

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying Explanatory *Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. **Date this sheet was completed /updated:** 1999 **05/12/84** **7IT037**
2. **Country,** Italy designation **7IT037** siteref
3. **Name of wetland:** Valli del Mincio
4. **Geographical coordinates** 45°09'51"N 10°42'04"E
5. **Altitude:** (average and/or max.& min.) Average 18 m **6. Area:** (in hectares) 1081,70 ha
7. **Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)  
The biotope includes a marsh, surrounded by a wide cane thicket, in which some small ponds have been artificially created. This wetland is particularly important both for vegetation and for fauna that are present. Many bird and several fish species of CE interest are present.

**8. Wetland Type:** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document)

**marine-coastal:** A - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - J - K

**inland:** L - M - N - O - P - Q - R - Sp - Ss - Tp  
Ts - U - Va - Vt - W - Xf - Xp - Y - Zg - Zk

**Man-made:** 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

**9. Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

**1a** **1b** - 1c - 1d / 2a - 2b - 2e - 2d / 3a - 3b - 3c - 4a - 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

**10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* X - or - no**

(Please refer to Explanatory Note and Guidelines document for information regarding desirable map traits)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **12. Justification of the criteria**

1c: Through the marshes the Mincio river flows by meanders, forming a net of many different flows canals and lakelets, all connected each other and converging in the big Mantova Superior lake.

2a: Many endangered plants, fishes and overall bird species are present.

3b: The wetland allows many waterfowls nidifications, as some Ardeidae, Rallidae, Sylviidae and others, besides many migratory bird passage.

4a: The river system of canals and wetland has been affected by Anguilla populations seasonally flow, at present hindered by some dikes presence. Many other species are present even though the most oxygen demanding are damaged by a scarce water turnover.

### **13. General location**

The area is extended in the SE part of Lombardia, near Mantova, a 50.000 inhabitants regional chief town.

### **14. Physical features**

The site includes the vale of the river Mincio, the little rivers which are tributary to it and a 1000-hectare wetland consisting of patches of open water alternating with marshes, surrounded by extensive reedbeds, sedge marshes, seasonally flooded meadows and dense thickets of willow and alder along the riverbanks. Mincio river changes sharp his course a few Km west from Mantova town, and leaves the N-S axis to turn at right. This deviation is caused by the presence of marl beds, more erosion resistant, and shapes a wide bight.

### **15. Hydrological values**

The wetland area has been created because of a slowing down of Mincio flow, induced by a minimal slope and by a continuous sedimentation process, which provoke permanent floodings.

### **16. Ecological features**

Site's habitats include alluvial forests and natural eutrophic lakes. Phragmites and Magnocaricion alliances dominate the marshy vegetation, on which Salix and Alnus scrubs are settling progressively. A submerged potamogeton with Ranunculus and Nymphaea is growing in the water. Nelumbo nucifera, introduced in the lakes in 1921, is become a serious ecological competitor for Nymphaea alba.

### **17. Noteworthy flora**

Some endangered species (Regional Red List, 1997) are present:

#### critically endangered:

Stratiotes aloides

Sonchus palustris

#### Endangered:

Sagittaria sagittifolia

Spiranthes aestivalis

Hydrocotyle vulgaris

Senecio paludosus

#### Vulnerable:

Allium angulosum  
Allium suaveolens  
Butomus umbellatus  
Gentiana pneumonanthe  
Hibiscus palustris  
Hottonia palustris  
Rhynchospora alba  
Trapa natans  
Vallisneria spiralis  
Lower risk:  
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae  
Leucojum aestivum  
Nuphar lutea  
Nymphaea alba  
Nymphoides peltata  
Pedicularis palustris  
Peucedanum palustre  
Ranunculus lingua  
Selinum carvifolia

and other rare species:

Eriophorum latifolium  
orchis incarnata  
orchis maculata  
Epipactis palustris  
Parnassia palustris  
Triclochin palustre  
Selinum carvifolia  
Utricularia vulgaris  
Bidens cernua  
Thelypteris palustris  
Acorus calamus  
Carex paniculata

### **18. Noteworthy fauna**

many bird species of CE interest (92/43 CEE):

Acrocephalus melanopogon  
Alcedo atthis  
Ardea purpurea  
Ardeola ralloides  
Aythya nyroca  
Botaurus stellaris  
Chlidonias hybridus  
Circus aeruginosus  
Circus cyaneus  
Circus pygargus  
Egretta garzetta  
Ixobrychus minutus  
Milvus migrans

Nycticorax nycticorax  
Pandion haliaetus  
Porzana parva  
Porzana porzana  
Sterna hirundo  
Anas clypeata  
Anas crecca  
Anas platyrhynchos  
Aythya ferina  
Fulica atra  
Gallinago gallinago  
Rallus aquaticus  
Vanellus vanellus

Several fish species of CE interest (92/43 CEE):

Barbus plebejus  
Chondrostoma soetta  
Cobitis taenia  
Cottus gobio  
Leuciscus souffia  
Padagogobius panizzai  
Rutilus pigus  
Rutilus rubilio

Amphibians:

Rana latastei  
Triturus cristatus

Reptiles:

Emys orbicularis

Invertebrates:

Austropotamobius pallipes

## **20. Land tenure/ownership**

The emerged lands, including reedbeds, edge marshes and seasonally flooded meadows, are private property. Channels, pond, patches of open water and a small central area of about 60 hectares are public property.

## **21. Current land use**

Fishing and cane and reed harvesting are local activities affecting the zone.

## **22. Factor adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects**

This central wetland is under threat from terrestrialization. This is because the river Mincio, which amongst others for reason of flood control, has been diverted into a series of channels, is bringing less water into the wetlands. A problem is compounded by the increasing biomass of the Lotus, Nelumbo nucifera, a fast-growing, aggressive exotic plant which, besides hampering

the flow of water through the channels in the natural reserve, is suffocating the original native flora and threatening to exterminate it. The effort made, within Life-Nature actions, to reshuffle the Lotus is now giving excellent results. Another problem is the nearly complete suspension of the traditional cutting and collecting on reedbeds. Concerning the fauna, the massive presence of the allochton species *Miocastor coypus* needs a special attention. An other problem concern fishing and repopulating activity that need a regulamentation.

### **23. Conservation measures taken**

“Valli del Mincio” has been established as natural regional reserve on 11.10.84 and the size of the protected area is 1081,70 ha.

A Life-Nature project started in 1997, taking aim at reshuffling the Lotus invasion cutting and collecting reedbeds in public properties, clearing out the watercourses and ponds to improve water flow and, as a consequence, restore optimum conditions for birds to net and feed and for growing autochthonous plants.

The management authority is succeeding in restoring traditional activities (cutting and collecting reedbeds) with a plan financed by reg. Cee 2078/92. The management authority is also trying to buy a special machinery for wetlands conservation, build for mowing and collecting on reedbeds in one pas.

The *Myocastor coypus* population is controlled by a well managed capture plan.

### **25. Current scientific research and facilities**

Studies about vegetation and animals were made in 1984-85 and 1990. Other studies about water sediments, invertebrate fauna and soils were made in 1992-96. The water quality parameters are periodically measured.

### **26. Current conservation education**

In 1998 has been open to the public a Visitor Centre in a village facing the river, complete with permanent shows, ecomuseums, pannels, plastic model and photographs.

### **27. Current recreation and tourism**

Visitors can see the site by cruising on little boats, living from the villages facing the river (Rivalta and Grazie), or by foot or bycycle in some paths winding along the side of the river. An association has been charged to organize educational activities for the schools.

### **28. Jurisdiction**

The region is the board with territorial jurisdiction over the wetland, and its “Energy and environmental resources and natural environment and parks defence service” has functional jurisdiction for conservation purposes.

### **29. Management authority**

Ms. Susanna Perlini  
Parco Natuale del Mincio  
Via Marangoni, 36  
46100 Mantova - Italia  
Phone: 39 376 22831  
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### **30. Bibliographical references**

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