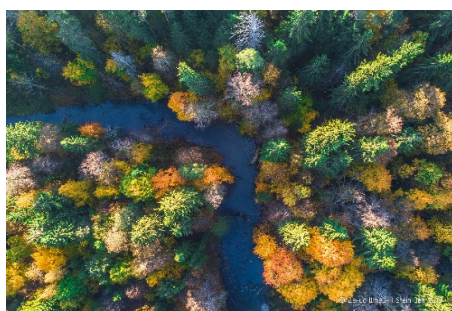


PROJECT INFORMATION

Romincka Forest - Preparations for the establishment of a biosphere reserve in Kaliningrad Region, Russian Federation

Updated: March 2023



Romincka Forest – from above

Source: Denis Stein

Background

The Romincka Forest is a glacial stamped hilly landscape in the border area between Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation, Poland and Lithuania. It spans one of the biggest undivided lowland forests in Central Europe. In 2012 the central part of the forest landscape on the Russian side was declared as Regional Nature Park "Wystinets". It includes the more densely populated peripheral areas of the hilly landscape. These areas offer great potential for near-natural management, for example, sustainable tourism or organic farming. The integration of these sectors can foster the protection of the natural environment of the Nature Park.

Project details

With this project, German experts supported Russian stakeholders, in particular those from Nature Park "Wystinets", with the nomination of the Russian part of Romincka Forest as UNESCO biosphere reserve. During the project, various thematic working groups discussed sustainable farming, sustainable tourism development, nature conservation and ways of future participation of the population in the biosphere reserve. They jointly developed proposals for implementing measures. The working groups elaborated concepts for zonation, management and governance of the biosphere reserve. Public relation activities such as the production of a corporate video and touristic leaflets further raised the acceptance of the proposed biosphere reserve. The project outputs provided a basis for the preparation of the nomination dossier for the official designation as an UNESCO biosphere reserve. The dossier was finally handed-over to the Government of Kaliningrad Region for which it would be the very first biosphere reserve.

Project country: Russian Federation
Duration: 10/2018 – 08/2022
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Environment of the Government of Kaliningrad Region, Nature Park "Wystinets"
Implementing organisations: Michael Succow Foundation, BTE Tourism and Regional Consulting
Project number: 112106

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