

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

6 September 2010

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### 3. Country:

Lithuania

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Viesvile (Viešvilė)

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### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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### 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

#### a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

\*\* **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

It is foreseen 10-20 % decrease of non-forested peatland habitats, due to overgrow with forest, which was caused by climate change (reduced amount of rain water during summer season).

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**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary is the same as a strict state nature reserve area – 3218ha.

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**8. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

Coordinates of the approximate centre:

55°09' N 22°27' E;

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**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

In W-SW part of country. In Taurage region, approximately 10 km south east of the city Taurage (29000 inh.). There are Eiciai village (450 inh.) in protection zone of reserve and Viesvile village (1040 inh.) 1 km south of the site.

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**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Average elevation is 37 m; maximum – 48 m, minimum – 20 m.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

3218 ha

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The complex of bogs, swamps and mires (about 2000 ha) in the upper reaches of Viesvile rivulet, surrounded by dry coniferous forests on a sandy fluvial plane with continental dunes. The site is ecological and hydrological undisturbed and valuable for endangered wetland vegetation and different animals in region.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

**Criterion 1:** There is representative, rare and relatively large undisturbed complicated complex of bogs, swamps, mires and Viesvile rivulet. The site located in transitional zone between boreal and nemoral biogeographical zones.

**Threatened communities included in the Annex I of the European Habitats directive:**

- 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*- type vegetation,
- 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation,
- 7110 Active raised bogs,
- 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs,
- 7160 Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and sprigfens,
- 9080 Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods,
- 91D0 Bog woodland,
- 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*).

**Criterion 2:** Viesvile wetland supports internationally and locally endangered and vulnerable both plant and animal species and plant communities.

**Breeding bird species included in the Annex I of European Birds Directive:**

*Pernis apivorus*, *Bonasa bonasia*, *Tetrao tetrix*, *Porzana porzana*, *Crex crex*, *Grus grus*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Glaucidium passerinum*, *Aegolius funereus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Picus canus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Dendrocopos leucotos*, *Dendrocopos medius*, *Lullula arborea*, *Ficedula parva*, *Lanius collurio*

**Species included in the Annex II of the European Habitats directive**

**Mammals:** *Castor fiber*, *Lutra lutra*, *Canis lupus*, *Lynx lynx*

**Fishes:** *Lampetra planeri*, *Misgurnus fossilis*, *Cottus gobio*

**Insects:** *Graphoderus bilineatus*, *Boros schneideri*, *Maculinea teleius*, *Leucorhinia pectoralis*, *Ophiogomphus cecilia*, *Lycæna dispar*.

**Plants:** *Liparis loeselii*, *Saxifraga hirculus*, *Drepanocladus vernicosus*;

The site also supports a number of plant and animal species listed in the Lithuanian Red Data Book – see points 21 and 22.

**Criterion 3:** Viesvilė wetland supports large number of species that are indicators of undisturbed ecosystems and are dependent from natural hydrological regime. There are a lot of protected moss species (25 included in Lithuanian RDB), threatened insect and other species in the site.

**Criterion 4:** The wetland is breeding site for a number of rare and endangered bird species (see point 22).

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**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Area is belonging to the Boreo-nemoral vegetation zone, i.e. North European mixed forest region (Udvardy, 1975). Boreal (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Area is belonging to the Boreo-nemoral vegetation zone (Udvardy, 1975.). The original boreo-nemoral vegetation comprises a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees, although conifers have probably always predominated. This zone is wide in Baltic states and together with Sweden and western Russia contains a comparatively large proportion of Europe's boreo-nemoral regions.  
Council Directive 92/43/EEC

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**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The relief of the territory formed in Holocene under glacier-dammed lake conditions. The surface of land is covered by a 5-15 m layer of fluvioglacial sand. Dunes formed and pits were covered by swamps as a result of formation of a glacier. There are two residual lakes with peaty shores – Glitis (20 ha) and Buveinis (5.6 ha).

There are various types of sand and peat soils. Soil acidity varies from neutral to acid (pH=3-4). In swamps and bog forests, upland peatlands (histols) cover 43%, lowland peatlands 34% and intermediate-type peatlands 22% of the territory.

The hydrological regime depends on the amount of precipitation. Snow melting in spring results in high water, forming temporary oligotrophic lakelets on the periphery of upland bogs. During dry summers, there is lack of water in swamps. This process has been particularly marked in the past 15 years. In addition to swamps, the Viešvilė stream is also fed by non-drying springs. There is a number of beaver dams in the stream.

The water is soft (contains little mineral substances). Humic acids make swamp water reddish brown. The Eičiai village is a minor source of sewage pollution. Pollutants are absorbed by swamp plants.

The depth of lakes is 0.5-1.5 m. There is a 1-4 m layer of peaty mud at a larger depth. The Viešvilė stream is 2-6 metre wide. There are no significant fluctuations in the surface water level.

The annual amount of precipitation is 750-800 mm. The average annual temperature is +6°C.; the average January temperature is -4°C and the average July temperature is +17°C. The average daily temperature rises above 0°C on around 20 March and falls below 0°C on around 15 November. High water in spring depends on the amount of snow and is the most marked in March. Dry periods last from June to September.

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**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The area of the section of the Viešvilė stream basin extending via the reserve is some 60 km<sup>2</sup>. The boundaries of the reserve and protection zone almost coincide with the boundaries of the basin of the upper reaches of Viešvilė. This part is very swampy (see clause 16). A watershed extends via some bogs.

The southern part (middle reaches) is little swampy. It is dominated by pine forests growing in sandy soil. A small seasonally drying tributary (Ežerėlis) has been reclaimed. This area, just like entire Lithuania, belongs to the northern part of the temperate climate zone. The climate is transitory between marine and continental.

### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The hydrological regime is natural, with minor local regulation carried out in the past. The area is important for rich resources of clean ground water, and the swamp plays a significant role in replenishing it. Peat accumulation in bogs facilitates the binding of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

### 19. Wetland Types

#### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

**Marine/coastal:** A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

**Inland:** L • M • N • Q • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

**Human-made:** 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

#### b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Xp – U – Xf – O – W – M – Tp – Ts

### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

#### Main vegetation types in wetland:

Wetland type	EUNIS habitats classification	Phytosociological (Braun-Blanquet) classification
Forested peatlands (Xp)	G3.D1 : Boreal <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> bog woods;	<i>Ledo palustri-Pinetum sylvestris</i> ,
	G3.D2 : Boreal sphagnum <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> fen woods	<i>Vaccinio uliginosi-Pinetum sylvestris</i>
	G1.41 : <i>Alnus</i> swamp woods not on acid peat	<i>Carici elongatae-Alnetum glutinosae</i> ,
	G1.51 : Sphagnum <i>Betula</i> woods	<i>Sphagno squarrosi-Alnetum glutinosae</i>
	G4.1 : Mixed swamp woodland	<i>Betulo pubescentis-Piceetum abietis</i>
Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands (Xf)	G3.D5 : Boreal <i>Picea</i> swamp woods;	<i>Sphagno girgensohnii-Piceetum abietis</i>
	G1.21 : Riverine <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Alnus</i> woodland, wet at high but not at low water	<i>Circaeo-Alnetum glutinosae</i>
Shrub dominated wetlands (W)	F9.2 : <i>Salix</i> carr and fen scrub	<i>Salicetum triandro-cinereae</i> ,
Non-forested peatlands (U)	D1.11 : Active, relatively undamaged raised bogs	<i>Betuletum humilis</i>
	D2.3 : Transition mires and quaking bogs	<i>Sphagnetum magellanici</i> ,
	D5.1 : Reedbeds normally without free-standing water	<i>Eriophoro-Trichophoretum caespitosi</i>
		<i>Caricetum lasiocarpae</i> ,
		<i>Caricetum elatae</i> and other
		<i>Thelypteri-Phragmitetum australis</i>

Permanent freshwater marshes/pools (Tp)	D5.21 : Beds of large <i>Carex</i> spp.	<i>Peucedano-Calamagrostietum cannescentis</i> , <i>Caricetum vesicariae</i> and other <i>Magnocaricion</i>
	D2.2 : Poor fens and soft-water spring mires	<i>Caricetum nigrae</i> and other <i>Caricion nigrae</i>
	C1.2 : Permanent mesotrophic lakes, ponds and pools	<i>Lemnetum trisulcae</i> , <i>Hottonietum palustris</i> , <i>Stratiotetum aloidis</i> , <i>Utricularietum vulgaris</i> and other
Permanent freshwater lakes (O)	C1.2 : Permanent mesotrophic lakes, ponds and pools	<i>Myriophyllo verticillati-Nupharetum lutei</i> , <i>Potamogetonum perfoliati</i>
Permanent rivers/ streams/creeks (M)	C2.21 : Epirhithral and metarhithral streams; C2.27 : Mesotrophic vegetation of fast-flowing streams	<i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i>

**Main vegetation types in adjacent areas:**

EUNIS	Braun-Blanquet
G3.B2 : <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> <i>Pinus</i> and <i>Picea</i> - <i>Pinus</i> taiga	<i>Vaccinio vitis-idaeae-Pinetum sylvestris</i> , <i>Vaccinio myrtilli-Pinetum sylvestris</i>
G3.A1 : <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> western <i>Picea</i> taiga	<i>Eu-Piceetum abietis</i>

**21. Noteworthy flora:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

In Viesvile wetland are about 20 species of vascular plant included in Lithuanian Red Data Book (LRDB).

**Rare species:**

<i>Hyperzja selago</i>	( <i>Picea</i> swamp woods)
<i>Betula humilis</i>	(transition mires)
<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i>	(broad leaved swamp woods)
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	(transition mires and wet meadows)
<i>Dactylorhiza longifolia</i>	(transition mires and wet meadows)
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> moist woodlands)
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	(small oligomesotrophic pools)
<i>Peplis portula</i>	(small intermittent eutrophic pools)

**Endangered species:**

<i>Gladiolus imbricatus</i>	(moist open deciduous woodland)
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	(transition mires and <i>Pinus</i> bogs)
<i>Listera cordata</i>	( <i>Picea</i> swamp woods)
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	(transition fen woodlands and shrub)
<i>Hammarbya paludosa</i>	(transition mires)
<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	(transition mires)
<i>Batrachium trichophyllum</i>	(stream) (not included in LRDB)

**Species on edge of their distribution area or beyond that:**

<i>Juncus stygius</i>	(transition mires)
<i>Carex magellanica</i>	( <i>Picea-Alnus</i> swamp woods)
<i>Carex disperma</i>	( <i>Picea</i> swamp woods) (not included in LRDB)
<i>Carex loliacea</i>	( <i>Picea</i> swamp woods) (not included in LRDB)
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	(raised bogs)

There are a lot of peat moss (*Sphagnum*) and other moss species.

Economically important species: cranberry, bilberry, cowberry.

Invasive species (poorly distributed): *Solidago serotinoidea*, *Epilobium adenocaulon*, *Amelanchier spicata*.

## 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

### Mammals:

Large herbivores and game: Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), Elk (Moose) (*Alces alces*), Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), European Hare (*Lepus europaeus*), Mountain Hare (*Lepus timidus*) (LRDB). Significant predators: \*Wolf (*Canis lupus*), \*Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) (LRDB), Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) (invasive), Pine Marten (*Martes martes*), Ermine (LRDB) (*Mustela erminea*), American Mink (*Mustela vison*) (invasive).

### Birds:

*Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	feeding, rare
*White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	feeding, locally
*Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	during migration, rare
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	during migration, rare
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	during migration, rare
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas chlypeata</i>	during migration, rare
*Honey Bussard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1-2 breeding pairs
*White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	feeding, rare
*Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	0-1 breeding pair
*Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	feeding, rare
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1-2 breeding pairs
*Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	rare feeding, very rare breeding
*Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	feeding, rare
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	0-1 breeding pair
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	feeding, rare
*Hazel Grouse	<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	40-60 breeding pairs
*Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	10-30 individuals
*Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	5-6 breeding pairs
*Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	0-2 breeding pairs
*Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	10-13 breeding pairs
*European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	2-4 breeding pairs
*Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	1-2 breeding pairs
*Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	0-1 breeding pair
*Tengmalm's Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	2-5 breeding pairs
*Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	feeding, very rare breeding
*Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	7-15 breeding pairs
*Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	7-10 breeding pairs
*Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	0-1 breeding pair
*White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	1-3 breeding pairs
*Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	50-80 breeding pairs
*Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	8-10 breeding pairs
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	2-4 breeding pairs

### Fish species, they have economical or recreational interest:

Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta fario</i>
Pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>
Perch	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>
Common Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>

Crucian carp *Carassius carassius*

**Invertebrate species, included in Lithuanian Red Data Book:**

Spiders: *Eresus cinnaberinus*, *Dolomedes plantarius*;

Dragonflies: \**Ophiogomphus cecilia*, *Leucorhinia albifrons*, \**Leucorhinia pectoralis*;

Stoneflies: *Capnopsis schilleri*;

Beetles: *Carabus nitens*, *Agonum ericeti*, *Graphoderus bilineatus*, *Ceruchus chrysoelinus*, *Gnorimus variabilis*, *Peltis grossa*, *Ostoma ferruginea*, *Prionus coriarius*, *Necydalis major*, \**Boros schneideri*;

Butterflies and moths: *Synanthedon mesiaeformis*, *Papilio machaon*, *Brenthis daphne*, *Coenonympha tullia*, *Maculinea teleius*, \**Lycæna dispar*.

