

МІНІСТЭРСТВА  
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАЎ І АХОВЫ  
НАВАКОЛЬНАГА АСЯРОДДЗЯ  
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ



MINISTRY  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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The Ramsar Convention Secretariat

On establishment of  
transboundary wetland "Stokhid-Pripyat-Prostyr"

Wetlands conservation problem is very acute for the Republic of Belarus. Through the heavily waterlogged territory, great wetland ecosystems diversity and their management development the issue is one of the priorities in environmental protection system.

The salient feature of Belarus is its territory where biggest in Europe open fen mires preserved in the near-natural condition. Without doubt they are of great importance for biodiversity and nature heritage conservation. In spite of intensive drainage activities a great number of wetlands preserve in the near-natural condition. The total area of wetlands is 13,450 thousand sq. km (6,5% of the territory).

Joining of the Republic of Belarus in 1999 to Ramsar Convention proves a comprehension of the importance of the wetlands condition.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus is responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar demands and is currently working on the wetlands network of international importance.

During the last 8 years eight wetlands of Belarus have been included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, with the area of 284 747 ha – 1,33% of the territory of the country. These are unique republican reserves "Sporovsky", "Middle Pripiat", "Olman'skie wetlands", "Osveisky", "Elnia", Zvanetz", "Kotra", "Prostyr". Presently a proposal for establishment of transboundary Ramsar Wetlands "Stokhid-Pripyat-Prostyr" between Belarus and Ukraine was prepared.

National Ramsar wetland "Prostyr" located closely to regional national park and national Ramsar wetland "Stokhid-Pripyat" (Ukraine). Jointly they are one of the largest complex of flood plane's meadows and fens in Europe. They are also playing role of large reserve for biological diversity and

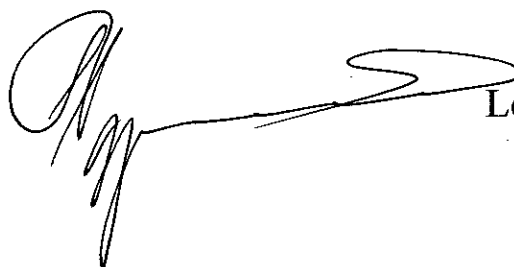
represent one of the most important transboundary ecological corridor of forming common European environmental network.

With the aim to improve conservation of the unique natural complex and to achieve close coordination of environmental activities in Belarus and Ukraine it is proposed to establish first transboundary Ramsar territory between Belarus and Ukraine.

Appendix: A proposal of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus on establishment of transboundary Ramsar territory "Stokhid-Pripyat-Prostyr" and updated information about national Ramsar wetland "Prostyr" – 17 pages, 1 copy.

Sincerely Yours,

Minister

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'L' followed by a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small loop.

Leonty Khoruzhik