Ramsar Information Sheet

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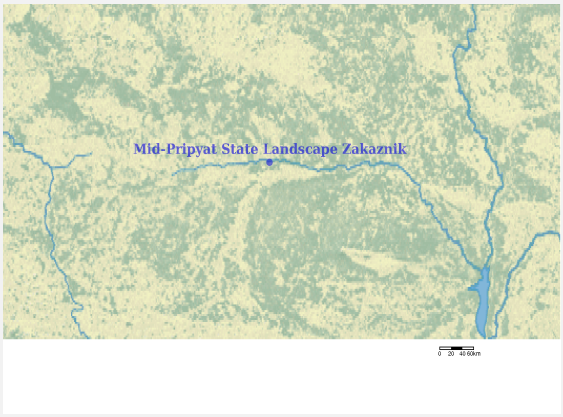
Belarus

Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik



Designation date	10 August 2001
Site number	1090
Coordinates	52°7'41"N 27°6'3"E
Area	93 062,15 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 site covers the part of the Pripyat river floodplain between the mouth of the Yaselda river and the mouth of the Stviga river (120 km). It is a particularly good representative example of a large plain river's floodplains, characteristic for biogeographical region of Polesie. The Pripyat River is one of the last large plain rivers in Europe, whose hydrology and floodplain is preserved in near-natural state. The largest in Europe complexes of floodplain meadows, alluvial floodplain forests with typical biodiversity are situated here.

The site plays a substantial hydrological and biological role in the natural functioning of the Pripyat river basin. The Pripyat river is the main waterway of the large Polesie region. The hydrological regime of the river and its tributaries defines the level of groundwater in the whole region. The site supports an appreciable assemblage of rare and vulnerable species of plants and animals. Throughout the history of scientific research in the Mid-Pripyat Reserve 52 National Red Data Book species were registered in the area, of which 39 are breeding here.

The Pripyat River's floodplain is the largest continental route of the spring migration of many waterfowl species. The overall number of water birds during migration is 250000.
The floodplain has great value as the main spawning ground of many fish species in the Polesie region.

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)	Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik
Unofficial name (optional)	Средняя Припять

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) The boundary has been extended	☑
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	☑

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 (likely)
(Update) Are the changes	Positive ○ Negative ◉ Positive & Negative ○
(Update) No information available	☑
(Update) Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing 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.

Over the last 10 years the processes typical to floodplains of flat rivers in Europe are observed in the Pripyat River's floodplain. Open floodplain meadows and fen mires are rapidly overgrowing with shrubs as a result of reduction or cessation of tradition economic activities - mowing and grazing. This leads to number decline and breeding redistribution of a range of rare and globally threatened bird species, which are indicator species of the state of floodplain meadow ecosystems - Corncrake, Great snipe, Aquatic warbler, Black-tailed godwit. The sharp number decline of Mallard and Garganey was observed during that period as well.

(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 National Landscape Reserve "Middle Pripyat" was established in 1999 with the area of 90447 ha. This territory was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2001. The Reserve was reorganized in 2013, and its area has increased by 2,615.15 ha due to addition to the Reserve's territory of natural meadow plots in the floodplain of the Pripyat River, open fen mires and wetlands. The Ramsar site's area and border were also changed following the changes of the Reserve. Currently the area of the Ramsar site and the Reserve is 93,062.15 ha.

The site is situated in the Pripyat River's floodplain between towns Pinsk and Turov. The site covers that part of the Pripyat river floodplain which is located between the mouth of the Yaselda river and the mouth of the Stviga river (120 km). The site's borders go along the merge of natural floodplain, dams of adjacent melioration systems.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Brest Oblast

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Pinsk,Stolin,Luninets,Zhitkovichi Districts

