

VALORISATION OF NATURE, LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN POLISH BIOSPHERE RESERVES

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Abstract: This paper comprises an estimation of the functioning of Polish biosphere reserves. Biosphere reserves were proposed by UNESCO as terrestrial, coastal or water protected areas or combinations thereof in order to protect living natural resources and provide a harmonious landscape, to develop interdisciplinary studies and monitoring of the natural environment, as well as maintain cultural heritage. These areas have been assigned three major functions: conservation, development and logistic support. Conservation is the most widely realised function, including the protection of ecosystems, biocoenoses and species as well as landscape and cultural values. This paper concerns the environmental, landscape and cultural values of nine biosphere reserves existing in Poland. The scoring system (7 degrees) was used as an original method facilitating the assessment of each site. Particular environmental values were estimated separately and next combined to make the full synthetic valuation of each reserve. The study results may be helpful in elaborating the optimal model of the network of these areas and for the review thereof in accordance with the statutes adopted in Seville.

Key words: MAB programme, biosphere reserves, national parks, landscape parks, nature reserves, natural valorisation, valorisation of protected areas.