

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

October 21, 2002

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Designation date Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Bulgaria

3. Name of wetland:

POMORIE WETLAND COMPLEX

4. Geographical coordinates:

42° 35'N 27° 37'E

5. Elevation:

Varies from 0,8 m below sea level up to about 5 m above sea level.

6. Area

Pomorie Protected Site: 760.83 ha

Sand Dunnes: 39.6 ha

Akheloy Rivulet Mouth: 13.9 ha

TOTAL AREA OF THE RAMSAR SITE: 814.3 ha

7. Overview

The site is a natural hypersaline coastal lagoon connected to the Black Sea by an artificial canal. The lagoon is associated with salt marshes, reed beds, salt pans and settling pools. Current economic activities include salt production and the extraction of medicinal mud. Pomorie Lake and its wetlands are one of four comprising the wetland complex surrounding the city of Bourgas and is of significantly high importance to breeding, wintering and migrating birds along Europe's second largest flyway "Via Pontica." The mouth of the rivulette Akheloy, located to the North of Pomorie Lake with small artificial waterbody is included also in the site. In 1997, it was designated an ornithological site of national importance by Birdlife International. Early 2001, the region became a Protected site under Bulgarian legislation (Order No RD 31/23.01.2001, published in State Gazette 16/2001) with area of 760.8 ha.

8. Wetland Type

marine-coastal: **A** • B • C • D • **E** • **F** • G • H • I • **J** • K • Zk(a)
inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp
 Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)
human-made: 1 • **2** • 3 • 4 • **5** • 6 • 7 • 8 • **9** • Zk(c)

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

J, 5, A, E, F, 9, 2

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • **2** • **3** • **4** • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1

10. Map of site included?

YES

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

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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.

Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

There are only two Salinas (type 5 of Human-made wetlands in Ramsar classification) in the Black Sea biogeographical region: Atanasovsko Lake and Pomorie Lake. They have representative, rare and unique characters. They are examples of millennium long sustainable co-existence between man and nature.

Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

-Vegetation listed, as rare and threatened species included in the Red Data Book of People’s Republic of Bulgaria include: *Parapholis incurva*, *Lemna gibba*, *Gypsophila trichotoma*, *Silene euxina*, *Halimione portulacoides*, *Petrosimonia brachiata*, *Suaeda heterophylla*, *Euphorbia paralias*, *E.peplis*, *Frankenia pulverulenta*, and *Trachomitum venetum*. Species threatened on a European level: *Corispermum nitidum*, *Lepidotrichum uechtritziianum*. *Tamarix sp.* is rather common along the banks.

-Fish listed in the Red Data Book of People’s Republic of Bulgaria (1985) includes: *Chalcalburnus chalcoides*, *Pungitius platygaster*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, *Atherina mochon pontica*, *Knipowitschia caucasica*

-Rare and threatened reptiles occurring in the region are *Ophisaurus apodus* and *Elaphe longissima*, which are classified globally threatened species.

-According to the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program and Green Balkans NGO, the total number of bird species of the region is 240. Of these four are globally threatened species: *Haliastur pygmaeus* (regularly wintering), *Pelecanus crispus* (rare in periods of migration and wintering), *Oxyura leucocephala* (rare in winter), and *Crex crex* (during migration). Of the 100 bird species included in the Red Data Book of People's Republic of Bulgaria (1985), some 65 have been observed in the region of the lake. It is one of the two most important nesting areas for *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Sterna albifrons* and some other species adapted to hyperhaline water basins. It is also important nesting habitat for species like *Anas strepera*, *Tringa totanus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Panurus biarmicus*, etc. It is a significant area during migration of a number of species, including *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, terns belonging to the *Chlidonias* genus, a great number of the *Charadriiformes*, and many songbirds, etc. The lake is of importance for birds during the winter, too, especially for species like *Haliastur pygmaeus*, *Aythya marila*, *Egretta alba*, etc.

The Otter - *Lutra lutra* has also been observed in the region.

Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.

