

## **SPECIAL NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM: THE NATURE CONSERVATION OF BAIKAL REGION**

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Received: 16.07.2014 / Accepted: 07.11.2014

**Abstract:** Specially protected natural territories of the Baikal region have typically used either the basin or administrative approach. In article propose an integrated approach that allowing us to overcome shortcomings of the basin and administrative approaches. The integrated approach strives to navigate the political and economic barriers to an effective conservation plan.

**Keywords:** administrative approach, basin approach, integrated approach, lake Baikal, nature conservation, protected areas.

### **Introduction:**

Lake Baikal is one of the most unique places on Earth. This is the oldest and deepest lake in the world. It contains 20 % of the world's fresh water and it is home to more than 2,000 endemic species of plants and animals. Therefore, the current conservation of the waters of Lake Baikal and the surrounding region affects the state of its ecosystem. In 1996, the Baikal area and its immediate surroundings were included in the list of World Natural Heritage Sites by UNESCO. In 1999, a special federal law "On protection

of Lake Baikal" was passed. This is Russia's only law regarding the management of the lake and the Baikal region.

The main way to preserve, maintain and restore the biotic and landscape diversity is through territorial nature conservation. The territorial nature conservation activities comprise all the efforts to protect areas of different categories, status and regimes of protection. In accordance with the federal law "On specially protected natural areas", the main categories of protected areas are scientific nature reserves or strictly protected areas (zapovednik), natural parks (regionally declared), national parks (federally declared), and refuges established at the federal and regional levels (zakaznik). There are also other, less significant (in terms of conservation) categories of protected areas.

The two most widely used approaches to conservation of protected areas are: the basin approach and administrative approach. The basin approach is driven by the goal of preserving the biotic and/or landscape diversity of the territory using the natural boundaries of the lake basin, for instance, a watershed as limits for management. An administrative approach stresses the

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uniformity of institutional establishments and economic conditions within the territory, in particular for protected areas, such as those in Germany which are subject to separate federal states (Bishop et al. 2000).

In the Baikal region, the basin approach covers the entire drainage basin of Lake Baikal which contains units of four administrative entities within the Russian Federation: the Buryatia Republic, the Zabaikalsky Krai, the Irkutsk Oblast and the Tyva Republic. A significant part of the basin of Lake Baikal which is in Mongolia is beyond Russia's control. The basin approach takes into account the condition of ecosystems and natural conditions within the region in order to plan activities related to the protection of the area.

The administrative approach seeks to standardize the management of protected areas within the separate territories pertaining to Lake Baikal. The established institutional features of the Irkutsk Oblast, Buryatia Republic, and Zabaikalsky Krai are factored into the protected area planning, including those related to land-use problems, the relationships of protected area regulations at federal and regional levels, in order to achieve unified management of protected areas within the administrative unit.

A new approach is proposed in this article. Called the integral, it is intended to overcome the shortcomings of the basin and the administrative approaches. It is known that the boundaries of natural areas and areas formed by the administrative and territorial division may not coincide. In the Baikal region, an example of this mismatch is the Baikal Natural Territory (BNT). The determination of the BNT, which was defined in the aforementioned federal law, is the key to guiding its protection. There was therefore a need to identify and develop a new integral approach to overcome administrative boundaries in a single plan or to achieve a harmonious administration of the surrounding territory, not just the area limited by the watershed of Lake Baikal.

This article discusses each of the three approaches for comparison and analysis.

## Results and discussion:

### Basin approach to the study of ecosystems of Lake Baikal

Natural circumstances have isolated the basin of Lake Baikal as a region possessing high biotic and landscape diversity. There are unique ecosystems, a large number of rare endemic species of flora and fauna, as well as numerous endangered ones. In general, the ecology of the Lake Baikal basin is relatively well-understood.

A nearly continuous mountain chain at the periphery of the basin contributes to local endemism of the flora and fauna. On the other hand, the basin contains the intersections of areas representing different geographical zones. There is a complex pattern of floristic-faunistic and ecosystem-typological interaction, which extends to adjacent biogeographic areas and across the northern part of the Asian continent.

The biotic and landscape diversity of Lake Baikal is determined by the latitude-zonal, provincial and elevation-zonal differentiation. Ecosystems form three main types of environments: tundra, taiga and steppe. Biomes of the major mountain systems have significantly greater diversity compared to adjacent plains. Typical of the Baikal basin, the overlap between latitudinal-zonal and elevation-zonal patterns leads to taiga and forest-steppe ecosystems, which are largely mountainous and steppes that have highland and lowland variants.

The forest-steppe within the basin, in most cases, forms an almost continuous band of zonally elongated areas, southward of the taiga mountain systems. In general, forest-steppe communities differ in the maximum structural and biotic (adaptive types and forms of life) diversity (Bannikova 1990; Gunin et al. 1998). Fauna in the steppe is apparent, but there is low diversity, and therefore the sustainability of these

ecosystems in the region is low (Lavrenko et al. 1991).

The extent of the basin of Lake Baikal enables provincial biogeographic differentiation. There are differences in the flora of eastern and western portions of the basin. The main forest species are two different types of larch (*Larix sibirica* and *Larix dahurica*) and they share taiga forest on the southern Siberia in the Baikal-Dzhugdzhurski areas (Atlas of Transbaikalia 1967). There is apparently no similar differentiation of fauna from west to east in the taiga zone. More significantly, the forest-steppe zone and the river valleys beyond its borders contain forest-meadow species.

The ecosystem diversity of the basin of Lake Baikal is almost 3/4 of the continent's north of the subtropics. There are general geographic regularities of this phenomenon. The first is the placement of the basin in the middle of the zonal spectrum of the continent, a dense arrangement of the zonal bands of high gradients' increase aridity, the presence of high mountain systems with a full range of landscapes and ecosystems of elevation zones for the corresponding latitude and longitude intervals (Gunin et al. 1998)

The largest and most unique ecosystem in the basin is the Lake Baikal's ecosystem. In addition to its ancient history and geological and geographical characteristics, Lake Baikal is unrivaled in the amount of diversity and endemism of living plants and animals found there. More than 2,600 species have been cataloged and 84 % of them are endemic. Of particular interest are freshwater sponges, invertebrates (amphipods), and the endemic freshwater seal, which is only mammal that lives in Lake Baikal (Present and Future 1996). The relatively large ecosystem of Lake Baikal basin can be classified as larch forest-steppe (Bannikova 1990), meadow tansy steppe (Lavrenko et al. 1991), sandy-pebbly desert with almost no ephemera as "extreme types of desert vegetation" (Grubov 1963).

An analysis of the ecosystem of Lake Baikal basin reveals uneven distribution in

space and varying degrees of disturbance of ecosystems. Very few disturbed ecosystems are found in the high mountains (Khangai, Baikal, Barguzin, Ikat Ranges of the North-Baikal and Hentey-Chikoysky Highlands) or the midlands (Hentey, mountain ranges of southeastern Transbaikalia). Small populations over large areas usually do not pose a threat to natural systems. Some of these territories are part of the protected area (Huvsgul and Zabaikalsky national parks, Baikalsky, Sokhondinsky, Dzherginsky zapovedniks). The middle and lower elevations of the Lake Baikal basin are characterized by mild to moderate degrees of ecosystem disturbance. In the southeastern part of the valley, the plains and hummocky areas, disturbance is moderate and even severe. Local disturbance in the largest lowland riparian and lacustrine ecosystems and particularly in the areas of water collecting in Mongolia can be extreme.

The process of creating new protected areas in the Russian part of the basin intensified during the "perestroika" period, but has stagnated over the past decade (Savenkova 2001; Kalikhman 2007). In the 1980's, the zapovednik Baikalo-Lensky (1986), Pribaikalsky and Zabaikalsky national parks (1986) were created. In 1981, the zakaznik Pribaikalsky in Buryatia was established. By 1990, the network of protected natural territories in the Russian section of the Baikal basin had included 4 scientific nature reserves, 2 national parks, 24 refuges and about 120 registered natural monuments. The total area of protected natural areas is more than 3 million hectares, or 9 % of the Russian part of the basin. In the 1990s the scientific nature reserves Dzherginsky and Tunkinsky National Park were created (Tab. 1).

