

Project Update: June 2013

I. From 10th to 21st June 2013, expedition to the inventory of biological and landscape diversity of the wetland "Morochno" took place.

During the field research was done:

- borders of the future Reserve agreed with local authorities, land owners and Peat Enterprise;
- 251 relevés are made to create vegetation maps (Figure 1, 2);
- herbarium of vascular plants and mosses collected for inventory of biological diversity;
- 21 habitats of rare species of plants found;
- preliminary studies on the inventory of fauna reserve held;
- three environmental transects and the 14 permanent test plots are made for monitoring the impact of adjacent peat extraction on natural ecosystems reserve (Figure 3-5);
- peat cross-sections are made to study the stratigraphy of the peat bog deposits (Figure 6).

II. Work for the status of the Ramsar site are made.

A wetland Morochno (Figure 7) received the status of Ramsar site under the decision of the The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (code 3BY011)

Information is available at:

<http://news.belta.by/en/news/society?id=713027>

<http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database/AbouttheRamsarSitesDatabase/tabid/812/Default.aspx>

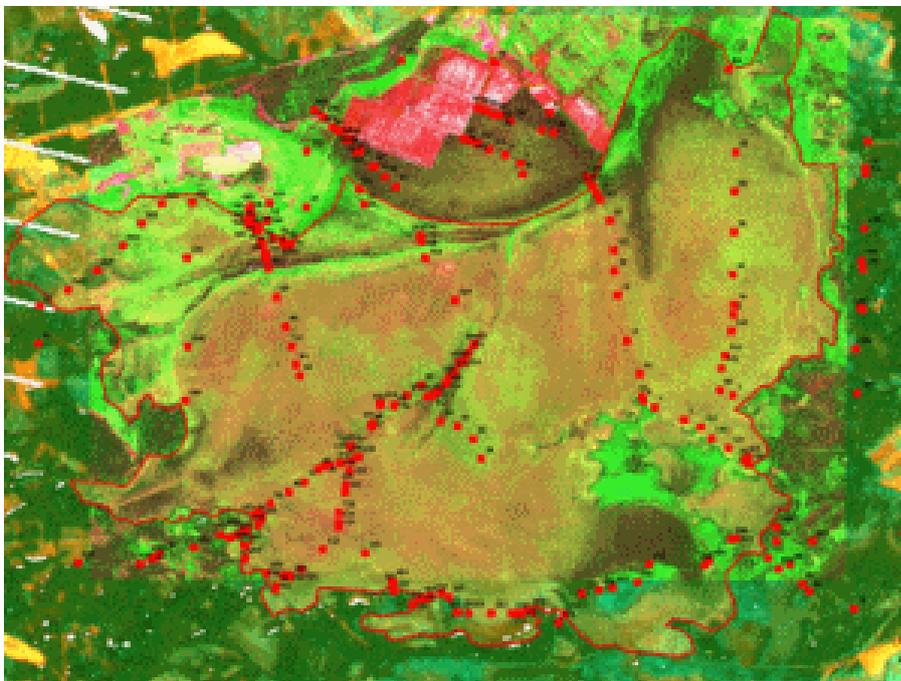


Figure 1 - Control points of description the vegetation of the projected reserve "Morochno" (space image QuickBird 28/06/2010)

