

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 10 July 2025

Italy Foce dell'Isonzo – Isola della Cona



Designation date 10 July 2018 Site number 2569 Coordinates 45°44'50"N 13°31'27"E Area 2 340,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2569 Created by RSIS v.2.0 on - 10 July 2025

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 stretches along the last 15 km of River Isonzo, including the river mouth at the far north of the Adriatic Sea and a considerable part of shallow sea. In this Site, the comprehensive system of about 100,000 hectares of coastal lagoons, including Po river mouth and Venice lagoon, reaches the limestone uplands (known in Italian as "Carso") of high calcareous coasts of historical Illyria. In its northern section, the river is limited to flooding with its banks with only small areas of floodplains. In the lowest part, it expands including a large area rich in natural assets and some agricultural areas. From south to north there are shallow marine waters, tidal plains with sand islets and beds of marine spermatophytes, sandbanks (also called "barene"), salt marshes, reed beds, riparian woods, fringe woods, etc.

There are also some freshwater recovery sites extending in a total area of about 100 ha, which have been realized between 1989/90 and 2002 in former farmlands. These mostly temporary swamps include some wetlands soils, wooded areas and reed beds. The Site regularly hosts significant numbers of waterfowl and other rare plant and animal species. It is also relevant for the environmental and eco-touristic profile, especially birdwatching, environmental education and research, with over 50,000 visitors a year.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency Servizio Biodiversità- Direzione centrale risorse agroalimentari, forestali e ittiche

Via Sabbadini 31 - 33100 Udine - Italy

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security General Directorate for natural heritage and sea (PNM) Div. III - Biodiversity strategies
Postal address	Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 – 00147 Roma (Italy)

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	1996
To year	2023

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Foce dell'Isonzo – Isola della Cona
Spanish)	
Unomicial name (optional)	Foce dell'isonzo – Isola della Cona

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

Boundaries description

The map "IT_map170522" shows the official site boundaries. The site, in the hinterland, borders with intensive farm on land reclaimed in the last century; in the northern part some elements of the traditional agricultural landscape, with hedges and groves, still remain. In the river, floodplains are found tracks of old river meanders that are now separated from the main bed. There are small towns on the outskirts' site and, in the eastern area a few kilometers from the site, is situated the industrial area and the port of Monfalcone. The southern area is bordered by the open sea. The site boundaries correspond to those of the Nature Reserve referred to in the regional law of Friuli Venezia Giulia n. 42/1996.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Friuli Venezia Giulia
b) What is the nearest town or population	

Fiumicello (UD), Grado (GO), San Canzian d'Isonzo (GO), Staranzano (GO)

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 🖲

2406.78

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 2340

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

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions Data & location, S2 - Page 1

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

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

Other reasons Other reasons The Site is situated in a coastal sector characterized by mouths of several rivers. The Ramsar Site and the surrounding areas are been anthropized and heavily transformed by reclamation; but it can still be considered a rare example of "a lagoon under development" built and shaped, year by year, by sediments transported by the river. From this point of view, the Site represents an example of wetland free to evolve in a natural way (at least partially). It includes one of the best-preserved barene (sandbank) complexes of the North Adriatic Sea. It is also the northernmost wetland of the Mediterranean Sea and it represents, from a biogeographical point of view, the point of convergence between the Balkan area and the Italian peninsula: this contributes to increased biodiversity value of the site.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

This Site is a wetland of the far north of the Mediterranean basin within Continental biogeographic region and, consequently, it is influenced by both Mediterranean and Continental biogeography, which contributes to the area's distinctiveness. Vascular flora species (about 640 entities) are about 50% "Continental" in various ways, and 27% "Mediterranean" (primarily Euro-Mediterranean). Similarly, for birds, there is a high number of characteristic species of the area (323 until 2014), and species characteristic of the northern and Continental areas (i.e. Dryocopus martius, Somateria mollissima) and those of the southern Mediterranean co-exist (i.e. Sylvia melanocephala, kobrychus minutus, Cettia cetti). The wetland is also the only example in the north Adriatic Sea important for both aquatic birds and species living and/or breeding in the rocky areas outside the Site (i.e.: the peregrine falcon nests on the nearby karstic cliffs and comes to hunt at this Site).

