

# Ramsar Information Sheet

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# **Poland**Biebrzański National Park



Designation date 24 October 1995
Site number 756
Coordinates 53°30'14"N 22°45'31"E
Area 59 233,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/756 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 8 May 2020

# 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

Biebrzański National Park (BNP) is located in northeast Poland in Podlasie Voivodeship. The Site covers about half of the Biebrza River Valley, which constitutes one of the largest (more than 200 000 ha) and best preserved tracts of natural swamps and peatlands in Europe. The wetlands developed in a hydrographically unique system of a lowland river valley and display a great variety of mire ecosystems.

The valley comprises a flat lowland, containing about 100 000 ha of peatlands. The Biebrza River Valley in the Park is divided into three hydrologically and physiographically different basins – Upper (Northern), Central and Lower (Southern). The basins are divided by narrow stretches of the valley, around 1 km in length. Upper Basin is the smallest, with a length of 40 km and width ranging from 1,5 to 3 km. Central Basin has a 20 by 40 km trapezoid shape and the Lower Basin is in the shape of a trough 30 km long and 12-15 km wide. The length of the Biebrza river is 156,5 km, with a slope of almost 60 m, which gives an average slope of 0.36%. It is, however, uneven, and amounts to only 0,04-0,05% in the central part.

The channel of Biebrza river, with numerous meanders and oxbow lakes in various stages of succession, retains its natural character. The result of this are extensive annual floods. High water levels on Biebrza occur mainly in springtime during snow melt. Unique hydrographical and relief conditions provide for the preservation of flora and fauna that become extinct elsewhere.

# 2 - Data & location

#### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

# Compiler 1

Name	Marek Jobda, Rafał Rzepkowski, Paweł Szałański
Institution/agency	Pracownia Przyrodnicza
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#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year 2007

To year 2015

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Biebrzański National Park

Unofficial name (optional)

Biebrzański Park Narodowy, Biebrza

#### 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 O No (Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

# 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?

# 2.2 - Site location

# 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

#### b) Digital map/image

<4 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

#### Boundaries description

The boundary is the same as the one of the existing Biebrzański National Park, and follows mainly a line of lowest terraces of the Biebrza river together with its tributaries such as Netta, Kopytkówka, Jegrznia, Dybła, Ełk, Klimaszewnica, Wissa, Brzozówka, Sidra, Biebła and Kosódka rivers.

#### 2.2.2 - General location

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

#### 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes O No  $\odot$ 

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

#### 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 59233

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 59732.25 GIS boundaries

# 2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Udvardy's Biogeographical Provinces	10. Boreonemoral
Bailey's Ecoregions	220 Hot Continental Division
WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions	Temperate broadleaf and mixed forest
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

# 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

Despite the seasonal character of river flooding, the site remains permanently waterlogged due to a high groundwater table (lateral feeding) and is regarded, due to a huge accumulation of peats, as a natural retention system of the size comparable with that of the largest artificial water reservoir in Poland. The swampy valley acts as a sink for runoff and subsurface flow and helps to maintain the local hydrological balance. The Park plays an important role as storage reservoirs for flood control in the lower course. Biebrza's peat bogs are a powerful and natural filter for water which flows down to valleys.

The area of the Biebrza National Park provides numerous ecosystem services, including these are: 1. provision of supplies (goods and products obtained from ecosystems, e.g. food) - arable crops are food for humans and animals; - drinking water; - biomass which is used as fuel (ecopellet) and as a bedding for cattle farming: - dusting - wild bees use flower meadows as a source of food. 2. Regulatory benefits (benefits derived from the management of ecosystems and natural processes), wetlands contribute to: regulation / improvement of the climate - by absorbing carbon dioxide and improving the quality of air and the whole environment; - water flow regulation - swamp areas prevent floods; - water purification and Other ecosystem services provided pollution control - natural processes in the swamps lead to purification of water and removal of biogens and toxins; - pollen transfer (pollination) - ecosystems of the Biebrza valley are also a source of beekeeping, free of pollutants (pesticides). Many beekeepers have their own apiaries here, and for the time of harvesting, there are also migratory apes, 3, Cultural benefits (non-material benefits derived from ecosystems), including recreation and tourism - in Biebrza National Park tourism is on the sustainable level and does not pose a significant threat to the wetland area, because the area is difficult to access, and tourism is rather seasonal (most tourists choose the spring period - mainly birdwatching, the area is less accessible due to extensive backwaters).

> The BNP constitutes a well-preserved example of a lowland river and mire system unique at larger scale of the European continent and not only of the Continental region. The site supports a variety of natural and seminatural hydrogenic habitats including all wetland types typical of the country. Of special significance is the well-preserved two-dimensional (transversal and longitudinal) ecological gradient of water, soil and Other reasons | vegetation features in the Lower Basin. The transversal gradient embraces five zones varying in hydrological conditions, from immersed vegetation in the river (permanent flooding) to emersed vegetation outside the reach of inundation. The longitudinal gradient of the valley embraces several zones of hydrogenic sites shaped by varying properties of the catchment and types of flooding; sites having ecological character of that type are already very rare in the continental region.

#### ☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

#### ☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

The site supports the richest in Poland population of most known and largest orchid species -Cypripedium calceolus. The orchid is listed as threatened in Europe in Annex II to Habitat Directive. The site is important since it supports the largest in Poland populations of such globally threatened birds as aquatic warbler Acrocephalus paludicola (more than 2 000 of singing males – single largest in the region and 10-15% of the world population), spotted eagle Aquila clanga (unique national nesting site of the species, 13-15 ranges, 100% of the Polish nesting population), great snipe Gallinago media (about 400 males – 60% of the Polish population, 0.2% of European population). The Park is a unique breeding site in Poland of ruff Philomachus pugnax (about 50 breeding females) and one of the largest for black grouse Tetrao tetrix (about 130 -140 males). All the abovementioned species are listed by Birds Directive Annex I. The BNP is highly important for maintaining their populations in Europe.

Justification

- ☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- ☑ Criterion 5 : >20.000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	100000+
Start year	2007

Source of data:

Świętochowski P., Maciorowski G., Henel K., Marczakiewicz P., Grygoruk G. 2010. Dolina Biebrzy.W: Wilk T., Jujka M., Krogulec J., Chylarecki P. (red.). Ostoje ptaków o znaczeniu międzynarodowym w Polsce, ss. 210–212. OTOP, Marki.

- ☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population
- ☑ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Because the water is to a great degree natural and relatively clean, the wetland supports a rich ichtiofauna. The fish stock of Biebrza river basin includes 37 indigenous and introduced species of fishes with a rare Ukrainian lamprey Eudontomyzon mariae. The fish biomass and population numbers are much higher here than in other lowland rivers in Poland. Several fish species which are considered rare and endangered at European scale find refuge in waters of the BNP. The Site supports numerous populations taxa such as: Eudontomyzon mariae, Misgurnus fossilis, Rhodeus sericeus, Cobitis taenia (listed in Annex II to Habitats Directive) thus contributing to the preservation of fish diversity in the region. Among 36 fish species noteworthy is the occurrence of Barbatula barbatula and Phoxinus phoxinus (species of mountain rivers). Biebrza and its tributaries have been used as fishery by local people and visitors.

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

Lower Basin of Biebrza Valley contains important spawning grounds for many fish species, including pike, roach, ide, rudd, tench and crucian carp.

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

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Arnica montana	Mountain Arnica	✓			LC ●数 ●際		Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	
Betula humilis	Dian Sheng Hua	✓			LC ●数 ●際		Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	
Botrychium matricariifolium	Chamomile Grape-fern	✓					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (CR)	
Carex buxbaumii	Buxbaum's Sedge	✓			LC Str		Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	
Carex chordorrhiza	String Sedge	✓			LC Str		Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	
Cephalanthera rubra	Red Helleborine	✓					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	
Cypripedium calceolus	Lady's Slipper	Ø	Ø		LC ●数 ●開	Ø	Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) Annex 1 of the Bern Convention as a species requiring specific habitat conservation measures
Dactylorhiza incarnata ochroleuca		<b>Ø</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	
Diphasiastrum tristachyum	Deeproot Clubmoss	✓					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Dracocephalum ruyschiana	Northern Dragonhead	<b>2</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (CR)	
Eriophorum gracile	Slender Cottongrass	<b>/</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (CR)	
Hamatocaulis vernicosus	Slender Green Feather Moss	<b>2</b>	V				Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
Iris aphylla	Stool Iris	<b>2</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	
Liparis loeselii	Fen Orchid	<b>S</b>	Ø			Ø	Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) Annex 1 of the Bern Convention as a species requiring specific habitat conservation measures
Ostericum palustre		<b>V</b>	Ø				Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
Pedicularis sceptrum- carolinum	Moor-king Lousewort	V					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	
Pulsatilla patens	Eastern Pasque Flower	<b>2</b>	V				Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
Salix lapponum	Downy Willow	<b>2</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (CR)	
Salix myrtilloides		<b>✓</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	
Saxifraga hirculus	Marsh Saxifrage	<b>v</b>	<b>v</b>		LC		Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), Annex 1 of the Bern Convention as a species requiring specific habitat conservation measures
Succisella inflexa	Southern Succisella	<b></b> ✓					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	
Swertia perennis perennis	Felwort	<b></b> ✓					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (EN)	
Thesium ebracteatum	Toadflax	<b>V</b>	<b>v</b>				Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
Trichophorum alpinum	Cotton Deergrass	<b>/</b>			LC		Polish Red Data Book of Plants (VU)	
Viola epipsila	Dwarf Marsh Violet	<b>2</b>					Polish Red Data Book of Plants (CR)	

