

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May 2006

3. Country:

Hungary

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Ipoly Valley

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: X

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

No major change has occurred since designation.

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): X;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) X;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary entirely overlaps with the Ipoly part of the Duna-Ipoly National Park.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

N border: 48° 04' 42", S border: 48° 02' 49",

E border 19° 15' 30" W border 18° 58' 20" **Approximate Center of the wetland (at Ipolyvece) :**
48°03'55" N, 19° 07' 22" E

9. General location: Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

Northern Hungary, Nógrád county, 12-22 km west of Balassagyarmat

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

125,7-145,0 m above sea level

11. Area: (in hectares) 2227.6 ha

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland. This section of the Ipoly valley possesses remarkable values of a slightly modified wetland, which is connected to a partly regulated small river. This region is significant from hydrological, geomorphological, botanical, zoological and cultural point of view. The variety of wetland habitats situated here maintains rich and diverse flora and fauna.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 •	2 •	3 •	4 •	5 •	6 •	7	8 •	9
✓	✓	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1: Within the biographic region this wetland contains rare and unique natural wetland types: permanent freshwater marshes and peatswamp forests. Valley of Ipoly is linked up with Poiplie Ramsar Site in the Slovak Republic. This complex plays substantial hydrological, biological and ecological role in the agency of Ipoly river catchment. Ipoly is a border river between Slovak Republic and Hungary. This area is an exceptionally good example for preserved wetland habitats in the valley of Ipoly river and in the Carpathian basin. This wetland is important for its quality in preserving high diversity of plant and animal communities in the biogeographical region.

Habitats of community importance listed for Ipoly Valley Natura 2000 site on its Standard Data Form and relevant for the Ramsar site:

6440 Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the *Cnidion rubii*

7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* (priority habitat)

91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*

Other important habitats include:

Alopecuretum pratensis, *Phalarietum arundinaceae*, *Agrostetum albae*, *Festucetum pratensis*, *Dryopteridi* – *Alnetum*, *Calamagrostio* – *Salicetum cinereae*, *Nymphaetum albo-luteate*

Criterion 2.: This wetland complex supports the survival of endangered and vulnerable animal and plant species.

Pseudanodonta complanata, LR/Nt IUCN Red list

Theodoxus transversalis, DD IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Dytiscus latissimus Vulnerable IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Dioszeghyana schmidtii Annex II Habitats Directive

Priocnemis mimula endangered species listed in the Red Book of Council of Europe

Sabanejewia aurata Annex II Habitats Directive

Gobio albipinnatus Annex II Habitats Directive

Barbus meridionalis Annex II Habitats Directive

Rhodeus sericeus amarus Annex II Habitats Directive

Umbra krameri Vulnerable IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Thymallus thymallus Low Risk:lc IUCN Red list

Sabanejewia aurata DD IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Misgurnus fossilis LR/Nt IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Gymnocephalus baloni DD IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Gymnocephalus schraetzer Vulnerable IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive
Zingel zingel Vulnerable IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive
Zingel streber Vulnerable IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive
Bufo bufo LC IUCN Red list
Bufo viridis LC IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Bombina bombina LC IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive
Rana esculenta LC IUCN Red list
Rana dalmatica Annex IV Habitats Directive
Rana arvalis LC IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Pelobates fuscus Annex IV Habitats Directive
Hyla arborea NT IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Lacerta agilis Annex IV Habitats Directive
Lacerta viridis Annex IV Habitats Directive
Natrix tessellata Annex IV Habitats Directive
Elaphe longissima Annex IV Habitats Directive
Coronella austriaca Annex IV Habitats Directive
Emys orbicularis LR/Nt IUCN Red list Annex II Habitats Directive
Phalacrocorax pygmaeus NT IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Ardeola ralloides LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Egretta alba Annex I Bird Directive
Ciconia ciconia Annex I Bird Directive
Ciconia nigra LC IUCN Red list + Annex I Bird Directive
Crex crex NT IUCN Red List + Annex I Birds Directive
Athene noctua LC IUCN Red list
Merops apiaster LC IUCN Red list
Luscinia luscinia LC IUCN Red list
Rhinolophus hipposideros LC IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive
Myotis myotis LR/nt IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive
Eptesicus serotinus LR/lc IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Pipistrellus pipistrellus LC IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Myotis daubentonii LR/lc IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Nyctalus noctula LR/lc IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Plecotus auritus LR/lc IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Martes martes LR/lc IUCN Red list
Felis silvestris LC IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Mustela erminea LR/lc IUCN Red list + Annex IV Habitats Directive
Mustela nivalis LR/lc IUCN Red list
Lutra lutra NT IUCN Red list + Annex II Habitats Directive

