

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties*

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2. Country:

UKRAINE

3. Date:

April 7, 2003

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Perebrody Peatlands

5. Map of the Ramsar site:

a) hard copy

yes

b) digital (electronic) format

raster

6. Geographical coordinates:

51°42' N 27°07' E

7. General location:

The northern part of Rivnenska Oblast (Rivne Region of Ukraine, at the border with Belarus), Dubrovytskyi Rayon (Dubrovytsya District), Perebrody village; 32

km east of the town of Dubrovytsya (12 thousand inhabitants) and 45 km north-east of the town of Sarny (32 thousand inhabitants).

8. Elevation:

143 m above sea level

9. Area:

12,718 ha

10. Overview:

The site is important for conservation of the typical boreal mire flora and fauna. Lowland sedge-reed communities are concentrated in the central over-damped part of the site, transitional sedge-sphagnum (peat moss) communities prevail at its periphery, that testify about peripheral mode of development of the peatland area. On low heights, there are forest phytocoenoses (communities) and coppices. This is unique for mires of Ukraine of such size. Besides the widespread species of *Anatidae* and *Rallidae*, such rare species as Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Corncrake *Grus grus*, Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, and Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* nest within the site. The site is a part of Rivnenskyi (Rivne) Nature Reserve and one of the most preserved peatlands in the Ukrainian Polissya area.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

1 2 3

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

(1) The site includes typical for Poliska Lowland (Polissya, Polesian Lowland) types of eutrophic fens and transitional mesotrophic mires; the eutrophic fens are in the center of the peatlands, and the mesotrophic mires are concentrated at its periphery. Accumulation of the turf layer, depletion of feed are progressing from the periphery to the center; transitional communities of sedge-sphagnum mires prevail at the periphery, and in the central over-damped part of the swamp there are fens with domination of *Phragmites australis* and *Carex lasiocarpa*. Such peripheral mesotrophic development of large peatlands is unique for Ukraine.

(2) Transition mires are listed among the disappearing European habitat types, identified by Resolution 4 (96) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (No 54.5). Rare sedge-scheuchzeria-sphagnum communities (Korogod site) are listed in the Green Data Book of Ukraine.

Rare species of birds as Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Corncrake *Grus grus*, Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, and Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Curlew *Numenius arquata* nest within the site as well as rare species of mammals as the European Otter *Lutra lutra* and *Castor fiber* are registered here.

(3) The site is very important for conservation of the typical Polissya (forest-type) vegetation, flora and fauna, which are much more characteristic for the northern part of Polissya in the territory of Belarus.

The flora of the site includes *Carex lasiocarpa*, *C. limosa*, *C. pilosa*, *C. nigra* and *C. rostrata*, sphagnum moss species - *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. fallax*, *S. magellanicum*.

Betula pendula, *Alnus glutinosa* and *Salix alba* often grow in swamped areas. The typical for Polissya Scots pine forests are represented on islands and dune tops by several major types: pine forests with heather, pine forests with mosses and blackberries, and pine forests with cowberries, bracken fern and sphagnum.

Bird species of the wetland complex widespread in Polissya are common in the fauna of the site: Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*, Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and Great Snipe *G. media*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Garhaney *Anas querquedula* and Teal *A. crecca*, and also forest species Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrrix* and Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia*. Reptiles are represented by *Vipera berus*, *Natrix natrix*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Lacerta vivipara* and *L. agilis*, *Emys orbicularis*; amphibians include *Triturus cristatus*; and mammals, *Capreolus capreolus*, *Alces alces*, *Sus scrofa*, *Nyctereutes procyonoides*, *Castor fiber*, *Ondatra zibethica*, *Martes martes*, *Mustela vison* and *M. lutreola*.

13. Biogeography:

Biogeographical region on the map of the Emerald Network of Europe: Continental.

According to geobotanical zoning of Ukraine: Poliska (Polissian) Subprovince (Volynske Polissya = Volhynian Polissya); East European Province; European Broadleaf Forest Region.

Basin affiliation: basin of the L'va River, which flows into the Prypiat (or Pripet) River in Belarus, and the Prypiat, in its turn, flows into the Kyivske Reservoir in the middle reaches of the Dnipro (Dnieper).

14. Physical features of the site:

By its geomorphological conditions, the site's area is a lowland; its crystalline foundation (Ukrainian Granite Shield) is located at the depth of 200 m and is covered by glacial, fluvio-glacial and alluvial deposits.

Soils of the site are represented mainly by peatlands. Their upper layers are predominantly composed by sphagnum peat, lower layers, by reed and sedges. Besides peatlands, there are also peatbog and silty-mire, meadow-mire, and soddy-podzolic soils.

