

Strasbourg, 30 October 2015
[files56e_2015.docx]

T-PVS/Files (2015) 56

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

Possible file

**Presumed impact of a construction of overhead
power line (OHL) in an environmentally
sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish
borderland**

**POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION RUDAMINA
COMMUNITY ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE MEDIATION
PROCEDURE**

Vilnius and Rudamina (Lazdijai district)
(6-9 October 2015)

*Document prepared by
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**POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION RUDAMINA COMMUNITY ON THE OUTCOMES
OF THE MEDIATION PROCEDURE IN THE FRAME OF COMPLAINT NO. 2013/5**

Dr. Ramūnas Valiokas, Association Rudamina Community

October 30, 2015

SUMMARY

The Association Rudamina Community (hereafter the Complainant) highly appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Standing Committee, the acting Mediator Prof. Michael Usher and the Council of Europe in order to attempt to resolve the potential impacts of the emerging large infrastructural corridor in the Polish-Lithuanian border area on a number of species and habitats protected by the Bern Convention (hereafter the Convention). It also welcomes the demonstrated collaboration of the Lithuanian authorities, facilitating at least the mediation procedure itself. However, having analyzed the Visit Report by the Mediator, the Draft Recommendations prepared for the 35th Standing Committee meeting, as well as bearing in mind the recent facts about the development of the projects under dispute and about the actual conservation status of the endangered species in Lithuania, **the Communicant concludes that the outcomes of the Mediation procedure in no way can form a firm and reliable base for mitigating the caused negative impacts and the long-term threats for the species protected by the Bern Convention and other treaties.** The scale of the infrastructures, the fundamental mistakes in choosing the location and technology (as proved by the available scientific literature) and poor operational capacity, continuous transparency issues of the responsible authorities cannot be compensated by several measures preliminary agreed in the Mediation exercise. Contrary, the Complainant regrets to state that the approval of the actions already undertaken by the Lithuanian authorities will program further irreparable damages to the protected species (including at least 25 birds, 8 amphibians and 1 reptile species) and their habitats in this unique part of the biodiversity heritage landscape of Europe. **Thus, the Complaint firmly maintains its position presented in the original complaint No. 2013/5 and its subsequent amendments.**

This Position statement was prepared based on consulting Complainant's experts (listed in the Mediation documents) and on the decisions of the Board of the Association Rudamina Community adopted on the 28th of October, 2015.

IMPACTS ON CONVENTION-PROTECTED BIRDS

The Complaint states that the overhead power line (hereafter OHL) will damage the birdlife in the following adjacent Natura 2000 sites: LTALYB003, LTALYB001, LTLAZ0010, PLH200007, and, possibly, LTKALB001. The lists of the protected bird species occurring in those sites are well documented and published, e.g. in the official Natura 2000 databases. Moreover, throughout the process of complaint consideration, the Complainant has put forward evidences showing the abundance of the Convention-protected species also right in the OHL corridor, thus confirming its original purpose, as designated in the valid spatial planning documents - an ecological framework interconnecting the important protected sites. The presence of some of these species now is recognized by the authorities via the draft agreement under the Mediation procedure. **Unfortunately, the Complainant has learned that throughout the Mediation procedure the Lithuanian authorities further provided misleading information about the actual number of the affected species.** For example, when visiting the Žuvintas Lake UNESCO-protected bird reserve, the Director of the Reserve explicitly stated that neither protected swan species are found in that Reserve, nor they would migrate along the migratory corridor now intersected by the new OHL (on top of the existing 110 kV OHLs). However, having checked the data published by the Žuvintas Reserve¹, the Complainant has found that accumulations of *Cygnus cygnus* and *Cygnus columbianus* have been

¹ Annual Žuvintas Reserve reports and reports on observation of rare birds, Pranaitis et al., 2011-2013 (copies available).

regularly registered during migrations in the Reserve. Moreover, since 2011 *Cygnus cygnus* has been observed as a breeding species in the Žuvintas Lake itself. As in the nearby LTALYB001 the accumulations of these species are one of the largest in Lithuania, it is obvious that the OHL corridor buildup now poses serious dangers to the protected swans due to their regular transit flights/feeding in the so-called Sudovian Great Lake System.

While one cannot rely on the information provided by the authorities (see above), the Complainant at the present has no capacity perform an independent detailed investigation on the affected avifauna, on such a scale. Nevertheless, the Complainant can state the following:

1. **The number of Convention-protected bird species that are affected by the new OHL and the infrastructure corridor build-up is at least 25** as judged from the published data (Annex I). These are all medium-sized or large birds, which encounter high/very high risks to be killed by OHLs, see Haas et al.²
2. **The OHL has been built and the gas pipeline is being planned, with all awareness of the authorities, directly in one of the largest accumulations of the protected avifauna in Lithuania:** Bern Convention species like *Grus grus* (up to 2.700 birds in the fields where the infrastructure now is built), *Ciconia ciconia* (90 juveniles each year in the Žuvintas Reserve only), also migrating birds (including *Branta leucopsis*) protected under the Bonn Convention (up to ~12.000 of geese/season registered). The OHL not only causes high risks of killing these birds but also it expels them from their natural habitats/feeding areas. The populations of certain species will be likely continuously depleted because of the existence of “hot spots”, i.e. attractive habitats in the broad impact zone of the OHL, and also by disturbance of the ecological balance, e.g. via increased predation levels (Haas et al.)
3. **The fundamental mistakes in planning and the technology of the LitPol Link power line cannot be efficiently mitigated by the proposed compensational measures**, see Table 1 below. Birds migrating at night and those flying between feeding and resting areas are in particular risk, with estimates like 500 casualties per kilometer of power line and year (Haas et al.). Even assuming the proposed flight diverters in certain shorter sections would reduce collisions by 50 to 85%, the whole disputed 30 km-long section of the creates a large risk zone as it stretches across habitats and migration routes of at least 25 protected and vulnerable bird species. Moreover, the recent literature indicates that installed warning devices lose their efficiency due to the corona discharge, ice formation, service works, etc. Spiral vibration dampers are not recommended for use on transmission phase conductors with voltage ≥ 230 kV because of corona effects.³ As summarized, by Haas et al., “warning provisions are inevitably less effective than the removal of the neutral cable high above the conductor cables”.

Table 1 Critical risks of powerlines on birds, the case of LitPol Link

Type of risk/recommended measure ⁴	LitPol Link “solution”
“High losses reported where power lines cut across flyways and migration corridors, such as river valleys and valleys between mountains.”	In the disputed area, the OHL crosses 3 migratory corridors (along water systems) of national/international importance.
“Multi-level arrangements lead to highest risks”, instead single-level arrangement of the high-voltage conductor cables, without a dangerous neutral cable should be used.	Outdated multilevel 400 kV OHL technology with the shield cables on-top was chosen, an arrangement that together with the existing 110 kV OHLs forms literally fences across the migratory corridors and habitats.
“For numerous medium-sized and large birds, such as Storks, Eagles, Vultures, other Raptors, Owls, Ravens, Bustards, Rails and Waders, electrocution and collision are one of the main mortality factors.”	The area chosen for the OHL is the preferred area for this class of birds, with at least 25 species under the Bern Convention.

² Haas et al., Protecting Birds from Powerlines, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, 2005.

³ Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC); Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012; Edison Electric Institute and APLIC. Washington, D.C., 2012.

⁴ Dr. Markus Nipkow (NABU-BirdLife Germany), Impacts of power lines on bird populations in Europe, Renewables Grid Initiative workshop June 16, 2011, Glasgow, UK (a PPT copy available).

“When above-ground powerlines cut across open landscape, staging and wintering habitats may be reduced in availability and quality for birds.”	The OHL passes right across the documented accumulation spots of cranes, gees and waterfowl.
The amount of casualties is the highest on important bird areas, e.g. the NATURA 2000 network.	The OHL intersects the Dovinė river basin, a well-researched ecosystem that comprises the UNESCO-protected Žuvintas Lake bird reserve (LTALYB003) and sites LTALYB001, LTLAZ0010. In certain sections the OHL is built as close as 200 m away from the official border of the Natura 2000 sites.
“Landscape planning, SEA and EIA: Examination of different strategic and routing alternatives, in order to avoid fragmentation of landscape and/or negative impacts e.g. on the NATURA 2000 network”	The performed SEA and EIA procedures were of poor quality, conducted without including realistic alternatives, without public participation and they are being disputed in the framework of the complaint under the Aarhus Convention. The OHL adversely fragments the ecological framework, migratory corridors, habitats and the traditional mosaic-like landscapes. An alternative route identified by the Complainant and independent experts would allow for grouping the OHL with the other existing/planned infrastructures. Notably, the very recently approved plan for the gas pipeline opens for even further fragmentation and larger cumulative negative effects.
Underground cables	The identified partial undergrounding technology of high voltage AC lines, successfully used, for example, in Denmark, has been rejected by the project developers and the authorities.

CONSERVATION STATUS OF *EMYS ORBICULARIS*

The European pond turtle population in Lithuania is estimated up to be up to 400. It is mainly found in three herpetological reserves: Kučiuliškė, Juodabalė and Stračiūnai. These reserves were founded based on many years research by Mr. Evaldas Snieškus, who has been also entrusted by the Complainant to assess the newly discovered habitats described in the complaint. His conclusion, as submitted to the Standing Committee in 2014, was that the whole of the collected data allows to state that i) *Emys orbicularis* has been living in the disputed area, a **population that could be up to several tens of individuals**; ii) this is an extremely good habitat, due to the unique geomorphology of the terrain, links with other populations via the Lake Galadusys (PLH200007) and restricted human activity, at least till the infrastructure corridor buildup; iii) the OHL pylons have been built (disassembled and re-built again during 2015!) in the confirmed nesting sites.

The Complainant has stated that the EIA report was of unacceptable quality as to its reliability about *Emys orbicularis* in the OHL construction zone, opinion supported not only by Evaldas Snieškus, but also by other experts (copies of correspondence available). The authorities deliberately neglected the information submitted to the Complainant already in 2011, they made obstacles to the Complainant to make an independent scientific survey by rejecting its application, and issued the permissions for the OHL construction. In the end, they informed the Convention Bureau about an own survey, trying to show it as an independent one, although the assigned Lithuanian Fund for Nature (hereafter LFN) was in a conflict of interests because at the same time being hired by the OHL construction company to perform ecological supervision of works (see also below).

