

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

- 1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:** 5 July 1998
- 2. Country:** **Ukraine**
- 3. Name of wetland:** ***Shatsk Lakes***
- 4. Geographical coordinates:** 51°31'N 23°50'E
- 5. Altitude** (average and/or max. & min.) 158-178 m, av.- 165 m
- 6. Area:** (in hectares) 32, 850 ha, incl. 6, 628 ha of water, 1, 977 ha of marshes (mires) and peatlands, 4, 492 ha of meadows, 13, 935 ha of forests. This site is territory of the Shatskyi National Nature Park.

**7. Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Wetland site 'Shatsk Lakes' is the part of unique system (which consists from 22 lakes) with marshes (mires), peatlands, meadows and forests. The wetland site is very important for swamp fauna and flora protection, but for breeding and migrating waterfowl, waders and other around-water birds especially.

**8. Wetland Type** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I if the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

- marine-coastal:** A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K
- inland:** L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts  
• U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk
- man-made:** 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

**Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: O**

**9. Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12)

1a • 1b • 1c • 1d | 2a • 2b • 2c • 2d | 3a • 3b • 3c | 4a • 4b

**Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1d, 1a, 2b, 2a**

**10. Map of site included?** Please tick yes  -or- *no*

**11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

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**12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page,** (please refer to Annex 11 in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

**1a:** The fauna and flora composition is typical for Polissia biosphere region (wetlands and meadows ecosystems).

**1d:** These five lakes are part of unique European lake system of 22 lakes which have karst and fluvio-glacial origin.

**2a:** Here the sites of rare species of fauna and flora as well as rare plant formations are situated.

**2b:** It is presented by the largest natural ecosystems in Polissia Region and by rich biodiversity: about 330 vertebrate species (44 species of mammals, 238 –birds, 7 – reptiles, 12 - amphibians, 29 – fish) and 825 vascular plants conservation of which is guaranteed within the territory of the Shatskyi National Nature Park.

**3a:** 60 and more thousand birds (mainly waterfowl) are recorded during their migrations each year. The Shatsk lake region is situated on the cross-roads of two main flyways: Polissia and Baltic-Mediterranean.

**3b:** 238 species of birds are recorded here among which 70 species belong to waterfowl. Approximately one thousand pairs of *Fulika atra*, 4,5 thousand pairs of *Larus ridibundus* breed here, and *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anser anser*, *A.fabalis*, *Tringa totanus*, *T.glareola*, *Phylomachus pugnax* and others are mass visitors of these places.

**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Shatsk Lakes is situated on the territory of Shatskyi administrative district (rayon) of Volynska Oblast (administrative region of Ukraine), 160 km north-west from Lutsk city (administrative centre of Volynska Oblast), on the border with Belarus.

**14. Physical features:** (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area\* climate)

Shatsk Lakes (Svitiaz, Pulemetske, Luky, Liutsymer, Ostrivske, Peremut) are situated within the Upper-Prypiat physical-geographical region of western part of Western Polissia. This wetland area comprises lakes, rivers, ditches, marshes (mires), meadows, forests.

This territory has three structures of level in geological aspect: crystal base, Shatsk's sagging, Jurassic and Cretaceous ages, mezozoic sediments. On the whole territory upperchalk of sediments spread. The territory of Shatsk Lakes has name also as alluvial-moraine or accumulative lowland. Lake's water is very clean and transparent. The deepest lake is Svitiaz. Its depth is up to 58 m. This territory divides into two catchment areas: Bug and Prypiat Rivers.

The territory is situated in the Western part of the Atlantic continental region. Moderate wet and warm summer, and mild winter with ice-cover lasting on water bodies from some weeks to three months are most characteristic as well as considerable precipitation (about 600 mm per year).

**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)

Wetland site 'Shatsk Lakes' is one of the best lake complexes of Ukraine. There are 22 lakes of karst and other origin. The largest of them is the Svitiaz, that occupies 2519 ha, the Pulemetske (1588 ha), the Luky (688 ha) and deepest are the Svitiaz - 58 m, the Pulemetske - 19 m.

The lakes have weak water circulation. The water input is formed by precipitation and surface and ground water inflow.

The water is calcium-hydrocarbonatic with low mineralization near 280 mg/l, and very transparent – with sedimentation 3 g/m<sup>3</sup>.

After beginning exploitation of Upper-Prypiat drainage systems the abatement of the water-level of lakes were observed. The stabilisation of the water-level of lakes is possible after complex's renaturalization of wetlands only.

**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

The vegetation at the site is typical for the forest zone (Western Polissia). The vegetation of the lake-side and riverside consists predominantly of reed-beds with sedges and grasses on the ground. Different sedges and grasses generally grow on the marshes (mires) and meadows. The vegetation of forests is typical for the forest zone without visual dominant of plants or their associations.

**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

The dominant of lake-sides and some part of marshes (mires) is reed-beds *Phragmites communis*, also associations of sedges and different grasses there grow. Among 792 species of flora (higher plants) there are such rare plants (included into the Red Data Book of Ukraine): *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* (species from Annex 1 of Bern Convention), *Betula humilis*, *Cephalanthera rubra*, *Neottia nidus-avis*, *Botrychium lunarium*, *Dyphazium complanatum*, *Lipalis loeseli*, *Oxycoccus microcarpus*, *Cypripedium calceolus* (species from Annex 1 of Bern Convention), *Orchis helleborine*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Lilium martagon*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Carex davaliana*, *Carex umbrosa*, *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, *Lycopodium annotinum*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*.

**18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Breeding species at this territory include Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (80-100 pairs), Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (65-80 pairs), Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (90-150 pairs), Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (10-20 pairs), Graylag Goos *Anser anser* (10-12 pairs), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (130-150 pairs), Pochard *Aythya ferina* (250-350 pairs), Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (15-20 pairs), Coot *Fulica atra* (800-1000 pairs), Western Curlew *Numenius arquata* (2-5 pairs), Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (3000-4500 pairs), Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (2-5 pairs). The numbers of water birds, waders, waterfowl is estimated of 6000-10000 pairs.

30000-60000 birds during migration and moulting seasons come. The most numerous are such bird species as Mallard, Pochard, Coot, Black-headed Gull, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Sandpiper *Calidris spp.* and some others.

Also on the site occur such Ukrainian and European rare species of birds as White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (species from Annex II of Bern Convention), Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (species from Annex II of Bern Convention), Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii* (species from Annex II of Bern Convention), Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Redbreasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Common crane *Grus grus*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (species from Annex I of Bern Convention), Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (species from Annex I of Bern Convention) and Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (species from Annex I of Bern Convention); birds of prey (all species included into Annex II of Bern Convention): Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, White-tailed See Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Golden Eagle *Aquila crysaetus*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* during different seasons of year.

Besides, there are other rare species of fauna on this territory. Among them occur *Neyomys anomalus*, *Myotis dasycneme*, *Canis lupus* (species from Annex II of Bern Convention), *Mustela erminea*, *Meles meles*, *Lutra lutra* (species from Annex II of Bern Convention), *Coronella austriaca*, *Bufo calamita*.

There are 327 species of vertebrates, among them 26 - fishes, 12 - amphibians, 7 - reptiles, 238 - birds, 44 - mammals.

**19. Social and Cultural Values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The lakes are the places of recreation and making healthier. There are numerous sanatoriums and other recreation buildings. Hunting, sport and small commercial fishing are conducted. Fishery gives every year near 7 kg of fish per ha on the Svitiaz Lake, 19 kg/ha – on the Pulemetske Lake, and 15 kg/ha on the Luky Lake.

**20. Land tenure/ownership of:**

- (a) site: State and collective ownership
- (b) surrounding area: State, collective and private ownership

**21. Current land use:**

(a) site: There is no any activity on protected area of the Shatskyi National Nature Park and exploitation of natural resources (hunting, fishing, grazing of cattle, haymaking, recreation etc.) outside protected area, including other areas of the Park, and there is limited and controlled.

(b) surroundings / catchment: the same and traditional farming.

**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:**

(a) at the site: The influence of draining, intensification of agricultural production and wood use, increased recreation loading on the site have been led to decrease of numbers of waterfowl and waders, especially during last 20-30 years.

(b) around the site: the same.

**23. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The site has national status as the Shatskyi National Nature Park and international as wetland site. Mainly the Administration of this national park ensures protection of wetland site. This year the EECONET Action Fund has supported financially construction of dam on canal to stabilize water level in the Krymne Lake (outside wetland site).

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Project 'Creation of Interstate Protected Areas in Upper Prypiat Basin' as co-operation of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs and the EECONET Action Fund is prepared. Now it is possible to enlarge the territory of the Shatskyi National Nature Park to 75900 ha. To improve wetland conservation it is necessary to stabilize water levels in lakes. Ukraine and Poland have agreement to create bilateral (later it may be trilateral with participation of Belarus) protected area as Biosphere Reserve 'Western Polissia'.

**25. Current Scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

There are some research on waders, waterfowl, other water birds in this area from 1983. Scientific department of Direction of the Shatskyi National Nature Park, University of L'viv, Western Department of the Ukrainian Ornithological Society keep substantial information on breeding birds in their database, migrant and wintering birds data. In last time project on renaturalization of wetlands starts. The main purpose of this project is improvement of natural conditions for breeding birds and feeding sites of migrants.

**26. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Direction of the Shatskyi National Nature Park, the Shatsk Forest School, Museum of Nature. Information booklets: The Shatskyi National Nature Park (2 issues), recreation way - Lisova Pisnia (Forest Song). The reserve of the territory is used for educational and pedagogic purposes. In this site there are many meetings and conferences on conservation of nature and for ornithology.

**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

There is large tourism and recreation pressures on the territory of the Shatskyi National Nature Park in recreation zone generally, but in the protected zone, recreation and tourism activities are not allowed.

**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture / Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: local Soviets of the Deputies.

Functional jurisdiction: on protected area of the Shatskyi National Nature Park - of the State Committee of Forestry, on other areas – regional administrative authorities of different sectors: State Committee of Forestry (forest use and hunting), Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Fishery (fishing), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

**29. Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Administration of the Shatskyi National Nature Park (Director Dr. Mykhaylo V. L'vovych; Address: 19 Gagarin Str., 264 661 Shatsk, Volynska Oblast, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 3355 232-76) on protected area (zone) of this Park and Land Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) on the last area and local authorities are executive bodies for environmental protection. Administration of the Shatskyi National Nature Park and the State Department of Ecological Safety in Volynska Oblast (Director Rostyslav V. Migas. Address: 20 Suvorov Str., 263000 Lutsk, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: 380 3322 253-21. E-mail: <eco04@eco04.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) carry out state control for protection on the whole territory.

**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Aleksievskiy, V., Gorun, A., Karpenko, N., L'vovych, M.V. (1994). The Shatskyi National Nature Park. Researches 1983-1993. Svitiaz. 248 pp.

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Molchak, Y., Klimchuk, B., others. (1995) The Climate of the Shatskyi National Nature Park. Lutsk. 144 pp.

Shatskyi National Nature Park, Scientific research, 1983-1993 (1994). Svitiaz, 248 p.

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