

**LAW**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**“ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED  
NATURAL AREAS”**

of November 15, 2018 No. 150-3

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**ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

*Adopted by the Chamber of Representatives on 16 October 2018*  
*Approved by the Council of the Republic on 31 October 2018*

This Law shall establish the legal basis for the announcement, functioning, transformation, termination of functioning, safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas (hereinafter referred to as “SPNA”, unless otherwise specified) and aim to preserve and restore (reproduce) valuable natural complexes and objects.

**CHAPTER 1**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1. Main Terms Used in this Law and their Definitions**

1. **“Special nature reserve (zakaznik)”** means a specially protected natural area declared for the purposes of the preservation and restoration (reproduction) of valuable natural complexes and objects.

2. **“Nature reserve”** means a specially protected natural area declared to provide for the natural course of natural processes, the preservation in a natural state and study of valuable natural complexes and objects.

3. **“National Park”** means a specially protected natural area declared for the purposes of the preservation, restoration (reproduction) of valuable natural complexes and objects, their rational (sustainable) use during nature conservation, scientific, educational, tourism and recreational activities.

4. **“Specially protected natural area (SPNA)”** means a part of the territory of the Republic of Belarus with valuable natural complexes and/or objects in relation to which a special safeguarding and use regime is established.

5. **“Safeguarding of specially protected natural areas”** means activity aimed at the preservation and restoration (reproduction) of valuable natural complexes and objects, the prevention of pollution, degradation, damage, depletion, destruction, devastation and another harmful effect of economic and another activity on valuable natural complexes and objects and the elimination of consequences of such an effect ensuring compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas.

6. **“Natural monument”** means a specially protected natural area declared for the purposes of preservation of a valuable natural complex or object.

7. **“System of specially protected natural areas (SPNA system)”** means a complex of nature reserves, national parks, special nature reserves (zakazniks) and natural monuments formed

for the purposes of conservation of biological and landscape diversity, maintenance of an ecological balance in the Republic of Belarus.

8. **“Management of specially protected natural areas”** means activity related to the planning and implementation of nature conservation and other activities in the specially protected natural area, ensuring compliance with the regime for its safeguarding and use.

9. **“Valuable natural complexes and objects”** means unique, reference and/or irreplaceable natural complexes and objects, natural ecological systems (hereinafter referred to as “ecosystems”), which are of special ecological, scientific and/or aesthetic value, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, rare and endangered species of wild animals and wild-growing plants, their habitats.

## **Article 2. Legislation on Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Legislation on specially protected natural areas shall be based on the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and consist of this Law and other legislative acts governing relations in the field of specially protected natural areas.

2. Relations in the field of the safeguarding and use of valuable natural complexes and objects located in specially protected natural areas shall be regulated by legislation on the protection and use of lands, on the protection and use of waters, on the safeguarding and use of the animal kingdom, on the safeguarding and use of the plant kingdom, on the protection and use of bowels, on the use, safeguarding, protection and reproduction of forests, unless otherwise provided for by legislation on specially protected natural areas.

3. If an international treaty of the Republic of Belarus establishes rules other than those provided for by this Law, then the rules of the international treaty shall apply.

## **Article 3. Classification of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Depending on the features of valuable natural complexes and objects, the purposes of declaring of specially protected natural areas, the regime for their safeguarding and use, specially protected natural areas shall be divided into the following categories:

- 1.1. nature reserves;
- 1.2. National Parks;
- 1.3. special nature reserves (zakazniks);
- 1.4. natural monuments.

2. Depending on the features of valuable natural complexes and objects, natural monuments shall fall into the following types:

2.1. botanical (forest areas with valuable wood species, ancient parks, individual ancient trees or of rare species and their groups, territories with relict or particularly valuable vegetation, other valuable botanical objects);

2.2. hydrological (springs, streams and other valuable water bodies and related ecosystems);

2.3. geological (some rare forms of relief, mineralogical, paleontological and other unique geological materials located in the natural environment).

3. Depending on the state administration level, specially protected natural areas shall be

subdivided into the specially protected natural areas of republican and local significance.

Nature reserves and National Parks are specially protected natural areas of republican significance.

Special nature reserves (zakazniks) and natural monuments may be specially protected natural areas of republican or local significance.

4. Specially protected natural areas may be recognized as specially protected natural areas of international significance in accordance with the procedure established by [Article 33](#) of this Law.

#### **Article 4. Lands of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Lands forming specially protected natural areas shall consist of lands used for nature protection purposes and/or lands of other categories, apart from the lands specified in [Paragraph 2](#) of this Article.

2. Lands forming specially protected natural areas shall not include land lots (parts of land lots) located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas the purpose of which does not meet the objectives of the announcement of specially protected natural areas. Such land lots (parts of land lots) shall be shown in decisions on the announcement, transformation of specially protected natural areas.

3. After the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area in relation to the rights to the land lots provided to land users included in the composition of lands forming the specially protected natural area, as well as located within the boundaries of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area limitations (encumbrances) shall be established ensuring compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone.

4. Withdrawal and provision of land lots from the lands located within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone shall be allowed if the purposes and terms of the withdrawal and provision of these land lots are not in contradiction to the regime for the safeguarding and use of this specially protected natural area, its protection zone, unless otherwise established by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

5. In the decision on the withdrawal and provision of a land lot located within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone, limitations (encumbrances) of rights to land lots must be established ensuring compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone.

## **CHAPTER 2 STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE FIELD OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 5. State Administration in the Field of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

State administration in the field of specially protected natural areas shall be carried out by the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as “the Ministry of Natural Resources”), local Councils of Deputies, executive and regulatory bodies.

## **Article 6. Powers of the President of the Republic of Belarus in the Field of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. The President of the Republic of Belarus in the field of specially protected natural areas shall:

1.1. define a unified state policy;

1.2. make decisions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of nature reserves, national parks.

2. The President of the Republic of Belarus shall exercise other powers in the field of specially protected natural areas in accordance with the [Constitution](#) of the Republic of Belarus, this Law and other legislative acts.

## **Article 7. Powers of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus in the Field of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus in the field of specially protected natural areas shall:

1.1. ensure the implementation of a unified state policy;

1.2. approve the National Development [Strategy](#) for the system of specially protected natural areas and exercise control over its implementation;

1.3. approve state programmes in the field of the development of the system of specially protected natural areas and exercise control over their implementation;

1.4. approve the [scheme](#) for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance and exercise control over its implementation;

1.5. take decisions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the nature reserves of republican significance.

2. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus shall exercise other powers in the field of specially protected natural areas in accordance with the [Constitution](#) of the Republic of Belarus, this Law and other legislative acts.

## **Article 8. Powers of the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Field of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. The Ministry of Natural Resources in the field of specially protected natural areas shall:

1.1. implement a unified state policy;

1.2. jointly with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as “NAS of Belarus”), other interested state bodies and other organizations, develop the drafts of the National Development Strategy for the system of specially protected natural areas, state programmes for the development of the system of specially protected natural areas, schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance and organize their implementation;

1.3. make decisions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the natural monuments of republican significance;

1.4. ensure the preparation and making of submissions on the reservation of territories, which are planned to be declared as specially protected natural areas of republican significance;

1.5. ensure the preparation and making of submissions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas of republican significance;

1.6. inform the population about the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas, their protection zones;

1.7. provide for the maintenance of the Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as “the SPNA Register”, unless otherwise specified) and determine its subordinate state organization exercising the maintenance of the SPNA Register;

1.8. coordinate the fulfillment of the commitments of the Republic of Belarus under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

2. The Ministry of Natural Resources shall exercise other powers in the field of specially protected natural areas in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

### **Article 9. Powers of Local Councils of Deputies, Executive and Regulatory Bodies in the Field of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Local Councils of Deputies in the field of specially protected natural areas shall:

1.1. approve in coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resources regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance;

1.2. make decisions on the revocation of decisions of local executive and regulatory bodies that do not meet the requirements of legislative acts on the reservation of territories that are planned to be declared as specially protected natural areas on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of special nature reserves (zakazniks), natural monuments of local significance;

1.3. exercise other powers in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

2. Local executive and regulatory bodies in the field of specially protected natural areas shall:

2.1. make decisions on the reservation of territories that are planned to be declared as specially protected natural areas;

2.2. make decisions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of nature reserves, natural monuments of local significance;

2.3. ensure the administration of specially protected natural areas transferred to their administration;

2.4. jointly with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, other interested state bodies and other organizations develop the projects of regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance and organize their implementation;

2.5. inform the population about the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas, their protection zones;

2.6. exercise other powers in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

**CHAPTER 3**  
**PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND LEGAL PERSONS**  
**IN SOLVING THE ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

**Article 10. Participation of Individuals and Legal Persons in Carrying Out of Activities Related to the Announcement, Functioning, Safeguarding and Use of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

Individuals and legal persons shall have the right to put forward proposals and provide assistance to state bodies, the state body (other state organization) in the management of which the specially protected natural area has been transferred (hereinafter referred to as “the governing body”, unless otherwise specified) for carrying out of activities related to the announcement, functioning, safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas, as well as participate in the work of the Scientific and Technical Council established at the state environmental institution exercising management of the nature reserve, national park upon the consent of this institution.

**Article 11. Participation of Individuals and Legal Persons in the Public Discussions of Projects of Environmentally Significant Decisions Related to Specially Protected Natural Areas and the Receipt of Information Related to Specially Protected Natural Areas by Them**

1. Individuals and legal persons shall have the right to participate in the public discussions of projects of environmentally significant decisions related to specially protected natural areas, including the drafts of the National Development [Strategy](#) for the system of specially protected natural areas, state programmes related to the development of the system of specially protected natural areas, [schemes](#) for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance, regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance, management plans for specially protected natural areas.

2. State bodies should consider proposals of individuals and legal persons when making environmentally significant decisions relating to specially protected natural areas, including the National Development Strategy for the system of specially protected natural areas, state programmes related to the development of the system of specially protected natural areas, a scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance, regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance, management plans for specially protected natural areas.

3. Individuals and legal persons shall have the right to request and obtain from related state bodies and other organizations full, reliable and up-to-date publicly available information regarding the issues on the announcement, functioning, transformation, termination of functioning, safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas according to the procedure established by legislation on environmental protection.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 12. Scientific Support for the Functioning and Safeguarding of Specially Protected Natural Areas, the Development of the System of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Scientific support for the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas, development of the system of specially protected natural areas (SPNA system) shall be implemented by NAS of Belarus, other legal persons carrying out scientific activity.

2. NAS of Belarus in the field of scientific support for the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas, SPNA system development shall:

2.1. carry out coordination of the scientific support for the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas, SPNA system development;

2.2. participate in the development and implementation of a state scientific and technical policy;

2.3. ensure the implementation of state programmes for scientific research and state scientific and technical programmes;

2.4. submit, in accordance with the procedure established by legislation, proposals for the financing of scientific and innovative activities in specially protected natural areas;

2.5. organize integrated ecosystem monitoring in specially protected natural areas carried out by scientific organizations subordinate to NAS of Belarus, together with the state environmental institution exercising management in the specially protected natural area (hereinafter referred to as “the state environmental institution”, unless otherwise specified), and in the case where it has not been established, with the governing body and carry out the coordination of works in exercising such monitoring by them;

2.6. organize the implementation by legal persons, carrying out scientific activity on a contractual basis, of works on the preparation of scientific and feasibility study (hereinafter referred to as “SFS”, unless otherwise specified) for the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas, other scientific substantiations provided for by this Law;

2.7. provide scientific support for the implementation of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

2.8. exercise other powers in accordance with this Law and other legislative acts.

3. Other legal persons carrying out scientific activity shall provide scientific support for the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas, SPNA system development by performing on a contractual basis of works on the preparation of scientific and feasibility study for the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas, other scientific substantiations provided for by this Law, by participation in the integrated ecosystem monitoring in specially protected natural areas and the implementation of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, as well as make proposals for the funding of scientific and innovative activities in specially protected natural areas.



### **Article 13. Scientific Research Activity in Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Scientific research activity in specially protected natural areas shall be carried out through the organization of stationary year-round, long-term and periodic research aimed at studying valuable natural complexes and objects, observing the dynamics of natural processes in order to assess and predict changes in the state of ecosystems, natural landscapes and biotopes under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors, through the development of scientific foundations for environmental protection, conservation of biological and landscape diversity, restoration (reproduction) of valuable natural complexes and objects and rational (sustainable) use of natural resources.

2. Scientific research activity in specially protected natural areas shall be coordinated by NAS of Belarus and in nature reserves, national parks – also by Scientific and Technical Councils established at state environmental institutions that exercise the management of nature reserves, national parks to discuss the main issues of scientific research activity carried out in nature reserves, national parks, justification for nature protection measures and regulated nature resource management.

3. The Scientific and Technical Council of the nature reserve, national park shall be established by the decision of the state environmental institution that exercises the management of the nature reserve, the national park. The Scientific and Technical Council of the nature reserve, the national park shall include representatives of the state environmental institution exercising the management of the nature reserve, the national park, NAS of Belarus, other scientific and environmental, including public, organizations.

