

Ramsar Information Sheet

7FR008

1. Date this sheet was completed:

17 November 1992

2. Country:

France

3. Name of wetland:

Etang de Biguglia

4. Geographical co-ordinates:

42°36N ; 9°29 E

5. Altitude:

0 m

6. Area:

1450 ha

7. Overview

It is the largest lagoon-pond on Corsica (11 km long and 2 km wide). A 500 m wide lido separates the lake from the sea. The environmental diversity allows many seabirds to find shelter, food and rest.

8. Wetland type:

Brackish water pond

9. Ramsar Criteria:

1 (c) , 2(a), (b) , 3(a)

10. Map of site included:

yes 1/25.000

11. Name and address of compiler:

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12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

13. General location:

The pond is situated a few kilometres south of Bastia.

14. Physical features:

Of lagoonal origin. The catchment area lies in a zone of glazed schists and old alluvia. In the pond's immediate vicinity, the picture is one of recent alluvia interspersed with patches of old alluvia (San Damiano peninsula). The west bank consists of grey silt-laden soil with some peat. The pond has a depth of 1,8 m. The surface covers 180 km², including le Bevinco, le Pietre-Turchine, le Rassignani, la Mormorana, Pancrazio and the droppipe which furrows the Marana plain. The pond and the sea are connected by a 1,7 km long channel. The San Damiano peninsula splits the pond in two.

15. Hydrological values:

The lake is of great hydrological importance. Without this wetland, the water of the channels would flow directly into the sea, causing erosion upstream and a reduction of the ground water level. During rising water levels, the pond plays a role in minimising the flooding risks in the lower plains.

16. Ecological features:

The lagoon is covered by maquis (dry area with small bushes) with maritime pine trees. The pond is surrounded by reed, which forms shelter for the nesting herons, red-crested pochards, mallards and marsh harriers.

17. Noteworthy flora:

see list attached

18. Noteworthy fauna:

see list attached

19. Social and cultural values:

Until 1990, farmers used the pond for fishing purposes. 250 tons of fish (mainly eel) were fished every year. Studies are underway to determine the water quality and the future of the site for fishing purposes.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

The waterbody is owned by the department of Haute-Corse. The banks are private property.

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

Fishing is the main activity (80%). Pastures on the banks. In the surroundings : agriculture, industry, livestock farming and hunting

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

Main threat is urban development. Disposals of purification stations go into the pond. The development of unregulated tourism is a threat to the environment (litter, motorbikes, 4x4). Sand extraction and destruction of the "roselières" also form a threat.

In the surroundings, rubbish heaps form the main threat. Purification stations, industrial enterprises, fertilisers and pesticides used for farming also contribute to pollution.

23. Conservation measures taken:

ZNIEFF, type I

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

A project for a natural reserve is currently being developed. The pond is part of "specially protected areas".

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

Research for a development plan is ongoing: report of the aquatic environment and control measures for pollutants. Detailed maps of the vegetation, inventory of the flora, management proposals for avifaune; rehabilitation of the land surrounding the pond, better access to the shores, improvement of tourist information facilities; inventory of fishing purposes. 0.9 MF grant under the ENVIREG programme.

26. Current conservation education:

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27. Current recreation and tourism:

The actual use of the wetland is uncontrolled. Uncontrolled tourism causes damage to the site.

28. Jurisdiction:

Department of the Haute Corse : owner
In case of the creation of a natural reserve : state property

29. Management authority:

Department of the Haute Corse, with the technical assistance of l'Association de Gestion des Espaces Naturels de Corse (A.G.E.N.C.)

30. Bibliographical references:

see bibliography attached.