

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: *Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area*

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°28'N 30°136' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.4-0.9 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 76,000 ha

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

This area is the Dniester River delta with two arms (main – Dniester, second - Turunchuk) and flood-plain lakes. The site has value as place of settle for more than 15000 pairs of waterfowl and 50 000 wintering birds.

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: L, P

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

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

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

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

On the page together with Ramsar wetland site 'Nothern Part of the Dniester Liman'

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

Dr. Volodymyr P. Stoilovskyi, Dmytro A. Kivganov. Biological Faculty of the Mechnykov State University of Odesa, 2, Shampanskyi Prov., 270058 Odesa, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 4824 954-32. E-mail <sterna@kivdma.tm.odessa.ua>

Under support of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs (Director: Mykola P. Stetsenko), Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine / 1, Timiriazevska Street, Central Botanical Garden, Kyiv, 252014, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 44- 295 26 47. E-mail <parks@parks.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>

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

1c. The site plays considerable hydrological, biological and ecological role in natural functioning of river basin and bank systems.

2c. The site has value as place of settle for more than 15000 pairs of waterfowl and 50000 wintering birds.

3a. On the territory of site regularly more than 20 000 bird individuals exist.

3c. On the territory of site 2-3 % of *Egretta alba* nest and about 9 % of *Plegadis falcinellis*.

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

It is the area between rivers Dniester and Turunchuk near Biliaivka Town - centre of Rayon (administrative district) in Odeska Oblast of Ukraine in border of Moldova, closed to Ramsar wetland site 'Nothern Part of the Dniester Liman'.

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)

Dniester River together with branch Turunchuk creates swampy flood-plains. River bed of Turunchuk is sinuosity, the width is 34-270 m, mainly 60-75 m, the depth is — 2-13 m. Speed of the stream is 0, 5-1, 0 m per second.

The width of the Dniester River in border of this wetland site is 100-200 metres (the maximum width is 600 m). The depth on fords is 16-25 m, on deeps — 4, 0-8, 0 m, sometimes —12 m. Speed of the stream is 0, 2-0, 4 m per second. The average month water temperature in the river in cold months is about 0°C, in July – 18-20°C. The maximum temperature observed in second part of July is 27-33°C. The decrease of water temperature begins from the end of July.

Dniester is river with mixed type of alimentation of river with prevailing of snow and considerable part of rain. The water regime depends on conditions of alimentation of river in separate years. The characteristic peculiarities of Dniester are distinct determined spring floods and number of floods, connected with Carpathian rains, which fall out during all year, except winter (1-3) months .

Increase of level happens quickly, decrease slowly. Summer drought period because of spring floods is absent. River slope in lower river is not considerable, speed of streams is little (0.2-0.3 m per second). During wind induced surge from the Dnistrovsky liman, the direction of stream can change to opposite.

The average Dniester outlay in river mouth is 330 m³ per sec. The basic mass of runoff, as a rule, take place in spring period, but during the years, when there are many rains, transferring to summer and autumn happen. Winter runoff is high and in average it is 15-20%. Ice regime is not stable and has interrupt character. Freezing as ice drift happens not each year. Spring ice drift happens in the first part of March and continues in average 5 days.

After separating Turunchuk from Dniester runoff on the main artery became to reduce, and runoff on Turunchuk — increase. In present century through this branch more than 50 % of river runoff passed and with each year the volume of runoff increased. In hydrological dismemberment of Ukraine territory of lower Dniester belongs to the hydrological zone of insufficient moistening, which correspond to the steppe zone.

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

Use of water for watering of agricultural sites, supply by drinking water of Odesa and many finer localities. It plays the important role in realization of river transport transportations.

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

In delta one can find islands of flood-plain forests, on shallows there are groups of pussywillow bushes. There is a big number of scroll ridges, deep floodplain lakes and floating bogs. The most valuable delta sites are situated between river arms of Dniester and Turunchuk.

Main places of breeding: reed thickets, islands of a floodplain forests, places of free water with a floating vegetation, reed thickets with shrubs in the northern part of liman. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex - up to 15 000 pairs. Seasonal conglomerations by numbers up to 20 000 individuals are on the large floodplain lakes, places of free water, aquatic area of liman and in bordering agrocoenoses.

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

There are some species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*, *Epibacbis palustris*, *Leucojum aestivum*, *Orchis palustris*, *Salvinia natans* and *Trapa natans*.

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

Lower Dniester is important place for spawning of valuable fish species. Totally, about 70 fish species occur here, falling into 20 families. Reed-beds of Lower Dniester became the last refuge for different animals and plants, which are in need of protection.

Upwards of 340 bird species occur here, 35 species of them are entered into The Red Data Book of Ukraine. Up to 100 bird species are found here on breeding. Seasonal conglomerations are found on the large floodplain lakes, open water areas, aquatic area of liman and in bordering agrocoenoses.

There are following species of animals from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: mollusc *Turricaspia lincta*, fish *Acipenser ruthenus*, *Huso huso ponticus*, *Umbra krameri*, *Zingel zingel*, birds *Plegadis falcinellus* (1 300 breeding pairs), *Platalea leucorodia* (20 pairs) as well as *Egretta alba* (200 breeding pairs).

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

Important for conservation education, recreation and scientific research. Traditional place of fishing for the local population. The important water transport artery, connecting port Ust-Dunaisk to ports of Ukraine and other near-Danube countries.

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 some limited and controlled exploitation of natural resources at the site - hunting, fish-breeding and fishing, recreation, taking away of water for men use and irrigation etc.).

(b) surroundings/catchment area: the same and traditional farming, including grazing of cattle and sheep, grape-making, irrigation 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: Disturbance with recreation and commercial fishing activities are the main unfavorable human influences for waterfowl. The fishing sites coincide with the main breeding, feeding and resting sites of birds. This causes both disturbance and loss of waterfowl due to permanent deployment of fishing tackle. There is also sometime illegal fishing within the wetland, and night spot light poaching of frogs. As a result of all disturbances, the wetland hosts less waterfowl than its capacity allows. Mass moving in the Dniester River of exotic fish as *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* and *Ctenopharyngodon idella* is a unfavorable factor for native species of Pisces.

(b) around the site: There is some pollution of drainage waters from agricultural places in result of irrigation.

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)

There is some limited and controlled exploitation of natural resources at the site.

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

By one of possible measures of reconstruction of the given wetland is creation of reservoir here. It will enable to irrigate 157 thousand a ha of droughty grounds more; water supply of cities and localities in volume of 650 million of cubic meters in a year will be ensured.

Project of creation of Lower Dniester National Nature Park is on stage of elaboration.

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

The scientific researches will be carried out by research institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Institute of Botany, Institute of Zoology, Institute of Biology of Southern Seas), Hydrometeorological Institute of Odesa, Mechnikov State University of Odesa.

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

There is nature protecting education within the framework of the program of a comprehensive school. There is distribution of the information booklets, posters etc. too. There are lectures and publications of the experts of nature protecting and scientific establishments for the local population.

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

There are favourite places of rest of the inhabitants of Odesa and other nearby localities.

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: regional administrative authorities of different sectors: State Committee of Forestry (forest use and hunting), Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Fishery (fishing), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

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

Land and Resource Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) and local authorities are executive bodies for environment protection. State Department of Ecological Safety in Odeska Oblast (Director: Inesa D. Loeva. Address: 83 Sverdlov Str., 270 107 Odesa, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 482 25-13-22. E-mail: <postmaster@eco14.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) carries out state control for this protection.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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**Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland
Telephone:+41229990170 Fax:+41229990169 e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org**