Additional material

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Puhtu-Laelatu wetland: (a) a 40 ha area of very well preserved wooded meadows and its surroundings is proposed to be a "scientific reserve" with intensive investigations and a specially controlled regime;

(b) a complex of activities has been raised to treat the area as a monument of historical "way of life" and to preserve the semi-natural ecosystems as an achievement of rural culture. The main goal is to turn the area into a natural laboratory - a demonstration and study area, consisting of ecological, historical and economical fields.

Nehatu mire: The area is proposed to be enlarged to 690 ha. It is planned to unite with Virtsu-Laelatu- Puhtu Nature Reserve. Nehatu Mire is proposed IBA (in 1996); categories B1.

Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

Puhtu-Laelatu wetland: a) site: Eutrophication due to fertilisers and wastes from fishery (fats), pollution by fuel and some other industrial wastes. Cutting of wood, reed and hay is moderate. Some traditional semi-natural (= semi-cultural) landscapes suffer from underusage and overgrowing with shrubs. b) Surroundings/catchment: Eutrophication (fertilisers, fishery remainders) and oil pollution. Development project includes system analysis and modelling of equilibrally developed area with scattered industry and agriculture.

Nehatu mire: a) at the site: Potential main threat is amelioration, disturbing lake and mire communities. Development project is concerned with the sustainable development of the whole area. b) in the surroundings/catchment: the main threat is lack of management of the semi-natural communities causing overgrowing with shrubs and successions in floristical composition.