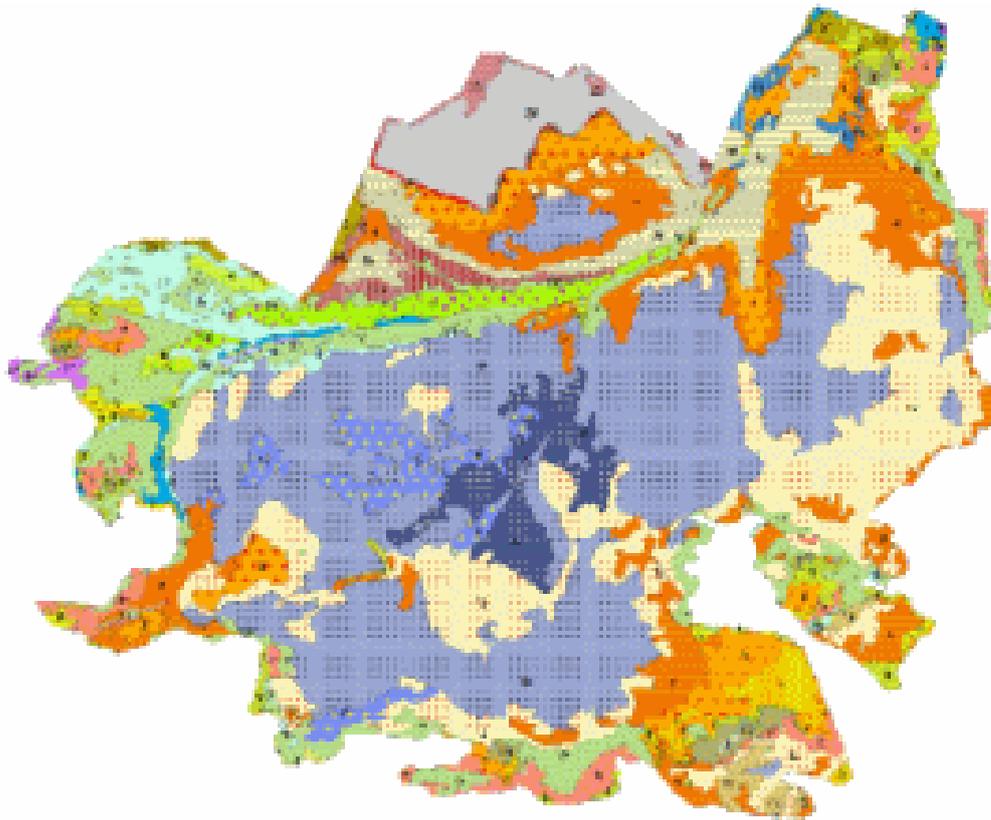


Figure 2 - Provisional vegetation map of the projected reserve "Morochno"

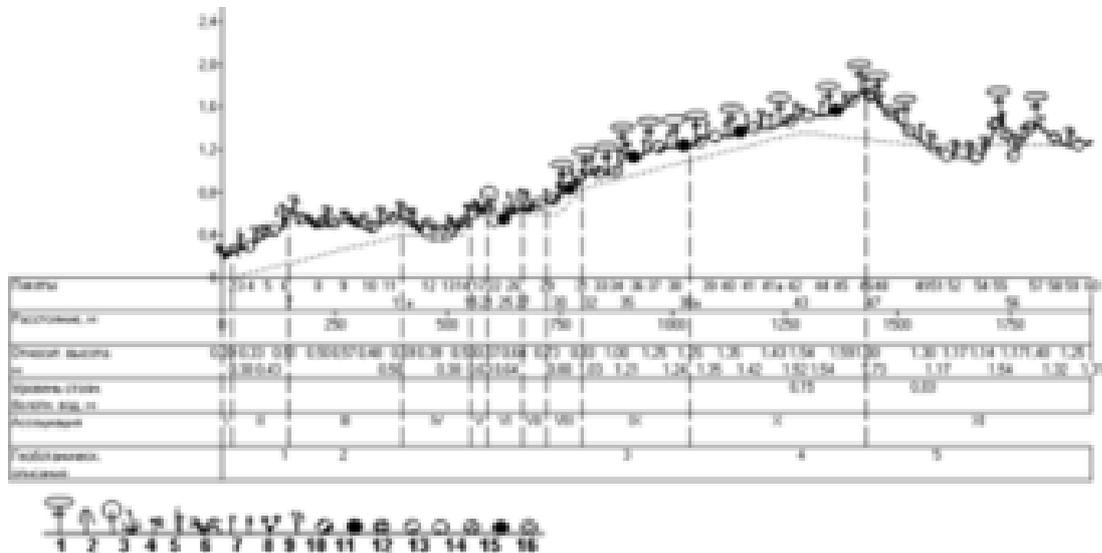


Figure 3 - Vegetation along the transect of sphagnum bogs "Morochno"

Plants: 1 – *Pinus sylvestris* f. *uliginosa*; 2 – *Betula pubescens*; 3 – *Salix* sp.; 4 – *Fragmites communis*; 5 – *Menyanthes trifoliata*; 6 – *Eriophorum polystachyon*; 7 – *Carex* sp.; 8 – *Eriophorum vaginatum*; 9 – *Andromeda polifolia*; 10 – *Oxycoccus palustris*; 11 – *Rhynchospora alba*; 12 – *Sphagnum angustifolium*; 13 – *S. magellanicum*; 14 – *S. fuscum*; 15 – *Sphagneta cuspidati* (coll.); 16 – *Sphagnum fallax*; 17 – *S. papillosum*; 18 – *S. centrale*; 19 – *S. rubellum*

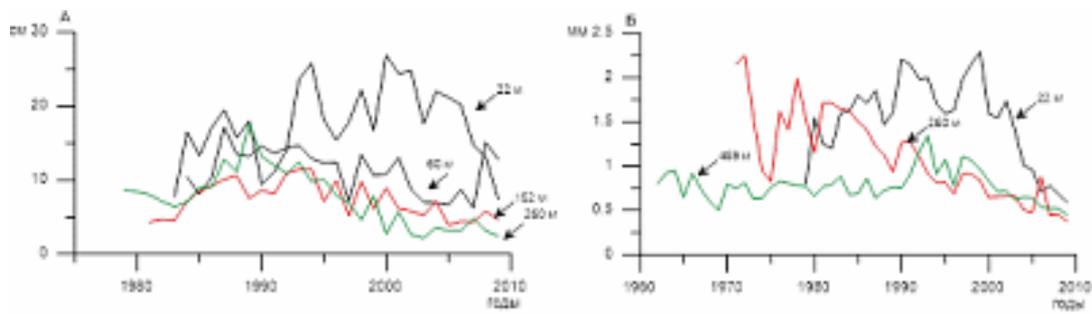


Figure 4 - Long-term course of linear (A) and radial (B) growth of pine stands in the test plots, placed at different distances from the peat extraction site

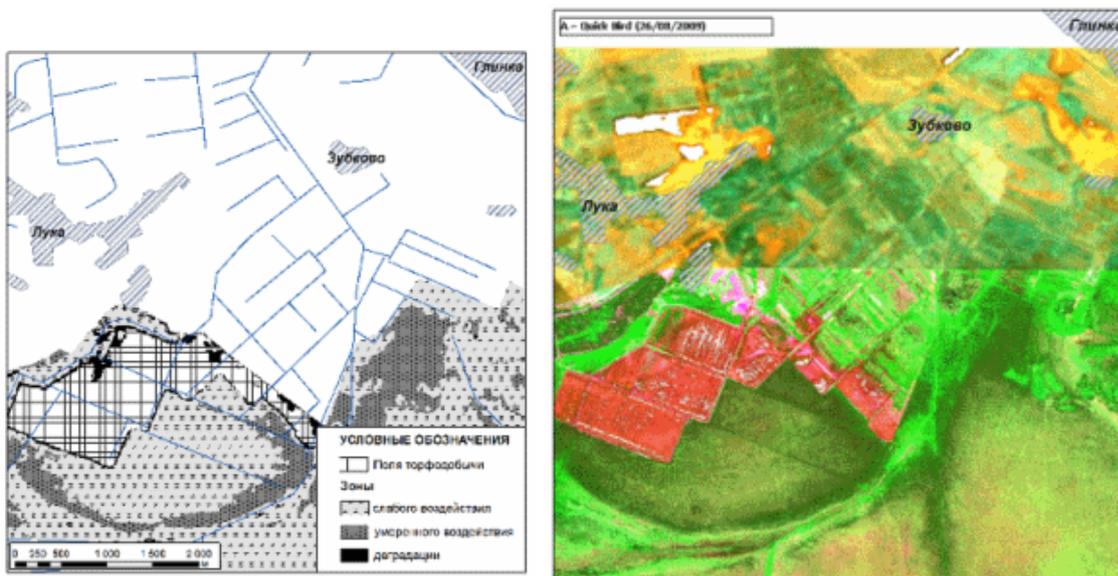


Figure 5 - Space image (A) and ecological zoning (B) of the part of the projected reserve "Morochno"

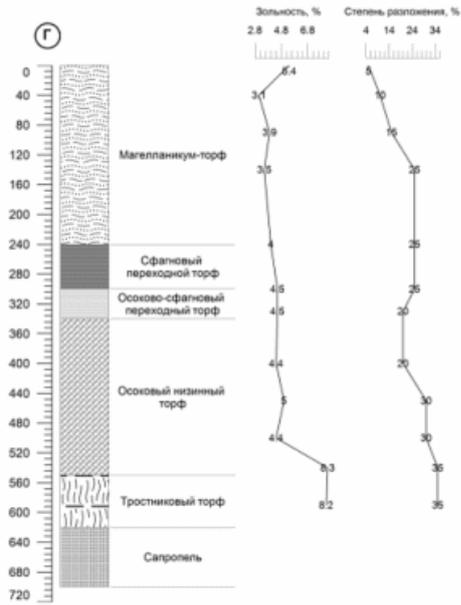


Figure 6 - Example of stratigraphic cross-section of the peat deposits of the bog "Morochno"

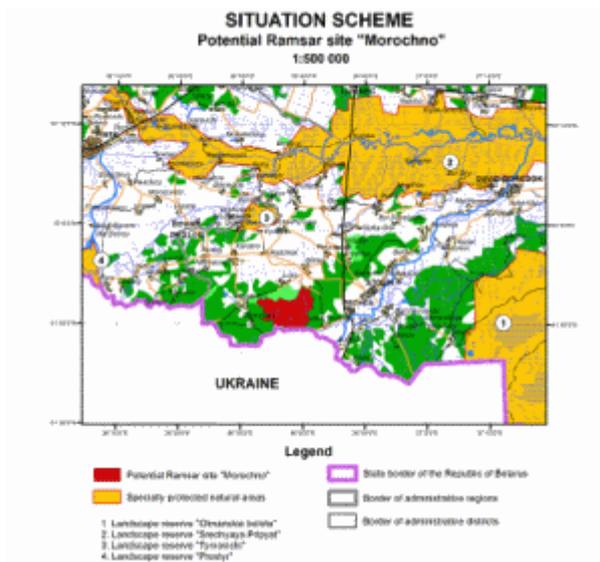


Figure 7