



Ramsar Information Sheet

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Estonia

Soomaa



Designation date	5 June 1997
Site number	912
Coordinates	58°26'26"N 25°06'28"E
Area	39 639,00 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

Soomaa is an extensive, flat area of five large bog complexes separated by unregulated rivers with floodplain meadows, alluvial forests and wooded meadows and surrounded by extensive forests, including swamp forests and carrs. Being the most representative and valuable part of the remaining large wilderness area in southwest Estonia, the wetland is important as a nesting biotope of mire birds and the stopover site for migrating birds.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Kai Kimmel
Institution/agency	Estonian Wetland Society
Postal address	Suurküla 21, Häädemeeste, 86001 Pärnumaa, Estonia
E-mail	kkimmel@hotmail.ee
Phone	+3725289685

Compiler 2

Name	Marika Kose
Institution/agency	Estonian Wetland Society
Postal address	Suurküla 21, Häädemeeste, 86001 Pärnumaa, Estonia
E-mail	marika.kose@mail.ee
Phone	+37256561373

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

From year	2012
To year	2019

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Soomaa
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2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

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

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? No

(Update) Optional text box to provide further information

No principal changes, but due to wetland restoration projects the hydrological conditions of mires is improving in some localities.

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 is the same as an existing protected area – Soomaa National Park.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Pärnu, Viljandi Counties
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b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

- a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No
- b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

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

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	1. Boreal
Freshwater Ecoregions of the World (FEOW)	2. terrestrial area Sarmatic mixed forests freshwater area Southern Baltic Lowlands temperate floodplain rivers and wetlands

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

1: EEA, European Environment Agency, http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/report_2002_0524_154909
 2: Olson, D. M, E. Dinerstein, E.D. Wikramanayake, N.D. Burgess, G.V.N. Powell, E.C. Underwood, J.A. D'amico, I. Itoua, H.E. Strand, J.C. Morrison, C.J. Loucks, T.F. Alnutt, T.H. Ricketts, Y. Kura, J.F. Lamoreux, W.W. Wettengel, P. Hedao, & K.R. Kassem. 2001. Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World: A New Map of Life on Earth. - BioScience 51:933-938.
 Abell, R., Thieme, M. L., Revenga, C., Bryer, M., Kottelat, M., Bogutskaya, N., Coad, B., Mandrak, N., Contreras Balderas, S., Bussing, W., Stiassny, M., Skelton, P., Allen, G., Unmack, P., Naseka, A., Ng, R., Sindorf, N., Robertson, J., Armijo, E., Higgins, J., Heibel, T.J., Wikramanayake, E., Olson, D., Lopez, H. L., Reis, R. E., Lundberg, J.G., Sabaj Perez, M.H., Petry P., 2008, Freshwater Ecoregions of the World: A New Map of Biogeographic Units for Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation. - BioScience 58: 403-414.

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 runoff is regulated naturally by bogs and forests. The site is important for groundwater recharge and discharge, water quality and for flood control.
Other ecosystem services provided	Biodiversity maintenance. Nutrient cycling. Climate change mitigation. Carbon sequestration. Aesthetic and landscape values. Recreation and tourism. Scientific and educational services.
Other reasons	<p>The site is a particularly good representative of natural and near-natural non-forested and forested peatlands, freshwater swamp forests, freshwater lakes, permanent rivers as well as the whole mosaic wetland complex, characteristic of the Boreal Biogeographical region. The site is the most valuable part of the extensive wilderness area remaining in SW Estonia. Kuresoo Bog is one of the two best survived large bogs in Estonia, its species diversity is among the highest. Annual floods of Halliste River and its tributaries are of international importance.</p> <p>Wetland habitats presented in Soomaa and listed in Annex I of the Habitat Directive are active raised bogs (*7110), transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), bog woodland (*91D0), Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (*9080), northern boreal alluvial meadows (6450), lakes (Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds - 3160), rivers and streams (Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation - 3260) and also alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (91E0) and riparian mixed forests of Quercus robur, Ulmus laevis, Fraxinus excelsior along the great rivers (91F0).</p> <p>The wetland complex playing substantial hydrological, biological and ecological role in the region is identified both as an IBA and Natura 2000 site, as well as an international level core area in the Pan European Ecological Network and PAN Parks wilderness area.</p>

