

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: 5 July 1998
2. Country: **Ukraine**
3. Name of wetland: **Stokhid River Floodplains**
4. Geographical coordinates: 51°40'N 25°22'E
5. Altitude: (average and/or max and min) 139-191 m, av. 155 m
6. Area: (in hectares) 10,000 ha, incl. 1,800 ha of water, 7,400 ha of marshes (mires), 800 ha of meadows
7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Wetland site 'Stokhid River Floodplains' is situated within the Central part of Europe on north-west of Ukraine (Polissia Region) and comprises rivers, lakes, marshes (mires), peatlands, river's islands, meadows. The site is very important for swamp fauna and flora protection, but for breeding and migrating waterfowl, waders and other around-water birds especially.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I if 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: **M, Tp, Xf, Xp**

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

1a • 1b • 1c • 1d | 2a • 2b • 2c • 2d | 3a • 3b • 3c | 4a • 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: **1a, 1c, 2a, 3a, 2b**

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

On the page together with Ramsar wetland site 'Prypiat River Floodplains'

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

Mr. Mychaylo V. Khymyn, 20 Suvorov Str., 263000 Lutsk, UKRAINE. Tel. +380 3322 246-95. Fax: +380 3322 253-21.
E-mail: <eco04@eco04.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>

Under support of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs (Director: Mykola P. Stetsenko), Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine / 1, Timiriazevska Street, Central Botanical Garden, 252014 Kyiv, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 44- 295 26 47. E-mail <parks@parks.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page, (please refer to Annex 11 in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

1a: The fauna and flora composition is typical for Polissia biosphere region (wetlands and meadows ecosystems).

2a: Here the sites of rare species of fauna and flora as well as rare plant formations are situated.

2b: It is presented by the largest natural ecosystems in Polissia Region and by rich biodiversity (more than 220 vertebrate species and 550 vascular plants).

3a: About 50 thousand birds (mainly waterfowl) are recorded during their migrations each year. The Prypiat-Stokhid River Region is situated on the cross-roads of two main flyways: Polissia and Baltic-Mediterranean.

4b: It is important site for feeding, nursery and wintering of local fresh water complex of fishes (*Exos lucius*, *Rutilus rutilus*, *Tinca tinca*, *Carassius carassius*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Lota lota*, *Abramis brama*, *Leuciscus idus*, *Misgurnus fossilis*, *Silurus glanis*, etc.).

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Stokhid River Floodplains is situated on the territory of Kamin-Kashyrskiy, Kovelskiy, Liubeshivskiy, Manevytskiy administrative districts (rayony) in Volynska Oblast (administrative region of Ukraine), average 125 km north from Lutsk (centre of Oblast), in border with Ramsar wetland site 'Prypiat River Floodplains'.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area* climate)

Stokhid River Floodplains is situated within the Upper-Prypiat and Manevychi physical-geographical zones on Western Polissia. This wetland area comprises rivers, many branches of river, swampy islands, marshes (mires) and peatlands, meadows and swampy woods. The territory of site lies on the both geomorphological regions of Upper-Prypiat accumulative plane with floodplains of Holocene age (N part) and Povorsk-Manevychi ending-moraine area with sander valley mainly swampy and woody plane. The area is into catchment areas of the Dnipro River. Water is clean, although yellow tint.

The territory is situated in the Western part of the Atlantic continental region. Moderate wet and warm summer, and mild winter with ice-cover lasting on water bodies from some weeks to three months are most characteristic as well as considerable precipitation (about 600 mm per year).

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)

Wetland site 'Stokhid River Floodplains' with dozens of branches of rivers, many swampy islands, marshes (mires) is one of the best river complexes of Ukraine. There are changes of hydrological balance and water-level of river after beginning exploitation of Partyzanska, Stokhid, Toboly, Ugrynychy drainage systems and beginning of construction of dikes. Only stopping of construction of all dikes and other hydrotechnical and drainage objects will secure stabilisation of hydrological balance and water-level of river.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The vegetation at the site is typical for the forest zone (Western Polissia) in general, although it has some specific features, that binded with presence there considerable filling of the territory with water. The marshes (mires) and riversides consist predominantly of reed-beds with sedges. On meadows and some parts of riversides and lake-sides different grasses grow. There are also lonely sandy dunes in the place of eolian accumulation, where poor vegetation grow.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

The dominant of riversides and some part of marshes (mires) is reed-beds *Phragmites communis*, also associations of sedges and different grasses there grow. There are plant species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Epipactis helleborine*, *E. atrorubens*, *Lilium martagon*, *palanthera bifolia*, *Huperzia selago*, *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*, *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Daphne cneorum*. Among rare plants of the site occur *Gratiola officinalis*, *Hyppuris vulgaris*, *Lycopodium annotinum*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, *D. maculata*, *Senecio paludosa* etc.