The climate of the site is comparatively humid and warm. Average annual precipitation is 550-600 mm. An average temperature is +6-7°C, the warmest

month (July) temperature is +18.5°C, the coldest (January), -5.5°C. The site is located in the zone of sufficient humidity, the average annual evaporation values from the surface are 525-550 mm.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

Perebrody peatlands are headwaters of the L'va River (172 km long; catchment area 2400km²), which in the territory of Belarus flows into the Stviga River, a tributary of the Prypiat River (length 761 km; catchment area 114 thousand km²), and the Prypiat is a tributary of the Dnipro (Dnieper).

16. Hydrological values:

The site includes several small lakes. During extensive floods, which happen once in 10 years, the site's territory is almost completely covered by water; the duration of the high water period is increasing due to backwater by the L'va, the Goryn', and even the Prypiat.

17. Wetland Type:

U Xp O M

18. General ecological features:

The association of *Carex lasiocarpa* with sphagnum mosses and locally with occasional stands of *Betula pendula* is the dominant plant community of the site; it occupies more than 70% of the total area. Other important plant communities are *Carex-Phragmites* communities; quagmires with *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Carex spp.* and *Sphagnum spp.*; oligo-mesotrophic cottongrass-sphagnum coenoses *Eriophorum-Sphagnum* with suppressed *Pinus silvestris*; swamped alder forests (*Alnus glutinosa*), swamped birch forests; swamped pine-sphagnum forests with *Ledum palustre* and *Vaccinium uliginosum*; pine forests with bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), with lichens, with *Calluna vulgaris*, with cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), with bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*); oak forests formed by *Quercus robur*.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Among the rare plants listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine there are the following species occurring within the site: *Drosera intermedia*, *Salix myrtilloides*, *Diphasiastrum complanatum*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*. Among peatlands on forested islands, there are localities of *Diphasiastrum zeilerii*, a very rare species in Ukraine. Stands of bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, a valuable medical plant species) occur in a patchy pattern. Such rare plant species of Ukrainian swamps as *Peucedanum palustris*, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Calamagrostis canescens* also occur here.

20. Noteworthy fauna:

The following species belong to rare fauna species of the site's territory: Black

Stork *Ciconia nigra* (5-6 nests are registered), Crane *Grus grus* (about 12 individuals), Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (more than 6 pairs), Short-toyed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (2-3 nests), Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (not numerous), *Coronella austriaca*, *Felis lynx* (1 family).

21. Social and cultural values:

Populated areas, including social and cultural entities, are absent within the site. Fishing and forestry are not conducted here.

22. Land tenure/ownership of:

site:

State ownership for lands, which are transferred to permanent use to the Administration of Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve. Administration of the Reserve has the Certificate on the right of permanent land use.

surrounding area:

Private agricultural lands (arable lands, hayfields, pastures, gardens) and state forest lands; lands of populated areas (private and municipal) are located nearby.

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) site:

The site is located within the protected area, and because of that only fire-prevention measures and sanitary felling (management cutting) are allowed here.

(b) surroundings/catchment:

Agricultural activities: growing of cereals, potato, flax, vegetables; haymaking and grazing; logging; gathering of berries and mushrooms; hunting, amateur fishing; recreation.

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

at the site:

In the past: drainage melioration, forest felling.

around the site:

Drainage melioration, agriculture, forestry, hunting.

25. Conservation measures taken:

Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve was established by the Decree of the President of Ukraine of 3 April 1999 (47 046.80 ha). The Perebrody Peatlands is one of the four sections of the Reserve (12,718 ha).

Biodiversity management is performed according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine" (1992), the Regulation (By-law) of the

Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve (1999, with amendments of 2001).

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

It is planned to develop a management plan of the territory and protection of natural complexes of Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve. The special management plan on wetlands of international importance will be developed.

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

Annually the scientific researches within the framework of the Chronicles of Nature of Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve are carried out. Scientific studies are performed mainly by research staff of the Reserve and the curator institution, Rivnenskyi (Rivne) State Technical University (city of Rivne).

In the staff of the Reserve, there are 4 research officers working in the Scientific Department. The basic research directions are monitoring of the state of biological and landscape diversity within the frameworks of the annual Program on Chronicles of Nature; studies of the ichthyofauna, amphibians, birds, and mammals.

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

Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve has a special Department of Environmental Education, which regularly conducts environmental education and public awareness activities. Employees of the Reserve organize regular trainings with schoolchildren, competitions for schoolchildren and students of the local educational institutions.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

The site is not used for recreation and tourism.

30. Jurisdiction:

Territorially lands of the site are subordinated to the State Administration of Rivnenska Oblast (Rivne Region) of Ukraine.

Functionally the site is subordinated to the Administration of the Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve at the State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine.

31. Management authority:

Administration of Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve.

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32. Bibliographical references:

1. Chronicle of Nature: Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve – 2 volumes (2000, 2001).

2. Red Data Book of Ukraine: Flora - 1996, 608 pp.; Fauna - 1994, 464 pp. - Kyiv: Ukrainian Encyclopaedia.
3. Reserves and National Nature Parks of Ukraine. – Kyiv: Vyshcha Shkola (Higher School), 1999. – 230 pp.