Ramsar Information Sheet

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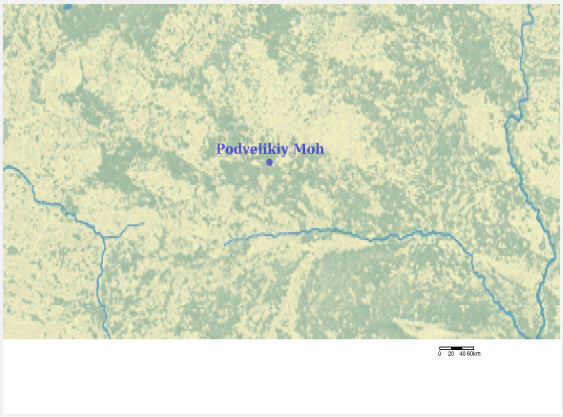
Belarus

Podvelikiy Moh



Designation date	30 March 2015
Site number	2267
Coordinates	52°44'6"N 26°16'28"E
Area	10 647,00 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 Podvelikiy Moh wetland together with the Ramsar site "Vygonoschanskoe" is one of the largest mires in Europe. This mire massif was formed on a place of the ancient lake - "Yaseldinskoe Sea", which originated as a result of glaciers melting. Transition mires and raised bogs, watelogged alder stands dominate the area. The mire is the source of the Bobrik River - tributary of the Pripyat River.

Unique and rare for the region, a complex of raised bogs and waterlogged forests preserved in the natural state are represented on the territory of the site. The territory of the site, as the whole swamp complex with Vygonoschanskoe Lake in the center, is a zone of active discharge of ground waters. It is exceptionally important for supplying rivers and lakes in the region and supporting weather-climatical characteristics.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name: Maximenkov Michail Viktorovich, Kozulin Alexander Vasilievich, Beliatskaya Olga Sergeevna

Institution/agency: The State Research and Production Association

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

From year: 2013

To year: 2014

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish): Podvelikiy Moh

Unofficial name (optional): Подвеликий Мох

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

Borders of the Ramsar site "Podvelikiy Moh" coincide with the borders of the Republican Hydrological Reserve "Podvelikiy Moh". The Reserve's boundaries mainly follow the borders of forest planning quarters, rivers and roads.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Gancevichi district/Brest Region

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Gancevichi

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): 10647

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 10655.25

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Belarussian Polesie (Dementiev V.A., 1959. System of physiographic regions of Belarus/«Physical and economic geography of Byelorussia» Minsk, 150 p. (In Russian))

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	i) the site provides control and protection against floods. The site is a large raised bog that ensures accumulation of moisture during periods of intensive precipitation; ii) the site keeps water reserves during dry seasons, thus providing water supplies for the Bobrik River (Pripyat's tributary) and several other small rivers; iii) the site maintains groundwater levels in the region; vi) due to low economic activities the site plays an important role in the maintenance of high water quality, contributes to formation of underground hydrological systems or springs, supplying surface wetland complexes.
Other ecosystem services provided	Being a large complex of raised bogs, the site considerably influences the climate and geo-chemical processes in the biosphere through carbon sequestration; peat accumulation processes are ongoing on the site, contributing to carbon sequestration. The thickness of the peat layer reaches 2 m.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The wetland supports populations of plant and animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of raised bogs, located within the Continental biogeographic region. There are 459 species of upper vascular plants in the flora composition of the Podvelikiy Moh site. The site's flora is quite diverse due to location of this region at the junction of different floristic complexes - boreal, forest-steppe, nemoral and Eastern European. The mires maintain a specific microclimate and this could explain the fact, that many boreal plant species which currently more common for Belarussian Poozerie, still present here. 185 species of terrestrial vertebrate animals are registered within the Podvelikiy Moh wetland: 8 amphibia species, 5 reptile, 147 bird species and 28 mammal species. 12 animal species (1 mammal species, 1 reptile and 10 bird species) and 3 plant species are listed in the Red Data Book of Belarus.

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
Berula erecta		☑	☑	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	The species in at the north-eastern edge of the european distribution range
Salix myrtilloides		☑	☑	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	
Trichophorum alpinum		☑	☑	☐		☐	National Red List - VU	

The site's flora is quite diverse due to location of this region at the junction of different floristic complexes - boreal, forest-steppe, nemoral and Eastern European. The mires maintain a specific microclimate and this could explain the fact, that many boreal plant species, which are currently more common for Belarussian Poozerie, are still present here.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aquila pomarina*	Lesser Spotted Eagle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Canis lupus*	gray wolf;Wolf	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ciconia nigra*	Black Stork	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circaetus gallicus*	Short-toed Snake Eagle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus cyaneus*	Northern Harrier	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Crex crex*	Corn Crake	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Emys orbicularis*		☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Falco subbuteo*	Eurasian Hobby;Northern Hobby	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - NT	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Grus grus*	Common Crane	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Milvus migrans*	Black Kite	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Muscardinus avellanarius*		☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - NT	The species contributes to the high biodiversity value of the wetland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Picoides tridactylus*	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker;Three-toed Woodpecker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - NT	The species is rare for the Continental biogeographic region.

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 forests on raised bogs and transition mires	☐	Old- and mixed-aged, rare by their level of preservation pine forests on raised bogs and transition mires. The age of pine trees varies from 80 to 150 years.	

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Pine forests on mineral soils	☐	Old- and mixed-age pine forests on mineral soils, in very good natural condition. The old age, complex structure of tree stands, including two and more generations of pine are characteristic for this category.	
Spruce forests	☐	Old- and mixed-age spruce forests, located near the southern edge of spruce's distribution range, rare by their naturalness, threatened.	These are rare by their spatial and age structure and of great interest for the question of spruce forests' genesis and dynamics of spruce distribution range.
Indigenous old-aged oak woods	☐	Indigenous old-aged oak woods are remarkable by complex vertical structure of the canopy, rich flora and fauna.	
Old-aged European white birch forests on fen and transition mires	☐	Exclusively old-aged European white birch forests on fen and transition mires, rare by their naturalness. The age of trees reaches 80 years.	Their conservation is important for maintaining of mires' stability in the Podvelikiy Moh site.
Old-aged silver birch forest	☐	Exclusively old-aged silver birch forest.	Their conservation is important for maintaining of rare and protected plants of Betula floristic complex. These have high aesthetic and recreation qualities.
Old-aged black alder forests on fen mires	☐	The considerable area is occupied by well-preserved indigenous black alder phytocenoses.	
Old-aged aspen forests	☐	The aspen and aspen stands are very important for maintaining of animal biodiversity; this tree species is an important life resource (foraging and/or topical) for many animals.	These are exclusively rare for the territory and the region.
3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	☑		Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
6450 Northern boreal alluvial meadows	☑		Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
7110 Active raised bogs	☑	priority habitat	Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
7120 Degraded raised bogs (still capable of natural regeneration)	☑		Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	☑		Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion vegetation	☑		Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
9010 Western taiga	☑	priority habitat	Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
9050 Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with Picea abies	☑		Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
9080 Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods	☑	priority habitat	Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive
91D0 Bog woodland	☑	priority habitat	Listed in the Annex I of the Habitat Directive

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The Podvelikiy Moh wetland together with the Ramsar site "Vygonoschanskoe" is one of the largest mires in Europe. Transition mires and raised bogs, watelogged alder stands dominate the area. About 63 % of the site's area is occupied by swampy and forest-swampy ecosystems mainly of mesotrophic and oligotrophic types. More than 25% of the area is occupied by open swamps of all three types: raised bogs (12.2%), fen mires (14.4%) and transition mires (73.5%). Almost all raised bogs are woodless, or sparcely covered by pine and European white birch trees. The peat layer reaches 2 meters. Raised bogs are very rare in the Polesie region and extremely valuable from hydrological point of view, and also as habitats for rare bird species.

Oligo- and mesotrophic pine and European white birch forests dominate among the site's forest ecosystems. There are quite rare for the region types of forests within the site: spruce forests, which are at the southern border of their distribution range here, plots of old oak woods, ash and hornbeam stands. The considerable area is occupied by well-preserved indigenous black alder phytocenoses.

Despite the intensive melioration near the site's border, its ecosystems are well-preserved and very important for water protection and regulation due to integrity of the forest cover and domination of open and forested raised bogs and transition mires. The swamp complex is the source of the Bobrik River and maintains a high level of groundwaters in the region. It is exceptionally important for supplying of rivers and lakes in the region and supporting weather-climatic characteristics.

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 > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		2	4961.5	Rare
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		1	5611	Representative

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
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		3	32	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

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/MAMMALIA	Capreolus capreolus	western roe deer				
CHORDATA/AVES	Columba palumbus	Common Wood Pigeon				
CHORDATA/AVES	Lyrurus tetrix	Eurasian Black Grouse;Black Grouse				
CHORDATA/AVES	Scolopax rusticola	Eurasian Woodcock				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Sus scrofa	wild boar				
CHORDATA/AVES	Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie				
CHORDATA/AVES	Tetrastes bonasia	Hazel Grouse				

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) 156

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 161

Upper 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 mire is the source of the Bobrik River - tributary of the Pripyat River.

4.4.3 - Soil

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)

Peat soils dominate within the site.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Water inputs from rainfall	☑

Water destination

Presence?
Feeds groundwater
To downstream catchment

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels largely stable

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5) ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Mesotrophic ☑

Oligotrophic ☑

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 higher human population density ☑

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

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)	Low

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Medium
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

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
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High

Within the site: 10s

Outside the site: 15000

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

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

(ECD) Carbon cycling	Being a large complex of raised bogs, the site considerably influences the climate and geo-chemical processes in the biosphere through carbon sequestration.

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	☑	☑

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Gancevichi Regional Executive Committee
Gancevici Regional Inspection on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Shapel Jury Grigorievich, director of the Gancevici Regional Inspection on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Postal address: Belarus 225440, Gancevichi town, Oktiabrskaya str., 5b

E-mail address: oosgnc@brest.by

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☐
Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☐

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☐

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fire and fire suppression	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	☐
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	☑

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Garbage and solid waste	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☐

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Republican Hydrological Reserve	Podvelikiy Moh	http://www.gants-region.info/index/gidrologicheskij_zakaznik_podvelikij_mokh/0-1437	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

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

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Research	Proposed

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

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 ◉

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

<no data available>

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

1. The Red Data Book of the Republic of Belarus: rare and threatened plant species / L.I. Choruzik, L.M. Suschena, V.I. Parfenov and others. – 2nd edition – Minsk: BelEn, 2006. – 456 p. (In Russian).
2. Committee on land resources, geodesy and cartography at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. National Atlas of Belarus. Minsk: RUP "Belkartographia", 2002. – 292 p. (In Belarussian).
3. National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus. Statistical bulletin "Population numbers on 1 January 2013 and average annual population number for 2012 in the Republic of Belarus by regions, districts, towns, settlements of town type". Minsk, 2013. 17 p. http://belstat.gov.by/homep/ru/publications/population/2013/bulletin2013.php
4. Jurgenson, N., Shushkova, E., Shliahtich, E., Ustin, V. Protected Areas. Handbook. – Minsk: State Research and Production Association "Bioresources Research Center of the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences", 2012. – 204 p. (in Russian).
5. Yakushko, O., Marjina, L., Emelianov, Ju. Geo-morphology of Belarus: tutorial for students of geographical and geological departments. – Mn.: BSU, 1999. – 173 p. elib.bsu.by/bitstream/123456789/.../4/Геоморфология%20Беларуси.DOC
6. Dementiev V.A., 1959. System of physiographic regions of Belarus/«Physical and economic geography of Byelorussia» Minsk, 150 p. (In Russian)
7. EUROPEAN TOPIC CENTRE ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY Under contract with the European Environment Agency. The indicative Map of European Biogeographical Regions: Methodology and development. ETC/BD, Paris, February 2006. www.eea.europa.eu/...maps/.../biogeographical-..
8. Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands 4th edition, 2010, Handbook 1. Wise use of wetlands.

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
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Podvelikiy Moh raised bog (*Garunovich, 2010*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation	2015-03-30