

## Ramsar Information Sheet

Text copy-typed from the original document.

**1. Date this sheet was completed:**

27.06.1995

**2. Country:**

Hungary

Country: Tolna

Districts: Keselyûs, Pörboly villages

**3. Name of wetland:**

Gemenc

**4. Geographical co-ordinates:**

46°06'-46°23'N - 18°45' - 18°57' E

**5. Altitude:**

86-94 m

**6. Area:**

16873 ha

**7. Overview**

In the Gemenc there is a variety of floodplain biotopes along the river Danube. The undisturbed forests and the branches, oxbow lakes of the Danube support high diversity and density of endangered species.

**8. Wetland type:**

M, O, Xf

**9. Ramsar Criteria:**

1a

2a, 2b, 2c, 2d

3b

**10. Map of site included:**

yes

**11. Name and address of compiler:**

Directorate of Duna-Dráva National Park

**12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:**

Gemenc is a typical representative site for the floodplains fo the Danube on the middle part of the river. Considering its size and naturality it has a special value for supporting the species richness of the river Danube and its floodplain.

**13. General location:**

Baja and Szekszárd are the large towns 10 and 30 km away from the site with approximately 80.000 and 50.000 inhabitants.

**14. Physical features:**

Topography : being a floodplain, Gemenc has a flat topography with a few meter differences on the surface. River branches, oxbow lakes can be found on the site.

Climate : the climate is humid continental. Summers are usually hot, and winters are very cold. The yearly precipitation is about 600-650 mm, annual mean temperature is between 10-11 degree Celsius.

Geology and geomorphology : on the surface mainly riverine alluvial sediment layers can be found at a different width. These are quaternary gravel, sand and clay deposits.

Soils : characteristic soils are floodplain, meadow and peat-like soils depending on the local circumstances.

### **15. Hydrological values:**

The river Danube is a middle-reach on the site with developing elbows. Sand banks arise continuously and wander with floods which is one of the consequence of the regulations of the watercourse. A complicated system of oxbow lakes covers the territory of Gemenc. The currently protected area is between dikes on either side of the Danube. Water quality is still proper for protecting the values of the wetland. Gemenc floodplain plays an important role in sediment trapping and flood control.

### **16. Ecological features:**

Habitats : - rivers, oxbow lakes, ponds in the floodplain

- marshland
- meadows
- reedbeds
- forests (ash, elm, alder and oak)
- willow bushes

The most characteristic vegetation types (associations) are as follows:

Calamagrosti-Salicetum cinereae

Caricetum elatae

Scirpo-Phragmitetum

Lemno-Utricularietum

Hydrochari-Strationetum

Moinetum coerulae

Peucedano-Asteretum sedifolii

Salvio-Festucetum rupicolae

Agrostio-Alopecuretum pratensis

Achilleo-Festucetum pseudoinae

### **17. Noteworthy flora:**

*Crataegus nigra* : endemic species, known only from the lower floodplains of the Danube

*Carex strigosa*: biogeographically important, potentially endangered

*Leucosium aestivum*: potentially endangered

*Iris sibirica*: rare, potentially endangered

*Nymphoides peltata*: rare, potentially endangered

*Ophioglossum vulgatum*: rare, potentially endangered

*Salvinia natans*

### **18. Noteworthy fauna:**

The most important bird species

<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	20-30 nesting pairs
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	50-70 nesting pairs
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	10-12 nesting pairs
<i>Haliaeetus albicollis</i>	4-5 nesting pairs, 10-12 wintering pairs
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	5-6 nesting pairs
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	1-2 nesting pairs
<i>Hippoboscus pallida</i>	biogeographically important breeding species

Large number of migrating and wintering species as follows:

*Anser anser*

*Anser fabalis*

*Anser albifrons*

*Anythya nyroca*

*A. ferina*

*Anas querquedula*

*A. clypeata*

Important mammalian species

Lutra lutra - strictly protected

Felis sylvestris - strictly protected

**19. Social and cultural values:**

**20. Land tenure/ownership of:**

- a. The territory of Gemenc is mainly state owned, but private, cooperative and local municipality ownership are also found
- b. The surrounding area is owned by cooperatives, local municipalities and state companies.

**21. Current land use/principal human activities:**

- a. at the site  
Forestry, hunting and fishing
- b. at the surroundings and catchment area  
Agricultural activity (grazing, farming etc), forestry and hunting

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

- a. at the site  
Adventitious tree species expand on some part of the nature reserve. The high number of wild grazers are also a potential threat for the site (red deer, wild boar).
- b. around the site  
Primarily the water quality could be the determining factor for the ecosystem therefore it should be kept on a high level.

**23. Conservation measures taken:**

The Gemenc Landscape Protection Area was established in 1977. By establishing the Duna-Dráva National Park in 1996, Gemenc had become a basic part of it. A few oxbow lakes were reconstructed in the past 15 years.

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

Developing a detailed management plan, and designation the site for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

**25. Current scientific and research facilities:**

There is no research project.

**26. Current conservation education:**

**27. Current recreation and tourism:**

Some parts of Gemenc are open for visitors. There is a small train service which carries the visitors to the places of interest.

**28. Jurisdiction:**

Directorate of Duna-Dráva National Park under the supervisory of the Authority for Nature Conservation of the Ministry for Environment and Regional Policy.

**29. Management authority:**

Directorate of Duna-Dráva National Park

7625 Pécs, Tettye tér 9

Tel. +36 72 213263

Fax: +36 72 210747

**30. Bibliographical references:**

Z. Rakonczay (1987) : Kiskunságtól a Sárrétig - Mezőgazda, Budapest

L. Kácsor (1976): Gemenc - Gondolat, Budapest