



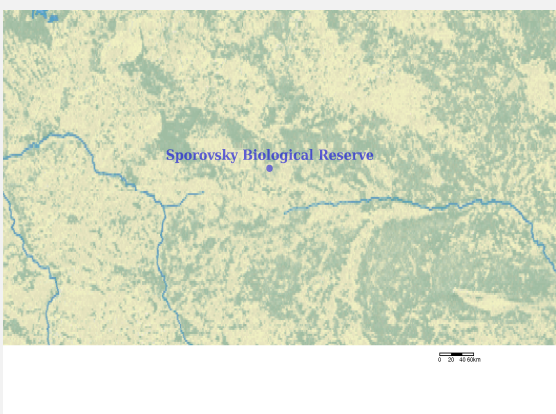
Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 8 November 2016

Update version, previously published on 22 November 1999

Belarus

Sporovsky Biological Reserve



Designation date	22 November 1999
Site number	1007
Coordinates	52°25'15"N 25°19'18"E
Area	19 384,00 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

The Sporovsky Reserve includes one of the largest floodplain fen mires of mesotrophic type in Europe, preserved in the near-natural state. It has international importance for conservation of biodiversity and represents the typical example of floodplain fen mires, which were widespread in the past in the Belarussian Polesie region, but were drained in 1960s.

This mire is one of the last large mires, preserved in the catchment of the Yaselda River, and thus it has high water protection and regulation value for this large tributary of the Pripyat River. Vast areas of mesotrophic and eutrophic fen mires keep significant peat resources and play an important role in carbon dioxide absorption and air purification.

The Sporovsky mire supports complex of plant and animal species, ecologically depended on fen mires. The site is one of the largest habitats of globally threatened bird species - *Acrocephalus paludicola*.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Kozulin Alexander Vasilievich, Beliatskaya Olga Sergeevna
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2002
To year	2010

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Sporovsky Biological Reserve
Unofficial name (optional)	Споровский

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? Yes (actual)

(Update) Are the changes Positive Negative Positive & Negative

(Update) No information available

(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing boundaries?

(Update) Changes resulting from causes 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.

Negative: Over the period from 1950 till 2006 the significant changes in reserve's biotopes ratio occurred. The area of open fen mires declined by 4000 ha, or 20% as a result of shrubs encroachment. The area of shrubs over the same period has increased by 1318 ha or 6.8%. The area of forests has increased by 2038 ha or 10.5%. The process of overgrowing is still continuing.

Positive: During last years the hydrological regime of the site has been optimized due to the development and implementation of Exploitation Regulations for water complex Selets considering requirements of hydrological regime of Sporovsky Reserve and modern water use needs. Over the last 5 years there were not water discharges resulting in floodings of nests. The water level in the Yaselda River is being maintained close to the optimal level.

Works on mowing and cutting of trees and shrubs on the mire and are being conducted. More than 1000 ha of the mire is cleaned. But the overgrowing rate exceeds the rate of clearing. Besides, there is no financial stability of mowing and cutting works.

The plowing of mineral islands on the mire by local people was stopped.

The spring hunting within the Reserve was forbidden.

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

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

The border of the Reserve goes along the marge of the floodplain.
 On the North: along the road Strigin-Zarechie to village Strigin, then along the edge of forested land, along the drainage canal, then along the edges of forest quarters, roads and borders of Collective farms till the Sporovskoe Lake. Then the site's border goes along the shore of the Sporovskoe Lake, along the drainage canal, along administrative border of Ivatsevichi district and edge of reserve lands till the administrative border of Beriozovski district.
 On the East: along the border of Beriozovski district till the border of Ivanovsky district, then along the Zhidovka canal, along the Yaselda river and edge of Collective farms' lands till the border of Drogichensky district.
 On the South the site's border follows admistrative districts' borders, edge of Collective farms' land till the Plesa river, then along the Plesa river till forested lands, and then along the forest quarters. Then along Collective farms' lands, roads, drainage canals till the Yaselda river. Along the Yaselda river, Collective Farms' lands, drainage canals till the Beriozovsky district's border.
 On the West: along Collective Farms' lands, drainage canals, roads, edge of forests.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does 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 No

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

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

National - Polesian Lowland (Dementiev 1959).

