

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 20 May 2020 Update version, previously published on : 1 January 2008

EstoniaSookuninga



Designation date 27 December 2007
Site number 1748
Coordinates 58°00'14"N 24°49'31"E
Area 5 869,00 ha

Color codes

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

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

1 - Summary

Summary

Sookuninga together with another Estonian Ramsar Site, Nigula, and Ziemelu Purvi Ramsar Site in Latvia form the first Estonian transboundary wetland - North Livonian Ramsar Site. Sookuninga is formed to protect vast mire areas and surrounding biotopes as well as habitats for protected species. There are six large raised bog massifs in Sookuninga area: Tõrga, Rakste, Ruunasoo, Sandre, Sookuninga and Rongu bogs. These bogs are the oldest in South Western part of Estonia. The areas are known for the yields of cranberries and cloudberries but they have major importance in water protection. Several large Estonian and Latvian rivers get their start in this site (Reiu, Rannametsa, Ura). The site protects the breeding grounds of 19 important bird species and migratory feeding sites for three species and it supports several endangered mammal populations.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data	
2.1.1 - Name and address of the com	piler of this RIS
Compiler 1	
Name	Marika Kose
Institution/agency	Estonian University of Life Sciences
Postal address	Suurküla 21
E-mail	marika.kose@emu.ee
Phone	+37256561373
2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and From year To year	2012
2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site	
Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Sookuninga
2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries an	d area of the Site since its designation or earlier update
	Changes to Site boundary Yes O No No No No No No No No
(Updat	B. Changes to Site area No change to area
2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological cha	
(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of tapplicable Criteria) change	he Ramsar Site (including Yes (likely) ed since the previous RIS?
	(Update) Are the changes Positive O Negative O Positive & Negative ●
(Update) Positive %	1
(Update) Negative %	1
(Update	e) No information available
(Update) Optional text box to provide further info	
change. However, the site has maint	apply to the site, as there are changes in migratory bird numbers using the area, we have to admit there is a tained all other ecological qualities, there is no change. It can be explained, that the conditions around the able for migratory waterbirds and they are more evenly distributed in the whole area.
(Update) Changes resulting from causes of	perating within the existing boundaries?
(Update) Changes resulting from causes of	operating beyond the site's

boundaries?

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

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

(Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary reduction alone (e.g., $\hfill\Box$ the exclusion of some wetland types formerly included within the site)? (Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary increase alone (e.g.,

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

the inclusion of different wetland types in the site)?

The quality of landscapes has improved and birds can stop also around the Ramsar site.

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

Boundaries description

Boundaries ovelap with Sookuninga Nature Conservation Area borders

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does Pärnu County the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

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

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes \odot No \circ

d) Transboundary Ramsar Site name: North Livonian Ramsar Site

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 5869

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 5899.39

GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Boreal

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

1	Critorion	1.	Representative.	rara	oru	niaua	natural	or r	near-nati	ral w	bnelta	type
V.	Cillenon	1.1	Representative,	rare	or ur	ilique	naturai	OI I	lear-nau	ıraı w	ellanu	types

Active raised bogs, undrained bog margins, transitional mires and deciduous swamp woods participate Hydrological services provided in water retention processes, feed rivers and control floods and waterlevels. Berries such as cranberries and cloudberries. Biodiversity. Other ecosystem services provided

- ☑ Criterion 2: Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- ☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

The Sookuninga site is very remote, wild and therefore hosts rare and endangered species. The site Justification protects the breeding grounds of 19 important bird species and migratory feeding sites for three species and it supports several endangered mammal populations.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

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

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4 Rec	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Botrychium virginianum		2	2			EN in Red Data Book of Estonia	Crit 2, 3: Endangered in Estonia, very rare in Europe.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	qu cr	pecies ualifies under riterior 4 6	S C	unc crite	butes ler rion	Pop	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds															
CHORDATA / AVES	Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	V	Z 🗆				1	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	1 breeding pair. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Aquila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle	V	Z 🗆				3	2013-2017					EU Birds Directive, Annex I	3 breeding pairs. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	V	2 0				1	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	1 breeding pair. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan	2								LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	Mgratory
CHORDATA / AVES	Grus grus	Common Crane	Ø.	Z 🗆				4	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	4 breeding pairs. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	Ø.	Z 🗆				2	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	2 breeding pairs. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	phaeopus	Whimbrel		7 0				1	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	breeds in open mires. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Pluvialis apricaria	European Golden Plover; European Golden-Plover	Ø.	Z 🗆				10	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	It only breeds on open mires Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie	Ø.	20				17	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	17 cocks. Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES	Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper	V	2 0				10	2013-2017		LC			EU Birds Directive, Annex I	10 bp. Criterion 4: breeding.
Others															
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Lutra lutra	European Otter		2 🗆				3			NT			in EU Habitats Directive Annex II and IV	3 pairs , Criterion 4: breeding.
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Myotis dasycneme	pond bat; Pond Myotis	V	2 0							NT			in EU Habitats Directive Annex II and IV	data not available. Criterion 4: breeding.

