

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006 version

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th 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 for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B)*. A 3rd 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.

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

19 April 2006

3. Country:

Latvia

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.
Lake Kanieris

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**

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:

There are no significant ecological changes that have taken place in the Lake Kanieris in previous ten years.

In 1995 the Ramsar site area was 1200 ha, in 2001 the area of the site has been extended to include unique Slocene River delta swamps and surrounding wet forests. Now the border has been drawn and the site area has been calculated more accurately. The border has been drawn logically taking into account borders of natural habitats (this is the reason of the small change in the Northwest).

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 whole territory of Ramsar site is in the territory of Kemeru National Park including 320 ha of Strict Nature Reserve zone, 1653 ha of Nature Protection zone and 32 ha of Landscape Protection zone (zoning according to Kemeru National Park law amended in 2001).

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.

23⁰ 26'E; 57⁰ 00' N

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.

To the North - East Site borders with three fisherman villages – Lapmezciems, Ragaciems and Bigaunciems (municipality of Lapmezciems, district of Tukums; population of the villages are 1306, 596 and 306 inhabitants, respectively). There is small village Antinciems (27 inh.) on the South West coast of the lake. Another village

Caukciems (municipality of Smarde, district of Tukums, 7 inh.) is located to the West of the Ramsar Site. The nearest town is a Jurmala City (district Kemeru; 1814 inh.) being located 4 km to the South East from the Kanieris Ramsar site.

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

2.3 – 3.6 m above sea level

11. Area: (in hectares)

1995 ha

12. General overview of the site:

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

Shallow lagoon lake partly covered by reed and other aquatic plants. Territory includes also the delta of the river Slocene with several islands, flood plain forests and reed beds.

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: Kanieris site represents typical shallow lagoon lake habitat with wide reed beds, emergent vegetation and surrounding swamps and flood plain forests. Some parts of the lake and surrounding calcareous bogs are unique habitat for Latvia with dolomite ground coming to the very surface of earth.

Criterion 2: Kanieris wetland supports internationally and locally endangered and vulnerable both plant and animal species and plant communities.

Plant communities included in the Annex I of the European Habitat directive:

3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.

7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs

7210* Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*

7230 Alkaline fens

Species included in other Annexes of the European Habitat directive:

- *Liparis loeselii* (L.) (Annex II) in calcareous swamps around the lake.

Species included in Annexes of the European Habitat Directive

a) Mammals:

- Otter *Lutra lutra* (Annex II) about 5 specimens;
- Beaver *Castor fiber* (Annex V – exception for Latvia) more than 30 specimens;
- Pond Bat *Myotis dasycneme* (Annex II) site provides important feeding area for this species.

Lake is an important feeding site for other bat species, as well: Northern Bat *Eptesicus nilssonii*, Nathusius Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*, Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*, Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula* (all species included in Annex IV).

b) Fish and amphibians

- *Misgurnus fossilis* (Annex II) - in a small area in delta of the river Slocene;
- *Rana lessonae* (Annex IV) - abundant;
- *Rana temporaria* (Annex V) - mainly in coastal fens, abundant;
- *Rana esculenta* (Annex V) - quite abundant;
- *Rana ridibunda* (Annex V) - rare.

The site supports the following bird species which are listed in Annex I of the Bird Directive:

Black-throated Diver, *Gavia arctica*; Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*; Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutas*; Black stork, *Ciconia nigra*; White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*; Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus bewickii*; Whooper Swan, *Cygnus Cygnus*; Smew, *Mergus albellus*; White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*; Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*; Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*; Spotted Crake, *Porzana porzana*; Little Crake, *Porzana parva*; Crane, *Grus grus*; Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*; Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*; Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*;

Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*; Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*; Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*.

Criterion 3: Kanieris wetland supports different plant and animal (especially bird) species and plant communities important for maintaining biological diversity of the biogeographic region (chapters 18 and 19).

Criterion 4: Kanieris site supports:

- 1) Different endangered plant (orchid etc.) species in their flowering period where they are most endangered;
- 2) It is important as a nesting or feeding site for many water birds (grebes, bitterns and herons, ducks, swans, rails and crakes, terns, gulls etc., also for raptors as Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and for many Passerines such as reed warblers (*Acrocephalus*, *Locustella*), Bearded tits *Panurus biarmicus* etc.);
- 3) It is important as a resting and/or feeding place for migratory birds (especially cranes (*Grus grus*) and geese, also ducks (Goldeneyes *Bucephala clangula*, Wigeons *Anas penelope* etc.));

4) It is important as a feeding site for White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* both in breeding and wintering periods.

Criterion 8:

Fish and amphibians

- *Misgurnus fossilis* (Annex II) - in a small area in delta of the river Slocene;
- *Rana lessonae* (Annex IV) - abundant;
- *Rana temporaria* (Annex V) - mainly in coastal fens, abundant;
- *Rana esculenta* (Annex V) - quite abundant;
- *Rana ridibunda* (Annex V) - rare.

Note:

Criterion 5: The Criterion 5 can not be applied reliably now after the decline of Black-headed gull's population in late 90-s (see also note about Criterion 6). We are sure about 10 000 breeding birds listed below today. Until now we have not detailed information about migrating species (ducks, geese, swans, waders and gulls). Number of migratory waterfowl resting and feeding in the lake may well exceed another 10 000 every year but systematic surveys are needed to prove it. Kemer National Park is planning to start such surveys in 2006. (V. Vintulis, Kemer NP)

Criterion 6: (supporting of 1% of species population) formerly proposed for this site cannot now be applied because of the sharp decline of Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) population during last years.

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 is belonging 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):

Area is belonging to the Boreo-nemoral vegetation zone (*Udvardy, 1975.*). The original boreo-nemoral vegetation comprises a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees, although conifers have probably always predominated. This zone is wide in Baltic states and together with Sweden and western Russia contains a comparatively large proportion of Europe's boreo-nemoral regions.

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

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.

The site includes natural shallow lagoon lake, strongly changed by humans during the last century. In the beginning of 20th century lake was partly drained, previous water level was re-established in 1965. Average depth of the lake is 0.6 m, maximum - 1.8 m. Lake

has hard dolomite bottom on eastern coast and sandy - muddy bottom in other parts of the lake. Two rivers: Slocene and Medupite run into the lake. An artificial channel connects the lake with Riga Sea Gulf. Lake can be classified as macrophyte (Phragmites – Chara) lake with clean water, rich in nutrients.

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.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The lake Kanieris is partly surrounded by dams and channels. At present water level of the lake is maintained by floodgate on the river Starpinupite. The main attention to avoid water level fluctuations is paid in springs when constant water level is needed both for breeding birds and migratory fish (perch etc.) coming from the Riga Sea Gulf.

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 • Q • 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.

O – L – M – Ts – Tp – U – W – Xf – 9

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.

Different aquatic plants or flood plain forests cover about 70 - 80 % of the territory of the lake; about 20 % is open water. Plant covers of the lake are:

- 1) morass with a mosaic of different islands, where main plant communities are
 - *Phragmitetum* (the most widespread one)
 - *Typhetum angustifoliae* and *Cladietum marisci*
- 2) Floating vegetation (1 – 5 – 50 – 100m wide belts along the coastline of the lake and growths in the central parts of the lake to 1.5m depth):
 - *Phragmitetum* (N, E and SE coasts of the lake; in the central part)
 - *Typhetum angustifoliae* (on the coastline and in central parts, patches)
 - *Cladietum marisci* (in the bays of the eastern coast of the lake)
- 3) Submerged vegetation (main part of the free surface of the lake)

- *Charion aperae* (shallow parts of the lake on sandy and muddy bottom 0.2 – 1.0 m deep)
 - *Najadetum marinae* (widespread, usually on sandy ground 0.7 – 1.2 m deep but also on muddy sand bottom in shallow bays 0.2 – 0.5 m deep)
 - *Potamogetonietum pectinati* (in small areas or wider belts on sandy or muddy sand bottom 0.7 – 1.5 m deep)
 - *Ceratophylletum demersi* and association of *Ceratophyllum submersum* (very characteristic for the small shallow (0.2 – 0.5 m) muddy inlets between morass and patches of floating vegetation, especially on S, W and NW coasts)
 - *Zannichelietum palustri* (rare, in the shallow water (0.2 – 0.5 m) of the NE coast on muddy sand bottom)
- 4) Others (surroundings of the lake etc.):
- Coastal meadows (SE part, small territory);
 - Calcareous fens – on the coasts of the lake;
 - Islands (7 artificial, made for breeding ducks and 5 natural, covered by forests (3) or meadow vegetation);
 - Flood plain forests – mainly alder thickets in the delta of the river Slocene;
 - Other “wet” forest types;
 - Others (dikes, bushes, overgrowing meadows and others in small areas).

