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МИНИСТЕРСТВО
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ
И ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ



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

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Ramsar Bureau

On Announcing the Transboundary
"Kotra-Chapkelai" Wetland as a
Ramsar site

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus pays you its devoirs and expresses its thanks to the Ramsar Bureau for longstanding fruitful cooperation, irreproachable professionalism, high performance and an attentive attitude to our Country.

Since the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat (1999) the eight wetlands of our State (Sporovsky, Zvanets, Mid-Pripyat, Olmany Mires, Prostyr, Yelnia, Osveiski, Kotra) have been included in the Ramsar List of wetlands of international importance due to the joint efforts of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and research institutions as well as the Ramsar Bureau's support. In addition, together with Ukraine the "Stokhod-Pripyat-Prostyr" territory is designated as a transboundary Ramsar site.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus devotes great attention to the conservation of natural territories including those located along the border. In order to facilitate the sustainable utilization of natural complexes and bodies of the transboundary protected territories there has been signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Latvia, as well as it is planned to sign the similar agreement with Ukraine and Poland.

There should also be noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus has been cooperating with the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania for a long time and on an active basis including issues concerning the conservation of transboundary natural bodies. Meetings of both Authorities are arranged at the specialist level on a regular basis. Also carried out is the exchange of research findings relating to the transboundary protected areas. Within the Cooperation Plan for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania for the 2009-2011 period in September of the current year there will be held a meeting of the Joint Working Group on protected territories, biodiversity and hunting and fishing matters where it

is planned to consider the development of a concerted plan for managing the transboundary territory "Kotra-Chapkelai".

Taking into consideration the fact that the wetlands "Kotra" (Republic of Belarus) and "Chapkelai" (Republic of Lithuania) are already on the Ramsar List of wetlands of international importance, and being aware of both States' concern about giving these territories the status of Ramsar transboundary "Kotra-Chapkelai" wetland the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus requests the Ramsar Bureau for designating this area as a Ramsar site.

We hope for understanding and further fruitful cooperation.

Minister



V.G.Tsalko