

Translator's foreword

In the last 20 years it is developed tendency when different social ideas and standards are mainly distributed from Western Europe to Eastern Europe. Sometimes, such a situation doesn't enable to study alternative viewpoints on global problems and their solutions. It is not a secret that the main of these problems is ecological crisis.



Henry THOREAU

We would like to bring to your attention the idea of absolute zapovednost'. i.e. absolute wildlife conservancy as a mechanism of wildlife protection. It is necessary to make some explanations about terminology.



Dave FOREMAN

«Zapovednost'» is a Russian word. It can be explained as a special juridical status or process for nature area where any human activity is forbidden. The area which has such an inviolable protective status is called «zapovednik». Zapovednost' is usually translated in English as reservation. However, the idea of absolute zapovednost' has some another sense. It is not simply landscape or species conservation. It is conservation of wild nature processes, course of wild evolution i.e. conservation of wilderness in whole. It is more correctly translated as an absolute wilderness conservancy. Consequently, translation of the word «zapovednik» as a «reserve» is also not quite correct. The closest term for definition of zapovednik is «nature sanctuary» or «wildlife sanctuary», because «sanctuary» means some sacred inviolable place and reflects the conception much better.

The idea of absolute zapovednost' was popular in XX century amongst scientists of Ukraine and Russia. Partly it was performed there. Today, there are attempts to discredit this idea. The cause of these attempts is that the idea of absolute zapovednost' contradicts total commercialization and global human egoism (anthropocentrism). That is why it is very important to save and develop this conception as a certain counterbalance for effective wildlife protection.



Holmes ROLSTONE III

A.Burkovskiy

The world practice of wildlife protection has come to several complementary conceptions of nature protected areas which have different purposes. However, the only one idea has been elaborated directly in behalf of wildlife and its protection against arrogant and omnipresent human intervention. It is the idea of absolute zapovednost'.

It was formulated independently by scientists, eco-philosophers and wildlife defenders of Eurasia and North America. For example, a powerful eco-philosophical foundation of absolute wilderness conservancy (i.e. zapovednost') was elaborated by some American eco-philosophers and ecologists in their writings. They stressed the importance of such a value of wilderness as a freedom, and noted that it is impossible successful evolutionary development of ecosystems and wildlife without this value. As early as in the middle of XIX century the great American eco-philosopher Henry



S.A. DYRENKOV

Thoreau wrote about the necessity of protection of wildlife freedom. In opinion of the radical ecologist Dave Foreman it is necessary to enable nature to go by its own way, but not make use of it.

Holmes Rolstone III in his article «Biology and Philosophy in Yellowstone» wrote about necessity to distinguish natural and artificial (factitious) interference of men in the wildlife of national parks. For example, he tells that regeneration of wolves as predators is more natural than extermination of elk by shooters. The eco-philosopher offers to pass «Declaration of freedom for remained wildlife» (It is something like A. Lincoln's «Declaring the Objectives of the War Including Emancipation of Slaves in Rebellious States on January 1, 1863»). In his opinion freedom and autonomy must be guaranteed for wilderness, especially on sanctuary areas.

The eco-philosopher Jack Turner criticizes administrations of those national parks where the main principles are control, management and arrangement of tourist recreation, but not the protection of wildlife freedom. In his opinion such a controlled reserved wildlife is profanation. He says that people cannot conserve wilderness like they do strawberry — picked, cooked and preserved in jars. To conserve wildlife is to conserve its autonomy and freedom.

Russian scientists almost simultaneously with their American colleagues also came to the wildlife protection through idea of zapovednost' or absolute wilderness conservancy. Ecologists G.A. Kozhevnikov, N.F. Ramers, A.M. Krasnitskiy, F.R. Schtilmark, S.A. Dyrenkov formulated the idea completely. Thus, they made it ready for practical use.



G.A. KOZHEVNIKOV

In 1908-1909 G.A. Kozhevnikov proposed an ideal regime of entire inviolability (sanctity) and a special type of nature protected area where such a regime should be provided — zapovednik.