Mongolia's portion of the Lake Baikal basin contains 3 strictly protected areas (Bogdhan Uul (biosphere reserve), Khan Khentii, Hordol Sardag), 7 national parks (Noen Khangai, Terelj, Hangayn Nuruu, Hevsgel, Horgen, Khustain Nuruu and Tarvagatay Nuruu), 3 nature reserves (Batkhaan, Nagalkhaan, Hogno Khaan), 3

monuments (Bulgan Uul, Tulga Uul Togoo Uranus, and Husiyn Naiman Nuur) (Savenkova and Erdenetsetseg 2000, 2002; Special Protected Areas 2000, Atlas of

Mongolia 2009). Table 2 lists the establishment and growth trends of the protected areas in Mongolia.

**Table no. 1** Changing the number and area of protected areas of the Russian part of the Lake Baikal basin.

Creating year	Number	Square (ha)	Part of Baikal basin square in Russia (%)
1917	3	150,000	0.48
1960	5	143,300	0.45
1970	9	614,300	1.95
1980	31	2,033,700	6.46
1990	36	3,038,000	9.64
2000	31	4,748,300	15.07
2002	34	3,531,621	11.21
2005	29	3,293,613	10.45
2010	30	3,295,807	10.46

**Table no. 2** Increase in the number and square of the protected areas in Mongolia.

Creating year	Number	Square (ha)	Part of Mongolia square (%)
1778	1	41,600	0.03
1957	3	66,400	0.04
1965	9	236,200	0.15
1976	10	5,547,900	3.52
1977	11	513,800	3.56
1991	19	8,793,100	5.58
1992	21	8,825,300	6.00
1993	26	12,629,800	8.01
1996	31	16,452,000	10.00
1998	42	18,251,586	11.67
2000	48	20,530,588	13.10
2005	50	21,370,602	13.64
2010	61	21,832,321	13.94

The distribution of the protected areas in the basin of Lake Baikal is uneven (Fig. 1). Irkutsk Oblast's small part of the basin is almost completely covered by reserve land (national park Pribaikalsky, scientific nature reserve Baikalo-Lensky, and two refuges). This is an almost continuous strip of protected area along the northwest shore of the Lake Baikal. In the Buryatia Republic, the largest protected areas are close to Lake Baikal, while the remaining are small refuges. Though the protected areas of the Zabaikalsky Kray comprise a small area, the

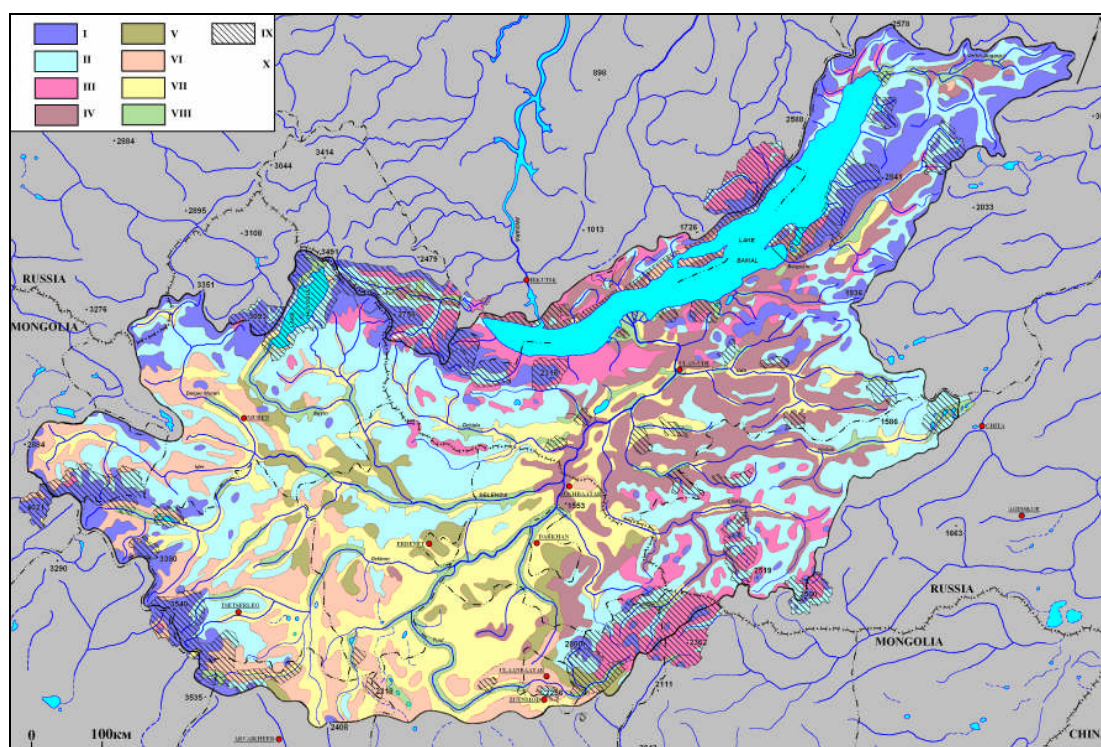
mainly protected the environments are those of rivers' springs.

Mongolia has more recently rapidly increased the number of units of different kinds of protected areas. In the central part of Lake Baikal basin in Mongolia there is very little protected land. There are only three minor areas: the Bogdhan Uul strictly protected area, and also the Khorgo and Khustain Nuruu national parks. In 2003, Tuzhiyn Nars National Park was established in this part of the basin, but its effectiveness is still unknown.

The uneven distribution of protected areas within the Lake Baikal basin has led to a relatively incomplete coverage of protection for different types of ecosystems (Tab. 3). It is evident that the most valuable in terms of biodiversity is the forest-steppe. The steppe is poorly represented in the valleys of the Selenge, Orkhon, and Hillock

ivers. The alpine belt ecosystems are protected only around the Lake Baikal and on the periphery of the Mongolian side of the basin, as well as in adjacent Tunka Valley (Tunkinsky National Park). Typical and unique biomes are protected along the shore of Lake Baikal, except along the northern and southern lake shores.

**Figure no. 1** Ecosystem groups and special protected nature areas in Baikal basin.



Ecosystem groups: I – high mountains wilderness and glades, II – mountains forests with larch (*Larix sibirica*, *Larix dahurica gmelinii*), III – mountains forests with cembra pine (*Pinus sibirica*) and fir (*Abies sibirica*), IV – forest with pine (*Pinus silvestris*), V – forest-steppe, VI – middle high mountains steppe, VII – plain or valley steppe, VIII – rivers glades; Objects: IX – special protected nature areas.

Thus, of the 375 different types of ecosystems identified from several sources (Belov et al. 1972; Mikheev and Ryashin 1977; Yunnatov and Dashnyam 1979; Ecosystems of Mongolia 1995; Savenkova 2002), only 127 (33.9 %) have been legislatively approved for conservation.

Most of the protected ecosystems are in the middle - and low- elevation forests, or high-altitude glacial-nival and tundra

settings. This is due to the preferential location of protected areas in the high and middle parts of the basin: Baikalsky, Barguzinsky, Baikalo-Lensky, Sokhondinsky and Dzherginsky scientific nature reserves and Hordol Sar'dag, Otgon Tenger, Bogdkhan uul strictly protected areas; Hangayn Nuruu, Tarvagatay, Terelj, Huvsgul, Tunkinsky, Zabaikalsky, Pribaikalsky national parks; Angirsky,

Atsinsky, Burkalsky, Ivano-Arakhleisky, Ulyunsky, Frolikhinsky refuges.  
Pribaikalsky, Snezhinsky, Uzkolugsky,

**Table no. 3** The number of different types of ecosystems of Lake Baikal, stored within the boundaries of protected areas.

