Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 1 July 2025
Update version, previously published on : 8 November 2016

Hungary

Kis-Balaton

Designation date	11 April 1979
Site number	185
Coordinates	46°38'20"N 17°11'55"E
Area	14 659,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Once the westernmost bay of Lake Balaton, the Kis-Balaton today is a water protection system consisting of two main parts (Phase I and Phase II, see description under item 16.). Phase I is characterised by open water surfaces with relatively narrow reedbelts along the dikes and some marshland vegetation on the southern part of the area, while Phase II contains vast reedbeds and sedgy marshes, and less open water. The Kis-Balaton has a crucial importance in the history of Hungarian nature conservation. This was the first area where the protection of the great white egret was organized. This species had become almost extinct, but due to its protection the population increased and nowadays about 4 000 pairs nest in Hungary. The Kis-Balaton, as a nature reserve area, has been legally protected since 1951. It has been part of the Balaton Uplands National Park since 1997. It has been under the protection of the Ramsar Convention since 1979. Almost the whole area of the Kis-Balaton was designated according to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive (12.803 ha, HUBF30003, SAC + SPA).

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate (Balaton-felvidéki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság, BfNPI)
Postal address	HU-8229 Csopak, Kossuth L. u. 16.

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of Agriculture
Postal address	Kossuth Lajos tér 11.

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2015
To year	2025

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Kis-Balaton

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

Site boundary is the same as the Kis-Balaton part of the Balaton Uplands National Park. The site boundary on the old map incorrectly included the village of Balatonmagyaród. This has been corrected on the new map, as the human settlement has never been and should not be part of the Ramsar site.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Zala & Somogy Counties
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Keszhtely

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes ○ No ◉
b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?	Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 14659

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 14659.35

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Pannonic

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons	The Kis-Balaton is unique within the biogeographic region by being one of the largest marshlands with reedbeds, marshy meadows and large sedges that are still in close-to-natural state. Most of the vegetation is water-logged for most of the vegetative season. The area of different types of reedbed vegetation is 2500 ha.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The Kis-Balaton holds one of the highest concentrations of waterbirds in the migration period in Transdanubia, i.e. the western part of the Pannonic biogeographic region and supports important populations of plant and animal species for maintaining the biological diversity of the Pannonian Biogeographic region.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	30000
Start year	2018
End year	2025
Source of data:	National Park Directorate database.

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

☑ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification	Several fish species, amongst which Umbra krameri, live and spawn in the area. For the list of internationally protected fish species, see Section 3.3 Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site.

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification	The population of Umbra krameri in the Kis-Balaton is a significant percentage of the world population. Water habitats of Phase II of the Kis-Balaton are very convenient spawning grounds for the asp (Aspius aspius) and other fish species: the carp (Cyprinus carpio carpio morpha hungarica), the roach (Rutilus rutilus), the rudd (Scardinius erythrophthalmus), the breams (Abramis spp.) and the bleak (Alburnus alburnus). Huge flocks of these fish species swim up from Lake Balaton to the spawning grounds of Kis-Balaton in every year.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Cirsium brachycephalum*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Epipactis helleborine helleborine*	☑	☐	☐	VU	☐		
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Lindernia procumbens*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive	
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Trapa natans*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Appendix I of the Bern Convention	

Criterion 2: The area of different types of threatened reedbed and sedges vegetation is approximately 3500 ha (2500 ha reedbed, 1000 ha sedge vegetation).