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

Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds	
Overall waterbird numbers	25000
Start year	1996
End year	2023
Source of data:	http://riservafoceisonzo.it

Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

The site represents an important ecological corridor between Adriatic Sea and the alpine area of Alpi Giulie. It is home to many fish species and subspecies of high nature value. It is particularly important to sturgeon species (Acipenser naccari), an endemic species seriously endangered which reproduces in inland running freshwater and then thrives at sea or near the river mouth. Current reports of the species regarding Friuli Venezia Giulia region are of lower part of the Isonzo basin. The site is the only area which links the Trieste's gulf with further southern sites where this species has been reported during the last decade. Then again, the brackish ponds and the freshwater ponds in the area are important habitats for conservation and growth of European eel (Anguilla anguilla). It is endangered and severally declining. The northern running fresh waters are inhabited by trouts (Salmo marmoratus), an important endemic species of the Padano-Veneta plain (ancient tributaries from the left side of the river Po). In the site there are different freshwater fishes species such as Thymallus thymallus, Cottus gobio, Barbus plebejus, Lethenteron zanandreai, Tinca tinca, Lethenteron zanandreai, Cobitis taenia and Gastrosteus aculeatus; besides, it is also important for euryhaline species such as Aphanius fasciatus, Knipowitschia panizzae, Pomatoschistus canestrinii, Alosa fallax and Petromizon marinus.

Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification	As the site is covering about 1,200 ha of shallow marine waters (with significant extensions of marine phanerogams meadows), it houses significant populations of fish species of coastal areas, giving them opportunities to breed, to feed and to migrate (Syngnathus acus, Aphanius fasciatus, Knipowitschia panizzae, Anguilla anguilla, Platichthys flesus).
	Moreover, the Isonzo River freshwater is a spawning site for important species such as Alosa fallax, Salmo marmoratus, Cottus gobio and potentially Acipenser naccarii.

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	1							
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	Allium angulosum		Ø					Rare species. Typical of freshwater wet meadows, habitat in general threatened by direct distructions, crop abandonment, eutrophication, etc; and in the Nature Reserve, subject to active conservation measures.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	Allium suaveolens		Ø		LC			Rare species. Typical of freshwater wet meadows, habitat in general threatened by direct distructions, crop abandonment, eutrophication, etc; and in the Nature Reserve, subject to active conservation measures.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Cirsium canum		Ø					Rare species. Typical of freshwater wet meadows, habitat in general threatened by direct distructions, crop abandonment, eutrophication, etc; and in the Nature Reserve, subject to active conservation measures.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	Gladiolus palustris	V	V		DD		EU Habitat Directive Annex II	Rare species. Typical of freshwater wet meadows, habitat in general threatened by direct distructions, crop abandonment, eutrophication, etc; and in the Nature Reserve, subject to active conservation measures.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Jacobaea paludosa	Ø					VU in Regional Red List	Rare species. Typical of tall sedge prairies and bank meadows along agricultural channels and ditches. Threatened habitats subject to active conservation measures in the Nature Reserve.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Plantago altissima		Ø					Rare species. Typical of freshwater wet meadows, habitat in general threatened by direct distructions, crop abandonment, eutrophication, etc; and in the Nature Reserve, subject to active conservation measures.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Salicornia procumbens	Ø	Ø				EU Habitat Directive Annex II, EU Bern Convention Appendix I.	Rare species. The Nature Reserve is important as connection area between the west adriatic limit (Po rivermouth area) and the east one (Slovenia and Croatia coast) lof the species. Priority Species

Cirsium canum (L.) All., also present on this site, is the current scientific name reported in "An annotated checklist of the Italian vascular flora" (Conti et al., 2005), but it is no listed in rsis.ramsar.org. It is a peculiar species of phytogeographical interest having a southeastern European distribution. See also "Species at risk at regional level" (Conti et al. 1997)

