

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Ákos Gáborik conservation officer
Duna-Dráva Nemzeti Park Directorate
Hungary
H-7625 Pécs, Tettye tér 9.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

8 June 2006

3. Country:

Hungary

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Szaporca, Ó-Dráva meder

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

No major change since the previous RIS for the site.

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): X;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

Follows the boundary of the Duna-Dráva National Park around the shoreline of the ancient riverbed of the Dráva at Szaporca.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

45° 50' N, 18° 06' E

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

County of Baranya, south-west from town of Pécs.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Between 92.5 and 93.5 m over Baltic sea level.

11. Area: (in hectares) 257 ha

The area size on the RIS follows the officially (nationally) designated site size (which is based on the land registration data). Unfortunately the map submitted previously was rather sketchy and the outlines did not follow precisely the land parcel boundaries. So only the map was improved and the officially designated area size did not change.

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The wetland site covers the territory of an ox-bow lake that developed naturally from the main arm of the river Drava. Before regulation of the river the site was flooded regularly. River regulation created permanent separation between the river and its former riverbed. Various wetland habitats along this fragmented riverbed represent well the different stages of biological succession.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

1. The Szaporca Ó-Dráva-meder (ancient riverbed of Dráva at Szaporca) is a typical example of a near-natural oxbow. Considering its close to natural status it has a special value because it supports the species richness of the river Dráva and its floodplain communities, including floating vegetation communities (Lemno-Utricularietum, Nuphareto-Castalietum)

2. This wetland has in recent years supported critically endangered species of plants and animals. This wetland complex supports the survival of endangered and vulnerable animal and plant species. Among birds (see list under criterion 4), *Aythya nyroca* (IUCN category: vulnerable) is particularly noteworthy as a breeding species in the area. Important mammal species include *Myotis daubentoni* (EU CITES A.II ; Bern Convention App. II, HD Annex IV), *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (EU CITES A.III ; Bern Convention App. II, HD Annex IV), *Lutra lutra* (EU CITES A.I ; Bern Convention App. II, HD Annex II and IV) and *Felis silvestris* (EU CITES A.II ; Bern Convention App. II, HD Annex IV).

4. The site shelters internationally threatened species. Amongst them are the following birds, which are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive: *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Dryocopus martius* and *Sylvia nisoria*.

Other important bird species:

Tachybaptus ruficollis LC IUCN Red list
Accipiter gentilis LC IUCN Red list
Accipiter nisus LC IUCN Red list
Buteo buteo LC IUCN Red list
Falco subbuteo LC IUCN Red list
Coturnix coturnix LC IUCN Red list
Rallus aquaticus LC IUCN Red list
Gallinula chloropus LC IUCN Red list
Cuculus canorus LC IUCN Red list
Tyto alba LC IUCN Red list
Strix aluco LC IUCN Red list
Merops apiaster LC IUCN Red list
Upupa epops LC IUCN Red list
Picus viridis LC IUCN Red list
Dendrocopos major LC IUCN Red list
Dendrocopos minor LC IUCN Red list
Galerida cristata LC IUCN Red list
Alauda arvensis LC IUCN Red list

Riparia riparia LC IUCN Red list
Oriolus oriolus LC IUCN Red list
Remiz pendulinus LC IUCN Red list
Sitta europea LC IUCN Red list
Saxicola torquata LC IUCN Red list
Luscinia megarhynchos LC IUCN Red list
Locustella luscinioides LC IUCN Red list
Sylvia nisoria LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Sylvia communis LC IUCN Red list

Note: Criterion 5 is no longer appropriate (it may have never been met – information is lacking). Since 1998, the heron colony has moved on to another site because of, to our knowledge, natural causes and not human disturbance.

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region: Pannonic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation): European Commission DG Environment webpage
Bern Convention/ EU Habitats Directive

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Climate

Climate of this area is moderately warm and wet. Total hours of sunshine is around 1950 annually of which 800-830 are in summer, and 190-210 in winter respectively. Yearly mean temperature varies between 10.6-10.8 °C along with 17.4 °C mean in vegetation period. Total precipitation yearly is about 680 mm. Evapo-transpiration in the vegetation period is almost the same, about 400 mm.

Hydrography

Hydrographically, the oxbows are inextricably linked to the river Dráva. The narrow left-side valley-plain of the Dráva belongs to the catchment of the site. According to the hydrographical classification the site is moderately wet with surplus water. River Dráva may flood the area in summer and in autumn, however, the area is characterised by relatively low water in winter. Local watercourses usually carry much water at the beginning of summer.

Soils

Soils associated with riverine ecosystems are predominant along the river Dráva flood plain (83%). Bedrock types are usually clay or sandy clay. Its calcium carbonate content varies widely.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The wetland has no independent catchment area, it belongs to the Dráva river. The immediate surroundings of the site are the former floodplain of the Drava river is formed from alluvial sediments (mostly sand and clay). The general land use is agriculture, around the site there are large arable lands. The climate is continental with the influence of mediterranean winds.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Water supply is managed through sluices that are connected to the river Dráva. Groundwater recharge also plays an important role in the management of water level of the wetland site.