Through the Mediation procedure, including the field visit to the habitat/nesting spots now occupied by the OHL construction, the Complainant has collected the following new information:

1. The survey by the authorities, as suspected, was methodologically incorrect, e.g. due to a low probability to catch the pond turtles by traps in a habitat very rich in food.
2. There are indications that current conservation/management programs for *Emys orbicularis* conducted by the LFN and authorities in the established herpetological reserves have serious

issues, including cases of pond turtles freezing in winter due to improper excavation of ponds, making them “natural-like”, unnecessary cutting of trees, etc.

3. The LFN has been engaged in collecting the pond turtle eggs in the Stračiūnai herpetological reserve for state/EU-funded artificial breeding programs, whereas the reserve itself has been demolished and the turtles have been killed by large scale excavation of gravel by a private company.

To verify the latter case, the Complainant has already visited the Stračiūnai reserve, contacted experts and the local people. The situation is shocking as it turns out that the authorities since around 2008 have been permitting industrial activities right in the area with the important population of the pond turtle (Annex II). The excavation has seriously damaged the hydrological regime of the habitat (a lake) to the extent that water runs into the excavation site, and pond turtles are also found there, with cases of the heavy machinery killing them, or transporting away with the excavated sand. Furthermore, it has turned out that another lake, called Zervynas, also a part of the Stačiūnai herpetological reserve was removed from the Natura 2000 network in 2009. This decision by the Minister of Environment Gediminas Kazlauskas (also responsible for permitting the OHL) was vividly commented in the main Lithuanian newspapers as a corrupt one, suspecting the Minister favoring the interests of influential business people considering to construct residential houses on Lake Zervynas.

Moreover, very recently the Complainant has learned that large-scale excavation of gravel and sand has been carried out also on the immediate border of the Kučiuliškė herpetological reserve (Annex II). In the area under the present complaint, the same activities have been going on also outside the village of Rudamina, in the spot where the pond turtles have been regularly found by the local people.

The above findings indicate that the Lithuanian authorities have been incapable to assure proper protection of the European pond turtle in the framework of the Convention and the valid EU legislation. The officially registered main herpetological reserves have been systematically degraded, with the authorities clearly serving the interests of private business. In this perspective, it turns out that the pond turtle habitats discovered by the Complainant, till recently, have been the best preserved natural ones in Lithuania. However, the OHL construction and the upcoming buildup of the gas pipeline will irreparably damage this area, unique not only in Lithuania, but also in the Northern horizon of *Emys orbicularis*.

ATTITUDE BY THE LITHUANIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MEDIATION PROCEDURE

The Mediation procedure was proposed by the Standing Committee on the 34th meeting, December 2-5, 2014. The Complainant has to point out that since then there have been no slightest indications of changing the attitude of the authorities and the LitPol Link project developers toward conservation of species and their habitats in the OHL construction zone.

1. **There have been continuous cases of misconduct by the OHL construction companies.** For example, they were illegally excavating gravel (one officially confirmed case and more known by the Complainant but neglected by the authorities), working in the environmentally sensitive spots without building temporary access roads, demolishing protected forests, etc. This misconduct culminated in April 2015, when a pylon collapsed in the vicinity of the Žuvintas Reserve killing a worker. Through the latter sad case the public has been informed that there had been more serious technical accidents with the pylons falling apart already during the construction. The owner of the project AB LITGRID kept on insisting it has not known the actual situation on the construction sites. The outcome of this public scandal was that about 30 pylons had to be completely disassembled and rebuilt from the ground, mainly in the disputed environmentally sensitive area. **Notably, the owner of the project did not use this opportunity to change the pylon construction to the more bird-friendly single-level arrangements.** In the opinion of the Complainant, the re-construction of the nearly-ready OHL has created even more damage to the species and their habitats (for example, the Mediation procedure has revealed new facts about demolition of small water bodies that had to be strictly protected, spill out of waist has been

attested previously). Most likely, there are serious risks for new technical failures/accidents in the future, as only 30 pylons out of 150 have been rebuilt in a hasty way to accomplish the project by the financial deadlines set by the European Union funding schemes.