The site is a hotspot of biodiversity with about 240 bird species, several fish and reptile species among which a globally threatened one and rare ones in the biogeographic region (eg. *Ophisaurus apodus*). It supports several species of plants and animals adapted to the specific hypersaline wetland conditions.

Criterion 4: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

It is an important stopover site for migratory waterbirds such as waders, cormorants, pelicans, egrets and herons, terns and gulls. During cold winters the site hosts notable concentrations of waterfowl such as shelducks, mute swans, pochards, tufted ducks, coots, etc. The site provides suitable specific breeding conditions for several species of terns, avocet, Kentish plover, etc.

13. General location

Pomorie Lake is found in the southeastern region of Bulgaria along the Black Sea coastline. It is located 25 km to the north of the city of Bourgas, in direct proximity to the Bourgas-Varna motorway. It is near the northern part of the town of Pomorie. The administrative region is the local municipality of Pomorie, District of Bourgas.

14. Physical features

14.1 Geology

The region of Pomorie Lake belongs to Bourgas synclinorium from the Eastern Srednogie tectonic region. This is a big and complex structure, which arises from the Nova

Zagora and Yambol in western direction and gradually enlarges, in eastern direction. The main axis is with east-west direction. This synclinorium gradually sinks and is lowering near Bourgas and in Bourgas bay. The geophysical data show that the synclinorium continues in the shelf region. A part of this synclinorium appeared at the land surface between Bourgas, Achtopol and Rezovo.

The Bourgas synclinorium is fulfilled by various, thick up to 2 000 - 3 000-m uppercretaceous (coenomanic, turonic and senonic) sediments and volcanogenous rocks. This uppercretaceous sediment - volcanic complex is strongly folded. Thus there many anticlinal and synclinal folds exist. The main axis of these folds is again with east-west direction (S t r a s h i m i r o v, Z a f i r o v, 1981).

14.2 Origins

The lake is of natural origin. It is a lagoon separated from the sea by a sand strip- about 7 km long. A canal with a lock, located in its southern part, connects it with the sea.

14.3 Hydrology

Saltwater from the Black Sea enters the lake by means of tidal influxes, gravity, and wind dynamics through the single canal located in the southern aspect of the lake. The water flows from the open lake into the cells or pools, which are located further north, allowing enough time to increase the salinity. Water is then mechanically pumped through a canal to the salt pans inducing further solar and wind evaporation required for the collection of salt. A drainage canal collects all water from the salines and fresh water and returns it to the sea. The average salinity is about 50‰, but in the evaporation basins of the salines it is much higher. There are no freshwater tributaries, therefor freshwater is introduced into the lake by rainfall only. To limit this process a belt canal has been constructed. Evaporation is 3-4 times higher than the inflow of freshwater and seawater.

14.4 Soil Characteristics and Type

When taken at ~30cm depth, the soil is fine, homogenous, high viscosity, sulfuric, dark grey-black with 78% water. The substrate of Pomorie Lake is black hydrogen sulphide curative mud, which is a natural resource with particular value. This value is determinate by its high medical quality, restricted deposits (only in Pomorie lake and Atanasovsko Lake) and very long process for creation (1 cm layer for about 100 years). Medical institutions in Pomorie are supplied with curative mud from Pomorie Lake.

14.5 Water Characteristics

The average depth is 0.6m and the maximum is 1.4m. The basins in the western part are extremely shallow at 0.2-0.3 m.

14.6 Climate:

The average annual precipitation is between 520 and 580 mm. The maximum rainfall is in June and November and the minimum is in August and September. The average annual air temperature varies is 12-13 °C. The region is characterized by a rather mild winter climate- the average January temperature is 1.5–2.5 °C. Only 20 days during the total winter period have negative temperature values. The summer rainfall is rather scarce – 90 to 150mm and the average temperature in July is 22.5-23.5 C. The summer breeze is quite typical: 13-15 days in June and 18-21 in July and August.

