



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 8 November 2016

Update version, previously published on : 21 October 2002

Belarus

Osveiski



Designation date	21 October 2002
Site number	1217
Coordinates	56°04'22"N 28°09'14"E
Area	30 567,38 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The site is a large complex of lakes, forests, transition mires and raised bogs. This complex is important functional element of the Western Dvina River's basin. The core of the area is Osveiskoe Lake, which is the second largest natural lake in Belarus. The lake plays an important role in defining the hydrological and climatic characteristics of Northern Belarus. The surface of this largest in Belarus eutrophic lake is currently subject to processes of dystrophication and rapid overgrowth with surface-water vegetation. The site is a concentration site of numerous waterbird species during migration.

The Landscape Reserve Osveiski and adjacent Reserve "Krasnyi bor" represent a united natural complex and are considered as a potential core of an ecological network of European importance. This natural complex has well-defined ecological connections (through forests) with natural areas in Russia, Latvia, as well as with the National Park "Braslavskie Lakes".

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2002
To year	2010

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Osveiski
Unofficial name (optional)	Освейский

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
(Update) The boundary has been extended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Yes (actual)
(Update) Are the changes	Positive <input type="radio"/> Negative <input type="radio"/> Positive & Negative <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(Update) Positive %	20
(Update) Negative %	23
(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing boundaries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(Update) Please describe any changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site.

Criterion 1: Works on restoration of the hydrological regime of mires within the Ramsar Site and repeated waterlogging of degraded peatlands were implemented. As a result, the water level on the mires and in the lake was stabilized at the natural level. This increased the role of the site for the maintenance of the hydrological regime and microclimate formation.

Criterion 5: Earlier the high-productive lake served as a stopover during migration for more than 20000 waterfowl. During last years as a result of the lake dystrophication and multiply decline of benthos biomass, the number of migrating birds decreased to 5000-10000. Earlier the large number of migrating diving ducks stopped on the lake to feed, but now the lake is mainly used for overnight stay by different species of migrating geese.

(Update) Is the change in ecological character negative, human-induced AND a significant change (above the limit of acceptable change) Yes

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

The site includes the Lake Osveiskoe, the part of the Osveiskoe Mire and adjacent in the North forests till the state border with Latvia and Pskov Region of Russia. In the North and West the border of the Ramsar site goes along the State border; on the East - along the coast of the lake Lisno till the Zalucie village; on the South – along the roads and villages, along the Osveiskoe Lake and further towards the State Border. In 1977 the Hunting Reserve Osveja was established on the territory with the area of 22600 ha in order to create optimal conditions for regeneration of populations of huntable birds and mammals. According to the procedure, upon completion of a 20-year validity period the Hunting Reserve is automatically turned into a biological zakaznik (reserve) with a stricter nature-conservation regime. It should be noted, that the hunting reserve managed to fulfill its mission and restore populations of huntable animals, especially ungulate animals. In 2000 the landscape reserve was established on the basis of the biological zakaznik, with extension of area by 5,154 ha (27754 ha). The territory was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002 in the borders of old biological reserve (22600 ha). In 2015 the border of the Landscape Reserve Osveiski was changed and extended and the modern area is 30567.38 ha. The border and area of the Ramsar site was changed to coincide with those of the Landscape Reserve.

2.2.2 - General location

- a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?
- b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

- a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No
- b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

- Official area, in hectares (ha):
- Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Boreal

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

Covering a substantial area, the Osveiski lake-and-mire complex is an important functional element of the Western Dvina River's basin. The lake plays an important role in defining the hydrological and climatic characteristics of Northern Belarus. The site is the large reservoir of clear fresh water; pressure of surface water ensures supply of ground water. Besides, the lake and mires complex provide water supplies for the Svolna river and large raised bogs situated in the catchment of this river. The natural complex of the Osveiski site is the typical example of forest-lake-mire ecosystems, characteristic not only for the Belarus' territory. Many of the site's ecosystems (from raised bogs to dry heather forests, from small rivers to large lakes) are reference of natural ecosystems of Poozerie region.

