

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. Country: Lithuania
2. Date:
3. Ref: 3LT002
4. Name and address of compiler:
Dr Mindaugas Lapele
Environmental Protection Department
A. Juozapaviciaus 9
2600 Vilnius
Lithuania
5. Name of wetlands: Kamanos (Kamanos bog)
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 04/10/1994
7. Geographical coordinates: 56°16' N, 22°39' E
8. General location: Akmene District, 6km Northwest of the Akmene town
9. Area: 5,195ha
10. Wetland type: U, X, O
11. Altitude: The entire area is at the altitude of 80 to 84m above sea level.
12. Overview:
The biggest raised bog (2434 ha) in Northern Lithuania region of intense farming with ridge-pool complexes and numerous small lakes and surrounding wet forests. The site is of national importance for the concentration of rare and endangered animal and plant species.
13. Physical features:
The biggest raised bog (2434 ha) in Northern Lithuania region of intense farming with ridge-pool complexes and numerous small lakes (over 120 pools, the total area being more than 2 ha). One primary lake, the Kamanos, is 5.55 ha in area. The average annual precipitation is 540 to 550mm. The bottom relief is most intricate, determining the hydrological regime. Vedutinis durpiu klodo storis 0.0m.
14. Ecological features:
Bogmoss pine forests (mainly *Pinus sylvestris*-*Ledum palustre*-*Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Pinus sylvestris*-*Calluna vulgaris* - *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Pinus sylvestris*-*Calluna vulgaris* - *Sphagnum fuscum*) and open, unforested sphagnum communities (*Eriophorum vaginatum*-*Sphagnum rubellum*, *Calluna vulgaris*-*Eriophorum vaginatum*-*Sphagnum rubellum*) predominate. The bog is surrounded by wet and moisture fire and birch forests, with mainly *Picea abies* - *Oxalis acetosella*, *Betula pendula*-*Vaccinium myrtillus*-*Oxalis acetosella* communities. Transitional mires and black alder swamps, where *Carex appropinquata*, *Carex acutiformis*, etc. predominate, occur in rather small areas.
15. Land tenure/ownership of:
(a) site: State owned
(b) surrounding area: Previously owned by state and by collective farms, it will become private in nearest future now that the privatisation process has started.
16. Conservation measures taken:
The whole area is under protection. Managed nature reserve was established in 1961, and in 1979 a strict nature reserve (3650 ha) and buffer zone (1545 ha) were set up.
17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

To include all surrounding forests (1545 ha, current buffer zone) into the strict nature reserve.

18. Current land use:

(a) site: Only scientific research is allowed, without any recreation or economic activity. In the buffer zone, only limited forestry activity is allowed.

(b) surroundings/catchment: Drainage, use of pesticides is prohibited in surrounding agricultural lands.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(a) at the site: Old drainage systems installed before the establishment of the reserve have made a negative impact upon the hydrological regime of the bog.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: Main threats are posed by air pollution from the neighbouring oil refinery and 2 construction materials factories as well as by an outdated drainage system installed before the establishment of the nature reserve.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

Kamanos bog is located at watershed of four small rivers of the Venta River basin and plays an important role as an ecological stabiliser in the region of intense agriculture.

21. Social and cultural values:

Important for nature conservation and education, scientific research, monitoring. First complex investigations of this bog were carried out in 1935-1936.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

182 species of vertebrates, including 137 species of birds, of which 87 nest there, four species of reptiles and seven species of amphibians, over 900 species of insects are represented. 14 species of fauna included in the Red Data Book of Lithuania occur, such as *Pluvialis apricaria* (10 breeding pairs), *Numenius arquata* (1 pair), *Ciconia nigra* (2 breeding pairs), *Grus grus* (about 2 couples), *Pernis apivorus* (1 pair), *Aquila pomarina* (2 couples), *Lyrurus tetrix*, *Tringa glareola*, etc. *Anser albifrons*, *A. anser*, *A. fabalis*, ducks and cranes stop over on their migratory route.

23. Noteworthy flora:

There are 669 species of vascular plants and mosses registered, including 24 species of protected plants, such as *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Hammarbya paludosa*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Listera cordata*, *Salix lapponum*, *Salix myrtilloides*, *Corralorhiza trifida*, *Baeothryon caespitosum*.

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

Scientific research on birds, insects, Coleoptera in particular, on flora and vegetation is permanently carried out by the Kamanos nature reserve staff. Some investigations have been carried out by scientific institutions

25. Current conservation education:

Visiting center is under way in Akmene, training for students is provided.

26. Current recreation and tourism:

Only a small number of specialised excursions have visited Kamanos. In nearest future, special visitors paths will be made, but the numbers of visitors will be limited.

27. Management authority:

Kamanos State Strict Nature Reserve
Akmene
Akmene District
5450 Lithuania.

28. Jurisdiction:

Environmental Protection Department of the Republic of Lithuania.

29. Bibliographical references:

Brundza K. 1937. Kamanos/Hidrografija, stratigrafija ir augalija (Kamanos/Aufbau und Pflanzendecke). Kaunas. 268pp.

30. Reasons for inclusion: 1a, 1c; 2a, 2b