



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Federal Agency
for Nature
Conservation



Ministry of Natural
Resources and Ecology of
Kaliningrad region



**Succow
Stiftung**



**Виштынецкий
природный парк**



**Eberswalde University
for Sustainable
Development**



Калининградски
й институт
переподготовки
кадров
агробизнеса



КРОУ «Виштынецкий
эколого-исторический
музей»

Russian-German project activities in Romincka Forest – towards an UNESCO biosphere region in Kaliningrad region (Russian Federation)

**Christian Welscher,
Michael Succow Foundation (Germany)**

Two current projects:

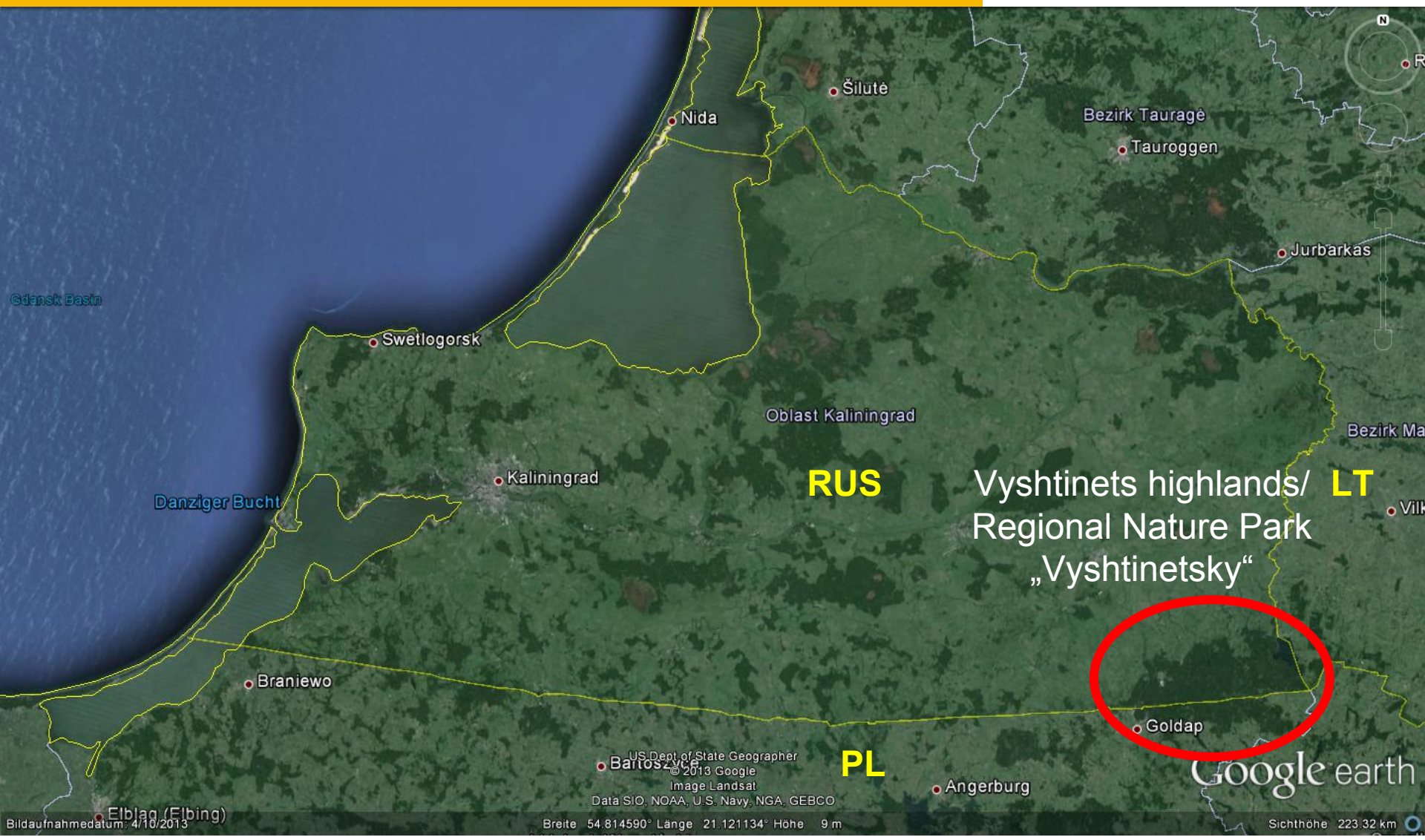
I.Preparations for the establishment of an UNESCO biosphere region in Vyshtinets highlands (Kaliningrad region, Russian Federation) (2018-2021)