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): 93062.15

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 93134.62

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Polesie 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 site covers the part of the Pripyat river floodplain between the mouth of the Yaselda river and the mouth of the Stviga river (120 km). The floodplain varying from 4 to 14 km in width is flooded every year in spring. It is a particularly good representative example of a large plain river's floodplains, characteristic for biogeographical region of Polesie. The Pripyat River is one of the last large plain rivers in Europe, whose hydrology and floodplain preserved in near-natural state. The largest in Europe complexes of floodplain meadows, alluvial floodplain forests with typical biodiversity are situated here. The site plays a substantial hydrological and biological role in the natural functioning of the Pripyat river basin. The Pripyat river is the main waterway of the large Polesie region. The hydrological regime of the river and its tributaries defines the level of groundwater in the whole region. Being the main tributary of the Dnieper River, the Pripyat in a great extent determines its water quality. The site also provides control and protection against floods.
Other ecosystem services provided	The site supports an appreciable assemblage of rare and vulnerable species of plants and animals. Throughout the history of scientific research in the Mid-Pripyat Reserve 52 National Red Data Book species were registered in the area, of which 39 are breeding here. The Pripyat River's floodplain is the largest continental route of the spring migration of many waterfowl species. The overall number of water birds during migration is 250000. The floodplain has great value as the main spawning ground of many fish species in the Polesie region. The Pripyat is well known for its use in the fishing industry. In some years the fish catch in the Pripyat was as high as 400 tons. Fish catch per 1 km of the river averages 600 kg, which is significantly higher than for any other river of Belarus. Fishing is done both on an organized economic basis (as an industry) and by local population. Industrial catches include 22 fish species. At the same time, fish resources of the river present an important source of food for local people. The site is ecological corridor of international importance, its central part is considered as core of national ecological network. In south-west the site borders with the potential transborder Biosphere Reserve (Belarus-Ukraine). The Pripyat River and its tributaries are the main source of water for 7 large fish farms, industry enterprises. The site is republical recreation center. People from the whole Belarus come here for fishing, hunting, vacation.
Other reasons	Natural landscapes in the Pripyat floodplain have also historical-cultural value. Traditional economic activities and folklore are preserved here better than in other parts of Belarus. The floodplain is very important for every day life of local people. Throughout the whole year local people catch fish; the main sources of wood, which is used as construction materials and for fuel, are located in the floodplain. Vast floodplain meadows are used for grazing and haymaking. Wild-bee keeping is still widely practiced here.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

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

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	200,000
Start year	2005
Source of data:	http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification: The floodplain is the main spawning ground of many fish species in Polesie Region. The part of the river from the mouth of the Bobrik river to the mouth of the Stviga is most valuable for conservation of fish species diversity. Here the largest spawning grounds of most of the species breeding in the river are found.

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
Elatine hydropiper		☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - EN	
Nymphaea alba		☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	National Red List - VU	
Platanthera chlorantha		☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
Prunus spinosa		☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
Urtica kioviensis		☑	☐	☐		☐	National Red List - EN	

Flora of the site is representative and covers practically the whole range of vegetation communities of Belarussian Polesie excluding oligotrophic mires. At least 725 plant species are registered on the territory, 57 of them are protected species. The most numerous genera are: Carex - 37 species (in the Polesian flora -54), Salix - 13 (15), Juncus - 12 (15), Veronica - 12 (20), Viola - 10 (18), Ranunculus - 9 (14), Galium - 9 (12), Trifolium and Campanula - 8 species each, other genera are represented by 7 or less species. It should be noticed that waterlogged and swamped floodplain biotopes are quite homogeneous, number of main species here do not exceed 50-70. The flora is more diverse on not numerous relief elevations (ancient eolian islands, elevations formed by the river - low ridges and swells).

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/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Acipenser ruthenus*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				VU	☐	☐	National Red List - CR	There are single registrations of this species within the site
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Acrocephalus paludicola*	Aquatic Warbler	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	175	2010		VU	☐	☑	National Red List - EN	20-300 males on breeding.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anas acuta*	Northern Pintail	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	25	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	20-30 pairs on breeding, which is about 40% of the National breeding population; and 600 ind on migration
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anas clypeata*	Northern Shoveler	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	5000	2005-2011			☐	☐		ind on migration, and 200-1000 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anas penelope*	Eurasian Wigeon	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	15000	2005-2011	1		☐	☐		10000-20000 ind. on migration (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full), which is about 1% of the Western Siberia & NE Europe/NW Europe biogeographical population
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Mallard	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	22500	2005-2011	1.1	LC	☐	☐		22500 ind on migration (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full), which is about 1% of the biogeographical population of the species: Eastern Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean.

