

26. Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
August 1997

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country: Russian Federation

3. Name of wetland: Kurgalsky Peninsula

4. Geographical coordinates: 59°41'N, 28°09'E

5. Altitude: c. 20 m (min 0 m, max 43 m)

6. Area: 65,000 ha, incl. 38,400 ha of sea waters, 1,400 ha of inland water bodies and 25,200 ha of terrestrial habitats.

7. Overview: The site incorporates shallow waters of the Gulf of Finland in the Baltic Sea, with a great number of islands, and the Kurgalsky Peninsula covered with mires. The wetland supports large migrating and breeding populations of waterbirds.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A · B · C · D · E · F · G · H · I · J · K

inland: L · M · N · O · P · Q · R · Sp · Ss · Tp · Ts
 U · Va · Vt · W · Xf · Xp · Y · Zg · Zk

man-made: 1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: A,U,O,E,D.

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a 1b · 1c · 1d³ 2a · 2b · 2c · 2d³ 3a · 3b · 3c³ 4a · 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3a

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* ✓ -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form: B.V.Sokolov and A.F.Ignatyev: Regional Environmental Committee (51 B.Morskaya Street, S-Petersburg 190000, Russia).

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page: 3a - the wetland supports large migrating and breeding populations of waterbirds.

13. General location: The Gulf of Finland, the Baltic Sea; Leningrad Region, 125 km west of Saint Petersburg, 45 km northwest of the town of Kingisepp, 20 km north of the town of Ivangorod. To the southwest, the site borders Estonia.

14. Physical features: The site includes coastal shallow waters and the lower terrace of the Gulf of Finland. The terrace is slightly tilted towards the sea and is composed of Palaeozoic clays, overlain by Pleistocene marine sediments. The salinity of water in the Gulf of Finland is not so high as that in the Baltic Sea, and the water is warmed up well in summer. Full freezing is observed from late November to late April. Heavy storms may occur in autumn. Tidal variations in water level are small. On the Kurgalsky Peninsula, there are plenty of small freshwater lakes and mires of various types.

The area has a temperate marine climate, with the mean air temperatures of -5°C in January and $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$ in July. Annual precipitation is about 700 mm, mostly falling during warm months. Snow cover is 40 cm deep and persists for about 120 days.

The soils are predominantly of the soddy, podzolic, peat and gley types.

15. Hydrological values: No information

16. Ecological features: The large portion of the Kurgalsky Peninsula is occupied by pine forests with *Hylocomium*, *Dicranum* and *Rhytidiadelphus* species. Cowberry and bilberry pine forests dominate in the southern part of the peninsula. The other habitats include patches of broad-leaved and mixed spruce-broad-leaved forests, coastal meadows and marshes with alder and oak, sphagnum fens, floodplain and dry meadows and reed beds along the coastline and on some islands.

17. Noteworthy flora: The flora of the peninsula is represented by 743 species of vascular plants from 108 families. Of these, 96 species are listed in the Red Data Book of the Baltic Region (1993) and two species are included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Birds

201 bird species have been registered in the area, including 100 breeding species.

The site lies on a major migration route. Large flocks of migrating whooper swans *Cygnus cygnus* (50-60 birds) and Bewick's swans *C. columbianus bewickii* occur in the northern portion of the peninsula and on the islands. *C. cygnus* also breed on the islands in the Gulf of Finland. Migrating geese include bean goose *Anser fabalis*, lesser white-fronted goose *A. erythropus*, white-fronted goose *A. albifrons*, brent goose *Branta bernicla* and barnacle goose *B. leucopsis*. Greylag goose *Anser anser* is a common species during the migration periods, and a small breeding population has been recorded on Reimosar Island. Breeding waterbirds also include shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, common teal *A. crecca*, common eider *Somateria mollissima*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* and goosander *Mergus merganser*. Gadwall *Anas strepera* is noted regularly. Ten species of shore birds and nine species of gulls and terns have been registered in the breeding and migration periods. In the last years, breeding great cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* have been recorded.

85 bird species, that occur in the area, are listed in the Red Data Book of the Baltic Region and seven species are included in the Russian Red Data Book. These are black stork *Ciconia nigra*, Bewick's swans *C. columbianus bewickii*, lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*, barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, osprey *Pandion haliaetus* and peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*.

Other fauna

Nine species of amphibians and reptiles have been registered, including three species listed in the Red Data Book of the Baltic Region (*Pelobates fuscus*, *Anguis fragilis* and *Lacerta agilis*).

The mammal fauna is represented by 38 species, including flying squirrel *Pteromys volans*, European beaver *Castor fiber*, brown bear *Ursus arctos*, European mink *Mustela lutreola*, Eurasian badger *Meles meles*, European otter *Lutra lutra*, etc. Of these, seven species are listed as threatened in Leningrad Region, three species are included in the Red Data Book of the Baltic Region and two species (grey seal *Halichoerus grypus* and ringed seal *Phoca hispida*) are listed in the Russian Red Data Book. Large groups of seals (up to 300 individuals) have been recorded on the islands within the site.

19. Social and cultural values: The area is important for fish production.

20. Land tenure/ownership: There are three types of land ownership at the site: state (90%), communal and private.

21. Current land use: The most of the local population are engaged in the fishery and sea-food industry. Agricultural lands cover less than 10% of the area and are located along the southern border of the site.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: No information

23. Conservation measures taken: The area is protected as a temporary nature reserve ('zakaznik'), which has been established at the local level.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: It has been proposed to establish the protected areas network of 'Eastern Gulf of Finland' in the region. According to this project, the site will be included in the strictly protected core zone.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: No information

26. Current conservation education: No information

27. Current recreation and tourism: No information

28. Jurisdiction:

Territorial: Government of Leningrad Region (67 Suvorovsky Prospect, Saint Petersburg 193311, Russia).

Functional: State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection (4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya Street, Moscow 123812, Russia).

29. Management authority: Ministry of Environment, Government of Leningrad Region (67 Suvorovsky Pr., Saint Petersburg 193311, Russia).

30. Bibliographical references: Red Data Book of the Baltic Region (1993)
