

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS CZECH REPUBLIC / MOKRADY DOLNÍHO PODYJÍ

1. Country: Czech Republic
2. Date: 10 September 1993
3. Ref: 3CZ005
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5. Name of wetlands: Mokrady dolního Podyjí
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 1 October 1993
7. Geographical coordinates: 48° 37' - 48° 51' N 16° 35' - 16° 58' E
8. General location: Breclav
9. Area: 1937 ha (with about 8000 ha of buffer zone)

10. Wetland type:

Predominantly floodplain forests, floodplain meadows, pools, backwaters, a system of small fishponds, two artificial water reservoirs.

11. Altitude: 152 - 180 m a.s.l.

12. Overview:

This is the originally continuous complex of floodplain habitats along the Dyje, Svratka and Jihlava rivers. Nowadays segmented by three artificial reservoirs (Údolní nádrže Nové Mlýny: the Nové Mlýny Reservoirs), of which the Middle reservoir is a part of Ramsar site. The area has been altered by channelisation of the river bed and by ploughing up of adjacent meadows, and a fall of groundwater table.

13. Physical features:

The underlying rocks include little permeable or impermeable Neogene sediments, covered usually with well permeable layers of alluvial silt of varied thickness were deposited on top of these layers during Holocene. Characteristic phenomena of the otherwise flat relief of the floodplain include remnants of flat (up to 5 m high) terraces (called 'hrůdy') which were never flooded and served as refuges for numerous organisms during floods. Muddy depressions, most often terrestrialized pools in former river beds, represent an opposite geomorphological phenomenon. The site has a number of soil types, all of them rich in nutrients.

14. Ecological features:

Mature floodplain forests with a predominantly natural species composition, the largest remaining parts of hardwood floodplain forest (communities of the sub-foederatio Ulmenion Oberdorfer 1953) in Central Europe. Predominating association: Fraxino pannicae Ulmetum.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: Most land (water reservoirs, forests) is State property, some (fields and meadows) is owned by co-operative farms. Part of the land will resumably be subject to restitution.

(b) surrounding area:

16. Conservation measures taken:

Small areas are protected as nature reserves ('Dolní Mušovský luh', Betlém, 'Plackuv les' a říčka

Šatava', Krivé jezero', Kutnar', Kvetné jezero', Pastvisko', Ranšpurk' Chanov', Soutok') - in total about 340 ha. A considerable part of this area is proposed to be included in the enlarged Protected Landscape Area 'Pálava'. The middle reservoir of Nové Mlýny (180 ha) and Sekulská Morava (25 ha) are proposed nature reserves.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Management plans for the sub-sites are under preparation, the restoration of natural water regime, including spring floods, is now being accomplished. Improvement of the Nové Mlýny Middle Reservoir to wetland habitats was decided by The Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. Some ploughed meadows, nowadays arable fields, are likely to be returned to previous habitats of wet meadows.

18. Current land use:

Forest: timber extraction, hunting; water reservoirs; use of water for irrigation, recreation, angling and fishery.

Changes have resulted from the ongoing privatisation in agriculture.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

The greatest harm has already been done by the channelisation of practically all segments of the main river beds, by deepening of the bed profile and the consequent catastrophic drop in the groundwater table. Further negative factors include severe water pollution, large-scale timber extraction.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

A large part of the site is included in the protected area of natural water accumulation 'Kvartér Moravy', the floodplain forests between Lednice and Breclav are listed among protection zones of water resources (Breclav - Kancí obora). The system of Nové Mlýny accumulates 135 million m³ water, a negligible part of which is used for irrigation. The whole site, and the floodplain forests in particular, still have a considerable self-purification effect.

21. Social and cultural values:

The whole site is a biocorridor of international importance, including a number of important biocentres (e.g. a protected gene pool site for oak and ash at Soutok, covering 900 ha). The human settlement has been continuous in this region since the times of mammoth hunters (25,000 b.c.) and, at certain periods, was associated with key historical events (e.g. the Great Morava in early Middle Ages). As for architecture, part of the site is situated in the valuable Lednice - Valtice area (lednicko - valticky areál).