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum Others	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6 9	Species contributes under criterion93578	Pop. Size Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List		CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/				7				_	EU Habitat Directive Annexes II and IV, EU Bern Convention	
AMPHIBIA	Bombina variegata	BUUL				LC			Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	Caretta caretta	ØOOC				VU	s.	J	EN in National Red List, EU Habitat Directive Annex II and IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II, SPAW Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Delphinus delphis	eoo				LC		×	EN in National Red List, EU Bern Convention Appendix II, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	Emys orbicularis	ØOOC							EN in National Red List	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Felis silvestris	ØOOC				LC			EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Hyla intermedia					LC				Italian endemism
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Lycaena dispar	ØOOC							EU Habitat Directive Annex II and IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	Natrix tessellata	ØOOC				LC			EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	Podarcis muralis	ØOOC				LC			EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Pseudepidalea viridis	ØOOC							EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Rana dalmatina	ØOOC				LC			EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Rana latastei	eoo				VU			VU in National Red List, EU Habitat Directive Annex II and IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	Triturus carnifex	ØOOC				VU			EU Habitat Directive Annex II and IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	Tursiops truncatus	Rooc				LC		s	EU Habitat Directive Annex II, EU Bern Convention Appendix II, CITES Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	Zamenis Iongissimus	ØOOC				LC			EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, Bern Convention Appendix II	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Zerynthia polyxena	200C							EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	Zeuneriana marmorata	ØOOC				EN				
Fish, Mollusc and Cr	ustacea							1		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Acipenser naccarii			2 2012-2014	1	CR			CR in National Red List, EU Habitat Directive Annex II and IV, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	Area suitable for reproduction
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Alosa fallax	ØØOC		3		LC			VU in National Red List	Site migration and historical reproduction
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Anguilla anguilla	eoo		8		CR			CR in National Red List, CITES Appendix II	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Aphanius fasciatus	eoo		8		LC			EU Habitat Directive Annex II, Bern Convention Appendices II and III	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits. Nursery and migration path.

Phylum	Scientific name	qua un crit	ecies lifies der erion 6		Species contribut under criterio 5 7	es Pop Size	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Barbus plebejus							NT		VU in National Red List, EU Habitat Directive Annex II	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Cobitis taenia	ØC						LC		EU Habitat Directive Annex II	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Cottus gobio	ØC						LC		EU Habitat Directive Annex II	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Gasterosteus aculeatus							LC			Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Knipowitschia panizzae					X		LC			Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits. Nursery and migration path.
CHORDATA / CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	Lethenteron zanandreai	ØC								VU in National Red List	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA / CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	Petromyzon marinus							LC		CR in National Red List, EU Habitat Directive Annex II	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
MOLLUSCA/ BIVALVIA	Pinna nobilis	ØC						CR		EU Habitat Directive Annex IV, Barcelona Protocol Annex II	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	Platichthys flesus					V		LC			Habitat important for breeding, feeding and migrating
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Pomatoschistus canestrinii	ØC								EU Bern Convention Appendix II	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Protochondrostoma genei							VU		EN in National Red List	Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Salmo marmoratus	ZZ		J		V		VU		CR in National Red List, EU Habitat Directive Annex II	Reproduction site Habitat important for growth of this important endemic species.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Syngnathus acus					V		LC			Habitat important for breeding, feeding and migrating
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Thymallus thymallus							LC			Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	Tinca tinca							LC			Habitat important for growth. Species representative of wetland benefits.
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	Vertigo angustior	ØC						NT		EU Habitat Directive Annex II	
Birds			1 1						1	I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Acrocephalus melanopogon	ØC						LC		VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Acrocephalus paludicola	ØC						VU	×	EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aegolius funereus	ØC						LC		EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Alcedo atthis	ØC						LC		EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas acuta							LC		EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	

Phylum CHORDATA/	Scientific name	Species qualifie under criterio 2 4 6	s n 9		butes ler rion 7 8	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est. occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	Appendix I	<u>ст</u>	Other Status	Justification
AVES CHORDATA/	Anas clypeata										EN is National Dad List EU Dide Disasting Assessment Hand III	
AVES	Anas crecca							LC			EN in National Red List. EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas penelope										EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas platyrhynchos			VV				LC			EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anas querquedula			ZZ								Stop over during spring migration
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser albifrons			VV				LC			EU Birds Directive Annexes II	Wintering area and migratory break
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser anser			II				LC			EU Birds Directives Annex II	Breeding area, wintering and migratory break.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser erythropus	220		ØD				VU			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention	Wintering area.
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser fabalis			20				LC			EU Bird Directives Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anthus campestris	200		20				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aquila chrysaetos	200						LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aquila clanga	200		20						J.	EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aquila heliaca	ØOO		20				VU		J.	EU Birds Directive Annex I, CITES Appendix I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ardea alba	ØOO		20				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ardea purpurea	200		20				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ardeola ralloides			20				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aythya ferina			20				VU			EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aythya fuligula			20				LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aythya nyroca	200		20				NT		J.	EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Botaurus stellaris	200		20				LC			EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Branta leucopsis	200		20				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Branta ruficollis	200						VU		V	EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II. CITES Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Bubo bubo	ØOO		20				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Bucephala clangula			ØD				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Buteo rufinus	ØOO						LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Calandrella brachydactyla			ØD				LC			EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	