There are about 650 species of flora (higher plants) within this site.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

There are 194 species of vertebrates, among them 17 - fishes, 9 - amphibians, 5 - reptiles, 140 - birds, 23 - mammals including Ukrainian and European rare species (all species in the Red Data Book of Ukraine): *Bufo calamita*, *Neomys anomalus*, *Mustela erminea*, *M. lutreola*, *Lutra lutra* and species of birds as Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Northern Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* and Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* and also Papillo *Machaon* among invertebrates.

Breeding species of birds at this territory include Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (40-50 pairs), Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (30-50 pairs), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (700-800 pairs), Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (30-50 pairs), Garganey *Anas querquedula* (100-150 pairs), Common Crake *Porzana porzana* (500 - 600 pairs), Coot *Fulica atra* (500-800 pairs), Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (150-200 pairs), Redshank *Tringa totanus* (60-100 pairs), Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (80-120 pairs), Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (50-60 pairs).

The numbers of water birds, waders and waterfowl is estimated of 5000-8000 pairs. About 50000 birds during migration and moulting seasons come. The most numerous are such bird species as Geese *Anser spp.* (more then 5000-10000 birds), *Anas spp.* (10000-12000), *Aythya* (3000-5000), Coot (5000-7000), *Porzana porzana* (1000-1500) and *Porzana parva* (300-500), Common Crane *Grus grus* (600-1000), Terns *spp.* (1000-1500), Black-headed Gull (1000-2000), Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (1000-1500), Redshank *Tringa totanus* (800-1000), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (1000-2000), Sandpiper *Calidris spp.* (500-800), *Limosa limosa* (500-1000), Swallows *spp.* (10000-12000) and some others.

19. Social and Cultural Values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Sport and small commercial fishing and hunting are practiced.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: State, collective and private ownership

(b) surrounding area: State, collective and private ownership

21. Current land use:

(a) site: There is no any activity on protected area of the Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' and exploitation of natural resources (hunting, fishing, grazing of cattle, haymaking, recreation etc.) outside protected area, including other areas of the Park, and there is limited and controlled.

(b) surroundings / catchment: the same and traditional farming.

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

(a) at the site: There are changes of hydrological balance and water level of river since 1974 with exploitation of Partyzanska, Stokhid, Toboly and Ugrynychy drainage systems and construction of dikes. The influence of draining the site have been caused the decrease of numbers of waterfowls and waders, especially during last 20-30 years.

(b) around the site: There is analogous human influence and also intensification of agricultural production, wood use etc.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Protected areas occupy about 90% of this wetland. There are the Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' - 44958 ha (partly), Landscape Game Reserves (Zakazniks): 'Stokhid' - 5992 ha, Hydrological Game Reserves (Zakazniks): 'Gulivka' - 242 ha and 'Sedlyshche' - 350 ha. All protected areas still have local category of protection.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Project 'Creation of Interstate Protected Areas in Upper Prypiat Basin' as co-operation of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs of the Environmental Ministry and the EECONET Action Fund is prepared. To improve wetland conservation it is necessary to establish the administration of the Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' with scientific division and guarding (according to the Law of Ukraine 'On Natural Reserve Fund') by local authority. There is the proposal to create Prypiat-Stokhid National Nature Park with area more than 60000 ha. Ukraine has proposed for Belarus to create interstate protected area in this region.

25. Current Scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Scientific-ecological organization 'Bird World' as initiator of the creation of this wetland provides research since 1992. There are some research on waders, waterfowl, other birds in this area. Bird World, Western Department of the Ukrainian Ornithological Society, Ukrainian Society of Bird Protection (partner of the Bird Life International) keep substantial information on breeding birds in their database, partly on migrant and wintering birds data.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Information booklet - Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' (+English)

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

There is some recreation activities at the site.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture / Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: local Soviets of the Deputies.

Functional jurisdiction: regional administrative authorities of different sectors: State Committee of Forestry (forest use and hunting), Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Fishery (fishing), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Land and Resources Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) on the last area and local authorities are executive bodies for environmental protection. State Department of Ecological Safety in Volynska Oblast (Director Rostyslav V. Migas. Address: 20 Suvorov Str., 263000 Lutsk, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: 380 3322 253-21. E-mail: <eco04@eco04.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) carries out state control for protection on the whole territory.

In the future the Administration of the Regional Landscape Park (which is organized in Liubeshiv Town of Volynska Oblast) will be responsible organization for nature conservation of wetland site too.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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Khymyn, M.V., Gorban, I.R. (ed.) (1991). The catalogue of the ornithofauna of the western regions of Ukraine. Ornithological Observations for 1989-1990. Lutsk. 156 pp. (+English summary).

Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland

Telephone:+41229990170 Fax:+41229990169 e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org