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.*

Species, rare, endangered, important from the aspect of biological diversity:

a) In the lake:

- *Cladium mariscus* very healthy growths;
- *Najas marina* (one of the few freshwater lakes in Latvia supporting this species);
- *Ceratophyllum submersum*;
- *Zannichellia palustris*.

b) In surrounding swamps:

- *Schoenus ferrugineus* healthy growths, typical examples;
- *Dactylorhiza incarnata*;
- *Dactylorhiza cruenta*;
- *Dactylorhiza ochroleuca*;
- *Primula farinosa* as well as on the islands of the lake;
- *Pinguicula vulgaris*;
- *Carex buxbaumii*;
- *Myrica gale*.

All of these species but *Ceratophyllum submersum* are included into the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers “On the List of Specially Protected Species and Species with Exploitation Limits” (No 396/ 14.11.2000) and protected by law.

Rare for Latvia are *Lemna gibba* and *Juncus balticus*, too.

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.*

Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Occasionally few specimens
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	10 – 15 breeding pairs (1999)
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	0 – 2 breeding pairs (irregularly)
Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Feeding
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Feeding
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus bewickii</i>	During migration, 0 – 100
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	During migration, 50 – 500
Smew	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	During migration, 10 – 50
White-tailed Eagle pair	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2 – 3 specimens regularly feeding; 1 breeding in the surroundings of the lake
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	~ 20 breeding pairs
Osprey pair	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 breeding pair plus one additional feeding
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	0-5 breeding pairs (1999)
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>	20 – 25 breeding pairs (1999)
Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	During migration hundreds – thousands; several breeding pairs
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	0 – 5 breeding pairs
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	During migration 10 – 100
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Occasionally on passage (0 – 5)
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	On passage 10 – 50
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	On passage
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	40 - 50 breeding pairs (1999)
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	On passage
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	20 – 30 breeding pairs (1999)

Other noteworthy species (rare, important for maintaining local biological diversity or numerous in certain periods):

Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	70 – 100 breeding pairs (1999)
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps griseigena</i>	10 – 20 breeding pairs
White-fronted Geese	<i>Anser albifrons</i> }	> 4000 during migration
Bean Geese	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	50 breeding pairs + 200 non- breeding in summer; hundreds or thousands during migration
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	150 - 200 breeding pairs (1999)
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	20 - 30 breeding pairs (1999)
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	~10 breeding pairs (1999)
Shoveler	<i>Anas chrypeata</i>	1 –5 breeding pairs (1999)
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	100 - 150 breeding pairs (1999)
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	50 - 100 breeding pairs (1999)
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<1000 on passage
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	>700 breeding pairs (1999)
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	250 - 300 breeding pairs (1999)
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	~300 breeding pairs

Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	0 - 5 breeding pairs
Reed warblers	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> , <i>A. arundinaceus</i> , <i>A. schoenobaenus</i> , <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	
Bearded tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	70 – 140 breeding pairs (1999)
Penduline tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	5 - 10 breeding pairs (1999)

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:

The fish productivity of the lake is high. The most abundant fish species in the lake are roach, tench and perch. Crucian carps, pikes and breams also are quite abundant. Sports' fishermen concentrate mainly on pikes.

All forests of Kanieris Ramsar site area are included in the nature protection zone of Kemer National Park on July 2001. Habitat management is the only forestry activity permitted there.

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:
- 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:

90% of the territory is owned by state and governed by administration of the Kemer National Park. About 10 % are private lands or lands belonging to Lapmezciems municipality (meadows and wet forests in Caukciems on the W border of the site and on the SE coast of the lake).

b) in the surrounding area:

To the NE the site borders with Lapmezciems and Ragaciems villages (private or municipality land). There are several private lands also to the E and SE of the lake Kanieris. Site borders with state lands of Kemer National Park to the NW, W and SW. To the N there are some private

25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) Site. Lake Kanieris is mainly used for:

- Fishing, particularly sports fishing;
- Waterfowl hunting (in autumn, 4 hours on Saturdays);
- Recreation and tourism.

On private lands there are few bungalows or farms and gardens. Hay is gathered in some meadows.

(b) Surroundings/catchment.