15. Hydrological values

The principal hydrological values of the wetlands have yet to be determined. It is obvious that the wetlands located near the city help maintain the water quality by sediment trapping of toxins and effluents from the local neighborhood. Due to the presence of only two hypersaline lakes in Bulgaria (the other one is Antanaskovo Lake, Ramsar Site 292), the hydrology of the region is determined to be of value in itself.

16. Ecological features

There are four main biotopes represented:

- 1.) The hypersaline Pomorie Lake which contains no woody, emergent or subemergent vegetation.
 - 2.) The shallow waters with marsh vegetation along the banks (mainly *Typha angustifolia*, *Phragmites communis* etc.), marshes totally covered with aquatic vegetation (*Phragmites communis*, *Typha angustifolia*, *T. latifolia*, *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, etc.) and halophytic grass formations of *Puccinellia convolutae*, *Limonieta gmelinii*, *Salicornieta europaea*, *Aleuropeta littoralis*, etc.
 - 3.) The hyperhaline basins of the man-made salines used for salt production (with insignificant cover of *Salicornia herbacea*, *S. europaea*, etc.).
 - 4.) The mouth of Akhelay Rivulet with small artificial waterbody with banks covered by *Salix sp.*
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17. Noteworthy flora

The flora for the lake is comparatively poor. Yet several rare and threatened species are included in the Red Data Book of People's Republic of Bulgaria. Such are *Parapholis incurva*, *Lemna gibba*, *Gypsophila trichotoma*, *Silene euxina*, *Halimione portulacoides*, *Petrosimonia brachiata*, *Suaeda heterophylla*, *Euphorbia paralias*, *E. peplis*, *Frankenia pulverulenta*, and *Trachomitum venetum*. Species threatened on a European level: *Corispermum nitidum*, *Lepidotrichum uechtritzianum*. *Tamarix sp.* is rather common along the banks.

18. Noteworthy fauna

18.1 Fish

Of the existing fish species, the following are listed in the Red Data Book of People's Republic of Bulgaria (1985): *Chalcalburnus chalcoides*, *Pungitius platygaster*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, *Atherina mochon pontica*, *Knipowitschia caucasica*.

18.2 Reptiles

Rare and threatened reptiles occurring in the region are *Ophisaurus apodus* and *Elaphe longissima* (globally threatened species)

18.3 Birds

The avifauna of the lake is extremely rich. The total number of bird species of the region is 240 (unpublished information from the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program and Green Balkans NGO). Of these four are globally threatened species: *Haliastur pygmaeus* (regularly wintering), *Pelecanus crispus* (rare in periods of migration and wintering), *Oxyura leucocephala* (rare in winter), and *Crex crex* (during migration). Of the 100 bird species included in the Red Data Book of People's Republic of Bulgaria (1985), some 65 have been observed in the region of the lake. It is one of the two most important nesting areas for *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Sterna albifrons*

and some other species adapted to hyperhaline water basins. It is also important nesting habitat for species like *Anas strepera*, *Tringa totanus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Panurus biarmicus*, etc. It is a significant area during migration of a number of species, including *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, terns belonging to the *Chlidonias* genus, a great number of the Charadriiformes, and many songbirds, etc. The lake is of importance for birds during the winter, too, especially for species like *Haliastur pygmaeus*, *Aythya marila*, *Egretta alba*, etc.

Waterbird Numbers in Pomorie Lake (1996 – 2000)		
Species and 1 % criterion	Breeding Pairs	Non – breeding Individuals
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		570 – 1000
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i> 250		10 – 200
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		10 – 100
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		140 – 180
<i>Egretta alba</i>		10 – 25
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		10 - 50
<i>Cygnus olor</i> 450		230 – 1000
<i>Anser albifrons</i>		80 – 180
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> 750	5 - 12	500 – 630
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		450 – 880
<i>Anas clypeata</i>		100 – 200
<i>Aythya ferina</i>		2300 – 5000
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		900 – 4500
<i>Fulica atra</i>		5200 – 10500
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	10 - 42	100 – 150
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	34 - 64	260 – 1000
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		350 – 4500
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		300 – 800
<i>Limosa limosa</i>		20 – 500
<i>Tringa tetanus</i>		600 – 1000
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		30 – 600
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		900 – 2600
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	410	170 - 1800
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	20 - 30	15 - 100
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	8-55	15 - 30

18.4 Mammals

There are reports and observations of *Vulpes vulpes* and *Lutra lutra*.

