

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:** 5 July 1998
2. **Country:** Ukraine
3. **Name of wetland:** *Prypiat River Floodplains*
4. **Geographical coordinates:** 51°48'N 25°15'E
5. **Altitude** (average and/or max. & min.) 139-154 m, av. 144 m
6. **Area:** (in hectares) 12, 000 ha, incl. 2, 200 ha of water, 8, 800 ha of marshes (mires), 1, 000 ha of meadows
7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Wetland site 'Prypiat River Floodplains' is situated within the Central part of Europe on north-west of Ukraine (Polissia Region) and comprises rivers, lakes, marshes (mires), peatlands, river's islands, meadows. This site is very important for swamp fauna and flora protection, but for breeding and migrating waterfowl, waders and other around-water birds especially.

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: M, U, Tp

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

1a • 1b • 1c • 1d | 2a • 2b • 2c • 2d | 3a • 3b • 3c | 4a • 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1c, 1a, 2a, 3a, 2b

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

On the page together with Ramsar wetland site 'Stokhid River Floodplains'

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page,** (please refer to Annex 11 in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

1a: The fauna and flora composition is typical for Polissia biosphere region (wetlands and meadows ecosystems).

1c: The Prypiat River with its floodplains is one of the largest wetland complexes of Polissia biosphere region, which is situated on border Ukraine with Belarus. It is foreseen to establish interstate Prypiat River Reserve.

2a: Here the sites of rare species of fauna and flora as well as rare plant formations are situated.

2b: It is presented by the largest natural ecosystems in Polissia Region and by rich biodiversity (more than 220 vertebrate species and 550 vascular plants).

3a: Near 150 thousand birds (mainly waterfowl) are recorded during their migrations each year. The Prypiat-Stokhid River Region is situated on the cross-roads of two main flyways: Polissia and Baltic-Mediterranean.

4b: It is important site for feeding, nursery and wintering of local fresh water complex of fishes (*Exos lucius*, *Rutilus rutilus*, *Tinca tinca*, *Carassius carassius*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Lota lota*, *Abramis brama*, *Leuciscus idus*, *Misgurnus fossilis*, *Silurus glanis*, etc.).

13. **General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Prypiat River Floodplains is situated on the territory of Liubeshivskiyi and Ratnivskiyi administrative districts (rayony) in Volynska Oblast (administrative region of Ukraine), average 145 km north from Lutsk, near the border with Belarus, in border with Ramsar wetland site 'Stokhid River Floodplains'.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area* climate)

Prypiat River Floodplains is situated within the Upper-Prypiat physical-geographical region on Western Polissia. This wetland area comprises rivers, branches of river, swampy and sandy islands, marshes (mires), peatlands and meadows. The territory of site lies in the Upper-Prypiat accumulative plane with floodplains of Holocene age. The area is into catchment areas of the Dnipro River. Water is clean, although yellow tint.

The territory is situated in the Western part of Atlantic continental region. Moderate wet and warm summer, and mild winter with ice-cover lasting on water bodies from some weeks to three months are most characteristic as well as considerable precipitation (about 600 mm per year).

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)

Wetland site 'Prypiat River Floodplains' with dozens of branches of rivers, many swampy and sandy islands, marshes (mires) is one of the best river complexes of Ukraine.

There are changes of hydrological balance and water-level of river since 1974 after beginning exploitation of Upper-Prypiat, Vetly, Girky, Zalukhiv, Rychytsa, Shchedrogir, Pidkormillia drainage systems and beginning of construction of dikes. Only cessation of construction of all dikes and other hydrotechnical and drainage objects will secure stabilisation of hydrological balance and water-level of river.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The vegetation at the site is typical for the forest zone (Western Polissia) in general, although it has some specific features, that binded with presence there considerable filling of the territory with water. The marshes (mires) and riversides consist predominantly of reed-beds with sedges.

On meadows and some parts of riversides and lake-sides different grasses grow. There are lonely sandy dunes also in the place of eolian accumulation, where poor vegetation grow.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

The dominant of riversides and some part of marshes (mires) is reed-beds *Phragmites communis*, also grow associations of sedges and different grasses there. Among rare plants of the site occur *Lycopodium annotinum*, *Huperzia selago*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Epipactis helleborine*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Carex umdrosa*.

There are about 800 species of flora (higher plants) on this site.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

There are 219 species of vertebrates, among them 19 - fishes, 9 - amphibians, 5 - reptiles, 160 - birds, 26 - mammals including Ukrainian and European rare species (all species are in the Red Data Book of Ukraine): *Bufo calamita*, *Neomys anomalus*, *Mustela erminea*, *M. lutreola*, *Meles meles*, *Lutra lutra* and species of birds as Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, White-tailed See Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Shorttoed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Common crane *Grus grus*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, Northern Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* and Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* and also Papilio *Machaon* among invertebrates.