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Temporary spring pools are host to typical invertebrate communities of *Lepidurus apus*, *Siphonophanes grubii*, *Conchostraca*. There are hundreds of invertebrate species associated with old solitary oak trees; a number of them are likely to be critically threatened, some have definitely not yet been scientifically identified. There are numerous sites important for amphibian breeding (e.g. *Tana arvalis*, *R. ridibunda*, *Triturus cristatus*). The well developed association of floodplain birds includes: *Haliaeetus albicilla* (3-5 pairs, 20-25 wintering), *Milvus migrans* (30 pairs), *M. milvus* (up to 5 pairs), *Falco cherrug* (up to 5 pairs), *Alcedo atthis*, *Ciconia ciconia* (40 pairs, mainly on solitary oaks in forests), *Ciconia nigra*, *Ardea cinerea* (150 pairs), *Anser anser* (150-200 pairs). The Nové Mlýny reservoirs represent the most important gathering site and wintering area for migratory birds and breeding place for a number of waterfowl species: e.g. breeding *Sterna hirundo* (130-190 pairs), *Phalacrocorax carbo* (currently up to 400 pairs), *Larus melanocephalus* (3-5 pairs) or migrating arctic species of geese (*Anser fabalis* up to 50,000, *A. albifrons* minimum 5,000), as a summer roosting point for *Anser anser* (up to 10,000). Mammals: evidence of recent occurrence of the otter (*Lutra lutra*), regular occurrence of the beaver (*Castor fiber*), high density of bats (*Chiroptera*).

23. Noteworthy flora:

The area hosts typical floodplain communities and plants - *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Ulmus minor*, *Populus alba*. Rare species: *Leucosium aestivum*, *Scilla vindobonensis*, *Cardamine parviflora*, *Carex melanostachya*, *C. strigosa*, *Euphorbia lucida*, *E. palustris*, *Lycopus exaltatus*.

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

Intensive scientific research of international importance is carried out at a number of sites (within MaB/Unesco). In addition to the study of floodplain forest, numerous thorough studies have been carried out in connection with the construction of the Nové Mlýny water reservoirs. The research is carried out by institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Agricultural University in Brno. Further research is performed by the Administration of the Protected Landscape Area Pálava and by the Regional museum in Mikulov.

25. Current conservation education:

Numerous excursions: plans for construction of nature trails at Pohansko, around the Nové Mlýny water reservoirs, and a cycling nature trail near Lednice. Numerous articles aimed at the public have been published mainly in the regional press, informing, among other things, about the erroneous conception of the Nové Mlýny system and its prospect. Field training for students of both the Faculty of Science of Brno University and of the Agricultural University in Brno (the area of Lednice and Valtice, forests at Soutok).

26. Current recreation and tourism:

Differs depending on the locality. Intensive recreation at the Nové Mlýny lowest reservoir (angling, recreation) and at some sites in the Lednice and Valtice area (Janohrad, Pohansko). Recreation is negligible at other sites.

27. Management authority:

Protected Landscape Area Pálava Administration, Mikulov, District Dept. for the Environment, Breclav.

28. Jurisdiction:

District Dept. for the Environment, Breclav, Ministry of the Environment, Praha.

29. Bibliographical references:

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30. Reasons for inclusion:

Relevant criteria of group 2, for some sub-sites (Nové Mlýny) 3c.

Zoning of the Ramsar Site: There are 16 core sites identified inside the Ramsar site.

NumberName	Area	Lat	Long
RC5.01 Azant - Nejdecké louky	100 ha	4848	1646
RC5.02 Betlém	10.8 ha	4854	1634
RC5.03 Cahnov - Soutok	13.4 ha	4840	1657
RC5.04 Ranšpurk	19.2 ha	4842	1657
RC5.05 Dolní mušovský luh	48.6 ha	4854	1635
RC5.06 Janohrad	100 ha	4848	1650
RC5.07 Kancí obora	150 ha	4846	1652
RC5.08 Krivé jezero	104.2 ha	4851	1644
RC5.09 Kutnar	0.56 ha	4850	1649
RC5.10 Kvetné jezero	1.6 ha	4849	1648
RC5.11 Lubeš	120 ha	4846	1652
RC5.12 Mahenovo jezero	20 ha	4850	1646
RC5.13 Pastvisko	30.5 ha	4848	1548
RC5.14 Plackuv les (Šatava)	113 ha	4851	1645
RC5.15 Sekulská Morava	25 ha	4837	1657
RC5.16 Stredni zdrz Nové Mlýny 1080 ha	4854	1635	