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The Ramsar Convention Secretariat

On establishment of the transboundary
wetland "Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr"

The priority trends of the national policy of Ukraine in the environmental protection sphere, conservation and restoration of wetlands are finding of valuable wetlands, their protection, ecologically safe use of their resources and creation of the wetland network with the subsequent entering part of them into the Ramsar List.

Significant part of ecologically valuable water areas and swamped lands belongs to the nature conservation fund of Ukraine. At present, the list of wetlands of Ukraine includes 33 wetlands of international importance with the total area of 678 thousand hectares. The 22 wetlands of the list have been included into the Ramsar List in 2003, and in July 2004 the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention has decided to give the international status to 11 wetlands located within the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine.

The most prospective areas for establishing of new wetlands are considered the Dnipro basin and the Polissia region.

Three Ramsar wetlands are in the Polissia region – the most swamped area of Europe. They consist of such pearls of nature as the Shatsk Lakes and the Prypiat and Stokhid Floodplains known for huge number of waterbirds, breeding and feeding and resting during migrations. The large spawning grounds of fish and rare or relic plant species located here.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine has launched the initiative to establish the first transboundary Ukrainian-Belarussian wetland "Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr". The Ramsar wetland "Prostyr" will enter into the transboundary wetland from the Belarussian territory, which is directly bordering the hydrological complex of the Stokhid and Prypiat Rivers at the Ukrainian territory.

The Ministry presents a proposal, agreed with the Belarussian party, to establish the first transboundary Ukrainian-Belarussian Ramsar wetland "Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr" that will give the possibility to improve conservation of unique natural complex in Ukraine and Belarus.

Appendix: mentioned Proposal, 19 pages, 1 copy.

Sincerely Yours

Minister

G. Filipchuk

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