

The Great Eurasian Natural Tract as an Object of World Importance

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History. In the mid-1990s, disturbed natural ecosystems in various regions of Russia were compared by reduction in their area and phytomass per unit area with the ecological well-being of the region as a whole, and a ratio scale of natural ecosystems to the state of the natural frame was also compiled. A transcontinental continuous series of low disturbed natural ecosystems from the Pacific Ocean in the east to Fennoscandia in the west, with a separate toponym for them — the Great Eurasian (Euro-Asian) Natural Tract (GEANT) — has been identified.

Policy. The Concept of Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development (1996) notes that Russia has preserved the world largest tract of natural ecosystems.

Methods. Settlements, communications with non-natural coating, the infrastructure of the mining industry, and croplands were excluded from the composition of natural territories. Forest fells and fire sites in the depths of the GEANT were considered as reversible changes; however, if the frequency of such effects exceeded the time of reaching at least an early stage of restoring the natural community by a biota, such changes became actually irreversible. When assessing the reliability of ecological linkages between natural territories, the fact that the close location of several parallel transport communications enhanced the barrier effect for displacing animals was taken into account separately.

What is the contribution of GEANT to the well-being of people on Earth?

GEANT Ecosystem services	Assessment, billions \$ per year	
	MIN	MAX
Supporting and regulating services, i.a.:	88.28	118.60
Water regulation	5.10	7.44
Climat regulation	3.91	5.28
Soil protection	26.55	39.29
Assimilation	2.87	4.16
Bioproduction	48.48	60.60
Providing services, i.a.:	51.60	382.56
Bioresource	49.56	379.97
Sum of ecosystem services per year	139.36	501.17

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