19. Wetland Types**a) presence:**

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

O-Permanent freshwater lakes including oxbow lakes

Xf: Seasonally flooded hardwood gallery forest

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

As a complex riverine ecosystem, the wetland site offers appropriate feeding and breeding sites for a diverse wildlife. Ecological processes are still complete and human interference is not significant.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

In botanical sense the wetland belongs to the Titelicum in Eupannonicum of the larger area of Pannonicum. Most important associations are soft wood gallery forests (*Salicetum albae-fragilis*), willow-poplar gallery forests (*Saliceto-Populetum*) and hard wood gallery forests (*Fraxino pannonicae-Ulmetum*). Characteristic plants are: *Iris pseudacorus*, *Carex strigosa*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*. The most noteworthy vegetation types of the area are related to oxbow lakes with associations of *Nymphoides peltata*, *Nymphaea alba*, *Stratiotes aloides*, *Salvia natans*, *Trapa natans*, and the surrounding softwood gallery forests. Further plant species that are significant:

Hottonia palustris

Urtica kioviensis

Stratiodes aloides

Carpesium abrantoides

Sagittaria sagittifolia

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Recent population data are known for the following bird species (in pairs):

<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	3	LC IUCN Red list
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	2	LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive

Milvus migrans	1	LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Buteo buteo	2	LC IUCN Red list
Circus aeruginosus	1	LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Rallus aquaticus	6	LC IUCN Red list
Cuculus canorus	6	LC IUCN Red list
Dendrocopos major	4	LC IUCN Red list
Dendrocopos minor	2	LC IUCN Red list
Dryocopus martius	1	LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Gallinula chloropus	6	LC IUCN Red list
Locustella luscinioides	4	LC IUCN Red list
Luscinia megarhynchos	6	LC IUCN Red list
Oriolus oriolus	5	LC IUCN Red list
Remiz pendulinus	2	LC IUCN Red list
Saxicola torquata	2	LC IUCN Red list
Sitta europaea	6	LC IUCN Red list

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No. There are leisure fishing activities on the smaller part of the site.

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site: 167 ha, Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate 57 ha, private 29 ha, other 4 ha

b) in the surrounding area: cooperative farms or privately owned

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site: Arable land: 84 ha. Grassland: 30 ha. Marshland: 52 ha. Forest: 62 ha. Fallow: 10 ha. Other: 17 ha.

Total: 257 ha

b) in the surroundings/catchment: ploughlands, hay production, other agricultural activities.

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Water regulation carried out between 1986-1990 had a negative impact on the wetland site. There is a strong pressure of anglers on the wetland especially at Lake Kisinci.

(b) in the surrounding area:

Intensified agricultural activities in the surroundings resulted in decline of water quality.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The area has been designated as a Ramsar Site since 1979 and as a core area of Duna-Dráva NP since 1996.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?: No officially approved management plan exists yet.

d) Describe any other current management practices: Fishing with nets is prohibited in the area. Angling is allowed only from the shores, outside the breeding season and with restrictions.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

The oxbow can only be preserved by intermittent water recharges from the river Dráva. This is becoming increasingly more difficult as the regulation of the river has resulted in deepening of the riverbed. It is of utmost importance to establish a thin culvert connecting the river with the oxbow.

Due to vegetation succession, the habitats and species diversity are declining at an increasing rate. Succession will lead to the swamp being overgrown with shrubs and riparian forests, and eventually the wetland habitat may rapidly disappear, as it has happened with numerous remnant oxbows along the river Dráva. The first step of restoration is provision of water supply. Next, the surrounding 'ameliorated' agricultural lands will have to be converted to grasslands. The riparian zone will have to be converted to softwood gallery woodland.

Fishing is not allowed on the site. Angling is allowed with restrictions outside the bird breeding season.

In the long term, all arable lands within the horseshoe-shaped oxbow bed will have to be eliminated, and areas with favourable water conditions will have to be forested with near-natural stands. Chemical use in the surrounding area will have to be eliminated, as the seepage affects wildlife and accelerates the silting process. Grazing in the wooded pastures nearby is not solved presently; state support is needed to maintain livestock and promote traditional land use forms.

As yet, there is no decided timeframe for these measures.

Planned management measures: restoration of previous water regime of river Dráva. Feasibility studies are under preparation. A detailed management plan was completed in 1998.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

A map depicting habitat types of the site is under preparation. A monitoring programme is to be developed.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site: Trips are organised to demonstrate the values and functions of the wetland by the Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate.

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Annually an estimated number of a few hundred tourists visit the site mainly in summer.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

The Dél-Dunántúli Authority for Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management is the first instant authority of the Ministry for Environment and Water.

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

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34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Á, Uherkovich (eds., 1995): The fauna of the Drava region I. *Studia Pannonica (A) Series Historico-Naturalis in Hungarian*, Baranya Megyei Múzeumok Igazgatósága, Pécs

Á, Uherkovich (eds., 1998): The fauna of the Drava region II. *Studia Pannonica (A) Series Historico-Naturalis in Hungarian*, Baranya Megyei Múzeumok Igazgatósága, Pécs

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