

Project Update: December 2013

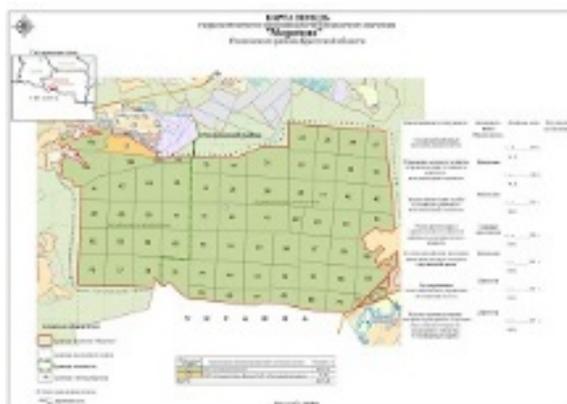
In the second half of 2013, the following was carried out under the project “Development and implementation of conservation plan for the oldest bog in Belarus”:

Works on the justification of the reserve, the description of its boundaries, determination of the area, definition the composition of land, definition of mode protection and land use are fulfilled.

Financial and economic justification of the reserve is given, including the valuation of ecosystem services, forecast financial and economic indicators of peat extraction compared with dividends under different scenarios in the reserve use.

The final report is drawn up and the documents required for the declaration of the National Wetland Reserve "Morochno" developed, such as:

- provision on reserve;
- short scientific, technical, economic, and financial feasibility of its establishment;
- description of the boundaries of the Reserve and a schematic map of the lands (M 1:50 000) with the territories of all land users (Figure 1);
- a schematic map of the reserve with the placement of the most valuable natural complexes and habitats of wild plants and animals belonging to the species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus.



Currently, agreement about the boundaries and usage of the reserve is held. As a result of treaties with the local authorities, the area of the reserve was able to significantly increase (from 4307.0 ha to 6415.9 ha). This will save almost all unique bog (Figure 2).

Besides, during the preparation of all documentation for declaring National Reserve "Morochno" set of preventive and compensatory measures developed and

agreed. In particular:

- building of protecting impervious dams between protected bog sites and peat drainage systems;
- commissioning of peat extraction area only gradually;

- maintenance of environmental monitoring of ecosystems and populations of plants and animals protected species for the Reserve "Morochno" and adjacent areas upon completion of each phase of peat extraction;
- environmental remediation of the site (rewetting) upon completion of each stage of peat extraction;
- determination of the buffer zone up to 100 m along the periphery of the Reserve.

With developed a package of documents, from 17.12 to 20.12 of 2013, group of experts of the project will be in the Stolin district to finalize with the local authorities and peat company earlier agreements (Figure 3).

The screenshot shows the 'Ramsar Sites Information Service' website. The header includes the 'WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL' logo and navigation links for 'Database', 'GIS & Maps', 'Statistics', and 'Tools for Parties'. The main content area is titled 'The Ramsar Sites Database: search for sites' and displays a search result for 13 sites in Belarus. A table lists the following sites:

| WI Site No. | Ramsar No. | Site Name | Country | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
|-------------|------------|--|---------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3BY001 | 1007 | Sporovskiy Biological Reserve (zakaznik) | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY002 | 1090 | Mid-Prpyat State Landscape Zakaznik | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY003 | 1091 | Olmany Mires Zakaznik | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY004 | 1216 | Kotra | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY005 | 1217 | Osvetsk | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY006 | 1218 | Yel'nia | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY007 | 1219 | Zvanets | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY008 | 1611 | Prostye | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY009 | 1927 | Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY010 | 2138 | Duleby Islands-Zoozerye | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY011 | 2139 | Morochno | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY012 | 2140 | Stary Zhaden | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |
| 3BY013 | 2141 | Vigonoshchanskoe | Belarus | Site Overview | Ramsar Information Sheets and Maps | Summary Description | View in Google Earth |