



REINDEER OF THE EUROPEAN NORTH OF RUSSIA: CONDITION OF THE POPULATIONS AND CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

V.A. Yefimov

*Institute of Ecological Problems of the North, Ural Branch of the Russian
Academy of Science, Arkhangeskl. Russia*

Taiga Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus* Linnaeus, 1758) inhabits the area from the Kola Peninsula to the Urals. At present, its distribution in all of the regions is focal. The species abundance and range are decreasing. This process is most pronounced on the borders between Arkhangelsk Region and Republic of Karelia, and Arkhangelsk Region and Komi Republic.

Ecological and taxonomic features of taiga reindeer populations are very poorly known. This fact makes elaboration of recommendations for efficient conservation measures rather difficult.

Apparently, the first things to do to facilitate conservation of taiga reindeer populations are research into the ecological and taxonomic characteristics of this species throughout the range, intensification of protection against poaching, habitat preservation, and establishment of the system of corridors to enable migration and interchange of individuals both in the distribution foci and between them.

Novozemel'sky (Novaya Zemlya) reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus paersoni* Ludekker, 1903) is also understudied. No reliable data about its population are now available. This reindeer is a red-listed species of category 5 "rehabilitated and rehabilitating species". Its taxonomic status has not been confirmed, and needs clarification. Elaboration of the strategy for management of these reindeer populations would depends on that (Yefimov and Mamontov 2006).

