

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: 5 July 1998

2. Country: **Ukraine**

3. Name of wetland: ***Karkinitska and Dzharlygatska Bays***

Part of his site as 'Karkinitski Bay' was in the Ramsar List when Ukraine was part of the USSR.

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°00 'N 33°05 'E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 87, 000 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Karkinitska and Dzharlygatska Bays are large bays in the north-east corner of the Black Sea. This wetland site is important for waterfowl during all seasons, especially for ducks and waders.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I if 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: A, E, Sp, Ss, D

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

1a • 1b • 1c • 1d | 2a • 2b • 2c • 2d | 3a • 3b • 3c | 4a • 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3a, 2c

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

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

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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9 (please refer to Annex 11 in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

1a: Karkinitska and Dzharlygatska Bays are good examples of coastal areas with islands, shallows and spits, characteristic to the Black Sea region.

2d. The islands and shallow waters of bay are used by endemic species *Branta ruficollis* during autumn migrations and wintering.

2c: The site provides breeding area for many species of waterfowl.

3a: On the Lebiazhi Isles, which are part of the Ramsar site, 12,000-14,000 pairs of waterfowl breed. Many more individuals use the site for wintering. The entire site regularly supports over 20,000 individuals, both in winter, during migration and in the breeding season.

3b: The site regularly supports large numbers of Charadriidae and Anatidae, which are indicative for wetland values, productivity and diversity.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Karkinitska and Dzharlygatska Bays are large bays in the north-east corner of the Black Sea. They are close to cities Scadovsk and Krasnoperekopsk.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area\* climate)

Karkinitska part (Karkinitska Bay) of Ramsar site comprises two units: the first unit is formed by a part of the Karkinitska Bay coast including the first kilometre of water off the shore, the other is formed by the Lebiazhi Isles and surrounding waters.

Most of the site is comprised of waters that are less than 8 m deep, and the water depth of the coastal shallows usually is even less than 1 m. The coastal line is indented with several small bays and a numbers of sand spits. There are several small islands that were formed by colonies of shellfish at the site. The Lebiazhi Isles rise above the water for a maximum of 2 m. They are of marine origin, complicated by sand/grinded shell deposits with silted bays on the leeward side and residual water bodies in the inner areas. The configuration of their coast line is dynamic, as are the numbers of small islands which are still forming and those which are disappearing under the influence of the constant wind tides. The Lebiazhi Isles are subject to strong erosion, which has reduced their area with up to 7% during to 1970th. The coastal land is mountainous.

The Dzharylgach Bay is closed between coasts of the Black Sea and Dzharylgach Peninsula. Northern coast of thr Karkinitzka Bay is formed by Dzharylgach and Tendrivskiyi peninsulas. These peninsulas are generated two variously directed flows, delivering sand and shellfish from 5-meter depths. The shell-sandy alluviums are result of joint actions of waves and underwater streams.

The general area of modern islands makes 52 ha, from which about 7 ha is present the channels and internal gulfs. The islands have not a soil layer and are combined by a loose shell rock, deposited sands and silts. Island rised on 1-2 m above a sea level. Coasts flat: on the north-east - shell-sand, on a south-west - silt, with set of small gulfs.

**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)

The most saline (18-19 ‰) is in the Black Sea bays with a local anticyclonic circulation of water.

**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

The vegetation at the site is typical for the steppe zone bordering the Black Sea. Coastal vegetation in the bay consists predominantly of reedbeds of *Phragmites communis*, with halophytes and grasses on the salty soil. There are vast water meadows of aquatic plants such as stonewort *Charophyta* spp. and zelgrass *Zostera mama*, with a rich zoobenthos. The vegetation of the islands consists of halophytes, steppe vegetation and reeds.

**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

The Lebiazhi Isles are almost half occupied with reed-beds of *Phragmites*. The unflooded parts are covered with thin xerophytic saltmarsh vegetation, with some species of wormwood *Artemisia*, saltwort *Salsola*, sea-kale *Crambe maritima*, *Calamagrostis epigeios*, *Crampe pontica*, *Elytrygia moeotica*, *Leymus sabulosus*. About 15 % of their territory is devoid of vegetation. The surrounding islands of the shallows are rich in submerged vegetation, primarily *Charophyta* and *Zostera marina*. Their coverage has decreased significantly during the last years.

**18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Breeding species at this wetland include great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (1400-2400 pairs), squacco heron *Ardeola ralloides* (max. 200 pairs), little egret *Egretta garzetta*, great egret *E. alba*, grey heron *Ardea cinerea* (700-1,500 pairs), glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (100-150 pairs), great black-headed gull *Larus ichthyaethus* (120-130 pairs), herring gull *L. argentatus* (6,800-10,000 pairs), gull-billed tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (800-900 pairs), Caspian tern *S. caspia* (200-500 pairs) and common tern *Sterna hirundo* (1000 pairs). Large numbers of mute swan *Cygnus olor* (4,000-5,000 individuals) moult. Anatidae occur during spring and autumn migration (max. 75,000), including large numbers of greylag goose *Anser anser* and white fronted goose *A. albifrons*. Several hundred of thousand of ruff *Philomachus pugnax* visit the bay during migration. In winter, more than 20,000 ducks might be present.

The fauna of terrestrial Mammals is poor and submitted by *Mus musculus hortulanus*, *Microtus socialis*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Putorius eversmannii*, from which the last species is included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine.

From water Mammals in the given region three species of dolphins are marked: bottlenosed dolphin *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*, the common dolphin *Delphinus delphin ponticus* and the harbour porpoise *Phocaena phocaena relicta*. All three species are entered to the Red Data Book of Ukraine.

There are fish species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Salmo trutta labrax*, *Hippocampus guttulatus microstephanus*, *Lucioperca marina*, *Umbrina cirrosa*, relics *Huso huso ponticus*, *Acipenser sturio*, *A.nudiventris*, and also other relic of sturgeons *Acipenser stellatus* (the item of commercial fishery).

**19. Social and Cultural Values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The site is used for recreational fishing, hunting and tourism.

**20. Land tenure/ownership of:**

(a) site: State and collective ownership

(b) surrounding area: State, collective and private ownership

**21. Current land use:**

(a) site: There is no any use of protected area of the Chornomorskyi Biosphere Reserve and there is limited and controlled exploitation of natural resources (fishing, recreation, hunting etc.) outside protected area, including other areas of the Reserve.

(b) surroundings/catchment area: the same and traditional farming, including grazing of sheep, grape-making, irrigation and cultivation of rice etc.

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

(a) at the site: The development of fish-farming and rice-growing has resulted in the uncontrolled release of fresh water, which lowers the salinity and thus adversely affects the productivity of the Characeae and *Zostera*. In addition, shooting and disturbance of fish-eating birds, rice-growing, sheep-grazing and tourism (resulting in severe disturbance of waterfowl) are adversely affecting the wetland and its birds. The movement of vehicles is destroying the soil-turf cover of the remnant steppe, and the dump of (sometimes very toxic) domestic or construction waste is also seriously damaging the steppe and the breeding sites in it. Poaching occurs and is not controlled adequately. As a result of these problems, many species are declining. One more natural threat to the site are storms.

(b) around the site: Pollution from coastal bays by drainage waters, which contain chemicals, used in an agriculture.

**23. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The site includes the Karkinitzkyi Ornithological Game Reserve 'Karkinitzka Zatoka (Bay)' and the part of the Crimean Nature Reserve (Krymskyi Zapovidnyk), which was established in 1957 as well as Botanical Reserve 'Dzharylgatskyi' established in 1974. Economic exploitation and recreational activities are prohibited in those protected parts of the Ramsar site. In the remaining area of the site, commercial fishing is regulated and recreational activities are restricted to the seashore.

The site has been placed on the Montreux Record since 4 July 1990.

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Creation of a large marine reserve has been proposed.

**25. Current Scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

There are bird ringing and census programmes going on at the bay. Systematic studies are carried out by the research staff of the zakaznik. There are annual counts of moulting mute swan and shelduck. Hydrobiological investigations have been conducted at the bay. The reserve participates in the international programme for colour-marking of certain species of wild swan.

**26. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

The reserve at Lebiazhi Isles is used for educational and pedagogic purposes.

**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

There is some tourism and recreational activity at the site.

**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture / Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: local Soviets of the Deputies.

Functional jurisdiction: in the borders of the the Crimean Nature Reserve - of the State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine, on other area – of different sectors: Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Forestry (forests), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

**29. Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Administration of the Crimean Nature Reserve (Director: Oleksiy O. Dyagovets. Address: 42 Partyzanska Str., 334 270 Alushta, Crimean Autonomous Republic, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 6560 303-58) in borders of Reserve and Land and Resource Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) on the last area and local authorities on subordinated territories are executive bodies for environmental protection. Administration of the Crimean Nature Reserve and the State Department of Ecological Safety in Khersonska Oblast (Director: Vyacheslav I. Lutskin. Address: 47 Ushakov Str., 325000 Kherson, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 5522 631 -95. E-mail: <eco21@eco21.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) and the Republic Committee of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the Crimean Autonomous Republic (Director: Yevgen S. Popovchuk. Address: 198 Kechkemetska Str., 333022 Simpheropol, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 652 25 54 09. E-mail: <eco25@eco25.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) carry out state control for protection on subordinated territories.

**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

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