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

The Sporovski Reserve contains one of the largest and least-transformed floodplain fen mires of mesotrophic type in Europe. The site is a good example of natural fen mires, characteristic for the Belarussian Polesie region. Fen mires within the site represent one whole tract, stretched along the Yaselda River for about 35 km. This mire is one of the last large mires, preserved in the catchment of the Yaselda River, and thus has high water protection and regulation value for this large tributary of the Pripyat River. The site plays an important role in the regulation of the water regime of the region. Presence of the mire allows to maintain stable favourable conditions for agriculture on adjacent meliorated land. The floodplain mire plays an important role in the purification of the water coming from the meliorated catchment area, and thus preventing inflow of contaminated water into the Pripyat River. The floodplain mire accumulates water during spring and summer rainfall floods, preventing inundation of settlements and agricultural lands. The Yaselda River and Sporovskoe Lake serve as water sources for agricultural needs.

Other ecosystem services provided

Vast areas of mesotrophic and eutrophic fen mires keep significant peat resources and plays important role in carbon dioxide absorption and air purification. The Sporovski mire supports complex of species, ecologically depended on fen mires. One of them - Aquatic Warbler, the globally threatened bird species, which is habitat specialist and can live only on open fen mires. Vast areas within the site are occupied by threatened in Europe natural vegetation communities. The most important of them are floodplain complexes of natural fen mesotrophic mires in the Yaselda floodplain with rare plant associations and rare bird species populations.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity
















Justification

The site has international importance for conservation of typical biodiversity of fen mires, which were widespread in the past in the Belarussian Polesie region (Continental biogeographic region), but drained in 1960s. The total list of the site's flora includes 603 plant species (01.10.2007), which is 50% of all Polesian plant species. The flora is typical for Polesie region, wherein has unique features and is a place of concentration of rare and protected plant species. 15 plant species are listed in the National Red Data Book. Fauna of vertebrates within the site is quite diverse and includes 24 mammal species, 123 bird species, 6 reptile and 8 amphibia species. 48 animal species from the National Red Data Book are registered within the site: 1 mammal species, 32 bird species, 1 reptilia, 2 amphibia and 12 invertebrate species. Representatives of 12 orders of insects were registered in fen mires. 8 insect species are listed in the National Red Data Book.

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







Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

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










































Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
 <i>Botrychium multifidum</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Drosera intermedia</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Eriophorum gracile</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Gentiana cruciata</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	
 <i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Lithospermum officinale</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Nymphaea alba</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	
 <i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Prunus spinosa</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
 <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	
 <i>Urtica kioviensis</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	

The total list of the site's flora includes 603 plant species (01.10.2007), which is 50% of all Polesian plant species. The site's flora is quite representative, especially considering its not large size. The flora is typical for Polesie region, wherein has unique features and is a place of concentration of rare and protected plant species. The site's flora is characterized by high species diversity of Caryophyllaceae, Careceae, Juncaceae and Salicaceae, low share of synanthropic species (synanthropization rate is 24.2%). 15 plant species are listed in the National Red Data Book.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Aquatic Warbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	500	2011	4.5	VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	The site supports 492-667 males, 4.5% of the European breeding population. http://www.aquaticwarbler.net/download/Monitoring_reports/Belarus_2013_AW_monitoring_report_final.pdf , http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=7597
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	2 individuals, the site is important foraging ground for large birds of prey
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2007			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	1 breeding pair and 3 individuals were registered within the site. the site is important foraging ground for large birds of prey.
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2007		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red List - CR	breeding pairs

RIS for Site no. 1007, Sporovsky Biological Reserve , Belarus

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	males
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Carabus menetriesi</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	Typical species of fen mires
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Carabus violaceus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	inhabits elevations in Lake Sporovskoe surroundings
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Chlaenius quadrisulcatus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - CR	typical species of open fen mires
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Chlaenius sulcicollis</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	typical species of open fen mires
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	individuals. the site is important foraging ground for large birds of prey
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Crex crex</i>	Corn Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	2010		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	males
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Dytiscus latissimus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	was registered in oxbows of Yaselda river
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	 <i>Emys orbicularis</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45	2010		NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	males, on breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2007			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	2 individuals, the site is important foraging ground for large birds of prey
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Little Gull	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	2007		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	2007		NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Savi's Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		typical species of fen mires
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	 <i>Lutra lutra</i>	European Otter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15			NT 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	 <i>Meles meles</i>	European Badger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Nehalennia speciosa</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	typical species of open fen mires
CHORDATA/AVES	 <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2007		NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	breeding pairs
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	 <i>Papilio machaon</i>	Common Yellow Swallowtail; Swallowtail, Old World Swallowtail; Artemisia Swallowtail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - VU	inhabits elevations in Lake Sporovskoe surroundings
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	 <i>Triturus cristatus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List - EN	

Fauna of vertebrates within the site is quite diverse and includes 24 mammal species, 123 bird species, 6 reptile and 8 amphibia species. 48 animal species from the National Red Data Book are registered within the site: 1 mammal species, 32 bird species, 1 reptilia, 2 amphibia and 12 invertebrate species.
 Representatives of 12 orders of insects were registered in fen mires. One of the features of the site's entomofauna is very high number of dragonflies (Odonata), represented here by 15 species. 8 insect species are listed in the National Red Data Book.

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

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Community Caricetum elatae Koch 1926	<input type="checkbox"/>	acidophilic mire high-sedge communities, rare for Belarus. The site is near the eastern edge of its distribution range	
Community Corynephorum canescens (Juraszek 1928) Steffen 1931	<input type="checkbox"/>	unique Atlantic grass phytocenosis, situated near the eastern edge of its distribution range.	
Community Molinietum coeruleae Koch 1926	<input type="checkbox"/>	unique and rare for Belarus community of wet meadows. These communities occupy slopes of low sand ridges and elevations in the floodplain of the Yaselda River.	
Forest communities of degraded oak woods	<input type="checkbox"/>	include complex of rare and protected plants on mineral islands among fen mires.	
Nymphaetum albae community	<input type="checkbox"/>	valuable hydrophilous community	
7230 Alkaline fens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of the Habitat Directive
91E0 * Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of the Habitat Directive, priority habitat

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The territory of the Reserve is a flat alluvial plain with lakes, river valleys, above-floodplain terraces and unique mineral islands. Mires of the site present a single entity (covering 75% of the site's area), stretching along the Yaselda river for about 35 km. The territory of the site can be divided into two parts. The first part is a narrow extremely waterlogged floodplain of the Yaselda river stretching for some 25 km. The Yaselda river flows through the center of the floodplain, and reveals an extremely meandering channel overgrown substantially by water plants. Reedbeds 10-100 m wide accompany the flow on both sides of the river. The reedbeds are followed by a constantly flooded valley 50-100 m wide. The rest of the floodplain 500-2000 m wide on both banks of the river is a typical fen sedge mire.

The second part of the zakaznik (lake Sporovskoe district) is an extremely widened Yaselda river floodplain where fen mires of various trophic status dominate, but which also contains a lot of mineral islands. The channel of the river in this part is characterized by well-formed banks. The main part of the zakaznik is occupied by open fen mires (8 373 ha, 43.2 %), fen mires with mosaically placed shrubs – 3 470 ha (17.9%), shrubby mires – 795 ha, 4.1%. Forest and shrub communities in the zakaznik are poorly represented. Numerous low hills and low elevations (mineral islands) are scattered across the mire and along the opposite rim of the river floodplain.