Phylum	Scientific name		Species contributes under criterion03578	5126	Period of pop. Est. occurrence 1)	Appendi	CMS Appendix I	c Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES	Calidris alpina				2014-16 NT			EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES CHORDATA/	Caprimulgus europaeus				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I.	
AVES	Cettia cetti				LC			EN in National Red List. EU Birds Directive Annex I. EU Bern	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Charadrius alexandrinus	ØOOC]	LC			Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Chlamydotis undulata	ØOOC]	VU	×	X	EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Chroicocephalus genei	ØOOC]				EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Ciconia nigra	Rooc]	LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I. CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Circaetus gallicus	ØOOC]	LC			VU in National Red List. EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Circus aeruginosus	Rooc)	LC			VU in National Red List , EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Circus cyaneus	200C]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Circus macrourus	Rooc]	NT			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Circus pygargus	Rooc)	LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Clangula hyemalis	Rooc]	VU			EU Birds Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Coracias garrulus	ØOOC]	LC		V	VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II.	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Crex crex	Rooc]	LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II. CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cygnus columbianus bewickii	ØOOC]				EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cygnus cygnus]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Cygnus olor			1108	2014-16 LC			EU Birds Directive Annex II	One of the biggest population in Italy, with an important migration area
CHORDATA/ AVES	Dryocopus martius	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Egretta garzetta	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Emberiza hortulana	ØOOC			LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Falco biarmicus	ØOOC			LC			VU in National Red List. EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Falco columbarius	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Falco eleonorae	ØOOC]	LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	

Phylum	Scientific name		Species contributes under criterion93578	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est. % UCN Red 1) UCN List	Appendix	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / AVES					LC		V	EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES					LC	Ľ		EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Falco vespertinus	ØOOC]	VU		1	VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Ficedula albicollis	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Fulica atra			2850	2014-16 LC			EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gallinago media	ØOOC]	NT			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia arctica	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia immer	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gavia stellata	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gelochelidon nilotica	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Glareola pratincola	ØOOC]	LC			EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA / AVES	Grus grus	220]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	Important stop over area during migration
CHORDATA/ AVES	Gyps fulvus	200]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I CR in National Red List	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Haematopus ostralegus)	NT			EU Birds Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Haliaeetus albicilla	ØOOC)	LC	×.	V	EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Himantopus himantopus	ØOOC]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Hydrocoloeus minutus	ØOOC)	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	lchthyaetus melanocephalus	ØOOC)				EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	lxobrychus minutus minutus	ØOOC]				VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Lanius collurio	200]	LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Lanius minor	200]	LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Limosa Iapponica]	NT			EU Birds Directive Annexes I and II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Lullula arborea)	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Luscinia svecica]	LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Melanitta fusca	ØOOC]	VU			EU Birds Directive Annex II	

