

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

6 September 2010

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## 3. Country:

Lithuania

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Cepkeliai mire (Čepkelių raistas)

**5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:**

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site
- 

**6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:**

**a) Site boundary and area**

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

**If the site boundary has changed:**

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or  
ii) the boundary has been extended ; or  
iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or  
ii) the area has been extended ; or  
iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

\*\* **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

After increasing the area of the reserve, the ecological conditions have not changed.

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**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;  
ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;  
iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

the boundary is the same as nature reserve.

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**8. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

53°59' N; 24°30' E

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**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

The Čepkeliai wetland is located on the southern periphery of Lithuania, on the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. In terms of administrative division of Lithuania, the Čepkeliai wetland is in the Varėna district, Alytus count some 4 km southeast of the Marcinkonys village (a population of 760 inhabitants), where the Directorate of the Čepkeliai State Strict Nature Reserve is located.

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**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

The top level of the wetland is **134 m** above sea level

The bottom level of the wetland is **129 m** above sea level

The top level of the area surrounding the wetland (dune) is **155 m** above sea level

The bottom level of the territory is the riverbed of the River Katra **123 m** above sea level

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

According to forest management data (2001), the area is 11226,86 ha

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**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The Čepkeliai swamp (5,858 ha), also known as the Čepkeliai wetland, and the Pastalikė swamp (966 ha) form the largest wetland in Lithuania. More than a half of the wetland territory is occupied by the upland bog. The wetland is surrounded by lowland bogs, wooded continental dunes, a sandy plain, and the Katra River valley. The upland bog is a habitat of species typical of regions north of Lithuania. The sands surrounding the upland bog are home to species typical of regions south of Lithuania. Finding favourable conditions for living in the neighbourhood of each other, the northern and southern species (both flora and fauna) comprise the specific biodiversity of Čepkeliai.

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**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

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**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1

The territory covers the largest natural wetland of Lithuania with relict bog lakes, upland bog, lowland bogs, continental dunes covered with pines, and the Katra River valley. There is an extant benchmark hydrological regime of the upland bog complex covered with lakes.

Criterion 2

55 plant, 10 moss and fungus and 94 animal species found in the territory are included in the Red Data Book of Lithuania. Sixty-five biota species are of European importance, i.e. listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and Annex II to the EU Habitats Directive. (See points 21 and 22)

Criterion 3

The upland bog is a habitat of species typical of regions north of Lithuania. The sands surrounding the upland bog are home to species typical of regions south of Lithuania. Finding favourable conditions for living in the neighbourhood of each other, the northern and southern species (both flora and fauna) comprise the specific biodiversity of Čepkeliai.

Criterion 4

Site is used: like habitat for orchid plants, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Gentiana pneumonante*, *Iris sibirica*. Breeding site for *Bombina bombina*, *Hyla arborea*; nesting site for *Pandion haliaetus*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Ciconia nigra*; mate place for *Tetrao urogalus*, *Tetrao tetrix* and *Gallinago media*. Also this site is used as rest site during migration for goose and *Grus grus*.

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**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Area belongs to the Boreo-nemoral vegetation zone, i.e. North European mixed forest region (Udvardy, 1975.).

Boreal (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Map of Biogeographical Regions of Europe serving the Habitats Directive of the European Community (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

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**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

**Origin:** natural.

**Geology:** The Čepkeliai wetland is located over the Mazury-Belarusian antecline, the East European continental platform crystalline basement area. It is the place where the distance between the crystalline basement discovered in Lithuania and the surface is the shortest (230 m). The upper layer of sediments is composed of 30 to 40 metres of sand. The average thickness of the peat layer is 2.3 m and the maximum thickness is 6.5 m.

**Geomorphology:** The Čepkeliai wetland is on the south-eastern periphery of the sandy plain of Dainava, in the flat watershed of rivers Katra, Ūla and Grūda. The wetland is surrounded by different elements of the plain. There is an array of continental dunes in the west and in the north, a natural sandy part of the plain in the northeast, and the Katra River floodplain on the same level as the periphery of the wetland in

the southeast and south. The Katra River valley is boggy, and the riverbed varies in width and is very twisty.

The surface of the upland bog is convex: the central part is elevated and the edges are lower. The elevated central parts and the nearest edges vary in height by up to 2 metres.

**Hydrology:** The wetland is fed by atmospheric precipitation and groundwater, the level of which also depends on the amount of precipitation. In the warm season, evaporation and discharge usually exceed the amount of precipitation and therefore the swamp dries out in summer.

The Čepkeliai wetland lies in the Nemunas basin, in the watershed of rivers Katra, Ūla and Grūda. Čepkeliai has a natural hydrological regime of swamps. The southern part of the swamp is drained by the River Katra, the north-eastern and eastern part by the River Ūla and its left tributary Lynupis, and the south-western part by Musteika, a right tributary of Grūda. Over a dozen of marshy rivers flow out of the wetland, which form the upper reaches of Musteika and Lynupis, filtering into the mineral ground of the area surrounding the swamp.

The Čepkeliai swamp is a relatively dry upland bog. It is determined by a small annual amount of precipitation, good water discharge and intensive evaporation. Therefore, during long-lasting summer droughts, the surface of the swamp becomes dry. Annual water level fluctuation amplitudes in the elevated part of the Čepkeliai upland bog reach up to 33 cm and up to 118 cm on its periphery (swamp lag).

There is 21 bog lake in the eastern part of the Čepkeliai swamp. Čepkeliai upland bog lakes lie in the elevated central part of the swamp. The water surface of some of them is 2 metres higher than the edges of the swamp.

**Water qualities:** It is dominated by oligotrophic water; there is mesotrophic and eutrophic water.

**Climate:** The local climate is mid-latitude climate transitory from marine to continental. The average temperature of the warmest month (July) is +17.7°C. The average temperature of the coldest month (January) is -5.4°C. The average annual air temperature is +6.2 °C. The vegetation period lasts 188 days. The average annual amount of precipitation is 675 mm. Precipitation is recorded on an average of 169 days. Snow covers land for approximately 75-80 days. However, winters are warming and snow often remains for less than a month.

**Soil:** The wetland is dominated by the upper and middle peat layer. The sandy plain of the area surrounding the wetland and the strip of continental dunes are dominated by sandy soil.

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### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Similar to the features described in Chapter 16.

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### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The water level of the Čepkeliai swamp supports ground waters of surrounding territories.

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## 19. Wetland Types

### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •  
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

**b) dominance:**

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Xp, U, M

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**20. General ecological features:**

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The Čepkeliai wetland is dominated by upland bog communities: open plains — by as. *Sphagnetum magellanicum* (Malc.29) Kastner et Flossner 33 em Diers.75; *Caricetum limosae* Paul 10 ex Osv.23 em.Diers.82; *Sphagno-Rynchosporium* Osv.23 em Koch 23 and areas covered by pine trees 0- as *Ledo-Pinetum* Tx.55. Intermediate-type and lowland bog communities prevail in the south-western part of the territory and the Katra River valley, namely small and large sedge and black alder forest communities. Continental dunes are covered by lichen pine forests (*Pinus sylvestris-Cladonia rangiferina*), the plain surrounding the swamp is dominated by bilberry pine forests with feather moss (*P.sylvestris-Vaccinium myrtillus-Pleurozium schreberi*), and mineral ground islands of the swamp and the approaches of the Katra River valley are dominated by mixed forests. Small areas of the territory are covered by mat-grass, open sands and willows.

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**21. Noteworthy flora:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

**Plants included in the Red Data Book of Lithuania (2007) which are grown in the Čepkeliai wetland (species mentioned in the Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive are marked with asterisk (\*)):**

**Ferns - Polypodiophyta**

1. *Botrychium matricariifolium* A. Br. ex Koch.
2. *Botrychium virginianum* (L.) Sw.
3. *Botrychium multifidum* (G. G. Gmel.) Rupr.

**Club mosies - Lycopodiophyta**

1. *Lycopodiella inundata* (L.) Holub
2. *Huperzia selago* (L.) Bernh. ex Schrank et Martius

**Flowering plants - Magnoliophyta**

1. *Gentiana pneumonanthe* L.
2. *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum* L.
3. *Epipogium aphyllum* Sw.
4. *Cephalanthera rubra* (L.) Rich.
5. \**Pulsatilla patens* (L.) Mill.
6. \**Dianthus arenarius* L.
7. *Silene chlorantha* (Willd.) Ehrh.
8. *Betula humilis* Schrank.
9. *Salix lapponum* L.
10. \**Thesium ebracteatum* Hayne
11. *Polemonium caeruleum* L.
12. *Prunella grandiflora* (L.) Scholler
13. *Arnica montana* L.
14. *Iris sibirica* L.

15. *Listera cordata* (L.) R. Br.
16. *Dactylorhiza maculata* (L.) Soó
17. *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri* (Saut.) Soó
18. *Corallorhiza trifida* Ch.
19. \**Cypripedium calceolus* L.
20. *Hammarbya paludosa* (L.) Kuntze
21. \**Liparis loeselii* (L.) Rich.
22. *Epipactis atrorubens* (Hoffm.) Besser
23. *Eriophorum gracile* W. D. J. Koch ex Roth
24. *Salix myrtilloides* L.
25. *Cardamine bulbifera* (L.) Crantz
26. *Agrimonia procera* Wallr.
27. *Trifolium lupinaster* L.
28. *Radiola linoides* Roth.
29. *Laserpitium prutenicum* L.
30. *Cnidium dubium* (Schkuhr) Thell.
31. *Campanula cervicaria* L.
32. *Pilosella echioides* (Lumn.) F. W. Schultz et Sch. Bip.
33. *Tragopogon gorskianus* Rchb. f.
34. *Alisma lanceolatum* With
35. *Silene lithuanica* Zapal.
36. *Mentha longifolia* (L.) Huds.
37. *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Druce) Soó
38. *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (L.) Soó
39. *Glyceria nemoralis* (R. Uechtr.) R. Uechtr. et Körn.
40. *Peplis portula* L.
41. *Cyperus fuscus* L.
42. *Dactylorhiza longifolia* (Neuman) Aver.

#### **Mosses - Bryophyta**

1. *Trichocolea tomentella* (Ehrh.) Dumort.
2. *Sphagnum molle* Sull.
3. *Sphagnum platyphyllum* (Lindb. ex Braithw.) Sull. ex Warnst.
4. *Sphagnum wulfianum* Girg.
5. *Neckera pennata* Hedw.
6. \**Hamatocaulis vernicosus* (Mitt.) Hedenäs
7. *Sphagnum pulchrum* (Braithw.) Warnst.
8. *Sphagnum compactum* Lam. et DC.

#### **Lichens - Ascomycetes lichenisati :**

1. *Calicium adpersum* Pers.
2. *Evernia mesomorpha* Nyl.
3. *Cetrelia olivetorum* (Nyl.) W. L. Culb. et C. F. Culb.
4. *Lobaria pulmonaria* (L.) Hoffm.

#### **Fungus - Mycota**

1. *Hapalopilus croceus* (pers.) Gray
2. *Sparassis crispa* (Wulfen) Fr.
3. *Trametes suaveolens* (L.) Fr.
4. *Lactarius scrobiculatus* (Scop.) Fr.
5. *Lepista luscina* (Fr.) Singer
6. *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (Jacq.) Fr.

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## **22. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare,

endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

**List of animals included in the Red Data Book of Lithuania (2007), that are found in Čepkeliai reserve (species mentioned in the Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive or in the Annex I of the EU Birds Directive are marked with asterisk (\*):**

**MAMMALIA**

1. \**Lynx lynx* L.
2. \**Myotis dasycneme* Boie
3. *Vespertilio murinus* L.
4. *Lepus timidus* L.
5. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Schreber
6. *Sicista betulina* Pallas
7. *Mustela erminea* L.
8. *Eptesicus serotinus* Scherber
9. *Nyctalus noctula* Schreber
10. \**Lutra lutra* L.

**AVES**

1. \**Circaetus gallicus* Gm
2. \**Gavia arctica* L.
3. *Anas acuta* L.
4. \**Aquila chrysaetos* L.
5. \**Falco peregrinus* Tunst.
6. \**Gallinago media* Lath.
7. \**Bubo bubo* L.
8. \**Coracias garrulus* L.
9. \**Ciconia nigra* L.
10. *Anas strepera* L.
11. \**Milvus migrans* Bodd.
12. \**Circus pygargus* L.
13. \**Pandion haliaetus* L.
14. *Falco tinunculus* L.
15. \**Tetrao urogalus* L.
16. \**Pluvialis apricaria* L.
17. \**Philomachus pugnax* L.
18. *Limosa limosa* L.
19. *Numenius arquata* L.
20. *Tringa totanus* L.
21. \**Tringa glareola* L.
22. \**Asio flammeus* Pontopp.
23. \**Picoides tridactylus* L.
24. \**Cygnus cygnus* L.
25. *Anas chapeata* L.
26. \**Pernis apivorus* L.
27. \**Haliaetus albicilla* L.
28. *Accipiter gentilis* L.
29. \**Aquila pomarina* C.L. Brehm
30. *Falco subbuteo* L.
31. \**Tetrao tetrix* L.
32. *Coturnix coturnix* L.
33. \**Porzana porzana* L.
34. *Columba oenas* L.
35. \**Aegolius funereus* L.
36. \**Alcedo atthis* L.
37. *Upupa epops* L.



38. \**Picus canus* Gmel.
39. *Picus viridis* L.
40. \**Dendrocopos leucotos* Bechst.
41. \**Anthus campestris* L.
42. *Motacilla citreola* Pall.
43. \**Egretta alba* L.
44. \**Luscinia svecica* L.
45. *Emberiza calandra* L.
46. *Anser anser* L.
47. \**Crex crex* L.
48. \**Grus grus* L.
49. *Lanius excubitor* L.

#### **REPTILIA**

1. *Coronella austriaca* L.

#### **AMPHIBIA**

1. *Hyla arborea* L.
2. *Bufo viridis* Laur.
3. \**Bombina bombina*

#### **OSTEICHTHYES**

1. *Misgurnus fossilis*

#### **INSECTA**

1. \**Cerambyx cerdo* L.
2. \**Cucujus cinnaberinus* Scop.
3. *Cucujus haematodes* Erich.
4. *Ergates faber* L.
5. *Maculinea arion* L.
6. *Boloria frigga* Thnbg.
7. *Agonum ericeti* Panz.
8. *Ceruchus chrysomelinus* Hoch.
9. *Polyphylla fullo* L.
10. *Gnorimus variabilis* L.
11. *Peltis grossa* L.
12. \**Boros schneideri* Panz.
13. *Prionus coriarius* L.
14. *Erynnis tages* L.
15. *Carterocephalus palaemon* Pall.
16. *Coenonympha tullia* Mull.
17. *Oeneis jutta* Hbn.
18. *Epirrhoe tartuensis* Moels
19. *Bembix rostrata* L.
20. *Lasioglossum prasinum* Smith
21. *Bombus confusus* Schenck
22. *Aspilates gilvaria* D&S.
23. *Glaucopsyche alexis* Poda
24. *Ostoma ferruginea* L.
25. *Papilio machaon* L.
26. *Phibalapteryx virgata* Hfn.
27. *Diachrysia zosimi* Hb.
28. *Tyria jacobaeae* L.
29. *Chariaspilates formosaria* Eversm.
30. *Uloma culinaris* L.

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#### **23. Social and cultural values:**

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

Archaeological: Stone Age settlements.

Cultural: Trees were used for hollow beekeeping. Legends tell about places and place names.

The Lithuanian-Belarusian state border extends along the southern edge of the territory. The Čepkeliai wetland borders the Ramsar territory in Belarus, the Kotra Landscape Reserve.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide 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:

Local residents are still engaged in traditional business – they pick berries in the Čepkeliai wetland

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

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

iv) sites where 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:

#### **24. Land tenure/ownership:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The territory is exclusively state-owned.

b) in the surrounding area:

The surrounding forests and cultivated fields are state-owned and private.

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#### **25. Current land (including water) use:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

The territory within the Čepkeliai State Strict Nature Reserve is used for the purposes of environmental protection, scientific research, sightseeing tourism, and educational activities.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The surrounding territories are used for forestry, tourism, berry picking, mushroom picking, hunting, and extensive farming.

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#### **26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

a) within the Ramsar site:

In the past, the territory had been farmed by local residents: the lowland bog had been mowed and cattle had been grazed in the surrounding area of the swamp. It determined the maintenance of open non-

wooded habitats. At present, if traditional farming is abandoned, the whole territory is covered by trees and bushes. For these reasons, biodiversity is reduced. If no nature management work is performed, open habitats may vanish in future.

b) in the surrounding area:

In the past, local residents used infertile soil for extensive agriculture. Forest areas were smaller. An array of forests has formed as a result of rapidly declining (vanishing) agricultural activities in the surrounding territories.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

National conservation status: Čepkeliai State Strict Nature Reserve established in 1975. International conservation status: a Ramsar site since 1993, a Natura 2000 site.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Prepared in 2004, a management plan is currently being implemented.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Mowing, tree and bush cutting works are carried out according to the management plan.

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Meteorological observations,

Hydrological monitoring,

Phenological observations

Protected plant status observations

Monitoring of bog plant communities

Flora and vegetation inventory check

Monitoring of mammals, birds and insects of European importance

Landscape monitoring

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

There is a visitor centre and an exposition at the reserve directorate. There is an educational nature trail in the swamp and the surrounding territory.

### 31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Tourism is limited in the reserve. Only the educational nature trail is open to visitors. It is visited by 2,000–3,000 people per year. Local residents are allowed to walk in the entire territory in the cranberry picking season (10 days). Scientists conducting scientific research are allowed to walk in the entire territory.

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### 32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Lithuania, Alytus county, Varėna district.  
State Service for Protected Areas

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### 33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Directorate of the Dzūkija National Park and Čepkeliai State Strict Nature Reserve  
Šilagėlių g. 11, Marcinkonių k.,  
LT-65303  
Varėna distr., Lithuania  
Tel.: +370 310 44686; Fax: +370 310 44428  
[cepkeliai@takas.lt](mailto:cepkeliai@takas.lt)

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### 34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

- Čepkelių pelkės ir jos apylinkių fizinė geografinė charakteristika ir tolimesnės raidos prognozavimas. 1974, *Ataskaita-rankraštis*, Zoologijos ir parazitologijos instituto Geografijos skyrius, Vilnius. 244 p.
- Čepkelių raistas ir jo apylinkės/Geografijos metraštis XV. - 1977 Vilnius, P.5-88 ( in Lithuanian, summary in Russian, English)
- Čepkelių rezervato augalijos bei floros tyrimas ir jų apsaugos biologinių pagrindų nustatymas. 1979 - Vilnius./ *Ataskaita-rankraštis*, Botanikos institutas
- Čepkelių rezervatas ( monography) 1984 – Vilnius, 128 p. ( in Lithuanian, summary in Russian)
- Lietuvos valstybinių rezervatų flora ir fauna. 1997 – Vilnius, 168 p. (in Lithuanian, summary in English)
- Čepkelių valstybinio gamtinio rezervato tvarkymo planas. 2004 Vilnius, 39 p.
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