

Ramsar Information Sheet

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1. Date this sheet was completed:

14.03.1996

2. Country:

Bulgaria

3. Name of wetland:

Atanasovsko Lake (Bourgas salines, Ladja Lake)

4. Geographical co-ordinates:

42°35 N 27° 28 E ; UTM grid NH 31, NH 30

5. Altitude:

from 0,8 m below sea level up to 1 m above sea level.

6. Area:

1050 xa nature reserve and about 900 xa b.z.

7. Overview

Hyper saline lake along the coast line, divided in two parts by the road Bourgas-Varna. The northern part has been declared as nature reserve since 1980. The southern part is a buffer zone of the reserve. Both parts are saline since 1906. Smaller freshwater marshes, as well as a system of canals overgrown with marsh vegetation, surround the lake. The fresh water from its catchment area is collected in a circular canal and flows into the sea. The lake is the richest ornithological site in Bulgaria with 290 bird species recorded (from the total of 393 for Bulgaria).

8. Wetland type:

Salt marsh

9. Ramsar Criteria:

Pelecanus crispus - for the period 1991 - 1996 average 30 wintering individuals. Tadorna tadorna - for the period 1987 - 1996 average 1758 individuals

10. Map of site included:

yes

11. Name and address of compiler:

Tanyo Michev, 1113 Sofia, 2 Gagarin Str. Central Laboratory of General Ecology Ljubomir Profirov, 1000 Sofia, 67 Gladstov Str., Ministry of Environment.

12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

13. General location:

In close vicinity of Western Black Sea Coast, 4 km northern from the town of Bourgas, Bourgas district.

14. Physical features:

Geology and geomorphology - to be added

Origin - natural

Hydrology - lake's volume is 3,2 mil m³ with average depth of 0,30 m. and water surface of 10,9 km².

The salinity is from 18°/00 to 50°/00. Catchment area of the lake is 109 km². Annually 13 lake volumes evaporate from lake surface. Soil type - to be added.

Water quality - some pollution from a pig farm in the vicinity. Climate - continental, strongly influenced by the Black Sea; warm and prolonged autumn, cool spring, in winter almost no frost.

15. Hydrological values:

Unique for Bulgaria salt marsh (with Pomorie Lake).

16. Ecological features:

According to the Corine Biotope Habitat Types the lake belongs to 1.15; Coastal and halophytic communities - salt marshes, salt steppes, salt shrubs, salt forests. Dominant among the vascular plants are *Salicornia herbacea*, *Salicornia europaea*, *Sweda maritima*, *Phragmites australis*, *Typha angustifolia*, *Vicia campestris*, *Artemisia maritima* and other.

17. Noteworthy flora:

98 plant species, 8 of which are included in the Bulgarian Red Data Book.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Most important ornithological site in Bulgaria with 290 species recorded.

Fish - 10 species, 2 of which are included in the Bulgarian Red Data Book.

Amphibians and Reptiles - 15 species, 2 of which are included in the Bulgarian Red Mammals - 25 species, 2 of them very rare - *Lutra lutra* and *Suncus etruscus* Birds. 13 globally threatened species (see Appendix).

19. Social and cultural values:

Important source of medical mud.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site : state property

(b) surrounding area : the bigger part is owned by the Municipality of Bourgas; a small part is private (in western part of the reserve).

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

(a) site: as salines since 1906

(b) surroundings/catchment : as arable land and industrial zone.

22. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

(a) at the site: salt production with modern methods

Hunting, Sport fishing, Animal photography, Ringing of chicks, sudden increase of water level during the breeding season.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment: water pollution, use of fertilizers, enlargement of the industrial zone.

23. Conservation measures taken:

Nature reserve since 1980

Ramsar site since 1984

IBA site since 1989

A management Plan in preparation - as part of the Bulgarian - Swiss Biological Diversity Programme.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Management Plan in preparation.

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

Investigations of flora and fauna of the reserve for compiling a Management Plan, which will be printed in the beginning of 1997. The project is a part of the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme.

26. Current conservation education:

not available.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

The reserve is visited irregularly by different groups of birdwatchers from Great Britain, Denmark, Switzerland and other.

28. Jurisdiction:

Ministry of Environment
1000 Sofia; 67 Gladstov Str.

29. Management authority:

Central Laboratory for General Ecology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
1113 Sofia; 2, Gagarin Str.

30. Bibliographical references:

Michev, T. (ed). 1995. National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria. Min. of Environment, Sofia, 1-55.

Michev, T. (ed). 1995. Project Atanasovsko Lake. Collection of Preliminary Reports, prepared by Group of Experts, BSBCP, Sofia, 1-60, manuscript.