4. The Scientific and Technical Council of the nature reserve, national park shall be led by the head of the state environmental institution exercising management of the nature reserve, national park.

5. Scientific research in relation to the objects located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas, which may lead to a violation of the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas, shall be prohibited.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **PLANING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 14. Development of the System of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Development of the system of specially protected natural areas (SPNA system) shall be carried out on the basis of the National Development [Strategy](#) for the system of specially protected natural areas, a [scheme](#) for the rational placement of the system of specially protected natural areas of republican significance, regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance, and state programmes for the development of the system of specially protected natural areas.

2. The National Strategy for the SPNA System Development shall be elaborated by the Ministry of Natural Resources jointly with NAS of Belarus, other interested state bodies and other organizations for a twenty-year period, taking into account the international commitments of the Republic of Belarus.

3. The National Strategy for the SPNA System Development shall define goals, objectives, priorities, main directions of the formation of the system of specially protected natural areas and its

implementation mechanism.

4. The National [Strategy](#) for the SPNA System Development shall be approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

5. On the basis of the National Strategy for the SPNA System Development or along with it, a scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance, regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance shall be developed.

6. The scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance shall be developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources jointly with NAS of Belarus, other interested state bodies and other organizations for a ten-year period, taking into account the international commitments of the Republic of Belarus and include measures for the planning of the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas of republican significance. When developing a scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance, scientific substantiations of the boundaries, the area of specially protected natural areas and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the territories, which are planned to be declared as specially protected natural areas of republican significance for the purposes of the reservation of these territories, shall be developed.

7. The scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance shall be approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

8. Regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance shall be developed by Regional, Minsk City Executive Committees jointly with NAS of Belarus, other interested state bodies and other organizations for a ten-year period and include planning activities on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of special nature reserves (zalazniks), natural monuments of local significance taking into account the provisions on the scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance and international commitments of the Republic of Belarus. When developing regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance, scientific substantiations of the boundaries, area of specially protected natural areas and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the territories that are planned to be declared as special nature reserves (zalazniks), natural monuments of local significance for the purposes of the reservation of these territories, shall be developed.

9. Regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance shall be approved by the Regional and Minsk City Councils of Deputies in coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

10. The scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance and regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance shall be taken into account in the development and implementation of concepts, projections, programmes, action plans, sectoral development schemes the implementation of which is related to the use of natural resources and/or may have an impact on the environment during the development and implementation of projects and schemes for land management, urban planning projects, sectoral schemes for the location and development of production and transport and engineering infrastructure objects, land reclamation projects, development plans for mining operations, projects to justify the boundaries of mining allotments, projects of water protection zones and coastal strips, a republican comprehensive scheme for the placement of fishing areas,

forest management projects, the projects of hunting management and recreation area planning.

11. State programmes in the field of the SPNA system development shall be elaborated, approved and financed in line with [Chapter 11](#) of this Law.

### **Article 15. Reservation of the Territory to be Declared as the Specially Protected Natural Area**

1. Reservation of the territory, which is planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area (hereinafter referred to as “the reserved territory”, unless otherwise specified) shall be carried out to prevent the loss of valuable natural complexes and objects as a result of economic and another activity.

2. Reservation of the territory, which is planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area of republican significance, shall be carried out in accordance with the scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural area of republican significance by the decision of the Regional, Minsk City Executive Committee upon a submission of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Reservation of the territory, which is planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area of local significance, shall be carried out in accordance with regional schemes for the rational placement of the specially protected natural area of local significance by the decision of the City, District Executive Committee upon a submission of the Regional, Minsk City Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

3. Reservation of the territory, which is planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area, shall be carried out on the basis of the scientific substantiation of the boundaries, area of the reserved territory and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land plots) are planned to be included in the composition of lands of the reserved territory (hereinafter referred to as “the scientific substantiation of the reserved territory”). The scientific substantiation of the reserved territory must include a schematic map of this territory on a scale in accordance with the [Subparagraph 3.2](#) of [Paragraph 3](#) of [Article 18](#) of this Law. When preparing the scientific substantiation of the reserved territory of the boundaries, the area of the reserved territory and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land plots) are planned to be included in the composition of lands of the reserved territory shall be agreed with these land users.

4. The boundaries, the area of the reserved territory and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of this territory shall be established by a decision on its reservation. With this decision, the reserved territory shall acquire the status of the reserved territory, which is planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area (hereinafter referred to as “the reserved territory”).

5. Within the boundaries of the reserved territory, the prohibitions established by [subparagraphs 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 2.10](#) and [2.11](#) of [Paragraph 2](#) of [Article 24](#) of this Law shall apply (hereinafter referred to as “the regime for the safeguarding and use of the reserved territory”).

6. The boundaries, the area of the reserved territory, a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of this territory, the regime for the safeguarding and use of the reserved territory shall be taken into account when developing and implementing concepts, projections, programmes, action plans, sectoral development schemes the implementation of which is related to the use of natural resources and/or may have an impact on the environment in the development and implementation of projects and schemes for land management, urban planning projects, sectoral schemes for the location and development of production and transport and engineering infrastructure, land reclamation projects, plans for the development of

mining works, projects of justification of the boundaries of mountain allotments, projects of water protection zones and coastal strips, a republican integrated scheme for the allocation of fishing areas, forest management projects, projects of hunting management and planning of recreation areas.

7. Land lots located within the boundaries of the reserved territory shall not be withdrawn from land users and be used for their intended purpose in compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of this territory.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT, TRANSFORMATION, TERMINATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 16. Criteria for the Selection of Natural Areas for Declaring them as Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. When choosing natural areas to declare them as specially protected natural areas, general and special criteria shall apply.

2. When choosing natural areas to declare them as the nature reserve, the national park, and the special nature reserve (zakaznik), the general criteria shall be as follows:

2.1. presence of typical and/or rare natural landscapes and/or biotopes;

2.2. presence of habitats of wild animals and/or wild-growing plants belonging to the [species](#) included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

2.3. presence of places of regular nesting, wintering or stopping during the migration period of water-marsh and other species of migratory birds in an amount exceeding one percent of the national or European population of a species;

2.4. presence of places of annual concentration during the period of seasonal migrations of at least 10,000 individuals of migratory waterbirds (waders, ducks, geese), at least 500 individuals of the common crane;

2.5. presence of spawning grounds, feeding and migration of fish belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

2.6. presence of natural areas included in the National Ecological Network;

2.7. presence of natural water bodies; land forms unique or rare by their origin, morphometric and/or other characteristics.

3. The general criterion for choosing natural areas to declare them as the natural monument shall be the presence of valuable natural complexes and objects (forest areas with valuable tree species, ancient parks, individual ancient or rare species of trees and their groups, areas with relict or particularly valuable vegetation, other valuable botanical sites; springs, streams and other valuable water bodies and related ecosystems, separate rare forms of relief; mineralogical, paleontological and other unique geological materials located in the natural environment).

4. Special criteria for choosing natural areas to declare them as the nature reserve shall be as follows:

4.1. natural area or its significant part has hardly been disturbed by anthropogenic activity over the past 75 years or more;

4.2. typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes constitute at least 70 % of the natural area;

4.3. natural area is a habitat for at least 50 species of wild animals and/or a habitat for at least 50 species of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

5. Special criteria for selecting of natural areas to declare them as the national park shall be the criteria as follows:

5.1. significant part of the natural area has hardly been disturbed by anthropogenic activity over the past 50 years or more;

5.2. typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes make up at least 50 % of the natural area;

5.3. natural area is a habitat for at least 30 species of wild animals and/or a habitat of at least 30 species of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

5.4. there are natural complexes and objects with high tourist and recreational potential in the natural area.

6. Special criteria for selecting of natural areas to declare them as the special nature reserve (zakaznik) shall be the criteria as follows:

6.1. natural area is slightly disturbed by anthropogenic activity and has high restoration potential;

6.2. typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes constitute at least 40 % of the natural area;

6.3. natural area is a habitat of wild animals and/or a habitat of at least 10 species of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

6.4. natural area plays an important role in maintaining the hydrological regime for natural water bodies and swamps.

7. natural area may be selected for declaring it as the nature reserve, national park, or special nature reserve (zakaznik) if it meets:

7.1. for the specially protected natural areas of republican significance — at least three general and three special criteria;

7.2. for the nature reserves of local significance — at least two general and two special criteria.

8. A natural area can be selected for declaring it as the natural monument if it meets a general criterion and is unique or rare:

8.1. for natural monuments of republican significance — in the territory of the Republic of Belarus;

8.2. for natural monuments of local significance — in the territory of the region.

9. General and special criteria for the selection of natural areas to declare them as specially protected natural areas are also used during the preparation of submissions on the SPNA transformation.

### **Article 17. General Requirements for the Announcement, Transformation, and Termination of the Functioning of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. When declaring, transforming, terminating the functioning of specially protected natural areas, environmental interests shall have priority over economic ones.

2. The announcement of specially protected natural areas shall be carried out in the case where the natural area that meets the criteria established by [Article 16](#) of this Law has been identified. At that, it shall be allowed to declare a natural monument on the lands forming the national park, the nature reserve if for the purposes of ensuring the safeguarding of valuable natural complexes and objects it is necessary to establish a stricter regime for their safeguarding and use in comparison with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the territory of the national park, the nature reserve on which these valuable natural complexes and objects are located.

3. Transformation of specially protected natural areas shall be carried out if it is necessary to change its category, boundaries, area and/or the regime for its safeguarding and use.

4. Termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area shall be carried out:

4.1. if the goals for declaring the specially protected natural area have been achieved, provided there is no need to preserve the results on the achievement of these goals;

4.2. in the event of the loss of valuable natural complexes and objects for the conservation of which a specially protected natural area has been declared, provided that the restoration (reproduction) of these natural complexes and objects is not possible;

4.3. in other cases in accordance with legislative acts.

5. The territory shall acquire or lose the status of a specially protected natural area from the date of entry into force of the related decision of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Natural Resources or the City, District Executive Committee for its announcement, transformation, termination of functioning.

In order to issue the specified decision, preparing and providing of a submission on the announcement, transformation, and termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas shall be carried out.

6. Transformation of the specially protected natural area shall not be allowed (in part of changing the boundaries of the specially protected natural area entailing the exclusion of the territory with valuable natural complexes and objects from the boundaries of this specially protected natural area, and/or the change of the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, which can lead to the loss of valuable natural complexes and objects), termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, if such transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area will impede the attainment of the goals for which this specially protected natural area has been declared, or preservation of results on the achievement of these goals.

7. A copy of the decision of the state body (official) on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area the composition of lands of which includes forest fund lands shall be directed to the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus within three working days from the date the decision has been made.

8. Specially protected natural areas declared, reorganized as territorial units shall be subject to registration in the unified register of administrative-territorial and territorial units of the Republic of Belarus and specially protected natural areas that have ceased functioning — to the exclusion from the specified register in accordance with legislation in the field of administrative-territorial structure.

### **Article 18. Procedure to Prepare Submissions on the Announcement, Transformation and Termination of the Functioning of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Preparation of submissions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas shall be provided by:

1.1. specially protected natural areas of republican significance — the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as by the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus and other interested republican bodies of the state administration in the case provided for in [Part 2](#) of this Subparagraph.

The Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus, other interested republican bodies of the state administration shall ensure the preparation of submissions on the transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas of republican significance, which have been transferred in their management. In this case, a submission on the transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas of republican significance must be coordinated with the Ministry of Natural Resources;

1.2. specially protected natural areas of local significance — by the territorial bodies of the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as by territorial bodies and organizations subordinate to the interested republican government bodies in the case provided for in [Part 2](#) of this Subparagraph.

Territorial bodies and organizations subordinate to the interested republican government bodies shall ensure the preparation of submissions on the transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas of local significance, which have been transferred in their management. In this case, a submission on the transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas of local significance must be coordinated with the territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

2. Preparing of submissions on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas shall be carried out in accordance with the scheme for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of republican significance and regional schemes for the rational placement of specially protected natural areas of local significance. Preparing of submissions on the transformation of specially protected natural areas may also be carried out in the case where it is stipulated by SPNA Management Plans.

3. A submission on the announcement, transformation of specially protected natural areas shall include:

3.1. a draft decision of the authorized state body (official) on the announcement, transformation of specially protected natural areas, including information about the boundaries, the area of specially protected natural areas, a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are

included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area subject to the announcement, transformation, its protection zone (in the case where such a zone is established or has been established), provision on specially protected natural areas (for a nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), the regime for the safeguarding and use of the protection zone of specially protected natural areas (in the case where such a zone is established or has been established);

3.2. scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of specially protected natural areas and the documents enclosed to it, including its summary and a schematic map at a scale of 1 : 10 000 (with the SPNA area up to 500 hectares), 1: 25 000 (with the SPNA area from 500 to 2 000 hectares), 1: 40 000 (with the SPNA area from 2 000 to 6 000 hectares), 1: 50 000 (with the SPNA area from 6 000 to 10 000 hectares), 1: 100 000 (with the SPNA area of 10 000 hectares or more) with the marked boundaries of the declared, transformed specially protected natural area, its protection zone (in the case where such a zone is established or has been established), and for the national park — also its zones.