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	*Anas strepera*	Gadwall	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	700		1	LC	☐	☐		700 breeding pairs (Management Plan for the Mid Pripyat Reserve), which is about 1%of the biogeographical population of the species: North-east Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Anguilla anguilla*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				CR	☐	☐		Sporadic registrations
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anser albifrons*	Greater White-fronted Goose	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	25000	2005-2011	1	LC	☐	☐		10000-40000 ind. on migration (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full, the Management Plan), the minimal estimate is about 1% of the NW Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe biogeographical population
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anser erythropus*	Lesser White-fronted Goose	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	25	2000-2011		VU	☐	☑		1-50 ind. on migration
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anser fabalis*	Bean Goose	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	10000	2005-2011	1.8	LC	☐	☐		10000 ind on migration (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full), which is about 1.8% of the rossicus, West & Central Siberia/NE & SW Europe population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aquila clanga*	Greater Spotted Eagle	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	12	2010	1.2	VU	☐	☑	National Red List - CR	10-15 breeding pairs (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full), which is about 50% of the National population. It is also more than 1% of the European population (http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=3531).
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aquila pomarina*	Lesser Spotted Eagle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	26	2008			☐	☐	National Red List - VU	22-30 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ardea alba*	Great Egret	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	125	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	100-150 breeding pairs, which is about 40% of the National population. And about 500- 1000 ind. on passage.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Asio flammeus*	Short-eared Owl	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	20	2005		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - CR	10-30 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aythya ferina*	Common Pochard	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	13500	2005-2011	1.7	VU	☐	☐		13500 ind. on migration, and 100-1500 breeding pairs (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full). More than 1% of the biogeographical population: Central & NE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aythya nyroca*	Ferruginous Duck	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	50			NT	☐	☑	National Red List - CR	5-100 breeding pairs, which is about 50% of the National breeding population
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Barbus barbus*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Botaurus stellaris*	Eurasian Bittern	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	230	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	150-315 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Bubo bubo*	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	70			LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	50-100 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Bucephala clangula*	Common Goldeneye	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	4200	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐		more than 4200 ind on migration
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Charadrius hiaticula*	Common Ringed Plover	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	200	2005		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	180-220 breeding pairs, which is about 80% of the National breeding population
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	White-winged Tern	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	12500	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐		1000-5000 breeding pairs; 10000-15000 ind. on migration

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	*Chlidonias niger*	Black Tern	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	7500	2005-2011	1	LC	☐	☐		500-1000 breeding pairs; and 5000-10000 ind. on migration (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full). The site supports about 1% of the biogeographical population of the species: Europe & Western Asia/Atlantic coast of Africa.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Chondrostoma nasus*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ciconia nigra*	Black Stork	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	60	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	50-70 breeding pairs, which is about 5% of the National population
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Circaetus gallicus*	Short-toed Snake Eagle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	8	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	6-9 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Crex crex*	Corn Crake	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1400	2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	500-2300 males on breeding
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	*Emys orbicularis*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Gallinago media*	Great Snipe	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	140	2010		NT	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	115-160 males on breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Grus grus*	Common Crane	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	40	2008		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	36-40 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Haematopus ostralegus*	Eurasian Oystercatcher	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	65	2005		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	50-80 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	White-tailed Eagle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	8	2005-2011		LC	☑	☑	National Red List - EN	5-10 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Hydrocoloeus minutus*	Little Gull	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	70			LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	50-100 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ixobrychus minutus*	Little Bittern	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	350	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	300-400 breeding pairs, which is about 30% of the national breeding populations
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	7500	2005	6.2	NT	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	5000-10000 ind. on passage; and 200-500 breeding pairs (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full). The site supports more than 1% of the biogeographical population of the species: Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	European Otter	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐		
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Meles meles*	European Badger	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Milvus migrans*	Black Kite	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	4	2008		LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	3-4 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Numenius arquata*	Eurasian Curlew	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	13			NT	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	10-15 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Philomachus pugnax*	Ruff	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	70000	2005	5.7	LC	☐	☐	National Red List - CR	50000-100000 ind. on migration, and on breeding 200 pairs (http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/full). The site holds more than 1% of the biogeographical population of the species: Northern Europe & Western Siberia/West Africa.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Proterorhinus marmoratus*		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		New species for the ichtyofauna of 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/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Silurus glanis*		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		The site has special value for the populations of this species
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Sternula albifrons*	Little Tern	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	350			LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	300-400 breeding pairs, which is about 20% of the National population
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	*Triturus cristatus*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Vimba vimba*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Xenus cinereus*	Terek Sandpiper	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	125	2005-2011		LC	☐	☐	National Re List - VU	100-150 breeding pairs, 50% of national population