19. Social and cultural values

19.1 Salt Production

The lake is of historical and cultural significance in regards to the traditional methods used for producing salt. For over 2000 years, salt production has been an important practice and economy in the region. The salt works create about 30,000 tons annually. A biological product, Luga, created during salt production, is also used for services in the treatment

centers. The salt is harvested during the early fall, just prior to the rainy season. Approximately 30% of the site consist of salt pans.

The extraction of salt from seawater consists of progressive evaporation of brine in large open ponds using the solar heat and wind. The water evaporates in successive ponds until the brine is fully concentrated and salt crystallizes on the floor of the crystallizing ponds. During this process, the sodium chloride fraction is separated from the brine over a fixed concentration range in a series of flat rectangular ponds and deposits as a uniform crust. This salt continues to be 'harvested' by simple hand labor.

19.2 Curative Mud Treatment Facilities

Two established state-owned centers and recreational facilities are located along the lake. Though open year round, high season for visitors and tourists occur during the summer months. Guests range from locals, to nationals, to foreigners. Services provided by the center use the salt, water, Luga, and mud extracted from the lake for the therapy and treatment of various illnesses. The basic method of treatment is with mud. Additional services, in the polyclinic include treatments for physical and central nerve system illnesses, physiotherapy, massage, electrical, water and mud treatments.

19.3 Biological products

The lake is an important habitat of the species Lyngbys belonging to the blue-green algae family, which is the basis for the extraction of anti-tumor substances utilized in the pharmaceutical industry. There are also several products on the market using natural materials, salt, water etc. from the lake.

19.4 Aquaculture

For more than a decade, an experimental gray mullet breeding farm was active near the lake but in past years operations have been abandoned.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

Protected Site: Pomorie Lake	Salines:
Private 0 %	Private 70%
State 100 %	State 30%

The adjacent lands are also private. Approximately 30% of the site are salinas.

21. Current land use:

- A) Site: extraction of medicinal mud and salt production in salinas, creation of natural products
- B) Surrounding Area: Agriculture, Township

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

22.1 Background

The most important changes in the state of the lake are the result of the construction of a north-south oriented embankment along the entire length, dividing the lake into two. This has seriously disturbed the normal water regime. The state of the lake marked significant changes in the 1980s. The construction of the new Salinas in 1988 and changes in the feeding technology of the evaporation basins has impacted the hydrological regime and the physio-chemical characteristics of the lake. As a result, at present the eurihaline aquatic

invertebrates are dominant, where the hyperhaline organism predominated in the past (E. Matveeva). Introduction of organic substances and a significant eutrophication of the lake waters occurred. A gradual drying of the marshes to the west of the motorway was observed in 1985. After the enlargement of the salinas and digging of new basins in the northwestern part of the lake, most of the *Glareola pratincola* habitats deteriorated. The utilization of the lands around the marsh biotopes, to the west of the motorway, for vegetable production is a direct threat to their existence, due to the littering and chemical pollution, and to the burning of the marsh vegetation. Common negative impacts are threatening the marsh habitats in the southwestern part of the lake.

22.1 Current Concerns

22.1A The man-made dike continues to exist. It is created largely of soil and earthen material and there is concern about its erosion and degradation over time. The only possible solution is the entire or partial removal of the embankment returning the lake to its normal water regime.

22.1B Seawater canal in the southern region of the lake connecting it to the Black Sea is also in need of renovation and reconstruction to deepen it for fish migration. Currently, there is concern about the true owner of the canal and who will monitor and maintain it. It is being cleaned once a year to allow for the uninhibited flow of water to enter and leave the system. The canal also contains a once used bypass tunnel to the sea, by which only clean seawater from deeper in the water column enter the lake thus avoiding surface water pollution created by local industries, the port of Bourgas, and passing cargo ships. The bypass tunnel was blocked off in prior years and does not function to date.

22.1C Water regulation and balance for the economic practices, of salt production and mud curation, as well as for the maintenance of the habitat and ecosystem required for the high biodiversity is also a concern. Each economic practice requires a certain amount of water within the catchment so that they may extract the products. In dry years this has been a problem and required mediation between the companies. Discussion has begun about creating a pumping system to siphon the salt water from the sea when not enough flows through the canal in the south. Also specified levels need to be determined for the bird species using the region for nesting so as to not be altered during the breeding months.

22.1D Drainage canal: This canal recycles water from the salt gardens and returns it to the Black Sea. The canal needs to be reopened and connected with the canal containing water from an upstream mine. Otherwise, the back waters from the mine and salt gardens reenters the lake effecting the salt concentration and polluting the water. All water from the area leaves via this canal. The only freshwater entering the lake is by rainwater.

22.1E Solid Waste is also found throughout the region and in some places within the lake. Community cleanups have begun to occur but the lack of responsibility, interest and awareness still plays a major role in the logic of the citizens dumping in the region. February 2001, was the first World Wetland Day celebrated in Pomorie, which involved wetland awareness activities, the creation of wetland information brochures and a lake cleanup. Also in 2001, in one region of the lake, near the minority Roma and Turkish neighborhoods, a project has been implemented through the US Peace Corps-USAID to transform a dumpsite into a green zone and park for the citizens. The entire region is not within regulation of city codes, but a project team has begun to discuss the possibility to create canalization for wastewater, which currently flows in the lake and wetlands, and any other aspects of integration for the citizens. Funding is being sought.

22.1F Privatization and the returning of the land to the private sectors during the past decade have affected the management and use of the resource and will continue into the future. If continued disinterest in producing salt in the prior salinas occurs, some of the land may be converted to agriculture.

23. Conservation measures taken:

23.1 Principal protection measures

Environmental Protection Act No.86/18.10.1991, amended in 1998. Act regulates collection and provision of information concerning the state of the environment, exertion of control over the state of the environment, terms and procedures of environment impact assessment, planning and implementation of environmental protection activities, and the rights and obligations of central and local authorities, bodies corporate and physical persons as regards to environmental protection. Its is in accord to European legislation.

Protected Areas Act. Ministry of Environment and Water. 1998.

The Act regulates the establishment and maintenance of a national network of protected areas, determines the institutions responsible for the general management, monitoring and security coverage of the protected areas, and lists the rights and obligations of the physical and juridical persons in this regard. Section 6: Protected Sites- Article 33.

Designation of Pomorie Lake as Protected Site. MOEW- National paper, # RD-31, 23 January 2001.

23.2 Management Plan

Currently there is no management plan created for the site. Designated Protected Site as of January 23 2001.

23.3. Implemented conservation measures

Green Balkans Federation of Nature Conservation NGOs, together with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), has been implementing a program for restoration of habitats of the birds nesting in the lake since 1994. As a part of this program, four small conservation projects have been implemented, with a total amount of 52,000 Euro. The main sponsors are BTCV, Green Balkans and the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program. Artificial islands have been built in the lake for nesting of Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) as well as small caves to support nesting of *Tadorna tadorna*. Considerable achievement is the restoration of the numbers of Sandwich terns. In the beginning of the program there have been only 6 nesting pairs. In 2001 the numbers of nesting pairs reaches 410.

23.4 Further Classifications

Designated Important Site for Birds in 1997 by BirdLife International.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

24.1 Management Plan

Proposed creation of management plan for Pomorie Lake. Management plan outline to be submitted to regional government body in accordance with legislation. The Municipality of Pomorie, is working with two Bulgarian NGOs: Green Balkans- Plovdiv, and Bourgas

Wetland Project-BSBCP to acquire funds for the sponsorship of such a plan and its implementation.

24.2. Pomorie Lake Conservation Project

The national organization Green Balkans Federation of Nature Conservation NGOs creates a local stakeholders platform for elaboration of a middle-scaled GEF project for conservation and restoration of the Pomorie Lake. Main elements of the project are restoration and reconstruction of the connection sea-lake and the channel draining fresh waters. Many particular conservation measures for conservation of species and habitats have been also envisaged. The project has been approved and coordinated with the Ministry of Environment and Waters.

24.3 Salt Museum

Current international project funded by the EU Program-Ecosovurture with partnerships in Greece, Portugal, and Slovenia. A former pump station building located near the lake is restored and a salt exhibit is created. Information includes the history, culture and natural values of the natural resource and salt production. The museum was opened on 7 September 2002.

24.4 Biodiversity Center

There is interest in developing a biodiversity education center in association with the future salt museum. Pending funding.

24.5 Ecotourism Development

Pomorie Lake possesses all the prerequisites to become one of the most important environmental education, research, sustainable tourism centers along the Bulgarian Black Sea Coastline. There is great potential to develop nature friendly tourism activities in and around the lake and wetlands. Potential tourism could include: bike paths, walking paths, cultural path, birdwatching, photography etc.

So far it is only Green Balkans that has implemented eco-tourism (bird watching), as the clients have been mainly volunteers of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

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

No field stations established.

Green Balkans Federation of Nature Conservation NGOs and the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program finance small elaborations of various volumes, mainly graduation papers of students in terms of habitats and species study. In 2002 a team of experts from both organizations as well as from Pomorie municipality was formed, and it starts gathering data for elaboration of the future Management Plan for the Pomotie Lake.

26. Current conservation education

26.1 Visitors' Facilities

No visitors' center or facilities specifically located in Pomorie, but the Bulgarian Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program and Birdlife International have established a wetland education and viewing center for the regional lakes and wetlands south of Bourgas. Students have participated in programs and activities associated with the center.

26.2 Pamphlets/Brochures

There are information pamphlets and posters specifically for Pomorie Lake, salt lakes, and the regional wetlands, which are distributed to schools, centers, tourist agencies etc.

26.3 Education

Local ecologists and NGO's develop and help to enhance the environmental curriculum of schools and institutes through distribution of information, guest speakers, and field trips.

26.4 US Peace Corps-USAID Project

As of June 2001, an environmental awareness campaign associated with the restoration and development of a green zone, funded by USAID, has been under way in the vicinity of the lake working with the minority neighborhood. One goal of the project is to raise awareness, education and responsibility towards the lake, wetlands, and species associated.

26.5. Education projects of Green Balkans

In the period 1996-2002 implemented were several education projects combined with volunteer conservation working holidays of students and undergraduates organized by Green Balkans with the financial support of Soros Foundation, PHARE LIEN of the European Union and Bourgas Wetlands Project.

27. Current recreation and tourism

Little recreation or tourism has been developed. In an indirect manner, tourists come to the sanatoriums and medical centers for the services provided with the mud, salt and water extracted from Pomorie Lake.

During the summer months, Pomorie Lake is used for international and student work holiday brigades organized by the NGO- Green Balkans-Plovdiv. In September 2001, one group of students from Bulgaria and Macedonia continued work on artificial nests for the Sandwich Tern. Another group soon followed, consisting of British volunteers. Both brigades lasted approximately 7 days. Approximately 50 volunteers participated this year.

Organized and unorganized groups of birdwatchers have come to Pomorie Lake during trips to the regional wetland complex. No data or specifics are available.

According to the Protected Site legislation fishing and hunting are forbidden in the region. Sport fishing may be developed and allowed in one designated area of the lake once the fish populations increase.

28. Jurisdiction

- Ministry of Environment and Waters - Sofia 1000, W. Gladstone Str, 67.
 - Regional Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and Waters - Bourgas at MoEW with Director Dr. Simeon Simeonov, 8000 Bourgas.
 - Municipality of Pomorie-Pomorie 8200, Solna Str., 5.
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29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for the wetland)

Municipality of Pomorie
Environmental Department
5, Solna Street
8200 Pomorie, Bulgaria

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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