

## **Evaluation of the Dissertation**

The dissertation titled "Dynamics of the Structure of Phytocenosis and Increase of Pine Forest Stands Transformed as a Result of Drainage Reclamation and Subsequent Degradation of Drainage Networks (on the Example of the Naliboksky Reserve)" by Artur Y. Komar investigates the patterns of successional processes and ecological transformations in pine forests affected by hydroforestry reclamation, rewetting, and climatic changes. By using the Naliboksky Reserve as a case study, the research addresses a critical environmental issue with global relevance, focusing on sustainable land use and climate change adaptation.

The study's methodology is robust, combining geobotanical analysis, dendrochronological reconstruction, and phytoindication to provide a comprehensive understanding of forest ecosystem dynamics. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that the findings are both detailed and reliable. The research offers several significant contributions, including the identification of a new syntaxonomic variant (Vaccinium uliginosum) and the detailed reconstruction of successional pathways. These findings are particularly valuable for understanding ecological diversity and transformation in drained and rewetting landscapes.

The dissertation provides practical recommendations for managing drained pine forests, such as strategies for rewetting degraded ecosystems, maintaining productive forest areas, and promoting demutational successions to facilitate the restoration of natural ecosystems. These actionable suggestions are highly relevant for policymakers, forest managers, and environmental planners seeking to balance ecological restoration with sustainable forest use.

Artur Y. Komar's work makes a significant contribution to forest ecology by addressing the long-term impacts of drainage reclamation and the potential for natural restoration. The findings align with pressing global challenges related to climate change and sustainable ecosystem management. This dissertation successfully bridges scientific inquiry with practical application, offering valuable insights and solutions for the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems.

Yours sincerely

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