

**Quarterly Operational Reports
UNDP-GEF Project in Belarus
October-December 2013**

Project #82884 – PIMS 4419 FSP Landscape approach to management of peatlands aiming at multiple ecological benefits

Status

FSP being implemented

Update

First meeting of the Interministerial Cross-sectoral Working Group for coordinating the development of the National Strategy on Peatlands (NSP) held in November 2013, where methodological approaches on peatlands classification and principal structure of the Strategy were discussed and agreed. Perspective territories for establishing reserves of local importance were selected (10 territories with total area about 25 000 ha), necessary maps were prepared. These territories were agreed with stakeholders and required procedures for their reservation for declaring of new reserves of local importance were carried out. Analysis of spatial distribution of wildlife habitats for different animals and plants species in the Vitebsk region was conducted. Map of biodiversity centers and ecological corridors in Vitebsk region was worked out. Scientific rationales for re-wetting forest territories Gorodok, Kopyš and Červieň developed. Sites for establishment of black alder plantings were selected and agreed with Lida forestry on areas about 200 ha. Basic data for fauna and flora monitoring on Gorodok, Kopyš and Červieň pilot sites prior to re-wetting were collected and analyzed. Two sites for GHG monitoring were selected and equipped at pilot territories (in Bereza and Cherven districts, agricultural and forestry peatlands respectively) , first measurements of greenhouse gases fluxes on the sites were performed.