



# Belarusian strategy for the conservation and wise use of peatlands

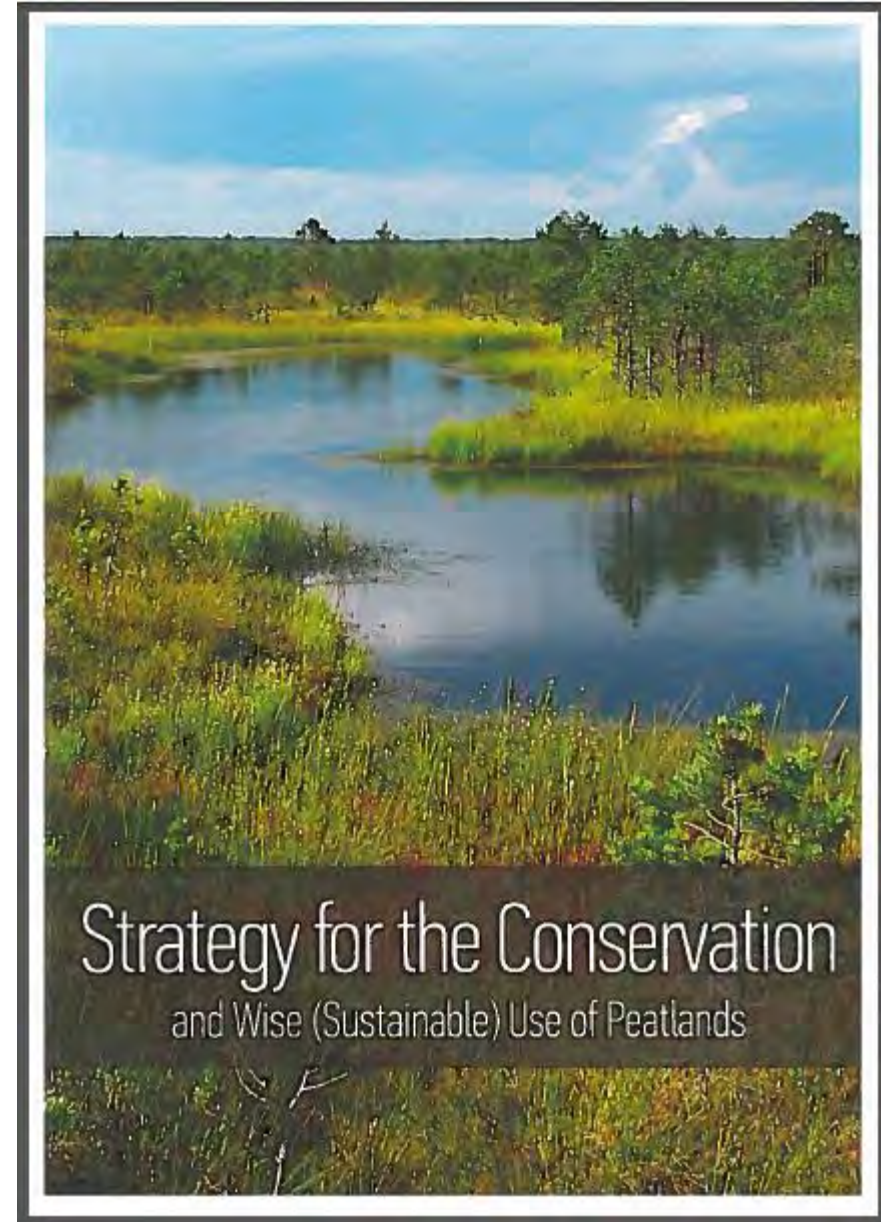
Tanovitskaya N.I. Institute of Nature Use

Kozulin A.V. Scientific-Practical Center

for Bioresources, NASB

Bambalov N.N. Institute of Nature Use, NASB

**Alexandre Vintchevski, APB-BirdLife Belarus**



# History

## Natural peatlands area in Belarus:

Year 1950 - 2,939,000 ha

Year 2010 - 863,000 ha

About 70% of mires were drained



About 516,000 ha of peatlands have disrupted hydrological regime



# Distribution of peatland areas

	Total area	Disrupted	Restored
Peatlands drained for agriculture (ha)	1 085 200	250 520	0
Extracted or being extracted peatlands	255 600	228 600	21 333
Natural mires	863 000	516 000	30 153
Status is not defined	735 600		
<b>In total</b>	<b>2 939 000</b>	<b>995 120</b>	<b>51 486</b>

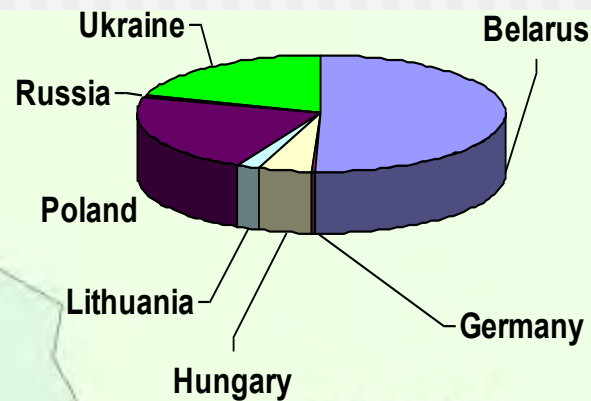
# Natural peatlands

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461,859 ha of mires are within protected areas

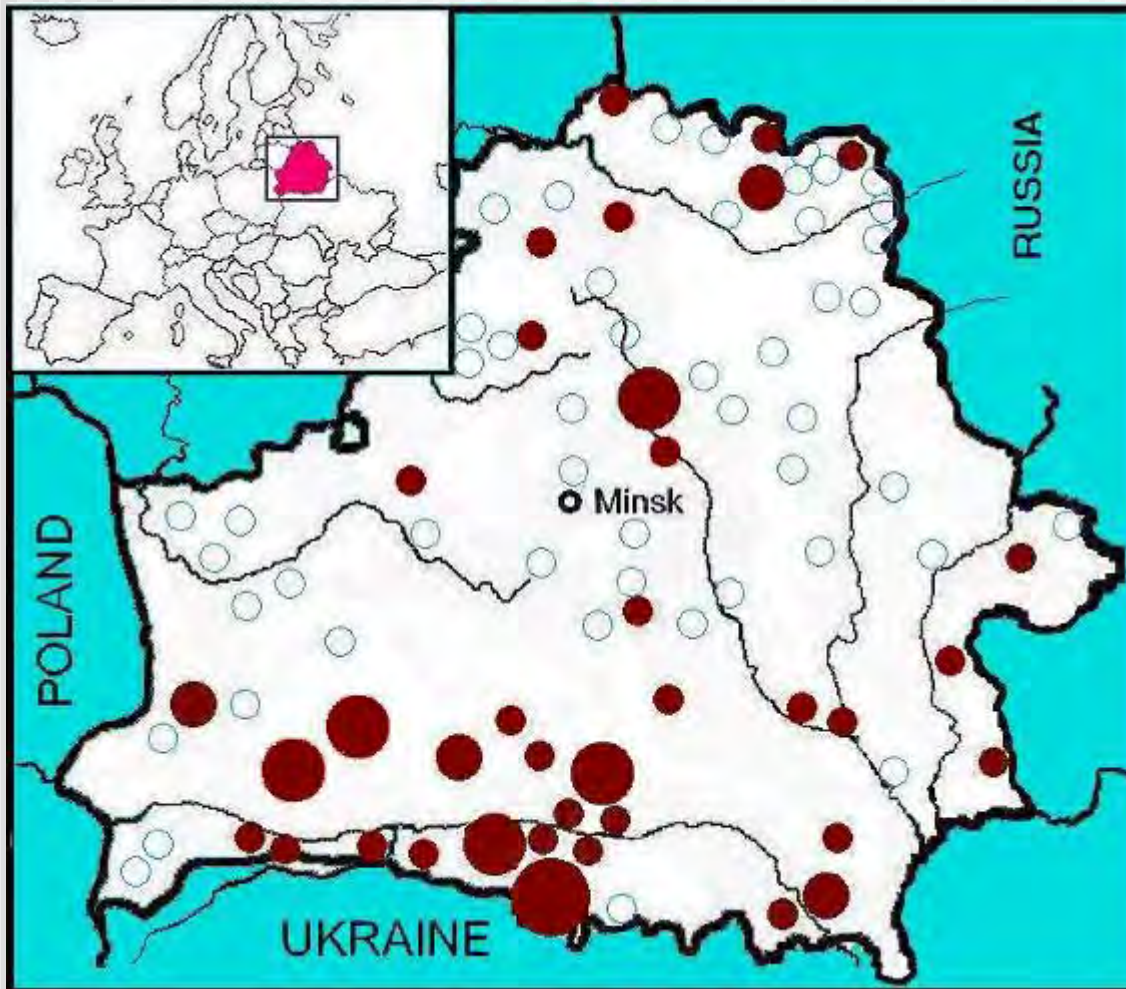
222,367 ha meet criteria of typical and rare biotopes and have to be protected according to the Strategy

# Распределение вертлявой камыщевки в Европе



# Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)

120-150 pairs



# Peat extraction industry in Belarus

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25 plants

5,000 workers with total 30,000 people dependent

300,000 ha drained for peat extraction

17,600 ha are still allocated for peat extraction

0.82-1.36 mln tons of fuel briquettes produced annually

200,000-450,000 tons exported to EU

Other products:

100,000 tons of peat in stacks

10,000-15,000 tons of sod peat

10,000-20,000 tons of peat soil

# Abandoned peatlands

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190,200 ha of degraded peatlands still used in agriculture

281,500 ha peatlands withdrawn from peat extraction



# Peat consumption in Belarus

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12.8 mln tons a year – annual loss of peat due to agriculture use and peat extraction

1.04 –mln tons a year – annual accumulation of peat in mires

4.45 mln tons of carbon released

0.23 mln tons of carbon absorbed

# Future of peat extraction in Belarus

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19,600 ha- peatlands which will be used for:

- bitumen production,
- for hydrolysis plants,
- for mud therapy.

99,140 ha – peatlands designated for peat extraction (302,124,000 tons of peat)

# Future of peat extraction in Belarus

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10,056 ha – peatlands which will be used for bitumen production

11,842 ha – peatlands which will be used for hydrolysis plants

21,727 ha – peatlands used for mud therapy

Total 43,727 ha

# Key problems

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- Disruptive hydroregime (516,000 ha),
- Overgrowing of open peatlands,
- Peat extraction on natural peatlands,
- Peatlands in need of restoration (500,000ha)
- Insufficient use of cranberries and biomass,
- Peat fires
- etc



# Expected Results of the Strategy

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- Preservation of 684,00 ha of peatlands,
- Restoration of natural hydrological regime (75,000 ha);
- Complete cessation of peat extraction on natural mires.
  
- Ensuring reproduction of 10,700 tons of cranberries a year;
- Organization of sustainable use of mire vegetation biomass to control overgrowing of sedge fen mires and floodplain meadows with shrubs and reeds;
- Development of ecotourism;
- Ensuring multipurpose use of peat:

# «Outline of the distribution of peatlands per type of use until 2030 »

<i>Type of use</i>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Protected areas</b>	<b>684,200</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Agriculture and forestry, including Abandoned peatlands</b>	<b>1,592,600</b> 281,500	<b>67</b>
<b>Peat extraction</b>	<b>99,100</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Special types of peat</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,381,700</b>	



The Strategy was adopted  
by the Council of Ministers  
of the Republic of Belarus  
at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015





Thank you