II.Support of local inhabitants as stakeholders of the potential biosphere reserve in Vyshtinets highlands (Romincka Forest), Russian Federation (2019-2020)

Project region



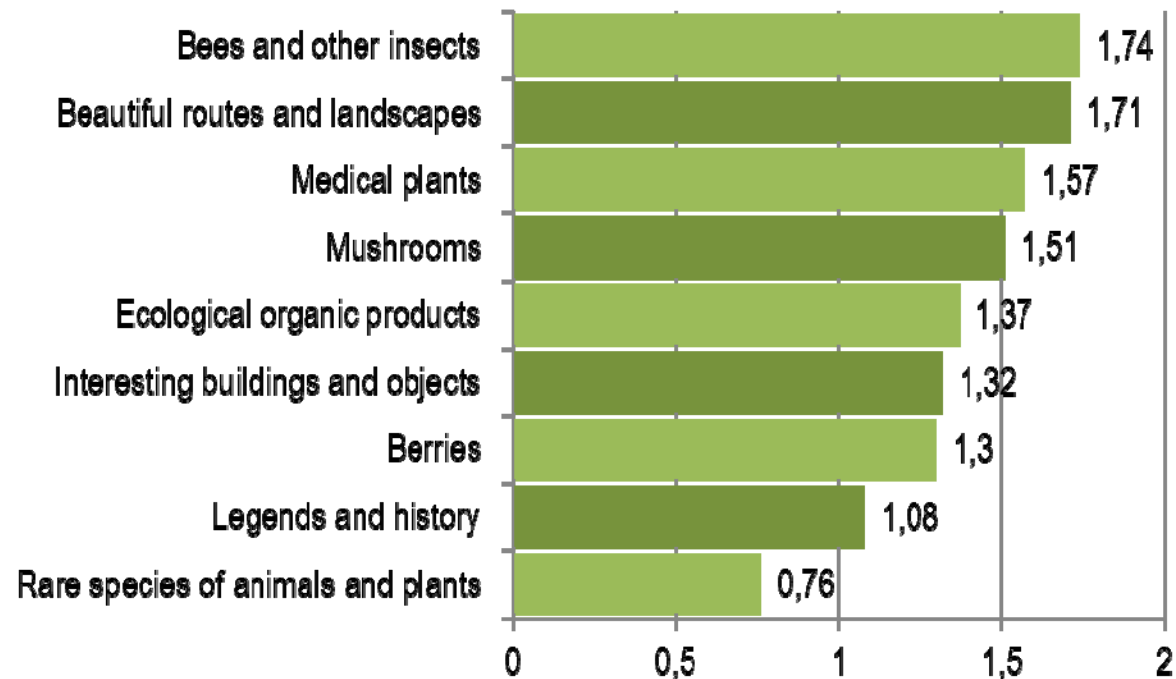
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What is the richness of Vyshtinets highlands about?



