



The Biebrza National Park protects the biggest and the best preserved in the European Union complex of peatland of marshy, lowland river valley. It covers 59 223 ha, and it is the largest national park in Poland. The very unique diversity of plant and animal species and almost natural ecosystems managed to survive in the Biebrza River valley. Here 280 species of birds have been recorded; among them 178 breed in the Biebrza wetlands. 48 mammal species with the biggest population of Elk (about 600 individuals) in Poland as well as more than 1000 vascular plants species have been observed in the area. Not any other region in Poland has larger population of Lady's Slipper orchid.



It is an important breeding, feeding and stop over site for many waterfowl and wetland birds. According to Bird Life International, it is the birds' refuge of global significance. The Biebrza National Park was added to the RAMSAR Convention list in 1995, as one of the most important world wetland sites. The Biebrza Valley was also incorporated into the European Ecological Natura 2000 Network, which protects the most valuable nature ecosystems in the European Union. As the result many species of flora and fauna including: birds - Spotted Eagle, Black Grouse, Great Snipe, Aquatic Warbler, mammals - Beaver, Otter, Wolf as well as plants - Fen Orchid, Marsh Saxifrage and Eastern Pasque Flower are particularly protected at the Biebrza River.

Conference organised by:



Wetland Conservation Center

International Mire Conservation Group

Subdepartment of Hydrology and Water Resources, WULS

University of Warsaw

Project partners:



Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Biebrza National Park

Institute of Technology and Life Sciences

Mammal Research Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences in Białowieża

Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research

Centre for Ecological Research of Polish Academy of Sciences in Łomianki

University of Wrocław

University of Antwerp

Utrecht University

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Mire Ecosystem Dynamics & Conservation of Biodiversity

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

16 - 17 July 2010, Goniadz, Poland

Red Bog Project



Project Biodiversity protection of Red Bog (Czerwone Bagno) - relic of raised bogs in Central Europe - PL 0082 - is implemented within framework of EEA Grants

The **Red Bog** reserve is the second biggest raised bog in Poland with regard to its area and probably the only big bog of this type preserved in natural state in the entire country. Due to wide-spread endanger of wetland habitats by eutrophication and drying up, investigation of ecological relationships on the relatively little transformed sites is getting a lot of importance and causes that the Red Bog is area of unique value on the European scale.



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Regardless of non-questionable nature value and primary assessment and analysis of the scientific research results conducted in this area, the Red Bog reserve is not yet scientifically documented and mapped in methodological way. Moreover, we are not able to ascertain, how stable is this unique system (considerable development of Alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) and pine forest may indicate some significant changes in water recharge mechanism of the bog). Therefore, the **direct aim** of the project is the recognition of ecological relationships that decide about biodiversity of raised and transitional bogs. Description of relationships between water and soil (including soil-forming processes) conditions and plant communities and relationships between ungulates herbivorous and large predators will enable for formulating of raised and transitional bogs protection and restoration principles. At the European scale, elaboration of efficient restoration and protection methods of raised bogs priority habitats of EU is the need of the moment.

Proposed activities of the project implementation cover three main themes: (1) recognition and documentation of existing state of the system, (2) formulation of protection strategy, (3) study on ecological relations. Those tasks will be implemented by seven research teams which are specialized in the following fields: hydrology and hydrogeology, meteorology, hydrogenic sites and peat soils, botany - forest and non forest plants, mammals, birds and insects. The additional team will be responsible for GIS and data bases documentation.



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Scope

The conference is a joined initiative of the International Mire Conservation Group, being a final event of the 10-day field symposium on mires of Slovakia and Poland, and the team of the Red Bog Project, a scientific project coordinated by the Warsaw University of Life Sciences and supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

The conference is addressed to various scientists working on the subject of mire ecosystem functioning and conservation, coming from various disciplines, including ecology, hydrology, soil sciences, geography and others.

During the first conference day we would like to focus on reporting and discussing research on temporal dynamics of peatlands at various temporal scales, both from modern ecosystems and palaeoecological studies.

The second day will be dedicated to the general assembly of the International Mire Conservation Group and general discussions on current issues in mire conservation from all parts of the world, reports on threatened sites, etc.

Venue

The Biebrza Valley

Conference will take place in a peaceful town of Goniadz in the north-eastern Poland lying just in the middle stretch of Biebrza river valley - the largest semi-natural mire and meadow complex of the European Union. Conference centre is located at the bank of the Biebrza and just a few kilometers north of the place lies the Red Bog - the study site of the project which we would like to sum up with this conference.

Registration

Important dates:

pre-registration: **1st of May**
abstract submission: **15th of May**
acceptance notification: **1st of June**
final payment: **30th of June**

Registration fee:

Day 1: **50 €**
Day 2: **50 €**

Payments should be made at:

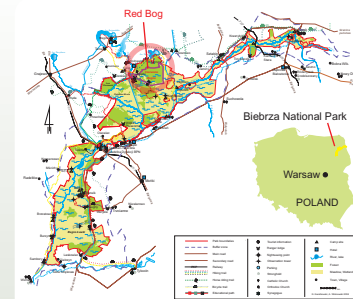
Centrum Ochrony Mokradeł
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02-026 Warszawa
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53 1130 1017 0200 0000 0005 5616
SWIFT: GOSKPLPW
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"Conference fee"

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 bagna.pl/conf/



The Red Bog strict protection zone

It is one of the oldest and the most famous protected area in Poland. It is probably named after red colour of water observed between tussocks of sedge and moss. The Red Bog forest reserve was established in 1925 with the area of 2.179 ha. According to prof. Władysław Szafer (1932) "the bog pine forest with transition to the birch forest" covered the area. Its aim was to protect the one of the last Elk (*Alces alces*) refuge in Poland. It is a spot where Elk, in number of several individuals, survived the World War II. Thoughtful care allowed successful rebuilding of Polish population of that species.

This reserve, with adjoining Grzędy reserve, were made into one nature reserve with the total area of about 12,000 ha and was named Red Bog (Czerwone Bagno) in 1981. It became part of the Biebrza National Park, in the year of establishment (1993).

The Red Bog strict protection zone covers about 3000 ha according to the data from 2007. Only indispensable scientific researches are carried out here. Neither the economic activities nor the tourist traffic take place in the zone. Nevertheless, the educational trail along the boardwalk leading to the observation platform allows seeing fragments of this precious area.



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