

Ramsar Information Sheet

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1. Date this sheet was completed:

02.07.1995

2. Country:

Hungary

3. Name of wetland:

Lake Kolon at Izsák

4. Geographical co-ordinates:

46°45' - 46°49', 19°18' - 19°22'

5. Altitude:

Average 95 m

6. Area:

1300 ha

7. Overview

An extensive reedbed with patches of willow, small open water bodies, where all the heron species (8) of Hungary are breeding in large numbers. The lake's water regime is controlled by a main sluice.

8. Wetland type:

Large reedbed surrounded by wet meadows

9. Ramsar Criteria:

1a, 2a, 2b, 3b

10. Map of site included:

yes

11. Name and address of compiler:

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12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

13. General location:

Bács-Kiskun country, near Izsák village

14. Physical features:

The site was formed in an ancient branch of the Danube, in which large amounts of sediments (shifting sand) were deposited. It is a shallow lake (average depth 60-70 cm) developed in the N-S oriented bed. In the development of the lake both the wind and the river contributed. The lake is infilling. Its water catchment basin includes the Meadows of Orgovány. During the development of the regional drainage (in the 1921s), the water-level of the whole area decreased. This leads to the disappearance of the open water bodies in the 1980s. The water regulation of the lake is solved through a main sluice. The water quality is good. The main soil type is the peat soil with reedbed.

15. Hydrological values:

16. Ecological features:

The main habitats are reedbed, with sedge patches. The following associations can be found : Scirpo Phragmitetum austro-orientale
Caricetum elatae
Caricetum acutiformis-ripariae
Calamagrostio-Salicetum cinereae

17. Noteworthy flora:

Urticularia vulgaris
Urtica kioviensis

18. Noteworthy fauna:

Egretta alba	25 pairs
Egretta garzetta	40 pairs
Ardea cinerea	30 pairs
Ardea purpurea	30 pairs
Nycticorax n.	120 pairs
Botaurus stellaris	10 pairs
Ardeola ralloides	20 pairs
Platalea leucorodia	100 pairs

Fishes : Misgurnus fossilis and Umbra crameri, the largest populations of the region
Mammals : Lutra lutra (18 specimens)

19. Social and cultural values:

Strict nature reserve, only reed cutting is practised.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

Due to changes in socio-economic factors, it is still partly a transition situation.

- a. site : 60% state owned, land use rights practised by the Kiskunság National Park
40% cooperative
- b. surrounding area: mostly private ownership

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

- a. site : reed cutting on 30% of the reedbeds
- b. surroundings/catchment : agricultural use (mostly vineyards and orchards)

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

- a. at the site : poaching
- b. in the surroundings/catchment : intensification of agriculture (use of chemicals)

23. Conservation measures taken:

National Park (IUCN II category), Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO MAB). A management plan (Eurosites format) exists and is being implemented.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Some reclamation work to establish more open water bodies.

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

No current research is being undertaken. A cottage (B. Bognár Farmstead) can be used by researchers as field station.

26. Current conservation education:

Occasional visits with professional guide, on request. One hide at the border of the area, overlooking the reedbed is open to the public. Information booklets on the Kiskunság National Park include the site.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

The area is closed to the public

28. Jurisdiction:

Ministry for Environment and Regional Planning,
Authority for Nature Conservation
Directorate of Kiskunság National Park

29. Management authority:

Directorate of Kiskunság National Park
H-6000.Kecskemét, Liszt F.u.19.

30. Bibliographical references:

Management Plan available in English, others in Hungarian