2. **The authorities and the developers have been systematically restricting information to the Complainant.** For example, the Complainant requested technical documentation to be able to verify the facts about illegal excavations along the OHL construction. Also, it encountered that UAB Sweco Lietuva, the same consult company that conducted the disputed SEA and EIA procedures has been in operation in the OHL construction as late as this year. In both cases, the Complainant received no answers from the developers/authorities and had to approach a Member of Parliament who finally gathered this information on its behalf.
3. **The authorities have been providing incorrect information to the Bern Convention bodies.** In August 2015, the Complainant received from the Secretariat a document indicating that the contract between the construction company and the LFN on the ecological supervision of OHL construction works was made in mid-April 2014, or even later. However, in the report submitted by the Lithuanian Government in November 2014 for the 34th Standing Committed meeting there is a statement: *“Permission for forest cutting works were issued by the responsible institution (State Forest Survey Service) and requires that the works should be in line with information provided in the EIA report. Forest cutting is only allowed in places where the power line is allowed to be built, where necessary cutting places has been investigated and described in planning documentation as well as in the approved EIA report, and where no impact on the protected species is foreseen. The works were carried out in late winter 2013 and early spring 2014, based on permission that was granted in December 2013 with validity for 12 months. The LFN, as ecological supervisor, partially oversaw the cutting works. The LFN specialists inspected the sites and no protected species in these areas were not found. The specific sequence of forest cutting works were recorded (starting from March 2014) in the construction book, while all ecological supervision activities were also recorded in a special journal.”* Thus, either the Government made false statements that the works were properly supervised, or the LFN had got engaged in the OHL project prior to the procurement of the ecological supervision services (might be in violation with the public procurement procedures). Even if the latter was the case, then the LFN would have been in a conflict of interests when it was suggested to the Convention Bureau by the Lithuanian Government as an "independent" organization to perform a survey on protected species. Furthermore, the Lithuanian Government provided the Convention bodies with misleading information about expanding the OHL route into an infrastructural corridor. In his communication of September 4, 2013, the Deputy-Minister of Environment wrote: *“It should be noted that at this time there are no projects planned, which could be developed using the engineering infrastructure corridor formed by the Power Line route. Applicant’s statement that engineering infrastructure corridor formed by the Power Line automatically determines the rise of other infrastructure objects at that place, regardless of the scale of the impact on the environment, is groundless and unfounded.”* Notably, the preparations for planning a powerful gas interconnector were made already in 2012 (documents available). In the last Bureau Meeting the Lithuanian authorities were requested to explain on that matter, however, to the best of Complainant’s knowledge, no such explanations have been provided up to date. During the Mediation procedure, the Complainant was informed that the EIA procedure for the gas pipeline was concluded in September 2015.
4. **The authorities did not comply with the formal Terms of Reference and the Ground Rules of the Mediation procedure.** The Complainant and the participants of the meeting in Rudamina were very disappointed about the fact that the meeting was audio-recorded, in front of the leaders of the Lithuanian delegation (a picture available). The statements of the members of the Complainant and the public concerned were immediately published by the Lazdijai Municipality Administration, with subsequent irreversible spreading into media. Newspapers also added comments by the authorities (the Ministry of Energy and the National Committee for State Defense), who depicted the Communicant in a negative way. Moreover, the Communicant expresses its dissatisfaction that the Lithuanian delegation was largely over-represented not only

in the visit in Rudamina but in the Mediation sessions themselves. Also, the Complainant has found out that a member of the Lithuanian delegation, who was representing the State Service for Protected Areas was in a conflict of interest: he was one of the co-authors of the disputed EIA report, at that time being hired by the private consult companies of the Sweco Group. Moreover, a close relative of the person in question is currently working for the same company at a high position. This episode adds to the long list of cases of non-transparency and misconduct of the Lithuanian authorities.

ROLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Complainant asked the 34th Standing Committee to include the Republic of Poland into the complaint. At the meeting the Polish representative objected that request, explaining that the Polish part of the OHL does not interfere with the species protected in Lithuania. The Complainant does not agree with such a position: i) the Polish Party rejected the invitation of the Lithuanian authorities to participate in the EIA procedures in the transboundary context, thus it did not undertake available administrative measures to mitigate the potential negative impacts of the Polish planning and construction activities on the Convention-protected species and their habitats situated across the border; ii) the Polish Party incorrectly informed that Standing Committee that the migrating birds such as *Grus grus* fly across the border only at such an altitude that they would not collide with the Polish OHL (a scientifically unreasoned statement). Moreover, the recent expansion of the OHL route into an infrastructural corridor was initiated by the Polish developers and authorities, again, without undertaking the available administrative measures to mitigate the negative impacts through the EIA, planning and strategic alternative considerations in the transboundary context.

Finally, the set of collected documents and correspondence collected by the Complainant indicates that the funding schemes by the European Union have been crucial in programming the negative fate of the environmentally sensitive area in the Lithuanian-Polish borderland. The European Commission has been funding the LitPol Link project under such conditions that it was financially beneficial to the funded parties to complete the OHL on the designated schedules. This clearly encouraged the Lithuanian (and Polish) authorities to ignore alternatives solutions, corrections and amendments of the project. Moreover, very recently, the funding for the gas pipeline project has been approved in ignorance of the serious environmental issues presented in this Complaint and also in the Communication considered under the Aarhus Convention. Thus, the Complainant asks the Standing Committee to include the Republic of Poland and the European Union in the present complaint.

Dr Ramūnas Valiokas,

Annex 1

A CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE ŽUVINTAS BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Published by the Administration of the Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve. A Word version composed from the original PDF version. The 25 bird species protected by the Bern Convention and most likely to be affected by the LitPol Link OHL, are highlighted in yellow by the Complainant.

