

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Completed: 06.07.1992, updated 23.11. 1998.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Country: Hungary

3. Name of wetland: Northern Part of Kisköre Reservoir (Tiszafüred Bird Reserve)

4. Geographical coordinates: 47° 39' N, 20° 45' E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.)

Between 87 and 88m over Baltic Sea level

6. Area: (in hectares) 3364 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Northern third of Kisköre Reservoir. Its dikes are surrounding the floodplain of River Tisza, which has a diversified scenery with openwater surfaces, floating hairweeds, islands, mudflats, meadows and forests, representing a landscape feature typical before water regulations. Internationally important for breeding waterfowl and wetland related birds of prey, also for wintering and migratory waterfowl. In springtime the mudflats covered by shallow water offers rich food basis for migrating birds.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: 6, water reservoir

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a . 1b . 1c . 1d | 2a . 2b . 2c . 2d | 3a . 3b . 3c | 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1a, 1c , 2 b , 3 b.

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

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

Szilvia Góri

Hortobágy National Park Directorate

4024 Debrecen, Sumen u. 2.

Tel.: +36 52 348 922, fax.: +36 52 410 645, e-mail: hnp@hnp.datanet.hu.

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1a: although it is artificial, but preserved the characteristic flora and fauna of floodplains and oxbow-lakes of River Tisza.

1c: very important part of the green corridor system of floodplains of River Tisza.

2b: see point 17 and 18.

3a: 80-100 000 birds used to stay at the same time on the reservoir in spring migration, but according to our calculations the total mass of birds using the reservoir in spring exceeds million.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

In the county of Heves, approximately 10 km north-west from Tiszafüred town.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Created on floodplain of River Tisza, on clay soil. Water quality by Hungarian standards II/III. (good/acceptable). Depth: average 1-1,5 m. The reservoir is dried up for each winter, and filled up for the end of each March according to its management plan. Climate: semi-arid, semi-humid forest steppe, with average annual precipitation of 550 mm, the mean annual temperature is about 10 °C. The annual evaporation loss is about 200 mm.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

The water-level of the reservoir is controlled throughout the year by the water management authority. There is an intensive process of siltation. A new management to avoid the deposition of sediments is to be started. The area has significance in flood control, watertable stabilisation and in sustaining of aquatic food-chain.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Openwater-bodies are covering major part of reservoir. In large spots covered by White Water Lily (*Nymphaea alba*), Floating-heart *Nymphoides peltata*, Water-chestnut (*Trapa natans*). Huge bulrush and homogenous reed-beds can be found. Good quality meadows, partly mowed (mainly *Alopecuretum*). Oak-ash-elm gallery forests on islands, peninsulas and on the shores of oxbow-lakes poplar and willow forests, willow shrubs.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

Huge masses of White Water Lily (*Nymphaea alba*), Floating-heart (*Nymphoides peltata*) can be found. IUCN Red Data Book species Water-chestnut (*Trapa natans*) covers vast areas in homogenous stands. In

some parts Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*). Large population of Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*). Other protected plants: *Chrysanthemum serotinum*, *Armoracia macrocarpa*.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

11 species of amphibians (all protected), 3 species of reptiles (all protected).

20-40 pairs of Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), 10-15 pairs of Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), 5-10 pairs of Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 5-10 pairs of Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps griseigena*). 20-30 pairs of Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*). Colonies of terns (Common Tern (*Sterna hyrundo*) with 15-20 pairs, 10-20 pairs of Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), 20-30 pairs of Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra*). Colonies of Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) (100 pairs) are recently translocating on the area, occasionally breeding of 2-5 pairs of Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*). 10-20 pairs of Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). Heron colony of 50-70 pairs of Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*), Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*), 20-30 pairs Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and 15-20 pairs Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), 30-40 pairs of Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), also Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) colony of 30-50 pairs. 15-20 pairs of Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) are breeding, in migration thousands are feeding and gathering on the area. 10-15 pairs of Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*). In the forests lot of singing birds are nesting, also 1-2 pairs of Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and raptors: Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 1-2 pairs, Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), and 1-2 pairs of Saker (*Falco cherrug*), 2-4 pairs of Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), 1-2 pairs of Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), 1 pair of White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) occupied nest without successful breeding, 1-2 pairs of Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) also nests. A pair of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) occurs on the area, but there was not breeding yet. Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) breeds along the channels (1-2 pairs). During migration: some 80-100 000 birds was counted staying at the same time on the reservoir in spring migration.

Mammals: Otter (*Lutra lutra*), 4-5 families of Beaver (*Castor fiber*), reintroduced some years ago.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Few members of a cooperative for fishing are working on the area. More significance has the area as breeding place for fishes.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site Main part of the area is state owned (3360 ha) by 3 Water Management Directorates, other 4 hectars is property of a cooperative farm.

(b) surrounding area mainly owned by cooperative farms

21. Current land use:

(a) site nature conservation, grassland-mowing, fishing /traditional, small-scale forestry, water-storage

(b) surroundings/catchment the outside area of dikes used mainly for agricultural activities

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

(a) at the site The stabilization of its wildlife is hindered by the significant fluctuation in water level deriving from the functioning of the reservoir: the winter drainage and the summer take off for irrigation, illegal anglers also can cause some disturbance

(b) around the site inadequate agricultural activity

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)
Protected area, part of the Hortobágy National Park. The Ramsar boundaries have been extended in 1996 to the southern part (Poroszló-basin). The area is managed according to the management plan of the national park prepared in 1998.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)
Some management measures are planned (mainly habitat restorations).

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)
At governmental level the preparation of a new strategy of using the whole reservoir in a way where the nature conservation prescriptions are taken in consideration is going on. There is a field station at the site. Hydrological, hydrobiological researches (Middle-Tisza Water Management Authority, Szolnok). Fish-faunistical researches (Research Institute for Pisciculture, Szarvas). Botanical researches, the twenty years long lasting monitoring of the Tisza Research Committee (JATE University, Ecological Dep., Juhász Gy. Teachers' College, Szeged). Survey of basic ecological status (HNP).

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)
Yet not developed.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)
The protected part is closed for visitors, access with boats is prohibited, the anglers can use only the dikes.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)
The directorate is the first instant authority of Ministry for Environment.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)
Hortobágy National Park Directorate
H-4024 Debrecen, Sumen u. 2.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)
At HNP Directorate, and at Regional Water management Laboratory Kisköre a lot.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org