Criterion 3.: This area supports plants of marshes and bogs and different species of waders. The vegetation period and the breeding season are connected mainly to the water conditions. High proportion of endangered fish species can be found in this wetland. In the past this area was an important spawning ground for lot of species but unfortunately it has changed for today. The moth species *Dioszeghyana schmidtii*, endemic species, this nominate race only occurs here in Hungary. The river supplies the local inhabitants and livestock as well with potable water.

Criterion 4. This wetland has an important role for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region. Floodplain of the river Ipoly is a valuable habitat for the migratory birds, especially for waterfowl during spring time. Nearly 140 breeding bird species and 40 of them are strictly protected in Hungary. The most important bird species are *Aythya nyroca* and *Crex crex*, but see others, as well as other important breeding animal species listed under Criterion 2. ¹

¹ Criterion 5: not valid as the threshold of 20 000 waterbirds is only reached exceptionally.

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) **biogeographic region:** Pannonic

b) **biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Biogeographic regionalisation scheme of the EU Habitats Directive/Bern Convention (European Commission DG Environment webpage)

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geology:

The valley of Ipoly is an alluvial plain. Its formation had started in Pleistocene and gained its present-day form during Holocene. The uppermost layers of this alluvial plain consist of clay, silt and fine or large sand. The bed of this plain is formed from various tertiary sediments (e.g. volcanic ash, limestone and gravel which are sediments of tertiary seas, etc.).

Geomorphology:

The Ipoly floodplain is a long, flat and not so wide valley with few depressions. In these depressions there are oxbow lakes as well as shrub and alder bogs. There are small sand hills shaped by erosion and deflation in the eastern part of the site. Slope inclination is rather small in the valley. In early spring there are typical long-lasting floods that are the main source of water, especially for depressions.

Origins:

Natural and artificial effects are responsible together for the present day form of the landscape.

Regulation of the river (since 1975) has caused most of the damage in the wetland habitats. The regulation works has stopped by now in both countries.

Hydrology:

The whole catchment area of the Ipoly River covers 5108 km² out of which 1424 km² lays in Hungary. During the last centuries water balance was optimal for the bogs, marshes and wet meadows at both side of the river. After the regulation of Ipoly and its branches the depth of the riverbed and the speed of the water had increased. During the low discharges between July and October the water absorbency power is so high that it effects areas which are some kilometers far from the river. The groundwater level and the quantity of floods has decreased after regulation works done. Floods are during February and March every year as well as sometimes in early fall.

Water quality:

The water is very polluted in terms of microbiology and sand grains but clear in terms of chemicals.

	<i>at Hont</i>	<i>at Ipolyvece</i>	<i>Drégelypalánk-Zaba</i>	<i>Kifli lake</i>	<i>Ipolyszög alderbog</i>
PH	8,8	7,9	7,8	8,1	7,2
solved oxygen (mg/dm ³)	8,8	8	6,9	8,8	2
Conductivity (µS/cm)	601	652	445	681	544
hardness (mmol/dm ³)	-	5,4	3	5,4	2,2

Soil type:

The common types are alluvial soils, sandy soils with low humic part, multilevel sandy soils along with brown forest soils and loam soils.

Climate:

The Valley of Ipoly belongs to the moderately warm and dry climate area. The annual solar radiation is 104-106 Kcal/cm². Average air temperature is 9,0-9,5 °C. Annual rainfall varies between 550-600 mm. Number of frosty days: 100-110. Number of heat days: 10-15.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Geology and Geomorphology:

See point 14.

Hydrology:

In this respect, River Ipoly takes the leading role in the region. At the beginning and at the end of the stretch in question, water output and level are similar. The enlargement of the catchment area is hindered by the decrease of the valley and its storing capacity. A significant value of the small region is the ground water stored in the gravel of the riverbank, whose mass is 30 000 m³ per day.

Climate:

The catchment area is characterized by 1850-1900 sunny hours (750 hours during summer, 170 hours during winter). The average number of days with snow cover is 45 in the winter term.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The floodplain of Ipoly and the river itself have significant role in balancing groundwater level of this region. Many meanders and annual floods of the river, its tributary creeks as well as sediment layers of its alluvial plain besides yearly precipitation play main role in the recharge of groundwater. Discharge of groundwater in the region besides natural ways is mainly by the use of drinking water management (catchment). This hydrological system (mainly by chain of floodplains along the river) can minimize the risk of flash floods and reduce flood damage as well in lower sections of Ipoly. (There are few manmade embankments for this reason, too.)

Wetland vegetation living on the floodplain binds large amount of sediments (mainly silts) during floods slowing its downstream movement. In spite of the regulation of Ipoly, riverbank erosion is still at work in reshaping the landscape. This wetland acts as natural water purifier enhancing the quality of groundwater supplies, too.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

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)

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Ts., Tp., M., Xp., Xf., 9, 7, 4.

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

16. M

Ipoly river is the basis of the Ramsar site because of its role of sustaining this wetland habitat. This part of Ipoly is a small, slightly regulated river section, which still possesses the quality of a freely meandering river. Here the regular floodplain process is still at work. On the riverbank the dominant plant communities are willow gallery forest (*Salicetum albae-fragilis*) riparian bush willows (*Salicetum purpureae*) and pioneer sandbank communities. Characteristic species: *Salix alba*, *Salix purpurea*, *Salix fragilis*, *Rorippa amphibia*.

Tp

There are six main marsh areas (namely: Honti marsh, part of Alsó-rét, Zabai-rét, Papárki-dűlő, Nagy-tó and Vörös-haraszti) that are water-logged most of the growing season. There are six oxbow lakes in the region more or less with permanent water. Dominant plant communities here are reedbed communities (e.g. *Scirpo-Phragmitetum*, *Glycerietum maximae*, etc.) and floating or submerged reed-grass communities (e.g. *Lemnetum minoris*, etc.) Characteristic species: *Typha latifolia*, *Phragmites communis*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Lemna minor*, *Lemna triscula*

17.**Ts**

Chain of seasonally flooded meadows alongside Ipoly is a basic element in forming this wetland (the larger ones are Alsó-rét, Ortásrét and Pakoca.). They are partly grazed and partly mowed. Sedge marshes occur at the outskirts of marsh areas. They are partly grazed.

Dominant plant communities here are wet alluvial meadow (*Alupecuretum pratensis*) and tall-sedge communities (e.g. *Caricetum acutiformis-ripariae*, *Caricetum gracilis*, etc.)

Characteristic species: *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Carex gracilis*, *Carex acutiformis*, *Poa pratensis*.

Xf

There are scattered, smaller patches of seasonally flooded forests throughout the area. This type of vegetation was more widely spread in the past and the remnants of them are now lone willow trees on wet meadows. Dominant plant community here is willow gallery forest (*Salicetum albae-fragilis*). Characteristic species: *Salix alba*, *Salix fragilis*.

Xp

Alder and willow bogs occur in permanently water-logged depressions. The largest forested bog is placed near the little settlement of Ipolyszög at the eastern border of the site. Endangered and protected species are most abundant in this type of wetland here. So far these areas (there are four of them) are not used heavily for commercial purpose. Dominant plant communities are alder bog (*Dryopteridi-Alnetum*) and willow bog (*Calamagrostio-Salicetum cinereae*). Characteristic species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Salix cinerea*, *Carex elata*.

Two mountains (Börzsöny and Cserhát) lay with still existing native vegetation at the south border of the site. Native plant communities here are English-Turkey oak forest (*Quercetum petraea-cerris*), Hornbeam-oak forest (*Quercus petraea – Carpinetum*), and different types of beech forest (*Melitti – Fagetum*, *Aconito – Fagetum*). Other parts of the adjacent area are under heavy human influences (e.g. development areas, agricultural fields,

settlements, etc.) besides the Slovak Ramsar Site of Poiplie. Non-native vegetation forms present in the area are plantations (Poplar, Robinia), corn and wheat fields, weed communities (alongside roads, in dried out marsh areas, at illegal sand pits and abandoned gravel pits, on parts of overgrazed meadows) and semi-natural vegetation degraded by invasive plant species (native and not native alike). Introduced species are *Acer negundo* (i), *Aster spp.* (i), *Solidago spp.* (i), *Ailanthus altissima* (i), *Robinia pseudo-acacia* (i), *Asclepias syriaca* (i), *Echinocystis lobatus* (i), *Reynoutria japonica* (i), *Helianthus spp.* varieties of *Populus sp.*, and *Ambrosia elatior* (i) („i” means invasive).

