

First circular: Conference announcement

An International Conference on Conservation and Management of Priority Wetland Habitats in Sigulda, Latvia, July 11-12, 2017.

Dear colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the International Conference devoted to the conservation and management of priority wetland habitats. The seminar will take place in Sigulda, Latvia, from July 11th to July 12th, 2017. The aim of the seminar is to raise awareness and discuss wetland conservation and management and share experience.

Themes of the Conference include:

- 1) Wetland conservation;
- 2) Wetland management and restoration;
- 3) Wetland monitoring.



Sudas-Zviedru Mire. Photo: Māra Pakalne

Field trips will take place in the largest and oldest national park in Latvia – Gauja National Park, and Raunas Staburags Nature Reserve. Participants of the field trip will visit such wetland habitats as Raised bogs (7110), Degraded raised bogs where natural regeneration is possible or is taking place (7120), Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) (7220).

Gauja National Park (GNP) was established to protect the unique nature object, the ancient Gauja River Valley. The current Gauja Valley has formed by derogation of glacier about 12-13 thousand years ago. The largest mire in the area is the Sudas-Zviedru Mire (2575 ha) where raised bog habitats maintain rare plant species, like deer grass *Trichophorum cespitosum*. In the other project site, Dāvida Springs by the riverside of Vaive River, a rare and protected habitat with Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) occupies an area of 3 ha.

Raunas Staburags Nature Reserve protects a unique petrifying spring habitat with tufa formation that reaches up to 3.5 m in height and 17 m in width. The Nature Reserve is particularly important for bryophyte communities maintaining curled hook-moss *Palustriella commutata*, fern-leaved hook-moss *Cratoneuron filicinum*, endive peltia *Pellia endiviifolia*.

Contributions are welcome on any aspect of management and conservation of priority wetlands. Please kindly confirm your availability and interest in presenting at your earliest convenience and no later than January 6th 2017 by e-mail to Ms. Marta Baumanė, public relations coordinator, marta.baumane@lu.lv.

For more information about the seminar and project please visit www.mitraji.lv/?lang=en.

Venue

The conference venue is Sigulda Concert Hall and Music School, located in the centre of Sigulda, Šveices Street 19.

Registration, participation fee

The registration will be open in January, participation fee will be announced in the second circular.



Raunas Staburags. Photo: Māra Pakalne

Important dates

First Circular, call for presentations & posters – December, 2016

Second Circular – January, 2017

Registration – January-February, 2017

Conference will be organised within the LIFE+ project “Conservation and Management of Priority Wetland Habitats in Latvia” – LIFE13 NAT/LV/000578. The project is funded by European Commission LIFE+ Programm. Project coordinating beneficiary: University of Latvia Project associate beneficiaries: Estonian Fund for Nature (SA Eestimaa Looduse Fond), BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung, E Buvvadība Ltd, Foundation Modern Technology Development Fund and RIDemo Ltd. Project co-financers: Latvian Environmental Protection Fund Administration and Estonian Environmental Investment Centre.



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