

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Canaralele de la Harsova

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

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ROMANIA

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

25.08.2012

3. Country:

ROMANIA

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

CANARALELE DE LA HARSOVA

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:

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): yes ;

ii) an **electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) yes ;

iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

The site follows the configuration of the Danube. The eastern boundary goes near the localities Vadu Oii, Harsova and Ghindaresti. The road DN22A which marks part of the boundary in the west, north and east of the site, meets the road DN2A in Harsova. The road DN2A is forming also the northern boundary and one third of the western boundary. After DN2A, the western boundary is following the Ialomita river up to DN3B then lowering on this road up to the dykes of Ialomita which are forming forward the boundary together with Danube dykes. The South – West part of the western boundary is following a drainage channel serving the agricultural land in a Danube loop.

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

44°40'37" N / 27°55'28" E

9. General location:

The site is located in the S-E part of Romania, in Ialomita and Constanta Counties. The site is situated on the territory of several villages: Giurgeni, Harsova, Vladeni, Ghindaresti etc. The nearest large town is Braila (216 292 inhabitants), 120 km North of the site.

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

The average elevation is 8 m above the sea.

The minimum altitude is 0 m.

The maximum altitude is 83 m.

11. Area: (in hectares)

7406 ha

Wetlands area: 2282 ha

12. General overview of the site:

The site Canaralele de la Harsova is situated at the confluence of the two Danube branches Dunarea Veche and Bratul Borcea. After Calarasi, the Danube splits in two branches which join again near Harsova. The site covers both branches, but also the space between them, which appeared as a result of the sediments transported by the water: Canarale. The site shelters important populations of some protected bird species. It was declared for the protection of 39 species listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive. The land situated in the vicinity of the Danube branches and Danube-Ialomita confluence is covered by temporary lakes which represent an important space for breeding and nesting of *Anthus campestris*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Lanius collurio*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Coracias garrulous*,

Caprimulgus europaeus, *Calandrella brachydactyla* etc. The site is situated on the route of an important migration corridor. The site is covered by 3 sites of community importance, designated under the Habitats Directive. One of them is Canaralele Dunarii, declared especially for aquatic habitats and aquatic species, and the other ones are Coridorul Ialomitei and Bordusani Borcea. Inside the site there are also 2 nature reserves: Canaralele din Portul Harsova (since 1943) – hills formed of limestone, with rocky habitats and Celea Mare – Valea lui Ene, a zoological and botanical reserve. The site is also designated as Important Bird Area, according to Birdlife International criteria C1 and C6. It is very important to mention that in the very close vicinity of the site, there is a Ramsar site already declared (Balta Mica a Brailei), but there exist also 2 other proposals of Ramsar sites: Bratul Borcea and Allah Bair – Capidava.

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
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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).

Criterion 2:

The site supports the following species of the Bird Directive Annex I:

Scientific name	Common name	Breeding (pairs)	Winter (individuals)	Migrants (individuals)
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	10-12		50-100
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	150-160		
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit	3600-4000		
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle			2800-5500
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Great Bittern	2-5		
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	2-3		
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Eurasian Thick-knee	60		
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	10-12		
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Greater Short-toed Lark	100-120		
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Eurasian Nightjar	110-120		

<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork			8000-42000
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork			2000-4000
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-eagle	6-7		40-90
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-Harrier	2-5		460-1200
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier			50-60
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier			15-20
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	1		110-260
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Roller	120-130		
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Medium Spotted Woodpecker	15-18		
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrian Woodpecker	70-80		
<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Black woodpecker	15-20		
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Ortolan Bunting	100-120		
				4
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon			
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	22-26		100-300
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Collared Flycatcher			200
<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Red-breasted Flycatcher			200
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	1		4-6
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle	1-3		60-130
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	1200-1300		
<i>Lanius minor</i>	Lesser Grey Shrike	120-130		
<i>Larus minutus</i>	Little Gull			400-600
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Wood Lark	250-300		
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	Calandra Lark	1200-1300		
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	4-5		
<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Pied Wheatear	12-15		
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican			300-600
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Honey Buzzard			510-1130
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant		180-200	
<i>Picus canus</i>	Grey-faced Woodpecker	20-30		

The following three species are listed as Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List: Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), the Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and the Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*).

