

Ramsar Information Sheet

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1. Date this sheet was completed:

30 May 1996

2. Country:

Georgia

3. Name of wetland:

Ispani II marshes

4. Geographical co-ordinates:

41 degrees 47 minutes North, 41 degrees 50 minutes East

5. Altitude:

3,5 m above sea level

6. Area:

512.8 hectares

7. Overview

Quaking bogs, which are distinguished by particular flora composition (with elements of boreal and high mountains).

8. Wetland type:

Type M - Rivers/streams/creeks : permanent

Type U - Peatland (peat bogs, swamps, fens)

Type Xp - Forested peatlands

Type 9 - Canals

9. Ramsar Criteria:

1(a) (c) (d)

2 (a) (b) (c) (d)

10. Map of site included:

yes

11. Name and address of compiler:

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12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

13. General location:

Autonomous Republic of Adjara. 1 km away from the Black Sea coast. Nearest town - Kobuleti

14. Physical features:

The territory is seaside alluvial plain, risen in Quaternary, constructed by lake-reverain and more lake deposits, which are developed on the depth of 9-14 m, introduced by supropel. It is covered by 5-6 m

peat horizon (oldest age - 5000-3000). Soils are hydromorphic - alluvial swamp, silt marsh, peat bog and peatland soils. Water level in wetlands is 0,7 m. Water is hydrocarbonic (contains Cl, Na, Mg, Ca). The territory is an area of discharge of surface and underground waters brought down from mountains and hills. Climate is humid subtropical. The total annual precipitation averages 1500-1700 mm. The average temperature of long standing is +14°C, minimum temperatures are -13 to -17° C, maximum is +41°C.

15. Hydrological values:

Horizons of underground waters are constantly recharged. They have high levels (0,5 - 1,5 m) above surface). Underground waters take part in feeding wetlands. Wetlands soften destructive effect of floods due to abundant water absorbing ability.

16. Ecological features:

Grass-sphagnum bogs (*Sphagnum* spp), shrub-grass bogs and swampy alderforests (*Alnus barbata*, *Rhododendron ponticum*).

17. Noteworthy flora:

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18. Noteworthy fauna:

Migratory water birds of international importance are: *Anas strepera*, *Melanitta fusca*, *Anser anser*, *Netta rufina*, etc. The nesting bird of international importance is *Pandion haliaetus*. The species of local importance is *Phasianus colchicus* (See Annex I).

19. Social and cultural values:

Near the territory are discovered and researched archaeological monuments of Bronze and Antique periods (Pichvnari, Ispani Underpeat Site).

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

- (a) site : State property. Autonomous Republic property (Regional property)
- (b) surrounding area : State, private and cooperative property

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

- (a) site: small-scale pastoral agriculture (cattle), mowing, forestry
- (b) surroundings/catchment : household areas, mowing, technical plants (tung-tree)

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

- (a) at the site: extraction of peat, deforestation
- (b) in the surroundings/catchment : drainage of mires, extraction of peat, deforestation.

23. Conservation measures taken:

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24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Guideline on Management of Protected Wetland Areas of Kolkheti (Tbilisi, 1995)

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

Guideline on Management of Protected Wetland Areas of Kolkheti (Tbilisi, 1995); Scientific researches for correction of General Scheme of the Black Sea Coasts Protection.

26. Current conservation education:

Booklet of International Seminar held in Tskaltubo, 1978.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

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28. Jurisdiction:

State

Autonomous Republic of Adjara

29. Management authority:

Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia
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380015 Tbilisi
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Central Agency of Protective Areas, Natural Reserves and Hunting Management of Georgia
Address : 84 Chavchavadze Ave.
380062 Tbilisi
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Department of Forest Management of Georgia
Address : 9 Mindeli Street
380086 Tbilisi
Georgia

30. Bibliographical references:

Guideline on Management of Protected Wetland Areas of Kolkheti (Tbilisi, 1995);
Kolkheti lowland. Natural conditions in social-economic aspect (1989);
Dokhturovski V. - Methods of research of peat wetlands of Transcaucasia (1938);
Frolov A. - Vegetation of Kobuleti wetlands (1938).