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH NAME	LIETUVIŠKAI	STATUS			
1. Mute Swan	Guibė nebylė	B M	50. White-tailed Eagle	Jūnis erelis	B MW
2. Tundra Swan	Mazoji guibė	M	51. Short-toed Snake Eagle	Gyvatėdis	V
3. Whooper Swan	Guibė giesmininkė	rBM	52. Western Marsh Harrier	Nendrinė lingė	B M
4. Bean Goose	Zelmeninė žąsis	M	53. Northern Harrier	Javinė lingė	MW
5. Greater White-fronted Goose	Baltakakė žąsis	M W	54. Montagu's Harrier	Stepinė lingė	H
6. Lesser White-fronted Goose	Mazoji žąsis	H	55. Northern Goshawk	Pievinė lingė	B M
7. Canada Goose	Pilkoji žąsis	B MW	56. Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Višvanagis	B MW
8. Barnacle Goose	Kanadinė berniklė	rW	57. Common Buzzard	Paukštvanagis	B MW
9. Brant Goose	Baltakruotė berniklė	M rW	58. Rough-legged Buzzard	Paprastasis suopis	B MW
10. Red-breasted Goose	Paprastoji berniklė	M	59. Lesser Spotted Eagle	Tūbuotasis suopis	M W
11. Common Shelduck	Rudakakė berniklė	V	60. Greater Spotted Eagle	Mazasis erelis rėksnys	B M
12. Eurasian Wigeon	Uvinė antis	rB M	61. Steppe Eagle	Didysis erelis rėksnys	V N
13. Gadwall	Cypė	M	62. Golden Eagle	Nepalinis erelis	V
14. Eurasian Teal	Pilkoji antis	rB M	63. Western Osprey	Kilnis erelis	MrW
15. Mallard	Rudagalvė kryklė	B M	64. Common Kestrel	Zuvininkas	M
16. Northern Pintail	Didžioji antis	B MW	65. Red-footed Falcon	Pelėsakalis	rB M
17. Garganey	Smailiauodegė antis	M	66. Merlin	Raudonkojis sakalas	M
18. Northern Shoveler	Dryzagalvė kryklė	B M	67. Eurasian Hobby	Startsakalis	MW
19. Red-crested Pochard	Saukštasnapė antis	rB M	68. Peregrine Falcon	Sketsakalis	M
20. Common Pochard	Salminė antis	V	69. Water Rail	Medžioklinis sakalas	H
21. Tufted Duck	Rudagalvė antis	B M	70. Spotted Crane	Sakalas keleivis	M
22. Greater Scaup	Rudė	H	71. Little Crane	Ilgasnapė vištelė	B M
23. Common Eider	Kuoduotoji antis	B M	72. Corn Crane	Svygžda	B M
24. Long-tailed Duck	Žiloji antis	M	73. Common Moorhen	Plovinė vištelė	B M
25. Common Scoter	Paprastoji gaga	V	74. Eurasian Coot	Griežlė	B M
26. Velvet Scoter	Leidinė antis	V	75. Common Crane	Nendrinė vištelė	B M rW
27. Common Goldeneye	Juodoji antis	V	76. Eurasian Oystercatcher	Laukys	B M rW
28. Snaw	Nuodėgulė	M	77. Common Crane	Pilkoji genė	B M rW
29. Red-breasted Merganser	Kykulė	M	78. Eurasian Oystercatcher	Jursarkė	V
30. Common Merganser	Mazasis dandčiasnapis	M	79. Pied Avocet	Avocetė	V, N
31. Hazel Grouse	Vidutinis dandčiasnapis	H	80. Grey Plover	Upinis kirlikas	rB M
32. Black Grouse	Didysis dandčiasnapis	rB MW	81. Northern Lapwing	Dininis sėjikas	B M
33. Grey Partridge	Jerubė	rBW	82. Temminck's Stint	Jūnis sėjikas	V
34. Common Quail	Tetėvinas	B W	83. Dunlin	Pempė	B M
35. Common Pheasant	Kurapka	B W	84. Ruff	Juodakrūtis bėgikas	rB M
36. Red-throated Loon	Putpelė	B M	85. Jack Snipe	Gaidukas	rB M
37. Black-throated Loon	Medžiojamasis fazanas	V	86. Common Snipe	Oželis nyktukas	M
38. Little Grebe	Rudakakis naras	H	87. Great Snipe	Perkūno oželis	B M rW
39. Great Crested Grebe	Juodakakis naras	rB M	88. Eurasian Woodcock	Stulgys	rB M
40. Red-necked Grebe	Mazasis kragas	B M	89. Black-tailed Godwit	Slanka	B M
41. Black-necked Grebe	Ausuotasis kragas	B MW	90. Whimbrel	Paprastasis griukas	B M
42. Great Cormorant	Rudakakis kragas	rB M	91. Eurasian Curlew	Vidutinė kuolinga	M
43. Great White Pelican	Juodakakis kragas	M	92. Spotted Redshank	Didžioji kuolinga	rB M
44. Eurasian Bittern	Didysis komoranas	M	93. Common Redshank	Tamsusis tīvikas	M
45. Little Bittern	Rodinis pelikanas	V	94. Marsh Sandpiper	Raudonkojis tīvikas	B M
46. Great Egret	Didysis baublys	B MW	95. Common Greenshank	Kūdrinis tīvikas	V
47. Grey Heron	Mazasis baublys	rB M	96. Green Sandpiper	Zaliojojis tīvikas	M
48. Black Stork	Didysis baltasis garmys	M	97. Wood Sandpiper	Brastinis tīvikas	B M
49. White Stork	Pilkasis garmys	rBMW	98. Common Sandpiper	Tikutis	B M
50. Eurasian Spoonbill	Juodasis gandrąs	B M	99. Red-necked Phalarope	Krantinis tīvikas	B M
51. European Honey Buzzard	Baltasis gandrąs	B M	100. Parasitic Jaeger	Apvaliasnapis plaukikas	M
52. Black Kite	Gimovė	H	101. Long-tailed Jaeger	Smailiauodegis plėšikas	VM
	Vapšvaėdis	B M	102. Black-headed Gull	Rudagalvis kiras	B M
	Juodasis peslys	M	103. Mew Gull	Paprastasis kiras	rB M W