Breeding species at this territory include Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (60-90 pairs), Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (100-150 pairs), Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (15-17 pairs), Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (50-80 pairs), Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (10-15 pairs), Graylag Goos *Anser anser* (3-5 pairs), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (150-200 pairs), Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (80-150 pairs), Garganey *Anas querquedula* (250-350 pairs), Pochard *Aythya ferina* (80-100 pairs), Coot *Fulica atra* (800-1000 pairs), Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (3-5 pairs), Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (350-500 pairs), Redshenk *Tringa totanus* (250-400 pairs), Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (150-250 pairs), Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (10-15 pairs), White-winged and Black Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera* (450-700 pairs), *Chlidonias nigra* (300-600), Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (30-50 pairs).

The numbers of waterbirds, waders, waterfowl is estimated of 8000-12000 pairs.

120000-150000 birds during migration and moulting seasons come. The most numerous are such bird species as Geese *Anser spp.* (more then 10000-20000 birds), *Anas spp.* (15000-20000), *Aythyae* (8000-10000), Coot (8000-10000), *Porzana porzana* (500-1000) and *Porzana parva* (300-500), Common Crane *Grus grus* (600-1000), Terns *spp.* (5000-8000), Black-headed Gull (3000-5000), Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (1000-2500), Redshenk *Tringa totanus* (1000-1500), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (5000-7000), Sandpiper *Calidris spp.* (1000-1500), *Limosa limosa* (1000-1500), Swallows *spp.* (10000-15000) and some others.

19. Social and Cultural Values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Sport and small commercial fishing and hunting are practiced.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: State, collective and private ownership

(b) surrounding area: State, collective and private ownership

21. Current land use:

(a) site: There is no any activity on protected area of the Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' and exploitation of natural resources (hunting, fishing, grazing of cattle, haymaking, recreation etc.) outside protected area, including other areas of the Park, and there is limited and controlled.

(b) surroundings / catchment: the same and traditional farming.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including change in land use and development projects:

(a) at the site: There are changes of hydrological balance and water level of river since 1974 with exploitation of Upper-Prypiat, Vetly, Girky, Zalukhiv, Richytsa, Shchedrogir and Pidkormillia drainage systems and construction of dikes. The influence of draining the site have been caused the decrease of numbers of waterfowls and waders, especially during last 20-30 years.

(b) around the site: There is analogous human influence and also intensification of agricultural production, wood use etc.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Protected areas occupy about 80% of this wetland site. There are the Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' - 44958 ha (partly), Hydrological Game Reserves (Zakazniks): 'Prypiat-1', 'Prypiat-2', 'Prypiat-3' (960 ha), 'Girky' - 400 ha, 'Vetly' - 600 ha, 'Birky' - 850 ha, 'Velyka Glusha' - 360 ha, 'Zalukhiv' - 839 ha (partly), 'Shchedrohvir' - 700 ha, 'Richytsya' - 1047 ha. All protected areas still have local importance.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Project "Creation of Interstate Protected Areas in Upper Prypiat Basin" as co-operation of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs of the Environmental Ministry and the EECONET Action Fund is prepared. To improve wetland conservation it is necessary to establish the administration of the Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid' with scientific division and guarding (according to the Law of Ukraine 'On Natural Reserve Fund') by local authority. There is the proposal to create Prypiat-Stokhid National Nature Park with area more than 60000 ha. Ukraine has proposed for Belarus to create interstate protected area in this region.

25. Current Scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Scientific-ecological organization 'Bird World' as initiator of the creation of this wetland provides research since 1992. There are some research on waders, waterfowl, other birds in this area. Bird World, Western Department of the Ukrainian Ornithological Society, Ukrainian Society of Bird Protection (partner of the Bird Life International) keep substantial information on breeding birds in their database, partly on migrant and wintering birds data.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Information booklet - The Regional Landscape Park 'Prypiat-Stokhid'.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

There is some recreation activities at the site.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture / Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: local Soviets of the Deputies.

Functional jurisdiction: regional administrative authorities of different sectors: State Committee of Forestry (forest use and hunting), Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Fishery (fishing), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Land and Resources Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) on the last area and local authorities are executive bodies for environmental protection. State Department of Ecological Safety in Volynska Oblast (Director Rostyslav V. Migas. Address: 20 Suvorov Str., 263000 Lutsk, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: 380 3322 253-21. E-mail: <eco04@eco04.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) carries out state control for protection on the whole territory.

In the future the Administration of the Regional Landscape Park (which is organized in Liubeshiv Town of Volynska Oblast) will be responsible organization for nature conservation of wetland site too.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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Khymyn, M.V. (head ed.) (1993). Troglodytes (Annual Ornithofaunistic Report). The catalogue of the ornithofauna of the western region of Ukraine. Ornithological Observations for 1991-1992. Lutsk. 69 pp. (+English summary).

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Khymyn, M.V., Gorban, I.R. (ed.) (1991). The catalogue of the ornithofauna of the western regions of Ukraine. Ornithological Observations for 1989-1990. Lutsk. 156 pp. (+English summary).

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