4. A submission on the termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area shall include:

4.1. draft decision of the authorized state body (official) on the termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area;

4.2. for the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) — scientific and feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, as well as its summary;

4.3. for the natural monument — an act, confirming the loss of a valuable natural complex or object for the preservation of which a natural monument was declared indicating the reasons that led to their loss, which is drawn up in an arbitrary form and signed by the representatives of the governing body, the Ministry of Natural Resources (in relation to natural monuments of republican significance), Regional, Minsk City Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (in relation to natural monuments of local significance), a scientific organization subordinate to the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

5. Description of the boundaries of the declared, transformed specially protected natural area, its protection zone shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements established by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

6. Determination of the boundaries, the area of the declared, transformed specially protected natural area shall be carried out by a graphic method, unless otherwise established by legislative acts, in the coordinate system 1963 or World Geodetic System 1984.

#### **Article 19. Scientific Feasibility Study of the Announcement, Transformation, Termination of the Functioning of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Preparation of the scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of specially protected natural areas shall be implemented by legal persons carrying out scientific activity on a contractual basis, taking into account the requirements established by [Articles 20](#) and [21](#) of this Law.

2. The rules for formalizing the scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area and its Annexes shall be established by the Ministry of Natural Resources.



## **Article 20. Procedure to Prepare the Scientific Feasibility Study of the Announcement, Transformation, Termination of the Functioning of a Nature Reserve, National Park, Special Nature Reserve (Zakaznik) and its Contents**

1. In order to prepare the scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), the following works shall be consistently carried out:

1.1. collection of available scientific and departmental information about the natural area in which it is planned to declare the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), or about the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) in case of their transformation, including information contained in the results of scientific research, concepts, projections, programmes, action plans, sectoral development schemes the implementation of which is associated with the use of natural resources and/or may have an impact on the environment, in projects and schemes of land management, urban planning projects, sectoral schemes for the placement and development of production, transport and engineering infrastructure, land reclamation projects, plans for the development of mining operations, projects for justifying the boundaries of mountain allotments, projects for water protection zones and coastal strips, a republican integrated scheme for the placement of fishing grounds, forest management projects, projects for hunting management and planning of recreation areas;

1.2. on-site investigation of the natural area during which the following shall be carried out:

assessment of the presence and condition of valuable natural complexes and objects and the establishment of factors that have a harmful effect on them;

identification of new habitats, examination of habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus previously transferred under protection and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, as well as places of migration clusters of wild animals, colonial settlements of birds and/or mammals;

1.3. analysis of compliance of a natural area with the criteria for selecting of natural areas established by this Law to declare them as the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik). In the event that the natural area does not meet a number of criteria established by this Law, this shall be the basis for the following:

when declaring the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) — for revising the category and/or designation of the specially protected natural area planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area, or for terminating works on the preparation of scientific feasibility study;

when transforming the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) — for revising the category and/or designation of the specially protected natural area or for preparing scientific feasibility study to terminate the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

1.4. preparation of a schematic map of the nature reserve, national park (including its zones), special nature reserve (zakaznik), their protection zones;

1.5. preparation of a catalog of coordinates of boundary turning points, determination of the area of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) and coordination (marked “Agreed” on the map-scheme of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) of the boundaries, the area of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik)

with land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are planned to be included and/or have been included in the composition of lands of the declared, transformed nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) by the territorial body of the Ministry of Nature, City, District Executive Committee (including coordination with structural divisions in the field of land management, architectural, urban planning and construction activities, agriculture and food) (hereinafter referred to as “interested state bodies and other organizations”), as well as with the republican organization for the state registration of real estate, rights to it and transactions with it;

1.6. preparation of lists of areas of the national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) where restrictions and prohibitions established by this Law shall be imposed, and their coordination (by approval sheets) with land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are planned to be included in the composition of lands of the declared, transformed national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) by interested government bodies and other organizations;

1.7. issuance of draft certificates and preservation orders for the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus (except for those located within the boundaries of the nature reserve, the conservation area of the national park);

1.8. issuance of draft passports and preservation orders for typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes (except for cases where the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas proposed in scientific feasibility study ensures the conservation of typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes);

1.9. preparation of lists of the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants previously transferred under protection, belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes the investigation results of which have established the need to cancel the special protection regime (if such places, landscapes and biotopes are available).

2. Scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) shall include the following sections:

2.1. introduction;

2.2. placement features;

2.3. physico-geographical conditions;

2.4. biological and landscape diversity;

2.5. socio-economic potential;

2.6. tourist and recreational resources;

2.7. historical and cultural potential;

2.8. factors that have a harmful impact on ecosystems, valuable natural complexes and objects of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve;

2.9. justification of the need to declare, transform the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), their boundaries, safeguarding and use regime, as well as the boundaries, safeguarding and use regime of the zones of the national park, to select the sites of the national

park, nature reserve at which restrictions and prohibitions established by this Law shall be imposed, the need to establish the protection zones of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), their safeguarding and use regime;

2.10. assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts of the announcement, transformation of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) (including changes in the volume of wood procurement);

2.11. conclusion.

3. The following shall be enclosed to the scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik):

3.1. summary of the scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

3.2. schematic map of the nature reserve, national park (including its zones), special nature reserve (zakaznik), their protection zones coordinated with the persons specified in [Subparagraph 1.5 of Paragraph 1](#) of this Article;

3.3. list of species of wild vascular plants growing in the territory of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

3.4. list and location of the habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the [species](#) included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

3.5. schematic map of the habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

3.6. list and location of typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes;

3.7. schematic map of typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes;

3.8. list of species of wild vertebrates living on the territory of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

3.9. list and location of the habitats of wild animals belonging to the [species](#) included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

3.10. schematic map of the habitats of wild animals belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

3.11. list of migratory clusters of wild animals, colonial settlements of birds and/or mammals (if there are such clusters, settlements);

3.12. schematic map of migratory clusters of wild animals, colonial settlements of birds and/or mammals (if there are such clusters, settlements);

3.13. list of forest quarters and taxation plots of forest fund lands that are planned to be included in the territory of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), their protection zones, as well as a list of forest quarters and taxation plots of forest land funds that must

be transferred from one forest category to another and/or attribute to another category (electronically);

3.14. draft certificates and preservation [orders](#) for the habitats of wild animals and the habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the scope of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, draft certificates and preservation [orders](#) for typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes (except for the cases where the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas proposed in the scientific feasibility study ensures the preservation of typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes) (electronically), as well as information on their submission to the related territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources;

3.15. lists of the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants previously transferred under protection, belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, based on the examination results of which the need to cancel the special protection regime (upon their availability) has been established, as well as information on their submission to the related territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources;

3.16. information on land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are planned to be included in the composition of lands of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) (copies of first two pages of the constituent document or a copy of the registration certificate);

3.17. approval forms specified in [Subparagraph 1.6](#) of [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article.

4. In order to prepare the scientific feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), the following works shall be consistently carried out:

4.1. collection of available scientific and departmental information about the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) specified in [Subparagraph 1.1](#) of [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article;

4.2. on-site survey of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) in the process of which the collection of information is carried out necessary for the development of the sections of the scientific feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) and its Annexes; also, the state of valuable natural complexes and objects is assessed and factors that have a harmful impact on them are established, new habitats are identified, the habitats of wild animals and the habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus are examined, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes;

4.3. analysis whether the territory meets selection criteria for specially protected natural areas established by [Article 16](#) of this Law to declare them as the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik). In the event that the territory does not meet the established criteria, this shall be the basis to continue works on the preparation of scientific feasibility study for the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik). In the event that the territory partially meets the established criteria, this shall be the basis for reconsidering the category and/or significance of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) and carrying out works on the development of the scientific feasibility study of the transformation of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

4.4. approval (by approval pages) of the scientific feasibility study of the termination of the

functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) with the related territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources, City, District Executive Committee;

4.5. issuance of draft certificates and preservation orders for the habitats of wild animals and the habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, draft certificates and preservation orders for typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes (in the case where after the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), such places, natural landscapes and biotopes remain in their former territory);

4.6. preparation of lists of the habitats of wild animals and the habitats of wild-growing plants previously transferred under protection belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, based on the investigation results of which the need to cancel the special protection regime has been established (if there are such places, landscapes and biotopes).

5. Scientific feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve shall include the following sections:

5.1. introduction;

5.2. placement features;

5.3. justification of the need to terminate the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

5.4. assessment of environmental and socio-economic consequences of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

5.5. measures for the safeguarding of valuable natural complexes and objects after the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) (if after the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), valuable natural complexes and objects remain in their former territory);

5.6. conclusion.

6. The following shall be attached to the scientific feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik):

6.1. schematic map of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

6.2. draft certificates and preservation orders for the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, draft certificates and preservation orders for typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes (if after the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), such places, natural landscapes and biotopes remain in their former territory) (electronically), as well as information on their submission to the related territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources;

6.3. lists of the habitats of wild animals and the habitats of wild-growing plants previously transferred under protection belonging to the species included in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus,

typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes (if there are such places, landscapes and biotopes) (electronically), based on the investigation results of which the need to cancel the special protection regime has been established, as well as information on their submission to the related territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources;

6.4. approval pages specified in [Subparagraph 4.4](#) of [Paragraph 4](#) of this Article.

7. Draft certificates and preservation orders for the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, draft certificates and preservation orders for typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, lists of the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants previously transferred under protection, belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus, and/or to the species falling under the scope of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, based on the investigation results of which the need to cancel the special protection regime has been established shall be directed by the organization developing scientific feasibility study to the related territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources within a month from the date of their registration.

## **Article 21. Procedure to Prepare the Scientific Feasibility Study of the Announcement, Transformation of a Natural Monument and its Contents**

1. In order to prepare the scientific feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of a natural monument, the following works shall be consistently performed:

1.1. on-site investigation of a valuable natural complex or object during which the collection of information necessary for drawing up a draft certificate for a natural monument is carried out; also, the state of a valuable natural complex or object is assessed, factors that have a harmful impact on them are established, the boundaries of a natural monument in the system of geographical coordinates are defined, as well as photographing of a valuable natural complex or object is performed;

1.2. preparation of a map-scheme of a natural monument in case of its announcement. In the event of the transformation of a natural monument, a schematic map of a natural monument prepared upon its announcement shall be used;

1.3. preparation of a draft certificate for a natural monument;

1.4. preparation of a catalogue of coordinates of boundary turning points, defining the area of a natural monument and approval (by the stamp “Approved” on the map-scheme of a natural monument) of the boundaries, the area of a natural monument with land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are planned to be included in the composition of lands of the declared, transformed natural monument with interested state bodies and other organizations, as well as with the republican organization for the state registration of the real estate, rights to it and transactions with it. In the case where a natural monument is represented by a single natural object (tree, boulder, spring, etc.), the coordinates of the center of the natural object shall be indicated;

1.5. preparation of a regime for the safeguarding and use of a natural monument and its approval (by approval pages) with land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are planned to be included in the composition of lands of the declared, transformed natural monument by interested state bodies and other organizations.

2. Scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of a natural monument shall include the following sections:

- 2.1. introduction;
- 2.2. placement features;
- 2.3. assessment of the state of a valuable natural complex or object;
- 2.4. tourist and recreational resources;
- 2.5. historical and cultural potential;
- 2.6. factors that have a harmful impact on a valuable natural complex or object;

2.7. substantiation of the need to declare, transform a natural monument, its boundaries, the safeguarding and use regime, as well as the need to establish a protection zone of a natural monument (in the case of its establishment), its boundaries, the safeguarding and use regime;

2.8. assessment of environmental and socio-economic consequences of the announcement, transformation of a natural monument (including changes in the volume of wood procurement);

2.9. conclusion.

3. The following shall be attached to the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the natural monument:

3.1. draft natural monument certificate;

3.2. schematic map of a natural monument, its protection zone agreed with the persons specified in [Subparagraph 1.4](#) of [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article;

3.3. approval pages specified in [Subparagraph 1.5](#) of [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article.

## **Article 22. Announcement, Transformation, Termination of the Functioning of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. The announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park shall be carried out by Decision of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

The announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the special nature reserve (zakaznik) of republican significance shall be carried out by Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

The announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the special nature reserve (zakaznik) of local significance shall be carried out by Decision of the City, District Executive Committee. The special nature reserve (zakaznik) of local significance located in the territory of several administrative-territorial units shall be declared, transformed, and cease its functioning on the basis of a joint decision of City and District Executive Committees in the territory of which the special nature reserve (zakaznik) is located.

The announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the natural monument of republican significance shall be carried out by Decision of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the natural monument of local significance shall be carried out by Decision of the City, District Executive Committee.

