



Abstracts

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However, a few years before the Kasprowy cable line outrage broke out, Szafer had engaged himself in yet another fight to put nature on the agenda. At stake then were the largest European wetlands, the so-called Pripet – or Polesie – marshes. In 1928, the Polish government set up the Bureau of Amelioration of Polesie, and tasked it with preparing a plan for draining some 1.5 million hectares of marshes and converting them into farmlands. Carrying this plan out would have obviously meant destroying wild life in areas still largely un-besmirched by human presence.

In this paper, I will argue that the dispute over Polesie, being in fact the first clash between early Polish environmentalists and the authoritarian government and its agencies, had a different background, and resulted in the inclusion of pro-nature postulates into the governmental agenda.

Czechoslovakia, 1925: Looking for a place for a national park

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Czechoslovakia, founded in 1918, became a republic following the pattern of France and the United States. An American example has influenced into almost all areas of human activity – politics, culture, music (jazz), but also science and nature conservation. A group of Czech scholars (Karel Domin, Viktor Dvorský etc.) also decided to initiate the creation of the first national park following the American pattern. Since the mid-1920s he has been looking for a suitable place for him, especially in Slovakia – the High Tatras or the Pieniny Mountains were considered; for a variety of reasons (more detailed in this paper), this happened only after the changed political situation after 1948.

The establishing new borders of protected territories at the Soviet Union

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By the early 1960's due to the development of industrial production, the natural environment of the Soviet Union forced with the threat of reduction of many endemic species. According to the minds of some scientific experts, the industrial needs made impossible the total preservation of its natural environment. In 1960th the Soviet Union had only one form of nature protection on the local level as the establishment of nature reserves (zapovedniki). This changed with the creation of specially protected biosphere reserves under the auspices of soil scientist Viktor Kovda and others in the wake of the 1972-UN Conference on the Human Environment. There, any human activity was strongly forbidden and scientists can participate in ecological research. Biosphere reserves became the places with more high standards of environmental protection than national parks and even the natural reserves. The creation of biosphere reserves has not only the goal to save natural diversity, but they also became an important instrument for ecological cooperation with Western countries and socialistic countries. For instance, biosphere reserves participated in environment program of UNESCO and Comecon (The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance). Creation new national parks led to the spreading semi-protected territories. To explain the creation of new protected territories and establishing its borders the various aspects of conservation policy in the Soviet Union would be described in that presentation.