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				
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes				
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools				
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils				
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		1		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands				

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: Seasonally flooded agricultural land				
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches				

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Carex umbrosa</i>		
<i>Iris sibirica</i>		
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>		
<i>Pulsatilla pratensis</i>		

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/MAMMALIA	<i>Alces alces</i>	moose				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Castor fiber</i>	Eurasian Beaver				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	200	2007		

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

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

Middle part of river basin

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The site is situated in the floodplain of the Yaselda River. The Yaselda river starts in the Dikoe mire (the Ramsar site) and falls into the Pripyat river from the left bank. Pripyat river then flows into the Dnieper river (Black sea basin). Dorogobuzh river and several canals flow into the Yaselda river within the site. The floodplain is two-sided, prevailing width is - 0.8-1.2 km, the smallest - 100 m - near Zhaber village. Lower than Dorogobuzh river, the floodplain's width increases to 1.5-6 km. The riverbed within the site is freely meandering, in some places strongly overgrown with water vegetation. Prevailing width of the riverbed is 10-30 m, depth - 0.8-2 m, flow rate 0.1-0.2 m/sec. For 6 km the river flows through the overgrowing shallow lake Sporovskoe. The average width of the lake is 3 km, depth - 0.5-0.8 m.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mneral

Organic

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g. increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Floodplain peat-mire (mainly peat and peat-gley) moderately acid soils (pH 4.7-5.3) prevail in the floodplain of the Yaselda River. Floodplain sod-gley podzolized sabulous soils (pH 5.0) occupy ridges and islands among the mires. The thickness of the peat layer varies from 0.5 till 2 m.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

The water level in the mires fully depends on the water level dynamics in the Yaselda River. Drainage of the river floodplain, canalization of the channel, construction of Selets water reservoir and fishfarm in the upstream part, all resulted in radical changes in the Yaselda river water discharge. Since the upstream part of the river is fully under artificial regulation, spring floods in the Reserve are almost absent, which in turn leads to encroachment of river channel by water vegetation and creation of jams of floating vegetation islands. Currently the water level in Sporovskoe mire fully depends on the patterns of water resource use at the Selets reservoir and fish-farm. In humid years supplemental discharge of water from the reservoir leads to long inundation of the mire; in dry years most water is used to secure the needs of the fish-farm, which is accompanied by a drastic drop of the water level in the mire below permissible levels.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

Mesotrophic

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

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

At present, about 30% of the Yaselda River's catchment area is drained. Most of the drainage works were conducted in 1970s. The fish farm Selets and water reservoir are situated 5 km upstream the site. Their functioning greatly influences the hydrological regime of the Reserve.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Low

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Low
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

(ECD) Carbon cycling	Vast areas of mesotrophic and eutrophic fen mires keep significant peat resources (thickness of the peat layer is 0.5-2 m) and plays important role in CO2 absorption and air purification.
(ECD) Vegetational productivity, pollination, regeneration processes, succession, role of fire, etc.	The open fen mires are overgrowing with shrubs and reeds.

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

The State Nature Conservation Agency "Republican Biological Reserve Sporovsky".

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Protasevich Vadim Nikolaevich - Director

Postal address:

Belarus
225210, Brest Region
Bereza town
Pushkina str. 23b

E-mail address:

rb_sporovskij@tut.by

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			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Water abstraction	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water releases	High impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Livestock farming and ranching			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Logging and wood harvesting	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

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	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fire and fire suppression	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Overgrowth of open sedge mires with shrubs and reeds. It is the most important threat, leading to the gradual reduction of open sedge mire area and typical unique biodiversity. It is the main reason of population decline of many bird species, including the Aquatic warbler.

Disruptions of natural hydrological regime of the Yaselda River lead to frequent summer floods and prolonged flooding of floodplain fen mires as a result of water release from water reservoir and fishpond Selets, from adjacent amelioration systems; or to water level decline on fen mires in summer as a result of water intake for needs of the fishpond and reservoir. Disruptions of the hydrological regime cause overgrowth of open sedge mires with shrubs, overgrowth of the river's channel with water vegetation, flooding of birds' nests, reduced productivity of the ecosystem of fen mires. The hydrological regime of the Sporovski Reserve has improved in recent years due to implementation of the management plan.

Uncontrolled burning of vegetation occurred mainly before the establishment of the management structure. There is significant damage to mire ecosystem if the fire occurs during the low water level or in the early plant vegetation period, as the upper peat layer gets burned out together with wintering insects, plant seeds. After such fires the mire productivity, populations of insects, plants, birds need 2-3 years to restore.

Land plowing on mineral islands leads to increased impact of disturbance factor on game animal species and rare birds of prey, to unauthorized cuttings, fires, destruction of protected plant species populations.

Forest cutting leads to reduction of forested area within the reserve, change of aboriginal plantations by derivative with domination of small-leaved trees and shrubs.

Tree diseases and insect caused damage. Drying out of tree stands in the Reserve takes place as a result of natural and anthropogenic factors, the anthropogenic factor prevails. Weakening and drying out of tree stands mainly connected with disruptions of the hydrological regime of the territory. Aspen, oak and black alder stands growing in critical hydrological conditions are most susceptible to the impact of wood-destroying fungi and insects.

Recreational load. The Reserve's territory is actively used by local people and visitors for recreation and amateur fishing. The most load falls on dry banks of the Yaselda River and non-waterlogged banks of the Sporovskoe Lake.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
biological reserve of national importance	Sporovsky	http://tour.brest.by/turobj/naturalob/999.html	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Sporovo Fen Mire	http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/48/full	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Implemented
Improvement of water quality	Proposed
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Proposed
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented

Other:

The important achievement is stabilization of hydrological regime of the Yaselda River and floodplain mire due to development and implementation of Exploitation Regulations for water complex Selets considering requirements of hydrological regime of Sporovsky Reserve and modern water use needs.
 Optimization of agricultural land use within the site and in adjacent areas is envisaged by the management plan.
 Development and implementation of measures to prevent overgrowth of open fens with shrubs and reeds is envisaged by the management plan.
 Regulation of forestry activities within the Reserve, aimed at biodiversity conservation.

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? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

There is an education center and ecological path within the site.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant):

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Proposed
Water quality	Proposed
Plant community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

1. Drozd V.V. 1981. Hydrological regime of floods after drainage /The problems of Polessia region. Vol.7. - P. 273-280.
2. Drozd V.V. 1987. Annual variations and changes in Pripyat flow / The problems of Polessia region. Vol.1. - P. 176-182.
3. Kozulin et al., 1997. Justification for enlargement of Biological Reserve Sporovsky in Berezovski, Ivatsevichski districts. Minsk, 1997.
4. Kozulin A.V., Flade M., Tishechkin A.K., Pareiko O.A. Distribution and number of Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) in Belarus // Subbuteo 1998, v.1, N 1, p.3-16.
5. Martsinkevich G.I., Klitsunova N.K., Haranicheva O.F., Yakushko O.F., Loginova L.V.. 1989.
6. Landscapes of Byelorussia. Minsk, Vysheishaya Shkola. (in Russian).
7. Parfenov V.I., Kim G.A. 1976. Dynamics of meadow-mire flora and vegetation under the impact of drainage. Minsk: Nauka i Tekhnika. (in Russian).
8. Parfenov V.I., Kim G.A., Rykovsky G.F. 1973. Vegetation of Yaselda River floodplain and its possible changes under the impacts of drainage melioration. Pp. 111-159 in: Parfenov V.I. (ed.) Studies of Forest Phytocenoses. Minsk: Nauka i Tekhnika. (in Russian).
9. Report on scientific work "Censuses of indicator animal species in Reserves Sporovsky, Zvanets, Middle Pripyat and Prostyr". Scientific Leader Karlionova N.V., Minsk, 2010. – 56 p
10. The Management plan for Republican Biological Reserve Sporovsky (developed by the State scientific-practical center for bioresources, 2009).
11. <http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/48/full>

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

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

<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Sporovskoe fen mire (Kozulin Alexander, 2002)



Visitor centre in Visokoje village (Tobias Salathe, 26-08-2015)



Yaselda river fen (Tobias Salathe, 26-08-2015)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation