



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

6 Ramsar Site(s) covering 192,257 ha

### Lake Engure

Site number: 738 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: The area is located in Engure, Talsi, Tukums and Roja Municipalities

Area: 19,762 ha | Coordinates: N/A | Designation dates: 25-07-1995

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a permanent shallow coastal freshwater lake with fens, pines, and mixed forests (which are often wet) and brackish marshes. The most notable bird species are the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). 1.3% of the global population of the common crane (*Grus grus*) is found in the Site. 48 bird species nesting at Lake Engure are considered threatened in Europe, including ducks, gulls and grebes. Consequently, at the end of the breeding season, the Lake supports at least 25,000 waterbirds. Nature observation and nature-based tourism, monitoring and long-term scientific studies are some of the activities taking place within the Site. A management plan is in place for the 2011-2025 period.

### Lake Kanieris and Kemeris bog

Site number: 739 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: The area is located in Engure, Tukums, Babite, Jelgava, Jurmala Municipalities.

Area: 36,180 ha | Coordinates: 56°55'33"N 23°27'14"E | Designation dates: 25-07-1995

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This Site on the Gulf of Riga, which is also a National Park, is made up of forests, mires, diverse water bodies, farmland and shrubland, as well as human settlements. The Site covers not only Lake Kanieris, a shallow lagoon, and three active raised bogs, but also the Slocene River delta swamps with several islands, large reed beds and surrounding floodplain forests to the west of the lake. Besides the floating vegetation of the lake, there is a broad mosaic of large reed beds as well as various habitats in the surrounding meadows, fens and floodplain forests. The Site supports several rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plants, such as the orchid *Liparis loeselii*, and provides feeding and nesting habitats, especially for birds. It is used for science, tourism and activities such as birdwatching, fishing, and hiking. Potential threats include invasive alien species, as well as problematic native species and household sewage and urban wastewater.

## Northern Bogs

Site number: 1385 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Limbazi, Valmiera

Area: 7,718 ha | Coordinates: N/A | Designation dates: 27-03-2003

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The Site is a representative example of a natural raised bog complex, characteristic of the boreal biogeographical region. The Northern Bogs include four large raised bogs: Kodu-Kapzemes mire, Ollu mire, Limsanu mire and Pirtsmeza mire. The Site also comprises hummocks and hollow complexes with labyrinths of bog pools. The forests around the bogs are of various types, with mixed forests dominating. The wetland plays a significant role in regulating the local microclimate as well as recharging groundwater and supports a variety of life forms. Furthermore, the Northern Bogs are of cultural value; they served as historical winter roads, as well as a refuge during the Second World War. They are now used for recreation, tourism and research. Parts of the Kodu-Kapzemes and Ollu mires are located within the territory of Estonia and are included in the Sookuninga Ramsar Site ([Site no.1748](#)).

## Teici and Pelecare bogs

Site number: 740 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: The area is located in Madona, Krustpils, Varaklani, Riebini and Livani Municipalities.

Area: 25,469 ha | Coordinates: N/A | Designation dates: 25-07-1995

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Teici and Pelecare are two natural and unmodified raised and transitional bogs, which are connected to each other and enclosed by forests. The Teici bog is one of the largest in the Baltic Region. The Site is important for the maintenance of bog-specific and rare bird species, as well as of characteristic wetland plant species and communities. It is a significant feeding and resting site for migrating waterfowl. The wetland stabilizes the regional climatic features and water discharge in rivers, preventing seasonal floods and decreasing groundwater levels during the dry season. Additionally, the Teici and Pelecare bogs are of high scientific and educational value.

## Pape Wetland Complex

Site number: 1386 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: The area is located in Nicas and Rucavas Municipalities

Area: 51,777 ha | Coordinates: 56°09'59"N 20°55'04"E | Designation dates: 27-03-2003

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Situated on the coast of Latvia next to the southern border with Lithuania, the Lake Pape area concentrates a diversity of ecosystems in a relatively small area, including coastal lagoons, oligo-mesotrophic waters, natural eutrophic lakes, coastal dunes and raised bogs. The area is an internationally significant breeding, migrating and wintering site for birds and includes Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). The narrow strip of land between Lake Pape and the sea is a major "bottleneck" for migratory birds such as the taiga bean goose *Anser fabalis* and supports thousands of bats, notably the pond bat *Myotis dasycneme*. The Site is important for other species considered as vulnerable or endangered within European Union frameworks, such as the Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx*, the Eurasian beaver *Castor fiber*, the Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* and the European river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, and also includes habitats of EU-wide importance. Human activities include recreation and tourism, fishing and reed cutting, and educational activities. Factors adversely affecting the Site include the overgrowing of reeds, eutrophication of the lake, and poorly regulated tourist uses of the area, which place particular pressure on the coastal dune ecosystem.

## Lubana wetland complex

Site number: 1384 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: The area is located in Madona, Viļāni, Varakļāni, Rēzekne, Balvi, Rugāji Gulbene and Lubāna municipalities.

Area: 51,351 ha | Coordinates: 56°49'42"N 26°54'51"E | Designation dates: 27-03-2003

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The Site is the largest wetland in Latvia, featuring a shallow freshwater lake, seven raised and transitional bogs and fens, alluvial grasslands, fishponds and wet forests. In total, 22 protected habitats of European importance are represented. The Site is important for maintaining characteristic wetland plant species and communities and rare bird species including the short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) and marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*). Additionally, it regularly supports around 26,000 waterfowl. The wetland provides important services, such as food, flood control, recreation and scientific research. Lubana wetland complex is also highly important for carbon storage and sequestration. Canalization and river regulation pose a significant threat.