

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7. of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland-July 1990

1. Country: LATVIA

2. Date: November, 1995

3. Ref:

3LV003

4. Name of wetland: Teiči and Pelečāres bogs

## 5. Ramsar Criteria

1a - the site is particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland (large undisturbed raised bog), characteristic for the appropriate biogeographic region,

1c - the bog is particularly good example of a wetland playing substantial hydrological, biological and ecological role in the natural functioning of large surrounding area,

2a - the bog supports remarkable assemblage of rare, vulnerable and endangered bird and plant species,

2b - the site is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity a region because of the quality and peculiarities of its flora and fauna,

2c - the area is of special value as the breeding habitat for numerous threatened bird species

3b 3d - the area regularly supports substantial numbers or high densities of waders, waterfowl and other bird groups at breeding and migrations.

6. Wetland type: Freshwater palustrine emergent peatland consisting of 60% ombrogenous mire, 10% peat swamp forest, 19% bog lakes, 5% fens

7. Date of Ramsar designation: 5th April, 1995

25/07/95

8. Geographical coordinates: 56°44'-31' N, 26°18'-38' E

9. Altitude: 97m - 107m above sea level

10. Area: 24, 000 ha.

11. General location: Madona and Jekabpils region, 20 km from Madona town.

12. Overview: Two very large bogs. Teici Bog is the largest unchanged raised peat bog in the Baltic states, surrounded by wet-forest belt. Teici Bog is strictly protected State Nature Reserve, Pelecares bog: Restricted Nature Area. The site has high ornithological, botanical and landscape value.

13. Physical features: Base of the bogs has formed 10,000 years ago during deglaciation phase of the latest ice age, peat forming started 8,000 years ago. Under the peat layer (mean depth 3,5 m; deepest place 9m) mostly sand and gravel and lacustrine clay. Today all 19 larger bog lakes cover more than 400 hectares. The bog is situated in elevation between the rivers Daugava and Aiviekste. Direction of all

water flows therefore is out of the bog. Climate: continental if compared to other parts of Latvia. Mean temperatures: -6,5°C January; +17°C July; annual precipitation 720 mm.

**14. Ecological features:**

Main habitats are: 1) raised peat bog, 2) fen and transitional bog, 3) bog lakes, 4) wet forests, 5) mineral islands with forest or meadows. The area is surrounded by extensive agricultural landscape.

**15. Land tenure/ ownership of:**

(a) site : 19047 ha of the State Nature Reserve is State property.

(b) surrounding area : external protective zone of the reserve: private farms/woods ca 50%, land of local authorities 20%, state forest about 20%.

**16. Conservation measures taken:** The reserve corresponds to the 1st category of IUCN classification of protected areas, it has an external protective zone with buffer function (20,000 ha). First management plan for the reserve and external protective zone has been prepared in 1995. Implementation: plan is approved for 5 years, starting in 1995.

**17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** Regulations for activities in the external protective zone. Implementation of the management plan is just started.

**18. Current land use: principal human activities in:**

(a) site: regulated berry picking, small scale regulation of water level, gathering fire wood, scientific research and other visits,

(b) surroundings/catchment: extensive farming (cattle, grain, tilled crops), forestry, use of non-wood resources.

**19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:**

(a) site: drainage of surrounding fields, fire danger, attempts to use reserve's nature resources (mostly berries), visiting load, conflicts with local inhabitants;

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: intensification of agriculture (drainage, chemicals), intensification of forestry (clear-cuts, monocultures).

**20. Hydrological and physical values:** all the characteristic for natural bog: groundwater filtration, regulation of climate, providing a hydrological stability.

**21. Social and cultural values:** The Reserve: social value of a large natural area, unchanged landscape. As all bogs, contains historical information. External protective zone - traditional land-use, use of non-wood products.

**22. Noteworthy fauna:** rare and threatened bird species at breeding:

Aquila chrysaetos (1 pair), Aquila pomarina (10 pairs), Asio flammeus, Ciconia nigra (>3 pairs), Circaetus gallicus (2 pairs), Circus pygargus, Gavia arctica (2-5 pairs),

*Grus grus* (20-25 p), *Lagopus lagopus* (several pairs), *Limosa limosa* (14 p), *Numenius arquata* (20-25 p), *Numenius phaeopus* (50 p), *Pandion haliaetus*, *Philomachus pugnax* (80-95 p), *Pluvialis apricaria* (70-90 p), *Strix uralensis*, *Tetrao tetrix* (550 males), *Tetrao urogallus* (30 males), *Falco columbarius* (3-5 p), *Falco tinnunculus*, *Chlidonias leucopterus* (<10p), *Chlidonias niger*, *Anser anser*, *Podiceps auritus*, *Circus cyaneus* (?), *Dendrocopos leucotos*, *Bubo bubo*, *Tringa glareola*, *Aegolius funereus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Falco peregrinus* (last breeding in Latvia 1974.).  
Feeding and resting place for migratory Common Crane (1,200 inds) and geese more than 8,000 during migration.

There is a territory of *Ursus arctos* in the area.

**23. Noteworthy flora:** Rare and threatened plant species: *Anemone sylvestris*, *Betula nana*, *Carex aquatilis*, *C. heleonastes*, *Corallorhiza trifida*, *Dactylorhiza baltica*, *D. fuchsii*, *D. incarnata*, *D. maculata*, *Diphasium complanatum*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Gladiolus imbricatus*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Hammarbya paludosa*, *Liparis loeselii*, *Listera cordata*, *Malaxis monophyllos*, *Nymphaea alba*, *Nymphaea candida*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Salix myrtilloides*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Thesium ebracteatum*, *Utricularia ochroleuca*.

**24. Current scientific research and facilities:** Limited facilities.

Inventarisation/monitoring of ornithofauna, vegetation, hydrobiology.

**25. Current conservation education:** Not sufficient. Irregular excursions, lectures in schools.

**26. Current recreation and tourism:** Almost none. Maximum 300 visitors per year.

**27. Management authority:** Teiči State Reserve, Ļaudona LV-4862, Latvia.

**28. Jurisdiction:** Madona and Jekabpils administrative regions. Teiči State Reserve: administration of the territory is subordinated to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

**29. Bibliographical references:**

Viksne J. 1993. Important Bird Areas in Latvia. ICBP. Cambridge, 25 pp.

Towards Nature Protection Management in the Teichi Area, Latvia. EPCEM & UBM study report. Leiden University, 1994.

**30. Name and address of compiler:**

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**31. Map of site**

See the map attached, scale 1:100,000