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	<p>The site supports particular elements of biological diversity that are rare or particularly characteristic of the Boreal biogeographic region such as untouched naturally open raised bogs and peatland forests, which contain a significant proportion of characteristic species (e.g. Sphagnum mosses), as well as floodplain meadows and floodplain forests.</p> <p>Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region are:</p> <p>Plants: Sword Lily Gladiolus imbricatus, Siberian Iris Iris sibirica, Lady’s Slipper Cypripedium calceolus, Marsh Club Moss Lycopodiella inundata, Stonecrop Sedum telephium and Sphagnum sp.</p> <p>Birds: Corncrake Crex crex, Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos, Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus, Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria, Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola, Dunlin Calidris alpina schinzii, Merlin Falco columbarius, Willow Grouse Lagopus lagopus, Montagu’s Harrier Circus pygargus, Great Snipe Gallinago media.</p> <p>Mammals: Wolf Canis lupus, Brown Bear Ursus arctos, Lynx Lynx lynx, Otter Lutra lutra, Beaver Castor fiber, Flying Squirrel Pteromys volans.</p>
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Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification It is an important spawning ground for the fish Pike *Esox lucius*.

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

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<i>Cinna latifolia</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexes II of the Habitat Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Lady's Slipper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexes II of the Habitat Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Marsh Club Moss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
<i>Pulsatilla pratensis</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexes II of the Habitat Directive	Criterion II. Species is present in the site.

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 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	criterion 2, Breeding, 5 p
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	<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"/>	3	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive; highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia	3-4 pairs Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	<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"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive; highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive; highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia	10 pairs Criterion 4: The forests support good populations of birds
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</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"/>	5	2018			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive. EN in Red List of Estonia	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region- 5 p
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	European Nightjar	<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"/>	120	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	120 p. Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive; highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia	2 pairs

Phylum	Scientific name	Common 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								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	6 pairs Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	5 p; Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Crex crex</i>	Corn Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	200	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	200 pairs Criterion 4: The site supports this species.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	Bewick's Swan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1750		8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 4: The site is a nesting biotope of mire birds and the stopover site for this migrating species. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Western Siberia & NE Europe/North-west Europe
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	White-backed Woodpecker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	85	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 4: The forests support good populations of birds . 85p
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	2018		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive; highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region, 30p
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	35 p. Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1000	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	during spring migration approximately 1000 ind. Criterion 4: The site supports this species during spring migration. 60 pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2018		LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	1 pair breeding
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	300	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region, 300 pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	2018		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IUCN red listed, VU in Europe.	15 breeding pairs, Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	Eurasian Black Grouse; Black Grouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	200	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 2, 200 breeding pairs.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Numerius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	2018		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IUCN red listed, VU in Europe.	10 breeding pairs, Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey Buzzard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15			LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region, 15 pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2018			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive; highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia	Criterion 4: the site supports this species. 5 p. Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	Three-toed Woodpecker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 2: 40 breeding pairs

Phylum	Scientific name	Common 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								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	European Golden Plover; European Golden-Plover	<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"/>	540	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	ca 540 pairs; Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Spotted Crane	<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"/>	20	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	20 p. Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural Owl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	50 p. Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	Western Capercaillie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	80	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	Criterion 4: The forests support good populations of birds , 80 p
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	<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"/>	170	2018		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the Bird Directive	10-15% of birds out of the total number in Estonia nest here; Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	170	2018		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IUCN red listed, VU in Europe.	170 breeding pairs, Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Esox lucius</i>	Northern pike	<input 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"/>		Criterion 8: It is an important spawning ground for the fish Pike Esox lucius.
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	<i>Ulio crassus</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"/>				EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive	
Others																		
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Wolf	<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"/>				LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2-3 packs; Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region, Criterion 4: The site is a refuge for this species with large habitat requirements
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Hypodryas maturna</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"/>	Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive	
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European Otter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Lycaena dispar</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"/>	Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive	
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian Lynx	<input 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"/>		12-15; Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region Criterion 4: The site is a refuge for this species with large habitat requirements
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	pond bat; Pond Myotis	<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"/>	Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive	
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Pteromys volans</i>	Siberian Flying Squirrel	<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"/>	highly endangered and strongly protected (I category) in Estonia; Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive	Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Brown Bear; Grizzly Bear	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		5-6; Criterion 3: Characteristic species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Boreal Biogeographical Region Criterion 4: The site is a refuge for this species with large habitat requirements

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Criterion 6:
Wetland regularly supports 2,5-10% of the individuals of the NW European (non-br) population of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (during the autumn migration approximately 500 and during spring migration approximately 2000 ind).

