic of Belarus;

- identification of natural areas subject to special protection (resort zones, water protection zones, riversides and waterbody strips; conservational, recreational, and protective forests; typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, high bogs, bogs – sources of watercourses, habitats of wild animals and plants belonging to the [species](#) included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, natural areas of importance for reproduction, feeding, wintering and/or migration of wild animals; other areas with the established regime for special protection and use). The total area of such natural areas is about 13% of the country's territory;

(as worded in the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of September 30, 2016 No. 793)

- state regulation of flora and fauna objects' use with regard to weapons, methods, terms, and removal of such objects;

- carrying out of state environmental expertise and environmental impact assessment during the implementation of projects related to economic and other activities negatively affecting biological diversity;

- compensatory measures (compensatory payments) during the implementation of projects related to economic and other activities negatively affecting biological diversity;

- control over settlement on lands of new wild animal and plant species, including measures to combat invasive alien species (the Centre for Invasive Species of Animals and Plants was established at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus);

- maintaining the Animal and Plant World [Cadastre](#) and other cadasters related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

- animal and plant world monitoring, integrated ecological systems' monitoring in specially

protected natural areas;

other mechanisms in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Realization of the state policy related to the conservation of biological and landscape diversity shall be ensured by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, other Republican bodies of State administration, local executive and administrative bodies and other organizations. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection shall coordinate the activities of State bodies and other organizations in this area. Scientific support to conservation of biological and landscape diversity shall be carried out by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

CHAPTER 4

KEY ISSUES RELATED TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Despite the achieved results related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, the impact of negative factors on natural ecological systems and populations of wild animal and plant species of the Republic of Belarus continues.

One of the main factors of natural origin is climate change that leads to aggravation of competition between native and alien species of wild animals and plants, the formation of conditions favorable for the development of diseases and pests. Affected by global climate change, the Republic of Belarus faces a decrease in the areas of boreal species of wild plants and animals, the appearance of a number of new species typical for steppe and forest-steppe zones, a decrease in the number of populations of certain species of wild plants and animals of floodplain, coastal and wetland ecological systems.

The factors of anthropogenic origin that pose the major threat are as follows:

change in the current system of land use, an increase in agricultural load, the formation of large areas of monocultures;

cultivation of tilled crops on peat soils, mowing of natural meadows breaking the rules established taking into account the conservation of wild animals and plants;

colonization of open natural meadows, lowland and upland bogs by tree and shrubbery vegetation as a result of changes in traditional land use, violations of the hydrological regime, climate change;

degradation of natural ecological systems, including wetlands, as a result of their contamination by diffuse sewage from agricultural fields and insufficiently purified sewage;

fragmentation, disturbance and degradation of natural habitats as a result of bog reclamation, a high degree of certain areas' urbanization and the intensive development of the transport communications system and hydropower;

degradation of natural ecological systems (rivers, lakes, bogs and forests) resulting from the disturbance of the natural hydrological regime in connection with the impact of adjacent drained territories, drainage melioration and hydrotechnical construction on them;

degradation of fish breeding grounds (scrubbing and rearing of shallow waters, variation in water quality) as a result of eutrophication of water bodies and water courses, changes in their hydrological regime, as well as cessation of haymaking and cattle grazing in flood meadows;

reduction in the area of complex forest planting, including broad-leaved forests, their replacement with monodominant forest cultures;

extended expansion of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants, replacement of native species by them, associated degradation and transformation of ecological systems;

domination of clear fellings in the main felling system;

forest and peat fires;

increase in anthropogenic load, industrial, civil and transport construction.

CHAPTER 5

OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS OF THE PRESENT STRATEGY

The strategy objectives are as follows:

prevent the depletion in the numbers of species of wild animals and plants, areas of their habitat and growth and their biological and genetic diversity, ecological systems, natural landscapes and biotopes, restoration of rare and endangered species of wild animals and plants, their populations and genetic diversity and maintaining them in volumes that ensure the sustainable existence of these populations;

use biological diversity in such a way and in such a manner that will not lead in the long-term to its depletion and will enable to preserve the ability to meet economic, aesthetic and other needs of present and future generations;

support self-sustaining capabilities of the biosphere, ensure regional and global ecological balance in the context of possible climate change.

The above objectives are to be achieved through the integrated implementation of the following tasks in line with the targets for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity adopted at 10th Conference of the Parties to the [Convention](#) on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan on 18-29 October 2010 (hereinafter referred to as “Aichi targets”):

Target 1 (corresponds to Aichi target 1): to raise the information level of state bodies and other organizations, including NGOs, and the public about the status and significance of biological diversity, the measures that should be taken to preserve it and use it sustainably;

Target 2 (corresponds to Aichi target 2): to develop and use methodologies for monetary evaluation of biological diversity and ecosystem services in the elaboration of draft concepts, forecasts, programs, schemes for sectoral development, the implementation of which is related to and (or) may affect the use of biological diversity;

Target 3 (corresponds to Aichi targets 6 and 7): to ensure sustainable use of animal world resources, including the fish stock and game resources;

Target 4 (corresponds to Aichi targets 5 and 7): to ensure the stable functioning of forest ecological systems, conservation of biological and genetic diversity of forests and forest landscapes, taking into account the increasing anthropogenic impact, the effects of climate change, sustainable use of forest resources, strengthening the role of forests in preserving the biosphere;

Target 5 (corresponds to Aichi target 7): to ensure sustainable management of agriculture, optimize the structure of cultivated areas including the expansion of perennial grass areas up to 1 million hectares, organic farming, and rational use of peat soils;

Target 6 (corresponds to Aichi target 8): to ensure the elaboration of management plans for the Dnieper, Zapadnaya Dvina, Zapadny Bug, Neman, Pripjat river basins; the implementation of measures to reduce surface water contamination by 30% as a result of nutrient discharges from point and diffuse sources;

Target 7 (corresponds to Aichi target 9): to minimize the negative impact of invasive alien species of wild animals and plants on the populations’ state of native species and ecological systems; to improve mechanisms to prevent the invasion of new alien species of wild animals and wild plants and to reduce their environmental damage;

Target 8 (corresponds to Aichi target 11): to ensure protection and sustainable use of natural systems and ecological systems close to the natural state – the major ones for preserving the landscape and biological diversity (in the area of at least 22% of the country's territory) by optimizing the system of specially protected natural areas (at least 8.8% of the country’s territory) and natural areas subject to special protection (at least 13.2% of the country's territory);

Target 9 (corresponds to Aichi target 12): to ensure the protection of [species](#) of wild animals and plants included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, the stabilization and an

increase in the numbers of species disappearing at the global level, including the European bison, the greater spotted eagle, the double snipe, the black-tailed godwit, the aquatic warbler and others;

Target 10 (corresponds to Aichi targets 13 and 16): to ensure the maintenance of genetic diversity of natural flora and fauna, cultivated plants, agricultural and domestic animals; the establishment and replenishment of the Bank of genetic resources of a human, animals, plants and microorganisms of the Republic of Belarus; the creation of conditions to implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Target 11 (corresponds to Aichi targets 14 and 15): to ensure restoration of 15% of the disturbed and inefficiently used ecological systems;

Target 12 (corresponds to Aichi target 19): to raise the level of scientific knowledge on the current state of biological diversity, to identify trends and causes of changes in the species and biotopes' state, to develop effective methods for sustainable use and monitoring of biological diversity and to build a platform for information and knowledge exchange;

Target 13 (corresponds to Aichi target 20): to ensure the mobilization of financial resources for the activities aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

CHAPTER 6 MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESENT STRATEGY

Realization of this strategy will be carried out through the implementation of activities in line with the “National Action Plans for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity” out of the funds allocated for the implementation of State programs in the area of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, international technical assistance, and other sources pursuant to legislation.

**non-binding translation*