

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. Country: Bulgaria
2. Date: 12/03/96
3. Ref: 3BG005
4. Name of wetland: Shablensko ezero (Shabla Lake)
5. Ramsar criteria: 1a, 2a, 2d, 3a, 3b, 3c
6. Wetland type: Coastal wetland, includes man-made channels (Q, E, 9)
7. Date of Ramsar designation: 19/03/1996
8. Geographical coordinates: 43°35'N 28°33'E
9. Altitude: 0.8m on the average.
10. Area: 511 ha (the whole protected area),
404 ha (the area of international importance)

11. General location:
Northeastern Bulgaria, at 5 km to northeast from the town of Shabla

12. Overview:
Brackish coastal lake of natural origin

13. Physical features:

The name of Shabla lake stands for two separate, but closely located lakes connected by an artificial canal. The northern one is known as the Ezerete lake and the southern one is actually the Shabla lake. Both of them lie in an ancient river bed, dug in Holocene limestones. Right below the lakes a horizon of sand 4-5m thick is to be found overlying rich peat layer. This is evidence of a long marsh period in the evolution of the firth. Limestone form huge Karst fields to the southwest of the wetland. To the east the lakes are separated from the sea by a 30-50 m wide sand strip. The lake is fed exclusively by underground waters. The average depth of the Shabla lake is 4.6 m and the maximum 9.5 m, the corresponding numbers for the Ezeretc lake are 3.5 m and 9m. Both of the lakes are stagnant and semi-saline (0.56 - 0.600)

14. Ecological features:

Phragmites australis, *Typha augustifolia*, *Glyceria aquatica*, *Shoenoplectus lacustris*, *Heleocharis palustris*

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

- (a) site: 107 ha - private agriculture lands; 404 ha - state property
- (b) surrounding area: no information available

16. Conservation measures taken:

On 24 January 1995, territory of 511 ha was implemented as protected area "Shablensko

ezero". Wetland habitats are 237 ha.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Management plan is in preparation in the framework of Bulgarian - Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme.

18. Current land use:

(a) site: Water supply for domestic and industrial use of the town of Shabla and the town of Dobrich, for irrigation of agriculture lands in the protected area, agriculture, fishing, angling, livestock grazing.

(b) surroundings/catchment: Hunting, agriculture

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(a) at the site: Illegal hunting, uncontrollable water supplies

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: Intensive agriculture use.

20. Hydrological and biophysical values: no information available

21. Social and cultural values: no information available

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Redbreasted goose *Branta ruficollis* - world endangered species (maximum of winter population - 56,000 specimens - over 75% of the world population); White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* - maximum of winter population 180,000 specimens (main hunting species); Paddyfield warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* - breeding species (non-typical european species); *Knipowitschia longicaudata* - endemic species; *Astacus leptodactylus* - stable population

23. Noteworthy flora:

Endangered species: *Cladium mariscus*, *Nuphar lutea*, *Nymphaea alba*.

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

Full research of biodiversity in the protected area, of hydrology of wetland in connection of preparing of management plan. Special research of winter population of Red-breasted goose.

25. Current conservation education:

There are no present educational programmes. Suitable site for creation of visitors centre and long-term educational programmes.

26. Current recreation and tourism:

Ornithological and hunting tourism. Here is situated a government residence.

27. Management authority:

National Nature Protection Service, Gladstone str. 67, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria. Northern Coastal Wetlands Project, P. O . Box 492, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria (responsible for preparation of the management plan).

28. Jurisdiction: no information available

29. Bibliographical references: no information available

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31. Map of site included: Yes