Other ecosystem services provided












The lake and mire complex Osveiski is one of the largest in the region, preserved in a relatively non-disturbed state. The territory includes ecologically interconnected raised bogs and the Osveiskoe Lake, performing the key functions on stabilization and maintenance of natural ecological regimes, and maintenance of populations of rare species of national and international importance. The site is a habitat of a range of rare and threatened plant and animal species, mainly forest and wetland ones. The site is situated along the migration routes of populations of water birds of the Western Palearctic. More than 10000 water birds stay here during the period of seasonal migrations.

Other reasons

The Landscape Reserve Osveiski and adjacent Reserve "Krasnyi bor" represent a united natural complex and are considered as a potential core of an ecological network of European importance. This natural complex has well-defined ecological connections (through forests) with natural areas in Russia, Latvia, as well as with the National Park "Braslavskie Lakes". The Osveiski is a protected area of transboundary value, it borders with the Russian Federation in the North-East and with Latvia in the West. On the territory of the Russian Federation the Sebezhski National Park is directly adjacent to the Osveiski site. The territory of these two areas represents the united natural complex.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Carex magellanica irrigua</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Carex pauciflora</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Cirsium heterophyllum</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Cotoneaster melanocarpus</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	
<i>Dactylorhiza viridis</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Dracocephalum ruyschiana</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Gentiana cruciata</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	
<i>Gentianella amarella</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Hemimium monorchis</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	
<i>Liparis loeselii</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Lithospermum officinale</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Neottia cordata</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Nuphar pumila</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
<i>Stellaria crassifolia</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Trichophorum alpinum</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
<i>Vaccinium microcarpum</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	

The flora of the site includes 355 species of higher plants. According to their habitats, plant species of the site are distributed as follows: meadow species dominate - 147 species (41.1%), there are 86 forest species (24.2%), 78 (22.0 %) mire species, 27 species of weed plants (7.6 %), 10 aquatic species (2.8%), 7 riparian species (2%).

23 rare and threatened plant species included in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Belarus were registered within the site.

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification	
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8									
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5750	2005-2007	1.04	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The site supports about 1.04% of the biogeographical population (West & Central Siberia/NE & SW Europe) during spring migration - 3000-8500 individuals.	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2007			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	2005		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	males, on breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breedin pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2005-2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Crex crex</i>	Corn Crake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	2005-2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	males, on breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel;Eurasian Kestrel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	2005-2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	2005		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1800	2005-2007	2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	The site supports 2% of biogeographical population of this species (North-east & Central Europe/North Africa) in the post-breeding period (1800 ind.). There are also 10-15 breeding pairs.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2007		LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pair
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Willow Grouse;Willow Ptarmigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2008		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pairs, on breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2005-2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pair
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian Lynx	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	5-8 individuals constantly live within the site
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Meles meles</i>	European Badger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	about 50 individuals live here

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - WJ	breeding pair
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Numerius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2007		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - WJ	5-10 breeding pairs, on breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Numerius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - WJ	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey,Western Osprey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pair
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	European Golden Plover;European Golden-Plover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - WJ	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Great Gray Owl;Great Grey Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2006		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - WJ	breeding pairs
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Brown Bear;Grizzly Bear	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4			LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	2-4 individuals

There are 282 species of Vertebrate animals in the fauna of the site, including 23 fish species, 9 amphibian species, 5 – reptile species, 206 – bird species (174 are breeding) and 38 – mammals. 50 rare and threatened animal species included in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Belarus were registered within the site: 3 insect species, 44 bird species and 3 mammal species.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
7110 Active raised bogs	<input type="checkbox"/>	the bogs are situated in the floodplain of the Osveya Lake and provide water supply for the lake.	Annex I of the Habitat Directive, priority habitat
9050 Fennoscandian herb-rich forest with Picea abies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grow in the northern part of the site, in the area, adjacent to the mire and the lake.	Annex I of the Habitat Directive
3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion type of vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	One of the largest lakes in Belarus - Osveya lake.	Annex I of the Habitat Directive

