

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: *Dnipro River Delta*

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°34'N 32°29' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.2-1.4 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 26,000 ha

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

Wetland site 'Dnipro River Delta' is a delta of third largest river of Europe. It is very important site for biodiversity conservation. Main breeding sites of birds are: islands of a floodplain woods, reed thickets, basically - in a growing part of delta. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex - 6 000-8 000 pairs. In seasonal conglomerations regularly one can find more than 100000 individuals of 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, O, 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: 1c, 3a, 3c

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)

1c. It is very important site, and it is very good example of wetland, which plays considerable hydrological, biological and ecological role in natural functioning of large river basin and bank systems.

2a. Habitats for existing of the typical and rare plant complexes (about 19), as well as the rare animals (about 70 species) and plants with fungies (about 30 species)

2b. As ecotonic ecosystem this area is an important centre of biodiversity.

2c. It is important breeding and moulting site for many species of waterbirds.

3a. In this area more than 100 000 individuals of birds are regularly counted in the seasonal conglomerations.

3b. The area has large importance for maintenance of the waterfowl's considerable numbers.

3c. On territory of wetland there are nest of 2,5-4,5 % of nest European population of *Egretta alba*.

4a. This site is very valuable for conservation of the unique native complex of fishes that include more than 80 species.

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

Dnipro River is the third largest river of Europe and second river of the Black Sea basin. Wetland site 'Dnipro River Delta' is situated near the Black Sea in South-west of Kherson City – centre of Khersonska Oblast of Ukraine.

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)

This site is the estuary of the Dnipro River, which is connected with the Black Sea by the Dnipro-Bug Liman.

Climate is moderately continental, droughty, with the hot summer and rather soft winter. The snow cover is not stable, keeps 20-40 days; not uncommon are the winters without snow; frequent thaws conduct to a repeated freezing and opening of a snow cover. Not-frosty period is 180-210 days, average temperature of July +20°C, January - -2.5°C. Annual quantity of sediments is 320-350 mm, mainly as storm rains in the summer.

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

On the territory of Ukraine, the Dnipro River - one of the basic sources of drinking water resources. It is the largest water transport artery, ensuring communication of continental industrial regions of Ukraine with other regions of the country and the Black Sea countries. Water used for irrigation of agricultural sites.

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

This wetland consists beside branches of the river number of swamp areas, floodplain forests, complex of lakes, sandy ridges etc. Dnipro delta area is ecotonic zone like type 'river-sea' and characterized by high diversity of species and coenosis. Among hydrobionts fresh water species prevail, but relic 'pontian-caspian' complex (e.g. *Heterocope caspia*, *Dreissena polymorpha*) and Mediterranean-Sea immigrants (e.g. *Eurytemora affinis*, *Eurytemora vorax* etc.) are also well represented. Pisces consist a lot of native species including passable and half-passable species. Many water birds nest and stop during migrations here, sea birds come to feed. Vegetation is very diverse, hydrophil alignments prevail in it.

There is a mosaic alternation of mouth (delta) arms, lakes, sites of a floodplain woods on a general background of reed-swamp associations. Main breeding sites of waterfowl: islands of a floodplain woods, reed thickets, basically - in a growing part of delta. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplexes - 6 000-8 000 pairs. Seasonal conglomerations by numbers up to 14 000 individuals are on the floodplain lakes and fish ponds etc.

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

There are rare and endemic species including species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine (e.g. *Cryspogon gryllus*, *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*, *Nymphoides peltata*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Orchis palustris*, *Salvinia natans* (relic) and *Trapa natans* (relic)).

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

There are species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: mollusc - *Turricaspia lincta*, fish - *Acipenser ruthenus*, *Barbus barbus borystenicus*, *Chalcalburnus chalcoides mento*, *Huso huso ponticus*, *Umbra krameri*, birds - *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Mergus serrator*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Bucephala clangula*, as well as *Egretta alba* (350-700 breeding pairs), mammals – *Mustela lutreola*, *Lutra lutra*.

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

The mentions about Dnipro River contain in works of ancient historians, travellers and writers (Gerodot, Strabon, Ptalomeus). This wetland site is important for ecological education, recreation and scientific research. It is also traditional place of fishing for the local population.

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, cutting of reed 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 illegal fishing within the wetland sometime. As a result of all disturbances, the wetland hosts less waterfowl than its capacity allows. Mass moving in the Dnipro River of exotic fish as *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* and *Ctenopharyngodon idella* is a unfavorable factor for native species of Pisces.

In former USSR there was the idea (as project) of creation of isolated reservoir by dam separation of a part of Dnipro-Bugskyi Liman.

(b) around the site: There is considerable organic and toxic pollution of the Dnipro River water.

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)

Among taken conservation measures there were: creation of stations of clearing of water from petroleum and other pollutions, establishment of water-protected zones and strips along shores, introduction at the industrial enterprises of a closed cycle of water supply.

Protection is carried out within the Ichthyological Game Reserve (=Ichthyologichnyi Zakaznyk) "Krasna Khatka" by land and resource users.

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

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

The recommendations for improvement of quality of water and reduction of flowering of water are developed.

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

The complex state program 'The Dnipro River' is realized. The scientific researches will be constantly carried out by the Institute of Biology of Southern Seas (Sevastopol City), the Institute of Hydrobiology and the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Chornomorskyi Biosphere Reserve.

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

The special educational programs are not present. The nature protecting training is provided within the framework of a comprehensive school. Lectures of the experts and scientists with the basic groups of land users (fishermen, hunters, workers of the agricultural and industrial enterprises) are carried out.

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

The infrastructure of tourism is advanced, rather, not bad. The recreative opportunities of the Dnipro River have extended on account of numerous reservoirs, created along all current of the River.

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 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>) carries out state control for this protection.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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