

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

Ostroavele Dunarii – Bugeac - Iortmac

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

22.08.2012

3. Country:

ROMANIA

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

DANUBE ISLANDS – BUGEAC – IORTMAC (local name: Ostroavele Dunarii – Bugeac – Iortmac)

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): ;
- 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:

The northern part of the boundary includes Danube, the country road 223 and Topalu, Capidava and Crucea localities. The western boundary is represented by the Danube dikes on Calarasi Raul and Ialomita islands crossing the Danube at Borcea arm mouth and middle of Raul arm. The most important road linking the localities Ostrov, Bugeac, Lipnita, Baneasa is DN3 which forms the southern and eastern boundaries together with DN2A road in the upper part of the site where the boundary is going also near Galbiori and Baltagesti localities. In the southwest the border with Bulgaria, near Silistra city, represents the limit.

The present's site surface (34576 ha) covers "Dunare - Ostroave" sector of Danube, as well as its near wetland surroundings, integrating Nature 2000 ROSPA0039 Dunare - Ostroave site perimeter (16224 ha), Nature 2000 ROSPA0053 Lacul Bugeac site perimeter (1392 ha), Nature 2000 ROSPA0054 Lacul Dunareni site perimeter (1004 ha) and Nature 2000 ROSPA0056 Lacul Oltina site perimeter (3542 ha). It also covers Sites of Community Importance under the EU Habitats Directive: ROSCI0022, ROSCI0131, ROSCI0149, ROSCI0172.

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

44°13'32" N/ 27°45'48" E

9. General location:

The site is located in the S-E part of Romania, in Calarasi and Constanta counties. The site is situated on the territory of several villages: Unirea, Borcea, Dichiseni, Jegalia, Roseti, Oltina, Ostrov, Rasova, but also on the territory of 2 towns, Calarasi (about 70,000 inhabitants) and Cernavoda (20 105 inhabitants). The nearest large town is Calarasi, 5 km North of the site. The site partly borders with Bulgaria.

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

The average elevation is 18 m above the sea.

The minimum altitude is 0 m.

The maximum altitude is 133 m.

11. Area: (in hectares)

82832 ha

Wetland area: 15327 ha

12. General overview of the site:

The site is a part of the Danube's floodplain, where the floodplain has the largest width, because the Danube is splitting in 2 branches which used to enclose big lakes in the past: Ialomita and Braila Lakes. The site is situated on the route of an important migration corridor, so it is important as breeding and resting place for some rare and very rare birds species. It is also very close to another important site, a possible future Ramsar site: Bratul Borcea. The lower Danube and the Danube Delta represent two of the most important wetlands in the world. The action of the Danube creates many islands across the Romanian border with Bulgaria. The landscape is specific to the meadows, with lakes between the sand dunes, marshes, shrub dominated wetlands, fishponds, islands, acacias and poplars, canals and drainage channels etc, so the appropriate conditions for the existence of a great biodiversity. The vegetation is composed by aquatic macrophytes (*Phragmites*, *Typha sp. etc*), poplars and oaks forests, shrub etc. The fauna is specific to the wetlands, with amphibians (*Bombina bombina*, *Hyla arborea* etc), reptiles (*Emys orbicularis*) and other species. The site was designed as a special protection area in 2007 for the protection of 39 birds species listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive. There is also a LIFE project, financed by the European Union for the protection of the islands, which are considered very important for some birds species such as *Falco cherrug*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Pelecanus crispus* etc. The site is also declared as a site of community importance, under the Habitats Directive, for the protection of habitats with *Salix alba*, *Populus alba*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior* etc. Inside the site, there is a nature reserve declared in 2004, Ostrovul Soimul (Soimul Island), but in the very close vicinity of the site there are other important nature reserves declared for the protection of the aquatic habitats: Bugeac, Oltina, Vederoasa and Dunareni Lakes.

The upper part of the site covers a part of the Danube meadow, but also a small part of the Dobroudja Plateau. The contact between the Danube meadow, with new relief shapes and the ancient hills from Dobroudja creates the conditions for a specific landscape which shelter a great diversity of habitats and species. 270 species of plants of different origins populate the area, some of them very rare in the Romanian flora: *Bufo tenuifolia*, *Coronilla scorpioides*, *Hedysarum grandiflorum* (unique in Romania), *Hornungia petraea*, *Linum tauricum*, *Minuartia hybrida*, *Potentilla emilii popii*, *Scorzonera millis*, *Agrodyron brandze*. This part of the site is important for bird species specific to the agriculture and steppic land: *Anthus campestris*, *Burbinus oediceemus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Melanocorypha calandra* but also for aquatic birds who find good conditions for nesting and breeding in the Danube meadow: *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Larus minutus*, *Alcedo atthis* etc.

The area was designed as a special protection area in 2007 for the protection of 43 birds species listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive but also for 37 migratory species protected by Bonn Convention.

The site is covered by 2 sites of community importance, designated under the Habitats Directive. One is Canaralele Dunarii, declared especially for aquatic habitats and aquatic species and the other is Dealul Allah Bair declared for ponto sarmatic steppes, a priority habitat. Inside the site, there is a nature reserve (geological, paleontological and botanical reserve) designated in 1980 and called Dealul Allah Bair.

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 (IUCN Red List Status 2012.1)	Common name	Breeding (pairs)	Winter (individuals)	Migrants (individuals)
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	5-7		30-40
<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	Moustached Warbler	150-500		
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	120-130		
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit	800-1200		
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	90-120		120-150
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	90-120		234-340
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle			2500-5000
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	54-75		550-700
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Great Bittern	2-5		
<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (EN)	Red-breasted Goose		700-1200	700-1200
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	8-10		
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Eurasian Thick-knee	20 -30		
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	4-5		
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Greater Short-toed Lark	100-120		
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Eurasian Nightjar	130 - 140		
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover	12-14		160
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern	300-400		2000-3000
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern			400-600
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	22-34		18000-50000
	Black Stork	4		1500-3000
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake-	7-8		

	eagle			
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-Harrier	24-30		
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier		10-15	40-82
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier			15-20
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	1-2		140-220
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Roller	160-180		
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan		120-130	
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	15-18		
<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Black woodpecker	25-30		
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrian Woodpecker	70-80		
<i>Egretta/Casmerodius alba/-us</i>	Great Egret		70	90-123
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	320		400-500
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Ortolan Bunting	210-260		
<i>Falco cherrug</i> (EN)	Saker Falcon			1
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	32-43		
<i>Glaucopis pratensis</i>	Collared Pratincole	20-40		200-400
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	3-4	4-8	17
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle			40-90
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	24-40		340
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	40-60		
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	1240-1340		
<i>Lanius minor</i>	Lesser Grey Shrike	174-184		
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Mediterranean Gull			400-600
<i>Larus minutus</i>	Little Gull			400-800
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Wood Lark	120-150		
<i>Melanocorypha calandria</i>	Calandria Lark	500-700	200-400	
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	7-9		
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	(Black-crowned) Night Heron	470-520		120-400
<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Pied Wheatear	12-15		
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey			20
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (VU)	Dalmatian Pelican		7-11	69-73
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Honey Buzzard			340-775
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican			630-700
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant	90-120	631-700	800-900
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope			67
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff			1200-1400
<i>Picus canus</i>	Grey-faced Woodpecker	50-60		
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Spoonbill	144-160		310-360
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis	150		270-400
<i>Porzana parva</i>	Little Crake	12		
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Pied Avocet	15-18		90-123
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern	25-30		400

<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern			2000-3000
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern			1
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Barred Warbler	41-62		
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	17-26		55-60
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper			430

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

1. Munteanu, D., (coord.), 2004 – Aree de importanță avifaunistică din România – Documentații. Societatea Ornitologică Română;
2. H.G. 971/2011 – Hotărâre 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;
3. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association “Milvus Group”;
4. “Romanian Ornithological Society” database;

The site additionally supports a number of species protected in Europe, including species listed in **the EU Habitat Directive**:

5. **Plant species:** *Moebria jankae* (An. II), *Campanula romanica* (An. II)
6. **Invertebrate:** *Anisus vorticulus* (An. II)
7. **Amphibians:** *Triturus dobrogicus* (An. II), *Bombina orientalis* (An. II, IV)
8. **Reptiles:** *Emys orbicularis* (An. II, IV), *Testudo graeca* (An. II)
9. **Fish:** *Alosa immaculata* (An. II), *Gobio albipinnatus* (An. II), *Gymnocephalus schraetzer* (An. II), *Gymnocephalus baloni* (An. II), *Misgurnus fossilis* (An. II), *Pelecus tcultratus* (An. II), *Rhodens sericeus amarus* (An. II), *Zingel streber* (An. II), *Zingel zingel* (An. II), *Aspius aspius* (An. II), *Gobio kessleri* (An. II), *Alosa tanaica* (An. II), *Sabanejewia aurata* (An. II), ***Cobitis taenia*** (An. II), *Eudontomyzon mariae* (An. II).
10. **Mammals:** *Lutra lutra* (An. II)

Criterion 3:

Due to great species richness of protected bird species (both European and globally threatened), the site can be considered a “hotspot” of biological diversity. At least 50 bird species belonging to Annex I Bird Directive can be encountered, 3 of them being globally threatened. Please see justification of criterion 2 for the list of bird species.

Criterion 4:

Being located on a major migratory route, Ostroavele Dunării-Bugeac-Iortmac 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*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Bubo bubo*, *Buteo ruffinus*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Dendrocopos medius*, *Dendrocopos syriacus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Glareola pratincta*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lullula arborea*, *Melanocorypha calandra*, *Milvus migrans*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Oenanthe pleschanka*, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Picus canus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Porzana parva*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Sylvia nisoria* and *Tadorna ferruginea*.

During migration, the site is also important for the following species: *Ardea purpurea*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Egretta/Casmerodius alba/-us*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Falco cherrug*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Larus melanocephalus*, *Larus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna nilotica*, *Tadorna ferruginea* and *Tringa glareola*.

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 and count data.

Criterion 5

During the spring and autumn migration periods, more than 20 000 individuals of waterfowl are visiting the site. The most important contribution to this number is assured by *Ciconia ciconia* with 18,000-50,000 individuals and *Larus ridibundus* with 5000-10000 individuals. For further information on numbers of bird species, please see table in justification of criterion 2 and Annex I to this RIS.

Criterion 6:

During winter and migration periods, a large number of the Red-breasted geese (*Branta ruficollis*) and Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) are resting and feeding on the mentioned site. Between 700 - 1200 individuals of Red-breasted geese and 800 up to 900 individuals of Pygmy Cormorant can be encountered on the present site, which represents over than 1 % of the entire world population for each species.

The data presented above was collected between 2000 and 2008, referenced from the following bibliography:

1. 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;
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 8:

The Ramsar site Ostroavele Dunarii – Bugeac – Iortmac includes a significantly part of Danube river and natural lakes acting like feeding places, spawning ground and migratory path for around 20 fish species from which 15 species are present in the Annex II of Habitat Directive (see justification of criterion 2). The site is also including half of Bala arm (the rest of Bala arm is included in Bratul Borcea site) an important path for sturgeon migration from Borcea arm in the main Danube.

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:

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

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

- 1) Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC (1992)
 - 2) Udvardy, 1975
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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 Ostrovele Dunarii-Bugeac-Iortmac is situated in the SW and E part of the Romanian Plain and it represents a part of the Danube meadow in the Calarasi-Braila sector (this sector is called Sectorul Baltilor – Lakes Sector, because the Danube is splitting into 2 branches, Borcea and Old Danube or Macin). In the past, there were big lakes (Balta Ialomitei and Balta Brailei) between these branches, but most of their surface was drained for agriculture purpose. The Old Danube branch has over 400 m of width. The basement is represented by the Moesian Platform, composed by crystalline schists and it's situated around 1300 m depth (below sea level). 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. These sediments are represented by sand, gravels, clay, marls, but also by loess etc. The newest sediments date back from Holocene period. The Danube is the main factor which shapes the geomorphology of this sector, but the wind has also an important role. The relief inside the site is represented by sand banks, sand dunes, islands, depressions covered temporarily by lakes etc. The altitudes vary from 0 meters near the river to 133 m at the contact with the Dobroudja Plateau.

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 and it was influenced in time by the Danube floods, but it was also affected by the human intervention.

Hydrology:

The hydrology is mainly assured by Danube and the phreatic water is situated between 0 and 300m but in most of the area the depth of the phreatic waters is 15-30 meters.

Water quality:

The water quality is relatively good.

Wetland area: 15327 ha

Climate:

The climate is temperate-continental, with aridity influence in the upper part. The annual average temperature values are over 11.2°C in Calarasi and 10.9 °C in Cernavodă. The coldest month is January, with an average temperature of -2° C and the warmest month is July when the temperature reaches 22.9 - 23° C. The rainfall average is around 500 mm per year and the dominant winds are from West direction, because of the orientation of the Danube Valley. Some local winds, Baltaretul and Suhoveiul are specific to this area.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

Area:

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

Geological characteristics:

The basement is represented by the Moesian Platform, composed by crystalline schistes 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. These 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).

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, then aquatic (river courses), forests, vineyards 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 11°C in Calarasi. 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 is very important because the branch Old Danube takes a big part of the Danube's water quantity during the floods.

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 • Ip • Is • 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:

M – Permanent rivers – 18.2%

O – Permanent freshwater lakes – 12%

Ip+Is – Permanent and seasonal freshwater marshes – 6%

Y – Freshwater springs

20. General ecological features:

The site is important for conservation of the priority habitats 91I0* Euro-Siberian stepic woods with *Quercus* spp., 91AA * Eastern white oak woods and the habitats 91 M0 Panonnian – Balkanic turkey oak – sessile oak forest and 92A0 Galleries of *Populus alba* and *Salix alba* included in the Annex I of Habitats Directive.

In the upper area of the Ramsar site - Dealul Allah-Bair Natura 2000 site (SCI) - is fostering the priority habitat designated under Habitat Directive – Ponto-Sarmatic steppes – 62C0* which is represented by Pontic grasslands with *Stipa lessingiana*, *S. pulcherrima* and *S. joannis*. Along the Danube there are present some natural poplar and willow forests but in small patches. On the Danube islands and in the rest of the area a lot of poplar, coniferous and other deciduous trees plantations are present including some for *Pinus nigra austriaca*.

In the wetlands areas, Danubian communities with sedges (*Cyperus fuscus* and *C. flavescens*) or with periphytic algae (*Chara tomentosa*, *Nitella gracilis*, *Nitellopsis obtusa* and *Lychnothamnus barbatusi*) or ponto-Danubien communities with stickweeds, common barnyard grass and knotweed (*Bidens tripartite*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Polygonum hydropiperi*) or with duckweeds (*Lemna minor*, *L. trisulca*, *Spirodela polyrrhiza* and *Wolffia arrhiza*) are present.

The areas around the lakes 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., *Nuphar luteum* are also specific to this area. The macrophytes represent an optimal habitat for nesting and breeding of the bird species.

21. Noteworthy flora:

The Ramsar Site is fostering some rare and very valuable associations endemic either for petrophilous steppes - *Sedo hillebrandtii* – *Polytrichetum piliferi* and *Agropyro brandzae* – *Thymetum zygoidi* or for the region Dobroudja - *Rhamno catharticae* – *Jasminietum fruticantis* and *Paliuretum spinae* – *christi*.

Despite their limited distribution, the priority habitats 91I0* Euro-Siberian stepic woods with *Quercus* spp., 91AA * Eastern white oak woods and the habitat 91 M0 Panonnian – Balkanic turkey oak – sessile oak forest are very important from the paleoecological point of view because they represents the last remnants of the coast line used by Balcanic forestry species to migrate in North Dobroudja.

Although they are not protected habitats, *Celtis glabrata* forests (association *Gymnospermio altaicae-Celtetum glabratae*) are very important for science being rare and endemic for Dobroudja.

Another rare plant species, protected by Habitat Directive are *Campanula romanica* and *Moebrigia jankae* present in natural reserve Celea Mare – Valea lui Ene.

In the upper area of the Ramsar site - Dealul Allah-Bair Natura 2000 site (SCI) – is fostering 270 species of plants of different origins populate the area, some of them very rare in the Romanian flora: *Bufoni tenuifolia*, *Coronilla scorpioides*, *Hedysarum grandiflorum* (unique in Romania), *Hornungia petraea*, *Linum tauricum*, *Minuartia hybrida*, *Potentilla emilii popii*, *Scorzonera millis*, *Agrodyron brandze*.

The Allah Bair Hill (194 ha) is extremely important from phytocoenological perspective because it is fostering around 30 rare petrophilous plant species with Pontic, Balcanic, Ponto-Balcanic and Ponto-Mediterranean origins (see Annex I).

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:

To the bottom of Allah-Bair Hill, near “Sfanta Cruce” Monastery, there is a water spring which is object of pilgrim visits during the religious holyday named “Izvorul Tamaduirii” (the Friday before Eastern).

Near Capidava village there are the ruins of a Roman citadel with the same name as the village. The tourism is present in the area but is not very well organized.

In the Ramsar site there is also the archaeological reserve Carsium borough built by Emperor Traian in 103 AD.

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: 88 % of the land are public property and 12 % are private.

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 main human activities in the site are related with forestry and fishery.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: In the catchment area the most important human activities are agriculture, fishery and forestry.

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: navigation, fishing, poaching, hunting, tourism, urbanisation and wind turbines.

b) in the surrounding area: grazing, draining, use of fertilizers, cultivation of the land, fishing, urbanisation, poaching, wind turbines, nuclear power plant.

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 present's site surface (34576 ha) covers "Ostroavele Dunarii – Bugeac - Iortmac" sector of Danube, as well as its near wetland surroundings, integrating Nature 2000 ROSPA0039 Dunare - Ostroave site perimeter (16224 ha), Nature 2000 ROSPA0053 Lacul Bugeac site perimeter (1392 ha), Nature 2000 ROSPA0054 Lacul Dunareni site perimeter (1004 ha), Nature 2000 ROSPA0056 Lacul Oltina site perimeter (3542 ha) and Nature 2000 ROSPA0002 Allah Bair-Capidava perimeter (11636 ha). It also covers Sites of Community Importance under the EU Habitats Directive: ROSCI0022, ROSCI0131, ROSCI0149, ROSCI0172, ROSCI0022, ROSCI0053.

Inside the site, there are also 2 nature reserves declared in 2004, Ostrovul Soimul (Soimul Island) and a geological, paleontological and botanical reserve designated in 1980 and called Dealul Allah Bair.

The site also includes Important Bird Area (IBA) Dunare-Ostroave, Lake Bugeac, Lake Dunareni and Lake Oltina.

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

Inside the Ramsar site they are 3 natural monuments:

- Locul Fosilifer Cernavoda declared by County Council Decision 425/1970 and afterward by Law 5/2000 regarding the approval of the national territory use, Section III – Protected areas;

- Punctul Fosilifer Movila Banului declared by County Council Decision 425/1970 and afterward by Law 5/2000 regarding the approval of the national territory use, Section III – Protected areas;

- Reciful Neojurasic Topalu declared by County Council Decision 31/1980 and afterward by Law 5/2000 regarding the approval of the national territory use, Section III – Protected areas;

And 3 natural reserves:

- Padurea Celea Mare – Valea lui Ene declared by H.G. 2151/2004;

- Insula Soimu declared also by H.G. 2151/2004;

- Dealul Allah Bair declared by County Council 31/1980 and afterward by Law 5/2000 regarding the approval of the national territory use, Section III – Protected areas.

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Not yet, but will be developed in the future.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

There is a LIFE project, financed by the European Union for the protection of the islands, which are considered very important for some birds species such as *Falco cherrug*, *Haliaetus albicilla*, *Pelecanus crispus* etc.

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:

The site offers recreational and visiting possibilities especially on week-ends, by town folks from Calarasi city. The frequency grows during summer for fishing or recreation.

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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