Variety of ecosystems in latitude-zonal status	Ecosystems in height-zonal differentiation									
	mountain			plain			hydrogenic			
	Hm	Mm	Lm	Sm	El	Lo	Mr	Pr	LLr	Bl
Zones										
glacial-nival	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
height-mountain desert (tundra)	6	4	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–
mountain-forest	1	11	10	2	4	–	–	–	–	–
forest-steppe	–	2	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
meadow-steppe	2	1	4	2	2	–	–	–	–	–
steppe	2	3	6	3	4	2	–	–	–	–
dry-steppe	–	3	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–
desertification-steppe	–	1	3	–	1	1	–	–	–	–
Out of zones										
hydromorphic, mountain	–	–	1	2	–	1	5	–	–	–
hydromorphic, plain	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	5	4
aquatic (include Lake Baikal)	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	3	–
Total:	17	27	27	12	16	7	5	4	8	4

Hm: High-mountain; Mm: Middle-mountain; Lm: Low-mountain; Sm: Small-mountains; El: Elevated; Lo: Lower; Mr: Mounting-river's; Pr: Plain-river's; LLr: Lake's and Lake-river's; Bl: Bay-lake's.

Left out of conservation efforts are these types of ecosystems: aquatic, including Lake Baikal itself (the only exceptions are Chivyrkuisky Bay in the Zabaikalsky National Park and the three-kilometer strip along the scientific nature reserve Barguzinsky); forest-steppe; desert-steppe; steppe on gently undulating plateaus; hilly ridges and depressions with steppe and lacustrine hydromorphic communities in Mongolia; and low elevation plains (including saline environments where lake-levels fluctuate).

The traditional basin approach in studying the structure of the protected areas in the Baikal region can adequately reflect the effectiveness of the protected areas system in terms of coverage of the biotic and landscape diversity. But this approach ignores other important environmental features, such as political institutions and economics.

From the viewpoint of the basin approach, non-uniform placement of the main categories of protected areas within the basin of Lake Baikal reveal shortcomings of the existing system of territorial environmental protection. In addition, because of the basin approach, the protected areas at the periphery of the basin of Lake Baikal sometimes intersect the boundary of the basin.

Therefore, for a more detailed study is necessary to deviate from the ideology of the basin principle and include areas outside the basin into consideration as a whole.

Administrative approach and consideration of the institutional features

The administrative approach to territorial nature protection may differ significantly between regions with similar natural and socio-economic conditions. This is due to

regional differences in nature conservation legislation, federal control over local politics, and the leadership of a region's head with respect to nature protection. Oftentimes, the typical and most common regional ecosystems and landscapes are overlooked. In contrast to the basin approach, the emphasis is not on protecting unique and rare communities, but commonplace ones. That is why each region has created its own "Red Book", a list of rare species of animals and plants in a specific territory. However, a single institutional framework for a protected area (through legislation, administration, and economic conditions), enables consistent and coordinated efforts for nature conservation.

Two examples of the administrative approach to conservation can demonstrate the specific weaknesses of this approach, as well as reveal possibilities for overcoming them through the creation of transboundary protected areas.

#### Comparison of protected areas of the Irkutsk Oblast' and Krasnoyarsk Kray

In a system of protected areas of the Irkutsk Oblast' (without the Ust-Orda Buryat autonomous district) and the Krasnoyarsk Kray (without Dolgan-Nenets and Evenk autonomous districts) one can notice the following similarities: relatively large regions containing areas of pristine nature; latitudinal similarities of natural conditions wherein southern portions are Sayan mountain taiga, a central taiga-covered plain (south-taiga pine forests of the Leno-Angarsky Plateau and the Yenisei Ridge) with alternating steppe and forest regions (steppe valley of the Angara and Olkhon, Achinsk and Minusinsk steppe) and northern areas of taiga in permafrost (larch forests of northern Middle Siberian Plateau in the river Nizhnaya and Podkamennaya Tunguska); common history of development activities in the valleys of large rivers: the Kansk-Achinsk industrial area in the Krasnoyarsk Kray and the Irkutsk-Cheremhovsky industrial area in the Irkutsk Oblast' both containing open coal mines, timber

production, and hydropower development; and the primary forest production areas in Russia.

Contrasts include differences in the distribution of protected areas and the area occupied by them. In the Irkutsk Oblast' the total protected area is 2048.1 thousand hectares, or 2.7 % of the administrative region. In Krasnoyarsk Kray, the protected areas are uniformly distributed and comprise 3616.4 thousand hectares, or 5.1 % of the area. Lake Baikal is in the Irkutsk Oblast'. The lake is one of the largest in the world and has the status of World Natural Heritage site. Thus its goal is the Irkutsk Oblast' nature protection, but most of the natural areas in the region beyond Lake Baikal are regarded as less important to the guidance of development or conservation.

Krasnoyarsk Kray adopted a regional law "On specially protected natural areas in the Krasnoyarsk Kray" immediately after the adoption of the March 1995 federal law "On specially protected natural territories". The regional law specified the following new categories of protected areas at the regional and local levels: state natural micro-reserves, state natural mikrozakazniks, protected wetlands, biological stations, green areas, protected water bodies, riparian zones, urban forests and urban parks. In the Irkutsk Oblast' enacted a regional law on protected areas in 2007, but did not provide any detailed regional actions, it simply adopted the provisions of the federal law.

Krasnoyarsk Kray's "Scheme development and distribution of protected areas" prioritized zakazniks as the main biodiversity preservation (mostly of individual species) mechanism in the region. In the Irkutsk Oblast', the natural park was determined to be primary protected area units, which, in addition to meeting the general goals of conservation of landscape and biotic diversity, are designed to help develop recreational resources, creating a basis for the development of ecological tourism in the region and reflect the modern world trends toward tourist access and to natural areas.

Comparative analysis of the protected areas' system in the Krasnoyarsk Krai and Irkutsk Oblast' allows one to make specific recommendations for measures to improve the performance of protected areas and to enable network planning (Kalikhman and Sokolov 2005). In the Krasnoyarsk Krai, more rigorous implementation of the plan has recently motivated the reduction in number of refuges to preserve the beaver after a sharp increase in population and observed evidence of overpopulation. Krasnoyarsk Krai protected areas are mainly intended to preservation of wildlife, but are also important for the conservation of plant communities and landscapes to support recreational resources. Irkutsk Oblast' will need to consider the creation of new protected areas and to determine the mechanisms of their organization. It is extremely important to provide ways to reserve land for future protected areas as well as to balance the relationship of development to nature conservation in both the Lake Baikal basin and the rest of the region.

#### National Park within the administrative boundaries

Among Russia's Baikal protected areas the most radical is Tunkinsky National Park (TNP). Part of the park is Baikal basin, the only one in Russia organized within the administrative boundaries of the eponymous district of Buryatia Republic. There is no evidence in the 20-year existence of TNP that there has been an actively protected nature within the administrative boundaries. It is clear that the creation of the TNP within the administrative boundaries of the Tunkinsky district created so-called institutional contradictions or an institutional overlap. These made the implementation of the federal law "On specially protected natural territories" difficult, as the law declared that "National parks are unique to federal property" (Article 12, Clause 5). But TNP could not be entirely federal, because within its borders were villages, farms,

private land, and resorts. The boundaries were established during Soviet times, and since then settlements have been given new powers as "municipalities", followed by the former collective and state farms which have become "agricultural land" and have been included in the land market in line with the updated Land (2001) and Town Planning (2004) codes. The TNP, based on the requirements of the federal protected-area law, was supposed to be completely devoid of possible economic development and non-ecological land uses.

The most acceptable solution to the problem of competition between two land-users within common land borders may be the division of the land between the district land and the park land. The national park should include the lands that are most valuable for the protection of ecological and landscape diversity, as well as for recreational use. This process should be mandatory to forbid from the national park intensively used agricultural lands and territories of settlements for the effective and legitimate economic development of the district.