- There are no intensive use or tourism on the nearby National Park's lands;
- Village housing covers most of lands owned by Lapmezciems municipality (N, NW and NE of the Ramsar Site). In some areas abandoned agricultural lands are used for building of private houses;
- Private lands are used for gardens, houses, and bungalows as well as for agriculture. There are some private forests, as well.

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:

1. Past:

- Changes in water level (human caused);
- Changes in hydrological system of lake Kanieris – lake Dunieris – river Vecslocene (drainage, blocking of natural stream Vecslocene, making a new straight channel to the sea);
- Eutrophication of the lake;
- Building.

2. Present:

- Pollution with biogenes (mainly phosphorus) increases eutrophication;
- Island and coast overgrowing with bushes and trees;
- Presence of American Mink;
- Disturbance (mainly due to fisherman and other boats after breeding season and hunting).

3. Future:

- Eutrophication;
- Building in the nearby territories;
- Building of a new highway close to the northern border of the Site;
- Disturbance due to fishing and hunting.

b) in the surrounding area:

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.

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?:

The lake Kanieris has Nature Protection (Management) Plan elaborated by Latvian Fund for Nature in 1999 (implemented).

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The whole territory of Ramsar site is in the territory of Kemeru National Park including 320 ha of Strict Nature Reserve zone, 1653 ha of Nature Protection zone and 32 ha of Landscape Protection zone (zoning according to Kemeru National Park law amended in 2001).

Zoning for the management and use of the lake had been elaborated in winter 2000/2001 through discussions with all the stakeholders. It defined new borders of strictly protected areas of the wetland and separated them from areas for fishing and hunting that were in conflict before. According to this zoning wide parts of the lake were closed for fishermen not only during breeding season of waterfowl but also during autumn migration when the lake becomes particularly important as a resting site for migratory birds. However the real situation in the years 2002 and 2003 proved that this zoning had several major drawbacks such as disturbance of migratory waterfowl in the best areas of the lake due to hunting, fishermen activities near bird nesting areas in both the "open" and "closed" areas etc.

A new zoning had been elaborated by Kemeru National Park, which intend to ban waterfowl hunting in the lake, but the government did not approve the amendments in the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

A new zoning had been elaborated by Kemeru National Park, which intend to ban waterfowl hunting in the lake, but the government did not approve the amendments in the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

1. Complex monitoring of the Ramsar sites of Latvia, included in the National Monitoring Programme of Biological Diversity (carried out by different scientific organizations)

2. Comparative studies of duck breeding success on two Latvian Ramsar sites: lakes Engure and Kanieris (carried out by Laboratory of Ornithology, Institute of Biology);
3. Monitoring of habitats and rare plant species included in Annexes of the EU Habitat directive (carried out by Latvian Fund for Nature, Kemeru national Park; partly included into National Monitoring Programme);
4. Monitoring of the management activities of the LIFE project “Conservation of Wetlands in Kemeru National Park” (carried out by Kemeru National Park).

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.

- Information booklet of the Kemeru National Park;
- Information booklet about Kanieris Hillfort (including also some biological information about the lake);
- Information booklet about the cultural history of the Kemeru National Park (Ramsar site mentioned);
- Information Stand at Kanieris boat station;
- Information stands along Kanieris Hillfort tourist track
- Planned to make within 1 – 2 years:
- Information centre for visitors;
- Bird watching towers (2 -3);
- Information stands at the bird watching towers.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

- Sports fishing and boating from the Kanieris boat station (30 boats).
- Lake Kanieris is a final part of a guided boat tour organised by Kemeru National park along the river Slocene. It is organised not more often than once a week (max. 18 persons or 6 boats per one tour).
- Bird watching is still not developed because of the lack of infrastructure. About 50 – 100 foreign and local birdwatchers visit the site per year.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

The land of the site is owned by the state. Administration of the Kemeru National park that is supervised by Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia manages the site.

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.

Kemeru National Park
“Meza maja”, Kemeru-Jurmala
LV-2012, Latvia
nacionalparks@kemeru.gov.lv

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Breeding Bird Atlas of the Kemeru National Park. Project Report, compiled by M. Strazds, Latvian Ornithological Society, Riga, 2000

Management Plan for the Kemeru National Park. Carl Bro International a/s, Kemeru, 2002

Nature Protection Plan for the Lake Kanieris, Latvian Fund for Nature, Riga, 1999
Racinskis E., Stipniece A. Internationally Important Bird Areas in Latvia, Latvian Ornithological Society, Riga, 2000

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