2. In the case where the specially protected natural area is declared by Decision of the state bodies (official) specified in [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article:

2.1. the following shall be approved:

boundaries, the area of a specially protected natural area and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of a specially protected natural area, its protection zone (for the special nature reserve (zakaznik), the natural monument – in the case where the need to establish a protection zone is justified in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument);

boundaries, the area of SPNA zones and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area (for a national park);

provision on the specially protected natural area (for the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik));

regime for the safeguarding and use of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area (for the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument in the case where the need to establish a protection zone is justified in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument);

2.2. the following shall be determined:

governing body;

time limits for the establishment of the state environmental institution (in the case where a decision has been made to establish it upon the announcement of the specially protected natural area);

funding sources for the functioning and safeguarding of the specially protected natural area;

funding sources for the establishment and functioning of the state environmental institution (in the case of a decision to establish it when declaring the specially protected natural area);

funding sources for the activities related to the announcement of the specially protected natural area.

3. When transforming the specially protected natural area by Decision of the state bodies (official) specified in [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article, changes shall be introduced to:

3.1. boundaries, the area of the specially protected natural area and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone (in the case where such a zone has been established);

3.2. boundaries, the area of the specially protected natural area and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of SPNA zones (for a national park);

3.3. provision on the specially protected natural area in part of the regime for its safeguarding and use (for a nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik));

3.4. decision to declare a natural monument in part of limitations and prohibitions established in accordance with [Paragraph 5](#) of [Article 29](#) of this Law;

3.5. regime for the safeguarding and use of the SPNA protection zone (in the case where such a zone has been established).



4. When the national park is transformed, the location of the conservation zone shall not change. Moreover, its area may be increased.

5. The composition of lands of the nature reserve, national park shall include the following:

5.1. upon their announcement — lands to be transferred for permanent use to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the nature reserve, national park;

5.2. upon their transformation — lands transferred for permanent use to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the nature reserve, national park.

6. On the basis of the decision on the announcement, transformation of the natural monument, the state body that has made such a decision shall issue a certificate for the natural monument in the form established by the Ministry of Natural Resources, which shall be handed over (directed) to the land user (land users) whose land lots (parts of land lots) are located within the boundaries of the natural monument.

7. Termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area shall be carried out on the basis of the decision of the state body (official) that has taken the decision to declare this specially protected natural area.

Decision to terminate the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) shall be made on the basis of the scientific and feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik).

Decision to terminate the functioning of the natural monument shall be made on the basis of an act confirming the loss of a valuable natural complex or object for the preservation of which a natural monument has been declared.

### **Article 23. Features of the Legal Status of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area shall be carried out:

1.1. for the nature reserve — with the withdrawal of land lots from all land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the nature reserve;

1.2. for the national park — with the withdrawal of land lots from individual land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the national park;

1.3. for the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument — without the withdrawal of land lots from land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the nature reserve, natural monument.

2. The composition of lands of the nature reserve forming its territory shall include land lots provided for permanent use to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the nature reserve according to the procedure established by legislation on the protection and use of lands.

Lands of the nature reserve shall be withdrawn from economic turnover.

3. The composition of lands of the national park forming its territory shall include land lots provided for permanent use to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the national park according to the procedure established by legislation on the protection and use of lands, as well as land lots (parts of land lots) of other land users.

Land plots provided for permanent use to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the national park shall be withdrawn from economic turnover.

4. Withdrawal of land lots that are part of the nature reserve, national park provided for permanent use to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the reserve, national park shall be carried out on the basis of the Decision of the President of the Republic of Belarus on the transformation of the nature reserve, national park prepared in line with [Article 22](#) of this Law.

5. The composition of lands of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument forming its territory shall include land lots (parts of land lots) of land users on which valuable natural complexes and objects are located for the conservation and sustainable use of which a special regime for the safeguarding and use of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument has been established.

6. Capital structures (buildings, facilities) located on the land lots provided to the state environmental institution that exercises management of the nature reserve, national park, and are built on the right of operational management of this state environmental institution shall only be state-owned.

7. The state environmental institution shall have the right to its own logo (badges, flags, emblems, etc.).

## **CHAPTER 7 REGIME FOR THE SAFEGUARDING AND USE OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

### **Article 24. Regime for the Safeguarding and Use of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. The regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas shall be established by this Law, as well as:

1.1. by the provision on the specially protected natural area — for the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik);

1.2. by the decision of the state body on the announcement, transformation of the natural monument — for the natural monument.

2. In specially protected natural areas, except for the cases of the emergency prevention and response, including its consequences, upon receipt, according to the procedure prescribed by [legislation](#) in the field of the protection of the population and territories from emergencies, of information about the threat or occurrence of an emergency situation (hereinafter — “the emergency prevention and response, including its consequences”), as well as the implementation of measures determined by the SPNA Management Plan, the following shall be prohibited, unless otherwise provided for by legislative acts:

2.1. exploration and development of mineral deposits;

2.2. discharge of waste water into the environment;

2.3. washing of motor vehicles;

2.4. execution of works on hydrotechnical reclamation, works related to changes in the existing hydrological regime (except for the works on its restoration, reconstruction, as well as

repair and maintenance works ensuring the functioning of melioration systems, separately located hydraulic structures, inland waterway structures and flood protection facilities);

2.5. burning of dry vegetation, standing grass, as well as stover and crop residues (except for the cases of carrying out of scientifically substantiated works on the burning of vegetation to improve the habitat of wild animals belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species subject to the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus and other cases stipulated by legislative acts);

2.6. burning of felling residues during forest felling, carrying out of works on the removal, withdrawal of tree and shrub vegetation (except for the cases of burning of felling residues in the foci of forest pests and diseases);

2.7. introduction of alien wild animals and plants (except for the introduction of plants within the boundaries of botanical natural monuments where such activity is scientific-research and has no negative impact on valuable natural complexes and objects);

2.8. construction of industrial, communal and warehouse facilities, gas-filling stations, service stations and car washes, livestock facilities; waste storage, burial, neutralization and utilization facilities, residential development objects, placement of summer livestock camps, establishment of new horticultural partnerships and dacha cooperatives;

2.9. placement of individual tents and tent camps, campgrounds, other equipped areas and recreation sites, parking lots for motor vehicles, building fires (except for building fires in recreation areas identified by technological maps for the development of logging areas, on equipped sites bordered with a mineralized (purified to the mineral soil layer) strip of at least 0.25 meters wide, in places excluding fire damage to crowns, trunks and root paws of growing trees) outside the places determined by the management plan for specially protected natural areas or by the Decision of the City, District Executive Committee;

2.10. carrying out of final felling;

2.11. piling and applying of chemical plant protection agents using the aviation method (except for the cases where there is a threat of mass losses of forest plantations as a result of an impact of forest pests and diseases), their growth regulators, fertilizers;

2.12. withdrawal, removal, damage, destruction of tree and shrub vegetation, living ground cover and the forest floor, removal of the fertile soil layer, including underlying material, except for the cases of implementation, unless otherwise prescribed by this Law, of the following:

agricultural works (on agricultural lands) and forestry measures;

measures for preventing the colonization of agricultural lands and open swamps by tree and shrub vegetation;

fire prevention measures;

measures related to the restoration of the number (reintroduction) of populations of wild animals and wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

measures for controlling the spread and number of invasive alien wild animals and invasive plants;

works on the restoration of a hydrological regime, reconstruction of reclamation systems,

separately located hydraulic structures, as well as maintenance and repair works providing for their operation;

works on the construction of engineering networks and transport communications;

works on the relocation of existing buildings and facilities within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas, placement, fitting out and/or improvement of buildings and facilities for the purposes of forestry and hunting, hunter and/or fisherman's houses, environmental information centers, constructions and sites of worship, equipped recreation sites, beaches and ecological paths, parking lots for motor vehicles, boat docks in places determined by the SPNA Management Plan or by decision of the City, District Executive Committee;

works on the establishment, maintenance and protection of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus;

works on clearing of compartment lines, felling (removal) of dangerous trees, works on the skidding and hauling of timber during felling not prohibited by this Law and the provision on specially protected natural areas;

scientific-research works carried out within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas in accordance with legislation without causing any harm to valuable natural complexes and objects;

2.13. use by legal persons and individuals of water vehicles with internal combustion engines over 15 horsepower, except for water vehicles:

of border service authorities and contracting organizations during the performance of tasks that ensure the establishment, maintenance and protection of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus;

of bodies and divisions for emergency situations;

of the Ministry of Natural Resources and its territorial bodies;

of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Belarus;

of the state environmental institution;

of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus and its subordinate organizations during the safeguarding and protection of forests on forest fund sites located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas;

of the bodies of the State Control Committee of the Republic of Belarus;

of the State Inspection for the Safeguarding of Fauna and Flora under the President of the Republic of Belarus, its regional and interdistrict inspections for the safeguarding of fauna and flora (hereinafter referred to as "the State Inspection");

of the State Institution "State Inspection for Small Vessels";

of the Republican State Public Association "Belarusian Republican Society for Rescue on Waters" and its structural divisions;

of the tenants (users) of hunting and fishing grounds located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas;

used during the implementation of scientific-research works within the boundaries of specially

protected natural areas;

used by the subjects of the tourism industry in organizing touristic trips;

of other legal persons and/or individuals if determined by the provision on specially protected natural areas;

2.14. movement and parking of motor vehicles and self-propelled vehicles off-public roads and specially equipped places, except for motor and self-propelled vehicles:

of border service authorities and contracting organizations during the performance of tasks that ensure the establishment, maintenance and protection of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus;

of bodies and divisions for emergency situations;

of the Ministry of Natural Resources and its territorial bodies;

of the state environmental institution;

of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus and its subordinate organizations during the safeguarding and protection of forests on forest fund sites located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas;

of the bodies of the State Control Committee of the Republic of Belarus;

of the State Inspection;

of the tenants (users) of hunting and fishing grounds located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas;

used for carrying out of agricultural works within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas, forest felling, carrying out of works on skidding and haulage of timber, works on the safeguarding and protection of forests, reforestation and afforestation, restoration of the hydrological regime, reconstruction of reclamation systems, separately located hydraulic structures, as well as repair and maintenance works that ensure their operation;

used during the implementation of scientific-research works within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas;

used during the implementation within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas of works on the maintenance, service, repair, reconstruction, restoration of facilities used for the safeguarding and functioning of specially protected natural areas, building services systems and transport communications, environmental awareness-raising, as well as measures to maintain valuable natural complexes and objects in proper condition;

used during the development and/or improvement of the territory, development of ecological paths, construction of facilities not prohibited in accordance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas;

2.15. ploughing of lands in coastal strips (except for works on the development of mineralized strips and their maintenance, as well as on preparing the soil for the grassland establishment, reforestation and afforestation);

2.16. conducting of scientific experiments with natural complexes and objects located within

the boundaries of specially protected natural areas, which may lead to a harmful impact on them, violation of the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas.

3. In order to optimize the regime for the safeguarding and use of the national park, taking into account the nature protection, historical and cultural, environmental, sanitary and hygienic, health-improving, recreational and other properties of valuable natural complexes and objects, as well as other objects located within the boundaries of the national park, its zoning shall be carried out.

Each of the zones of the national park may be territorially separated and consist of several sections.

4. The state environmental institution, and in the case where it has not been established, the governing body shall make available to the public of information about the boundaries, regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas (including national park zones), and for nature reserves, national parks, special nature reserves (zakazniks) — also information on sites (places) specially provided for various purposes in accordance with [Articles 26-28](#) of this Law by posting it on their official websites over the global computer network Internet and/or in the mass media, installing information signs containing such information, or by other generally accessible means.

5. The regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas shall be taken into consideration during the development and implementation of concepts, projections, programmes, action plans, sectoral development schemes the implementation of which is associated with the use of natural resources and/or may have an impact on the environment, during the development and implementation of projects and schemes for land management, urban planning projects, sectoral schemes for the location and development of production and transport and engineering infrastructure objects, land reclamation projects, mining development plans, projects for justifying the boundaries of mining allotments, projects for water protection zones and coastal strips, the republican integrated scheme for the placement of fishing grounds, forest management projects, the projects for hunting management and planning of recreation areas.

6. Planning and carrying out of economic and another activity within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas shall be exercised taking into consideration and complying with the regime for its safeguarding and use.

7. Land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands forming specially protected natural areas, as well as other individuals and legal persons, carrying out economic and another activity in specially protected natural areas shall be obliged to comply with the regime for its safeguarding and use.

8. Implementation of activities other than those specified in [Paragraph 2](#) of this Article as a result of which a harmful impact on valuable natural complexes and objects located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas is exerted or may be exerted, or which contradict the goals and objectives determined during the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area shall be prohibited.

## **Article 25. Protection Zone of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. In order to prevent or mitigate harmful impacts on valuable natural complexes and objects located within the boundaries of the nature reserve, national park, a protection zone of the nature reserve, national park shall be established.

If in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument for the purposes of preventing or mitigating of harmful impacts on valuable natural complexes and objects located within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument, the need to establish the protection zone of the special nature reserve, natural monument has been justified, such a zone shall be established by decision on the announcement, transformation of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument.