The logic of combining the administrative boundaries of the district and the park does not allow an optimal way to undertake nature conservation adjacent to the boundaries of the park. It is therefore extremely important and valuable for the preservation of the biodiversity in the areas adjacent to the Okinsky and Zakamensky districts, specifically on the northern slope of the Tunkinsky range, part of Kitoysky range and on the southern slope of the Hangarulsky ridge. These areas are also significant for the effective conservation of rare species such as snow leopards and reindeer – the first migratory species to be protected.

The proposed version of TNP would include areas for the conservation of rare animal species as well as mountain taiga, mountain landscapes and small areas of steppe on the northern slope of the Tunkinsky range, part of the Kitoysky range, and the Bolshoy Sayan range, which divides the Russian territory from Mongolia to the



west of Lake Huvsgul. This new area located north of the existing boundaries of TNP expands recreational opportunities due to the inclusion of popular tourist destinations: the highest point of the Vostochny Sayan mountains at Munku-Sardyk; the source of the Belyi Irkut River, lake Ilchir, "The Valley of a hundred springs" on Shumak river at the confluence of Pravy Shumak River (108 radon, thermal and mineral springs); the valley and mountains of Arhut which bends around the northeastern part of the Tunkinsky range. The revised TNP would be more effective for environmental protection and tourism in the park, because it allows the expansion of the environmental "nucleus" and recreational opportunities for visitors in the areas adjacent to the Okinsky and Zakamensky districts and removes the contradictions of the radical administrative approach to conservation (Kalikhman 2007).

The integrated approach within the boundaries of the BNT

The boundaries of natural areas and administrative-territorial boundaries do not always coincide. We have considered two approaches to conservation in protected areas. The basin approach settles the biodiversity and landscape preservation based on boundaries which coincident with watershed boundaries. The administrative approach establishes the uniformity of economic and administrative activities within the protected areas. Ways to overcome the limitations of both the basin and administrative approaches are: to establish transboundary protected areas and to create a complex nature conservation plan.

#### Transboundary protected areas

The first attempts to overcome the shortcomings of the administrative approach to the territorial nature protection are projects to organize transboundary protected areas (TBPA). A TBPA is two or more protected areas located on both sides of a border featuring common, or at least similar,

legal bases, and being managed through a coordinated efforts. The principal requirements for the creation of new TBPA are the following criteria:

1. There should be high (global) significance of territory in terms of conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. Often this is linked to the preservation of rare species, including migratory species, the distribution area, which is located on the territory of neighboring states (Convention, Bonn, 23/6/1979; Agreement, Netherlands, 06/10/1996);

2. There should be good preservation as defined by common practice in similar areas;

3. There must be similar protected-area laws and the potential for consistent decision-making for conservation in adjacent territorial units. A favorable factor is the preexistence of protected areas within the territories of future TBPA (Kalikhman et al. 2005).

Transboundary protected areas allow: the avoidance of territorial conflicts inside nature conservation areas which are the main problem associated with the administrative approach and a lack of consideration of the natural boundaries of natural communities; the adoption of common or similar legal frameworks; and the organization of a single or similar management approaches in the protected areas.

The unity of the natural conditions suggests the potential creation of four TBPA between Russia and Mongolia: "From Huvsgul to Lake Baikal", "Selenga" and "Hentey-Chikoy Highlands", as well as cross-border of scientific nature reserves at the source of the Delger-Muren River at the border between the Tuva Republic and Aimaq Huvsgul. It should also be noted that the TBPA "Hentey Chikoy Highlands" could be separated into two units: "Hentey Chikoy Highlands" and "Sokhondo" (or "Source of the Amur River").

#### Complex plan of nature conservation

Another way to overcome the shortcomings of the basin and the administrative approach

is to create complex regional plans for nature conservation and natural resources use. One of the most complete and comprehensive instruments for the design of a nature protection system is a "Territorial Complex Plan of Nature Conservation of Lake Baikal" (TerCPNC Baikal), established by the Act of the former USSR on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1987: "On measures to ensure the protection and rational use of natural resources in the basin of Lake Baikal in 1987-1995" (Territorial Complex Plan 1990). TerCPNC Baikal focused on the need for long-term conservation of Lake Baikal's ecosystem. In addition, the plan required the pursuit of optimal solutions for the socio-economic development problems and the improvement of production efficiency. TerCPNC Baikal has taken into account, though a little earlier, the "Standards of acceptable impacts on Lake Baikal's ecosystem and its watershed". The choices were determined by estimating the cost of conservation, which was comparable to the economies of the region's manufacturing industries. In even the most optimal alternative, about a third of the revenues from the production in the region were aimed at preserving the environment. It became clear that there was a lack of economic instruments for financing an effective environmental policy.

The first steps of employing TerCPNC Baikal were to analyze the degree of sensitivity of the natural ecosystems of the region to human impacts, and to estimate the contribution of the components of the self-regulation processes in the complex ecosystems of Lake Baikal and its basin. It is possible to obtain the necessary understanding of environmental regimes and the allocation of ecological zones. Carried out within the framework of the TerCPNC Baikal, the ecological zoning generated three zones of regulation within the boundaries of each mode of natural resources and economic activities. Such zoning was later used to create a zoning of the BNT.

The concept and principles of the BNT

The first and only federal law that pertains to BNT is "On protection of Lake Baikal" (1999). The law requires the protection of BNT. Such a task should be comprehensive and cover all aspects of contemporary nature conservation. Despite the framework and the declarative nature of the law, it created the opportunity to surmount the limitations and contradictions caused by the administrative boundaries or natural boundaries of the watershed of Lake Baikal for environmental management.

The BNT region was defined by the federal law as such: "Baikal natural territory a territory which includes Lake Baikal, the water protection zone, adjacent to Lake Baikal and its watershed area within the territory of the Russian Federation, protected areas adjacent to Lake Baikal, and adjacent to the Lake Baikal area up to 200 kilometers to the west and north-west of it" (Chapter 1, Article 2, p. 1). The enactment of the Lake Baikal law was a requirement for the inclusion under the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO. The convention requires that there is a single legal and management approach for the efficient operation and proper conservation of WNHS. Lake Baikal was added to the convention in 1996.

Acceptance of a BNT as defined by the federal law is the key to the management of development activities relative to conservation of nature in the area. Obviously, the BNT is outside the development zones, and this allows the basin or administrative approaches to be used for the analysis of environmental protection needs. Therefore, for the BNT has promoted the development of an integral approach, which allows the managers to overcome the administrative segmentation of planning by creating a common or similar administration of the territory, and one not limited by natural boundaries of Lake Baikal.

Advantages of using an integrated approach to BNT is displayed in a territorial nature-protection model that includes ecological (its essence is represented by considering the basin approach), institutional

and economic components. In this system, the wording of the institutional model of the conservation of BNT must precede the formulation of an economic model of environmental management.

BPT in the institutional model of nature conservation

The BNT law contains a number of undefined and ambiguous terms or discrepancies, of which three are the most significant. The first is that the definition of BNT cannot be associated with the boundaries of WNHS "Lake Baikal". It is clear that WNHS "Lake Baikal" and BNT are different territories, though the primary objective of the law was to regulate the management of the natural heritage of the region. The second discrepancy is the limited list of territories encompassed by the BNT. It is unclear whether this list includes all areas that must be in BNT, whether additions to the list are permitted, or whether it has been intended only to highlight the dimensions of BNT. This ambiguity of the definition of BNT has delayed the implementation of the law. A discussion of the relationship between the boundaries of the central ecological zone of BNT and WNHS "Lake Baikal" lasted six years and generated no fewer than five possible conclusions. The third discrepancy is the mention of the "watershed area within the territory of the Russian Federation". The Russian part of the Lake Baikal basin is two-fold, the least well-known being a small area located near the source of the Delger-Muren River in Tuva Republic. This river system flows into the Selenga, which in turn flows from Mongolia into Lake Baikal (Savenkova 2001, 2002). This second area is geographically unrelated to the federal law governing the BNT. All these three inconsistencies reflect problems with the first element of the institutional model. Correctly fixing these problems will ensure harmonization of existing and future regulations at the start and throughout the process of implementation of the law to protect Lake Baikal.

Figure 2 displays the latest version of the location of the central ecological zone of BNT, which coincides with WNHS "Lake Baikal". The figure shows a buffer zone to the southeast of the ecological/ WNHS zone and an atmospheric influence to the north-west ecological zone. The mapping of the zones was undertaken by the Institute of Geography of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science (RAS) in May 2006 and was approved by the Russian Government in November 2006.

The territorial planning of WNHS "Lake Baikal" was determined by the activities throughout the protected areas within its boundaries. Within WNHS "Lake Baikal" there are 3 scientific nature reserves, 3 national parks, 6 refuges and 2 recreational areas. Over 70 % of the shoreline is comprised by the protected areas. In addition to the protected areas of the WNHS "Lake Baikal", the area includes: settlements, forest lands, agricultural lands, state protected areas, and other non-conservation land uses. All these categories are distinguished as well by different levels of land ownership: federal, regional and local.

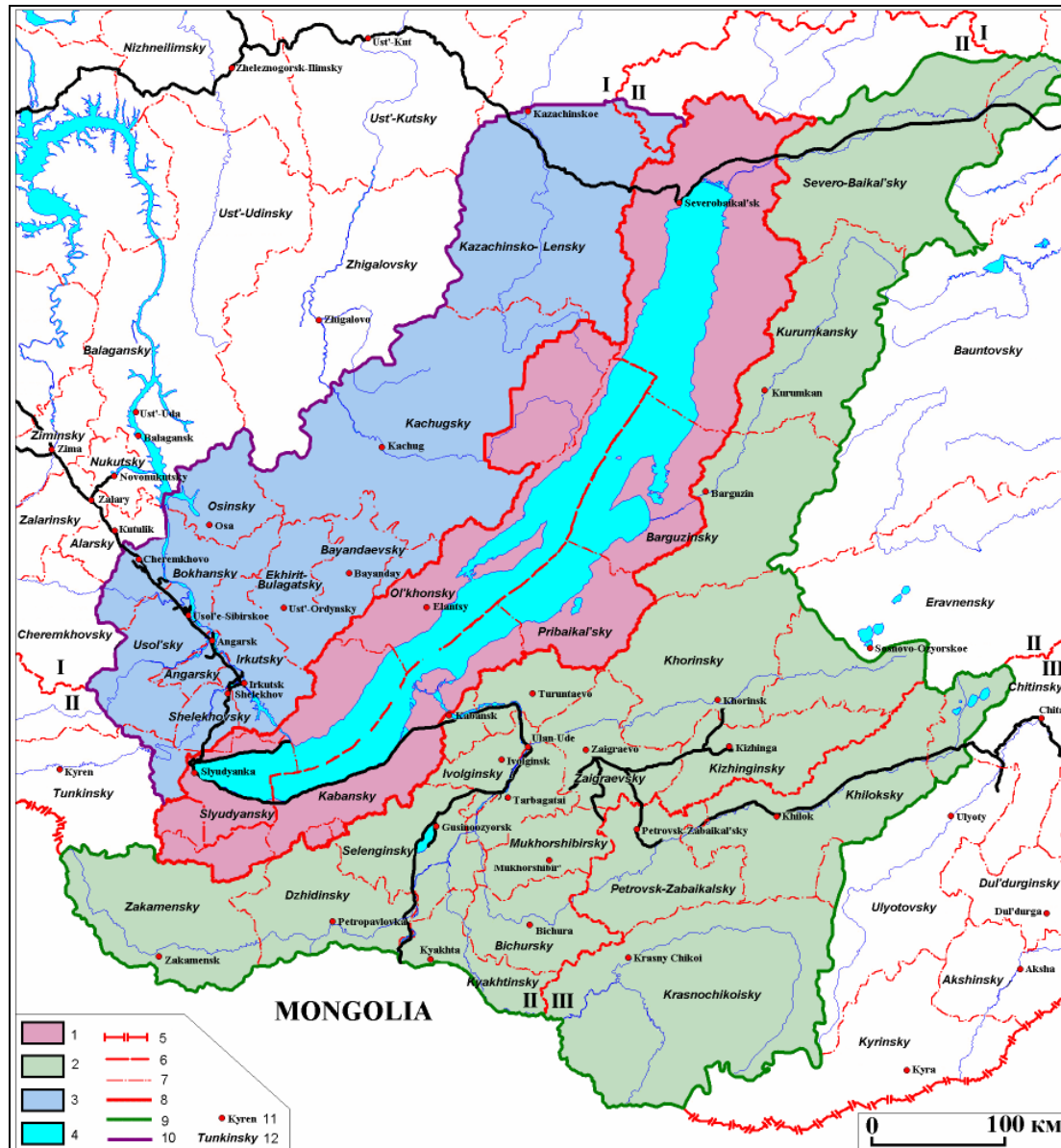
Therefore, with regard to the institutional model of BNT and WNHS "Lake Baikal" and a new system of municipalities, consider the contradictions inherent in the relatively recent law imposed upon the boundaries and management of the protected areas, settlements and agricultural enterprises that were established during the Soviet era. This conflicting circumstance reflects the second element of the institutional model, which creates the need for the development of solutions to dismiss the evolutionary or sequential inconsistencies in the law and in conservation management.

The special system of the protected natural areas

The special system of the protected natural areas within the BNT at the beginning of 2006 included 5 scientific nature reserves, 3 national parks, 23 refuges and two recreational areas. Figure 3 (and Tab. 4)

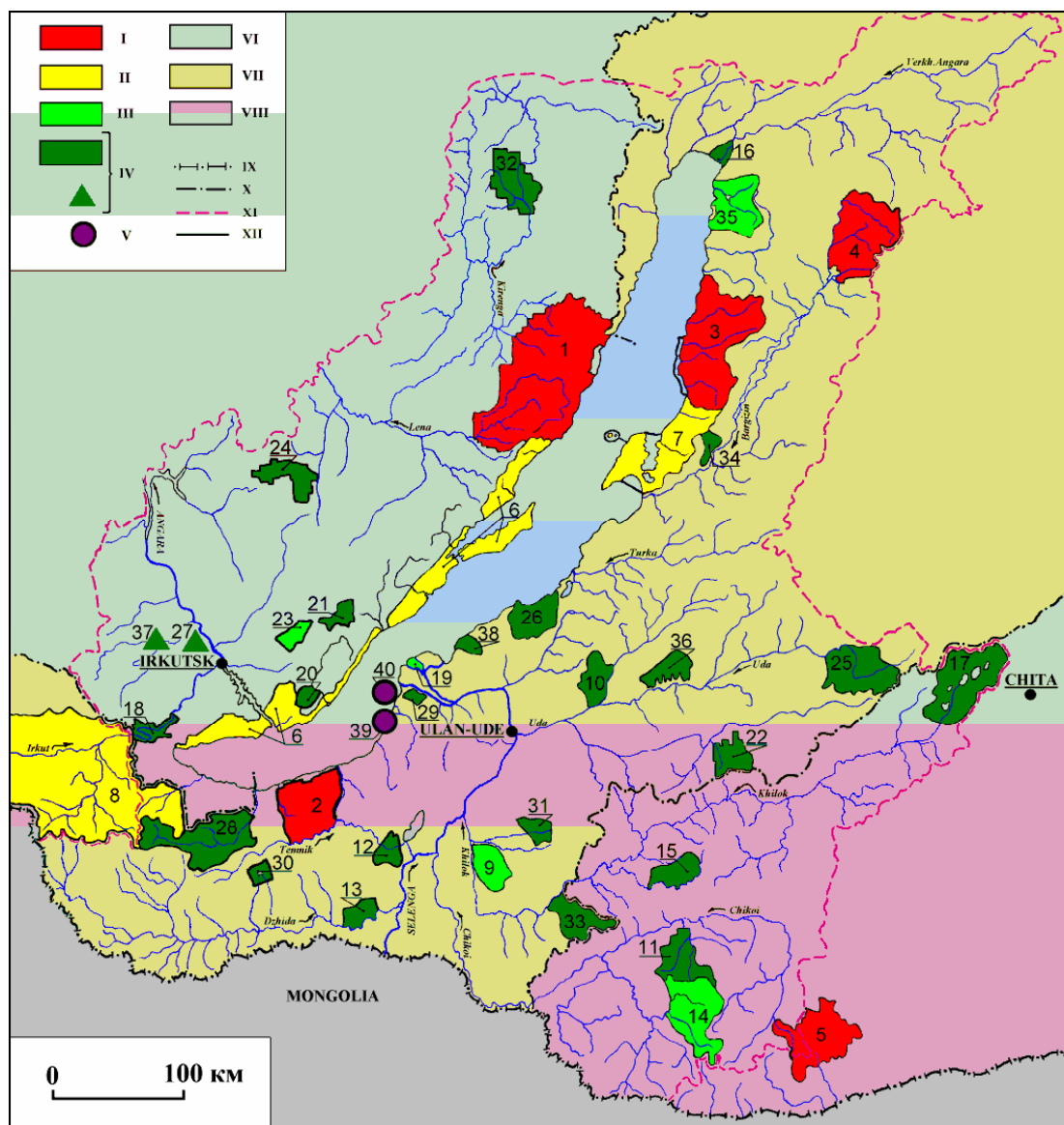
conveys the location of the main categories beginning of 2002 (Kalikhman 2008a). of protected areas within the BNT at the

**Figure no. 2** Functional zoning Baikal Natural Territory.



Functional ecological zones of BNT: 1-central, 2-buffer, 3-of the atmosphere impact, 4-lake Baikal, the part of the central ecological zone; Borders of: 5-states, 6-regions (administrative units), 7-districts (local administrative units, municipality), 8-central ecological zone, 9-buffer ecological zone, 10-ecological zone of atmosphere impact; Administrative names: 11-the centre of rayon, 12-rayon; I-Irkutskaya oblast', II-Buryatia Republic, III-Zabaikalsky kray.

**Figure no. 3** Special Protected Natural Areas of Baikal Natural Territory (the status 2002 - a year had largest area and number of protected areas).



Protected areas category: I-scientific nature reserves (strictly protected areas), II-national parks, III-refuges of federal meaning, IV-refuges of regional and local meaning, V-recreational sites; Administrative units (subjects of Russian Federation): VI-Irkutskaya Oblast', VII-Buryatia Republic, VIII-Zabaikalsky Krai; Borders of: IX-state's, X-regions (administrative units), XI-Baikal Natural Territory, XII-protected areas. (The protected areas numeration are complying with a numeration in the Table 4).

**Table no. 4** Basic categories of Special Natural Protected Areas list in Baikal Natural Territories borders.

Number protected area	Name of protected area	Notes
<u>Strictly protected areas</u>		
1	Baikalo-Lensky	federal
2	Baikalsky	federal
3	Barguzinsky	federal
4	Dzherginsky	federal
5	Sokhondinsky	federal, part including in BNT
<u>National parks</u>		
6	Pribaikalsky	federal
7	Zabaikalsky	federal
8	Tunkinsky	federal, part including in BNT
<u>Refuges</u>		
9	Altacheisky	federal
10	Angirsky	regional
11	Atsinsky	regional
12	Atsul'sky	regional, liquidating 2002
13	Borgoisky	regional
14	Burkalsky	federal
15	Butungarsky	regional
16	Verkhne-Angarsky	regional
17	Ivano-Arakhleisky	regional
18	Irkutny	regional
19	Kabansky	federal
20	Kochergatsky	regional
21	Kurtunsky	regional, liquidating 2003
22	Kizhinginsky	regional
23	Krasny Yar	federal
24	Magdansky	regional
25	Mokheisky	regional, liquidating 2004
26	Pribaikalsky	regional
27	Ptichy (Sushinsky Kaltus)	local, liquidating 2002
28	Snezhinsky	regional
29	Stepnodvoretzky	regional, liquidating 2004
30	Tagleisky	regional, liquidating 2004
31	Tugnuisky	regional
32	Tukolon'	regional
33	Uzkolugsky	regional
34	Ulyunsky	regional
35	Frolikhinsky	federal
36	Khudaksky	regional
37	Shirokaya Pad'	local, liquidating 2002
38	Enkhaluisky	regional
<u>Recreational sites</u>		
39	Baikalsky Priboi-Kultushnaya	local
40	Lemasovo	local

After 2002, the government began to reduce the total area to comply with the protected areas. The reasons for reducing the number and surface of protected areas are

several, but are primarily associated with industrial logging. There is noteworthy absence of aquatic protected areas in the BNT on the Lake Baikal, and only a small

part of the water surface of Lake Baikal is included in the existing coastal protected areas. It can be assumed that if Lake Baikal's surface had been protected before the construction of the Irkutsk hydroelectric station and dam, the impact of rising the level of Lake Baikal (1958-1962) as a reservoir probably would have prevented the

undertaking of the project, which has had the most significant modern impact on the ecosystems of the lake, especially those affecting fish and coastal habitats.

Table 5 shows the proportion of the BNT and WNHS "Lake Baikal" in protected areas by ecological zones.

**Table no. 5** The ratio of protected areas and ecological zones of BNT in 2004.

Name of territory	Square of BNT ecological zones (km <sup>2</sup> )	Square of a protected area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Part of protected areas (%)
Central ecological zone (CEZ) or WNHS "Lake Baikal", include:	89,071*	24,801	27.84
- Lake Baikal (part of CEZ)	31,500	520	1.65
- mainland (part of CEZ)	57,571	24,281	32.18
Buffer ecological zone	213,875	11,457	5.36
Ecological zone of atmospheric influence	83,212	2,380	2.86
Baikal Natural Territory (BNT)	386,158	38,638	10.01

Note: \* - the square is the result of specifying data (State report 2006).

Lands within WNHS "Lake Baikal" have a different category and status. Over 20 % of the land within the boundaries of protected areas is not classified as "protected". Institutional misunderstanding (enshrined in the federal law on protected areas) was raised by the liquidation of several refuges within the BNT. This has not actually led to a reduction in the amount of protected land, however, as refuges are usually used by the forest industry.

The downside is that work on the surveying and registration of WNHS "Lake Baikal" land and the protected areas has progressed very slowly. Such work also includes a transition to a new land management system. Without such work, territorial planning and studies of the impacts of land transfer from one category to another cannot be completed. Without transfer of lands it is difficult to effectively manage either protected areas or the WNHS as a whole. The federal law "On the transfer of land or land plots from one category to another" was updated in 2005, but it did not

simplify the procedures for the transfer of land and did not create a better process.

Therefore, the third element of the institutional model is a mechanism transferring land from one category (agricultural, settlements land, state land reserves etc.) to another (protected areas, recreational facilities etc.), as well as for changing the status of land (federal, regional, local or municipal). The main obstacle to the transfer of land is a "defective" mechanism. The translation process is referred to in Art. 8 of the Land Code. The new version of the federal law on the land transfer states that such transfer is permitted only in exceptional cases. Previously, "exceptional cases" meant only those occurring during the creation of protected areas. Now the allocation of land conservation, historical, cultural, recreational and other values is particularly valuable. The new version of the law is a formality and needs to be made a normative one. An effective legal mechanism for land transfer needs to be created.

In accordance with the Urban Planning

Code of Russia, a special regulation shall be subject to urban development "... in cases where, without introducing special rules for use of the territory ... it is impossible or difficult" (Article 6). In WNH "Lake Baikal" traditional territories of indigenous peoples and the settlements within the boundaries of protected areas may be assigned to objects to special urban planning regulations (Article 4). On the northeast shore of Lake Baikal, the territories traditionally inhabited by indigenous people are defined by the natural boundary of the Shegnanda River Evenk clan "Revival" and the area of the settlement of the Evenk in the village of Kholodnaya and its surroundings.

There are 46 settlements in WNHS "Lake Baikal" within the protected areas' boundaries, and they may be the subject of many urban planning regulations. Only the village of Barguzinsky scientific nature reserve is directly involved in the activities of the protected area. In addition, the settlements' boundaries in the protected areas are not always clearly defined or confirmed by the Committee of Land Resources of the municipal administration. Obviously, the inclusion of settlements within the boundaries of the protected areas is the result of poorly informed and poorly thought-out solutions for the organization of Pribaikalsky National Park (in 1986) and Tunkinsky National Park (in 1991). The boundaries of national parks and their functional zoning projects have been identified only in the framework of an earlier forest arrangement of the Forest Department. In the future, boundaries of Pribaikalsky National Park and Tunkinsky National Park must be approved by the Russian government.

The presence of two or more types of land-users on the selected sites of protected areas leads to conflicts between local communities and protected-area administrators. Section 3.2 has already been mentioned as triggering similar problems in Tunkinsky National Park as it was organized within the administrative area (in WNHS "Lake Baikal" and BNT is 0.1 part of the

park square). In this area, the so-called "development zones" of settlements have not yet been included in the Urban Planning Code. Therefore, the proposal to establish boundaries should encompass not only issues pertaining to settlements and guided by urban planning regulations, but also refinement and approval of the boundaries of national parks and other functional zones within the territories, and providing land surveys.

Consequently, the fourth element of the institutional model is the mechanism for implementing land surveys and state registration of lands in accordance with the planning legislation.

#### Planning of new protected areas

Establishment of new protected areas in WNHS "Lake Baikal" extends the protection of nature to conserve, maintain and restore biotic and landscape diversity. Among the planned protected areas within WNHS "Lake Baikal" are "natural parks" (24 out of the 29 planned protected areas) (Savenkova 2001, 2002). Natural parks are most common in countries such as the USA and Germany. In California, the natural parks' system comprises 185 units, the first having been founded in 1902. Only 8 national parks are sizeable: Yosemite, Sequoia, King Canyon, Channel Islands, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Redwood and Lassen Volcanic. Common square of these categories of protected areas are comparable (Guide to the State Parks 2004; Guide to the National Parks 2006; Ostertag and Ostertag 1998). In Germany, national parks are called, in fact, natural parks, as all these protected areas are regional and are subject to the ministries of environment of the country's individual federal lands, not a federal ministry. There are 13 such parks in 9 of the 16 federal lands (Bishop et al. 2000).

The natural parks within WNHS "Lake Baikal" could become important components of the spatial organization of conservation, restoration and maintenance of the biodiversity and landscape diversity, as well



as the development of recreational and tourist activities. In the Baikal region there are no natural parks, despite the many proposals that have been made. Difficulties in their creation are related to the institutional conditions mentioned above. It goes without saying that this category of protected areas known as "natural parks" can withdraw land from the existing traditional economic uses. Natural parks can have their own administration in contrast to the refuges and natural monuments. At the same time, smaller parks in the area are more compact and manageable compared to the national parks. Natural parks can serve as a buffer among the high status of protected areas, national parks and scientific nature reserves, and can be established as a resource for areas' development. It is also important that the parks can serve the local population as well, and thus reduce the recreational load on scientific nature reserves and national parks. Consequently, the fifth element of the institutional model is to create natural parks, a new category of protected areas.

Thus, the proposed institutional model allows the evaluation of the effectiveness of the protected areas to conserve, maintain and restore natural systems. The use of the five main elements of the model permit the development of a protected-area system and the necessary institutional changes in the sequence of the nature protection, including: land surveying and public registration of land in all categories and types of ownership within the BNT; the establishment of borders of settlements and their "development zones"; resolution of conflicts between users of nature resources in the disputed areas of BNT; creating a real mechanism for transferring land from one category to another for sustainable land use planning of BNT; the approval by the Russian government of the boundaries of Pribaikalsky and Tunkinsky national parks with respect to the necessary use of land for agriculture and settlement; definition of recreational areas around Lake Baikal reservation and land conversion to the category of "recreational land"; and creation

of a system of natural parks within the BNP, which would be a new category of protected areas in Baikal region.

BNT in the economic model of nature conservation

The primary objective of the activity of the protected areas is to conserve biotic and landscape diversity. This objective is achieved in the process of solving relevant problems, provided the expenses are adequate and economically justified. In the case of protection of nature, the economic aspect of issues to be tackled is not always amenable to straightforward and unambiguous assessment. Action to reduce biotic and landscape diversity should undergo feasibility study. Global environmental concerns are transformed in transition to regional and local level. Regional and local economic interests cannot afford to make large expenditures on behalf of nature conservation.

Such logic is evident in the BNT. The formation of BNT was constructed on account of the existing structure of nature's resources using environmental and economic interests of individual actors in the region. The law "On protection of Lake Baikal" zones BNT on the central ecological zone into the buffer ecological zone and the ecological zone of atmospheric influence. The names of zones give an indication of the polarization of the interests of nature resources.

Within the BNT, it is valid only the simple model and an estimate of the costs of biodiversity conservation. These estimates are based on the so-called "Baikal factor" can justify the receipt of federal grants for economic development and social development of the Buryat Republic and compensate for economic losses (Kalikhman 2008b). In terms of environmental economics, such problems have long been resolved within the concept of externalities (external effects), as well as "external factors (externalities) to costs" for society and future generations (Coas 1993). But they are not

applicable in Russia with a dominant resource economics.

The history of the creation of protected areas within the BNT began after two reductions in the number of protected areas in 1951 and 1961. In the 1970s there were created the Baikalsky (1969) and Sokhondinsky (1974) scientific nature reserves, and the Burkalsky (1978) and Kabanskiy (local in 1967, and since 1974, federal) federal refuges. And beginning with the mid-1980s the following were established Baikalo-Lensky (1986) and Dzherginsky (1992) scientific nature

reserves, Pribaikalsky (1986), Zabaikalsky (1986) and Tunkinsky (1991) national parks, and Altacheysky (local in 1966, and 1984 federal), Frolihinsky (1976, 1988) and Krasny Yar (1994, 2000) federal refuges.

At the same time the academic community ushered in a new global paradigm of sustainable development that now dominates the principles of environmental protection. The reflection of global trends on the national system of territorial protection of nature is presented in [Table 6](#).

**Table no. 6** General trend towards the development of protected areas.

Areas of development of activity	Traditional approaches	Principles of sustainable development
Strategy of utilization of natural territories	Exclusion of the maximum possible area from economic utilization	Functional differentiation and spatial optimization of the areas of nature management
Strategy of management of natural territories Economic bases	Ideological declarative, voluntarism and utilitarianism Requirements for large expenses on protection and scantiness of budgetary financing	Current normative legal base with legalized pattern of land use Combination of budget and off-budget sources of funding
Nature and Man	Minimization of human presence in nature	Technological support of human access to nature

#### The overall economic assessment

The main categories of protected areas, such as scientific nature reserves, national parks and refuges are state environment organizations and funded from the federal budget. Such legislation establishes the status of institutions as a mechanism of complete or partial withdrawal of these territories from economic use.

Consequently, the first element of the economic model can be considered to be the use status of protected areas by state budget organizations for solving environmental problems. The dominant of the economic model of BNT protected areas is federal budget funding, which is usually associated with the effectiveness of protected areas.

Over the past five years, funding has more than doubled. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, only 66 % of the estimated annual funding requirements for the current contents of the state natural reserves and national parks a being met.

[Table 7](#) shows a hierarchy of tasks for the main categories of protected areas under the Federal Law "On Specially Protected Natural Areas". The problem of protection of natural areas to preserve biodiversity and maintain the natural environment and facilities is a priority for the main categories of protected areas. Achieving this task must be reliable and adequate funding. Therefore, the existing of a 66 % provision of protected areas and continued growth, the budget of the protected areas can be considered a

satisfactory level of protection even when recognizing that there is a lack of funding.

In accordance with the recently firmly established system of budget and off-budget financing of protected areas, 20 % of the own funds are added to the 66 % of the

federal budget component as well as 6 % which are provided by local budgets, 6 % by grants from international environmental foundations, and 2 % are received from sponsors (Ministry of Natural Resources 2006).

**Table no. 7** The priority tasks of the main categories of protected areas.

Tasks	SPA	NP	R
Protection of natural areas	1	1	1
Protection of historical and cultural sites	–	2	–
Research activity	2	5	–
Implementation of Environmental Monitoring	3	6	3
Environmental education	4	3	–
Participation in Environmental Assessment	5	–	–
Assisting in the training of scientists	6	–	–
Adjustable Tourism and Leisure	–	4	4
Restoration of natural and cultural complexes	–	7	2

Note: SPA- Strictly Protected Areas; NP- National Parks; R-Refuges.

The most marked influence on the activity of protected areas within the BNT was exerted by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) during 2000-2004 as well as its project entitled "Biodiversity conservation" (Russia, Baikal component). Under these programs the Pribaikalsky National Park, for example, obtained grants in the following amounts: 550.2 thou Rbls. (2001), 74.7 thou Rbls. (2002), and 126.1 thou Rbls. (2003). During the same period the Barguzinsky, Baikalo-Lensky, Baikalsky and Dzherginsky scientific nature reserves obtained under GEF grants more staggering funds: from 3 to 10 mil. Rbls.

#### The economy of landuse on BNT

In recent years there has been land registration conducted by the government. To assess their own economic viability, this procedure must be applied to all protected areas. Protected areas on BNT belong to land users, and the estimates of the value are based on assessments of forest and land resources. Such analyses are usually carried out once every 10 years, and if necessary more often. Table 8 shows the assessment

for the main categories of protected areas. In Baikalo-Lensky scientific nature reserve last forest inventory was carried out more than 30 years ago, over 11 years before the reserve was created. For the other protected areas, the last forest inventory was carried out 10-25 years ago.

Currently, the procedure of land use analysis is complemented by the work of land surveying and registration of all protected areas. The cost of surveying the land protected areas has not yet been determined. For the owners of private land, land prices based on free market value depend upon the areas in which the land is situated and the unit area value. The main work in protected areas is to estimate the cost of surveying the boundaries. Ownership of the land adjacent to the protected areas, outside the boundaries, is another important consideration. Federal lands dominated the BNT. It is therefore logical to transfer the costs associated with surveying to the federal budget. Thus, the second element of the economic model is the federal financing of the cost of both surveying as well as land and forest management of the protected areas.

**Table no. 8** The latest forest arrangement and land arrangement activities in protected areas.

Name of protected areas	Years of	
	forest arrangement	land arrangement
Strictly protected areas		
Baikalo-Lensky	1975 (before creation of protected area)	—*
Baikalsky	1980-81	—
Barguzinsky	1980-81	—
Dzherginsky	1981	—
Sokhondinsky	1991	2004
National parks		
Zabaikalsky	1991	2003
Pribaykalsky	1992	—
Tunkinsky	1995	—
Refugess		
Altacheisky	1989-1990	—
Burkalsky	2000	—
Frolikhinsky	1999-2000	—
Atsinsky	2000	—
Ivano-Arakhleisky	1996	—

Note: \* - uneralized

Within the BNP, the economy of land use in the protected areas varies. The boundaries of the state nature scientific nature reserves approved by the Russian government have had the lands transferred to the category of "land-protected area". They have a federal status and have no significant settlements. Therefore there is no conflict with the local population. Pribaikalsky and Tunkinsky national parks are not approved under the Russian government borders. Their boundaries are consistent only with the former federal forestry service, for which they were designated. Nature has a different value, including those not derived from economic activity, and this leads to conflict. Federal refuges had long been in abeyance from 2004 to 2008-2009.

Now, these reserves are divisions of scientific nature reserves or national parks. Their funding is part of the budget for scientific nature reserves and national parks. Regional refuges are found on lands of the federal forest fund, but are subordinated to the regional authorities and funded from regional budgets. The situation is different in various regions, however: in the Irkutsk Oblast', they practically have not been

managed and are not financed either, in Buryatia Republic and Zabaikalsky Kray the situation is more favorable.

#### Recreation at BNT

The recreational activity is not among the priorities of the protected areas, as shown in Table 7. The budgetary growth of the protected areas is used to perform the basic environmental functions. Instead of differentiating the territory of protected areas based on permitted and prohibited activities, the Department of State's policy in the field of environmental protection suggests transferring scientific nature reserves to the category of national parks. Moreover, is supported the proposed development of the protected areas system in the direction of recreational resources and the creation of tourism infrastructure. These simple ideas to increase economic activity and funding of environmental management of the protected areas have been discussed above. In the incongruous (non-economic) ideology of biodiversity conservation there is always a contradiction inherent to its economic assessment on global and regional levels

(Rumina and Karachevtsev 2005).

The first attempt to study the development of recreation on the lake Baikal was undertaken in 1994 as a project commissioned by the World Bank's "Master Plan for ecotourism in the region of Lake Baikal" (The Master Plan 1995). The basic concepts of this plan are to: not exceed the maximum permissible load level of socio-economic, cultural, historical, ecological relationships in the region, including the unique communities of flora and fauna and the cultural heritage; maximize opportunities and economic benefits to the local population; and enhance preservation of natural areas, national parks and reserves in the area of Lake Baikal and its waters by increasing the effectiveness of environmental stimuli.

Since the advent of ecotourism, the development reports regularly promote the focus of recreational activity in protected areas. It is known that ecotourism is one of the most successful industries in the world. The formula of ecotourism in protected areas is to reduce the separation of visitors' permanent and temporary places of stay. Permanent residence refers to permanent occupation and temporary refers to the brief visits (Kalikhman et al. 2005; Shirokov et al. 2002). On BNT the recreational activities are determined by the demands for visits to Lake Baikal and the ability of protected areas to satisfy this demand. It should be noted that the proposals of quality services to stay in protected areas is extremely limited.

It is clear that extra-budgetary economy of protected areas depends directly on the flexible and operational records of demand for the visit and their competitiveness in comparison to the services for other recreational activities. Thus, the third element of the economic model is the development of recreational activities in protected areas. Such activities can satisfy the increasing demand for visits to Lake Baikal and can be used to boost funding of conservation.

## Conclusions:

Specially protected natural territories of the Baikal region have typically used either the basin or the administrative approach. In this chapter we propose an integrated approach that allows us to overcome the shortcomings of the basin and administrative approaches. There is a need to develop an integrated approach and it is linked to the emergence of the law "On protection of Lake Baikal". The emergence of the law determining BNT indicates a new environmental paradigm, which is based on: the possibility of transcending the limitations and contradictions caused by the compulsory account of administrative boundaries or the boundaries of the Lake Baikal basin in environmental management; the scope of nature conservation in terms of preservation of biotic and landscape diversity is the key areas on BNP with a common regulatory and legal framework similar management; and the need to transfer the emphasis from the traditional declaration of environmental regulations in the modes of regulations to the conservation of the natural environment in accordance with the purpose of ecological zones of BNP. The functional model of the territorial nature protection on BNP formalizes the transition to the new environmental paradigm. Corresponding to this paradigm, an integrated approach to nature protection is based on the institutional and economic models, as well as a system of recreation in protected areas within the BNT and WNHS "Lake Baikal".

## Rezumat:

### SISTEMUL SPECIAL DE PROTECȚIE AL ARIILOR NATURALE: CONSERVAREA NATURII ÎN REGIUNEA BAIKAL

Teritoriile naturale protejate din regiunea Baikal au fost folosite în mod obișnuit fie ca bazine acvatice, fie ca zone administrative. Articolul propune o abordare integrată care

să permită depășirea neajunsurilor rezultate din gestionarea zonei. Abordarea integrată încearcă să depășească barierele de ordin politic și economic în favoarea unui plan de conservare eficient.

#### Acknowledgements:

This study has been possible with financial support of the Russian Geographical Society, Grant N 10/06/2013.

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