

22 AUG 2016



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

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The Ramsar Convention Secretariat
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No (18-1)-28-6066

Copy: Ministry of Natural Recourses and
Environmental Protection of the Republic of
Belarus

Dear Sir/Madam

Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Natural Recourses and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus have been working in close cooperation with each other in the following areas: specially protected natural territories, biodiversity and environmental protection. The creation of transboundary Ramsar site "Kotra-Cepkeliai" as well as the development of a joint management action plan for this wetland is one of the examples of such cooperation between the mentioned organizations.

Countries have also some other transboundary Ramsar sites. The reserve "Vileyti" in Belarus and wetland complex "Adutiskis-Svykla-Birveta" in Lithuania are among them. During the joint meeting of the National Ramsar councils of our two countries (26 March 2015, Minsk) the mutual interest in the declaration of transboundary wetland "Adutiskis - Vileyti" was expressed.

The above-mentioned wetlands in both countries have been determined in accordance with the Ramsar Site selection Criteria for the wetlands of international importance, and are specially protected natural territories in accordance with national legislation.

Hereby Lithuania is expressing its readiness to establish a transboundary Ramsar site "Adutiskis - Vileyti" and requests to recognize this wetland as a transboundary site and to include it in the list of transboundary Ramsar Sites.

We hope for mutual understanding and future productive cooperation.

Sincerely

Linas Jonauskas
Vice-minister

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "Linas Jonauskas", written over a horizontal line.