104.	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Silkinis kiras	M rW	155.	Duncock	Papr. erskētzvīrbis	B M
105.	European Herring Gull	Sidabrinis kiras	rB M W	156.	European Robin	Liepsnele	B M rW
106.	Caspian Gull	Kaspjinis kiras	M rW	157.	Thrush Nightingale	Rytinė lakstingala	B M
107.	Great Black-backed Gull	Baltuotasis kiras	rM	158.	Bluethroat	Mėlyngundė	B M
108.	Little Gull	Mazasis kiras	rB M	159.	Black Redstart	Dūminė raudonuodegė	B M
109.	Caspian Tern	Piešnioj žuvėdra	rM	160.	Common Redstart	Papr. raudonuodegė	B M
110.	Common Tern	Upinė žuvėdra	B M	161.	Whinchat	Kiaulukė	B M
111.	Little Tern	Mazoj žuvėdra	rM	162.	Northern Wheatear	Kūltupys	B M
112.	Whiskered Tern	Baltaskruostė žuvėdra	rB M	163.	Common Blackbird	Juodasis strazdas	B MW
113.	Black Tern	Juodoj žuvėdra	B M	164.	Fieldfare	Smiginis strazdas	B MW
114.	White-winged Tern	Baltaspamė žuvėdra	B M	165.	Song Thrush	Strazdas giesmininkas	B M
115.	Common Pigeon	Uolinis karvelis	B R	166.	Redwing	Baltabruvis strazdas	M
116.	Stock Dove	Udukas	rM	167.	Mistle Thrush	Amalinis strazdas	M
117.	Common Wood Pigeon	Keršulis	B M	168.	Common Grasshopper Warbler	Margasis žiogelis	B M
118.	Eurasian Collared Dove	Pietinis purpelis	B R	169.	River Warbler	Upinis žiogelis	B M
119.	European Turtle Dove	Paprastasis purpelis	B M	170.	Savi's Warbler	Nendrinis žiogelis	B M
120.	Common Cuckoo	Gegutė	B M	171.	Aquatic Warbler	Mėdvinė nendrinukė	B M
121.	Western Barn Owl	Liepsnotoj pelėda	rB R	172.	Sedge Warbler	Ežerinė nendrinukė	B M
122.	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	Didysis apuokas	VN	173.	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Sodinė nendrinukė	VN
123.	Little Owl	Pelėdikė	V	174.	Marsh Warbler	Karklinė nendrinukė	B M
124.	Tawny Owl	Naminė pelėda	B R	175.	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Mazoj krakšė	B M
125.	Ural Owl	Uralinė pelėda	V	176.	Great Reed Warbler	Didžioj krakšė	B M
126.	Long-eared Owl	Mazasis apuokas	B M W	177.	Iderine Warbler	Paprastoj tošinukė	B M
127.	Short-eared Owl	Balinė pelėda	rB M W	178.	Barred Warbler	Raijoj devynbalsė	rB M
128.	Boreal Owl	Lututė	V	179.	Lesser Whitethroat	Pikoj devynbalsė	B M
129.	European Nightjar	Lėlys	B M	180.	Common Whitethroat	Rudoj devynbalsė	B M
130.	Common Swift	Juodasis čiurtys	B M	181.	Garden Warbler	Sodinė devynbalsė	B M
131.	Common Kingfisher	Tužys	M	182.	Eurasian Blackcap	Juodagalvė devynbalsė	B M
132.	Eurasian Hoopoe	Kukutis	rM	183.	Yellow-browed Warbler	Geltonbrūvė pečialinda	V
133.	Eurasian Wren	Grąžagalvė	B M	184.	Wood Warbler	Žalioj pečialinda	B M
134.	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Pikoj meleta	rB R	185.	Common Chiffchaff	Pikoj pečialinda	B M
135.	European Green Woodpecker	Žalioj meleta	rB R	186.	Willow Warbler	Ankstyvoj pečialinda	B M
136.	Black Woodpecker	Juodoj meleta	BR	187.	Goldcrest	Paprastasis nykštukas	B MW
137.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Did. margasis genys	B M W	188.	Spotted Flycatcher	Pikoj musinukė	B M
138.	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	Vid. margasis genys	BR	189.	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Mazoj musinukė	B M
139.	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Maz. margasis genys	B M W	190.	European Pied Flycatcher	Margaspamė musinukė	B M
140.	White-backed Woodpecker	Baltuotasis genys	B R	191.	Bearded Reedling	Ūsotoj zylė	B MW
141.	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	Tripirštis genys	H	192.	Long tailed Tit	Ilgauodegė zylė	B MW
142.	Woodlark	Lygutė	M	193.	Marsh Tit	Paprastoj pikoj zylė	B MW
143.	Eurasian Skylark	Dirvinis viversys	B M	194.	Willow Tit	Siaurnė pikoj zylė	B MW
144.	Horned Lark	Raguotasis viversys	W	195.	European Crested Tit	Kuoduotoj zylė	B MW
145.	Sand Martin	Urvinė kregždė	B M	196.	Coal Tit	Juodoj zylė	B MW
146.	Barn Swallow	Selmeninė kregždė	B M	197.	Eurasian Blue Tit	Mėlynoji zylė	B MW
147.	Common House Martin	Langinė kregždė	B M	198.	Great Tit	Didžioji zylė	B MW
148.	Tree Pipit	Miskinis kalniukas	B M	199.	Eurasian Nuthatch	Bukutis	B MW
149.	Meadow Pipit	Pievinis kalniukas	B M	200.	Eurasian Treecreeper	Liputis	B MW
150.	Western Yellow Wagtail	Geltonoji kielė	B M	201.	Eurasian Penduline Tit	Remeza	B M rW
151.	Citrine Wagtail	Geltongalvė kielė	B M	202.	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Volungė	B M
152.	Grey Wagtail	Kalinė kielė	H	203.	Red-backed Shrike	Paprastoj medšarkė	B M
153.	White Wagtail	Baltoji kielė	B M	204.	Lesser Grey Shrike	Juodakaktė medšarkė	V
154.	Bohemian Waxwing	Svirbelis	M W	205.	Great Grey Shrike	Piešnioj medšarkė	B MW
155.	White-throated Dipper	Vandeninis strazdas	V	206.	Eurasian Jay	Kėkštās	B MW
156.	Winter Wren	Karetalė	B M W	207.	Eurasian Magpie	Šarka	B MW
				208.	Spotted Nutcracker	Riesutinė	B MW
				209.	Western Jackdaw	Kuosa	B MW