This regime should be provided by means of:

1. Relatively large area of wildlife.
2. Presence of a special buffer zone around zapovednik.
3. Strict safeguard, prohibition of people passing and transport traffic
4. Prohibition of any practical use of wildlife: hunting, fishing, forest felling, mining operations, sowing, planting, berrying and mushroom picking.
5. Prohibition of any direct or indirect interference in course of natural processes and phenomena: «Any actions disturbing natural conditions of struggle for existence are inadmissible (...). People don't need to remove nothing, to add nothing, to improve nothing. It is necessary to grant independence for nature and to observe results for us».
6. Inviolable regime is established forever.



G.I. GURKIN. Lake of mountain spirits, 1910

Modern classics of absolute zapovednost' have proposed some additions to the conception:

1. Indirect human influence on zapovedniks (global pollution, heat effect on atmosphere) should not be considered in maintenance of inviolable status. This also concerns:
 - penetration of alien species on the zapovednik territory.
 - transformation of conserved ecosystems because of absence of some ecological elements, for example, forest invasions on meadows in the absence of hoofed animals.
2. Absolute zapovednost' extends not only to poorly studied areas of wildlife but also to plots of zapovedniks which had considerable anthropogenic influence in the past. In opinion of F.R. Schtilmark and N.F. Ramers: «absolute zapovednost' can be performed as an act of renewal, like a reanimation» of nature ecosystems.



F.R. SCHTILMARK



N. RERIKH, Kanchenjunga, 1924

3. The Idea of absolute zapovednost' is an ideal. It is necessary to aspire to it in the process of management of any zapovednik.

Nowadays, lots of sly pseudo-environmental ideas overflow the world. They justify penetration of business interests into the last areas of wildlife. In this case wide propagation and application of absolute zapovednost' are the main way for a real defense of wildlife. Sometimes, it is expressed an opinion that the idea of zapovedniks is not modern, that it is anachronism of Soviet system, and nobody has come to such a form of wildlife protection. However, we have shown above that this statement is wrong. Today the idea of absolute zapovednost' is as relevant as ever for countries where large territories of wildlife have remained. There should be established zapovedniks there, but not national parks, because they disagree with the idea of independent existence of wildlife. Neither notorious rational nature management nor ecosystem services but the idea of absolute zapovednost' should find a widespread application. It is suitable not only for Eurasia and North America but also for other continents which have vast areas of wildlife, such as Antarctica, South America, Africa, Australia and large aquatories of oceans.

The last wildlife territories of these continents must be transformed primarily into zapovedniks. It is not surprising that more and more ecologists from different countries criticize system of national parks, and begin to see necessity in formation of territories which would be free from human interference. This particular approach (although in incomplete form) is accepted as a basis for European wildlife protection network «Natura 2000». Moreover, Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) are established on the basis of this ideology, and admittance to them is severely forbidden even for scientists.

It is clear, that population density and shortage of wild areas don't enable to use the idea of zapovednost' in European Union widely. However, it may be applied in territories where human activity can be limited, for example, in mountains or sea aquatories. Countries can unite their efforts

and found zapovedniks in their near-border territories together to conserve as vast areas as possible. Today, interest in the idea of zapovednost' is growing amongst Polish ecologists who are tired of rational nature management and recreational chaos. At the same time some Ukrainian environmentalists offer to abolish zapovedniks and transform them to national parks (or into their full analogue so called biosphere reserves).

Often it is expressed opinion in Ukraine and some other post-Soviet countries that inviolable zapovednik regime is inadequate for protection of endangered plant and animal species. They offer to support certain fixed conditions by means of artificial regulatory measures in nature protected areas. Such a way is also proposed after transformation of zapovedniks into national parks (biosphere reserves). Adherents of absolute zapovednost' object to this approach because conservation of natural course process and preservation of separate species are not one and the same.



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Last century S.A. Dyrenkov formulated the principle of purpose differentiation for specially protected natural areas. According to it there must be not any regulatory or protectorship measures for certain species in zapovedniks. Thus,

K. FRIEDRICH.

Gorge in rocks, approx. 1822-23

absolute zapovednost' aims not only conservation of landscapes and species but first of all the process of wildlife evolution in whole. That is why any human interference in this process is unacceptable. At the same time regulatory measures can be applied in other types of nature protected areas (national parks, scientific reserves and etc.). Arguments of

Y. KLEVER. Wilds.





S. LYMAN. *Early Winter in the Mountains, 1983. Празмента*

theorists who support «correction of disturbance through other disturbance» (as S. Dyrenkov called regulatory measures) are completely demolished by hard reality. So far as almost 100 % of recent regulatory actions is evident resource use of wildlife territory under theoretical cover (like whale hunting of Japan for «scientific purposes»). Often resource use prevails over purposes of wildlife protection or directly violates it. For example, scything is per-

formed with heavy equipment within optimal period of time for high quality of hay, ignoring ecological requirements; commercial harvesting of fine wood is made under pretense of forest sanitation and etc.

Opponents of zapovedniks adduce the second widespread argument: inviolable regime of zapovedniks in Ukrainian reality is often not kept in full. Is there any sense to maintain such territories? They consider that it had better to legalize more flexible regime of wildlife protection which takes place, for example, in national parks. Usually such arguments are adduced by people sincerely mistaken or by motivated persons who lobby business interests. Each true Ukrainian ecologist knows very well that zapovedniks have the strictest regime of wildlife protection. They are not zoned and this fact excludes possibility of their re-zoning by somebody who intends to deprive certain lands of a special protected status for their appropriation. The lands of zapovedniks in Ukraine are defined by official borders. All of them have a strict legal regime that makes their protection the most successful but only if their administrations and non-



I.I. SHYSHKIN. *Spruce forest, 1892*

governmental ecological organizations are ready to struggle. In general, it should be used a principle of striving for maximal wilderness and outer defense of wildlife.

One more argument against absolute zapovednost' is that zapovedniks in Ukraine (as well as in Belorussia and European Part of Russia) are small for development of nature in accordance with its laws. However, as examples are usually made reference to the smallest plots of remained grasslands in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In this case it is important to make the following notes.

— Firstly, Ukraine has not only mentioned small zapovedniks but also large ones, for example, Poleskiy zapovednik includes 20,000 ha.



F.E. CHURCH. *Cotopaxi, 1862*

— Secondly, there are no facts which could be show that renewal processes are absent in small areas.

— Thirdly, it is necessary to remember about the strictest regime of wildlife protection in zapovedniks in comparison with other types of nature protected areas.

It is also expressed opinion that it must be not forbidden people visits of wildlife areas and their availability should be advertized widely. However, defenders of wildlife have formulated a thesis long ago that human needs and nature needs are incompatible. Therefore it is necessary existence of wildlife areas closed for men and which have nothing advertisement. If there are closed territories for needs of army or VIPs then it must be established closed territories for the truest VIP — NATURE.

One of the main arguments against absolute zapovednost' is that zapovedniks require budgeted expenditures and give nothing for economical development. Don't hurry up to agree with this statement because in this case adherents of such arguments also should ask question about existence of real budget spongers: official governmental residencies, VIP state hunting farms and etc.

Zapovedniks are one of the main components of environmental security and national prestige. Moreover, zapovedniks has a considerable scientific importance. In fact science researches are the only one type of human activity that is

admissible in zapovedniks. However, researches are mainly conducted in the form of observations (Chronicles of Nature) to limit human influence on nature. This monitoring has a particular scientific importance because of their long term. Thus, it is clear that zapovedniks must be financed by authorities like public health service, rescue service, science, army and etc.



A.B. DURAND. *In the Woods, 1855*

Taking into account all the described above, we set against:

1. Offences against zapovedniks.
2. Transformation of zapovedniks into national parks or so called biosphere reserves.
3. Regulatory measures in zapovedniks, because they are a key to many abuses for use of resources in nature protected areas.
4. Demands on administrations of zapovedniks to provide protection of certain species through regulatory measures and interference in course of natural processes, and demands to «reconstruct» natural ecosystems by the same artificial measures.
5. Development of any tourism, recreation and large-scale student field programs (practices) on the territories of zapovedniks.



F.E. CHURCH. *Twilight in the Wilderness, 1860*

6. Demands on administrations of zapovedniks to make money.

7. Territorial changes of zapovedniks when any their part can be removed from their area, even if it is compensated by other one. Their area must increase only.

8. Appointment of persons who have no biological education to a post of director of zapovedniks.

9. Ignoring of establishment of new zapovedniks in Ukraine and other countries.

10. Application of terminology «zapovednost'» and «zapovednik territory» for other types of nature protected areas where regime of zapovednost' is not appointed: biosphere reserves, natural monuments etc.



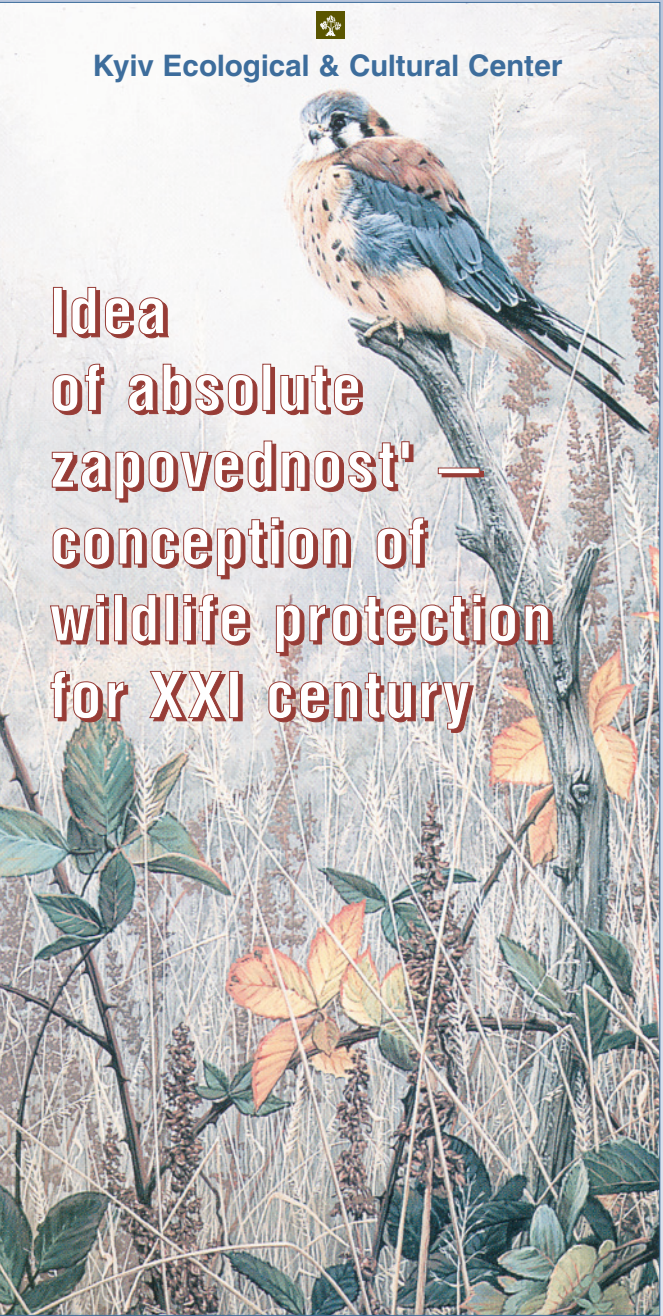
A. BIERSTADT. *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains — Mount Rosalie, 1862*

If you have questions concerning the idea of absolute zapovednost' you may ask us by the following e-mail: kekz-office@ukr.net

Information about our Zapovednik school, and rules of participation in it you may find on the web-site of Kyiv ecological-cultural center (in Russian language): <http://ecoethics.ru/shkola-boreiko-voytsekhovskogo/>

Nowadays, Ukrainian NGO «Kyiv ecological-cultural center» and Polish NGO «Workroom for profit of all the creatures» make all efforts for propaganda and dissemination of the idea of absolute zapovednost'. They have initiated international campaign for support and diffusion of this key conception. Every year for this purpose it is held International Zapovednik School of Boreiko-Voytsekhovskiy in Kyiv. The main task of School is development of ideological and eco-philosopher basis for modern wildlife defenders, dissemination of the idea of absolute zapovednost' and necessity of protection of the last wildlife areas.

Cover picture — **S. LYMAN.** *Among the Wild Brambles*



Kyiv Ecological & Cultural Center

Idea of absolute zapovednost' — conception of wildlife protection for XXI century

Authors:

*V. BOREIKO, I. PARNIKOZA,
«Kyiv Ecological & Cultural Center»*

*Translated by A. BURKOVSKIY,
«All-Ukrainian environmental league»
Dummy layout Svitlana ZHELIASKOVA*

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