Phylum	Scientific name		Speciescontributesundercriterion03578	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est. occurrence	IUCN Red List		1 I		Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES CHORDATA/	Melanitta nigra					LC			EU Birds Directive Annexes II	
AVES	Mergellus albellus	2000				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Microcarbo pygmeus	ØOOC		243	2014-2016				EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Milvus milvus	ØOOC				LC			VU in National Red List EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Numenius phaeopus					LC			EU Birds Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Numenius tenuirostris	ØOOC				CR	×.	×	EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Nycticorax nycticorax	ØOOC				LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Otis tarda	ØOOC				EN		×	EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pandion haliaetus	ØOOC				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pelecanus onocrotalus	ØOOC				LC		V	EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pernis apivorus	ØOOC				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii	ØOOC		395	2014-16 1				EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Annex II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Phalaropus Iobatus	ØOOC				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	pugnax			375	2014-16				EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Phoenicopterus ruber					LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Picus canus	ØOOC				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Platalea leucorodia	ØOOC				LC			VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, CITES Appendix II, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Plegadis falcinellus	ØOOC				LC			EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pluvialis apricaria	ØOOC				LC			EU Birds Directive Annexes I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pluvialis squatarola	ØØOC		140	2014-16	VU			EU Birds Directive Annex II VU in IUCN Red List,	Important wintering and stop over area
CHORDATA/ AVES	Podiceps auritus	ØOOC				VU			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Porzana parva	ØOOC							EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Porzana porzana	ØOOC				LC			EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Porzana pusilla	ØOOC							EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Puffinus yelkouan	ØOOC				VU			EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6	Species contributes under criterion93578	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	IUCN Red List	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA/ AVES	Recurvirostra avosetta	ØOOC)		LC		EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Somateria mollissima]		NT		EU Birds Directive Annexes II and III	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sternula albifrons	200]		LC		EN in National Red List, CMS Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sylvia melanocephala]					
CHORDATA/ AVES	Sylvia nisoria	ØOOC		1				CR in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Tadorna ferruginea	200]		LC		EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Tetrax tetrax	ØOOC)		NT		EN in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Thalasseus sandvicensis	eoo		262	2014-16	LC		VU in National Red List, EU Birds Directive Annex I, EU Bern Convention Appendix II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Tringa glareola	ØOO)		LC		EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Appendix II	

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
Salix alba and Populus alba galleries. Habitat code 92A0	Ø	Salix alba and Populus alba galleries and relictual floodplain forest of Fraxinus sp. pl. Residual Habitat on recent sandy-loam soils	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community (92A0) and priority (91E0*) interest, whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
Illyrian oak-hornbeam forests (Erythronio- Carpinion). Habitat Code 91L0	Ø	Mesophilous lowland forests with Fraxinus angustifolia, Quercus robur, Staphylea pinnata and microthermic glacial species. Residual Habitat.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
Eastern sub-mediterranean dry grasslands (Scorzoneretalia villosae). Habitat Code 62A0	Ø	Mediterranean xeric grasslands of Scorzoneretalia villosae (= Scorzonero- Chrysopogonetalia) order, rich in species, even phytogeografic value, endemic, or rare. The orchids are very common (Ophrys holoserica, Anacamptis coriophora, A pyramidalis)	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural and semi-natural grassland communities Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with Salix eleagnos. Habitat Code 3240	Ø	Rivers woods with Salix elaeagnos and S. purpurea, always dominant on other tree species.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi). Habitat code 1410	Ø	Various Mediterranean communities of the Juncetalia maritimi. The association of tall rush saltmarshes is dominated by Juncus maritimus and/or J. acutus is common in the area.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae). Habitat Code 1320	Ø	Perennial halophytes communities with Spartina maritima, regularly flooded by high tides	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand. Habitat code 1310	Ø	Formations composed mostly or predominantly of annuals, in particular Chenopodiaceae of the genus Salicornia or grasses, colonising periodically inundated muds and sands of marine or interior salt marshes.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I.
Annual vegetation of drift lines. Habitat code 1210	Ø	Communities of annuals or representatives of annuals and perennials, occupying accumulations of drift material rich in nitrogenous organic matter (Cakiletea maritimae).	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
Estuaries. Habitat code 1130	V	Downstream part of a river valley, subject to the tide and extending from the limit of brackish waters.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. Habitat Code 1140	V	Sandy and muddy seabed emerged at low tide, without vegetation with vascular plants. Only emerging parts may have Zostera noltii community	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Coastal and halophytic habitats. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous (Sarcocornetiea fruticosi). Habitat code 1420	V	Perennial vegetation of marine saline muds (schorre) mainly composed of scrub (genera Sarcocornia and Arthocnemum).	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). They represent the habitat for nesting of many birds.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. Habitat code 1110	V	Sandbanks permanently submerged by waters whose level rarely exceeds 20 m. They may form an underwater prolongation of sandy coasts.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Coastal and halophytic habitats. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
Mediterranean tall humid herb grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoenion. Habitat code 6420	Ø	Mediterranean humid grasslands of tall grasses and rushes, widespread in clay- sand soils, in particular in dunal systems.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural and semi-natural grassland communities - Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of SAC
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho- Batrachion vegetation. Habitat code 3260	Ø	Rivers characterized by perennial herbaceous community with few aquatic macrophytes species that have emerged flowering, as Ranunculus trichophyllus, Potamogeton sp.pl., Callitriche sp.pl. and Berula erecta.	EU Habitat Directive Annex I. Natural habitat of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Here they are represented by canals and ditches.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The Site is an important biogenetic reserve since it is at a biogeographical junction Continental/Illyrian (Mediterranean-Balkan) and geomorphological (low shores near the high shores of calcareous cliffs) junction in an area strongly altered by human activity. About 50 hectares of previously cultivated land (La Cona), have been flooded again and are managed for its educational and research and visitor use under the Wetland Centre. This area hosts a wide variety of animal and plant species and represents typical features for the landscape.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine	or coa	stal wetla	inds

