

## Annex 2 – HISTORICAL VALUES OF TEICI BOG

Siksala is ca. 100ha large mineral-island in the central part of the bog and Russian Old-Believers (the Orthodox) lives there several centuries already. With the small road that has been based on across set round timber beams, island is connected with surrounding dry land. This road was built in the 30-40ties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and later, in 80ties covered with broken dolomite. There are located three populated farmstead on island at the moment. The houses and outbuildings are built in style characteristic to Eastern Latvia - these are small and low round timber log houses without electricity. There is a small graveyard where died inhabitants of the island are buried. The inhabitants of the island earn their living by producing nature friendly agricultural products - by growing grain crops and vegetables as well as livestock for their own use. Uncommercial fishing and angling is popular, too. The land is farmed with motorised machinery, as well as with horses and relevant equipment. Due to farming, the island has not overgrown with trees and bushes; there has formed a peculiar landscape - a broad meadow, enclosed by well foreseeable bog from all directions.

Mindauga Island is ca. 18ha large island on mineral land. It is located in the northern part of Teici bog and is surrounded by wet forests. There is one populated farmstead on this island and it is absolutely isolated - it is not possible to arrive there by car and there is no electric, too. So it's not possible to cultivate land by mechanical transport the man, living in there, practise apiculture and livestock rearing. The sheep and cows feed in the meadows of the island, thus retaining an open landscape.

The management of both islands advances the maintenance of biodiversity and historically formed landscapes in there. Considering the hard living conditions and poverty, the natural shift of generations seems to be impossible here therefore the existence of the island as an environment of a cultural and historical value and with open habitats is endangered even in the nearest future.

There have been more farmsteads in the territory of Teici bog and surrounding forests but people left them already in the middle and second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century and they are absolutely or partly came down now (Ozolsala, Sildas, Berzu Island, Susts, Puskas).