

Principles of scientific exploration in the Bialowieza National Park

The main task of the Bialowieza National Park is to preserve its unique nature. All other forms of activity in the area protected as the Bialowieza National Park are subjected to this primary principle.

General principles:

1. Scientific research carried out in the Bialowieza National Park should take into account unique value of the object as well as needs of science and economy.
2. Complementary studies should be carried out in the area of the Bialowieza Primeval Forest which is not protected as a national park.
3. Scientific cooperation with the Belovezhskaya Pushcha State National Park in Belorussia should be developed.
4. The Scientific Council issues an opinion on research carried out in the Bialowieza National Park.
5. Research carried out by different scientific institutions and researchers should not infringe the rights of others..
6. Researchers are obliged to keep law and order.
7. Complex studies have priority over contributory and occasional ones.
8. Scientific institutions and researchers having permission to carry out studies in the Bialowieza National Park are obliged to obey present rules.

Aims of scientific reserach in the Bialowieza National Park.

The basic aims of scientific research carried out in the Bialowieza National Park are as follows: complex knowledge of all natural elements, phenomena and processes as well as knowledge of impact of various forms of human activity affecting nature and constant improvement of methods of nature conservation.

Permitted means and methods of scientific exploration of the Bialowieza National Park

1. Noninvasive observational methods of scientific exploration are fundamental in the Bialowieza National Park.
2. Experiments are permitted outside the areas protected as strict nature reserves providing that following conditions are fulfilled:
 - research need be done exclusively in the Bialowieza National Park as there is no other object meeting conditions of the experiment.
 - experiment is essential to obtain reliable results of the research which could be of major theoretical or practical importance.
 - alteration in natural elements will be space-limited and short-term and restoration to original state will be possible
 - side effects of the experiment will not cause bringing along or spontaneous invasion of alien (in terms of ecology or geography) species or forms of flora and fauna.
 - the experiment will not include introduction of alien species of flora and fauna as well as introduction of alien substratum not possible to remove afterwards.
3. Experiments including irreversible alteration of the environment and natural processes or threatening unique forms of plants, animals and landscape in the BNP are forbidden.

4. Sample collecting is limited to essential minimum. The amount of collected material is defined in the permit to carry out research. Collection of the material to didactic or personal purposes is inadmissible.
5. Localization and method of study plots marking as well as standpoints should be cleared with and accepted by the Park Management.
6. Division of the Special Protection Area into zones of various functions and scientific intensity has been introduced so as to reduce interference of projects and damage in nature.

Planning and promoting of scientific research carried out in the Bialowieza National Park.

1. General and detailed principles of scientific exploration of the BNP are settled by the Scientific Council of the Park in cooperation with the Park Management.
2. Application of research project in the Bialowieza National Park (with information about planned methods and all other data required in the application form, available at the Park Management) should be performed at least 3 months before project begins but not later than February 28 of each year. When required by the Park Management or the Scientific Council, project leader should submit additional explanation regarding aims, methodology and course of research as well as type and amount of collected material and way of collection.
3. Foreign scientific institutions and individual researchers could obtain permit to do research in the Bialowieza National Park only when they participate in projects carried out by Polish scientific institutions respecting all the requirements of „Principles of scientific exploration in the Bialowieza National Park”
4. The Scientific Council of the Bialowieza National Park examines all research projects once a year and decides on acceptance or rejection of project. Beginning of research is possible only after receiving written confirmation of the Park Management stating terms of research conducting and finishing.
5. Project leader is obliged to submit short report on research and information on collected material after each year of studies not later than February 15 of the following year.
6. Project leader is obliged to submit final report after finishing project. The report should contain information on the course of publishing results as well as the localization of collected material.
7. On demand of Museum of Nature and Forestry of the Bialowieza National Park, project leader is obliged to collect and transmit duplicates of scientific material to the Museum. Project leader needs to be informed of such a requirement while obtaining permission to conduct research.
8. Project leader is obliged to submit 2 copies of scientific publication or an exemplar of scientific documentation of the work done in the Bialowieza National Park, proper for given scientific discipline.
9. Projects and reports from research are presented to the Scientific Council during the first session in a given year.
- The Bialowieza National Park disposes of information on research conducted in its area and renders it accessible to people and scientific institutions concerned.