

24. Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:**
September 1997

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. **Country:** Russian Federation

3. **Name of wetland:** Svir Delta

4. **Geographical coordinates:** 60°23'-60°47'N, 32°15'-33°37'E

5. **Altitude:** 60°23'-60°47'N, 32°15'-33°37'E

6. **Area:** 60,500 ha

7. **Overview:** The site comprises the delta of the Svir River, flowing into the large freshwater lake of Ladoga, and a 6,500 ha shallow water area of the lake. The deltaic complex includes an extensive network of channels and streams, as well as lakes, marshes, wet meadows and polders. The site is important for migrating and breeding populations of waterbirds.

8. **Wetland Type** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: (L) . (M) . N . (O) . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . (Tp) . (Ts)
(U) . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: L,U,Ts,Tp,O,M.

9. **Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

(1a) (1b) . 1c . 1d . 2a . 2b . 2c . 2d . 3a . 3b . 3c . 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3a

10. **Map of site included?** Please tick *yes* ✓ -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:** S.P.Rezvy, G.A.Noskov: Biological Institute of Saint Petersburg University. 2 Oranienbaum Shosse, Stary Petergoff, S-Petersburg 198904, Russia.

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 3a - the wetland supports large migrating and breeding populations of waterbirds.

13. General location: In Leningrad Region, 60 km northeast of the city of Volkhov and 15 km west of the town of Lodeinoe Pole.

14. Physical features: The site is located in the Svir depression, on the edge of the Baltic shield, and includes a shallow water area of Lake Ladoga. The sedimentary layer is 300 m deep. The marine boulder loams are underlain by Pleistocene lacustrine clayey sediments, under which the Cambrian sands and clays are found. The landforms are characterized by dunes which extend along the shore in parallel ridges.

The climate is temperately-continental. Cyclones from the Atlantic have a pronounced effect on the weather. The mean air temperatures are -10°C in January and $+17^{\circ}\text{C}$ in July. The growing period for vegetation is 160-164 days. Annual precipitation varies from 623 to 637 mm. Snow cover is about 60 cm deep and persists for 133-157 days.

Lake Ladoga has an area of 1,813,500 ha; its average depth is 51 m, with a maximum of 230 m. Annual variations in the level of water can reach 3 m, with an average of 0.8 m. Heavy storms associated with westerly winds are frequent in October and November. During these storms, waves up to 2.5 m high may be observed.

The Bay of Svir is the warmest portion of Lake Ladoga: the mean water temperature is between $+20^{\circ}$ and $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ in late July- early August. The freezing of water in the bay occurs in early December, and the ice cover is 50-60 cm deep. The water is fresh; the concentration of chemical elements is about 56 mg/l, hydrocarbonates dominate. Oxygen content is 14-15 ml/l in winter and 12 ml/l in summer.

The site also includes Lake Segezha, which has an area of 1,800 ha and a depth of 4-6 m. The shores of the lake are covered by peatlands.

The soils are podzolic, highbog and fen peats.

15. Hydrological values: No information

16. Ecological features: The deltaic complex includes numerous channels and streams, bogs, lakes, wet meadows and polders, and shallow waters of Svir Bay with sand beaches and reed beds. The belt of reeds *Phragmites communis* reaches 200 m in the northern part of the site. The southern shore is low and marshy. Sand beaches 50 m wide are characteristic of the central part of the site. Terrestrial habitats are represented by bogs, fens and mires of transitional types.

17. Noteworthy flora: The vegetation is represented by the spruce, pine and various mixed forests. Willows *Salix* sp. and speckled alder *Alnus incana* are widespread. Diverse herbs and grasses are found in the floodplain meadows.

18. Noteworthy fauna: The site lies on a major migration route, and thousands of waterbirds pass through the area in spring and in autumn. Concentrations of breeding waterbirds are also very high. The importance of the Svir Delta for different groups of waterbirds is described below.

Divers: Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica* is a common passage migrant, with several hundreds of birds passing through the area in spring and 10,000-15,000 in autumn. There is a small breeding population in the Nizhni-Svirsky Nature Reserve. Red-throated diver *G. stellata* occurs on migration in less amounts.

Grebes: Five species of grebes use the delta as a staging area during migrations. The migrating population numbers over 1,000 birds. Breeding grebes include great-crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, horned grebe *P. auritus* and little grebe *P. ruficollis*.

Swans: Whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (3,000-5,000) and Bewick's swan *C. columbianus bewickii* (500-1,000) occur during migrations in spring.

Geese: The site is an extremely important staging and feeding area for geese, migrating from their breeding areas in the European North of Russia to their wintering places in Europe. The total number of geese migrating through the delta in spring is between 100,000 and 150,000. Bean geese *Anser fabalis* comprise about two thirds of these; white-fronted geese *A. albifrons* are also plentiful. Greylag geese *A. anser* used to breed in the delta.

Dabbling ducks: Between 50,000 and 70,000 birds occur on migration in spring, including mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, common teal *A. crecca*, northern shoveler *A. clypeata*, northern pintail *A. acuta* and Eurasian wigeon *A. penelope*. Hundreds of ducks breed in the Svir Delta.

Diving ducks: Between 400,000 and 600,000 birds pass through the area in spring, and about one third of these stay for a longer time in the wetlands. A total of 11 species have been registered, the most numerous are tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (up to 100,000), greater scaup *A. marila* (150,000) and black scoter *Melanitta nigra* (200,000). Breeding species include tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, pochard *A. ferina* and common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Large moulting concentrations of diving and dabbling ducks occur in summer.

Cranes: Six species of cranes have been recorded during migration periods. Several dozens of cranes *Grus grus* breed at the bogs in the Nizhni-Svirsky Nature Reserve. Large concentrations of non-breeding birds have been observed at the agricultural lands between the Svir, Pasha and Kosopasha Rivers.

Rallidae are numerous species, breeding on the islands in the delta and in the reed beds along the shore of Svir Bay. These include *Porzana porzana*, *Fulica atra*, *Rallus aquaticus*, *P. parva* and *P. pusilla*.

Charadriidae: 27 species occur during migrations. Large concentrations of ringed plovers *Charadrius* sp., sandpipers *Tringa* sp. and knots *Calidris* sp. assemble on the shore of Svir Bay; curlews *Numenius* sp., plovers *Pluvialis* sp., common snipes *Gallinago gallinago*, great snipes *G. media* and jack snipes *Lymnocyptes minima* can be seen at the raised bogs; and red-necked phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* occur on the Ladoga shallows in flocks of 5,000 to 8,000 birds. Breeding species include *Numenius arquata*, *N. phaeopus*, *Charadrius apricarius*, *Lymnocyptes minima* and *Gallinago media*.

Gulls: Six species of gulls have been registered. The most numerous migrating and breeding species are black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* and herring gull *L. argentatus*. There are several colonies of little gull *L. minutus* with a total of 150 breeding pairs.

Terns: Five species of terns occur at the site during the breeding and migration seasons. The major species are common tern *Sterna hirundo* and black tern *Chlidonias nigra*. Little tern *Sterna albifrons* occurs often.

The Svir Delta provides important habitats for many threatened species of birds. 44 species, entered in the Russian Red Data Book (RRB) and the Red Data Book of the Baltic Region, occur at the site. These are listed below, with breeding species marked with an asterisk. The threatened species categories are given in brackets, following the Red Data Book of the Baltic Region: 0= extinct; 1= endangered; 2= vulnerable; 3= rare; 4= indeterminate (required attention):

<i>Gavia arctica</i> (1)	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (1)
<i>Gavia stellata</i> (0)	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i> * (2)
<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i> * (1)	<i>Crex crex</i> * (4)
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> * (1)	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i> * (2)
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> (2)	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (1)
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (1)	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (2)
<i>Cygnus bewickii</i> (RRB)	<i>Lymnocyptes minima</i> * (2)
<i>Anser anser</i> (2)	<i>Limosa limosa</i> * (2)
<i>Anser erythropus</i> (RRB)	<i>Gallinago media</i> * (2)
<i>Branta leucopsis</i> (RRB)	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (2)
<i>Anas strepera</i> (2)	<i>Sterna caspia</i> (2)
<i>Anas penelope</i> * (2)	<i>Columba oenas</i> * (2)
<i>Melanitta fusca</i> (2)	<i>Bubo bubo</i> * (2)
<i>Megrus albellus</i> (1)	<i>Surnia ulula</i> * (1)

*Pandion haliaetus** (RRB)
*Haliaeetus albicilla** (RRB)
Aquila clanga (2)
Aquila chrysaetus (RRB)
*Circus cyaneus** (2)
*Circus pygargus** (2)
Circaetus gallicus (1)
*Falco vespertinus** (2)

*Asio flammeus** (2)
Upupa epops (1)
*Dendrocopos leucotos** (4)
Remiz pendulinus (2)
Serinus serinus (2)
Loxia leucoptera (2)
*Luscinia svecica** (1)
Nucifraga caryocatactes (1)

19. Social and cultural values: The area provides favourable conditions for traditional fishing and waterfowl shooting. The delta is important for navigation and recreation.

20. Land tenure/ownership: There are two major forms of land ownership at the site: state and communal. State lands are represented by the Nizhni-Svirsky Nature Reserve and forestry farms. Land owners with collective proprietary rights include agricultural and fish farms. Small plots of farmland are in private ownership.

21. Current land use: Activities at the site include agriculture, cattle breeding, hay-making, fisheries and waterfowl shooting. The Svir, Pasha and Oyat rivers and the channels of Novoladozhsky and Staroladozhsky are used for navigation. There are a few small woodworking factories in the villages of Sviritsa, Pasha and Domozhirovo.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: No information

23. Conservation measures taken: The site includes the 41,615 ha Nizhni-Svirsky Nature Reserve ('zapovednik'), established in 1980, and part of the area of the Zagubye Wildlife Refuge (local 'zakaznik'). The rest of the area is unprotected.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: The following recommendations have been made for the unprotected portion of the site:

- to forbid waterfowl shooting, trapping for fur animals in winter, commercial fishing, use of motor boats during the waterfowl migration and breeding seasons, visiting the islands of the delta from 1 May till 15 July, burning of reeds, houses construction, disposal of wastes, forest cutting (except sanitary fellings), drainage, mining for minerals and all projects which might cause changes to the landscape;
 - to increase the staff of the Zagubye Wildlife Refuge by two rangers and extend their authority to the adjacent Domozhirovsky fields; to strengthen the protection regime during the waterbird breeding and migration periods.
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25. Current scientific research and facilities: The Nizhni-Svirsky Nature Reserve carries out research on natural ecosystems and monitoring studies.

26. Current conservation education: Various educational activities have been promoted by the

Nizhni-Svirsky Nature Reserve and regional conservation bodies.

27. Current recreation and tourism: Sailing boats down the Svir River is a popular recreational activity in the area.

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Government of Leningrad Region (67 Suvorovsky Prospect, Saint Petersburg 193311, Russia).

Functional: State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection (4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, Moscow 123812, Russia).

29. Management authority: Ministry of Environment, Government of Leningrad Region (67 Suvorovsky Pr., Saint Petersburg 193311, Russia).

Regional Hunting Management Office (3 Smolny Street, Saint Petersburg 193311, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references: Malchevsky & Pukinsky (1983); Noskov *et al.* (1981); Noskov (1990); Oliger & Kovalev (1986); Red Data Book of the Baltic Region (1993); Red Data Book of the USSR (1984); Skarlato, Ipatov, Noskov & Botch (1988).