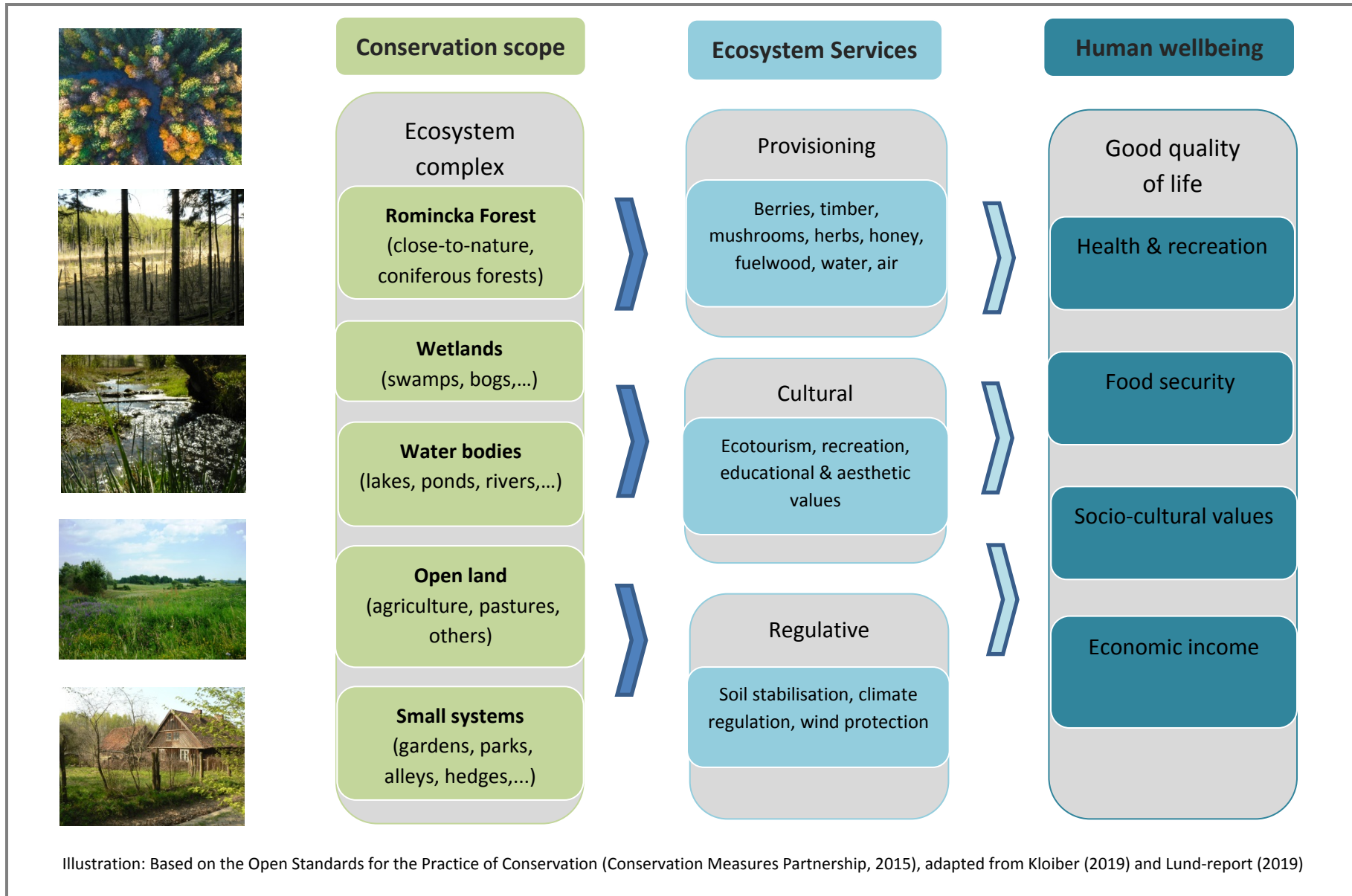
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(Source: Anna Karpenko, 63 interviews in July-August 2019)

*"For all of us, the forest is our home."
"Whoever sees our region can't forget."*

Conservation objects of planned Vishtynets biosphere reserve – including the ecosystem complexes of the entire territory as well as ecosystem services which feed into human wellbeing



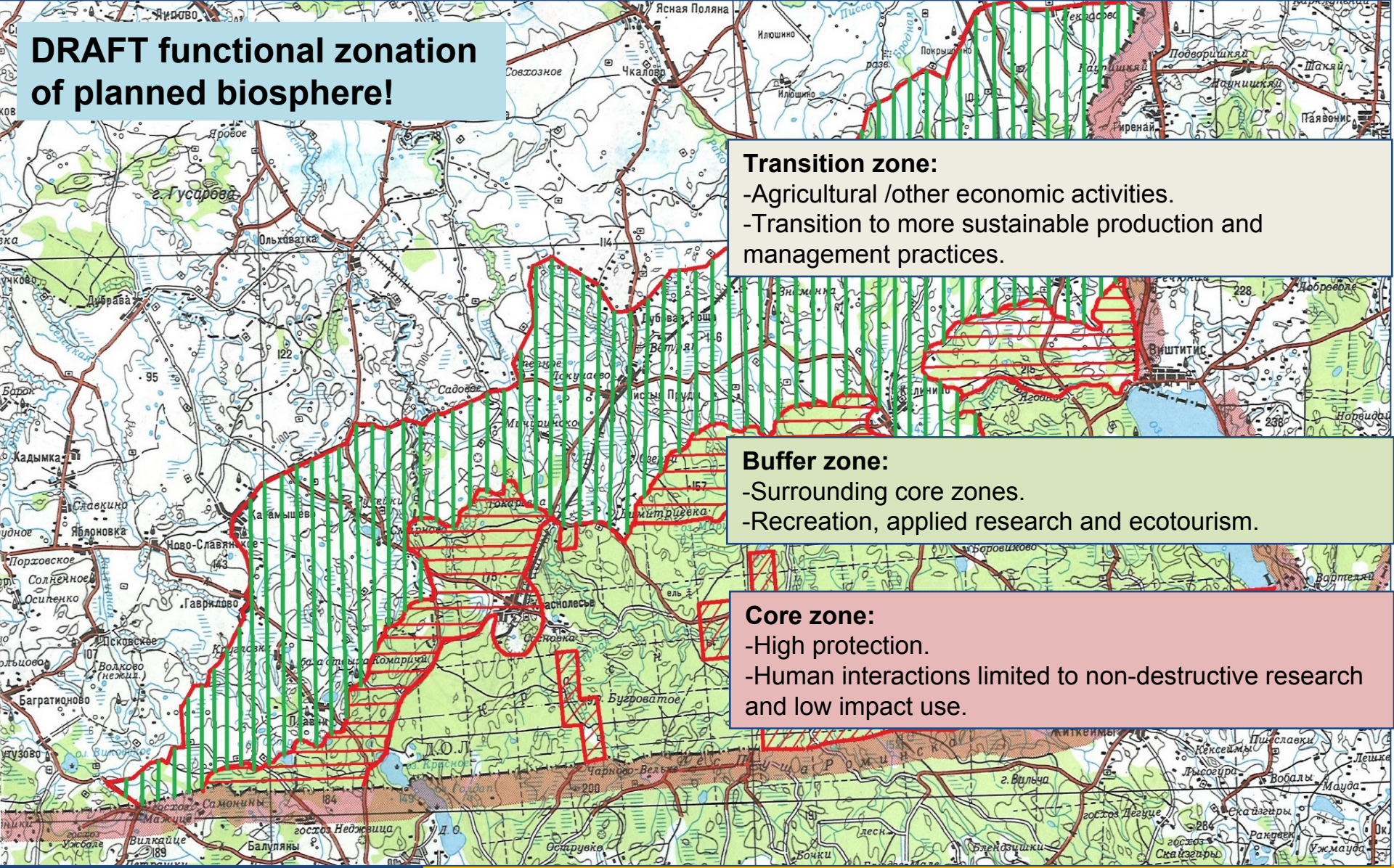


- Intensive agricultural practises
- Expansion of farming land use, landscape changing activities (drainage, crop use versus pastures and wetlands, gravel mining)
- High dependency of locals on natural resources (fire wood)
- Lack of income, alternative jobs
- Inadequate wildlife regulation and management
- Low civil participation in decisions
- Climate change and its impacts

Establishment of an UNESCO biosphere region as a tool to combine conservation and socio-economic development



DRAFT functional zonation of planned biosphere!



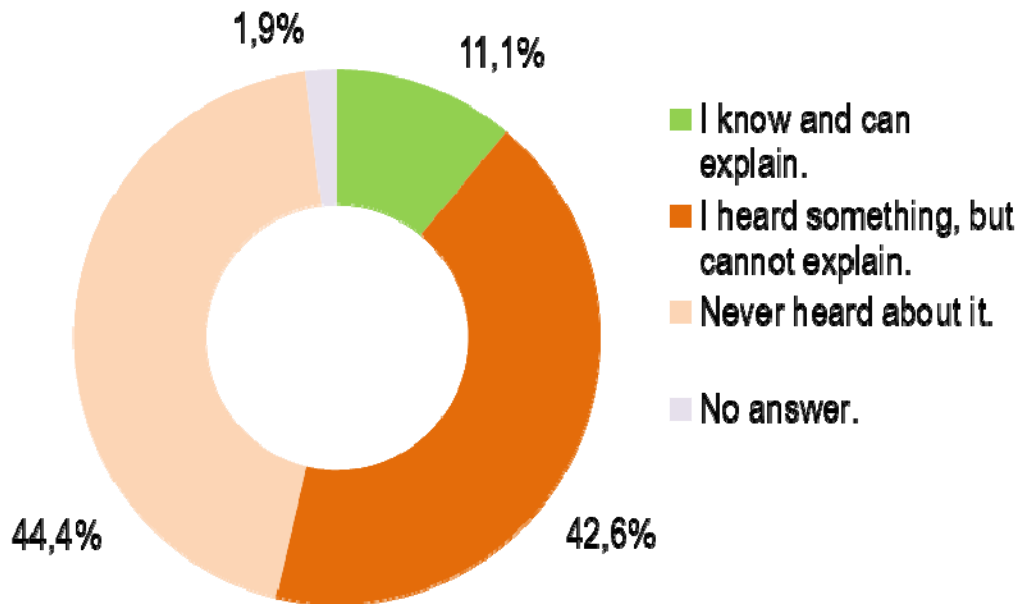
Transition zone:
-Agricultural /other economic activities.
-Transition to more sustainable production and management practices.

Buffer zone:
-Surrounding core zones.
-Recreation, applied research and ecotourism.

Core zone:
-High protection.
-Human interactions limited to non-destructive research and low impact use.



Did you hear about the concept of a biosphere reserve?



Source: Anna Karpenko, 63 interviews in July-August 2019

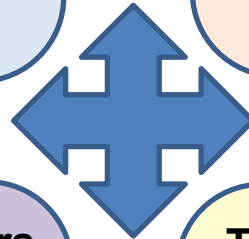


Citizen information and participation

- Information meetings in different villages in the region
- PR material on planned biosphere reserve (podcasts, video, flyer)

Strengthening communication between nature park and citizens

- Establishment of an Advisory Council



Cooperation with land resource users

- Study tour to biosphere reserves in Germany
- Management cooperation agreements

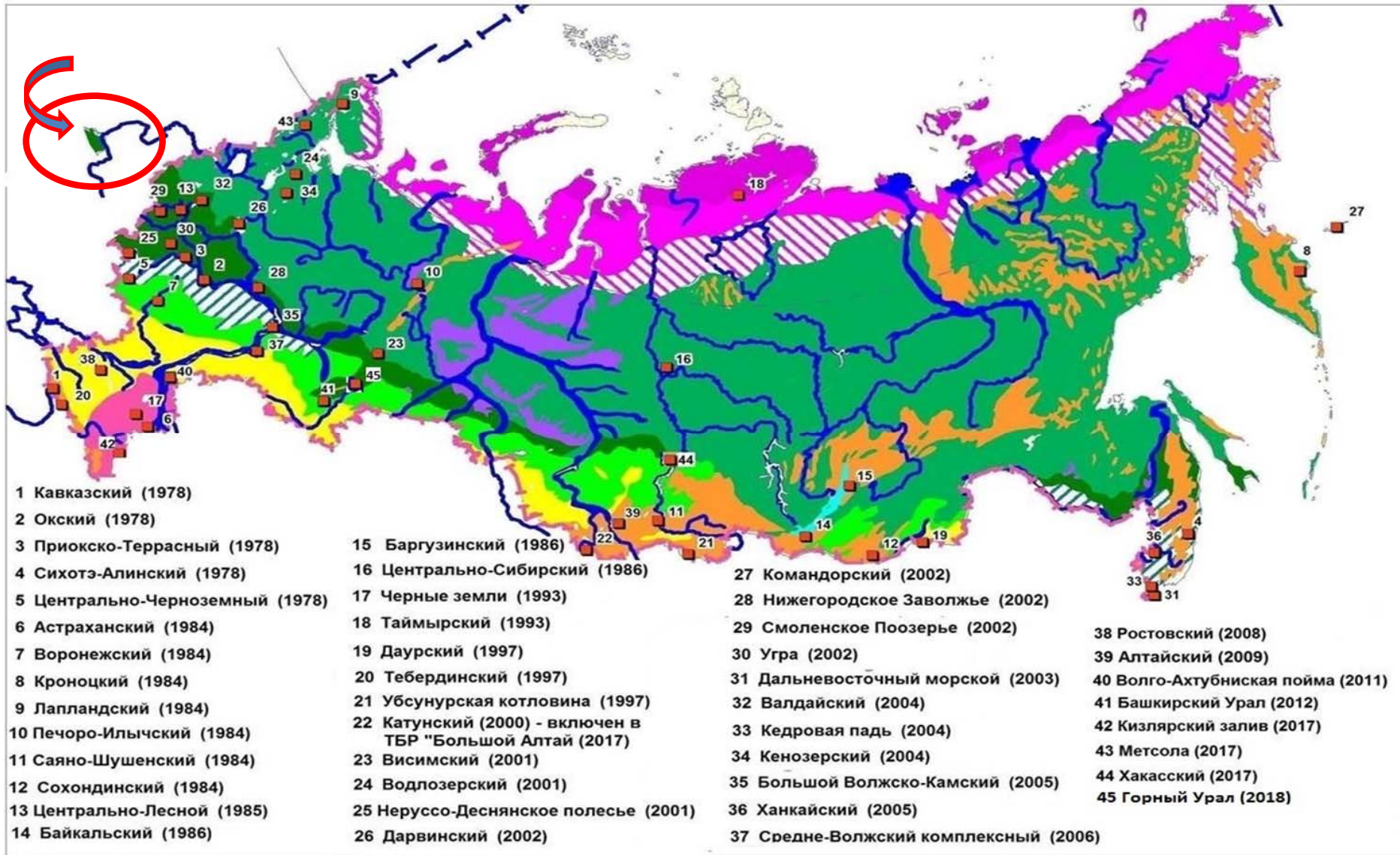
Thematic working groups

- Topics: Tourism, agriculture, forestry, conservation

Romincka Forest/Vyshtinets highlands – the 46th UNESCO biosphere region of the Russian Federation?



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Thank you for your attention!
Спасибо за внимание!



Further information:

<https://succow-stiftung.de>

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/kaliningrad>

<http://biosphere.center>