

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM « SPATIAL APPROACH TO NATURE CONSERVATION ON THE EUROPEAN NORTH: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE» (8TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "GEOGRAPHIC BASIS OF THE ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS ESTABLISHMENT IN NORTHERN EURASIA")

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the International Symposium «Spatial approach to nature conservation on the European North: from theory to practice» (8th International Scientific Conference "Geographic basis of the Ecological Networks establishment in Northern Eurasia") will be held in Murmansk Province in April 2020.

Appreciation of the importance of the green corridors between nature conservation areas (protected natural territories) has been growing across the globe in recent years. The countries of Europe and the Caucasus successfully form the Emerald Pan-European Network of important sites protecting biodiversity, including the EC Network Nature-2000. In 2010, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia.

Our Symposium will evaluate the success of the ongoing projects on ecological networking as well as identify factors and challenges affecting their progress. It aims to bring together stakeholders from the sectors of research, conservation, and industrial management as well as governmental policies, in order to increase mutual understanding and elaborate solutions for the possible conflicts of interests.

The Symposium will be organized in the **Kola Science Center**, in **Apatity, Murmansk Province, Russia**, in the preliminary dates are **20–24 April 2020**.

Main Organizers:

- Kola Science Center RAS
- Institute of North Industrial Ecology Problems of Kola Science Center RAS
- Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden of Kola Science Center RAS
- Institute of Geography RAS
- Russian Geographical Society
- Murmansk branch of Russian Botanical Society
- The Project Office for the Development of the Arctic (PORA)

Preliminary topics for sessions:

1. Territorial nature conservation as an important component for regional development. Patterns of ecological networks in different areas and under various geographical conditions.
2. Problems of guaranteeing the efficiency of the protected areas.
3. Establishment and functions of regional networks of protected areas.
4. Establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network and Inter-Regional Ecological Networks: Emerald Network / Natura-2000, Green Belt of Fennoscandia.
5. The state of the largest natural wilderness systems and ecological corridors of Northern Eurasia. Trans-boundary conservation areas.
6. Territorial problems of rare species protection, and the Red Data Books.
7. Ecosystem services of protected areas and the concept of regional 'green economy'.
8. Urban nature conservation and its place in the regional natural ecological framework.
9. Environmental education and schooling, ecological tourism in the protected areas.

Please name the text file by surname of presenter (i.e. Ivanov).

If you have to apply for a Russian visa, please check with the Russian Visa Center in your country as documents required could differ. A tourist visa can be obtained via tourist agencies in your country; this usually required the accommodation to be booked in advance. A business visa will need an official invitation from the Conference organizers. Please contact the Organizing Committee for assistance.

Travel Information.

Night train from St.-Petersburg to Apatity takes 24 hours, and from Moscow – 33 hours (www.rzd.ru). Flights from St. Petersburg and Moscow to Murmashi airport (Murmansk) take 2–2.5 hours; the then-coach trip from Murmansk to Apatity is about 3.5 hours. Flights from St. Petersburg or Moscow to the Khibiny airport (Apatity) take 1.5-2 hours (<https://hibiny.aero>)

Accommodation

There is a big choice of hotels and apartments in Apatity; information is available at <http://www.booking.com>, www.ostrovok.ru and <http://komandirovka.ru>.

The hotel nearest to the Conference venue is ‘Ametist’ Hotel (<http://hotel-ametist.ru>), which is situated in the center of Apatity. It offers standard single, double or twin, and standard quadruple rooms.

Excursions

We offer guided walks around Kirovsk city center, visiting the Museum and Exhibition Center of PhosAgro Group (<http://en.mvc-apatit.ru/>), the Museum of Development of the North in Apatity, and Geological Museum of Kola Science Center in Apatity.

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Current information on the Symposium is available at <http://inep.ksc.ru/index.php/2018-04-13-10-28-34/2020>

*We'll be very grateful for the circulation of the information about the Symposium
to those who are concerned
Looking forward to see you in Apatity*