Criterion 4:
The species composition of extensive bogs (especially Kuresoo Bog) is one of the most representative in Estonia, including Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (more than 100 pairs; a quarter of Estonia's population), Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (3-4 pairs), Willow Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* (one of two vital populations in Estonia), Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (ca 150 pairs), Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (10-15% of birds out of the total number in Estonia nest here), Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (5-7p), Common Crane *Grus grus* (20-30 pairs). The forests support good populations of birds which include Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (3-4 pairs), Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* (5-6 pairs), White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* and Capercallie Tetrao *urogallus*.

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
Western taiga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Bog woodland (*91D0)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Riparian mixed forests of <i>Quercus robur</i> , <i>Ulmus laevis</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> along the great rivers (91F0)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (91E0)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Rivers and streams (Water courses of plain to montane levels)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Lakes (Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds - 3160)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Northern boreal alluvial meadows (6450)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (*9080)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I
Active raised bogs (*7110)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		EU Habitats Directive, Annex I

Optional text box to provide further information

The site is a particularly good representative of natural and near-natural non-forested and forested peatlands, freshwater swamp forests, freshwater lakes, permanent rivers as well as the whole mosaic wetland complex, characteristic of the Boreal Biogeographical region. The site is the most valuable part of the extensive wilderness area remaining in SW Estonia. Kuresoo Bog is one of the two best survived large bogs in Estonia, its species diversity is among the highest. Annual floods of Halliste River and its tributaries are of international importance. Wetland habitats presented in Soomaa and listed in Annex I of the Habitat Directive and also alluvial forests of different types. The wetland complex playing substantial hydrological, biological and ecological role in the region is identified both as an IBA and Natura 2000 site, as well as an international level core area in the Pan European Ecological Network and PAN Parks wilderness area.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The peatland areas are composed of 75% of bogs (which are of transition type between maritime and continental; mainly open-grass bogs and dwarf-shrub bogs; partly pine bogs), 20% of transition bogs, and 5% of fens (which due to lack of drainage, have survived in their original state). There is one dystrophic relic lake (6 ha) and numerous bog-pools. The forests wedged between bogs and flooded over by the river waters several times a year are wet, or moist, swamp and floodplain forests. Both the alluvial meadows and forests on the riverbanks are of great botanical value. In the floodplain forests there grow soft-leaved elms (rare in Estonia), ashes, oaks, limes, elms and a character species of the growth site - the Hop *Humulus lupulus*. The unique swamp forests (carrs) surround the site.

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	154.9511	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		4	6.0062	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		3	212.8002	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		2	1194.345	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		1	20816.04	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands		4	6.7712	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands		2	2122.298	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		1	9388.198	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
2: Ponds		4	5.3273	
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		4	1.5238	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Astragalus arenarius</i>		Nationally protected species
<i>Gladiolus imbricatus</i>		nationally protected species
<i>Hylotelephium telephium telephium</i>		Nationally protected species
<i>Iris sibirica</i>		Nationally protected species

Optional text box to provide further information

In total, 524 vascular plant species have been registered. The rich flora of floodplain meadows includes endangered Sword Lily *Gladiolus imbricatus*, Siberian Iris *Iris sibirica* and *Sedum telphium*. In dry pine forests on dunes extremely rare Sand Milk Vetch *Astragalus arenarius* grows.

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/AVES	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	15	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Castor fiber</i>	Eurasian Beaver	280	2013		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Willow Ptarmigan; Willow Grouse	2	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Northern Shrike; Great Grey Shrike	50	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	190	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	Hazel Grouse	400	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	60	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper	140	2018		Nationally protected
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	150	2018		Nationally protected

Optional text box to provide further information

Birds: The globally near-threatened Corncrake *Crex crex* is common (200 pairs) in floodplain meadows. The species composition of extensive bogs (especially Kuresoo Bog) is one of the most representative in Estonia, including Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (more than 190 pairs; a quarter of Estonia's population), Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (3-4 pairs), Willow Grouse *Lagopus lagopus* (one of two vital populations in Estonia), Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (ca 540 pairs), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola* 10-15% of birds out of the total number in Estonia nest here), Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (5 p), Common Crane *Grus grus* (60 pairs). The forests support good populations of birds which include Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (2 pairs), Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* (10 pairs), White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* 85pairs, Dryocopus *martius* 60 pairs, Dryocopus *medisu* 10 pairs and Capercaillie Tetrao *urogallus* 80 pairs. Also *Sylvia nisoria* (20 p), *Ficedula parva* (1100 p), *Picus canus* (50 p) are present. Mammals: 36 species of mammals have been counted, including Wolf *Canis lupus* (1-2 packs), Lynx *Lynx lynx* (12-15), Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* (5-6), Otter *Lutra lutra*, Beaver *Castor fiber* and Flying Squirrel *Pteromys volans*.

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)

Transitional area from the sub-maritime climate to more continental climate of inland Estonia. Mean annual temperature is +4,5-5 0 C (in July +16,60 C and in February -6,6 0C) Mean annual precipitation is 740 mm. Snow cover lasts in average 98 days. Climate is transitional from sub-maritime to sub-continental type.

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.

Navesti river, Halliste river, Kõpu river, Tõramaa river, Raudna river, Lemmjõgi 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)

Devonian sandstone bedrock is covered by sand and lake sediments and with peat. The depth of the peat layer is 3 - 6 m, reaching a maximum of 9.5 m. The bogs of Soomaa have the highest marginal slope in Estonia (up to 6 m). In the extremely flat and low area with clayey soils (Eutric Gleysols and Dystric Histosols dominate) the surface water flow away with difficulties causing floods and high ground water table supporting the paludification process.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 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 runoff is regulated naturally by bogs and forests. The site is important for groundwater recharge and discharge, water quality and for flood control.

The absolute amplitude of the water level fluctuations is 5.7 m.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

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

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

In raised bogs the pH is usually below 5,5.

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

Dystrophic

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

Unknown

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	Other	Medium

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	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climatic processes	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
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
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	High
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High
Pollination	Support for pollinators	High

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The runoff is regulated naturally by bogs and forests. The site is important for groundwater recharge and discharge, water quality and for flood control.

Many archaeological findings are known from the area. Local features such as the extensive mires and regular flooding rivers have shaped a local lifestyle. Characteristic is the adaptation of local architecture to overflowing, building of suspension and temporary bridges, and the use of archaic, single tree boats - dugouts.

The location and the extensive floods have not favored intensive economic activities. Less than 70 permanent inhabitants. Land use consists of extensive forestry and small-scale agriculture allowed only in a quarter of the territory. In recent years nature tourism has become the main field of activity.

Within the site:

Outside the site:

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

Description if applicable

Soomaa has an active community. Although few people live inside the NP, the stakeholders around it have formed the NGO and are involved in sustainable tourism planning. There are three specific designations, that Soomaa NP stakeholders have achieved to gain:

- 1) PANPARC nomination which was given to national parks with especial wilderness and excellent tourism organisation and management in the park.
- 2) They have got nomination, EDEN nomination (in 2007 the European Commission started the competition „European Destinations of Excellence" https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/eden_en". Soomaa NP won the competition in 2009 in category „EDEN. Estonian uncovered treasures. Tourism and protected areas".

in 2020 Soomaa is in process of applying for EUROPARC nomination for sustainable tourism destination.

- 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

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"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

within the Ramsar site: about 90% of the site is state-owned land

in the surrounding area: state and private land

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

Environmental Board, Western Region

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

Mr. Sulev Vare, director of the Western Region of Environmental Board

Postal address:

Roheline 64, 80010, Pärnu

E-mail address:

sulev.vare@keskkonnaamet.ee

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	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input 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	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Gathering terrestrial plants	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<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
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input 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):

within the Ramsar site: No big threats are posed to ecological character of the wetland due to the protection regime and appropriate management activities. Threat lies in the overgrowth of floodplain meadows with scrub, also 35% of the floodplains are managed. There is an increasing pressure to logging in limited management zones of the NP, as this is legally allowed activity. Growing intensity in nature tourism and recreational activities.

in the surrounding area: threats can arise from water pollution from agricultural fertilisers, forestry, and the drainage of agricultural and forested lands

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Soomaa		whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
national park	Soomaa		whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area			

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

Habitat

Measures	Status
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Partially implemented

Human Activities

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

Other:

There are several mire restoration projects undertaken in various parts of Soomaa NP. Those are implemented, There are several projects in planning phase and being implemented during forthcoming years.
 Soomaa NP visitor centre and 8 nature trails are regulating visitors. The community of Entrepreneurs and other stakeholders are working closely to develop sustainable and ecotourism in the NP and getting EUROPARC nomination.

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:

A visitors' centre was constructed in Kõrtsi-Tõramaa in 1998. There are 10 study and hiking trails, several of these are supplied with viewing towers or platforms and board walks in the wetland. A photo album, maps and several booklets have been prepared providing general and conservation information. A memorial museum to the composer Mart Saar is located at Hüpassaare (northeastern part) where a nature trail has also been established.
 Local newsletter "Jõhvikas" (Cranberry) is published regularly by NGO "Friends of Soomaa". Since 2009 the visiting management is the responsibility of the State Forest Management Centre.

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
Plant community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Water regime monitoring	Implemented

During the preparation of the management plan thorough inventories were carried out and 20 special reports were drafted. According the management plan scientific monitoring and research activities occur on a regular basis with an emphasis on monitoring of floodplain meadows to evaluate the management effectiveness of management: botanical research of rare plants, monitoring of spring and autumn migration of birds, counting of birds of floodplain meadows (especially *Crex crex* and *Gallinago media*) and peatlands, also monitoring of mammals: elk, roe deer, bear, wolf, lynx and small predators.
 The visitor's centre in Tõramaa also acts as the research station for large carnivores (especially wolf and lynxes) and supporting activities of quest researchers in national park.
 There is water table monitoring in restored sites with permanent electronic loggers by State Forest Centre.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Kalamees, A. (ed.) 2000. Important Bird Areas in Estonia. – Eesti Loodusfoto, Tartu, 114 pp. Kukk, T. (toim.) 1994. XVII eesti loodusuurijate päeva ettekannete kokkuvõtted. Tipu, 11.-12. Juuni 1994: Soomaa Rahvusparki loodus. - Eesti Loodusuurijate Selts, Tartu, 99 lk. (in estonian)
 Lõhmus, A., Kalamees, A., Kuus, A., Kuresoo, A., Leito, A., Leivits, A., Luigujõe, L., Ojaste, I., Volke, V. 2001. Bird species of conservation concern in the Estonian protected areas and important bird areas. Hirundo Supplementum 4: 37-167.
 Soomaa Rahvuspark. 1999. Special issue devoted to the Soomaa National Park. - Eesti Loodus, 10 (in estonian with english summaries).
 Valk, U. (ed.) 1988. Eesti sood. Estonian Peatlands. Tallinn, 344 pp. (in estonian, with english and russian summaries)

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

<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Bog pool in Kuresoo, Soomaa NP (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 04072017*)



Cranberries on Sphagnum carpet, near bog pool. Drosera flower stems in background. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 13102019*)



Morning mist on raised bog, with cottongrass and white beak-sedge. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 28072019*)



Raised bog margin with hollows and Sphagnum mosses (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 28102018*)



Recreational use of Soomaa NP. Colors of raised bog. Bogshoeing. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 06092013*)



Riisa bog in Soomaa NP. Bog pool. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 23062018*)



Dugout canoe is a practical vessel during flood "fifth" season. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 23042013*)



The flood "fifth" season in Soomaa NP. You can canoe in the woods. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 19042013*)



The flood "fifth" season in Soomaa NP. Typical sight. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 23042013*)



The flood "fifth" season in Soomaa NP. Flooded road in Riisa village. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 24042013*)



The flood "fifth" season in Soomaa NP. Flooded road in the woods. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 19042013*)



The flood "fifth" season in Soomaa NP. Flooded meadow with oaks. Floods occur also in autumn with heavy rains. (*Aivar Ruukel, Estonian Wetland Society, 15102017*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation