

Ten years of the Nature Park »Bol'soj Thaç« (Adygeâ, Russia, Caucasus)

**Natural conditions, biodiversity
and conservation value**

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Umwelt und Bildung e.V.

Preface

In the year 1995 the association »Umwelt & Bildung e.V.« was asked for support from its Russian partners to evaluate whether the environment of the mountain »Bol'soj Thaç« was worth protecting. Nobody could foresee the commencement of a long-lasting commitment of German researchers in the northwestern part of the Caucasus. The shortly-following designation of the nature park »Bol'soj Thaç« of the Republic of Adygea in 1997 was not the end of these activities.

After drawing attention to this area, several approaches for the examination of different questions arose. These questions contained the central aspect of conserving the biodiversity of the »hotspot« Caucasus as well as ecosystem-based and biogeographical issues. This rapidly led to the necessity of taking a closer look at the taxonomical and geological backgrounds.

Looking at the achieved results, on the occasion of the decennial existence of the nature park »Bol'soj Thaç«, we should not consider them as final but as a momentary view of the development in research.

We would like to thank everyone without whom these results could not have been achieved:

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Enrico Backs

Chairman

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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