

Additional information

Physical features of the site:

Geology:

The geological past of the protected area is similar to the other sites of the Great Plain with the exception that it was strongly affected by the river Danube from the Pleistocene, as the river was flowing here that time. Later by the changing of the flowing direction of the Danube, the area started to fill up. The bogs were formed in the old Holocene by the silting up of a Danube's branch flowing towards the southeast. This filled up low lying territories in the border of Ócsa, Dabas and Bugyi villages that are surrounded by river bank sand dunes. The non-flowing parts continued to fill up, which formed the smooth peat stratum of the bogs. Under the peat there is old Holocene sand, Pleistocene river pebbles and Pannon aged clay stratum. Above the peat an average fifty centimeters thick bog soil formed. Today the bogland is mainly flat. From north and south it is bordered by sand hills. The village of Ócsa lies on one of them.

Geomorphology:

The Ramsar areas are situated between the villages of Ócsa and Dabas, in the bogland with the length of approximately 10 kilometers and the width of approximately 1 kilometer. It is mainly flat with the height of 100 meters above the sea level. The lower lying parts of the territory are found at the height of approximately 98 meters above the sea level. The highest of the sand hills bordering the area, reaches the height of 110 meters above sea level.

Natural and artificial effects are responsible together for the present day form of the landscape. Water regulation causes serious changes in the constitution of plant societies and has great impact on the animals. The canals still exist and bring the water of the area towards main canals and rivers. This process leads to the drying out of the area, the exact impact of which is inestimable.

Hydrology:

The area receives the water flowing from the higher lying territories. This water fills up the pools formed by the ancient Danube and supplies the bogs. The protected area is originally non-flowing. According to writings from the beginning of the last century most of the area was covered with water. In the beginning of our century serious canalisation works started in order to dry out the wet territories of the Great Plain. This caused the disappearance of most of the Great Plain's wetlands. In the northern part of the area there are clear ground water sources. These sources maintain the water need of the pools, saving them from drying out in hot summers. The water continuously moves towards the Danube river which is a natural process, but the canals cut out the natural steps of the surface, fastening the flowing of the water to rivers. The aim of the management is to retain the water and keep up the wetland.

Climate:

The climate of the territory is moderately warm and dry. The annual average temperature is 10,1 CO. The hottest temperatures measured here are between 34,0 and 34,2 CO, the lowest temperatures are between -15,5 and -15,8 CO . The number of sunny hours is 2000 hours a year. The annual rainfall is 550-580 millimeters. The ground is covered with snow for about 30-33 days every year, the average thickness of the snow is approximately 20 centimeters. The characteristic wind direction is northwestern, the average speed of the wind is 2.5-3.0 meters/second.

Current land (including water) use:

Within the Ramsar site:

In the northern part of the area there is (or planned to be) extensive reed agriculture. Some meadows are utilized only by pasturage, others by hay-making or both. There are strictly protected territories where the presence of endangered associations do not allow us to make use of the land. In the recent years hay-making fields have been cultivated by paid mowers or by our staff. Fan forests do not require intensive works. The Pilis Park Forestry restores natural damages.

Population of neighboring settlements:

Alsónémedi	4500
Dabas	14800
Inárcs	3300
Kakucs	2370
Ócsa	7900