

Cultural Landscape

The Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve was put under protection as of September 1990 through the national park program of the GDR. At 129,161 hectares it is one of the largest reserves in Germany. Set in the north-east of the state of Brandenburg, in the Uckermark and Barnim, it encompasses an impressive cultural landscape with around 240 lakes, thousands of moors, expansive forests, meadows, and fields. Generations of inhabitants have molded various forms of the cultural landscape in the biosphere reserve. The Schorfheide, a traditional hunting ground, was preserved as a large forest area. The better soils of the hilly ground moraine in the Uckermark were primarily used for cultivation. 70 small farming or estate villages and the three small towns of Greiffenberg, Joachimsthal, and Oderberg are located in the biosphere reserve. With only 32,000 people – that is, 25 inhabitants per square kilometer – it is one of the most sparsely populated areas in Germany. All biosphere reserves are internationally recognized, large-scale protected nature and cultural landscapes. Since 1976 these areas have been built into a worldwide network under the framework of the UNESCO program »Man and the Biosphere« (MAB). Currently around 597 areas

on the earth take part in the preservation program, including the Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve.

The mandatory tasks for the biosphere reserve in the framework of the MAB program are sustainable regional development, ecologically-compatible land use, education for sustainable development, research, and ecosystem environment observation. Ecological agriculture, nature tourism, and networking in regional economic cycles are practical examples. Cultural offerings such as the Choriner Musiksommer (Chorin Music Summer) and the Glambeck concerts round out the diversity of life in the biosphere reserve.

Diversity

The guiet, sparsely populated land, the transition between expansive forests and wide, open landscapes, the wealth of the landscape's various structures within a limited geographic area form the foundation for an abundance of animal and plant species. After melting 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, the glaciers of the last glaciation left behind a richly structured landscape – a great textbook of the ice age. White-tailed eagles, osprey, lesser-spotted eagles breed in the pristine forests.



The abundance of wetlands in these forested areas is the ideal habitat for black storks and cranes. A white storks breed in almost every village in the biosphere reserve. Beavers and European otters are common throughout the entire reserve. Amphibian and reptile species whose stocks are endangered in Germany are found in the biosphere reserve in well developed populations with large numbers of species. Of special note are the European adder, the European pond terrapin, the European fire-bellied toad, and the European tree frog. The beauty of the landscape is revealed in the open view from atop many hills – whether from Rummelsberg near Brodowin, the heights on the south shore of Wolletzsee near Altkünkendorf, from the Spitzberg on Sabinensee near Willmine, or from the Pechberg near Voßberg.

Observing Nature

In the buffer area (Reserve Zone II), which is identified as a nature preserve, the protection of habitats and species on these 24,103 hectare is the highest priority. All forms of use





are oriented toward this goal. The diversity of rare species,

especially those that have died out elsewhere, demand

a maximum of respect from the visitors to the biosphere

An area of 3,911 hectares is identified as core area (Reserve

Zone I). These areas are also clearly marked. Entering the

core areas is not allowed. In these areas nature is supposed

habitats, moors, and lakes are included in the core areas. At

regional events the nature watch informs the public about

the biosphere reserve and offers tours to visitors who would

like to learn more about the area. In environmental educa-

tion centers, such as the Field, Forest, and Meadow School of

(ForestSolarHome) Eberswalde, or the Nature Center Dölln,

Groß Fredenwalde (Greater Fredenwalde), the WaldSolarHeim

children and youths can experience nature. Observation towers

birds in a comfortable, unintrusive manner. They are located

on Parsteinsee, Oberuckersee, Grimnitzsee, and Mellnsee. The

nature preserve in the biosphere reserve uses old buildings or new

facilities to send out signals in order to transmit its ideas, plans,

and matters to inhabitants and visitors via public relations and

environmental education in the most various ways.

in four places allow for extensive observation especially of

to develop without the influence of people. Pristine forest

possibility of unparalleled nature observations.





The exhibitions in the InfoZentrum Blumberger Muhle, in the Schorfheide Game Park, and in the Haus der Naturpflege (House of Nature Care) in Bad Freienwalde offer clear, informative resources. The friends of the biosphere reserve, reserve as well. These areas are well sign-posted. When hiking Kulturlandschaft Uckermark e.V. (Cultural Landscape Uckerthrough the nature preserve areas one must stay on the paths. Only the cautious visitor will the plants and animals offer the mark), support the work of the administration of the reserve and facilitate many projects for sustainable, ecologically-com-

patible land use.

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für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz

Naturlandschaften





Ecologically-compatible Land Use

The cultivated land and grassland, the settlements and a number of the lakes are located in the development area (Reserve Zone III). With a total area of 101,410 hectares it is the largest area and is identified as a landscape preserve. In the development area the dominant emphasis is on sustainable, ecologically-compatible land use. Examples of this include the agricultural enterprises that conduct organic farming on 29 percent of the cultivated land and grassland of the biosphere reserve. This produces not only healthy foodstuffs, but simultaneously generates clean groundwater, the quality of the lakes and the flowing waters improves, the soil is used carefully, and many animal and plant species that had disappeared return to the areas that were previously under intensive use. The Landwirtschaftsbetrieb Brodowin (Brodowin Agricultural Enterprise), the Weidegenossenschaft Liepe (Liepe Grazing Collective), and the Gut Wilmersdorf (Wilmersdorf Estate) are examples of this development. A regional quality seal with the logo of the biosphere reserve marks products and services from sustainable, ecologically-compatible production.



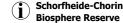
Ökodorf Brodowin (Brodowin Ecovillage) – the village is located between seven lakes on the Chorin terminal moraine. In this community the organic farming is conducted according to the specifications of the DEMETER Association.

Resembling a tree stump the Information and Nature Experience Center of the NABU is located in the biosphere reserve where the Blumberger Mühle (Blumberg Mill) once stood. A visit to this tree house offers surprises inside and leads through the tree to swaying moor paths, meadow huts, and wood bridges in a lush landscape that, in spring, becomes the great concert hall of the toads and frogs.



The »Uckermärkische Rundweg« in the north of the biosphere reserve leads through the Uckermark hill country in which fields, meadows, forests, and lakes weave into ever changing scenes.

PLACES Altenhof Althüttendorf Altkünkendorf Brodowin Chorin Eichhorst • • • Friedenfelde Friedrichswalde Gerswalde Groß Fredenwalde Groß Schönebeck Groß Väter . . | • | • | Groß Ziethen Hohenwutzen loachimsthal Liepe Niederfinow Oderberg Parlow-Glambeck Ringenwalde Schiffmühle . . . Stegelitz . . | • | • | Temmen Vietmannsdor . . . | • | • | • | Warnitz • | • | • |



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Zehdenick Lower Oder River) Borders of the biosphere reserve (entire area of the LSG) Nature reserve (NR) core area Nature reserve

Eberswalde

The boat lift in Niederfinow is a technical monument and an attraction. In the 1930s it replaced the former staircase lock of the Oder Havel Canal and bridged the 36 meter elevation difference between the end of the canal and the breach of the Niederoder (the

Angermünde