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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

RIS for Site no. 1748, Sookuninga, Estonia

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Bog woodland (91D0)	2		EU Habitats Directive Annex I priority habitat
Active raised bogs (7110)	2	6 raised bog complexes	EU Habitats Directive Annex I priority habitat
Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080)	Ø	undrained bog margins	EU Habitats Directive Annex I priority habitat
Tranition mires and quaking bogs (7140)	2	on bog margins	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat
rivers and creeks (3260)	Ø	small rivers starting from bogs	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat
Northern Boreal alluvial meadows (6450)	2	Around the rivers and creeks starting from bogs	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds (3160)	Ø	bog lakes	EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitat

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Sookuninga and Nigula Ramsar Sites in Estonia and Ziemelu Purvi Ramsar Site in Latvia form the first Estonian transboundary wetland - North Livonian Ramsar site. Sookuninga Site is formed to protect vast mire areas and surrounding biotopes (wet forests, open semi-natural grasslands) as well as specific habitats for protected species. There are six large raised bog massifs in Sookuninga area: Törga, Rakste, Ruunasoo, Sandre, Sookuninga and Rongu bogs. These bogs are the oldest in South Western part of Estonia. The areas are known for the yields of cranberries and cloudberries but they have major importance in water protection. Several large Estonian and Latvian rivers get their start in this site (in Estonia Reiu, Rannametsa, Ura). The Site protects the breeding grounds of 19 important bird species and migratory feeding sites for three species and it supports several endangered mammal populations. The area is a habitat complex with mires, forests, wooded pastures and fields, all supporting the breeding and feeding of the various bird and animal species. The area was drained in last century but restoration works have been planned and partly implemented to block the drainages and restore wet habitats.

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

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		4	0.0065	
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		2	62	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non- forested peatlands		1	1476	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		1	1435	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		4	0.183	

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Forests	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Carex disperma		
Carex magellanica irrigua		
Gymnadenia conopsea		
Neottia nidus-avis		
Scapania undulata		
Sphagnum lindbergii		

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	Anser albifrons	Greater White-fronted Goose				
CHORDATA/AVES	Anser fabalis	Bean Goose				
CHORDATA/AVES	Lanius excubitor	Great Grey Shrike; Northern Shrike				
CHORDATA/AVES	Tringa totanus	Common Redshank				
CHORDATA/AVES	Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

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

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting	
	10

4.4.2 - Geomorphic settir	ng					
a) Minimum elevation above		40	1			
	metres)		1			
a) Maximum elevation abov	ve sea level (in metres)	60]			
	merca)	Entire riv	er basin 🗆			
		Upper part of riv	_			
			_			
		Middle part of riv				
		More than one riv	_			
			er basin 🗖			
			Coastal			
Places name the river basin o	or basins If the s			o the larger river basin. For a	occatal/marina sita, place	o nama tha saa ar a
Please name the river basin o Ura, Rannametsa and R			asin, piease also name	e the larger river basin. For a	Coastal/marine site, pieas	——————————————————————————————————————
4.4.3 - Soil						
			Organic 🗹			
	(Update	e) Changes at RIS	update No change	ncrease O Decrease O U	Jnknown O	
		No available info				
Are soil types subject to ch conditions	nange as a resul	t of changing hyd	rological Yes O No ©	ı		
conditions	s (e.g., increase)	a sanning of acidifi	CauOH)?			
4.4.4 - Water regime						
Water permanence						
Presence? Usually permanent water	Changes at RIS	update				
present						
Source of water that maintains of	character of the	site				
	Predominant wat	er source Cha	anges at RIS update			
Water inputs from rainfall Water inputs from	<u> </u>		No change	-		
groundwater			No change			
Water destination						
Presence? Marine	Changes at RIS					
ivanie	No chang	je				
Stability of water regime	Change of Dic	Lundato				
Presence? Water levels largely stable	Changes at RIS					
Please add any comments on This site is formed of six			, ,	<u> </u>		
5.15 15 15/11/104 01 31/	5 55111010		- p. co.pianon wat			
4.4.5 - Sediment regime						
	S	ediment regime u	inknown 🗹			
440 W : ::						
4.4.6 - Water pH			_			
		U	Jnknown 🗹			
117 - Water solinity						
4.4.7 - Water salinity						
	463		(<0.5 g/l) ☑			
	(Updati			ncrease O Decrease O U	Jnknown ∪	
		U	Jnknown 🗆			
4.4.8 - Dissolved or susp	ended nutrie	nts in water				
T.T.U - DISSUIVEU UI SUSP	Chaga Hattiel	io iii walei				

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

Unknown 🗹

Please describe whether, an characteristics in the area s			e differ from the i) broadly similar (
Surrounding are	a has greater urb	nanisation o	site itself:
_			oulation density
	•		agricultural use
Surrounding area has sign			_
Surrounding area has sign	illicarity dillererit	iand cover (or Habitat types 🗀
4.5 - Ecosystem se			
4.5.1 - Ecosystem servic	ces/benefits		
Provisioning Services Ecosystem service	Example	es	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for	humans	Low
Wetland non-food products	e.g., fish, mollus) Livestock fo		Low
Regulating Services Ecosystem service	Example	es	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater red discharg		Medium
Pollution control and	Water purificati	on/waste	Medium
detoxification	treatment or o		
Climate regulation	gases, tempo precipitation a climactic prod	erature, nd other	High
Cultural Services Ecosystem service	Example	es	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observa		Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage	(historical	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	and archaeol Aesthetic and	sense of	Low
	place valu		Medium
Scientific and educational Scientific and educational	Long-term moni Major scientific		Medium
0. "5	Important kno systems, impor		
Scientific and educational	research (so reference area	ientific	Medium
Supporting Services			
Ecosystem service	Example		Importance/Extent/Significance
	Supports a varie forms including	ty of all life g plants,	
Biodiversity r	animals a microorganizms,	and	High
	they contain,	and the	i iigii
	ecosystems of v form a p		
Soil formation	Accumulation of matter		Medium
Nutrient cycling	Carbor storage/seque	1	High
Pollination	Support for po		Low
	<u> </u>		
	Within the site:	10	
	Outside the site:		
Have studies or assessmen	nts been made of	the econor	nic valuation of Ramsar Site?
ecosyste	em services prov	ided by this	Ramsar Site?
4.5.2 - Social and cultura	al values		
i) the site provides a mod			
application of traditional kno use that main	owledge and met stain the ecologic		
	•		
ii) the site has exception civilizations that have influen			
iii) the ecological characte	•		
	local communiti		
Description if applicable			
The semi-natural commigratory and breeding		as open l	andscapes (meadows) are
iv) relevant non-material va	llues such as sa	cred sites a	re present and
their existence is strongly lin		ntenance of	f the ecological
		character	r 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

_						
Di i	hI	ic	OW	vners	h	in

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal		
government	SC.	SC.

Private ownership

ato ominoromp		
Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	/	✓

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any	Estonian Environmental Board, Lääne region
agency or organization responsible for	
managing the site:	
Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	Kadri Hänni, Senior Nature Conservation Specialist
people with responsibility for the wettand.	
Postal address:	Roheline 64, Pärnu, EE80010, Estonia
E-mail address:	kadri.hanni@keskkonnaamet.ee

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage					✓	
Canalisation and river regulation			/			

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified			✓			

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities			✓			

Pollution

1 Olduoti							
	Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
	Unspecified			✓		✓	

Please describe any other threats (optional):

the area is remote and almost no inhabitants.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000			

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Reserve			whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area			

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve □
Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
Ill Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
M Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly

for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Improvement of water quality	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Partially implemented
management programmes	

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site?

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?

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

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

Animal species: Otter, beaver.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Eesti Ornitoloogiaühing, 2011. Metsise (Tetrao urogallus) kaitse tegevuskava 2012-2016. Tartu.

Mesipuu, M. 2010. Virgiinia võtmeheina (Botrychium virginianum (L.) SW.) kaitse tegevuskava 2010-2019.

Leivits, A. 2005. Riikliku keskkonnaseire alamprogrammi "Eluslooduse mitmekesisuse ja maastike seire" projekti "Madalsoode ja rabade linnustik" 2005. aasta lepingu nr T5062PKPK05/EPKPK048305 täitmise lõpparuanne. Nigula Looduskaitseala Administratsioon.

Vellak, K., Ingerpuu, N., Leis, M., Roosma, A. 1996. Andmeid Rongu ja Kodaja sookaitsealade soontaimede, sammalde ja suursamblike floora kohta. Tartu Ülikool, Zooloogia ja Botaanika

Instituut. Tartu

llomets, M. (Vastutav täitja) 2005. Euroopa Regionaalarengu Fondi meetme 4.2 projekt 4.0204- 0107 "Sooserva elupaikade taastamine Põhja-Liivimaa linnualal l etapp". Ruunasoo hüdroloogilise seisundi ja toitumistingimuste selgitamine ning taimkatte analüüsid. TLÜ Ökoloogia

Seeberg Kitneaes, K. 2006. Sookuninga (EE) and Northern bog (LV). Harmonizing management

planning for twp transborder Natura 2000 sites.

Timm, U. 2006. Lendorava inventuur

Viht, E., Randla, T. 2001. Metsis. Kaitsekorralduskava

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

<no file available>

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

<no file available>

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

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Sookuninga (*Herdis Fridolin*, 17-12-2009)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Transboundary Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2007-12-27