155 nesting bird species have been registered here, which is 68.5 per cent of all nesting birds of Belarus. This indicator is probably the highest among all protected areas of Belarus. 52 National Red Data Book species were registered in the area, of which 39 are breeding here. The state of 14 National Red Data Book species is fully dependent on the condition of the Pripyat floodplain.
For 27 bird species the area supports more than 1 per cent of their national populations.

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
Pine forest on elevated relief parts.	☐	Contains complex of plant and animal species of broad-leaved and pine forests.	
Spruce forest	☐	Occupy separate places out of the distribution range.	
Indigenous upland and floodplain oak woods.	☐	Contain nemoral biotic complex (including rare and protected plants and animals).	
Old hornbeam forest	☐		
Ash forest	☐		
Old indigenous black alder forest	☐	These are more than 70 years old	
Old nemoral aspen forest	☐		
Xerothermic grass communities	☑	Form at rich and well-warmed soils in floodplains of large rivers of South-East Belarus. Include: Agrostietum vinealis, Bromopsidetum inermis, Caricetum praecocis, Hierochloetum odoratae, Koelerietum delavignei, Trifolietum medii, Carex brizoides.	Fall under category 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (FestucoBrometalia) (* important orchid sites) of the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
Shrub communities with domination of Salix alba and S. acutifolia	☐		

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Calciphilic mire communities	☑	Formed under conditions of constant waterlogging. These are: Sagittario-Sparganietum emersi, Caricetum acutiformis, C. appropinquatae, C. distichae, C. elatae, C. omskianae, C. ripariae, Scirpetum radicantis.	Fall under categories 6450 Northern boreal alluvial meadows, 7230 Alkaline fens of the Annex I of the Habitat Directive.
Acidophilous fen mire communities	☑	The most important are: Equisetetum palustri, Caricetum juncellae,	Fall under category 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs of the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
Psychrophilous and mesophilous communities	☑	Form on sand and sandy-loam soils. Include Sieglingietum decumbentis and Brizetum mediae.	Fall under category 2320 Dry sand heaths with Calluna and Empetrum nigrum of the Habitat Directive
Nymphaeetum albae	☐	rare in Belarus, unique community.	
Psammophilous atlantic communities	☑	Are near or out the border or the distribution range. Include: Petasitetum spurii, Corynephoretum canescentis, Holoschoenus vulgaris.	Fall under categories 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ('white dunes'), 2330 Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands of the Habitat Directive.
Xerothermic psammophilous communities	☑	Include: Festucetum polesicae, Festucetum ovinae, Koelerietum glaucae.	Fall under categories 6120 * Xeric sand calcareous grasslands, 2130 * Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes'), 4030 European dry heaths of the Habitat Directive
Hygrophilous and mesophilous floodplain communities	☑	Develop in alluvial conditions under strong and continuous waterlogging during flood period. Includes rare grass communities: Beckmannietum eruciformis, Caricetum paniceae caricetosum hartmanii, Eleocharidetum uniglumis, Juncetum atrati.	Fall under category "6450 Northern boreal alluvial meadows" of the Annex I of the Habitat Directive.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The Ramsar site represents weakly transformed part of the natural floodplain with numerous old and new meanders of the Pripyat River and its tributaries, oxbows and channels. The area of natural and less transformed ecosystems is about 97% of the territory. Floodplain meadows, wetlands and forests dominate the area. The prevailing ecosystem type is forest that occupies 35% of the site's area. Broad-leaved floodplain forests prevail.

About 24% of the area is occupied by wetlands (mires, rivers, channels, stagnant water bodies). Mire ecosystems are represented mainly by fen sedge mires, often overgrowing with willow shrubs. Numerous difficult of access oxbows and floodplain lakes mainly overgrown with water vegetation have special importance for support of biological and landscape diversity.

Floodplain meadows cover about 30% of the territory and are characterized by exceptional diversity. Part of meadows is used for haymaking, sometimes - as pastures, which in both cases prevents overgrowth of meadows and contributes to formation of rich in herbs communities. But the significant part of floodplain meadows is subjected to overgrowth with shrubs as a result of cessation of traditional economic activities (mowing, grazing).

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		3		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes				
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> P: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater lakes				
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		4		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		1		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands				
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands		2		

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				

(ECD) Habitat connectivity	The site is an ecological corridor of international importance, its central part is considered as core of national ecological network. In south-west the site borders with the potential transborder Biosphere Reserve (Belarus-Ukraine).

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Campanula latifolia		
Cardamine bulbifera		
Cardamine parviflora		out of the distribution range
Gladiolus imbricatus		
Huperzia selago		
Iris sibirica		
Lunaria rediviva		
Lycopodiella inundata		
Salvinia natans		
Saxifraga tridactylites		out of the distribution range
Viola persicifolia		out of the distribution range
Viola uliginosa		

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	Alces alces	moose				
CHORDATA/AVES	Anas querquedula	Garganey	700			1.8% of national population
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Bison bonasus	European bison				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Castor fiber	Eurasian Beaver				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Cervus elaphus	elk;wapiti or elk				
CHORDATA/AVES	Chlidonias hybrida	Whiskered Tern	300			100-400 breeding pairs, which is 60% of national population
CHORDATA/AVES	Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	400			breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	Cyanistes cyanus	Azure Tit	70			50-100 breeding pairs, which is 50% of national population
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Epidalea calamita					
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Gymnocephalus baloni					was formerly believed to be a Danube endemic species
CHORDATA/AVES	Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night Heron;Black-crowned Night-Heron	15			1-30 breeding pairs, which is 100% of belarussian population
CHORDATA/AVES	Remiz pendulinus	Eurasian Penduline Tit	350			200-500 breeding pairs, which is 50% of national population

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Neovison vison	American Mink	Actually (minor impacts)	No change
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Nyctereutes procyonoides	Raccoon dog	Actually (minor impacts)	No change

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): 120

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 150

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 located in the middle reaches of the Pripyat river and includes the river itself and its floodplain between the mouth of the Yaselda river and the mouth of the Stviga river (120 km long). The Pripyat River is the main water course of the Polesian Lowland. The largest left-bank tributaries of the Pripyat River within the site are Yaselda, Lan, Sluch rivers, and right-bank tributaries are Styr, Goryn, Stviga rivers. Pripyat is the right tributary of the Dnieper River (Black Sea basin).

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

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)

The soil cover of the Pripyat floodplain and its terraces above floodplain is characterized by extreme diversity and complexity. It formed and developed under conditions of annual floods and deposition of new alluvial sediments on the surface. The alluvial sediments are dominated by sands, sandy loams, loams, with substantial siltation in some of the depressions. Presence of mire massifs is also typical for this area. Acid soils of high and medium degree cover 19-24 per cent of the territory. They have a relatively high humus content (3-4 per cent), which drops down only in near-channel soils (about 1 per cent). Floodplain peat-mire soils cover more than 50 per cent of the floodplain area and are characterized by high ash content. All floodplain soils are poor in mobile nutrients (this is observed at 80% of the area). The soddy-polzolic, mainly sandy, soils of the fluvial terraces above floodplain are characterized by elevated acidity, low humus content and unstable water regime.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

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

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	☑	No change
Water inputs from surface water	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Feeds groundwater	No change
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

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

The Pripyat and its tributaries belong to the flatland river type with dominating snow feeding. Dynamics of the yearly water level is characterized by a relatively not high and extended spring flood, low summer water, interrupted by floods almost every year, and higher autumn and winter water level due to rains and thaws. The flooding period varies greatly: from 40-45 days on small rivers to 3.5-4 months on the Pripyat itself. The average rise of the water in spring (relative to the lowest summer level) is 3.5-4.5 m on the Pripyat, 1.5-3 m on left-bank tributaries and 1-2.5 m on right-bank tributaries. Water risings due to rainfall are irregular and sometimes exceed spring floods. Rainfall events and spring floods lead to inundation of the whole floodplain including dwellings, public and administrative buildings, communication facilities. The largest area inundated during spring floods is 425,000 ha.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☑

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☑

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

pH in the Pripyat river and oxbows from 6.5 to 7.5.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☑

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 ☑

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

The natural floodplain of the Pripyat River is surrounded by melioration systems. Drainage of the water basin conducted during 1966-1990 results in increased flow rate. Construction of embankments to protect the area against flooding causes a significant rise in the flood level and flooding of previously water-free areas, including valuable floodplain forests and other lands located between embankments.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	High
Fresh water	Water for industry	High
Wetland non-food products	Fuel wood/fibre	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	

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	
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	

Supporting Services

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

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

About 40% of the area is used in agriculture, mainly hay-making and cattle pasturing (mainly floodplain meadows and mires). They are being used with very low intensity, which leads to overgrowing of open tracts with shrubs.
Forests cover 35% of the area. 75.8% of forested lands is used for forestry, focused on biodiversity conservation.
The Pripyat channel is used for shipping. However, the intensity of this industry has declined considerably over the last decade.
The Pripyat river is used for commercial and amateour fishing. In some years the fish catch in the Pripyat was as high as 400 tons. Fish catch per 1 km of the river averages 600 kg, which is significantly higher than for any other river of Belarus. Fish is important source of food for local people.
One of the traditional economic activities still practiced here is apiculture.
The area is an important hunting ground.

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) Vegetational productivity, pollination, regeneration processes, succession, role of fire, etc.	Numerous open fen mires and floodplain meadows suffer from encroachment of shrubs resulting from cessation of haymaking and grazing.
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning migration	The Pripyat River's floodplain is the largest continental route of the spring migration of many waterfowl species.

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	☑	☑
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☐

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Cooperative/collective (e.g., farmers cooperative)	☑	☐
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☐

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:	1. The State Nature Conservation Agency “Republican Reserves Middle Pripyat and Luninski” 2. The State Nature Conservation Agency «Republican Landscape Reserves «Middle Pripyat» and «Prostyr» 3. The State Nature Conservation Agency «Reserves «Middle Pripyat» and «Olmany mires».
Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	1. Morduhai Vasili Vasilievich - Director. 2. Belenko Viktor Nikolaevich - Director. 3. Yahnovets Ivan Vasilievich - Director
Postal address:	1. Belarus, 225644, Brest Region, Luninets town, street 50let Oktiabra, 4. 2. Belarus, Pinsk town, K.Marksa street 28. zakaznikpinsk@tut.by 3. Belarus, 225510 Brest Region, Stolin town, Sovetskaya,72. gpystolin@tut.by
E-mail address:	zakaznikpinsk@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	High impact	High impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Water abstraction	Medium impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	increase
Canalisation and river regulation	High impact	High impact	☑	No change	☐	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	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	High impact	High impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Gathering terrestrial plants	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Logging and wood harvesting	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	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	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	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	☑	No change	☐	No change
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion			☑		☑	
Unspecified/others	High impact	High impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact		☑	No change	☐	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Industrial and military effluents	Medium impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	No change
Unspecified			☐		☑	

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Storms and flooding			☑		☑	
Unspecified			☑		☐	

Please describe any other threats (optional):

1. Disruption of natural water regime of the floodplain, shrinkage of valuable habitats as a result of the floodplain embankment and its overgrowth with shrubs. Total embankment of the floodplain resulted in floodplain narrowing and changes in levels and duration of spring floods. This lead to shrinkage of habitats for most land-nesting birds, disruption of spawning conditions, flooding and drying of valuable floodplain forests.
2. Possible expansion of amelioration works in the floodplain.
3. Unsustainable use of the Reserve's and adjacent lands by agricultural enterprises and local people: overgrazing and unsustainable grazing, land plowing on mineral islands, agriculture without taking into account biodiversity conservation requirements.
4. Overgrowth of open mires and meadows with shrubs and reeds, uncontrolled burning of vegetation. Overgrowth takes place as a result of cessation of traditional use of floodplain for mowing and grazing. Disruptions of the hydrological regime speed up the process of overgrowing.
5. Unsustainable hunting, overharvesting, poaching.
6. Unsustainable fishing. There is a trent to reduction of overall fish catches, as well as decline of a number of valuable fish species in catches. One of the reasones of reproduction decline of valuable fish species is dam construction in the floodplain, which led to loss of spawning grounds. Another reason is separation of numerous oxbows from the main riverbed as a result of alignment of the river channel, so that fish could enter oxbows and old river meanders only in high water conditions.
7. Ineffective and uncoordinated management of the Reserve.
8. Recreational load: the threat occurs near population localities.
9. Part of the area is radioactively polluted (802 ha), but the level of contamination is low: 1a zone.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National landscape	Middle Pripyat	http://www.zakaznik.brest.by/	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Mid Prypiac'	http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45 /full	partly

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	Proposed
Improvement of water quality	Proposed
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Proposed

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Proposed
Fisheries management/regulation	Proposed
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Proposed

Other:

Artificial nesting places for birds were established.
Action aimed on restoration of Sterlet population were conducted.

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 are several ecological-educational centers. Under the UNDP-GEF project the 2 km long ecological path has been created. There are 9 touristic routes within the area.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): http://tour.brest.by/turobj/naturalob/370.html

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

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

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

The full list of bibliographical references is available in the section "Additional reports and documents"

1. Kozulin A. et al. Scientific background for the creation of the landscape reserve (zakaznik) in Pinsk, Stolin and Luninets districts of Brest region and Zhitkovichi district of Gomel region. 87 p.
2. Grinevich L.G., Lukoshko P.F., Malankina Y.P., Khavich V.A. 1980. The problem of inundation and main directions of engineering protection of Pripyat floodplain for intensification of agricultural activities / The problems of Polessia region. Vol. 6. - P. 14-29. (In Russian).
3. Drozd V.V. 1981.Hydrological regime of floods after drainage /The problems of Polessia region. Vol. 7. - P. 273-280. (In Russian).
4. Drozd V.V. 1987. Annual variations and changes in Pripyat flow / The problems of Polessia region. Vol. 1. - P. 176-182. (In Russian).
5. Kovalenko E.P., V.I.Taskaev.1990. Water resourse use in the Pripyat River basin. Problemy Polessia 11: 168-170. (In Russian).
6. Lishtvan I.I., Bambalov N.N. Yaroshevich L.M. 1991. Scientific-engineering solving of Polessia reclamation problems / The problems of Polessia region. Vol. 14. - P. 3-25. (In Russian).
7. Murashko A.I., Konovalenko E.P., Pluzhnikov V.N. 1991.Using and protection of Pripyat Polessia water resources / The problems of Polessia region. Vol. 14. - P. 76-85. (In Russian).
8. Geltman V.S., Moiseenko I.F. 1987. Forest vegetation of the Pripyat River floodplain and its protection in relation with dam construction / The problems of Polessia region. Vol. 11 - P. 176-182. (In Russian).
9. Kozulin A.V., Nikiforov M.E., Pareiko O.A. 1995, Goose migration in Belarus. /IWRB Goose Research Group Bulletin.- No 6. P.20-24.
10. Kozulin A.V., Nikiforov M.E., Mongin E.A., Pareiko O.A., Samusenko I.E., Cherkas N.D., Shokalo S.I., Byshnev I.I. 1997. Waterfowl migration in Belarus /Belovezhskaya pushcha forest biodiversity conservation. - P. 262-280.
11. Kozulin A., Flade M., Tishechkin A., Pareiko O. Distribution and number of Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) in Belarus // Subbuteo 1998, v.1, N 1, c.3-16.
12. Report on scientific work "Implementation of the first stage of preparation of Management Plans for reserves Middle Pripyat and Prostyr", 2005.
13. Report on scientific work "Censuses of indicator animal species in reserves Sporovsky, Zvanets, Middle Pripyat, Prostyr". Scientific Leader N.V. Karlionova, Minsk, 2010. – 56 p.
14.http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/45/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
<2 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:

Middle Pripyat is important stopover site during waterbirds migration (*Kozulin Alexander, 2002*)

Middle Pripyat (*Kozulin Alexander, 2014*)

Middle Pripyat (*Kozulin Alexander , 2002*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2001-08-10