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1	589	Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)		2	490	Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		4	69	Representative
F: Estuarine waters		2	198	Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		1	97	Representative
H: Intertidal marshes		2	114	Rare

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		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1		Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		1		Rare
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands		4		
Fresh water > Flowing water >> Y: Permanent Freshwater springs; oases		1		

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
2: Ponds		2	
3: Irrigated land		1	
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		2	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Anacamptis laxiflora	Euro-Mediterranean species of humid grasslands, on neutral or acid soils, up to 1,200 m.s.m. In general, it is decreased significantly due to a progressive decline of relevant habitats.
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Anacamptis palustris	Euro-Mediterranean species of humid grasslands, on neutral or acid soils, up to 500 m. In general, it is decreased significantly due to a progressive decline of relevant habitats.
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Galanthus nivalis	NT in IUCN Red List. LC in Italian Red List. In Italy is common in their typical habitat.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Hottonia palustris	LC in IUCN Red List.
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Plantago cornuti	Asia and northern Mediterranean area. In Italy, it is found in low coastal areas of the northern Adriatic sea only, where it is a marked decrease. Still widespread in some types of salty grasslands site.
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Ruscus aculeatus	NT in IUCN Red List. LC in Italian Red List. In Italy, it is common in many woods habitat.

Invasive alien plant species		
Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Acer negundo	Actual (major impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Actual (major impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Amorpha fruticosa	Actual (major impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Fallopia multiflora ciliinervis	Actual (major impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	Lemna minuta	Actual (major impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Lonicera japonica	Actual (major impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Robinia pseudoacacia	Actual (minor impacts)
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	Symphyotrichum graminifolium	Actual (minor impacts)

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/MAMMALIA	Arvicola amphibius				
CHORDATA/LEPTOCARDII	Branchiostoma lanceolatum				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Capreolus capreolus				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Carabus coriaceus				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Eptesicus serotinus				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Meles meles				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Neomys anomalus				
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Pelophylax kurtmuelleri				
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Pelophylax lessonae				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Piesma cinereum				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Pipistrellus kuhlii				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Pipistrellus nathusii				
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	Podarcis siculus				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Stenella coeruleoalba				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Sus scrofa				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Esox lucius				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Rutilus karamani				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Scardinius erythrophthalmus				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Tinca tinca				
CHORDATA/AVES	Asio flammeus				
CHORDATA/AVES	Bubulcus ibis				
CHORDATA/AVES	Cisticola juncidis				
CHORDATA/AVES	Milvus migrans				

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Myocastor coypus	Actual (major impacts)	
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	Trachemys venusta cataspila	Actual (minor impacts)	
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Gambusia holbrooki	Actual (minor impacts)	
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	Procambarus clarkii	Actual (minor impacts)	
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Pseudorasbora parva	Actual (minor impacts)	
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Silurus glanis	Actual (minor impacts)	

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfa: Humid subtropical (Mild with no dry season, hot summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)	4
a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in setting metres))
	Entire river basin
	Upper part of river basin 🛛
	Middle part of river basin 🗖
	Lower part of river basin 🗹
Ν	Nore than one river basin \Box
	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 wetland is included in the river Isonzo basin that covers about 3,400 square kilometers. Only the lower part is in Italy (about 1,500 square kilometers in province of Gorizia), the upper part is in Slovenia. The area includes the delta and the Adriatic Sea waters. The river Isonzo has four main tributaries and is 129 km in length. The upper section of the river (in Slovenia) includes the eastern part of Alpi Giulie (mainly calcareous) and further south the areas characterized by flysch substrates. About 28 km of the river floodplain is located in the Italian territory, bordering the karstic plateau. The floodplain is divided by a line of spring water separating the upper part characterized by gravel and sand substrates and the lower part essentially consisting of clay-loam and silty-loam.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral 🗹 Organic 🗆 No available information 🗌