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Anguis fragilis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Bombina bombina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Bufo bufo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Cerambyx cerdo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐	Appendix II of the Bern Convention ; Annexes II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Coenagrion ornatum*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Emys orbicularis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Eptesicus serotinus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Eriogaster catax*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				DD	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II ; Annexes II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Felis silvestris*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
ANNELIDA / CLITELLATA	*Hirudo medicinalis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex V, EU CITES B(II)	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Hyla arborea*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Lacerta agilis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Lissotriton vulgaris*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Lucanus cervus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Lycaena dispar*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Microtus oeconomus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	Kis-Balaton is one of the few remaining sites for the Pannonic subspecies of the Northern Vole (Root Vole), a glacial relict. This subspecies is restricted to special sedge marshes in Transdanubia.
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Mustela erminea*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Myotis bechsteinii*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Myotis dasycneme*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Myotis daubentonii*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Myotis myotis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Myotis nattereri*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Natrix natrix*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Natrix tessellata*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Nyctalus noctula*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Pelobates fuscus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Pipistrellus kuhlii*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Plecotus austriacus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Pseudepidalea viridis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Rana arvalis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Rana dalmatina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Rhysodes sulcatus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Triturus dobrogicus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Vespertilio murinus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Zamenis lineatus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Alburnus alburnus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Water habitats of Phase II of the Kis-Balaton are very convenient spawning grounds for the bleak (Alburnus alburnus)
MOLLUSCA / GASTROPODA	*Anisus vorticulus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				DD	☐	☐	Annexes II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Cobitis taenia*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Cyprinus carpio*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		carp (Cyprinus carpio carpio morpha hungarica) Water habitats of Phase II of the Kis-Balaton are very convenient spawning grounds for the carp. Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Leucaspius delineatus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III	Slack waters of the wetlands are excellent for the sunbleak that require specific ecological circumstances. Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Leuciscus aspius*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	Water habitats of Phase II of the Kis-Balaton are very convenient spawning grounds for the asp (Aspius aspius). Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Misgurnus fossilis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	Slack waters of the wetlands are excellent for the weatherfish that require specific ecological circumstances. Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Rhodeus sericeus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Rutilus rutilus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Water habitats of Phase II of the Kis-Balaton are very convenient spawning grounds for roach (Rutilus rutilus)
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Water habitats of Phase II of the Kis-Balaton are very convenient spawning grounds for the rudd (Scardinius erythrophthalmus)
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Umbra krameri*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				VU	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex II	The population of Umbra krameri in Kis-Balaton is a significant part of the world population. Slack waters of the wetlands are excellent for the european mud-minnow.
MOLLUSCA / GASTROPODA	*Vertigo angustior*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas clypeata*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	500	2019-2024	4.5		☐	☐		Kis-Balaton: 500-1500 migrating individuals
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas crecca*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1500	2019-2024		LC	☐	☐		Kis-Balaton: 1500-3000 migrating individuals
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas platyrhynchos*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	4000	2019-2024		LC	☐	☐		Kis-Balaton: 4000-6000 migrating individuals
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas querquedula*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	500	2019-2024			☐	☐		Kis-Balaton: 500-700 migrating individuals

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas strepera*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	500	2019-2024			☐	☐		Kis-Balaton: 500-700 migrating individuals
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser albifrons*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	10000	2019-2024	2	LC	☐	☐		individuals (average) 1% threshold = 1.900, Kis-Balaton: 10.000-15000 wintering individuals.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser anser*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	10000	2019-2024	16.2	LC	☐	☐		individuals (average) 1% threshold = 1300, Kis-Balaton: 10.000-15000 wintering individuals.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardea alba*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	200	2018-2024	1.6	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	Kis-Balaton: cca. 200-300 breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardea purpurea*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardeola ralloides*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya nyroca*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☑	Birds Directive Annex I, European IUCN Red List: VU	Criterion 4: see text box below
CHORDATA / AVES	*Botaurus stellaris*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Crex crex*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Egretta garzetta*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Falco subbuteo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☑	Haliaeetus albicilla	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Himantopus himantopus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ixobrychus minutus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Microcarbo pygmeus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	450	2018-2024			☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	cca. 450 breeding pairs
CHORDATA / AVES	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Platalea leucorodia*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I, (EU CITES A (II))	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Porzana parva*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Porzana porzana*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II	

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Criterion 2 - Species which are not listed in the Catalogue of Life:
- Cucujus cinnaberinus - Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV
- Euplagia quadripunctaria (Jersey Tiger) - Habitats Directive Annex II
- Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail)- Habitats Directive Annex II
- Rana esculenta (Edible Frog) - Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex V
- Rana lessonae (Lesser Pond Frog) - Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Rana ridibunda (Pond Frog) - Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex V

Criterion 4: The site supports more than 250 bird species in their nesting, migration and wintering season. The site is a stronghold of numerous breeding bird species, including several internationally protected ones, such as Aythya nyroca (see international designations under justification of Criterion 2). The Kis-Balaton is also one of the few remaining sites for the Pannonic subspecies of the Northern Vole (Root Vole), a glacial relict listed on the Bern Convention Appendix III and on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. This subspecies is restricted to special sedge marshes in Transdanubia.

Criterion 5: Justification in the justification column, numbers taken from the Natura 2000 SDF of the site.

Criterion 6: Justification in the justification column.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The rate of eutrophication of the reservoir is high. Its main source has been the Zala River, generating a high density of algae. Marshlands bordered with non-tussock beds of large sedges and wet meadows alternate with open water surface and reedbeds.

The site supports many waterbirds, during nesting and migration too.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		4		
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1		Unique
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		3		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands				

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
6: Water storage areas/Reservoirs		2	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Acer campestre*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Acorus calamus*	Botanical rarities - exist at the borders and openings of the large reedbeds
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Alnus glutinosa*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Anacamptis coriophora*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Anacamptis morio*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Anacamptis palustris*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Anacamptis palustris elegans*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Cephalanthera damasonium*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Cephalanthera longifolia*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Cicuta virosa*	Botanical rarities - exist at the borders and openings of the large reedbeds
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Dactylorhiza incarnata*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Epipactis helleborine*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Epipactis palustris*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Hottonia palustris*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Iris sibirica*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Lathyrus palustris*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Neottia nidus-avis*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Neottia ovata*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Nymphaea alba*	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Ophrys sphegodes*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Orchis militaris*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Persicaria amphibia*	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Platanthera bifolia*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Populus alba*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Quercus petraea*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Ranunculus lingua*	Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Spiranthes spiralis*	EU CITES B(II)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Stratiotes aloides*	
TRACHEOPHYTA/POLYPODIOPSIDA	*Thelypteris palustris*	Botanical rarities - exist at the borders and openings of the large reedbeds
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Urtica kioviensis*	Botanical rarities - exist at the borders and openings of the large reedbeds

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Canis aureus*				Habitats Directive Annex V
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Cobitis elongatoides*				Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Esox lucius*				Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Sander lucioperca*				Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Silurus glanis*				Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Tinca tinca*				Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfa: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, hot summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 103

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 106

Entire river basin ☐

Upper part of river basin ☐

Middle part of river basin ☐

Lower part of river basin ☑

More than one river basin ☑

Not in river basin ☐

Coastal ☐

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The catchment area of the Kis-Balaton is about 2800 km2. 16 watercourses join the reservoir and the marshland. River Zala is the most significant of them.

4.4.3 - Soil

Organic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	☑	No change
Water inputs from precipitation	☐	No change
Water inputs from groundwater	☐	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

Phase I of the system could be characterized as an open water surface area diversifying with small islands and with an area of 2380 ha. Owing to the locks and dike system, the turnover of the water is about 60 days and the water leaves Phase I in the former bed of River Zala and flows into Phase II. At this stage at Phase II the former dikes were cut through so that the river could water the area again. The different types of wetlands were maintained by the river. Marshlands bordered with non-tussock beds of large sedges and wet meadows alternate with open water surface and reedbeds.

Altogether, the water stays about three months in the Kis-Balaton before it reaches Lake Balaton.

The trait of this water body (water protecting system for removal of nutrients) determines the water levels and water permanence in all seasons. The average depth is about 1,5 meters.

Refer to 6.1.2 Additional materials > iv. other published literature > Physical features of the site

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The shoreline is anchored and dissipated of erosive forces.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The main function of the Kis-Balaton is removing incoming nutrition by filtering through algae, floating and emergent marshland vegetation and by sediment trapping.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Timber	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Land using means some controlled fish production, limited forestry and reed-harvesting in the area.

Within the Ramsar site:

Main activities are some works attached to water protecting and reserving, controlled fishing and reed harvesting, limited forestry, controlled hunting, limited guided tourism.

In the surroundings/catchment:

Mainly grazing, arable land cultivation, woodland management, hunting.

Hydrological values:
The main function of the Kis-Balaton is removing incoming nutrition by filtering through algae, floating and emergent marshland vegetation and by sediment trapping.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) 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 ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☐	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:
The Kis-Balaton Water Reserve System is completely state-owned. The surrounding protected areas are mainly state-owned too, but there are some private grasslands and agricultural areas.

In the surrounding area:
There are mainly private agricultural areas and forests and grasslands in the surrounding area.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:
1. West-Transdanubian Environmental Nature Conservation and Water Management Authority
2. Balaton-felvidéki NP Directorate

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:
Péter Szinai

Postal address:
1. H-9700 Szombathely, Vörösmarty u. 2.
2. H-8229 Csopak, Kossuth L. u. 16.

E-mail address:
szinaipeter@bfnp.hu

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified development	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact		☑	No change	☐	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase
Problematic native species	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact		☐	No change	☑	No change
Unspecified	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:
- Past: fisheries, reed harvesting, hunting and the construction of the water protection system.
- Present and potential: illegal fishing, continuation of the construction of the water protection system.

In the surrounding area:

- Past: intensive use of artificial fertilizers in agriculture; introducing outlet water into live streams; - increasing load of phosphorous transported by inflows.
- Present and potential: illegal pollution, innovations.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	HUBF 30003 Kis-Balaton, SAC + SPA		partly

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National park	Balaton Uplands National Park		whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	HU004 Kis-Balaton		partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☐

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☑

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented

Other:

Current management practices:

- Fishing, forestry, hunting and reed-harvesting are under control and regulation.

- Grasslands and meadows managed by the national park directorate are treated with an appropriate method according to the current vegetation period. Reed-beds are renewed partially by cutting in the winter season. Cutting of reedbeds selectively results in diverse habitats. Thus the age of the reed-beds becomes more variegated and the condition of the habitats is suited to nesting birds requiring different nesting places.

- The presence of goldfish (Carassius auratus) that produces large biomass in the water body is an actual problem regarding the fish fauna. The goldfish expands its occurrence against that of the crucian carp (Carassius carassius), which is an indigenous species in Hungary. To resolve this problem, carnivorous fish species like the pike were introduced and selective electric fishing has been used.

- The population of wild boar (Sus scrofa) has to be controlled by regular hunting. This species puts pressure on bird populations nesting on or close to the ground.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
There are no such conservation measures.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

A 2,5 km long nature trail (Búbos Vöcsök Nature Trail) is located on the Kányavári Island and another 1 km long nature trail (Kócsag Nature Trail) is located near the Diás Island.
The Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate organizes various guided ecotouristic excursions on the strictly protected area of the Kis-Balaton. Guided long tour with bus across the Kis-Balaton: cca. 2.000 persons/year; short tour to the Diás Island: cca. 5.000 persons/year; exclusive boat trip along the Zala River: cca. 200 persons/year. The Kányavári Island is free for visitors, with cca. 100.000 persons/year. Sport fishing is limited, there are 4 legal places at the Kis-Balaton to do this type of recreation. The Directorate manages a buffalo reserve in the area. A new visitor centre was established and opened in 2020 near Keszthely.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented

From the beginning of flooding in 1985, research projects and monitoring activity were started on the wetlands on behalf of the water protection and nature protection institutions. Since 1994, when a part of Phase II was flooded, the research was focused on marshlands with more variegated habitats. A new biomonitoring program has started in 2012 by the organization of General Directorate of Water Management.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

- Csupor, T. (1990): Kis-Balaton, Gondolat, Budapest, p. 22-26., 81-90.

- Keve, A. (1976): Adatok a Kis-Balaton madárvilágához I., Aquila, 82., p. 49-50.

- Ligeti, L. (1974): A Balaton es szabályozása, Vízügyi történeti füzetek, Budapest, p. 13-14.

- Marosi, S. - Somogyi, S. (1990): Magyarorszag kistájainak katasztere I.-II., MTA Földrajztudományi - Kutatóintézete, Budapest, p. 483-487.

- Futó J. (szerk.) (2001): A Kis-Balaton térsége. A Balaton-felvidék természeti értékei II. Balaton-felvidéki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság, Veszprém, p. 5-112.
- Gál Sz. (2017). Adatok a Kis-Balaton fészkelő vízimadár-állományairól és szaporulatairól 2017-ben. Aquila (2017), Vol. 124, p. 35-49

The above is just a shortlist for the most important references. There are more than 350 research reports in many themes, for instance water quality, water ecology, algology, plants and vegetation, reed-beds, biotechton, zooplancton, molluscs, macrozoobenton, fish fauna, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals etc.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<5 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Flocking waterbirds on the mudbanks of the Ingó Grove at the Kis-Balaton. (*Mr. Máté Magyari, Balaton-felvidéki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (National Park Directorate), 18-07-2015*)

Floating vegetation and reeds in the Kis-Balaton (*Ms. Erzsébet Sitku, 01-07-2021*)

Reedbeds in the Kis-Balaton (*Ms. Erzsébet Sitku, 24-10-2021*)

Frozen wetland in the Kis-Balaton (*Ms. Erzsébet Sitku, 14-01-2022*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 1979-04-11