Species listed in the Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive or in the Annex I of the EU Birds Directive are marked with asterisk (\*)

**23. Social and cultural values:**

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

Prior to the establishment of the reserve, the territory was important for forestry production and for local residents due to berry and mushroom resources. Amateur fishing and hunting was practiced as well. There are several historic objects in the territory. At present the territory is important only as an object of scientific research, ecological education and restricted sightseeing tourism.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

a) within the Ramsar site:  
100% state-owned

b) in the surrounding area:  
majority state owned, locally (to the NE and NW) private

**25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:



Research, monitoring, locally education use.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Forestry, hunting, gathering mushrooms, picking berries, locally agriculture and livestock grazing. There are village (450 inh.) with a few many lodging buildings and few farmsteads near the NE margin of the site.

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**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

1. Past:

- intensive and half intensive forestry;
- locally drainage (small ditches) of wet forests;
- damming lower reaches of the Viesvile rivulet.

2. Present

- droughty summers and overgrowing of open bogs and fens;
- lack of natural disturbances (fires);
- presence of Raccoon Dog;
- illegal fishing and hunting.

3. Future

- change of climate (shortage of precipitation in summer);
- development of communication infrastructure;

b) in the surrounding area:

- reduction of farming (pasturage, haymaking);
- smooth forest cutting.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

National status: strict state nature reserve from 1991 (same area).

International status: Natura2000, pSCI, from 2007, 5686 ha (including protective area of reserve)

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Viesvile reserve has management plan, approved in 2006. Now it is underway.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

A management plan provides for the division of the territory into stringent regime and regulated regime zones (IUCN Ia and Ib). Restoration and preservation of glades and open swamps, mowing of natural meadows and restoration of affected hydrological regime is performed in the regulated regime zone. Reintroduction of the extinct Western Capercaillie (wood grouse) and destruction of raccoon dogs is planned. Fish ladders have been built on Viešvilė stream dams in the lower reaches for reintroduction of Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta trutta*) and River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*). Restrictions have been placed on forestry and agricultural activities in the protection zone of the reserve.

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

The biodiversity of pine forests requires periodic fires. Almost no natural fires occur in small territories. In addition, under the regulations, they must be extinguished. Effective nature protection requires exposure to controlled fire. However, the present legal acts do not provide for it.

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

1. Monitoring of species and habitats included in Annexes of the EU Habitat directive (carried out by Viesvile SNR and scientific organisations);
2. Monitoring of water quality in Viesvile rivulet (carried out by Environmental protection agency);
3. Monitoring of dynamic of rare plant species, plant communities, mammals and breeding birds (carried out by Viesvile SNR);
4. Hydrological monitoring of wetland (carried out by Viesvile SNR);
5. Monitoring of efficiency of management activities (carried out by Viesvile SNR);
6. Inventory of biodiversity (carried out by Viesvile SNR and different scientific organisations).

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

- nature trail to raised bog;
- information stands at the nature trail and the reserve boundary;
- information booklet of the Viesvile nature reserve;
- information booklet about EU importance habitats;
- information paper about nature valuable and management in Viesvile reserve;
- mini exposition for school visits.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Educational and cognitive visiting. 200-500 visitors in office and nature trail per year.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

The land of the site is owned by the state. Administration of the Viesvile strict state nature reserve that is supervised by State service for protected areas under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania manages the site.

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**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Viesvile strict state nature reserve  
Eiciai, LT-73146 Taurage distr., Lithuania  
[vies.rez@takas.lt](mailto:vies.rez@takas.lt), tel.:+370 446 41445, fax: +370 446 41514  
Algis Butleris            Director  
Saulius Bartminas      Chief of preservation and management  
Vytautas Uselis        Ecologist

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Web sites about site:

Managed by Viesvile SNR (in Lithuanian): <http://www.viesvile.lt/>;

Managed by major institution (in Lith.): <http://www.vstt.lt/VI/index.php#r/78>;

Coordinator of management projects: [http://www.wetlands.lt/eng/vietoves\\_viesviles.php](http://www.wetlands.lt/eng/vietoves_viesviles.php);

Official prescript for management plan (in Lith.)

<http://www.am.lt/TA/ta.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww3.lrs.lt%2Fc-bin%2Fspec%2Ffull%2Fpreps2%3FCondition1%3D276705%26Condition2%3D>;

Literature:

Important bird areas in Lithuania. Švažas S., Drobėlis E., Balčiauskas L., Raudonikis L. 2000. Important wetlands in Lithuania. Vilnius

Raudonikis L. 2004 m. Important bird areas of the European Union importance in Lithuania. Lithuanian Ornithological Society & Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University. Lututė, Vilnius

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