

## UKRAINIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE „ROZTOCZE” AND ITS VALUES

Iwona DUDA<sup>B,D</sup>, Agata RZESZUTKO-POLAK<sup>1(E,F)</sup>

1. Wydział Wychowania Fizycznego, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski

### Key words:

- reserve,
- tourist assets,
- biosphere,
- tourism

### Abstract:

The natural environment of tourist assets is a potential for development of tourist economy. Natural adaptation for tourist purposes results in its incorporation into the economic sphere. However, there are areas that require special treatment due to the riches of animate and inanimate nature. It is certainly the Southern Roztocze (often referred to as the eastern) located in the Ukraine.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 the Southern Roztocze (Ukrainian, known as Roztochya) was incorporated into the global network of biosphere reserves (MaB) UNESCO. The list of the UNESCO reserves now includes 580 sites and areas located in 114 countries. The International Programme “Man and the Biosphere” (MAB) was initiated by UNESCO in 1971. The aim of the programme is to “create a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere, and the method of achieving this is to create an international Network of Biosphere Reserves. The aim of the reserves is to protect the biodiversity and improve the ability to observe environmental changes across the entire planet. They also serve to stimulate public awareness of the links existing between the ecological and cultural diversity”<sup>1</sup>.

Reserves are created by the International Co-ordinating Council MaB at the request of the individual member countries. Each reserve comes under the legislation of the country in which it is located and can also become a member of the Network to which membership is voluntary. Reserves are aimed at enabling better observation of ecological changes on the scale of the whole planet. They fulfill three fundamental functions:

1. protective function, which consist of contributing to the protection of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic diversity,
2. developmental function through encouraging forms of economic and human development which can be regarded as socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable,
3. logistical support provided through ecological education and trainings, research and monitoring in relation to local, regional, national and global issues connected with protection and sustainable development<sup>2</sup>.

The Southern Roztocze is divided into Rawskie, Janowskie and Lwowskie. Almost entirely (except for a fragment of Rawskie Roztocze) it is situated in Ukraine<sup>3</sup>.

Roztocze Rawskie covers the part of the prominence stretching from the north-west to south-east for a length of about 45 km and width of about 12-25 km from the valley of Tanew and Żyłka (Rebizanty-Żurawce) to the upper valley of Wereszyca and Kiślanka (Mielnicz-Krechów). The western border is set by the edge on the line Huta Różaniecka- Łówcza-

<sup>1</sup> Archives of Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> Archives of Ukraine.

<sup>3</sup> J. Kamocki, *Zarys grup etnograficznych w Polsce* [w:] „Ziemia”, 1965, s. 107–108.

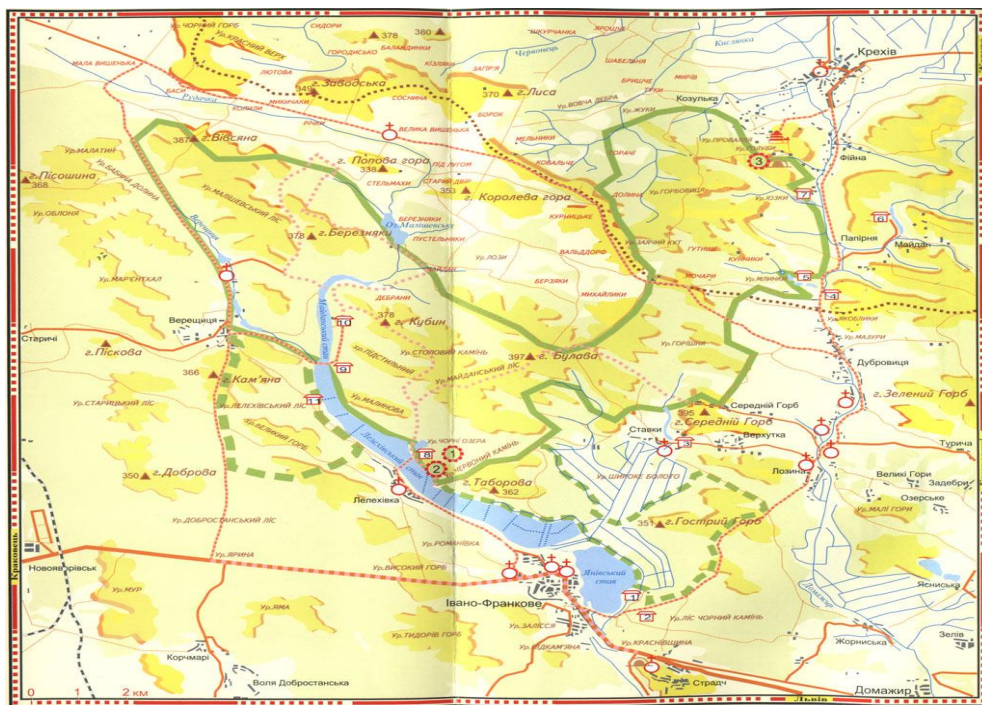
<sup>4</sup> J. Buraczyński: *Roztocze, Dzieje osadnictwa*, Lublin 2008, p. 19–24.

Brusno-Raduż-Wróblaczyn-Mielnicz. From the east it borders with Bug River Basin (Kotlina Bugu) along the lines of Lubycz-Królewska-Hrebenne-Rawa Ruska-Magierów-Krechów. The characteristic element of landform features of Roztocze Rawskie are monadnocks. The highest of them is Burakowa Niwa Hill (388,8 m above the sea level).

Roztocze Janowskie stretches across to the south from the line Kurniki-Wiszenki-Krechów to Dobrostany-Żarniska-Domażyr. From the east it borders with Roztocze Lwowskie on the line of Fujna and Domażyr valleys. This region has a length of about 17 km, and width of about 18km. The highest point, Leworda (400,3 metres above the sea level) is located in the eastern part of the region. Roztocze Janowskie belongs almost entirely to the river basin of Wereszyca.

Roztocze Lwowskie covers the south-eastern part of the prominence with a width of about 15 km. It stretches southwards from the line Krekhiv (Krechów) - Zhovkva (Żółkiew) to Domaraż- Rzęsna-Zboiska. It borders the River Bug Basin (Kotlina Bugu) along the edge of 80-100 m in height, on the line Krekhiv-Zhovkva-Zboiska-Krzywczyce-Vynnyky and Lviv Plateau from the south on a line Kozice-Rzęsna, and from the west from the line of Siechów-Stare Siolo. The highest point of Lwowskie Roztocze is Devil's Rock (Czartowska Skała) (409,0 m above the sea level)<sup>4</sup>.

Similarly to the case of the Central Roztocze, the Eastern Roztocze has also the lime-sand nature, however, it is less fragmented. Here are the highest hills, even a little more than 400 m above the sea level (Devil's Rock/Czartowska Skała and the High Castle/Wysoki Zamek). In the landscape which is largely overgrown with forests we can notice hills of the monadnock type<sup>5</sup>.



The Southern Roztocze (Ukrainian). Map of Roztocze region, Poland/Ukraine, 2007, Fot. MaKa

Due to the high natural assets of the region, in 1984 a reserve Natural Park „Reserve Roztocze” (Pryrodnyi zapovidnyk „Roztochchia) was created. It is located in the European

<sup>4</sup> W. Wójcikowski, L. Paczyński: *Roztocze...* dz.cyt., s. 11.

<sup>5</sup> J. Buraczyński: *Roztocze, Dzieje osadnictwa*, Lublin 2008, s. 19–24.

watershed, at the junction of three floral regions Carpathians, Polesie and Podole. In the Park there are about 700 of vascular plants, 40 of which can be found in the *Red Book of Ukraine*<sup>6</sup>.



Cave in Stradcz, 2011 ( fot. <http://roztocze.it.home.pl>)

In 1998, the Jaworowski National Nature Park of an area of 7 078,6 ha was established. Its attractions include, among others, the long cave in Stradcz, caverns, a spring in Krekhiv (Krechów) and the Janowski Pond (Janowski Staw)<sup>7</sup>.



Cavern in Krehiv (Grota w Krechowie), 2011( fot. [www.skyscrapercity.com](http://www.skyscrapercity.com) )

When it comes to culture, the most interesting place is Lviv – city listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site. No less interesting, from the historical point of view is Zhovkva (Żółkiew). Beautifully fit into the landscape are many orthodox churches: wooden

---

<sup>6</sup> Tamże, s. 14.

<sup>7</sup> Archives of Ukraine.



(one of the oldest orthodox churches in Europe comes from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is located in Potylicz), and brick (monastery in Krekhiv with the icon of Our Lady Wehradzka from the 18<sup>th</sup> century). A unique attraction is Jaworowski Military Training Ground, which can be visited periodically. It is the biggest training ground in Europe, which takes 29 700 ha for the purposes of training and tactical use. Geographically, the park is situated on the territory of Ukrainian Roztocze and also on the territory of the Central European watershed<sup>8</sup>.



Jaworowski National Park, (fot.K. Wojciechowski, Spring 2012).

The highest elevations of this part of Roztocze are: High Castle/Wysoki Zamek (from where you can see the exceptionally beautiful panorama) and the Devil's Rock / Czartowska Skała. According to the recent measurements, the High Castle has a height of 409.5 meters above the sea level (however, the summit has been artificially heaped) and the Devil's Rock 409 metres above the sea level (under this name lies the complex of huge stone blocks).



Devil's Rock, 2010. ( fot. <http://www.panoramio.com>)

Both areas have been protected under the International Reserve of the Roztocze Biosphere.

Roztochya Biosphere Reserves were established around the areas protected by the law of the particular country, which is necessary to ensure their long existence without drastic human interference. However, similarly to the other Biosphere Reserves it differs from the

---

<sup>8</sup> Archives of Ukraine.

classic National Parks and other forms of protection in that it has a visible zoning: a closely guarded central zone (core zone) is surrounded by another transition zones (buffer and transition zones) allowing more and more intense human economy. In this way, Biosphere Reserves include in the protection process the developed areas and local human populations with their activities, customs and culture. Biosphere Reserves are thus significantly bigger than National Parks, due to the fact that they include the developed areas<sup>9</sup>.

The area is attractive to tourists due to sanatoriums located here. There are also plans for economic development and tourism<sup>10</sup>. Reserves' function is to protect the biodiversity and enable a better observation of ecological changes on the scale of the planet. The creation of a reserve, however, contributes to the development of tourism through the enormous promotional power of the region in the world owing to the brand UNESCO. Establishing the international biosphere reserve is a huge opportunity for a balanced development of the region through such activities that will promote the rational use of natural resources.

The authorities are trying to obtain the status of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for the Polish part of Roztocze. However, the case if and when the Polish Roztocze will join this prestigious network is still not settled.

---

<sup>9</sup> A. Breymeyer: *Rezerваты biosfery w Polsce*, Warszawa 2009, p. 8.

<sup>10</sup> Archives of Ukraine.