210.	Rook	Kovas	rB MW
211.	Hooded Crow	Pilkoji varna	B MW
212.	Northern Raven	Kranklys	B MW
213.	Common Starling	Paprastasis varnėnas	B M rW
214.	House Sparrow	Naminis žvirblis	B W
215.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Karkiazvirblis	B W
216.	Common Chaffinch	Paprastasis kikilis	B M rW
217.	Brambling	Siaurės kikilis	M rW
218.	European Serin	Svilikėlis	M
219.	European Greenfinch	Zalukė	B MW
220.	European Goldfinch	Dagilis	B MW
221.	Eurasian Siskin	Aksninukas	B MW
222.	Common Linnet	Paprastasis čivylis	B MW
223.	Twite	Geltonsnapis čivylis	M
224.	Common Redpoll	Paprastasis omčakas	M W
225.	Arctic Redpoll	Poliarinis čimčakas	V
226.	Red Crossbill	Eglinis kryžiasnapis	B MW
227.	Common Rosefinch	Raudongalvė sniegėna	B M
228.	Eurasian Bullfinch	Juodaqalvė sniegėna	B MW
229.	Hawfinch	Svilikas	B MW
230.	Snow Bunting	Sniegstartė	M W
231.	Yellowhammer	Geltonoji starta	B MW
232.	Ortolan Bunting	Sodinė starta	V
233.	Common Reed Bunting	Nendrinė starta	B M rW
234.	Cor Bunting	Pilkoji starta	rBM

The Recording Area

Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve (Natura 2000 Site, Ramsar Site) lies adjacent to the towns Alytus and Marijampolė in the Southern Lithuania. It covers the biggest Lithuanian wetland area: raised bog, fen and the shallow Lake.

The list includes all 243 species recorded on the territory of Reserve since 1960.

Species recorded in an apparently wild state up to 1980 are not numbered.

Status of species / rūšies statusas

B	Common breeding bird / įprasta perinti
rB	Rarely breeding bird / retai perinti
M	Regular migrator / migruojanti
W	Regularly wintering bird / žiemojanti
rW	Rare or accidental wintering bird / retai žiemojanti
V	Vagrant (no more than 5 records) / užklystanti
H	Historical record before 1980 / išnykusi
N	New record since 2011 / naujai aptikta po 2011



Žuvinto biosferos rezervato direkcija, 2013



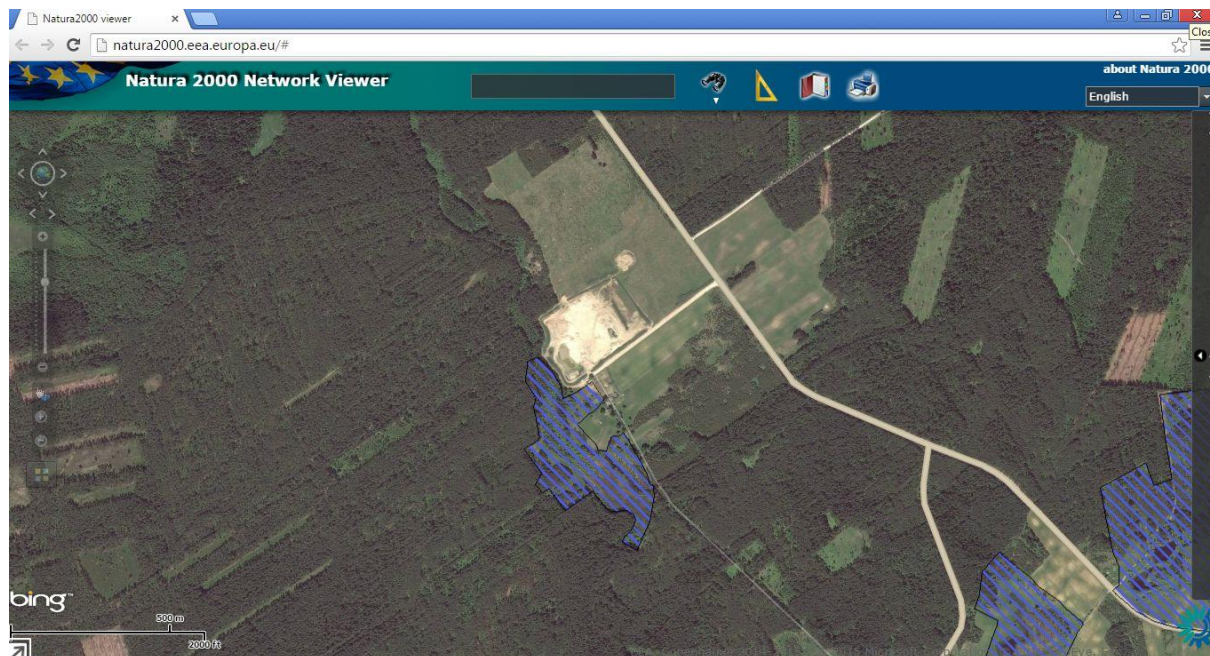
A Checklist of the Birds of the Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve



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Annex 2

EXCAVATIONS OF GRAVEL AND SAND NEAR THE POND TURTLE HABITATS IN THE HERPETOLOGICAL RESERVES IN LITHUANIA

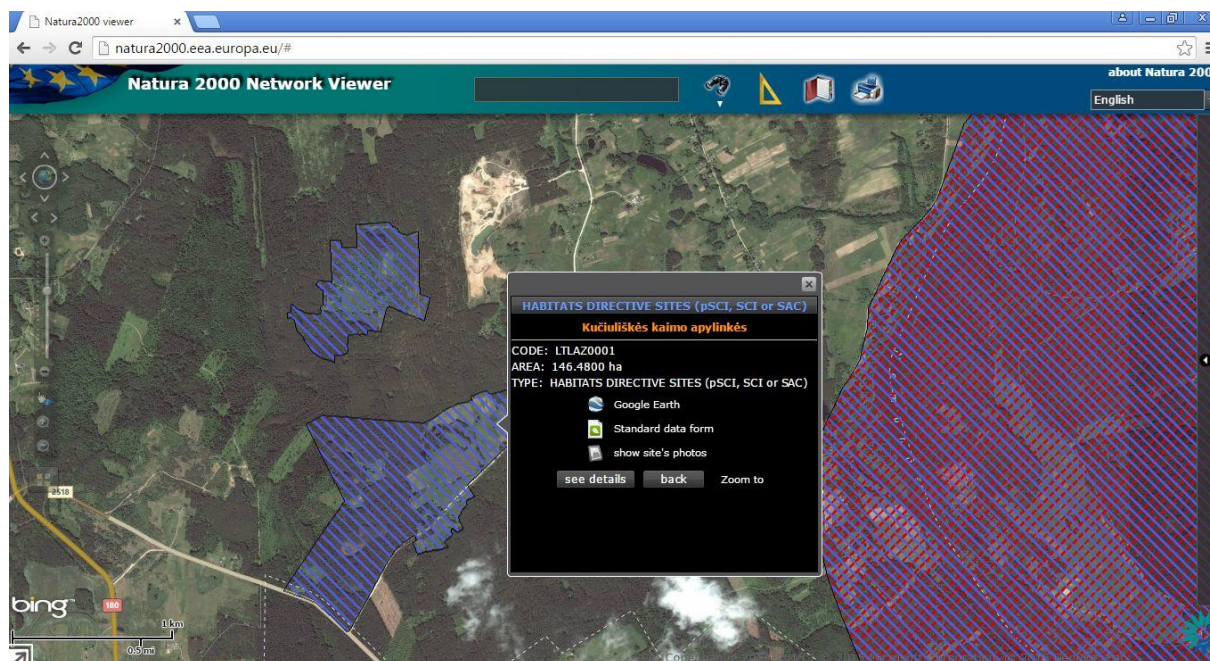


Picture 1. Orthophotograph of a part of the Stračiūnai herpetological reserve (the surroundings of Margai Village) with the gravel excavation site next to it.



Protected lake here, pond turtles have been found
in the excavation area, killed or transported with the sand

Picture 2. Excavation of gravel and sand in Margai Village, October 2015.



Picture 3. Orthophotograph of the Kučiuliškė herpetological reserve with the excavation fields of gravel and sand close to the protected habitat of the pond turtles.