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 3   5   7	Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN e Red List		CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds												
CHORDATA/ AVES	Acrocephalus paludicola	Aquatic Warbler	<b>2</b> 020		2500	1997-2012	30	VU Sign			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	pop. size: 1997-2082 SM (singing males), 2003-2726 SM, 2009- 2556 SM, 2012-2594 SM Ca. 30% of the European population (acc. to IUCN)
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas acuta	Northern Pintail		<b>2</b> 000	10000	2007-2010	1.3	LC ●辭			Annex II, III Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	pop. size: max 10000 ind, important refuge in migratory stage

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	qua ur crit	ecies alifies nder terion	con	pecies tributes inder iterion	Pop. Size	Period of pop. E	% st. occurrei			CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon		920		20C	35000	2007-2010	2.3				Annex II, III Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: max 35000 ind.(W Siberia & NE Europe); important refuge in migratory stage; source: Polakowski M, Bronis zewska M, Krajewski Ł. 2016 The importance of the Biebrza Basin for ducks Anatinae during their spring migration. Omis Polonica 57: 83-106
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser albifrons	Greater White- fronted Goose		70	<b>.</b>		50000	2007-2010	4	LC			Annex II Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: max 50000 ind.; important refuge in migratory stage
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aquila clanga	Greater Spotted Eagle	<b>V</b>				10	2012		W	<b>2</b>		Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (CR)	pop. size: 10 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aguila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<b>V</b>				13	2012					Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC), CITES	pop. size: 13 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ardea alba	Great Egret	<b>V</b>							LC •\$			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	<b>V</b>					2008-2012		LC Str			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU), CITES Appendix II	pop. size: 0-7 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Botaurus stellaris	Eurasian Bittern	<b>V</b>				65	2012		LC Sign			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	pop. size: 65 males
CHORDATA/ AVES	Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle- owl	<b>V</b>					2008-2012		LC Str	V		Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (NT)	pop. size: 18-22 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Caprimulgus europaeus	European Nightjar	<b>V</b>							LC •\$1 •\$1			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Chlidonias hybrida	Whiskered Tern	<b>V</b>							LC			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Chlidonias niger	Black Tem	<b>2</b>				l	1991-1997		LC			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: 200-700 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	<b>V</b>							LC Singuistry			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	<b>V</b>		•		10	2012		LC ●数 ●開	<b>√</b>		Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: 10 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh Harrier	•							LC •\$1 •\$1			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	<b>4</b>		•		22	2012		LC ●数 ●開	<b>₽</b>		Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: 22-23 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Crex crex	Corn Crake	<b>/</b>				280	2012		LC ●数 ●瞬			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: 280 males
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cygnus columbianus	Tundra Swan	<b>V</b>	90			300	2007-2010	1.3	LC Str			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: max 300 ind, important migratory refuge
CHORDATA/ AVES	Dendrocopos medius	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<b>V</b>										Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ficedula parva	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<b>V</b>							LC • St • Iff			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	<b>2</b>		7		2500	2006		LC			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: min. 2500 pairs

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Spec quali und crite	fies Ier rion	cont ui crit	ecies ributes nder terion	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List		CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gallinago media	Great Snipe	<b>2</b> 0		1		180	2013		NT ●辭			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	pop. size: 180 males
CHORDATA/ AVES	Grus grus	Common Crane	1		<b>V</b>		250	2012		LC ●課	✓		Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: 250 pairs; important breeding and migratory refuge
CHORDATA/ AVES	SIL	White-tailed Eagle								LC ●部	✓	V	Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern								LC ●録 ●課			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	<b>V</b>		<b>V</b>		200	2007-2010		NT			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: min 200 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Lyrurus tetrix	Eurasian Black Grouse; Black Grouse	<b>2</b> 0				51	2012		LC ●数 ●瞬			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	pop. size: 51 males
CHORDATA/ AVES	Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	<b>2</b>		1		50	2007-2010		NT ●数 ●瞬			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC ), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	pop. size: min. 50 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pernis apivorus	European Honey Buzzard	<b>2</b> 0							LC ●数 ●瞬			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (LC), CITES Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	<b>V</b>	<b>2</b> 0	<b>V</b>		20000	2007-2010	1.6				Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	pop. size: max 20000 ind. (NE W Siberia/W Africa flyway population), % occurence- unknown; important refuge in passaging
CHORDATA/ AVES	Picus canus	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<b>2</b> 0							LC ●数 ●課			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Porzana parva	Little Crake	<b>2</b> 0		1			2012-2013					Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC ), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (NT)	pop. size: 10-18 males
CHORDATA/ AVES	Porzana porzana	Spotted Crake	<b>V</b>		•			2012-2013		LC ●課			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)	pop. size: 300-1900 males
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sterna hirundo	Common Tem	<b>2</b> 0							LC Str			Annex I Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	<b>v</b>							LC			Annex II Habitats Directive	
Fish, Mollusc and Cru	stacea													
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Cobitis taenia	Spinyloach	<b>/</b>							LC			Annex II Habitats Directive	
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPH	Eudontomyzon mariae	Ukrainian brook lamprey, Ukrainian brook lamprey								LC Sign			Annex II Habitats Directive	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Leuciscus aspius	Schied	<b>V</b>		•								Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Misgurnus fossilis	Mud Loach	$\square$		<b>V</b>					LC ●部			Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Rhodeus sericeus	Amur Bitterling	$\square$		<b>V</b>								Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	ECL.	European pike- perch								LC				
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Silurus glanis	Som catfish								LC Sign				

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6	contribute	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	occurrence Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
MOLLUSCA/ BIVALMA	Unio crassus	Thick Shelled River Mussel	$ \square$				EN ●数 ●開			Annex II, IV Habitats Directive	
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	Vertigo angustior	Marsh Snail					NT ●許 ●開			Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
Others					·						
CHORDATA/ MAMIMALIA	Barbastella barbastellus	Western Barbastelle					NT ●数 ●開			Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Bombina bombina	European Fire- bellied Toad					LC ●数 ●瞬			Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Canis lupus	Wolf					LC Sign	V		Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Castor fiber	Eurasian Beaver					LC ●辞 ●贈			Annex II. IV of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Coenagrion armatum	Dark Bluet			37	2013	LC ●辞 ●開			Polish Red Data Book of Animals (CR)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Coenonympha oedippus	False Ringlet								Annex II, IV Habitats Directive	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Hypodryas maturna	Scarce Fritillary								Annex II, IV of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Leucorrhinia pectoralis	Yellow-spotted Whiteface					LC ●\$ ●際			Annex II, IV Habitats Directive	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Lutra lutra	European Otter					NT ●数 ●瞬	<b>✓</b>		Annex II. IV of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Lycaena dispar	Large Copper								Annex II, IV Habitats Directive	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Lynx lynx	Eurasian Lynx			<u> </u>	2012	LC ●数 ●瞬			Annex II Habitats Directive, Polish Red Data Book of Animals (NT), CITES Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Myotis dasycneme	Pond Bat; Pond Myotis					NT St Oth			Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Nehalennia speciosa	Sedgling	<b>2</b> 00		1730	2012-2013	NT ●許 ●際			Polish Red Data Book of Animals (EN)	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Ophiogomphus cecilia	Green Snaketail	<b>2</b> 00				LC			Annex II, IV Habitats Directive	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Parnassius mnemosyne	Clouded Apollo			1200	2012				Polish Red Data Book of Animals (VU)	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Triturus cristatus	Northern Crested Newt					LC			Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), Polish Red Data Book of Animals (NT)	

<sup>1)</sup> Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Gastropodas - Vertigo geyeri & Vertigo moulinsiana, crit. 2, 3, Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).

# 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
3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Vagnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type Jegetation	Ø	area - 248,25 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
3270 Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubric p.p.and Bidention p.p. Jugetation	V	area - 2,00 ha	Annex1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
6120 Xeric sand calcareous grasslands	Ø	area - 119,38 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
6210 Semi-natural drygrasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)	Ø	area - 3,07 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
6230 Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas	V	area - 43,97 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	Ø	area - 701,12 ha	Annex1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains (Convolvuletalia sepium)	<b>2</b>	area - 42,00 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	<b>2</b>	area - 92,68 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
7110 Active raised bogs	<b>V</b>	area - 3 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	Ø	area - 88,73 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
7230 Akaline fens	Ø	area - 4208,37 ha	Annex1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
9170 Tilio-Carpinetum oak-hombeam forests	Ø	area - 750,06 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
91D0 Bog woodland	<b>V</b>	area - 643,19 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	Ø	area - 91 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
9110 Thermophilic oak forest		area - 29,56 ha	Annex1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
91T0 Central European lichen Scots pine forests	<b>2</b>	area - 29,08 ha	Annex1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
2330 Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	<b>2</b>	area - 41,4 ha	Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
6440 Alluvial meadows of the river valleys (Cnidion dubii)	<b>2</b>	area - 47 ha	Annex1 of the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

Optional text box to provide further information		

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

#### 4.1 - Ecological character

It is one of the largest (more than 200 000 ha) and best-preserved tract of natural swamps and peatlands in Europe. The wetlands developed in a hydrographically unique system of a lowland river valley and display a great variety of mire ecosystems. The channel of Biebrza contains a number of meanders and oxbows in various stages of succession, which give it a natural character. This results in extensive annual floods of the surrounding areas and the transversal gradient of plants.

The horizontal and vertical profiles of mires in the valley have largely been preserved as they were shaped throughout alternating dry and wet climatic periods in the Holocene. Unique hydrographical and relief conditions provided for the preservation of flora and fauna that become extinct elsewhere. The vegetation cover of Biebrza is highly diverse and natural, containing many rare species. According to the current data, 65 plant associations have been identified in the Biebrza Valley (including almost every wetland association occurring in Poland): from water plants, reedbeds, sedge mires, emergent sedge and moss associations, swampy alder, birch and conifer forests, forests on mineral soils and psammophilic vegetation to semi-natural meadows. The prevailing type of habitat in the Park are fens, of which the largest and best-preserved complexes can be found in Biebrza River upper and lower basin.

The biggest natural value of the Biebrza valley is a well-developed and preserved perpendicular and longitudinal ecological zonation of vegetation communities as well as species diversity connected with it.

Perpendicular zonation is best developed in the southern basin with the widest flooding (immersive) zone of reedbeds and sedgebeds, wide zone fed with surface- and groundwater with tussock sedge communities, distinct groudwater-fed (emmersive) zone with sedge-moss communities and best preserved edge zone with alder forests. Perpendicular ecological zonation in the valley is changing with the rivercourse going upwards. Immerse zone and edge alder zone and declining, while emmersive zone is widening and a bog zone is developing. It is a longitudinal ecological zonation, which is visible in division of the valley into three different basins: upper (northern), middle (central) and lower (southern). The occurrence of these type of ecological systems are extremely rare in the continental region.

High diversity of habitats is one of the reason for richness of the fauna. The Biebrzański National Park provides excellent shelter for many species, including such rare taxa as Catocala pacta, European fire-bellied toad, otter, musk rat, wolf and elk, as well as for numerous water birds that use the wetland as an important feeding, resting, moulting and breeding place during migrations.

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

#### Inland wetlands

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		3		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		0		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non- forested peatlands		1	36000	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		2	9600	Representative

#### 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
2: Ponds		0		
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		0		Representative
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		0		Representative

#### Other non-wetland habitat

outof from Wodana habitat	
Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Non-forested habitats on mineral soils	2640
Forest on mineral soils	4000

#### 4.3 - Biological components

# 4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Other Hoteworthy plant species						
Scientific name	Common name	<b>IUCN Red List</b>	Position in range / endemism / other			
Carex Ioliacea			species protected in Poland			
Polemonium caeruleum himalayanum	Jacob's Ladder		Protected in Poland			

Invasive alien plant species

Scientific name	Common name	IUCN Red List	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
Acer negundo	Ashleaf Maple		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Amaranthus retroflexus	Common Amaranth		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Bidens frondosa	Devil's beggar-ticks		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Bromus carinatus	California Brome		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Bunias orientalis	Warty Cabbage		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Comus sericea	Red Osier Dogwood		Actually (major impacts)	increase
Echinochloa crus-galli	Cockspur		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Echinocystis lobata	Prickly Cucumber		Actually (major impacts)	increase
Elodea canadensis	Canadian Waterweed		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Erigeron annuus	White Fleabane		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Erigeron canadensis	Canadian Fleabane		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Galinsoga parviflora	Gallant Soldier		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Galinsoga quadriradiata	Soldier species		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Helianthus tuberosus	Jerusalem Artichoke		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant Hogweed		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Impatiens glandulifera	Himalayan Balsam		Potentially	unknown
Impatiens parviflora	Small Balsam		Actually (major impacts)	increase
Juglans regia	English walnut		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Lupinus polyphyllus	Washington Lupine		Potentially	unknown
Lycium barbarum	Duke of Argyll's Tea-tree		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Parthenocissus vitacea	False Virginia-creeper		Potentially	unknown
Prunus serotina	Rum Cherry		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Quercus rubra	Red Oak		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Reynoutria sachalinensis			No impacts	unknown
Robinia pseudoacacia	False Acacia;Black Locust		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
Rosa rugosa	Japanese Rose		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Rudbeckia laciniata	Cone flower		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Rumex confertus	Russian dock		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Setaria viridis	Green Bristle-grass		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Solidago gigantea	November Goldenrod		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
Veronica persica	Common Field Speedwell		Potentially	unknown

#### 4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN Red List	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATAAVES	Chlidonias leucopterus	White-winged Tem					
CHORDATAAVES	Dendrocopos leucotos	White-backed Woodpecker					
CHORDATAAVES	Luscinia svecica	Bluethroat					
CHORDATA/AVES	Motacilla citreola	Citrine Wagtail		50	2012		Protected in Poland, pop. size: 50 pairs

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	<b>IUCN Red List</b>	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Cameraria ohridella	Horse Chestnut Leafminer		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	Dreissena polymorpha	Zebra Mussel		Potentially	unknown
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Harmonia axyridis	Harlequin Ladybird		Potentially	unknown
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Leptinotarsa decemlineata	Colorado Potato Beatle		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Neovison vison	American Mink		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	Orconectes limosus	spinycheek crayfish		Actually (major impacts)	unknown
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Ostrinia nubilalis	European Corn Borer		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
ARTHROPODAINSECTA	Sitophilus granarius	Grain Weevil		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Sitophilus zeae-mais	maize weevil		Actually (minor impacts)	unknown

#### Optional text box to provide further information

Insect - lycaena helle, Violet Copper

#### 4.4 - Physical components

#### 4.4.1 - Climate

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

The increasing frequency of extreme events, such as summer torrential rains and hydrological droughts.

#### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Mnimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Entire river basin

Upper part of river basin  $\,\Box\,$ 

Middle part of river basin

Lower part of river basin 🗹

More than one river basin  $\ \square$ 

Not in river basin

Coastal

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.

Wisła river basin

#### 4.4.3 - Soil

Organic 🗹

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

O

No available information  $\square$ 

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

#### Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

General soils types of the catchment include hydrogenic soils (53 441 ha) such as peats, silts, and muds, in addition to mineral (4 891 ha) sandy and sandy-clayey soils (podsol and rusty podsol soils) on mineral elevations within the valley and at its margins. Construction of drainage channels conducted in the second half of the 19th century in the Central Basin area resulted in overdrying of peat layers in this part of Biebrza Valley and lead to mineralization of peat soils. The last significant melioration projects were developed in the 1960s and still play a large part in draining the swamps. Lately, several cases of illegal earthworks have been recorded, causing a diminishment of the Park's area water retention ability, as well as endangered species and habitats dependent on water.

#### 4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

vvater 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 groundwater		No change
Water inputs from surface water	✓	No change
Water inputs from rainfall		No change

#### Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Feeds groundwater	No change
To downstream catchment	No change
Marine	No change

#### Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

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

Water level in the river depends on the season with maximum during spring flooding and

minimum in late summer - early autumn. The average decline of river bed is 0.36 ‰ and the average flow in the river (at the Burzyn gauge) is 27.5 m3/s.

Despite the seasonal character of river floods, the site remains permanently waterlogged due to a high groundwater table (lateral feeding) and is regarded, due to a huge accumulation of peats, as a natural system having the highest retention capacity at country scale – comparable with that of the largest artificial water reservoir in Poland. The mires of Biebrza Valley are fed by lateral inflow of groundwater and seeping waters from the edges of the valley, especially in the upper and lower basins.

In the 19th century, a large scale hydrotechnical works were conducted in the valley, among other things, a 100 km long Augustów Canal (8 km within the site) was built to enable water communication between the Biebrza river system and the Nemunas river further north-east. This resulted in changes in both the water network and groundwater recharge.