The data presented above was collected between 2000 and 2010, referenced from the following bibliography:

1. H.G. 971/2011 – Hotarare de Guvern pentru modificarea și completarea H.G. nr. 1284/2007 privind declararea ariilor de protecție specială avifaunistică ca parte integrantă a rețelei ecologice europene Natura 2000 în România;
2. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association “Milvus Group”;
3. “Romanian Ornithological Society” database;

Criterion 4:

Being located on a major migratory route, Canaralele de la Hârșova territory represents an important area for resting and feeding of rare bird species.

The site is important for breeding populations of the following species: *Accipiter brevipes*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Anthus campestris*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Burhinus oedipnemus*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Dendrocopos medius*, *Dendrocopos syriacus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lullula arborea*, *Melanocorypha calandria*, *Milvus migrans*, *Oenanthe pleschanka* and *Picus canus*. During migration, the site is important for the following species: *Aquila pomarina*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Ficedula parva*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, and *Larus minutus*.

The site is highly important for waterfowl's habitat, sheltering sedentary wild birds on one hand, as well as northern population that rest during migration periods.

Please see justification of criterion 2 for the list of bird species.

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

a) biogeographic region:

- 1) World: West Palearctic
- 2) Europe: Steppic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

- 1) Udvardy, 1975
- 2) Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC (1992)

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.

Geology and geomorphology:

The site Canaralele de la Harsova is situated in the E part of the Romanian Plain and it covers a part of the Danube meadow in the Calarasi-Braila sector (this sector is called Sectorul Baltilor – Lakes Sector, because the Danube is splitting in 2 branches and big lakes used to form between them before the embanking of the river) and a part of the Dobrudja Plateau also. The 2 branches are Borcea and Old Danube. The Old Danube branch takes a big quantity of the Danube water and it has 480 meters of width. On the right side of the river, the relief is represented by the Dobroudja Plateau. The basement of the site is represented by the Moesian Platform, composed by crystalline schistes and it's situated around 1300 m depth under sea level. In the East side of the site, the basement is represented by Dobroudja Platform. Above the Moesian Platform, a thick layer of sediments was deposited by the Danube in the former lake which used to cover the Romanian Plain thousands of years ago. These sediments are represented by sand, gravels, clay, marls, but also by loess etc. The newest sediments date back from Holocene period. Inside the site, there appear some hills composed of limestone, especially near Harsova. The site has a natural origin and it was influenced in time by the Danube floods, but it was also affected by the human intervention. The relief is represented by sand banks, sand dunes and islands, channels, small river branches, small hills etc. The Danube terraces exist only on the left side of the river.

Soil type and chemistry range:

The soils belong to the chernozems class, but on small areas the azonal soils, with high degree of humidity, are specific (alluvial soils and the hidrisoils, in the Romanian system of soil classification).

Origins:

The site has a natural origin but it was also affected by the human intervention.

Depth, fluctuations and permanence of water:

Maximum depth: 12 m medium depth: 8 m

Wetlands area: 2282 ha

Climate:

The climate is temperate-continental, with aridity influences. The annual temperature values are bigger than 10°C in Harsova. The coldest month is January, with an average temperature of -1.7° C and the warmest month is July when the average temperature reaches 23° C. The rainfall average is around 400 - 450 mm per year because of the eastern dry influences. The dominant winds are from West and NW direction. Some local winds, Baltaretul and Suhoveiul are specific to this area.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Area:

The catchment area is represented by Baragan Plain, the east subdivision of the Romanian Plain and by a small part of the Dobroudja Plateau.

Geological characteristics:

The catchment area is represented by Baragan Plain, the east subdivision of the Romanian Plain and by a small part of the Dobroudja Plateau. The basement is represented by the Moesian Platform, composed by crystalline schists and situated around 1300 m depth. Above the basement, a thick layer of sediments was deposited by the Danube in the former lake which used to cover the Romanian Plain thousands of years ago. The Danube shaped its terraces only on the left side, because the Dobroudja Plateau, situated in East, is built in strong rocks (green schists and limestones). The sediments are represented by sand, gravels, clay, marls, but also by loess etc. The newest sediments date back from Holocene period. The existence of the loess is the main cause for the existence of a particular geomorphology: small depression created by the process of settling called *crovuri*, *gavane* and *padine*. Sometimes, these depressions are covered by lakes. The area was created by the Danube during Quaternary period (Danube terraces) and the maximum altitude is around 90 m in Baragan Plain, but it surpasses 200 meters in Dobroudja.

Soil type:

The soils belong to the chernozems class; on small areas, some salinization processes appear.

Land use:

In the catchment area, most of the land is arable land, followed by broad leaved forest, pastures, water courses and built land.

Climate:

The climate is temperate-continental, with some aridity influences, from the eastern part of the European continent. The annual temperature value is 10° – 11° C. The coldest month is January, with an average temperature of -2° C and the warmest month is July when the temperature reaches 23° C. During the summer, the number of days with daily temperature of over 35° C is high (40-50). The rainfall average is around 500 mm per year and the dominant winds are from West and North direction. Some local winds, Crivatul, Baltaretul and Suhoveiul are specific to this area.

18. Hydrological values:

The site has an important role in reducing the effects of the Danube flood.

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*.

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

b) dominance:

M + P – Permanent rivers and Seasonal freshwater lakes – 25%

Tp+Ts – Permanent freshwater marshes and Seasonal freshwater marshes – 5%

20. General ecological features:

The areas surrounding the marshes are covered with thick aquatic vegetation in which the palustrine macrophytes (*Phragmites communis*, *Typha sp.*, *Scirpus lacustris*, *Carex sp.*, *Equisetum palustre*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Iris pseudacorus*) are dominant and the submerged vegetation is formed by: *Lemna sp.*, *Salvinia natans*, *Hydrocharis sp.*, *Potamogeton sp.* are also specific to this area. The macrophytes represent an optimal habitat for nesting and breeding of the bird species.

21. Noteworthy flora:

N/A

22. Noteworthy fauna:

N/A

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:

The importance of the wetland is raised by the cultural aspect, because in Harsova, there is a roman fortress built around the 2nd century.

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?

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: 100 % of the land are public property
- b) in the surrounding area: most of the land in the surrounding area is private.

25. Current land (including water) use:

- a) within the Ramsar site: The most important human activities are related with forestry, navigation and agriculture.
- b) in the surroundings/catchment: In the surrounding area, human activities are related with: agriculture, forestry and navigation.

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: hunting, poaching, grazing, urbanization, draining etc.
- b) in the surrounding area: grazing, draining, use of fertilizers, poaching, wind turbines

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 site is covered by 3 sites of community importance, designated under the Habitats Directive. One of them is Canaralele Dunarii, declared especially for aquatic habitats and aquatic species, and the other ones are Coridorul Ialomitei and Bordusani Borcea. It also contains the entire SPA Canarelele de la Harsova (ROSPA0017) and parts of the Special Protection Area Kogalniceau-Guralalomitei under the EU Birds Directive. Inside the site there are also 2 nature reserves: Canaralele din Portul Harsova (since 1943) – hills formed of limestone, with rocky habitats and Celea Mare – Valea lui Ene, a zoological and botanical reserve. The site is also designated as Important Bird Area, according to Birdlife International.

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

The Ramsar site is including 1 natural reserve and 1 natural monument. The natural monument, Canaralele de la Harsova – 5.3 ha - has been declared by Constanta County Council Decision 425/1970 and included in Law 5/2000 regarding the approval of the national territory use, Section III – Protected areas. The natural reserve, Padurea Celea Mare – Valea lui Ene – 54 ha has been declared by H.G. 2151/2004 regarding the institution of natural area regime for new areas.

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:
Not yet, but plans for its development exist.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

The management plan is going to be developed in the framework of a Sectorial Operational Program Environment project “Improvement of the biodiversity conservation status in natural protected areas found under Forestry Directorate Constanta custody” approved in 2011.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

N/A

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

N/A

31. Current recreation and tourism:

N/A

32. Jurisdiction:

Ministry of Environment and Forests
B-dul.Libertatii nr.12, sector 5, Bucuresti

33. Management authority:

National Forestry Administration – Forestry Directorate Constanta
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34. Bibliographical references:

1. BirdLife International, 2001, Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar sites in Europe, BirdLife International, Wageningen, The Netherlands;
2. Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, “Bird Directive”;
3. H.G. 971/2011 – Hotarare de Guvern pentru modificarea si completarea H.G. nr. 1284/2007 privind declararea ariilor de protectie speciala avifaunistica ca parte integranta a retelei ecologice europene Natura 2000 in Romania;
4. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
5. Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterstrom, 2010 – “Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition”;
6. Munteanu, D., (coord.), 2004 – Arii de importantă avifaunistică din România – Documentații. Societatea Ornitologică Română;

7. OUG 57/2007 – Ordonanța de urgență privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei și faunei sălbatice;
8. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association “Milvus Group”;
9. “Romanian Ornithological Society” database;

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
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