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Biogeographically important communities are alder bog (Dryopteridi- Alnetum), willow bog (Calamagrostio - Salicetum cinereae), sedge fen (Caricetum elatae) and floating waterlily community (Nymphaeetum albo-lutae). These plant communities are very vulnerable and endangered throughout Hungary.

Endangered, biogeographically important or rare species are the following ones (according to the Hungarian Red Book and completed with an international reference for the respective status if it is relevant):

Thelypteridaceae

Thelypteris palustris PS - rS

Aspidiaceae

Dryopteris carthusiana PS - eV

Ranunculaceae

Clematis integrifolia EV, PS - eV

Pulsatilla pratensis ssp. nigricans PS -eV, bS

Ranunculus lingua EV, PS - eVV

Thalictrum lucidum - rS, bS

Nymphaceae

Nymphaea alba PS - eV, bS

Nymphaea lutea - rS, bS

Grossulariaceae

Ribes nigrum EE, PS - eVV, bS

Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Lathyrus palustris PS - eV

Trifolium fragiferum - rS, bS

Umbelliferae

Eringium planum - rS, bS

Rubiaceae

Galium boreale - rS, bS

Galium rubioides - rS

Scrophulariaceae

Gratiola officinalis - rS

Lentibulariaceae

Utricularia vulgaris - rS

Campanulaceae

Campanula patula - eV, bS

Jasione montana - eV, bS

Compositae

Senecio paludosus PS- eVV

Primulaceae

Hottonia palustris EV, PS - eE, bS

Urticaceae

Urtica kioviensis EVV, PS - eE, bS

Liliaceae

Allium angulosum - rS

Ornithogallum orthophyllum - bS

Amarillydaceae

Leucojum aestivum EV, PS - eVV

Iridaceae

Iris variegata PS - rS

Orchidaceae

Dacylorhiza incarnata EV, PS - eVV
 Orchis laxiflora ssp. palustris EV, PS - eVV, CORINE Biotopes Program E

Cyperaceae

Carex elata - eV
 Carex elongata - eVV, bS
 Carex pseudocyperus - rS
 Carex vricaria - rS

Poaceae

Corynephorus canescens - bS
 Festuca rubra - bS
 Festuca wagneri EV - bS
 Koeleria javorkae EVV, PS - eVV, bS, Bern Convention 'JC' (proposed taxon for convention list)
 Koeleria majoriflora EVV, PS - EVV
 Stipa pennata PS - eV

Legend:

Status in Hungary

EE - critically endangered
 EVV - very vulnerable
 EV - vulnerable
 PS - protected species

Status in the Ipoly region

eE - critically endangered
 eVV - very vulnerable
 eV - vulnerable
 rS - rare species
 bS - biogeographically important species

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The fauna is an interesting composition of Carpathian montane species, Mediterranean species and Pannonian species. There are several endangered animal species which have survived in the region. Zoologists appreciate very well the unique features of the area.

Endangered invertebrates are the following:

Mollusca

Pseudanodonta complanata, Theodoxus transversalis

Odonata - Zygoptera:

Lestes virens, Onychogomphus forcipatus, Aeshna mixta, Stylurus flavipes, Coenarigona pulea, **Gomphus flavipes**, **G. vulgatissimus (rare)**.

Coleoptera:

Mordellochroa milleri, **Dyschirius tristis (only 5 specimen have been noticed in Hungary)**, Monanichus punctumalbum, Dytiscus latissimus, Dorcus pallelolopipedus, Scarabeus affinis, Carabus coriaceus, Calosoma auropunctatum, **Rhantus consputus**, **R. latitans (rare)**

Lepidoptera:

Dioszeghyana schmidtii (endemic species, this nominate race only occurs in Hungary), Marmomaura (rare in countryside, but quite frequent locally),

Hymenoptera - Symphyta:

Hedychridium roseum, *Priocnemis mimula* (endangered species listed in the Red Book of Council of Europe), *Philanthus triangulum*

Crustacea:

There are 20 Cladocera and 13 Copepoda species in the site.

Crustacea - Copepoda:

Cyclops insignis (this is the second data of presence of this species in Hungary)

Crustacea - Cladocera:

Ceriodaphnia megops, *Simocephalus serrulatus* (rare endangered species)

Endangered vertebrates:

Cyclostomata:

Eudontomyzon vladykovi

Pisces -, Teleostei -, Clupeiformes:

Umbra krameri, *Thymallus thymallus*

Teleostei -, Cypriniformes :

Noemacheilus barbatulus, *Sabanejewia aurata*, *Misgurnus fossilis*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Cottus gobio*, *Gobio uranoscopus*, *G. albipinnatus*, *G. kessleri*

Teleostei -, Perciformes:

Gymnocephalus baloni, *G. schraetzer*, *Aspro zingel*, *A. streber*, *Cottus poecilopus*

Amphibia -, Anura:

Bufo bufo, *Bufo viridis*, *Bombina bombina*, *Rana esculenta*, *R. dalmatica*, *R. arvalis*, *Pelobates fuscus*, *Hyla arborea*

Reptilia - Squamata - Lacertilia:

Lacerta agilis, *Lacerta viridis*, *Anguis fragilis*

Squamata - Ophidia:

Natrix natrix, *Coronella autricata*, *Natrix tessellata*, *Elaphe longissima*

Chelonia :

Emys orbicularis (rare)

Aves:

Number of breeding species are nearly 140. The strictly protected species are the following:

Ciconiiformes -:

Ciconia ciconia

Strigiformes:

Athene noctua

Carinatae -, Coraciiformes:

Merops apiaster

Number of migrating species are 60. The strictly protected endangered species are:

Ciconiiformes:

Ardeola ralloides, *Egretta alba* (recently colonized the area), *Ciconia nigra*

Anseriformes:

Aythya nyroca

Falconiformes:

Falco cherrug,

Passeriformes:

Luscinia luscinia, Locustella fluviatilis

Mammalia - Chiroptera:

Rhinolophus hipposideros, Myotis myotis, Eptesicus serotinus, Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Myotis daubentoni, Nyctalus noctula, Plecotus auritus

Carnivora:

Martes martes, Felis sylvestris, Mustela erminea, Mustela nivalis, Lutra lutra

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

The Ipoly-region is part of an area of Slovak-Hungarian ethnic border where the two nations have been living together for centuries. Therefore the area has a unique ethnographical and cultural character. A prehistoric settlement, Csadó-tanya from the early historical time of the region was found near Drégelypalánk. Economical basis of the local population was provided by floodplain agriculture and many different ways of traditional fishing in the past. The remnants of that still can be found and may serve as a good possibility or opportunity for extensive, sustainable land use.

Börzsöny mountains laying south from Ipoly-valley are a popular tourist site. Together with the Pilis mountains and the Danube-bend it serves as the main recreational area of the Budapest-region. The Ipoly-valley supplements this function as a potential ecotourism area. (This last one is still not well exploited.)

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No.

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site: In April of 1991 the Hungarian Legislation passed an order [28/1991 (IV.30.)] about certain international environmental protection polices concerning the Danube river. This order contained the idea of the designation of Duna-Ipoly National Park. The NP came into existence in November of 1997. At present 95% of the Ramsar site already belongs to the NP. Now it is under nature conservation management. The buying up of the remaining meadows is still in progress.

b) in the surrounding area: The structure of land tenure in the surrounding area is very diverse including private plough-lands, meadows and pastures. Bordering the indicated territory there are inner-city areas

along with outskirts of settlements and private or state forests on the Hungarian side of Ipoly. From the North much of the area is adjacent to the Slovak Ramsar Site, Poiplie.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site: On much of the area there is (or planned to be) extensive cattle-breeding. Some meadows are utilized only by pasturage, others by hay-making or both. There are certain strictly protected territories where the presence of endangered associations do not allow us to make use of the land (as in approx. one tenth of the meadows). In 1998 the hay-making fields have been cultivated by paid mowers or by our staff.

Through the Angler Association the population of the neighboring settlements is allowed to go fishing in Ipoly river and in its backwaters. With a suitable regulation this is not a peril to the wetland habitats. The forestry plans have already adopted nature conservation norms, so new plantations would use only native species. The drinking water supply of many neighboring settlements is provided by wells situated in the area. This fact gives a special emphasis on the protection of this wetland territory. Land use through hunting is fully subordinated to the measurements and needs of nature conservation.

Population of neighboring settlements:

Balassagyarmat (+Ipolyszög)	18072	
Drégelypalánk		1542
Hont		634
Ipolyvece		858
Dejtár	1473	
Patak	1016	

b) in the surroundings/catchment: Most of the surrounding area is agricultural land (ploughlands, woods, pasture) and inner-city territory. There are a few factors that may endanger the wetlands, like manure or sewage handling.

The degree of drinking water exploitation is not so high as to change the level of the groundwater system dramatically. The quality of the soil of the surrounding area is weak but overdosing with artificial fertilizer is not a potential danger (mainly because of its high expenses).

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

a) within the Ramsar site: The aim of the regulations done in the Ipoly-river region during the last century (cutting off meanders, building dikes etc.) was the following:

- flood prevention of neighboring settlements
- gain new agricultural land and free them from floods
- gain constant sprinkling-water for agricultural use
- make the conditions of outflow and the ice drift better

As a result of the regulations the outflow of the river has increased, the level of the ground water lowered and the degree of the floods decreased. These factors changed the water management of the valley. The wells along the bank of the river caused some more decrease in the groundwater level. The degradation of the region might speed up.

Communal sewage pollution might cause problems in the groundwater system, industrial sewage pollution does not occur at the Hungarian side.

At the present time overgrazing causes problems in the condition of pastures. Through nature conservation management hopefully this will change by using more suitable technologies and/or species. The present economical recession suppressed the usage of artificial fertilizers and other chemicals. Thus the negative effects of these are not burdening the region nowadays. Clearing the fields by fire might cause huge damage to native flora and fauna (now it can be done only with NP permission).

Adventive, aggressive weeds that cause danger to the native associations are:

- *Ailantus altissima*
- *Ambrosia elatior*
- *Asclepias syriaca*

- Aster spp.
 - Erigeron canadensis
 - Robinia pseudo-acacia
 - Solidago spp.
-

b) in the surrounding area: In the vicinity of the settlements some small sandpits cause danger to the area. In some ways the planned highway (No.2) may negatively affect the area.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The entire site is part of the Duna-Ipoly National Park. The date of the foundation of the Park is 28.11.97. (by an Order of the minister of EPLD). The total territory of the National Park is 600 314.3 ha. Before the National Park was declared much of the site had been already protected by local orders. The hunting, pasturage, mowing and the development of the forestry management plans in the Ramsar Site is done with nature conservation priority.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Its official management plan has not yet been compiled, but the technical part of the plan has already been made.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Mowing in 965 ha, grazing in 310 ha and mosaic cutting of reeds in 55 ha (in order to prevent overgrowing by vegetation). A cattle herd of the national park directorate is kept at Ipolyvece and helps maintain the habitats.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Compiling the missing management plans for the whole territory of the National Park. Establishment of a Hungarian-Slovak bilateral National Park. The joint Ramsar Site project is a first step towards this goal.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Botanical: Research Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Science in 1992-94

Zoology: Department of Zoology of the Museum for Natural Sciences in 1992-94

Management plans for forested areas: University of Forestry, Sopron in 1993

Inserting the area into the Hungarian monitoring system has not yet been completed.

In 2005, an application for Interreg grant has been won in collaboration with Štátna Ochrana Prírody Slovenskej Republiky Besztercebánya (Banska Bystrica), Slovakia, for the complex research and natural inventory of the site.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The frog refuge ponds along highway No.2 at Hont region give place for nature conservation education programs. Local students take part in the rescue of amphibians arranged twice a year.

A sort of ancient Hungarian cattle is kept in the area that also serves as educational activity besides the conservation value of the genetic material.

An educational center is planned to be developed at Madách farm bought by Ipoly Unió (non-governmental organization).

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

At the present time the area is not utilized by tourism. A cycling road is planned through the area (from Hont to Balassagyarmat). The route takes on the dikes sometimes going round the protected spots. The cycling road and the establishing of bird observation places aim at development of sustainable ecotourism.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

State:

Ministry of Interior

Ministry for Environment and Water Management

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Ministry of transport, Telecommunication

Regional:

The Közép-Duna-völgyi Authority for Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management is the first instant authority of the Ministry for Environment and Water.

Dejtár Water Management Ltd., West Nógrád

2nd Department of the Directorate of Water Management of the Middle Basin of Danube

Local:

Municipal Office at Patak, Dejtár, Ipolyvece, Drégelypalánk and Hont

Town Office at Balassagyarmat

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate

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34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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