At present the river system within the Park is left unmanaged and the hydrological regime is close to natural. Since 2011, the hydrographic network in the middle basin is being restored to the state close to primeval (LIFE project).

		_				
4	4.5	- Se	edin	nent	regi	me

4.4.5 - Sediment regime	
Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually $\ensuremath{\checkmark}$	
(Update) Changes at RIS update N	o change   Increase   Decrease   Unknown   O
Sediment regime unknown	
4.4.6 - Water pH	
Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☑	
(Update) Changes at RIS update N	o change   Increase   Decrease   Unknown   O
Unknown C	
Please provide further information on pH (optional):	
pH levels applicable to surface flowing water.	
4.4.7 - Water salinity	
Fresh (<0.5 g/l)	
(Update) Changes at RIS update N	o change O Increase O Decrease O Unknown ⊚
Unknown C	
4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water	
Eutrophic 🗹	
(Update) Changes at RIS update N	o change O Increase

#### 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 O ii) significantly different  $\odot$ 

Unknown

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

# 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)	Low
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	Low
Wetland non-food products	Timber	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Fuel wood/fibre	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Peat	Low
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Low
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	High
Wetland non-food products	Other	High
Genetic materials	Medicinal products	Medium

#### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	Low
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	High
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	High
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	High
Biological control of pests and disease	Support of predators of agricultural pests (e.g., birds feeding on locusts)	Low
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

#### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Contemporary cultural significance, including for arts and creative inspiration, and including existence values	Low
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Low
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High

# Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	High
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High
Pollination	Support for pollinators	High

#### Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

It has been evaluated that the BNP receives annually about 100 000 visitors. Based on the numbers of sold entrance tickets, the Park was visited from land and water by at least 33 thousand of people. 22 thousand of visitors took advantage of the tourist information point in Osowiec-Twierdza, among of them approximately 20 thousand was Polish. The angling licenses were bought by 6,5 thousand of people. Tourists information and service is provided by the Education and Information Sharing Department at the BNP Management. Within the Park and its vicinity, several trails were routed and marked: 7 for canoeing, 10 for cycling, 4 running paths, 18 tourist trails as well as 17 educational paths equipped with viewing towers, platforms, footbridges etc., of the total length of 609 km. There is also an underwater trail – part of Biebrza river is made available for diving.

The local population gets some additional income from gathering of herbs and fruits. A cane is obtained in the Park too. Flower meadows provide lots of nourishment for breeding wild animals, while insects such as bees, beetles, butterflies etc. pollinate crops.

Within the site: 100000

#### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

	i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland
¥	iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

#### Description if applicable

Traditionally, swampy and wet meadows in the park were used agriculturally, for mowing and grazing. In view of systematic transformations in the 90's of 20th century, many parcels were abandoned. Not mowed or grazed meadows and peatlands began to heavily overgrow with shrubs and trees. Until recently non-forest communities were threatened with plant succession. Species of mires and wet meadows could become especially threatened in view of abandoning traditional land use practices in the valley. The Board of the Park through the programme of long-term landholding for nature is willing to support or stimulate the extensive use of meadows and peatlands.

Extensive use of meadows also takes place today. In Biebrza National Park active protection is carried out on a large scale through extensive agricultural use - in most cases it is a single mowing yearly or once every few years, however, in the case of sensitive soil, only manual mowing is allowed. In 2017, nearly 2,000 ha of land being on the board of Biebrza National Park were mown.

In addition, the land is used, most often in an extensive way, because the natural conditions do not allow me to intensify meadows on private land. They are very often reported by farmers to agri-environmental-climate programs, and thus they are used extensively in accordance with the guidelines for a given program, adapted to the species of birds or plant communities present in a given place.

The Biebrzański National Park is one of the largest employers in the area. In addition, firms which perform services (mowing, cutting out bushes, biomonitoring) for the Park generate more employment.

iv) 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

# 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

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

# 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

# 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

ı uu	lic owners	IIID

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>&gt;</b>
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<b>2</b>	<b>/</b>

Private ownership

i iivate ownersnip		
Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Cooperative/collective (e.g., farmers cooperative)	<b>✓</b>	✓
Foundation/non- governmental organization/trust	<b>V</b>	<b>2</b>
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<b>/</b>	<b>2</b>

5.1.2 - Management author	ΠU	٧
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Please list the local office / offices of any	Biebrzański National Park
agency or organization responsible for	
managing the site:	
Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	Andrzej Grygoruk, Director of the Biebrzański National Park
people with responsibility for the wettarid.	
Postal address:	Osowiec-Twierdza 8, 19-110 Goniądz, Poland
E-mail address:	biebrza@biebrza.org.pl

# 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Tourism and recreation areas	unknown impact		<b>2</b>	increase		No change
Unspecified development		unknown impact	Ø	increase		No change

# Water regulation

water regulation						
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage	unknown impact			No change	✓	No change
Water abstraction		unknown impact	<b>✓</b>	unknown	<b>✓</b>	No change
Dredging		unknown impact		increase	✓	increase
Canalisation and river regulation	unknown impact		<b>/</b>	increase	<b>/</b>	increase

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	unknown impact			No change	<b>2</b>	increase
Livestock farming and ranching	unknown impact			decrease	<b>2</b>	increase

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	unknown impact			increase	✓	unknown
Shipping lanes		unknown impact	<b>V</b>	unknown		No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threa	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals		unknown impac	t 🗷	No change		No change
Gathering terrestrial plants		unknown impac	t 🗹	No change		No change
uman intrusions and distu	urbanaa	1	'	1		
Factors adversely	Actual threat	Potential threa	t Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and	unknown impact		✓	increase		No change
tourism activities			Called			
latural system modification Factors adversely						
affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threa		Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fire and fire suppression	unknown impact		✓	No change		No change
Dams and water management/use	unknown impact		✓	increase	✓	increase
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion	unknown impact	unknown impa	ct 🗹	unknown	<b>2</b>	unknown
vasive and other problema	atic species and gene	es				
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threa	t Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/	unknown impact		✓	increase	✓	unknown
alien species Problematic native	unknown impact		✓	decrease		No change
species	uninownimpact			dedicase		- 140 Grange
ollution				I		
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threa	t Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water		unknown impad	ot 📝	No change	✓	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	unknown impact		✓	No change	<b>2</b>	No change
Garbage and solid waste	unknown impact		✓	unknown	<b>2</b>	unknown
limate change and severe	weather					
Factors adversely	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
affecting site	7 Ottaar en oat					
Droughts Storms and flooding		unknown impac		unknown	<b>✓</b>	unknown
.2.2 - Legal conserva legional (international) leg	al designations	Name of area	Online information u	Oprion	with Ramsar Site	
EU Natura 2000		na Biebrzy PLH200008	Online Information (	Overlap	whole	
EU Natura 2000	C	Ostoja Biebrzańska PLB200006			whole	
		Name of area	Online information u	ml 0	with Domoor Cita	
lational legal designations	he.	Name of area		ur Overiap \	with Ramsar Site	
Designation ty	Biek	orzański National Park	www.biebrza.org.pl		whole	
Designation ty	Biek	orzański National Park	www.biebrza.org.pi		whole	
		orzański National Park Name of area	Online information u	iri Ovarian	whole	

5.2.3 - IUCN	protected	areas	categories	(2008)	
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la Strict Nature Reserve

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

III Natural Monument: prote	ected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
IV Habitat/Species Manage for cor	ement Area: protected area managed mainly servation through management intervention
V Protected Landscape/Se lands	ascape: protected area managed mainly for cape/seascape conservation and recreation
	tected Area: protected area managed mainly rethe sustainable use of natural ecosystems

#### 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

#### Legal protection

Legal protection		
Measures	Status	
Legal protection	Implemented	

#### Habitat

Measures	Status
Improvement of water quality	Partially implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented
Land conversion controls	Partially implemented

#### Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Partially implemented
Control of invasive alien plants	Partially implemented
Control of invasive alien animals	Partially implemented

# Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Partially implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Partially implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Proposed
Research	Implemented

#### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

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

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning Yes O No 

processes with another Contracting Party?

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

Yes - there are educational facilities associated with national park

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): www.biebrza.org.pl

# 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

# 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented

# 6 - Additional material

# 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

The bibliography is attached in point 6.1.2 vi.

# 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

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

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

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

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:



Biebrza River Valley ( Monika Szewczyk, 25-09-2007 )





Ławki Marsh ( Paulina Dzierża, 17-07-2009 )



Ławki Marsh ( Paulina Dzierża, 17-07-2009 )



Łoje-Awissa ( *Paulina Dzierża, 16-09-2009* )



oxbow ( Paulina Dzierża, 14-09-2009 )



Ławki Marsh ( Paulina



Ławki Marsh ( Wétland Conservation Center/Marek Ostrowski, 06-1997 )

# 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

#### Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1995-10-24