

Additional information

Ecosystem services:

Social and cultural values:

The region, with its suitable climate conditions and lands having quality, is one of the most productive areas of our country. Main use of the land in the site is agriculture. The main products are sugar-beet, wheat, sun flower, corn and leguminous. Lake Kus is located in The Marmara transitional regions which is the main production area of sunflower, wheat, corn, rice, fruit and vegetables. Fertile agriculture lands are found in the Ergene Basin in Thrace, and the plains lying on the tectonic corridors. Rice fields are found along the Lake's boundaries. Lake Kus are very important for fishing since the environment is very suitable for fishing.

Current scientific research and facilities:

Bird ringing studies (National Bird Ringing Programme) have been realized in this area.

Balikesir University used to realize some hydrochemical – biological researches on the lake.

Scientific data collected until 200 had been evaluated and published in the context of Lake Management Plan. After this, no scientific publication made by the Government. However there are several publications made by the academicians of the Balikesir and also other Universities in Turkey.

Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

A well equipped, fully working visitor centre is accomplished. Interactive real time video cameras (3 camera) are installed. A promotion desk, a museum and practical pathways are established. A wooden, comfortable watching tower is constructed. Posters presenting Turkish Ramsar Sites, wetland and their values, stickers, brochures about the Lake Kus, education materials have been produced and are being distributed from the desk situated in the Bird Paradise Visitor's Centre. An effective education programme (for kids) has been launched. This programme has been applied to primary school students.

Current recreation and tourism:

The Bird Paradise National Park (Sığırcı Delta) is a unique open air laboratory exhibiting the complex relations in wetland ecosystem and the creative power of the nature, skilfully. The Park is visited by ten thousands of naturalists, bird watchers, scientist and researchers every year.