Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 13, EGU2011-11984, 2011
EGU General Assembly 2011

Risks assessment for water-dependent habitats protected by Natura 2000

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This paper is an attempt to assess the risks associated with changes in the quality and / or the quantity of water supplying the Special Areas of Conservation. Various quantitative and qualitative water conditions can have major impact on the conservation status on protected habitats. This is particularly important in the case of water-dependent habitats protected under the Natura 2000 program.
This paper suggests that an expert evaluation of water-dependent habitats protected under the Natura 2000 network should be introduced in order to facilitate the subsequent evaluation of habitats depending on changes in water conditions in the area. A structure of the Decion Support System is presented which includes two main components – vulnerability of the habitat for water stress and pressures on SAC assessments.
Examples which are presented in this paper come from the SPA area called Kampinos Forest which is located in central Poland. Because of its unique natural values, this area is under national protection as Kampinoski National Park. For the same reasons Kampinos Forest Biosphere Reserve has been created there.