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The site is a large complex of lakes, forests, transition and bog mires. Osveiskoe Lake is a key element of the complex, it is the second largest natural lake in Belarus. It covers 23.4% of the site's area. Its area is 52.8 sq.km., the mean depth is 2.0 m, maximal depth is 7.5 m. Wide sandy littorals and shallow-waters are typical for the lake. The lake is a non-stagnant waterbody. Small Zilupe and Vydrinka rivers, as well as 10 streams and a number of drainage ditches laid through the mire flow into the lake. Streams dry out in summer. In general, the Lake Osveiskoe is a shallow overgrowing water body of macrophyte type, characterized by rich development of all the plant groups - underwater, floating, and surface. The lake plays an important role in defining the hydrological and climatic characteristics for Northern Belarus.

The dominant type of ecosystems is forest, which occupies 29.5% of the territory, communities of small-leaved forest prevail (60%). Mire ecosystems (21.8 %) are represented mainly by raised bogs. The most of the bogs are covered with pine, birch and alder forest with few mineral islands. Fen mires are few.

Recently the Lake Osveiskoe was a high-productive lake with a high number of rare plant and animal species, high fish production values. Over the last 20 years the processes of rapid dystrophication of the lake are observed, leading to loss of the lake's value for biodiversity and fish production.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks				
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		1		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		4		
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		3		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands				
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands				
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		2		

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches				

(EOD) Habitat connectivity

The site has well-defined ecological connections with ecological network's elements in Russia, Latvia and National Park "Braslavskie Lakes", which are realized through forests.

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Gladiolus imbricatus</i>		
<i>Huperzia selago</i>		
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>		
<i>Neottia ovata</i>		
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>		

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon	3500			migration
CHORDATA/AVES	Lyrurus tetrix	Eurasian Black Grouse, Black Grouse				
CHORDATA/AVES	Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfb: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Middle part of river basin

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The Osveiskoe Lake refers to the Western Dvina River's basin. Osveiski lake and mire complex is the important functional element of the Western Dvina River's basin.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

Organic

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

The level of water in the lake is highest in fall and winter through fall rainfalls and intensive groundwater feeding. The ratio of lake surface to catchment area is 0.25, which is favorable for smooth water level fluctuations (normally within 30-35 cm). This has a vital importance for breeding waterbirds during their nesting season.

Hydrological network within the site is represented by lakes, rivers, network of drainage canals. The largest lakes are Osveiskoe, Lisno, Beloe, the rivers - Zilupe, Vydrinka, Degtiarevka canal. The density of the river network is 0.35 - 0.40 km/km².

Small rivers Zilupe and Vydrinka, 10 temporary creeks and several drainage canals flow into the Osveiskoe Lake. Water from the Lake flow through the Degtiarevka canal to the Ormea Lake (Russia) and Lisno Lake, then through the rivers Svolna and Drissa into the Western Dvina River.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Bottom sediments are rich in organic matter. Thin detrital sapropel layer is the dominating in the sediments. It covers about 80% of the pit area, and it is 0.5-7.5 m deep. Siliceous sapropel is found in the central part of the pit on a small area free of macrophytes. Total siliceous sapropel deposits are estimated to be 86.7 mln cubic meters. A large siliceous sapropel deposit (7.4 mln cubic meters) was found under a peat layer on a site adjacent to the wetland complex. These are prospective reserves of valuable raw material.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mesotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The water is weakly mineralized and hydrocarbonated. Mineralization figures are highest in winter: up to 210-250 mg per l; they are the lowest in summer: 100-200 mg per l.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The catchment of the Lake is economically well developed, drainage works were conducted here, especially in the northern and western parts, from 1929. At the moment the melioration is not conducted anymore. But the extracted mining pits and ditches covering the total area of more than 1,000 ha continue to drain the mire and the lake.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium
Fresh water	Water for industry	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Low
Wetland non-food products	Timber	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Within the boundaries of the site 5 small human dwellings are located, with overall population about 300. All traditional agricultural land-uses except cattle pasturing in the littoral part and on the Island of Osveiskoe Lake are allowed on those lands that are in use of the collective farms. On forested areas the Ignalinsk forest district conducts selection and gradual logging, thinning operations, regeneration activities. All indirect traditional forest uses, such as collection of berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants, are allowed on the site. Amateur and commercial fishing is practiced on Osveiskoe Lake. The site is open for regulated amateur hunting of huntable mammals and birds, excluding spring hunting of waterfowl. There are no nationally and/or regionally important roads and facilities on the site. Locally important raw material mining is conducted on the site (sand and clay extraction).

Within the site: 100s

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

Where economic studies or assessments of economic valuation have been undertaken at the site, it would be helpful to provide information on where the results of such studies may be located (e.g. website links, citation of published literature):

The Management Plan for the Osveiski Reserve, Minsk 2008.
 Summary: Use of the territory of the Republican Landscape Reserve Osveiski in the presently existing way is aimed at receiving of economic profit from the direct use of ecosystem resources. Timber resources and agronomic resources, used in agriculture, are of the greatest relative value. A row of ways of economic use of Reserve's resources currently is unprofitable, first of all commercial fishing on Osveiskoe Lake, as well as use of arable lands. The value of the site is not confined by the estimated value of the components of the direct use and can be significantly increased at the expense of other elements of well-being, associated with functioning of its ecosystems in the close to the natural regime. The most sustainable potential ways of use of ecosystem resources of the Osveiski Reserve can be recreation and regulated tourism, aimed at use of aesthetic and information resources, as well as accompanying traditional use. The features of the territory allow combining tourism with sustainable agriculture and farming, forestry, hunting and fishing.

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

(EOD) Notable aspects concerning migration

(EOD) Pressures and trends concerning any of the above, and/or concerning ecosystem integrity

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

The State nature conservation authority "The Republican Landscape Reserve Osveiski"

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Igor Grigorievich Romanjuk the director of the State nature conservation authority

Postal address:

Belarus
211631 Verchedvinsk
Sovetskaya 170-2

E-mail address:

osvejski@rambler.ru

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Canalisation and river regulation			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Logging and wood harvesting	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fire and fire suppression	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease
Dams and water management/use	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Unspecified/others	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Degradation of the ecosystem of Osveiskoe Lake, decline in fish production and biodiversity. Degradation of the Lake's ecosystem is a result of a complex influence of a row of factors, the main of which are: changes in water level caused by economic use of the Lake; absence of the constant inflow from the adjacent mires because of their partial drainage; overgrowth of all shallow waters (up to 2 m) by emerged and submerged vegetation. The Lake degradation caused the following problems: sharp decline of fish stocks, with change in ichthyofauna structure; multiply reduction of waterbirds populations; decline of foraging base (benthos) for fish and birds; disruption of oxygen regime of the Lake.

In 1929-30 a system of drainage canals was constructed on the site as part of the ameliorative drainage campaign, and the Zilupe and Vydrinka rivers entering the lake were canalized. At the same time Degtiakiovka canal was constructed connecting Osveiskoe Lake with Armeia Lake. As a result the water level in the lake dropped by 1.5 m. In the subsequent years up to 1996 the water level in the lake was rising and falling many times, within an amplitude of 2 m, which was the consequence of alternating construction and destruction of soil dams on Degtiariovka Canal, as well as construction in 1950s and subsequent operation of a regulated flow-through sluice.

Drainage. Osveia peat extraction company operating in the mire adjacent to the lake has been annually extracting some 150,000 tons of peat for fertilizer and fuel purposes, and this has adversely affected the water level regime of the lake for 30 years. At the moment the company is no longer operating. But the extracted mining pits and ditches covering the total area of more than 1,000 ha continue to drain the mire and the lake. Drainage of the mires, adjacent to Osveiskoe Lake, for peat extraction and forestry resulted in the following consequences: disruptions of the water supply of Osveiskoe Lake; decline of groundwater level on the mires, accompanied by negative successions; increased fire danger on the mires; disappearance or reduction of populations of hygrophilous flora and fauna species, including those specific only for raised bogs; acceleration of overgrowth of open mire parts with shrubs and trees.

