Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

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

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

Audrius Aliukonis
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and Labanoras Regional Park
Palūšė, Ignalinos r. LT-30202, Lithuania.
Tel./fax +370 386 53 135.
E-mail: anp@anp.lt

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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

12 September 2011

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3. Country:

Lithuania

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4. Name of the Ramsar site:

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

Girutiskis bog (Girutiškio pelkė)

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

This RIS is for (tick one box only)**:**

a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ☑; or

b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ❑

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

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ❑

or

If the site boundary has changed:

i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or

ii) the boundary has been extended ❑; or

iii) the boundary has been restricted** ❑

and/or

If the site area has changed:

i) the area has been measured more accurately ❑; or

ii) the area has been extended ❑; or

iii) the area has been reduced** ❑

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

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

7. Map of site:

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

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

i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ❑;

ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ☑;

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** ☑.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

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

The boundaries of the site are the same as Girutiskis Strict Nature Reserve in Labanoras Regional Park.

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

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

25°51'21"E; 55°11'52"N

9. General location:

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

The Girutiskis bog is located on the eastern periphery of Lithuania. In terms of administrative division of Lithuania, the Girutiskis bog is in the Svencionys district, some 6 km southeast of the Labanoras village, with approximately 100 inhabitants.

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

The area is at the altitude of 150 to 160 m above sea level.

11. Area: (in hectares)

1402 ha

12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The raised bog overgrown with sparse small pines, with open areas and lakes. High hillocks surround the bog. The shoreline of the bog is very winding, there are numerous peninsulas and islands. The bog is mostly surrounded with pine and spruce forests.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
☑	☑	☑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:
Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1:
The area of the wetland is of international importance. It contains EU protected wetland habitats, and a number of important breeding and migrating wetland species. Threatened habitat types included in the Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive:
3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*;
3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds;
7110 Active raised bogs;
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs;
7230 Alkaline fens;
9010 Western Taïga;
9050 Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with *Picea abies*;
9080 Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods;
91D0 Bog woodland.

Criterion 2:
Girutiškis wetland complex supports internationally and locally endangered and vulnerable both plant and animal species and plant communities.
Breeding bird species included in the Annex I of European Birds Directive:

1. *Gavia arctica*;*
2. *Ciconia nigra*;*
3. *Pernis apivorus*;*
4. *Milvus migrans*;*
5. *Aquila pomarina;*
6. *Pandion haliaetus*;*
7. *Bonasa bonasia;*
8. *Tetrao tetrix*;*
9. *Tetrao urogallus*;*
10. *Porzana porzana*;*
11. *Grus grus*;*
12. *Tringa glareola*;*
13. *Aegolius funereus*;*
14. *Glaucidium passerinum*;*
15. *Caprimulgus europaeus;*
16. *Coracias garrulus*;*
17. *Picus canus*;*
18. *Dryocopus martius;*
19. *Picoides tridactylus*;*
20. *Lullula arborea;*
21. *Ficedula parva.*

Other Annex I species observed in the territory:

22. *Ciconia ciconia;*
23. *Cygnus cygnus*;*
24. *Haliaeetus albicilla*;*
25. *Circaetus gallicus*;*
26. *Circus aeruginosus;*
27. *Circus pygargus*;*
28. *Aquila chrysaetos*;*
29. *Crex crex;*
30. *Pluvialis apricaria*;*
31. *Bubo bubo*;*
32. *Dendrocopos medius.*

Species included in Annex II to the European Habitats Directive:

Mammals :

1. *Lutra lutra**;
2. *Lynx lynx*.*

Fishes:

1. *Cottus gobio*;
2. *Cobitis taenia*;
3. *Misgurnus fossilis*.*

Insects:

1. *Ophiogomphus cecilia**;
2. *Leucorrhinia pectoralis**;
3. *Boros schneideri**;
4. *Graphoderus bilineatus**;
5. *Euphydryas aurinia**;

6. *Lycaena dispar**.

Amphibians : *Bombina bombina**.
Molluscs : *Unio crassus**.

Plants:

1. *Liparis loeselii**;
2. *Pulsatilla patens**;
3. *Saxifraga hirculus**.

*List of species also included in the red data book of Lithuania

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

Criterion 3:
Girutiskis bog, due to very mosaic habitats, supports populations of endangered and vulnerable plant and animal species important for maintaining of the biological diversity of the Easter Baltic Region. See points 20., 21. and 22. for details.

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15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):
Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Boreal (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Map of Biogeographical Regions of Europe serving the Habitats Directive of the European Community (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).

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

Girutiskis bog is located on sandy Labanoras plane in the Aukštaičiai eminence physical geographical region. This plane was formed by glacial meltwater flows that filled depressions with sandy, silty and, in some places, even gravelly sediments in the shape of periglacial deltas. Relief formations of such origin, with the characteristic inner structure, surround the Girutiskis mire complex, which is located in marshy depression. The existence of clay, sand and silt layers under the peat-bed indicates that the bog has evolved from a rather large water basin once present in the area. Initially, coarse particles were deposited from the meltwater streams flowing into the basin. When the meltwater flow ceased the water basin became isolated. Sedimentation in calmer conditions resulted in the deposition of clay and silt layers.

There are 5 relict lakes in the complex. The maximum depth of the peat bed – 8.4 m., the average – 3.45 m. There is a 0.5 m layer of silt under the peat. The bottom of the bog consists of sand and clay.

The average yearly temperature is about +5.5°C. The average temperature of the warmest month (July) is about +16.8°C, while the average temperature of the coldest month (January) is about -6.7°C. The average amount of precipitation is 650-700 mm per year.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:
Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Similar to the features described in Chapter 16.

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

The hydrological regime is natural. The area is important for rich resources of clean ground water, and the swamp plays a significant role in replenishing it. Peat accumulation in bogs facilitates the binding of atmospheric CO_2

19. Wetland Types

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

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

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

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

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

U – Xp – O – Xf

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

A complex of raised bogs, rich fens and transitional mires with dystrophic lakes and surrounding forests. Pine forests with admixture of spruce and birch dominate the area surrounding the bog. Very mosaic vegetation reflects the diversity of the relief of this territory. Spruce, birch and black alder forests occur in patches, mostly on the outskirts of the mire. Most swamp forests are occupied by alder stands with *Carex acutiformis* and *Carex caespitosa* communities. Most raised bogs have formed around overgrowing lakes, they are not distinctly convex, covered with swampy pine forest attributed to the typical *Ledo-Pinetum* community and to the *Ledo-Pinetum* community with leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), which is characteristic of Eastern Lithuania. The *Ledo-Pinetum* community with dwarf birch (*Betula nana*) grows in some parts of the Girutiskis mire complex (Beržalotas mire). *Sphagnum magellanici* communities dominate open areas of the raised bogs, while *Rhynchosporion albae* and *Carex limosa* communities dominate pits of raised bogs and marshes around lakes. Transitional bogs also occupy rather large areas of the Girutiskis bog.

These are mostly semi-open bogs, overgrowing with small pines and birches. Their grass layer is dominated by *Caricion lasiocarpae* communities. Dystrophic lakes of the mire complex are shallow, not overgrown, with low, swampy shores.

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21. Noteworthy flora:

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

Additional noteworthy plants included in the Red Data Book of Lithuania (2007) which grow in the Girutiskis bog:

1. *Albatrellus confluens*;
2. *Drepanocladus lycopodioides*;
3. *Sphagnum inundatum*;
4. *Sphagnum papillosum*;
5. *Trichocolea tomentella*;
6. *Huperzia selago*;
7. *Isoetes lacustris*;
8. *Lycopodiella inundata*;
9. *Botrychium multifidum*;
10. *Botrychium virginianum*;
11. *Agrostema githago*;
12. *Ajuga pyramidalis*;
13. *Arenaria saxatilis*;
14. *Arnica montana*;
15. *Betula humilis*;
16. *Betula nana*;
17. *Carex davalliana*;
18. *Carex magellanica*;
19. *Carex heleonastes*;
20. *Cladium mariscus*;
21. *Coeloglossum viridae*;
22. *Corallorhiza trifida*;
23. *Dactylorhiza maculata*;
24. *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*;
25. *Dactylorhiza incarnata*;
26. *Dactylorhiza longifolia*;
27. *Epipactis atrorubens*;
28. *Gymnadenia conopsea*;
29. *Hammarbya paludosa*;
30. *Hydrilla verticilata*;
31. *Listera cordata*;
32. *Malaxis monophyllos*;
33. *Platanthera chlorantha*;
34. *Lobelia dortmanna*;
35. *Najas marina*;
36. *Nymphaea alba*;
37. *Salix lapponum*;
38. *Salix myrtilloides*;

39. *Senecio congestus*;
40. *Silene lithuanica*;
41. *Trisetum sibiricum*;
42. *Vicia pisiformis*.

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22. Noteworthy fauna:

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

List of additional animals included in the red data book of Lithuania (2007), which are found in Girutiskis (and not included under point 14):

Mammals:

1. *Nyctalus leisleri;*
2. *Sicista betulina;*
3. *Lepus timidus;*
4. *Mustela erminea;*

Birds:

1. *Anser anser;*
2. *Mergus merganser;*
3. *Accipiter gentilis;*
4. *Falco subbuteo;*
5. *Lagopus lagopus;*
6. *Tringa totanus;*
7. *Numenius arquata;*
8. *Columba oenas;*
9. *Picus viridis;*
10. *Lanius excubitor.*

Insects:

1. *Coenagrion johansoni;*
2. *Carabus coriaceus;*
3. *Carabus nitens;*
4. *Ceruchus chrysomelinus;*
5. *Peltis grossa;*
6. *Coenonympha hero;*
7. *Eppirhoe tortuensis;*
8. *Macaria carbonaria;*
9. *Papilio machaon.*

Other noteworthy mammals:

Canis lupus

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23. Social and cultural values:

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

In the past area was used for extensive forest activities, hunting, mushroom and berry picking, fishing. Due to infertile soil territory was not used for intensive agriculture and remained natural.
At present, the area is important only as a research, environmental education and limited educational tourism site.

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

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

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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24. Land tenure/ownership:
a) within the Ramsar site:

100% state-owned

b) in the surrounding area:

Majority state owned, locally (near villages) private

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25. Current land (including water) use:
a) within the Ramsar site:

Research, monitoring, locally education use.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The surrounding territories are used for forestry, tourism, berry picking, mushroom picking, hunting, recreation and extensive farming.
Girutiskis bog from surrounded territories is separated by huge forest areas. There is also very small density of local inhabitants. Few farmsteads are situated in the northern part of the territory.

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

Main problem is habitats overgrow with bushes and trees, also invasive species and illegal visitors.

b) in the surrounding area:
None

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:
In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

National status: Girutiskis bog is nationally protected as a Strict Nature Reserve and is a part of Labanoras Regional Park, which was established in 1992;
International status: Girutiskis bog also is part of a Natura 2000 site Labanoras Regional Park.

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

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

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

Girutiskis bog has approved nature management plan. Detailed information about the nature management plan can be found there (only in Lithuanian):
http://gamtotvarka.am.lt/plans/70.pdf

d) Describe any other current management practices:

According nature management plan, mire habitats with *Liparis loeselii* and *Saxifraga hirculus* are managed. Main activities are connected to brush and tree cutting and mowing.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Labanoras regional park management plan is under preparation.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Monitoring of birds and plant species of European importance;
Habitat inventory;
Algae research;
Pollen research in peat layer.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:
e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

There is a visitor centre and an exposition at the Labanoras regional park directorate. Information stands are installed in the territory. Digital presentation of the mire complex prepared and scientific, educational tours are organized.

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

Tourism is limited in the Girutiskis bog.

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

The site is managed by the administration of Labanoras Regional Park Directorate, which is supervised by the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.
Contact details:
State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment
A. Juozapavičiaus g. 9, LT-09311 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel. +370-5-272 3284, fax. +370-5-272 2572, e-mail vstt@vstt.lt,
www.vstt.lt

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

Directorate of Aukštaitija National Park and Labanoras Regional Park
Palūšė, Ignalinos r. LT-30202, Lithuania.
Tel./fax +370 386 53 135.
E-mail: anp@anp.lt
Audrius Aliukonis – chief biologist.
Tel. +370-387-47160
www.labanoroparkas.lt

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

Čiuplys R., Rašomavičius V., Greimas E., Durinck J. Girutiškio gamtinio rezervato pelkių komplekso gamtotvarkos plano pagrindžiamoji informacija. Vilnius, 2007.
Švažas S., Drobelis E., Balčiauskas L., Raudonikis L. Svarbios Lietuvos pelkės ir seklūs vandenys. Vilnius, 2000.
Švažas S., Drobelis E., Balčiauskas L., Raudonikis L. Important wetlands in Lithuania, Vilnius, 1999.
