

# 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:**

24.08.98

For office use only.

dd mm yy

14/12/76

7IT001

Designation date

Site Reference Number

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**2. Country:**

Italy

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**3. Name of wetland:**

Pian di Spagna and Lago di Mezzola

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**4. Geographical coordinates:**

46° 00' 00" - 46° 13' 00" North; 9° 77' 08" - 9° 27' 08" East

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**5. Altitude:** min. 196.9, max. 201.5 m a.s.l.

**6. Area:**(in hectares) 1,586.42 ha  
**(incorrect, area is 1,740 ha, see fax 29/04/99)**

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

Marshy piedmont-type area. It is an important habitat for migrating and wintering aquatic birds.

Breeding habitat for aquatic and marsh birds.

Vegetation characterised by beds of reeds and sedge.

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**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 - Q - 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:

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

1a - lb - lc - 1d / 2a - 2b - 2c - 2d / 3a - 3b - 3c / 4a - 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2A

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

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

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

Dr.ssa Francesca Mogavero, Via Serta 67/C, 23017 Morbegno (SO).

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

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

Important marshy piedmont area.

Habitat during migration and wintering for various species of aquatic birds.

Breeding habitat for some species of aquatic and marsh birds.

The wetland area is home to various species of fish and provides many suitable areas for their breeding.

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

The area falls within the Lombardy Region and the nearest important town is Como.

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

Valley formed at the end of the ice-age and alluvial plain created with the material transported by the River Adda.

Generally silty-sandy soil.

Hydrographic system formed by the Mera torrent, which flows into and out of the Novate Mezzola Lake, and a network of channels with some pools.

There is a typical continental climate.

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

There are no artificial structures for regulation of the water flow.

Max. water level (20.07.87): 200.10 m a.s.l.

Min. water level (13.02.84): 196.76 m a.s.l.

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

Submerged vegetation – *Ninfeto*, *Potamogetoneto*

Helophyte vegetation – *Phragmiteto*

Natural hydric vegetation - *Magnocariceti*

Willow groves – *Saliceto* and *Salix alba*

Stretches of hydric woodland with Alder and English Oak

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

*Myosotis rehsteineri* Wartm (*Borraginaceae*) is found: a very rare endemic alpine species found in Italy only on Ticino and at Lago di Mezzola.

All the marshy-type vegetation found in this area may be considered “rare” since it has almost completely disappeared outside the conservation area.

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

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus, Actitis hypoleucos, Alcedo atthis, Anas acuta, Anas clypeata, Anas crecca, Anas penelope, Anas querquedula, Anas strepera, Apus apus, Ardea purpurea, Aythya ferina, Aythya nyroca, Aythya fuligula, Aythya marila, Bucephala clangula, Calidris minuta, Caprimulgus europaeus, Carpodacus erythrinus, Cettia cetti, Charadrius dubius, Cygnus olor, Delichon urbica, Emberiza leucocephalos, Emberiza rustica, Emberiza schoenichus, Ficedula hypoleuca, Fulica atra, Gallinago gallinago, Gallinula chloropus, Hippolais icterina, Hippolais polyglotta, Hirundo nistica, Ixobrychus minutus, Lanius collurio, Limicola falcinellus, Locustella luscinioides, Locustella naevia, Luscinia svecica, Mergus merganser, Muscicapa striata, Netta rufina, Numenius arquata, Numenius phaeopus, Oriolus oriolus, Philomachus pugnax, Phylloscopus bonelli, Phylloscopus collybita, Phylloscopus sibilatrix, Phylloscopus trochilus, Podiceps cristatus, Podiceps nigricollis, Porzana porzana, Remiz pendulinus, Riparia riparia, Tachybaptus ruficollis, Tringa glareola, Tringa ochropus, Tringa totanus, Vanellus vanellus, Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Acrocephalus palustris, Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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**19. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)  
There are remains of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish fortifications in the area.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area  
a) privately owned; b) privately owned

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment  
a) – 1) area with natural vegetation (reeds – sedge)  
a) – 2) agricultural and pasture land with stretches of open woodland  
a) – 3) agricultural land  
b) – 1) agricultural land, corn fields, urban areas

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**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 (b) around the site  
a) Expansion of cultivated land by farmers  
    Unauthorised extraction of sand  
    Dumping of urban waste (non-toxic)  
    Uncontrolled use of some ecologically important areas by tourists (camping, boating, water sports)  
b) expansion of urban and industrial areas

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**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)  
“Orientata” Regional Nature Reserve, managed by three Local Councils (Alto Lario Occidentale, Valtellina di Morbegno and Valchiavenna).  
Management regulations: Nature Reserve Programme, approved by resolution No.6/22903 of 20.12.96.

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**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** ( e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

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**25. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Bird-ringing centre for scientific studies in agreement with the Nature Reserve.  
Annual census of the wintering population of aquatic birds performed by voluntary associations.  
Census of *Anatidae* carried out by Como Province.

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**26. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Visitors' centre under construction and nature trails in planning stage.

Information leaflets available.

Organisation of guided tours (the management of the Reserve does not at present have its own guides).

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**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

School trips to the Reserve in spring time (approx. 400 – 500 students).

Visitors to the official camp site within the Reserve on the shores of the Como and Mezzola lakes. Overnight stay is not permitted. Windsurfing is the most popular activity.

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**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Lombardy Region; Provinces of Como and Sondrio; Local Councils of Gera Lario (Co), Sorico (Co), Dubino (Co), Verceia (So) and Novate Mezzola (So).

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**29. Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Consortium of three Local Councils: "Alto Lario Occidentale" of Gravedona (Co), "Valtellina di Morbegno" (So) and "Valchivenna" of Chiavenna (So).

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

- Cantini M., 1991. "Comunità di piccoli Mammiferi (Mammalia: Insectivora, Rodentia, Carnivora) nell'Alto Lario Orientale (Lombardia, Italia) e valutazioni della qualità ambientale." (Community of small mammals in north-east Lario and evaluation of environmental quality). *Il Naturalista Valtelenese – Atti Mus. civ. Stor. Nat. Morbegno*, Vol. 2:71-98.
- Corti W., Mogavero F., 1996. "Uccelli inanellati nella Riserva Naturale Pian di Spagna – Lago di Mezzola" (Lombardia, Italia settentrionale) dal Centro di Inanellamento Lodoletta nel 1995." (Ringed birds in the Pian di Spagna – Lake Mezzola Nature Reserve 1995). *Il Naturalista Valtelenese – Atti Mus. civ. Stor. Nat. Morbegno*, Vol. 7:179-184.
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- Mogavero F., 1996. "Censimento degli Anatidi svernanti nella Riserva Naturale Pian di Spagna – Lago di Mezzola (Lombardia, Italia settentrionale) – Inverno 1995/96." (Census of wintering *Anatidae* in the Pian di Spagna – Lake Mezzola Nature Reserve Winter 1995/96). *Il Naturalista Valtelenese – Atti Mus. civ. Stor. Nat. Morbegno*, Vol. 7:131-151.
- Mogavero F., 1996. "Censimento degli uccelli acquatici svernanti nella Riserva Naturale Pian di Spagna – Lago di Mezzola (Lombardia, Italia settentrionale) – Inverno 1996/97." (Census of wintering water-birds in the Pian di Spagna – Lake Mezzola Nature Reserve Winter 1996/97) *Il Naturalista Valtelenese – Atti Mus. civ. Stor. Nat. Morbegno*, Vol. 8:125-143.
- Pirola A. (a cura di), 1984. "Studio interdisciplinare finalizzato alla pianificazione del biotopo del Pian di Spagna e del Lago di Mezzola." (Interdisciplinary study aimed at

planning of biotope of Pian di Spagna and Lake Mezzola). Comunità Montana “Alto Lario Occidentale”

- Piraola A., Credaro V., 1996. “*Variazioni storiche del paesaggio vegetale nel Pian di Spagna.*” (Variations in the plant landscape of Pian di Spagna). *Natura – Rivista di Scienza Naturali*, Vol. 87, fascicolo 2: 97-108

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