Open island meadows on Osveiskoe Lake are overgrowing with shrubs and trees as a result of cessation of mowing and grazing.

Unsustainable forestry: cutting of indigenous forests (spruce, pine).

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Landscape Reserve	Osveiski	http://verkhnedvinsk.vitebsk-region.gov.by/ru/osvejskij/	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Asvieja	http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/29/full	partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Partially implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Partially implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Proposed
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Proposed

Other:

The management plan envisages establishment of transboundary Ramsar area "Osveiski-Sebezhsy", coordination of management activities on these areas.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

4 touristic routes are available within the site. There are a row of farm houses for guests.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): [http://www.zakazniki.priroda-vitebsk.by/marshruty/zakaznik-osveiskii/-](http://www.zakazniki.priroda-vitebsk.by/marshruty/zakaznik-osveiskii/)

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

1. Belenki, Kurzo. Age of peat deposits at bog mires of Belarus and origins of bordering layers.//News of the Academy of Sciences of BSSR. Biological series. – 1988, #2. – pages 27-31.
2. Belarusian Lake District: analysis of ecological and drainage situation. Anoshko et al., Minsk,1992–56p
3. Golod et al., Mires in the basin of the Western Dvina river, their use and conservation connected to their amelioration // Anthropogenic changes, conservation of mire vegetation and adjacent areas, Minsk 1981.- pages 182-187.
4. State water roster, Vol. 3. – Leningrad, 1985. – pages 250-253.
5. T.I. Kukharchik. Bog mires of Belarus, Minsk, 1993, – 136 pages
6. Landscapes of Belarus. Edited by G.I. Martsinkevich, N.K.Klitsunova, Minsk, 1989, – 239 pages
7. Lakes of Belarus. Edited by O.F. Yakushko, Minsk, 1988, pages 63-67.
8. A.P. Pidoplichko, Peat deposits of Belarussia, Minsk, 1961. – 192 pages
9. Rational nature use in the Belarusian Lake District, Edited by Anoshko V.S. et al., Minsk 1993, 202p
10. Encyclopedia of Belarusian Nature, Vol. 1. – Minsk 1983. – pages 140, 442.
11. I.D. Yurkevich, D.S. Golod, V.S. Aderikho. Vegetation of Belarus, its mapping, conservation and use. – Minsk, 1979. – 248 pages
12. O.F. Yakushko, Belarusian Lake District. History and modern condition of lakes in the North of Belarus. Minsk, 1971.- 336 pages
13. V.P. Biriukov. Annotated list of water-birds of Osveia Lake. - Newsletter of Vitebsk State University,. # 2(4). pages. 67-70.
14. V.P. Biriukov. Some common patters in distribution of breeding waterbirds at lakes of the Western Dvina basin // Newsletter of Vitebsk State University. 1998. #2(8). Pages 91-98.
15. E. A. Borovik. Fishing lakes of Belarussia,– Minsk, 1970. – pages 94-97.
16. S.A. Kukushkin. Osveia lake as a unique natural complex of the Belarusian Lake District // Problems of biodiversity conservation in Belarus. – Minsk, 1993. – Pages 232-234.
17. S.A. Kukushkin, D.V. Radkevich. Calculation of peak annual biomass build-up for key commercial fish species of Osveia Lake // Problems of research, conservation and use of biological diversity of the animal world. Minsk, 1994. – pages 41-42.
18. V.A. Muravitsky. Distribution of brown bear in the North of Belarus // Protected animals of Belarussia. Issue # 2. – Minsk 1990. – pages 50-61.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<1 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Osveiski (Kozulin Alexander, 2006)



Osveiski (Vershitskaya I., 2006)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation