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.

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

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DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
19 February 2007

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.

Pacsmag Fishponds Nature Conservation Area
(new translation of the Hungarian site name)

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 ❑X

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: ❑ X

or
If the site boundary has changed:
i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or
i) 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 Pacsmag Fishponds Nature Conservation Area.

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.
46º53'N - 18º22' 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.

The Pacsmag fishponds are located in the county of Tolna, close to the villages of Tamási and Regöly.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)
110-200 m average: 115 m

11. Area: (in hectares) 485 ha

12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.
Pacsmag Fishponds Nature Conservation Area is situated between Tamási and Regöly villages, in a meandering valley of streamlet Koppány. Fishponds were established by building a dam on the watercourse. The large water bodies attract thousands of waterfowl especially during migration.

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).

2. The area is an excellent nesting habitat of several strictly protected and endangered bird species and breeding site of the strictly protected otter.
The most important bird species:
Egretta garzetta LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Egretta alba Annex I Bird Directive
Nycticorax nycticorax LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Botaurus stellaris LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Ardea purpurea LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Ciconia nigra LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Haliaeetus albicilla VU IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Crex crex NT IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Merops apiaster LC IUCN Red list
Aythya nyroca NT IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive

3. In addition to birds and Otter listed under justification of Criterion 2, Orchis purpurea can be mentioned here. The site is a major stronghold of the globally threatened Aythya nyroca.

4. The Fishponds Nature Conservation Area is one of the most significant waterfowl resting and feeding site of the Southern part of Transdanubia (Western Hungary). The area is an excellent nesting habitat of several strictly protected and endangered bird species and breeding site of the strictly protected otter. Being a nature reserve it supports large enough territory for thousands of waterfowl. Waterfowls concentrate on the fishponds during migration because they are hunted on the surroundings.
2004 census:

Botaurus stellaris 8-10 pairs Annex I Birds Directive
Ixobrychus minutus 20-30 pairs Annex I Birds Directive
Nycticorax nycticorax 60-80 pairs
Egretta garzetta 20 pairs Annex I Birds Directive
Egrett alba 15 pairs Annex I Birds Directive
Ardea cinerea 40 pairs
Ardea purpurea 4 pairs
Aythya nyroca 70-90 pairs Annex I Birds Directive
Circus aeruginosus 6-10 pairs
Crex crex 2-4 pairs Annex I Birds Directive
Alcedo atthis 2-3 pairs Annex I Birds Directive

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: The climate is humid continental. Summers are usually hot, and winters are very cold. The yearly precipitation is about 600-650 mm, annual mean temperature is between 10-11 degree C.

Geology and geomorphology: The basic rock layers (mainly sediments from the Tertiary period) had sunk in the middle of the Tertiary and the watercourse Koppány coming from lake Balaton hasdeposited a thick layer of riverine sediments. Along the lakes there are many elevated hills of loess. The highest peak of loess layers is near the nature reserve (125 m).

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 site is situated between the low hills of South-Transdanubia.. The hills are formed from pleistocen loess, covered by good quality soil. The site is the part of the catchement area of the small Koppány stream. The major part of the catchment area is used as arable land, the smaller part is forest. The climate is continental, sometimes extreme continental with very hot and dry summer.

18. Hydrological values:
Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.
Pacsmag Fishponds were formed artificially by damming the streamlet Koppány. This human intervention created various wet habitats on the inlet region (especially wet meadows). Watercourse Koppány is the water supply for the ponds in spite of its turbidity. There is a management measure to refill the lakes when the water pollution is less.

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.

Pacsmag fishponds are artificial, created by damming of the streamlet of Koppány. This human intervention created various wet habitats in the inlet region, especially wet meadows (25%), marshlands (25%) and reedbeds (50%).
1; Tp; Ts

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.

Habitats: lakes, marshland, meadows, reedbeds. The most characteristic vegetation types (associations) are the open water reed-grass vegetation (Lemno-Utriculaetum and Myriophyllo-Potamogetonetum) reedbeds (Scirpo-Phragmitetum and Bolboschoeno-Phargmitetum).

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.*

There are only a few data of the flora of the fishpond and its surroundings. There are a few protected species (e.g. Orchis purpurea)

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.*

The most important bird species: Egretta garzetta, Egretta alba, Nycticorax nycticorax, Botaurus stellaris, Ardea purpurea, Ciconia nigra, Haliaeetus albicilla, Crex crex, Merops apiaster, - strictly protected species, Aythya nyroca - globally threatened, strictly protected species.

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:

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. Fish production, there is no other relevant cultural value.

b) 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: state property: 288 hectares
local government's property: 4 hectares
private property: 192 hectares

b) in the surrounding area: The surrounding area is owned by cooperatives, and also individuals.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site: Fishery acticity on the fishpond system. Cattle grazing and mowing are characteristic land use on the meadows (80 hectares). Farming on the arable land. The nature reserve is a state territory concerning the hunting.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: The surrounding area is agricultural area. There is mainly cereal production on the farms. The nearest industrial centre is the town of Kaposvár 30 km from the site.

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: Earlier the most important threat was the hunting of the aquatic animals. The intensive fish breeding is also a threat for the reedbeds due to its disturbance.

b) in the surrounding area: The water quality is the most important problem. The most turbid water comes from canal Koppány.

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 Pacsmag Fishponds Nature Conservation Area was established in 1990.

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.

d) Describe any other current management practices: No waterfowl hunting since 1997. An unused pond has been filled and stocked with small fish for the winter feeding of wintering herons and egrets.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

Developing a detailed management plan. Scaring of Cormorants (Phalacrocorax carbo) should be banned in the breeding season. Pond No. 6 should be used as a feeding pond for birds, to reduce conflict between fish farming and birds. Artificial nesting islands should be created for gulls, terns and waders. Surrounding agricultural fields should be purchased by state nature conservation and converted to grasslands.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

There is a permanent bird ringing station for researching the migratory species. In the winter season waterfowl are regularly counted.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

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

The local conservation NGO (BirdLife Hungary) runs a Children's Nature Education Centre (visitor and education centre) in the area, with the supervision of the conservation authority and with the approval of the local stakeholder.

The centre deals primarily with the environmental and conservation education of schoolchildren.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

The volume of the tourism is not relevant.

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.

There are no scientific papers concerning the nature reserve.