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The Main soil types are:

- Recent alluvial gravel near the river bed, particularly in the upper part of plain;
- Sands and fine calcareous and dolomitic sands of river terraces and of floodplain;
- Clayey soils with a fair amount of organic matter in the freshwater wetlands;
- Clayey and loamy soils with organic matter into the tidal plains and with sandy coastal deposits.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence	
Presence?	
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintain	s character of the site	
Presence?	Presence? Predominant water source	
Water inputs from surface water		No change
Marine water	×	No change

Water destination

Presence?
To downstream catchment No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Even before human interventions, the Isonzo River has shaped the eastern part of Po Valley. Inside the Reserve and in its close proximity there can be observed several paleo channels and beds, which demonstrate the former flow of the river. In the upper part of the Reserve, the river is characterized by a large bed with gravel and shallow waters, which regime is strongly affected by the rain. The final stretch gets smaller and the gravel deposits disappear at a depth of 12 m. Once the mouth was made by two river branches of Cona Island: the Sdobba on the west and the Quarantia on the east. A sand and gravel bar with emerging islets is present in the mouth. During the last decades, cliffs works were built along the dams to prevent soil erosion, but natural erosion also occurs on the sandbanks and along the coastal stretch of the Reserve. Most of the surrounding cultivated lands are constantly drained by pumping plants. The drained waters reach the sea through the draining channels system.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site 📝

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site \Box

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) Alkaline (pH>7.4)

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) 🜌

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) 🗹

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)

Unknown 🗖

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

The salinity of Mediterranean sea is equal to 37,50/00. Whereas in waters near Cona Island it decreases to 35,00/00 for the limnic inputs of Isonzo river and of Timavo river (underground river). The saline wedge increases again relating to tide until 6/7 km. into the hinterland.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic 🗹 Mesotrophic 🗌 Oligotrophic 🗐 Dystrophic 🗐

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 i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different Site itself: 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:

The surrounding area (almost consisting in its entirety of private property) results intensely cultivated (while maintaining suitable conditions to the winter feeding of geese).

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisi	Provisioning Services				
Ec	cosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance		
F	Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium		

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreation and tourism Nature observation and nature-based tourism	
Scientific and educational Educational activities and opportunities		Low

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance	
	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants,		
Biodiversity	animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they	High	
	form a part		

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?

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

Description if applicable

The Site is one of the northern remains of coastal marshes system that used to extend over more than 250 km, from Monfalcone's district through the Venetian coastline all the way to the mouth of River Po; and across several kilometres, from freshwater hinterland to the sea. This complex of ecosystems was destroyed or rigged by draining of marshes in the '30s and in the '40s (with legacy until the '80s) of the last century. Before the draining, there were some small local communities of hunters/fishermen reliant on resources. These communities later became urbanized in the village of Punta Sdobba, near the lsonzo river mouth. In the meantime, the new agricultural lands were given to settlers coming from other parts of Italy. Until now there is no close relationship between the resident inhabitants into the neighbouring drained areas and those of the wetland. Among the legacies of traditional ways of life are the landscape features of the neighbouring Lagoon of Grado, such as islets made by reinforced sandbanks (called "mote") and spontaneous architecture houses with reeds roofs (called "casoni").

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

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	×	×	
Provincial/region/state government	×		
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	Ø		

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	×	V

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Inside the Ramsar site: 20% is made up of private properties (mainly hinterlands agricultural areas, river terraces and wooded areas). 50% is made up of state properties (marine areas especially); the remaining 30% is Powers of the Region and of local municipality (sandbanks, tidal plain and part of the river primarily). Contiguous areas to the site are private.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:	The manager organ of Regionale Natural Reserve Foce dell'Isonzo; Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia
Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	Riccardo Marchesan - Major of Staranzano Municipaliy (GO)
Postal address:	Piazza Dante Alighieri, 26 - 34079 Staranzano (GO) - Italy
E-mail address:	sindaco@com-staranzano.regione.fvg.it

Within the site

In the surrounding area

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)

V

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Housing and urban areas	Low impact	Low impact	×	
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	×	V

Nater regulation		
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat
Canalisation and river		

Canalisation and river regulation	High impact	unknown impact	×	×.
Agriculture and aquaculture				

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Annual and perennial non- timber crops	Medium impact	Medium impact	×	

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Roads and railroads	Low impact	Low impact	×	X

Human intrusions and disturbance					
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area	
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	×	×	

Natural system modifications				
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified/others	Medium impact	Medium impact	1	X

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	Medium impact	×	×

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Habitat shifting and alteration	Medium impact	Medium impact	×	×
Storms and flooding	Low impact	Low impact	S	×

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	IT3330005 ZSC "Foce dell'Isonzo - Isola della Cona"	http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/ Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=IT33300 05	partly

National legal designations			
Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Ramsar site designation	Foce dell'Isonzo – Isola della Cona		whole
Regional Nature Reserve	Foce dell'Isonzo	www.parks.it/riserva.foce.isonzo	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	IT063 Isonzo mouth, Cona island and Panzano Gulf	http://datazone.birdlife.org/sit e/factsheet/isonzo-mouth-cona-is land- and-panzano-gulf-iba-italy	partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve 📝

- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
 - Il 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

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal	protection
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Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status	
Threatened/rare species	Partially implemented	
management programmes	r aniany implemented	

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented

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 O No ()

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning Yes O No processes with another Contracting Party?

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Cona Island has a visitor center with three buildings. Two of them are used as birds and their habitat watching station. The biggest one includes a museum with dioramas, an aquarium with an underwater view, a shop, laboratory, guesthouse and Reserve staff offices. The neighbouring area has paths for the visitors, shielding for observation of the horse farm. The Site one of the most important birdwatching places in central Europe and in the northern Mediterranean - it is perfectly equipped for this purpose. Educational and environmental activities are regularly carried out by specialized staff. The wetland center of Cona Island is an example of a sustainable architecture. Since 2006 it has been self-sustaining with the use of solar, photovoltaic energy and a biomass power plant.

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 species (please specify)	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

RA FVG, 2007. Piano di Conservazione e Sviluppo della R N R della Foce dell'Isonzo. (Foce dell'Isonzo Nature Reserve Conservation and Development Plan)

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6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3) <1 file(s) uploaded

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

iv relevant Article 3.2 reports

v. site management plan

vi. other published literature

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Calidris alpina at the Isonzo





melanocephalus) on tidal flats (Matteo De Luca, 06-07-2012)

Grey lag goose (Anser anser and Greater white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons) near the watching and rest point of Cona Island (*Matteo De* Luca 14-01-2008

eet water restorations or Cona Island (Mat a, 16-11-2007)









Tidal flats (Matteo De Luca 08-02-2016)

Halophilous reeds near

22-12-2017)

2008)

Caneo (Matteo De Luca

et water restorations or Cona Island (Matteo Luca, 12-08-2016)

Cona Island's photo with regeneration areas. The fresh and brackish water marshes along the river barren, high tide velvet and open sea in the background. 06-2007)

Camarque horses and Cattle egrets (Bubulcus ibis) on a veet water restoration on Cona Island (Matteo D Luca, 12-08-2011)



Dunlin (Calidris alpina) at th mouth (Matteo De Luca , 21-04-2011)

Sandbanks and tidal flats (eo De Luca 2015)

European shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) near the Isonzo mouth (Matteo De Luca, 21-06 2008)

Isonzo River, near his

mouth (Mat o De Luca 03-12-2011)

Grey lag goose (Anser anser) and Greater white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons) on the farmland adjoining the Site (Matteo De Luca , 18 01-2012

Grazed humid grasslands (Matteo De Luca , 30-03-2014)



Environmental restoration (Matteo De Luca, 04-08 2016)

Additional material, S6 - Page 1

)

Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata), the species choosen as symbol for the protected area. (Matteo De Luca 20-01-2010)

Bottlenose dolphi (Tursiops truncatus) in sea waters off the Isonzo mouth (Matteo De Luca, 12-04-

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter <1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2018-07-10