



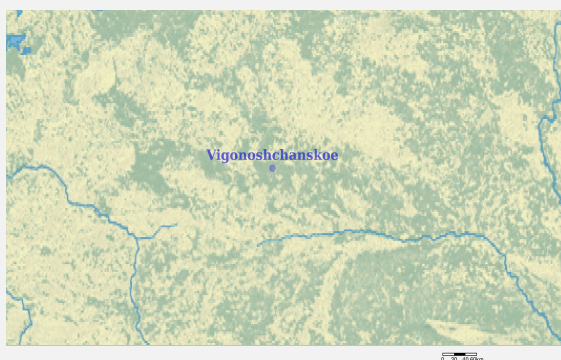
# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 27 January 2021

Update version, previously published on : 16 January 2013

## Belarus

### Vigonoshchanskoe



Designation date	16 January 2013
Site number	2141
Coordinates	52°41'18"N 25°47'38"E
Area	54 611,00 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 Ramsar site is one of the largest forest-wetland complexes in Belarus and includes small-leaved waterlogged forests, fens, transitional mires, raised bogs, floodplain meadows, lakes, rivers and canals. The core of the Site is Lake Vygonoshchanskoe, one of the largest eutrophic lakes of residual type in Polesie, and is preserved in a practically natural state. The site is situated at the watershed of rivers' basins of the Black and Baltic seas. This unique area, just slightly transformed by economic and recreational activities, is of great importance for the conservation of individual plant and animal species as well as for the protection of the whole natural complex of Belarusian Polesie.

A characteristic feature of the site is the presence of large areas of White birch forests on mires. This type of biotope occupies almost 23,000 hectares (61.5% of the total forest area), which has no analogues not only in Belarus, but also in central Europe as a whole. Such a large array of indigenous non-disturbed forest-mire ecosystems confirm the high conservation value of the site. In general, typical Polesie flora is preserved on the territory of the Vigonoshchanskoe Ramsar site, characteristic of this region before large-scale land reclamations, and the site can rightfully be considered a reference area for studying natural local flora.

The territory of the Ramsar Site is a habitat for rare species listed in the Red Data Book of Belarus: 16 plant species, 2 reptile species, 7 mammal species, 37 bird species.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

##### Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	State Research and Production Association
Postal address	"Bioresources Research Center of the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences", 27, Akademicheskaya Str., 220072 Minsk

##### National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	State Research and Production Association
Postal address	"Bioresources Research Center of the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences", 27, Akademicheskaya Str., 220072 Minsk

#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2013
To year	2020

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Vigonoshchanskoe
Unofficial name (optional)	ВЫГОНОЩАНСКОЕ

#### 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 <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 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?	No
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## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

#### b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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#### Boundaries description

The boundary and area of the Ramsar site coincide with the boundaries of the existing National Landscape Reserve «Vigonoshchanskoe».

### 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Brest Region, Ivatsevichi, Gantsevichi districts
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Ivatsevichi

### 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
Other scheme (provide name below)	1. Polessie
EU biogeographic regionalization	2. Continental

##### Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1. There are three bio-geographical provinces in Belarus: Belarusian Poozerie, Belarusian Elevation and Polessie Lowland (Dementiev, 1959)
2. Biogeographical Regions Europe, European Environment Agency, 2005

### 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 has a great hydrological importance for adjacent areas: - it plays water accumulation function; - there is groundwater discharge area within the site, which is important for the the water supply of rivers and lakes; - maintains the groundwater level in the region; - plays an important role in maintaining the high water quality.

Other ecosystem services provided

Peat accumulation; Maintenance of weather and climate characteristics.

Other reasons

The site includes rare European wetlands - fen mires, transition mires and raised bogs, waterlogged alder and birch forests. It is a typical example of forest-mire vegetation, previously widely represented in the region. In most of Polesie region this kind of forest was drained and turned into farmland. The feature of the site is the presence of large areas of White birch forests on mires. This type of biotope occupies 61.5% of the total forest area of the site, which has no analogs not only in Belarus, but also in central Europe as a whole. The wild-hive beekeeping preserved here.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Ramsar Site supports animal and plant populations important for maintenance of the biological diversity of Polesie bio-geographical region. There are 598 species of vascular plants, 58 mammal species, 184 bird species, 5 reptile and 9 amphibian species. Here is one of the largest populations of common European viper (*Vipera berus*) in Belarus and most likely in central Europe this is also a valuable commercial species.

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

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<b>Plantae</b>								
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Hedera helix</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Malaxis monophyllus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Najas marina marina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Najas minor</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Neottia cordata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Neottianthe cucullata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Near-threatened	
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Near-threatened	

There are 16 plant species included in the National Red Data Book of Belarus.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
<b>Others</b>																	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Aeshna viridis</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Bombus muscorum</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Carabus menetriesi</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Carabus nitens</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Coenonympha oedippus</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	<i>Colias palaeno</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Coronella austriaca</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
ARTHROPODA / ARACHNIDA	<i>Dolomedes plantarius</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"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Emys orbicularis</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	There is one of the most stable and largest populations of European Pond Turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> in the Polesie region and in the whole country on the territory of the Ramsar Site.
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Eptesicus nilssonii</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Glis glis</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
ANNELIDA / CLITELLATA	<i>Hirudo medicinalis</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"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</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"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II of the Bern Convention	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Lynx lynx</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 Data Book - Endangered	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Meles meles</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 Data Book - Endangered	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Myotis dasycneme</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 Data Book - Endangered	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	<i>Vipera berus</i>	<input 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"/>		The Ramsar site holds the largest population of this species in Belarus and Central Europe
<b>Birds</b>																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</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"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	just a few males, breeding is not every year
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Alcedo atthis</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"/>	6			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red Data Book - Vulnerable	1-3 breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<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"/>	16			VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Critically Endangered	8 breeding pairs, this local population is the largest in the country.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	<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"/>	6			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	3 breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	<input 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 data Book - Near Threatened	0-5 breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aythya nyroca</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"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Critically Endangered	on passage
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<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"/>	15	2010		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	13-15 males, on breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	<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"/>	14			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	5-7 breeding pairs

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	<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"/>	14	2010		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	4-7 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	<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"/>	18			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	9 breeding pairs, which is the largest population of the species in Belarus
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Circus cyaneus</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"/>	20			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	8-10 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Orex crex</i>	<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"/>	50			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red data Book - Vulnerable	50-70 males, regularly breed on the territory
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Cyanistes cyaneus</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 data Book - Vulnerable	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Falco tinnunculus</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"/>	6			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red data Book - Vulnerable	2-3 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Galerida cristata</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 data Book - Vulnerable	breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gallinago media</i>	<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"/>	25			NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	20-30 males, regularly breed on the territory
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gavia arctica</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	during autumn migrations, 5-10 birds
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Grus grus</i>	<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"/>	40			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red data Book - Vulnerable	at least 20 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	<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"/>	10			LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	4-5 breeding pairs, regularly breed on the territory. It is one of the largest and stable populations of the species in Belarus.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Critically Endangered	Regularly occurs during migrations, breeding is possible
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</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"/>	3			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	3 males, on breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</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"/>	6			NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	2-3 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Milvus migrans</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"/>	4	2000-2010		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	1-2 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Numerius arquata</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"/>	4	2010		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Vulnerable	at least 2 breeding pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Pandion haliaetus</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	Regularly during spring and autumn migrations
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Picus viridis</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 Data Book - Vulnerable	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	<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"/>	14			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Endangered	5-7 breeding pairs, the local population is the largest in the country.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Strix uralensis</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red Data Book - Critically Endangered	adult birds were registered within the site, breeding is possible

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

There are 7 mammal species, 37 bird species, 2 reptile species listed in the National Red Data Book of Belarus.

### 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
3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 large lakes- Vigonoschanskoe and Bobrovichskoe	Annex I of the Habitats Directive
7110* Active raised bogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	are located in the centre of the mire massif	Annex I of the Habitats Directive, priority habitat
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	occupy 10.5% of the site's area	Annex I of the Habitats Directive

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

### 4.1 - Ecological character

The described territory is a large forested wetland complex, preserved in the natural state and representing the native landscapes of Belarusian Polesie.

Despite the overall regular relief, the alternation between waterlogged lowlands, flat meadows and mineral islands creates the mosaic soil-hydrological conditions which result in quite a diverse and mosaic vegetation cover. Lakes Vygonoshchanskoe and Bobrovichskoe, as well as open swamps, old-age oak forests on the mineral islands, benefit to the peculiarity and uniqueness of this natural body.

All the main vegetation types are represented on the territory: forest (69.8%), meadow (0.02%), marsh (16.0%), and aquatic. A significant part (10.3%) of the site's area is used for agriculture, 6.8% is occupied by water bodies.

Among forests, white birch forests dominate (61.5% of the forested area). Pine (10.7%), silver birch (5.8%), and black alder (8.0%) are characterized by relatively high coverage areas. A small proportion of the forested area are oak forests (1.6%). The ecological structure of the forests is characterized by the predominance of forest groups growing in peatlands - 75.8%, including oligotrophic - 3.2%, mesotrophic - 17.6%, eutrophic - 55.0%.

The total area occupied by mire vegetation is 8.7 thousand ha (16.0%). All the main types are present here - fen meadows (0.3 thousand ha - 0.6%), transitional mires (5.8 thousand ha - 10.7%) and raised bogs (2.6 thousand ha - 4.7%).

The hydrographic network of the site belongs to the Pripyat hydrological region and is represented by two large lakes - Vygonoshchanskoe and Bobrovichskoe, the Shchara River and numerous canals.

The core of the reserve is Lake Vygonoshchanskoe. It is located on the watershed of the Neman and Pripyat river basins, the lake area is 25.96 km<sup>2</sup>, the maximum length from west to east is 7 km, from north to south - 5 km, and the maximum depth to mineral soil is 4 m. Lake Bobrovichskoye has an area of 9.47 km<sup>2</sup>. The greatest depth of the lake is 8 m, the average is 2.5 m. The shores of the lakes are waterlogged and overgrown with shrubs. A sapropel layer underlies the bottom of the lakes. The lakes are in transition from highly eutrophic to dystrophic types. They are both subject to quick overgrowth with surface and floating vegetation. Vygonoshchanskoe Lake is connected to the Shchara River and Yaselda River via the famous Oginski canal, built for timber shipment. The canal is no longer used for commercial purposes and has been rapidly overgrown with vegetation.

The northern border of the site coincides with the Shchara River channel. The floodplain of the Shchara River is wide and waterlogged. It is dominated by open fens with scattered willow shrubs and forest plots. Further south of the river there are vast wetlands covered by birch and alder stands with numerous fens, transition mires and bogs.

In general, flora preserved on the territory of the Vigonoshchanskoe Ramsar site is typical of Polesie, characteristic of this region before large-scale land reclamation, and the site can be considered a reference area for studying natural local flora.

The territory of the Ramsar Site is a habitat for rare species listed in the Red Data Book of Belarus: 16 plant species, 2 reptile species, 7 mammal species, 37 bird species.

There is a groundwater discharge area within the site, which is important for the water supply of rivers and lakes in the region.

### 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 > Flowing water >> N: Seasonal/ intermittent/ irregular rivers/ streams/ creeks				
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				
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		4		
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		2		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands		3		
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		1		Unique

## Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
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

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	National Red Data Book - Near Threatened
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Carex limosa</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Festuca altissima</i>	National Red Data Book - Near Threatened
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Holcus mollis</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Iris sibirica</i>	National Red Data Book - Near Threatened
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Lilium martagon</i>	National Red Data Book - Near Threatened
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Neottia ovata</i>	National Red Data Book - Near Threatened
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Salix starkeana</i>	

## Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	Potential	No change

## Optional text box to provide further information

There are 598 vascular plant species registered within the site. The share of synanthropic species in the structure of the site's flora is extremely low, which indicates a low level of anthropogenic impact on the natural communities of the site.

## 4.3.2 - Animal species

## Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Alces alces</i>				The local population of this species is one of the largest in Belarus, important for reproduction of this species
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Carabus cancellatus</i>				Belarus red list: NT
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Carabus coriaceus</i>				Belarus red list: NT
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>				Belarus red list: NT
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Castor fiber</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus timidus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	350			Local population of the species is one of the largest in Belarus
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>				Belarus red list: NT
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tetrao urogallus major</i>	20			the site is one of the last habitats of this species in the south-western part of Belarus
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>				Belarus red list: LR
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				Belarus red list: NT
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>				Belarus red list: NT
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus canus</i>				Belarus red list: NT
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				Belarus red list: NT
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>				Belarus red list: LR
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana parva</i>				Belarus red list: NT

## Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Potential	No change
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	<i>Orconectes limosus</i>	Potential	No change

## Optional text box to provide further information

There are 58 mammal species, 184 bird species, 5 reptile and 9 amphibian species.

## 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)

The climate is moderately continental forming under the influence of the Atlantic masses with mild and damp winters and relatively cool and sunny summers.

Western and north-western winds are predominant.

#### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

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 hydrographical network of the site is represented by Lakes Vygonoshchanskoe and Bobrovichskoe, the River Shchara (the left tributary of the Neman River, Baltic sea basin), the Oginski Canal (connects Shchara River and Yaselda River (the left tributary of the Pripyat River, which is right tributary of the Dnieper River, Black sea basin) and numerous canals. Being previously a closed reservoir, in 1784, due to the construction of the Oginsky Canal and a sluice on the Shchara River, the Vygonoshchanskoe lake became conditionally flowing. Water is discharged from the lake through the sluice of the Oginsky channel to the river Shchara and earlier, before the closing of the Oginsky canal, through this canal to the Yaselda river. In addition to the Oginsky Canal, the hydrographic network of the reserve is represented by a dense network of reclamation canals connected both directly with the Shchara and the left tributary of the Shchara - the Grivda River.

#### 4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Organic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

No available information

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 following habitat types are the most important from them: natural transition mire (code 7140, area – 6725.8 ha), wet broad-leaved forest on watershed (code 9080, area 3138.4 ha), wet coniferous forest and small-leaved forests on mires and transition mires, on peat humus - gley soil along wetlands, forest rivers and streams (code 91D0, area 3793.7 ha), dystrophic lakes with vegetation Utricularietea intermedio-minoris class (code 3160, area 4157 ha).

#### 4.4.4 - Water regime

##### Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

##### Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from surface water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

##### Water destination

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

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	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 hydrological regime of Lake Vygonoshchanskoe depends on the amount of precipitation, to a lesser extent, underground water supply and the income of flood waters from the river Klechitna and small canals. Water is discharged from the lake through the Oginsky canal to the river Shchara and earlier, before the closure of the Oginsky canal, through this canal to the Yaselda river.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The area of Lake Vygonoshchanskoe is 2596 ha. The maximum depth to the surface of bottom sediments is 2.7 m, the average one – 0.8m. In the western and southwestern parts, there are many shoals barely covered with water. The banks are low, swampy, and difficult to pass. Along the most part of the shoreline there are coastal floating mats with average width of 1.5 – 2.0 m, in some areas it reaches 15-40 m. Small floating islands with area from one to several hundreds square meters are scattered over the whole water area. The mineral bottom, composed of fine sand is covered with modern sediments - sapropels, peat and silt. The average deposit thickness is 1.8 m.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Mesotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Oligotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The Ramsar wetland includes waterlogged forests, eutrophic fens, mesotrophic transitional mires and oligotrophic raised bogs, floodplain meadows, lakes, rivers and canals. The lakes Vygonoschanskoe and Bobrovichskoe are in transition stage from highly eutrophic to dystrophic.

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 i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different  site itself.

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

## 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)	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Timber	Medium

#### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	High
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Medium
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

#### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

#### 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
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

#### Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The Ramsar Site "Vygonoshchanskoe" is one of the largest forest-wetland complexes in Europe, preserved in the natural state. The wetlands occupy more than 90% of the territory.

The wetland plays a key role in not only maintaining the hydrological regime in the region but also in feeding the River Shchara, one of the Neman's largest tributaries.

The site is used for hunting, fishing and recreation.

The wetland has certain regional climate-forming significance for the Region mitigating fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

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

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

## 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>



## 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"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

within the Ramsar site:

The owner of the potential Ramsar wetland is the State, and this fact in many respects simplifies and makes easier its management and protection. The economic activities here are operated by Ivatsevichi, Telekhany and Gantsevichi forestries, Vygonoshchany forest and game husbandry, Domanovo hunting ground and three agricultural enterprises.

in the surrounding area:

State lands leasable by agricultural producers and forestries.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

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

The State Environmental institution "National Landscape Reserve "Vygonoshchanskoe".  
The main supervisory bodies are the Ivatsevichi and Gantsevichi district environmental inspections with 6 people on the staff.

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

Sergei V. Gabets, Director

Postal address:

17 Sentiabria str. 19, Telekhany 225275, Ivatsevichi district, Brest region, Belarus.

E-mail address:

vygon@mail.ru

## 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
Canalisation and river regulation	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Logging and wood harvesting	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<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
Dams and water management/use	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Fire and fire suppression	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Pollution

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

Please describe any other threats (optional):

a) within the Ramsar site:

Disruption of the hydrological regime of Lake Vygonoshchanskoe due to the cessation of the functioning of the sluice system on the river Shara below the mouth of the Oginsky canal. The hydrological regime established for more than 100 years has been disrupted resulting in lowering the level of Lake Vygonoshchanskoe. The processes of accumulation of bottom organics and overgrowing of the reservoir intensified. Decrease in flow, especially after the construction of the canal sluice in the village Vygoschi leads to a deficiency of oxygen in the water, which in the years with a stable ice cover causes periodic fish fading. The absence of spring flood led to a reduction in the spawning area of a number of fish species, and, accordingly, to a decrease in the fish species diversity. As a result, the annual catch of fish decreased several times.

Agricultural land is used both for the cultivation of seeded grasses and cultivated crops. Considering that peat-bog soils dominate here, horizontal effluent of organic matter in the spring and in the period of heavy rainfall is very significant. As a result the silting of the Shchara River occurs.

Disturbance of the hydrological regime as a result of the impact of the existing system of drainage canals. Drainage activities were conducted both within the Ramsar wetland and along its periphery at the beginning and in the middle of the last century. These activities resulted in partial disturbance of the hydrological regime of the Wetland and consequent succession changes on the adjacent area.

The decrease of groundwater table is also the reason of frequent fires that are practically impossible to extinguish due to lack of a road network.

The cutting is a significant threat for old-age native forests on the mineral islands and ridges among the swamps. These are exactly the places where old-age forests preserve, including nemoral oak forests, which are spots of biodiversity concentration, a kind of refuges for rare and protected species.

In recent years a change in economic activities on the fen mires and floodplain meadows has become a certain threat to biological diversity. Termination of mowing leads to the overgrowing of open fens with shrubs, birch, and reed, and as a consequence to the disappearance of a number of rare and protected plant and animal species.

Unsustainable hunting and poaching. Overhunting of the Wood Grouse during the spring hunting season is a considerable threat to the population of this species. The increasing number of wild boars in areas of displaying grounds is also a certain threat to the population of the Western subspecies of Wood Grouse. The shooting of Great Grey Owl and other birds of prey is spread for making and selling dummies.

### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

#### National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Landscape Reserve	Vygonoshchanskoe	vygon.by	whole

#### Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Vyhanaščanskija baloty	<a href="http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/15/full">http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/15/full</a>	whole

### 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

### 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

#### Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

#### Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented

### 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:

The ecological trail is equipped and the observation tower is built; informational materials (guidebooks, brochures, postcards, the Reserve's maps, etc.) are published and distributed.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant):

### 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

In the last decade, the studies are done in hydrology, flora and fauna, dynamics of vegetation and the main ecosystems. A network of monitoring plots is created, where investigations are implemented within the National integrated monitoring system for ecosystems on the protected areas.

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

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5. Climate of Belarus. Chief-edited by V.F. Loginov, Minsk, 1996. 234 pages
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14. Titov I.V., Lebed B.E., Shkarabo L.S., Kozirev A.D., Mezhevich E.K. 1991. Complex approach to Belarus Polessia land drainage / The problems of Polessia region. Vol.14. - P. 25-54. (In Russian).
15. <http://iba.ptushki.org/en/iba/15/full>

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

<no file available>

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Lake Vygonoshchanskoye surrounded by transitional and fen mires ( Maksimenkova Alexandra, 29-07-2009 )



Old-aged forests preserved on islands among mires. ( Maksimenkova Alexandra, 29-07-2009 )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation