Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 20 June 2025
Update version, previously published on : 9 August 2018

Hungary

Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton

Designation date	9 June 2011
Site number	1963
Coordinates	46°42'35"N 17°36'49"E
Area	9 483,00 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

The Site consists of several sub-sites south of Lake Balaton Ramsar Site, the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe. It mainly consists of natural or near-natural marshland, meadows and fishponds including many habitat types listed under the EU Habitats Directive. The Site supports globally and regionally threatened fish species such as the European mudminnow Umbra krameri, several breeding bird species such as the Eurasian bittern Botaurus stellaris stellaris as well as mammal species such as the otter Lutra lutra. Human use of the Site includes fish-farming, fishing, reed harvesting, hunting, forestry, and tourism. The Balaton Catchment Area Water Management Plan was completed in 2010 under the guidelines of the EU Water Framework Directive.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate
Postal address	8229 Csopak, Kossuth L. u. 16, Hungary

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	2011
To year	2025

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton
Unofficial name (optional)	Dél-balatoni halastavak és berkek

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

The site mostly comprises of sites designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directive as SPA and SCI as well as nationally protected areas. The boundaries are mostly the same as for the protected areas legally defined according to national and/or EU criteria. See 5.2.2 Legal conservation status for details.The GIS file comprises the official boundaries.

2.2.2 - General location

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

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): 9483

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 9514.3

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Pannonian

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Biogeographical Regions in Europe, European Environmental Agency, 2005

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

Hydrological services provided	
Other reasons	The Fish Ponds and Marsh Lands south of Lake Balaton are a representative example of a natural or near-natural marshland type found within the biogeographic region. The area is close and connected to the largest permanent freshwater lake in Central Europe, with reed beds and marshy meadows that are still in a close-to-natural state. The other plant communities in the area are characteristic of near-natural wetland habitats in the biogeographic region. The Sites contain typical habitat types listed in the Annex I EU Habitats Directive as well as other habitats (for a full list, please see in 3.4 Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site).

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information	Globally threatened species hosted by the Site contain: Umbra krameri IUCN Red List: VU, Branta ruficollis IUCN Red List: VU, Aythya ferina (breeding) IUCN Red List: VU Appendix II of CMS Streptopelia turtur turtur (breeding) IUCN Red List: VU Appendix II of CMS

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The Fishponds and Marshlands support more than 100 water-dependent bird species in their breeding, migration (e.g. cormorants, heron-egret colonies, ducks, and geese) and wintering season. Many threatened species breed at the site.

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

Optional text box to provide further information	The Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton support plant and animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles and provide refuge during adverse conditions. The nearby Lake Balaton comes under mass tourism pressure during the summer season. The Fishponds and Marshlands area is a refuge for several bird species during this period, as Lake Balaton itself cannot maintain large breeding populations of more secretive species, such as geese, herons and egrets.
End year	2017

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information: The Fish Ponds and Marsh Lands south of Lake Balaton support 1% of the individuals in a population of Anser anser (its min. designation limit in Europe is 1300 individuals and about 5000 individuals are regular) and Anser albifrons (its min. designation limit in Europe is 1900 individuals and about 6000 individuals are regular) during the wintering season.

☑ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification: The Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish species and populations that are representative of wetland benefits and thereby contribute to global biological diversity. The area holds one of the domestic populations of Umbra krameri endemic to the Carpathian Basin and the populations of Weather Loach (Misgurnus fossilis) and European Bitterling (Rhodeus sericeus amarus), which are native and protected species in Hungary.

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification: The Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton provide an important source of food for fish, spawning grounds, nursery areas and migration paths on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend. European Mudminnow Umbra krameri and Weather Loach Misgurnus fossilis populations from the Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton are prominently important in Central Europe.

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	☐	EU Habitats Directive Annex II.	
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Epipactis tallosii*	☑	☐	☐	EN	☐		

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 / AMPHIBIA	*Bombina bombina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	Most important nationally protected species of the site
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Coenagrion ornatum*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Emys orbicularis persica*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	Most important nationally protected species of the site.
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐		
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Lycaena dispar*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Maculinea nausithous*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Maculinea teleius*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	

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 / MAMMALIA	*Microtus oeconomus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐		The root vole Microtus oeconomus spp. Mehelyi, which is endemic to the Carpathian Basin. See 3.1. text box.
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	*Natrix tessellata*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex IV	Most important nationally protected species of the site.
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Triturus dobrogicus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	Most important nationally protected species of the site.
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Misgurnus fossilis*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 7: Native and protected species in Hungary. Criterion 8: This species is prominently important in Central Europe.
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Rhodeus sericeus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐				LC	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 7: Native and protected species in Hungary.
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Umbra krameri*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑				VU	☐	☐	Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 7: The area holds one of the domestic populations of Umbra krameri endemic to the Carpathian Basin. Criterion 8: This species is prominently important in Central Europe.
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus melanopogon*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus palustris*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Alcedo atthis*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas platyrhynchos*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1500	2018-2024		LC	☐	☐		Criterion 4: breeding Criterion 5: Minimum of 1500 individuals.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser albifrons*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	6000	2018-2024	3	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 6: 6000 individuals in 2018-2024 during wintering season. Biogeographic region: Western Siberia/Central Europe
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser anser*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	5000	2018-2024	3	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 4: breeding Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Central Europe/North Africa
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardea alba*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	200	2018-2024	1.2	LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site 200 pairs.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardea cinerea*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding (20-40 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardea purpurea*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	30	2018-2024		LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardeola ralloides*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya ferina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS	Criterion 5: The Fishponds and Marshlands provide an important migrating site in Hungary for this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya nyroca*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	70			NT	☐	☑	Appendix I of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Botaurus stellaris stellaris*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on 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								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta ruficollis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☑	IUCN Red List: EN, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius dubius*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	100	2018-2024			☐	☐		Criterion 4: breeding (100-200 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ciconia ciconia*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ciconia nigra*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus aeruginosus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus pygargus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Coturnix coturnix*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Crex crex*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus olor*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Egretta garzetta*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding (40-60 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Fulica atra*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gallinula chloropus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☑	☑	Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ixobrychus minutus minutus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Locustella fluviatilis*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Locustella luscinioides*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Locustella naevia*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Luscinia svecica*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Merops apiaster*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Microcarbo pygmeus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	110	2018-2024			☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	(100-120 pairs) Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Netta rufina*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding (250-300 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Pandion haliaetus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Panurus biarmicus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding

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	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding (2-250 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Platalea leucorodia*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	3	2018-2024		LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site around 3 pairs.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Plegadis falcinellus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding (0-3 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Podiceps cristatus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Podiceps nigricollis*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Porzana parva*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Porzana porzana*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive Annex I	breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Rallus aquaticus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Remiz pendulinus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS, Birds Directive Annex I	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site (80-120 pairs)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Streptopelia turtur turtur*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Appendix II of CMS	Criterion 4: The species is breeding on the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding
CHORDATA / AVES	*Vanellus vanellus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐		breeding

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Canals with slowly flowing waters of macrophyte vegetation depending on water supply	☐		
7230 Alkaline fens and sedge meadows	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I
7210 Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I
Grey willow scrubs (Calamagrosti-Salicetum cinereae)	☐		
Swamp sedge communities (Caricetum acutiformis)	☐		
Standing waters with Phragmitetum communis and Typhetum	☐		
Water fringe vegetation (natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation)	☐		
Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Cnidion dubii	☐		
91F0 Riparian mixed forests of Quercus robur, Ulmus laevis and Ulmus minor, Fraxinus excelsior or Fraxinus angustifolia	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I
6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I
91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I
6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I
6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains	☑		EU Habitats Directive Annex I

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The types of habitats and vegetation are closely related to the marshland ecosystems. Because of spreading invasive species (predominantly Solidago gigantea), the size and distribution of uninfected habitats have decreased during the last decades. However, in the present situation the remaining fragments of these habitats are able to hold their basic features.

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		3		Rare
Fresh water > Flowing water >> N: Seasonal/ intermittent/ irregular rivers/ streams/ creeks		4		Rare
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		2		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1		Representative

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
1: Aquaculture ponds		1	
3: Irrigated land		4	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Eleocharis uniglumis*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Epipactis palustris*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/EQUISETOPSIDA	*Equisetum hyemale*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Juncus maritimus*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Nymphaea alba*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Orchis spitzelii cazorlensis*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Ranunculus lingua*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Samolus valerandi*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Schoenus nigricans*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Sonchus palustris*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Trapa natans*	protected in Hungarian legislation
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Urtica kioviensis*	protected in Hungarian legislation

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Solidago gigantea*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

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/REPTILIA	*Natrix natrix*				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

The climate of the Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton is influenced by continental (eastern) effects. The climate is moderately warm, and is moderately wet. There is an average of 2000–2050 hours/year of sunlight, (summer 810–820 hours, winter 205 hours). The yearly average temperature is 10,0-10,4 °C. The summer maximum temperature is warm (32,3-33,2 °C), the winter maximum temperature is cold (-14,5 to -15,7). The average yearly rainfall is about 650 - 700 mm (during the vegetation period it is 400 - 430 mm). The average snow coverage used to be between 32-34 days. The wind usually blows from the north, north-west. The average wind speed is 3,5-3 m/s.
Local microclimatical effects cause high humidity and frequent fog formation over the marshlands.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

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

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 160

- 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 area is part of the catchment area of Lake Balaton. The main streams, rivulets and canals of the area are: Cinege- patak, Endrédi-patak, Köröshegyi-séd, Büdös-gáti-víz, Terves-patak, Jamai-patak, Ordacsehi-árok, Zardavár Keleti- lecspolóárok, Zardavár Nyugati-lecspoló árok, Keleti-Bozót-csatorna, Pogányvölgyi-víz, Koroknai-vízfolyás, Ciframalmi-cstorna, Medvagya-patak, Nyugati-övcsatorna, and Táska-külvízicsatorna.

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 ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The most dispersed soil types in the Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton are meadow soils, marsh soils and forest soils connected to moorland and swamp soils. Peat formations can also be seen in the area.

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 precipitation	☐	No change
Water inputs from surface water	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☑

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

Unknown ☑

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 ☑

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Intensive forestry; lower impact agriculture.
Plans for large-scale developments (industry, traffic, etc.). Irrigation not used in the area. Mass tourism

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	Other	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The fish fauna is rich, providing opportunity for traditional fishery. Reed harvesting also dates back centuries. It is very important to reconcile different points of view in nature conservation and economic land use inside the area. Recently, fishery activity has concentrated primarily on fishfarming. The nearby Lake Balaton is one of the most frequented recreation areas in Central Europe for tourists from late spring to late summer.
The area has great importance for environmental education. Because of the large and diverse habitats, there are many options for hands-on presentation of the structure and function of the ecosystems both to the students and others, without causing significant damage utilizing proper methodology.

See additional material for further information.

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	☑	☐
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☐

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:
State owned – roughly 55% Local government –5%
Private – 40%

in the surrounding area:
Mainly private

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate

South-Transdanubian Environmental Protection and Water Management Directorate
H- 7623 Pécs, Köztársaság tér 7 .

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

Péter Szinai

Postal address:

8229 Csopak, Kossuth L. u. 16, Hungary

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
Commercial and industrial areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Unspecified development	Medium impact	Medium 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
Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	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	Medium impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Pollution

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

Please describe any other threats (optional):

within the Ramsar site:

Past and present: fishery activity, reed harvesting, grazing and harvesting of hay

in the surrounding area:

Past: intensive use of artificial fertilizers in agriculture
Present and potential: activities related to tourism, overload of water purification plants

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	SPA: Balatoni berkek; SCI: Dél-balatoni berkek, Ordacsehi berek, Pogány-völgyi rétek, Látrányi-puszta		partly

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Hungarian Ecological Network	The Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton		whole
Locally Protected Area	Siófok-Töreki		partly
Nature Protection Area	Látrányi puszta and Nagyberki Fehérvíz		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 ☐

<no data available>

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Other:

Fehér-víz Nature Protection Area has a “Nature Conservation Management Plan” has been enacted into law.

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:

There is only one nature trail (Siófok-Töreki). Some of information booklets are published and distributed not only by Balaton Upplands National Park but also by local information centres and other organizations.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, the site has already been restored

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal community	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

Scientific research is performed by different institutions. The Limnological Institute does fish monitoring work. Studies include research on vegetation, avifauna and fauna in general conducted by Balaton Upplands National Park.
For several years, vegetation and invertebrate monitoring work has been going on in the framework of National Biodiversity Monitoring System. The Water Framework Directive (60/2000/EC) monitoring also joined in 2005. Other studies include surveys and research on birds conducted by Local Group of Birdlife Hungary.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Biró P., Paulovits G. (1995): Distribution and status of Umbra krameri WALBAUM, 1792, in the drainage of Lake Balaton, Hungary. Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien 97 B 470-477.
Ferincz Á., Staszny Á. (2013): Kutatási Jelentés a HUDD20036 Ordacsehi Berek és a HUDD20058 Látrányi puszta Natura 2000 területen végzett lápi póc (Umbra krameri) felmérésekről. Kápolnásnyék. pp.17.
Ferincz Á., Staszny Á., Weiperth A., Sütő Sz., Soczó G., Ács A., Kováts N., Paulovits G. (2014): Adatok a dél-balatoni berekterületek halfaunájához. Natura Somogyiensis 24: 279-286.
Haraszthy L., Sáfián Sz. (ed.) (2016): Védett állatfajok elterjedési atlasza Vas, Zala és Somogy megye Natura 2000 területein. Somogy Természetvédelmi Szervezet, Somogyfajsz.pp. 216.
Kovács Gy. (2011): The ecological function of the wetland habitat fragments (fishponds, marshes) at Lake Balaton. In: Puigcerver, M., Teijeiro, J.D.R., Buner, F. (eds): XXXth IUGB Congress (International Union of Game Biologists) and Perdix XIII in Barcelona, Spain, 5-9 September, Book of Abstracts. p. 220.
Kovács Gy. (2012): Waterbird monitoring at Lake Balaton and surroundings. In: 4th International Eurasian Ornithology Congress - Abstract book. 2012.04.12-2012.04.15. Baja, Hungary. p. 22.
Kovács Gy. (2015): A 2013. novemberi vízimadár-felmérés eredményei a Balatonon és a környező vizesélőhelyeken. Magyar Vízivad Közlemények 26: 211-218.
Kovács Gy. (2017): Adatok a dél-balatoni halastavak és berkek vízimadár fajainak szaporulatáról.
Kovács Gy., Hajdu K. (2015): A 2014. novemberi vízimadár-felmérés eredményei a Balatonon és a környező vizesélőhelyeken. Magyar Vízivad Közlemények 26: 219-226.
Kovács Gy., Jakus L. (2015): A Tóközi-berek (Zamárdi) madártani felmérése. Natura Somogyiensis 26: 117-122.
Kovács Gy., Szinai P., Hajdu K. (2015): A szerecsensirály (Larus melanocephalus) Balaton környéki előfordulásai és első Somogy megyei fészkelése az Irmapusztai-halastavakon. Natura Somogyiensis 26: 109-116.
Kovács Gy., Winkler D., Faragó S. (2012): Waterbird assemblage response to human disturbance in a freshwater shallow lake environment (Lake Balaton, Hungary). In: Dessborn, L. (ed.): Abstract book of 7th Symposium on Limnology and Aquatic Birds: The Aquatic Birds Working Group of the International Society of Limnology (SIL) Kristianstad, Sweden 15.08.2012-17.08.2012. p. 35.
Lanszki J. (2013): Beszámoló jelentés a Pogány-völgyi rétek Natura 2000 terület északi pocok (Microtus oeconomus ssp. mehelyi) felméréséről. Fonó, pp. 15.

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
<4 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:


Nagy berek (*BfNPI, 04-05-2017*)


Nagy berek (*BfNPI, 04-05-2017*)


Nagy berek (*BfNPI, 02-12-2008*)


Nagy berek (*BfNPI, 13-04-2017*)


Nagy berek (*BfNPI, 12-04-2017*)


Geese taking flight (*Mr. Bence Szász, 24-11-2020*)


Alder bog (*Mr. Bence Szász, 04-03-2024*)


Aerial view of the reedbeds (*Mr. Bence Szász, 08-03-2023*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation	2011-06-09