2. The composition of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area shall include lands located in adjacent territories, as well as lands located within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, but not included in the composition of lands forming its territory.

3. Boundaries of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area shall be determined on the basis of the condition of inadmissibility of a harmful impact of economic and another activity on valuable natural complexes and objects located within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, which may lead to the disturbance, degradation or loss of these natural complexes and objects.

4. Boundaries, the area of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area, a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area and the regime for the safeguarding and use of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area shall be established by the state body (official) deciding on the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area and shall be taken into consideration during the development and implementation of concepts, projections, programmes, action plans, sectoral development schemes the implementation of which is associated with the use of natural resources and/or may have an impact on the environment, during the development and implementation of projects and land management schemes, urban planning projects, sectoral schemes for the placement and development of production and transport and engineering infrastructure, land reclamation projects, plans for the development of mining operations, projects for justifying the boundaries of mining allotments, projects for water protection zones and coastal strips, a republican integrated scheme for the placement of fishing grounds, forest management projects, projects for hunting management and planning of recreation areas.

5. The state environmental institution, and in the case where it has not been established, the governing body shall make information about the boundaries, the regime for the safeguarding and use of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area publicly available by posting it on its official websites over the global computer network Internet and/or in the mass media or by other generally accessible means.

6. Land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area, as well as other legal persons and individuals shall be obliged to comply with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the protection zone of the specially protected natural area.

## **Article 26. Regime for the Safeguarding and Use of a Nature Reserve**

1. Valuable natural complexes and objects located within the boundaries of the nature reserve shall be withdrawn from economic turnover.

2. In the nature reserve, all types of activity shall be prohibited, except for activity aimed at:

2.1. preserving valuable natural complexes and objects in their natural state and preventing changes in their state as a result of an anthropogenic impact (including measures regulating the distribution and number of invasive alien wild animals and invasive plants, which are carried out on the basis of the Management Plan for a Nature Reserve);

2.2. maintaining conditions that ensure the fire safety of the nature reserve (creating of fire lines and maintaining them, carrying out of measures to extinguish fires);

2.3. preventing and responding to emergency situations and their consequences;

2.4. carrying out of comprehensive monitoring of nature reserve's ecosystems, as well as other types of environmental monitoring;

2.5. carrying out of scientific research;

2.6. environmental awareness-building (including scientific and educational, as well as educational excursions along the routes (ecological paths) defined by the Management Plan for a Nature Reserve, provided that an organized group of visitors does not exceed 20 people and accompanied by the employees of the state environmental institution);

2.7. safeguarding the nature reserve and exercising control (supervisory) activity related to visiting the nature reserve.

3. On specially designated sites of the nature reserve not including valuable natural complexes and objects for the preservation of which the nature reserve was declared, the following types of activity shall be allowed aimed at ensuring the functioning of the nature reserve and the life of citizens living within its boundaries:

3.1. arranging water bodies and fire-prevention systems for fire-prevention purposes;

3.2. constructing and clearing of non-public forestry and forest roads without artificial turf for fire-prevention purposes;

3.3. constructing and maintaining capital structures (buildings, facilities) used for the safeguarding of the nature reserve, environmental awareness-building;

3.4. carrying out other felling;

3.5. carrying out rehabilitation activities aimed to prevent the degradation of valuable natural complexes and objects;

3.6. carrying out sanitary and veterinary, therapeutic and prophylactic and biotechnical activities aimed to prevent the diseases of wild animals;

3.7. arranging of routes (ecological paths) and conducting excursions along them, other environmental awareness-building activities accompanied by guides or employees of the state



environmental institution;

3.8. grazing of cattle, picking up berries and mushrooms, haymaking, amateur fishing and other types of natural resource management aimed at ensuring the functioning of the nature reserve and the life of citizens residing (registered at the place of residence, place of stay) within its boundaries, their spouses, other close relatives, employees of the state environmental institution (including those who have retired from this institution), as well as citizens temporarily staying at hotels and guest houses of the nature reserve. The state environmental institution shall provide information to citizens living within the boundaries of the nature reserve and temporarily staying at hotels and guest houses of the nature reserve about the boundaries of the areas specially designated for the grazing of cattle, picking up berries and mushrooms, haymaking, amateur fishing and other types of natural resource management.

4. A list, boundaries of specially designated areas of the nature reserve and the regime for carrying out of activities within their boundaries shall be established on the basis of decision of the Scientific and Technical Council of the nature reserve in coordination with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and shall be included in the Management Plan for a Nature Reserve.

5. Visiting the nature reserve (except for specially designated areas) by legal persons and individuals shall be prohibited, except for:

5.1. officials of the state environmental institution, the Administration of the Affairs of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Natural Resources and its territorial bodies, bodies and departments for emergency situations, the State Inspectorate and the bodies of the State Control Committee of the Republic of Belarus during the performance of their official duties, as well as employees of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, other legal persons carrying out scientific activity whose access to the reserve shall be exercised by agreement with the state environmental institution;

5.2. organized groups of visitors of no more than 20 people along the routes (ecological paths) defined by the Management Plan for a Nature Reserve in compliance with the standards for the permissible load on the nature reserve and accompanied by the employees of the state environmental institution.

## **Article 27. Regime for the Safeguarding and Use of a National Park**

1. The following shall be established within the boundaries of the national park:

1.1. conservation area destined to preserve valuable natural complexes and objects in their natural state, ensure the natural course of natural processes;

1.2. regulated use zone destined for the preservation and restoration (reproduction) of valuable natural complexes and objects;

1.3. recreational area destined for recreation, tourism, leisure time and health improvement of citizens;

1.4. economic zone designed to ensure the functioning of the national park;

1.5. other zones (if there is a need for establishing them justified in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the national park).

2. All types of activity shall be prohibited within the boundaries of the conservation area, except for activity aimed at:

2.1. preserving valuable natural complexes and objects in their natural state and preventing changes in their state as a result of an anthropogenic impact;

2.2. maintaining conditions that ensure the fire safety of the national park (creating fire lines and maintaining them, implementing measures to extinguish fires);

2.3. preventing and responding to emergency situations and their consequences;

2.4. comprehensive monitoring of national park's ecosystems, as well as other types of environmental monitoring;

2.5. carrying out of scientific research;

2.6. environmental education (including scientific and educational, as well as educational excursions along the routes (ecological paths) defined by the Management Plan for a National Park in compliance with standards for the permissible load on the national park and accompanied by the employees of the state environmental institution);

2.7. safeguarding the national park and carrying out of control (supervisory) activity related to visiting this zone.

3. Within the boundaries of the regulated use zone, apart from the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law, the following shall be prohibited:

3.1. erection of construction facilities, except for:

objects of a permanent forest seed base;

facilities for biotechnical activities;

facilities for restoring the hydrological regime;

facilities for arranging recreation sites and ecological paths, hunter and/or fisherman's houses, ecological information centers in accordance with the Management Plan for a National Park;

objects destined for the establishment, maintenance and protection of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus;

relocation within the regulated use zone of existing buildings and facilities;

3.2. placing tourist infrastructure facilities (except for hunter and/or fisherman's houses, equipped recreation sites and ecological paths in accordance with the Management Plan for a National Park);

3.3. carrying out of works that can cause the development of soil erosion, erosion, collapse or other disturbances of the natural state of the relief and soils;

3.4. withdrawal of water from water bodies for industrial and economic needs;

3.5. removal, relocation, painting (including making inscriptions), damage (splitting, potting, scratching, except for sampling of geological materials) to boulders;

3.6. final felling and resin procurement;

3.7. clearing of vegetation at coastal strips and aquatic vegetation (except for the sites determined by the Management Plan for a National Park or by the decision of the City, District

Executive Committee for equipping the sites and areas of recreation, as well as the areas of medical, sanatorium-resort, health-improving facilities);

3.8. carrying out of biotechnical activities (except for the activities determined by the Management Plan for a National Park);

3.9. regrassing of meadows;

3.10. carrying out of activities on improving of meadows, haying during the period from March 1 to June 15.

4. In certain areas of the zone of regulated use determined by the provision on the national park the following shall be prohibited:

4.1. forest felling, except for:

felling of dangerous trees in relation to highways, air communications and power transmission lines;

felling of forests carried out during the implementation of measures to prevent overgrowing of open swamps with trees and shrubs;

felling of forests carried out during the implementation of measures for the conservation and restoration (reintroduction) of populations of wild animals and wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

selective sanitary felling;

clear sanitary felling in cases of damage, mortality, loss of biological sustainability of forest plantations as a result of an impact of pests and forest diseases, forest fires, unfavorable environmental factors, economic and another activity that caused an irreversible loss of their viability and/or the ability to perform target functions, provided that forestry activities may not lead to the conservation and improvement of plantations;

4.2. carrying out of regeneration felling, formation (re-formation) felling;

4.3. clearing up the mess;

4.4. regrassing and other forms of improving meadows, haying;

4.5. use of machinery during haymaking;

4.6. creation of forest plantations (except for the plots of forest fund lands where the forest stand was lost as a result of an impact of pests and forest diseases, forest fires, unfavorable environmental factors);

4.7. carrying out of hunting, fishing and other types of use of animal kingdom objects within the time limits established by the provision on the national park;

4.8. procurement of tree saps and implementation of other types of use of plant kingdom objects within the time limits established by the provision on the national park;

4.9. construction of utility networks and transport communications;

4.10. construction and reconstruction of utility networks and transport communications during

the period from March 1 to August 31.

5. Within the boundaries of the recreational zone, in addition to the types of activities specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law, the following shall be prohibited:

5.1. final felling and procurement of resin;

5.2. clearing of vegetation at coastal strips and aquatic vegetation (except for the sites determined by the Management Plan for a National Park or by the decision of the City, District Executive Committee for equipping the sites and zones of recreation, as well as the areas of medical, sanatorium-resort, health-improving facilities);

5.3. plowing of lands at a distance of up to 100 meters from the coastal strip of water bodies (except for the cases where soil is prepared for grassing, reforestation and afforestation);

5.4. carrying out of biotechnical activities (except for the activities determined by the Management Plan for a National Park).

6. In certain parts of the recreational zone determined by the provision on the national park, the following shall be prohibited:

6.1. carrying out of forest felling, except for:

felling of dangerous trees in relation to highways, air communications and power transmission lines;

felling of forests carried out during the implementation of measures to prevent overgrowing of open swamps with trees and shrubs;

felling of forests carried out during the implementation of measures for the conservation and restoration (reintroduction) of populations of wild animals and wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

selective sanitary felling;

clear sanitary felling in cases of damage, mortality, loss of biological sustainability of forest plantations as a result of an impact of pests and forest diseases, forest fires, unfavorable environmental factors, economic and another activity that caused an irreversible loss of their viability and/or the ability to perform target functions, provided that forestry activities may not lead to the conservation and improvement of plantations;

6.2. regeneration felling, formation (re-formation) felling;

6.3. clearing up the mess;

6.4. carrying out of hunting, fishing and other types of use of animal kingdom objects within the time limits established by the provision on the national park;

6.5. procurement of tree saps and implementation of other types of use of plant kingdom objects within the time limits established by the provision on the national park.

7. Placement of tourist camps, equipped zones and sites of recreation, places for making fires, places and objects of worship, ecological information centers in the territory of the recreational zone shall be carried out in places determined by the Management Plan for a National Park or by

the decision of the City, District Executive Committee.

8. Within the boundaries of the economic zone, in addition to the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law, final felling and procurement of resin shall be prohibited.

Economic and another activity within the boundaries of the economic zone not interfering with the preservation of valuable natural complexes and objects shall be carried out using the best available technical methods.

9. Within the boundaries of the regulated use zone, recreational and economic zones, except for limitations and prohibitions imposed by this Law on the implementation of economic and another activity by the provision on the national park in cases of the justified need specified in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the national park, additional limitations and prohibitions may be imposed necessary to ensure the preservation of valuable natural complexes and objects within the boundaries of these zones.

10. A regime for the safeguarding and use of other zones in the case of their determination shall be established by the provision on the national park.

11. Measures aimed at combating invasive alien wild animals and invasive plants in the national park shall be carried out on the basis of the decision of the Scientific and Technical Council of the national park by coordination with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

12. In the event of an emergency response and its consequences upon receipt, in accordance with the procedure established by legislation in the field of protection of the population and territories from emergency situations, of information on the occurrence of an emergency situation (hereinafter referred to as “an emergency response and its consequences”) within the boundaries of the national park (except for the conservation area), selective sanitary felling, clear sanitary felling shall be allowed, and limitations and prohibitions established by [Subparagraphs 3.4 and 3.7 of Paragraph 3](#) of this Article shall not apply.

#### **Article 28. Regime for the Safeguarding and Use of a Special Nature Reserve (Zakaznik)**

1. Within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), taking into consideration the peculiarities of valuable natural complexes and objects located on its territory, a territorially differentiated regime for its safeguarding and use shall be established with the restriction of certain types of activity, including natural resource management.

2. Within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), apart from the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law, the following shall be prohibited:

2.1. felling, removal, destruction, damage, withdrawal of trees of common oak, beech, Norway maple, elm (elm, field elm), common ash, linden, Douglas fir, cedar, curly birch (except for the cases of their felling according to the forest pathology state and felling (removal) of dangerous or fallen trees);

2.2. erection of construction objects, except for:

utility networks and transport communications;

parking lots of motor vehicles, hunter and/or fisherman’s houses, environmental information centers, facilities for the arrangement and/or improvement of beaches and mass recreation places near water, other recreation zones and sites, boat piers, tourist stops, ecological paths in places

determined by the Management Plan for the Special Nature Reserve (zakaznik) or by the decision of the City, District Executive Committee;

buildings and facilities for the purposes of forestry and hunting husbandry;

objects destined for the establishment, maintenance and protection of the State Border of the Republic of Belarus;

relocation of existing buildings and facilities within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik);

2.3. clearing of vegetation at coastal strips and aquatic vegetation, except for:

sites of water extraction by motorized vehicles of the bodies and units for emergency situations and legal persons conducting forestry during the emergency response and its consequences;

areas determined by the Management Plan for the Special Nature Reserve (zakaznik) or by the decision of the City, District Executive Committee for the arrangement of beaches and mass recreation places near water, bases (facilities) for the parking of small vessels, boat berths;

carrying out of measures to prevent overgrowing of agricultural lands and open swamps with tree and shrub vegetation;

2.4. extraction of water for industrial and economic needs from water bodies (if any) a list of which shall be determined by the provision on the special nature reserve (zakaznik);

2.5. grazing of cattle, haymaking at coastal strips from April 1 to June 15.

3. In certain areas of the special nature reserve determined by the provision on the special nature reserve (zakaznik), the following shall be prohibited:

3.1. forest felling, except for:

felling of trees dangerous in relation to highways, air communications and power transmission lines;

felling of forests carried out during the implementation of measures to prevent overgrowing of open swamps with trees and shrubs;

felling of forests carried out during the implementation of measures for the conservation and restoration (reintroduction) of populations of wild animals and wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

selective sanitary felling;

clear sanitary felling in cases of damage, mortality, loss of biological sustainability of forest plantations as a result of an impact of pests and forest diseases, forest fires, unfavorable environmental factors, economic and another activity that caused an irreversible loss of their viability and/or the ability to perform target functions, provided that forestry activities may not lead to the conservation and improvement of plantations;

felling carried out during the laying of compartment lines, the creation of fire lines and their maintenance;

3.2. final felling;

3.3. conducting of strip-gradual final felling;

3.4. regeneration felling, formation (re-formation) felling;

3.5. cleaning up the mess;

3.6. procurement of resin;

3.7. carrying out of hunting, fishing and other types of use of animal kingdom objects within the time limits established by the provision on the special nature reserve (zakaznik);

3.8. procurement of tree saps and implementation of other types of use of plant kingdom objects within the time limits established by the provision on the special nature reserve (zakaznik);

3.9. grazing of cattle, haymaking;

3.10. afforestation.

4. Within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), apart from limitations and prohibitions imposed by this Law on the implementation of economic and another activity by the provision on the special nature reserve (zakaznik) in cases of the justified need specified in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the special nature reserve, in accordance with legislative acts, additional limitations and prohibitions may be established necessary to ensure the preservation of valuable natural complexes and objects within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik).

5. In case of an emergency response and its consequences, within the boundaries of the special nature reserve (zakaznik) selective sanitary felling, clear sanitary felling shall be allowed, and limitations and prohibitions established by [Subparagraphs 2.1 and 2.4 of Paragraph 2](#) of this Article shall not apply.

## **Article 29. Regime for the Safeguarding and Use of a Natural Monument**

1. Within the boundaries of a natural monument, apart from the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law, the following shall be prohibited:

1.1. withdrawal, removal, damage, destruction of tree and shrub vegetation, live ground cover and forest floor, removal of the fertile soil layer, including the underlying bedrock, except for the cases as follows:

an emergency response and its consequences;

removal of dangerous or fallen trees, invasive plants, as well as trees, shrubs that are in an inadequate quality condition or hinder the operation of buildings, structures and other facilities;

performance of works aimed at increasing the tolerance of trees and shrubs (pruning of dry branches, cleaning and filling of wounds and voids of trunks, coupling of trunks);

performance of work on the restoration of the hydrological regime, reconstruction of reclamation systems, separately located hydraulic structures and maintenance-repair works to ensure their functioning;

performance of works related to the arrangement and/or improvement of the territory

(including works on the maintenance of lawn, flower beds, forming of flower beds and alpine hills, rejuvenation of plantations due to the planting and formation of new compositions from tree and shrub species, prevention of overgrowing of low-value tree and shrub vegetation), arrangement of ecological paths;

carrying out of measures regulating the distribution and number of invasive alien wild animals and invasive plants;

1.2. erection of construction objects (except for the performance of works related to the arrangement and/or improvement of the territory, arrangement of ecological paths, construction of environmental information centers);

1.3. final felling;

1.4. placement of tents and tent camps, tourist camps, other equipped zones and recreation sites;

1.5. holding of mass events in the absence of landscaping;

1.6. making fires;

1.7. grazing and driving of cattle.

2. Within the boundaries of a botanical natural monument, apart from the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law and [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article, the following shall be prohibited:

2.1. removal of stumps;

2.2. creation of forest crops using the introduced species of trees and shrubs;

2.3. forest felling (except for intermediate felling, forest felling carried out during the cutting and clearing of compartment lines, creating fire lines and their maintenance, clearing up the mess, felling trees dangerous in relation to highways, air communications and power transmission lines, felling of trees hazardous to the life of citizens) and removal of animal kingdom objects (except for dangerous or fallen trees, invasive plants, as well as trees, shrubs that are in an inadequate quality condition or hinder the operation of buildings, structures and other objects).

3. Within the boundaries of a geological natural monument, apart from the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law and [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article, the following shall be prohibited:

3.1. performance of works associated with the disturbance of the natural soil state (except for scientific research works on the study of natural monuments);

3.2. carrying out of blasting and other types of work that may disturb the integrity of valuable natural complexes and objects;

3.3. removal, moving, painting (including making inscriptions), damage (splitting, potting, scratching, except for the selection of samples of geological materials) of boulders.

4. Within the boundaries of a hydrological natural monument, apart from the types of activity specified in [Paragraph 2 of Article 24](#) of this Law and [Paragraph 1](#) of this Article, the following shall be prohibited:



- 4.1. tapping of spring water outflow;
- 4.2. artificial channeling of waterbeds, destruction of banks and floodplains of watercourses;
- 4.3. performance of works that may lead to the pollution, clogging, depletion of water bodies and/or change in the chemical composition of water.

5. By the decision of the state body on the announcement, transformation of the natural monument in the case of the justified need specified in the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the natural monument, in accordance with legislative acts, additional limitations and prohibitions may be imposed on the implementation of economic and another activity necessary to ensure the preservation of valuable natural complexes and objects within the boundaries of the natural monument.

### **Article 30. Requirements in the Field of Environmental Protection during the Implementation of Tourist, Recreational, Health-improving and another Activity, Forest Management in Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Tourist, recreational and health-improving activities in specially protected natural areas shall be carried out in compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas and permissible load **standards** for specially protected natural areas approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

A procedure for setting of permissible load standards for specially protected natural areas shall be established by the Ministry of Natural Resources in coordination with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

2. Forest management and another activity in specially protected natural areas shall be carried out in accordance with its safeguarding and use regime.

## **CHAPTER 8 MANAGEMENT OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

### **Article 31. Management of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Management of specially protected natural areas shall be exercised by the governing body.

For the management of the nature reserve, national park by the decision of the governing body, a state environmental institution shall be established.

For the management of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument by the decision of the governing body a responsible official entrusted with the administration of issues related to the management of the special nature reserve (zakaznik), natural monument shall be appointed or a state environmental institution shall be established.

By the decision of the governing body a state environmental institution may be established for the management of a group of specially protected natural areas of different categories and types.

Reorganization of the state environmental institution and in the event of the termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, its liquidation shall be exercised by the decision of the governing body.

2. Management of specially protected natural areas in the case of the establishment of the state environmental institution shall be exercised in accordance with the SPNA Management Plan. If it is

necessary to comprehensively regulate natural and/or anthropogenic nature processes occurring in specially protected natural areas that affect natural valuable complexes and objects, carry out activities significant in terms of their volume for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas substantiated by corresponding scientific justification, by the decision of the governing body a SPNA Management Plan may be elaborated for specially protected natural areas for the management of which a state environmental institution has not been established.

3. The main objectives of the state environmental institution, and in the case where it has not been established of the governing body, shall be as follows:

3.1. ensuring compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas;

3.2. ensuring the preservation in a natural state and restoration (reproduction) of valuable natural complexes and objects located within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas;

3.3. organizing of activities in specially protected natural areas, including the activities for the restoration of ecosystems, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes, the habitats of wild animals and habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the [species](#) included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the scope of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, the preservation and restoration of environmental, environment-forming, sanitary and hygienic, health-improving, recreational and other properties of valuable natural complexes and objects;

3.4. organizing and conducting or facilitating scientific research;

3.5. organizing and implementing complex monitoring of ecosystems of specially protected natural areas jointly with scientific organizations subordinate to NAS of Belarus;

3.6. participating in the development and integration of scientifically grounded methods for environmental protection and rational (sustainable) use of natural resources in specially protected natural areas;

3.7. facilitating scientific personnel and specialists' training in the field of environmental protection;

3.8. environmental education of the population on the issues related to specially protected natural areas;

3.9. organizing tourist, recreational, health-improving and another activity in accordance with the SPNA Management Plan, its safeguarding and use regime, and permissible load standards for specially protected natural areas.

4. The state environmental institution shall have the right to administer the financial resources obtained:

4.1. from scientific, tourist, recreational, advertising and publishing and another activity not contradicting its objectives;

4.2. as gratuitous (sponsor) assistance;

4.3. from other sources not prohibited by legislative acts.

## **Article 32. Management Plan for Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. The Management Plan for Specially Protected Natural Areas (the SPNA Management Plan) shall be developed in cases stipulated by [Paragraph 2 of Article 31](#) of this Law.

2. Development of the SPNA Management Plan shall be provided by the state environmental institution and in the case where it has not been established by the governing body. Scientific organizations subordinate to NAS of Belarus may be attracted to the development of the SPNA Management Plan on a contractual basis.

3. When preparing the draft SPNA Management Plan, scientific justification shall be prepared, which must contain the following:

3.1. general information on the specially protected natural area (category, type, location, SPNA area; type, date, registration number and title of the normative legal act used to declare, reorganize the specially protected natural area, approve its boundaries and its safeguarding and use regime);

3.2. information on the physico-geographical conditions of the specially protected natural area (characteristics of the geological structure, relief, climate, hydrology and hydrography, soils, landscapes);

3.3. information on the biological and landscape diversity of the specially protected natural area (characteristics of ecosystems, communities, species and populations of wild animals and wild-growing plants, including the species of wild animals and wild-growing plants included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or falling under the scope of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes);

3.4. information on the socio-economic conditions of the territory in which the specially protected natural area is located;

3.5. assessment of valuable natural complexes and objects to establish priorities for their safeguarding and use, including for their use in tourism activities;

3.6. assessment of compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, identification of factors of a harmful impact on valuable natural complexes and objects;

3.7. assessment of the need for the comprehensive regulation of natural and/or anthropogenic processes occurring in the specially protected natural area affecting valuable natural complexes and objects; carrying out of activities on the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area and other activities.

4. The SPNA Management Plan must include the following:

4.1. goals and objectives of the management plan, its implementation period;

4.2. activities on the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, improvement of the territory within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, informing the population about the boundaries, regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area indicating its implementation period, the amount and sources of funding of these activities, as well as persons responsible for carrying out of these activities developed for five-year periods. At the end of each five-year period, the state environmental institution, and in the case where it has not been established, the governing body shall ensure the actualization of activities of the SPNA Management Plan for the period remaining until the expiry of the overall implementation

period for this Plan, and their approval according to the procedure established by [Paragraph 8](#) of this Article;

4.3. other provisions subject to determination by the SPNA Management Plan in accordance with this Law.

5. The SPNA Management Plan shall be accompanied by SPNA schematic maps, which must indicate the following:

5.1. categories and types of lands, categories of forests, the ecological state (status) of water bodies;

5.2. habitats of wild animals and wild-growing plants belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus;

5.3. typical and rare natural landscapes and biotopes;

5.4. places of setting up informative, informative-directional and other signs;

5.5. places for the accommodation of tourism infrastructure facilities (environmental information centers, ecological paths, places for the accommodation of tents and campgrounds, tourist camps, other equipped recreational zones and places, parking lots for motor vehicles, etc.);

5.6. places for temporary waste storage before their transportation to waste burial, neutralization facilities or waste utilization facilities;

5.7. sites where economic and another activity is limited in accordance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area;

5.8. sites where the implementation of measures to manage valuable natural complexes and objects (restore a hydrological regime, create favorable conditions for the habitation of wild animals, etc.) is planned;

5.9. observation points of the local network of integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area;

5.10. other sites subject to the determination by the SPNA Management Plan in accordance with this Law.

6. The SPNA Management Plan shall be developed:

6.1. within two years (unless otherwise established by legislative acts) from the date:

decision on the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area (in case of a simultaneous decision on the establishment of the state environmental institution) was made;

state environmental institution to manage the formerly declared specially protected natural area (a group of specially protected natural areas) was established;

submission was introduced by the Ministry of Natural Resources (in relation to the specially protected natural area of republican significance) or by the territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources (in relation to the specially protected natural area of local significance) or a decision of the governing body on the need to develop the SPNA Management Plan was made;

6.2. before the expiry of the implementation period of the operational SPNA Management

Plan.

7. The state environmental institution, and in the case where it has not been established, the governing body shall ensure the submission of the draft SPNA Management Plan for public discussion in accordance with legislation on environmental protection.

Minutes of public discussions of the draft SPNA Management Plan and a summary document (table) of submitted comments and proposals reflecting the results of their consideration shall be attached to the draft SPNA Management Plan.

8. The SPNA Management Plan shall be approved by the governing body in coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resources (in relation to the specially protected natural area of republican significance) or the territorial body of the Ministry of Natural Resources (in relation to the specially protected natural area of local significance), and with NAS of Belarus. The approved SPNA Management Plan shall be subject to mandatory implementation.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREA OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND ITS MANAGEMENT**

#### **Article 33. Specially Protected Natural Area of International Significance**

1. The specially protected natural area included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, lists of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, wetlands of international significance, the Emerald Network or other lists of valuable natural complexes and objects of international significance in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic Belarus shall be recognized as the specially protected natural area of international significance.

2. Preparing and submitting to international organizations of a proposal for including the specially protected natural area in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, lists of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, wetlands of international significance, the Emerald Network and other lists of valuable natural complexes and objects of international significance shall be exercised by the Ministry of Natural Resources, another state body (state organization) in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

3. Bordering specially protected natural areas of the Republic of Belarus and neighboring states (transboundary SPNAs), provided they are recognized as transboundary SPNAs in accordance with the bilateral or multilateral international treaties of the Republic of Belarus shall be recognized as specially protected natural areas of international significance.

4. Covering of costs related to the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas of international significance shall carried out from the funds stipulated by [Article 39](#) of this Law, as well as the funds of international organizations.

### **Article 34. Management of the Specially Protected Natural Area of International Significance**

Management of the specially protected natural area of international significance shall be exercised by the state environmental institution and in the case where it has not been established – by the governing body.

### **Article 35. Regime for the Safeguarding and Use of the Specially Protected Natural Area of International Significance**

In case of recognizing of the specially protected natural area of republican or local significance as the specially protected natural area of international significance, the safeguarding and use regime established when declaring the specially protected natural area of republican or local significance shall remain operational in this territory, unless otherwise established by the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MONITORING IN SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS. REGISTER OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 36. Integrated Ecosystem Monitoring in Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area is a type of environmental monitoring within the framework of the National Environmental Monitoring Framework in the Republic of Belarus and shall be organized by NAS of Belarus.

2. Integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area is a system of regular observations over the ecosystem state in the specially protected natural area performed for the assessment of their state and the effectiveness of the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, for the projected change of the ecosystem state under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors.

3. Comprehensive ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area shall be performed by scientific organizations subordinate to NAS of Belarus jointly with the state environmental institution and in the case where it has not been established – with the governing body.

4. Integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area shall be performed in accordance with established scientific organizations subordinated to NAS of Belarus in coordination with the state environmental institution and in the case where it has not been established – with the governing body for integrated ecosystem monitoring programmes in the specially protected natural area, which must include the following:

4.1. categories and types of lands, categories of forests, ecological state/status of water bodies, categories of ecosystems (with a schematic map attached);

4.2. characteristics of the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area;

4.3. ecosystem list and characteristics in the specially protected natural area in respect of which observations will be carried out, and an assessment of the state of such areas;

4.4. list and characteristics of existing and planned observation points of the National Environmental Monitoring Framework in the Republic of Belarus within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area;

4.5. list of observation points of the local network of integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area, the length of monitoring routes and their placement;

4.6. list of ecosystem components in the specially protected natural area, which will be monitored;

4.7. list of factors that have a harmful impact on ecosystems in the specially protected natural area;

4.8. observation procedure.

5. Objects of observation during the integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area shall be as follows:

5.1. SPNA territory as a whole (by the categories and types of lands, categories of forests, ecological state (status) of water bodies);

5.2. ecosystems by categories.

6. For the purposes of integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area, ecosystems shall be divided into the following categories:

6.1. forest ecosystems distinguished by the presence of forest plantations, including forest crops;

6.2. shrub ecosystems distinguished by the presence of shrub vegetation;

6.3. meadow ecosystems distinguished by the presence of herbaceous perennial vegetation of natural origin in dry or continental, lowland and floodplain conditions;

6.4. wetland ecosystems distinguished by the presence of hydrophytic vegetation (represented in herbaceous bogs with dominated hydrophytic-herbaceous vegetation, moss bogs with dominated hydrophytic-moss vegetation);

6.5. aquatic ecosystems distinguished on water bodies, including watercourses (rivers, streams, canals), water bodies (lakes, reservoirs, ponds) and springs.

7. In relation to the ecosystems of anthropogenic origin (barren, segetal, residential, etc.), uniting the territories transformed as a result of economic activity, which are occupied by utility networks and transport communications, observations shall not be carried out. Their presence is taken into consideration when analyzing the composition of lands and ecosystems in the specially protected natural area as a whole, as well as when assessing the possibility of threats to the state of ecosystems.

8. Observations over the state of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area within the framework of integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area shall be performed at observation points.

9. Observation points shall be marked on schematic maps and on the ground.

Information about observation points shall be included, according to the established

procedure, in the State Register of observation points of the National Environmental Monitoring Framework in the Republic of Belarus.

10. An aggregate of observation points within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area shall form a local network of integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area.

A local network of integrated ecosystem monitoring in the specially protected natural area shall be formed in accordance with the designated use of observation points and taking into consideration the specifics of the territory, the structure of landscapes and vegetation cover, categories of ecosystems subject to integrated monitoring, their representativeness or uniqueness, the presence and a degree of manifestation of threats to their existence, accessibility for performing of observations and must ensure the sufficiency and objectivity of the information obtained for assessing the ecosystem state in the specially protected natural area.

11. Observations shall be carried out with the following frequency:

11.1. over changes in the composition of lands and ecosystems in the specially protected natural area — every 10 years;

11.2. over the state of ecosystems — at least every five years;

11.3. over threats to ecosystems along monitoring routes — once every two-five years, depending on the threat manifestation degree.

12. When carrying out integrated monitoring of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area, the following data must be obtained at observation points:

on the state of ecosystems based on the methods of bioindication and assessment of the state of environmental factors;

on the presence and degree of manifestation of threats to the existence of ecosystems.

Based on these data, a forecast of the changes in the state of ecosystems under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors shall be made.

13. For the purposes of integrated monitoring of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area, the results of observations over the components of the natural environment in the specially protected natural area obtained at observation points of other types of environmental monitoring located within its boundaries or near it and included in the State Register of observation points of the National Environmental Monitoring Framework in the Republic of Belarus may also be used.

14. The composition and content of environmental information obtained as a result of integrated monitoring of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area, the timing and procedure for submitting such information to the main Information Analysis Centre of the National Environmental Monitoring Framework in the Republic of Belarus shall be determined by the Ministry of Natural Resources in coordination with NAS of Belarus.

15. Summarized ecological information on the state of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area must contain the following:

15.1. data on the state and dynamics of the state of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area and a forecast of changes of the state of ecosystems under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors;



15.2. analysis of natural and anthropogenic factors that have a harmful effect on the state of ecosystems in the specially protected natural area, assessment of the intensity of their impact;

15.3. recommendations to improve the safeguarding and management of specially protected natural areas, conserve their biological and landscape diversity.

### **Article 37. Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNA Register)**

1. In order to provide information support for making managerial decisions in the area of specially protected natural areas, a record of specially protected natural areas shall be maintained in the Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas (the SPNA Register).

2. The SPNA Register shall include information on the categories and types of the specially protected natural area, boundaries, the area of the specially protected natural area, its buffer zone and other zones, a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area, the location of the specially protected natural area, the state environmental institution (if established), the governing body, as well as the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, whether it has the status of the specially protected natural area of international significance and other information. The SPNA Register shall also include information on reserved territories.

3. The SPNA Register shall include:

3.1. information contained in the SPNA Registration Log, which is kept in the electronic form according to the procedure established by the Ministry of Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as “the Log”);

3.2. information contained in the electronic database of the SPNA Register — the State Information Resource “Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Belarus”;

3.3. documents on specially protected natural areas and reserved territories included in the SPNA Register specified in Paragraph 5 of this Article, in hard copy and/or in electronic form.

4. The SPNA Register shall be maintained by the state organization authorized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and subordinate to it (hereinafter referred to as “the authorized state organization”).

5. The state body that has prepared a submission on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, a draft decision on the reservation of the territory planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area shall within 10 days from the date of entry into force of the decision on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, the decision on the reservation of the territory for its announcement as the specially protected natural area submit to the authorized state organization on paper, in one copy and in electronic form the following:

5.1. covering letter;

5.2. when declaring, transforming the specially protected natural area:

a copy of the decision on the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area containing information about the boundaries, the area of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone (if such a zone has been established) and a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone (if such a zone has been established), a provision on the specially protected natural

area (for the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), a copy of the natural monument's certificate (for a natural monument);

a copy of the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area, including its summary, a schematic map of the declared, transformed specially protected natural area, its protection zone with the marked boundaries of land lots and an indication of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone, as well as (if any) the boundaries of the specially protected natural area in the shapefile format (vector format of geographic files) (hereinafter referred to as "the shapefile") and a catalog of coordinates of boundary turning points of the specially protected natural area in electronic form;

5.3. upon termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area:

a copy of the decision on the termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area;

for a nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik) — a copy of the scientific and feasibility study of the termination of the functioning of the nature reserve, national park, special nature reserve (zakaznik), including its summary and a schematic map with the marked boundaries of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone (if such a zone has been established);

for a natural monument — a copy of an act confirming the loss of a valuable natural complex or object for the preservation of which a natural monument has been set up, indicating the reasons that have led to their loss, and a schematic map with the marked boundaries of a natural monument, its protection zone (if such a zone has been established);

5.4. when reserving a territory for the announcement as the specially protected natural area:

a copy of the decision on the reservation of the territory that is planned to be declared as the specially protected natural area;

a copy of the scientific substantiation for the reserved territory, including a schematic map of this territory.

6. In the case of a decision stipulating a change to the boundaries, the area of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone, a list of land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are included in the composition of lands of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone, and/or the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone and conditioned by the need to bring the decision on the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area in line with the legislative acts of greater legal force, the state body that has prepared the draft decision shall submit within 10 days from the date of entry into force of the decision its copy with a cover letter to the authorized state organization, which specifies legislative acts in accordance with which this decision has been made, on paper in, one copy and in electronic form.

7. The authorized state organization within five days from the date of receipt of the documents specified in [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article shall:

7.1. include the declared specially protected natural area, the reserved territory in the SPNA Register by making an entry in the Log; in case of transformation of the specially protected natural area, make additions to the existing record and in case of termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, make additions to the existing record indicating information about

the exclusion of the specially protected natural area from the SPNA Register;

7.2. enter the obtained information into the electronic database of the SPNA Register;

7.3. inform the state body that has submitted the documents specified in [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article in writing about the date of inclusion of the declared specially protected natural area, the reserved area in the SPNA Register and the registry number of the declared specially protected natural area, the reserved area in line with [Paragraph 9](#) of this Article, the date of additions to the existing record or the date of exclusion of the specially protected natural area from the SPNA Register indicated in the Log.

8. In the event that not all the documents specified in [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article have been submitted to the authorized state organization, or the submitted documents contain incomplete information, the authorized state organization shall within three working days from the date of their receipt inform the state body that has submitted the documents about it in writing. In this case, the actions specified in [Paragraph 7](#) of this Article shall not be taken before the submission of documents to the authorized state organization in line with [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article.

The state body shall within seven days from the date of receipt from the authorized state organization of information specified in [Part 1](#) of this Article ensure the submission of missing documents or information.

9. When including the declared specially protected natural area, the reserved territory in the SPNA Register they shall be given a registry number in the format VVVV.W.X.Y, where:

9.1. VVVV is the ordinal number assigned to the specially protected natural area, the reserved territory in the chronological order of the receipt by the authorized state organization of documents in line with [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article;

9.2. W is the digital code of the SPNA category (1 – nature reserve; 2 – national park; 3 – special nature reserve (zakaznik); 4 – natural monument);

9.3. X is the digital code of SPNA significance (1 – Republican; 2 – local);

9.4. Y is the digital code of the administrative-territorial unit (Region, Minsk), in the territory of which specially protected natural areas are located, the reserved territory (1 – Brest Region; 2 – Vitebsk Region; 3 – Gomel Region; 4 – Grodno Region; 5 – Minsk Region; 6 – Mogilev Region; 7 – Minsk). In the case of the location of the declared specially protected natural area, the reserved territory on the territory of several administrative-territorial units, the corresponding digital codes shall be marked with a slash.

10. The authorized state organization shall ensure the storage of the documents specified in [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article in hard copy (shapefiles and catalogs of coordinates of the turning points of SPNA boundaries – in electronic form) during the functioning of the declared specially protected natural area, the reserved territory, as well as within five years from the date of exclusion of the specially protected natural area from the SPNA Register.

11. The specially protected natural area shall be recognized as excluded from the SPNA Register in the case of termination of its functioning and submission of documents to the authorized state organization in line with [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article. In this case, corresponding additions shall be introduced to the existing entry in the Log. Information about the specially protected natural area excluded from the SPNA Register contained in the electronic database of the SPNA Register shall be maintained for reference purposes.

12. The authorized state organization shall at least once every six months using legal information databases monitor decision-making on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, the reservation of territories that are planned to be declared as specially protected natural areas. In the case where decisions information on which has not been submitted to the authorized state organization to include it in the SPNA Register are identified, this organization shall inform the related state body in writing about the need to submit documents in line with [Paragraph 5](#) of this Article.

Information contained in the SPNA Register for the provision of which no preliminary preparation (sampling, generalization, processing, analysis) is required shall be posted over the global computer network Internet, including using the State Information Resource “Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Belarus”.

13. Information contained in the SPNA Register shall be provided to individuals and legal persons on the gratuitous basis (except for the case stipulated in [Paragraph 14](#) of this Article) by posting it over the global computer network Internet.

14. Services for the provision of information contained in the SPNA Register to individuals and legal persons, for the provision of which preliminary preparation (selection, synthesis, processing, analysis) (hereinafter referred to as “services for the provision of information contained in the Register”) is required shall be delivered by the authorized state organization on a fee basis.

15. The authorized state organization shall deliver the following services for the provision of information contained in the Register:

15.1. providing a list of specially protected natural areas, reserved territories located within the boundaries of an administrative-territorial unit;

15.2. selecting specially protected natural areas according to a given criterion;

15.3. selecting of information, including retrospective one, about the specially protected natural area;

15.4. other services.

16. Information shall not be provided in the cases where:

16.1. the requested information is missing in the SPNA Register;

16.2. the requested information includes data on the location of the habitats of wild animals and/or habitats of wild-growing plants belonging to the [species](#) included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus and/or to the species falling under the scope of the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, except for providing such information upon reasonable requests from governing bodies, scientific and environmental organizations, as well as the users of land lots and/or water bodies in part of land lots and/or water bodies provided to them;

16.3. a copy of the scientific and feasibility study of the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area, its summary, the shapefile, the catalog of coordinates of the boundary turning points of the specially protected natural area, a copy of the scientific substantiation of the reserved territory, except for their provision upon reasonable requests of governing bodies, scientific and environmental organizations performing works on preparation of a submission on the announcement, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area in relation to which information is requested;

16.4. in relation to the requested information, restrictions or prohibitions have been imposed

on its dissemination in accordance with legislation.

17. Services for the provision of information contained in the Register shall be delivered by an authorized state organization on the basis of a civil law contract for the delivery of services for the provision of information contained in the Register (hereinafter referred to as “the Contract”) concluded between an authorized state organization and a legal person or an individual, including an individual entrepreneur interested in obtaining information from the SPNA Register (hereinafter referred to as “the person concerned”), containing the following essential conditions:

17.1. content and format of provided information (in hard copy and indicating the number of copies, and/or in electronic form);

17.2. information submission dates;

17.3. amount, procedure and terms of payment for the service related to the provision of information contained in the Register;

17.4. rights, duties and responsibilities of the Parties;

17.5. dispute settlement procedure.

18. The person concerned shall apply to the authorized state organization by directing a written request in any format indicating the proposed service related to the provision of information contained in the Register and the format of its provision.

19. The authorized state organization shall within 15 days from the date of receipt of the request specified in [Paragraph 18](#) of this Article consider it and inform the person concerned in writing about the possibility and terms of providing the requested information attaching the draft agreement in two copies or a refusal to provide the requested information stating reasonable justification.

20. The person concerned shall within 15 days from the date of receipt of the draft agreement consider the draft agreement and if he/she agrees with its content, shall sign the draft agreement and submit it in two copies to the authorized state organization.

21. The agreement shall be deemed to have been concluded from the date of the receipt by the authorized state organization of the draft agreement signed by the person concerned.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **STATE PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS.**

#### **FINANCING OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 38. State Programmes in the Field of the Development of the System of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. State programmes in the field of the SPNA system development shall be elaborated by the Ministry of Natural Resources jointly with NAS of Belarus, the Administration of the Affairs of the President of the Republic of Belarus, other interested state bodies and other organizations and must include measures aimed at the SPNA system development, as well as ensuring the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas, management of specially protected natural areas.

2. State programmes in the field of the SPNA system development shall be approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

### **Article 39. Financing of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Financing of the costs related to the functioning and safeguarding of specially protected natural areas, state environmental institutions, as well as carrying out of activities related to the announcement, functioning, transformation, termination of the functioning of the specially protected natural area shall be carried out from the funds:

1.1. of the republican budget;

1.2. of local budgets;

1.3. coming from scientific, tourist, recreational, advertising and publishing and another activity that does not contradict the objectives of the state environmental institution;

1.4. coming to provide gratuitous (sponsor) assistance;

1.5. other sources not prohibited by legislative acts.

2. Expenses of land users ensuring compliance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of a natural monument located within the boundaries of their land lots shall be reimbursed from the funds of the republican and/or local budgets.

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **SAFEGUARDING OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS. CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

#### **Article 40. Safeguarding of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Safeguarding of specially protected natural areas shall be provided by the state environmental institution that exercises the SPNA management.

2. In the case where the state environmental institution has not been established, the safeguarding of the specially protected natural area shall be provided by the governing body, as well as by land users whose land lots (parts of land lots) are located within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area.

#### **Article 41. Control over Compliance with Legislation on Specially Protected Natural Areas**

Control over compliance with legislation on specially protected natural areas shall be carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and its territorial bodies, other state bodies and organizations in accordance with the legislation on the control (supervisory) activity, on environmental protection.

#### **Article 42. Rights and Social Protection of Employees Authorized to Exercise the Safeguarding of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

1. Employees authorized to carry out the safeguarding of specially protected natural areas when carrying out field activities within the framework of the safeguarding of specially protected natural areas shall have the right to:

1.1. visit any facilities located within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, its

protection zone to ensure compliance with the requirements of legislation on specially protected areas and other legislation on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources in accordance with their competence;

1.2. check the availability of documents with the persons who are in the territory of the specially protected natural area for the right to stay in this territory and carry out activities corresponding to the regime for the safeguarding and use of specially protected natural areas;

1.3. carry out the inspection of vehicles and personal items within the boundaries of the specially protected natural area, its protection zone according to the procedure established by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus;

1.4. confiscate illegally obtained products and their capture tools from the violators of legislation on specially protected natural areas and other legislation on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources in accordance with their competence;

1.5. draw up in the cases and according to the procedure established by legislative acts, protocols on administrative offenses;

1.6. in cases stipulated by legislative acts, direct the materials on a violation of legislation on specially protected natural areas and other legislation on environmental protection and rational use of natural resources in accordance with their competence to law enforcement authorities to initiate criminal cases;

1.7. exercise other rights in accordance with legislative acts.

2. Employees authorized to provide the safeguarding of specially protected natural areas shall be subject to compulsory personal public insurance in accordance with legislative acts.

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **LIABILITY FOR A VIOLATION OF LEGISLATION ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS. COMPENSATION FOR HARM CAUSED TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS. COMPENSATION OF LOSSES TO LAND USERS, OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PRODUCTION LOSSES**

#### **Article 43. Liability for a Violation of Legislation on Specially Protected Natural Areas**

Violation of the legislation on protected areas shall entail liability in accordance with legislative acts.

#### **Article 44. Compensation for Harm Caused to the Environment in Specially Protected Natural Areas**

Harm caused to the environment in the specially protected natural area shall be subject to compensation on a voluntary basis or by a court decision by the person caused it in accordance with legislation on environmental protection.

#### **Article 45. Compensation for Losses to Land Users, Agricultural and Forestry Production Losses**

1. Land users shall be compensated for the losses caused in connection with:

withdrawal of land lots for the purpose of declaring, transforming of the specially protected natural area;

limitation (encumbrance) of rights to land lots stipulating the limitation of economic and another activity on their land lots in accordance with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the specially protected natural area, their protection zones, as well as with the regime for the safeguarding and use of the reserved territory.

Losses shall be compensated in accordance with the procedure established by legislation on the protection and use of lands.

2. Losses of agricultural and forestry production associated with the withdrawal of agricultural lands, forest fund lands to use them for the purposes not related to agriculture and forest management during the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area shall be compensated according to the procedure stipulated by legislation on the protection and use of lands.

## **CHAPTER 14 FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 46. Considering Certain Legislative Acts and Individual Provisions to Be No Longer in Force**

Shall be considered to be no longer in force:

1. [Law](#) “On Specially Protected Natural Areas” of the Republic of Belarus of October 20, 1994 (Viedamaści Viarchoŭnaha Savieta Respubliki Biełaruś, 1994, No. 35, Art. 570).

2. [Law](#) “On Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Specially Protected Natural Areas and Objects” of the Republic of Belarus of May 23, 2000 (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus 2000, No. 52, 2/171).

3. [Article 8](#) of the Law “On Amendments and Additions to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus on the Issues of Licensing of Certain Types of Activities and Considering Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Belarus to Be No Longer in Force” of the Republic of Belarus of June 29, 2006 (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus 2006, No. 107, 2/1235).

4. [Article 6](#) of the Law “On Amendments and Additions to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus and Considering the Resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus to Be No Longer in Force “On the Reorganization of the Safeguarding of the Historical and Cultural Heritage in the Republic of Belarus” of the Republic of Belarus of May 7, 2007 (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2007, No. 118, 2/1309).

5. [Law](#) “On Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Specially Protected Natural Areas” of the Republic of Belarus of July 8, 2008 (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2008, No. 172, 2/1472).

6. [Article 2](#) of the Law “On Amendments and Additions to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus Related to the Issues of Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources” of the Republic of Belarus of November 10, 2008 (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2008, No. 275, 2/1541).

7. [Clause 1](#) of [Article 13](#) of the Law “On Objects that are Only State-owned and Types of Activity Subject to the Exclusive Right of the State” of the Republic of Belarus of July 15, 2010 (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2010, No. 184, 2/1721).



8. [Article 2](#) of the Law “On Amendments and Additions to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus” of the Republic of Belarus of January 4, 2014 (National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus of January 23, 2014, 2/2128).

9. [Law](#) “On Amendments and Additions to the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Specially Protected Natural Areas” of the Republic of Belarus of April 28, 2015 (National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus of April 30, 2015 2/2249).

10. [Article 2](#) of the Law “On Amendments and Additions to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus” of the Republic of Belarus of January 9, 2018 (National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus of January 18, 2018, 2/2529).

11. [Resolution](#) “On the Procedure for Entry into Force of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Specially Protected Natural Areas and Objects” of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus of October 20, 1994 (Viedamašci Viarchoŭnaha Savieta Respubliki Bielaruś, 1994, No. 35, Art. 571).

#### **Article 47. Transitional Provisions**

1. This Law shall apply to relations in the field of specially protected natural areas that have arisen after its entry into force.

Decisions of state bodies (officials) on the announcement, transformation of the specially protected natural area adopted in accordance with the established procedure before entry into force of this Law shall not be brought in line with it until the next transformation of the specially protected natural area in accordance with the scheme for the rational placement of the specially protected natural area of republican significance, with regional schemes for the rational placement of the specially protected natural area of local significance or the SPNA Management Plan. At that, such specially protected natural areas shall be subject to restrictions and prohibitions established both by this Law and specified decisions of state bodies (officials).

2. Before bringing legislation in line with this Law, legislative acts shall apply in part they are not in contradiction to this Law.

Article 48 entered into force after its official publication ([Paragraph 3](#) of [Article 49](#) of this document).

#### **Article 48. Bringing Legislative Acts in Line with this Law**

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus shall:

within three months prepare and submit, according to the established procedure, proposals for bringing legislative acts in line with this Law;

within six months:

bring the decisions of the Government of the Republic of Belarus in line with this Law;

ensure that republican government bodies subordinate to the Government of the Republic of Belarus bring their regulatory legal acts in line with this Law;

take other measures to implement the provisions of this Law.

Article 49 came into force after its official publication.

**Article 49. Entry of this Law into Force**

This Law shall enter into force according to the procedure as follows:

Articles 1-47 – in six months after the official publication of this Law;

other provisions – after the official publication of this Law.

President of the Republic of Belarus

A. Lukashenko

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*\*Non-binding translation*