

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

— 2006-2008 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Małgorzata Walczak, Grzegorz Rąkowski
and Jadwiga Sienkiewicz
Institute of Environmental Protection,
00-548 Warsaw

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

21.03.2007

DD MM YY		

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

3. Country:

Poland

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

**“Warta River Mouth” National Park, former “Słońsk” Nature Reserve
(Park Narodowy “Ujście Warty”)**

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
ii) the area has been extended ; or
iii) the area has been reduced**

**** Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

No major changes in the ecological character of the site occurred from the time of the previous RIS.

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an **electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary of the Ramsar site is the same as of the existing National Park.

8. Geographical coordinates: (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes)

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

52°33'–52°39' N, 14°39'–15°00' E, approx. centre 52°36' N - 14°47' E

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

The wetland is situated in western Poland, close to German border, in Lubuskie Voivodeship, near Kostrzyń on Odra River.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

115.8 m. above sea level

11. Area: (in hectares) 7956 ha

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The National Park “Warta River Mouth” (NPWRM) is situated in the Toruń-Eberswalde Old Glacial Valley and constitutes one of the most important bird area not only in Poland but also in Central Europe. The area embraces floodplains of Warta river around its outlet to Odra, the lower portion of Postomia river and the low terrace of Warta river. The former ornithological Słońsk Reserve is now within the Park. The Park has characteristic open landscape of temporarily inundated meadows and pastures dotted with willow shrubs and crisscrossed by a dense network of river arms, ditches, canals, oxbows and small reservoirs. The Warta river bed separates the area into northern- (Northern Polder) and southern part around the Kostrzyń Retention Reservoir. Annual fluctuation in Warta river water level may reach 3.5 m and regular flooding favours the development of special vegetation of reedbeds, willow shrub and wet meadows. Such habitats create excellent conditions for supporting one of the largest at European scale, concentration of waterfowl. The site was selected in consideration of huge numbers of migratory and wintering avifauna gathering every year on Warta floodplains. Usually these numbers exceed 100 000 individuals. The Park consists of three protective ranges: Chyrzyno, Słońsk and Northern Polder.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

1. Site contains a representative example of a semi-natural wetland in the broad floodplain of medium-size lowland river. The place has retained much of its original character of former inland delta covered by vast wetlands and overgrown with riparian forests. However, at the end of 18th and in 19th century large hydrotechnical work was done consisting in draining of the river valley, construction of levees on the northern and southern banks of Warta river and in building of a several kilometer long channel which today constitutes a mouth reach of the river. On the southern bank of Warta a large retention reservoir was build where hydrographical conditions have been preserved in a most natural shape.

The Park area is important for supporting vulnerable habitats threatened with extinction at European scale, such as Natura 2000 sites of the Habitat Directive: (3270) muddy river banks with *Chenopodium rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p.; (3150) natural eutrophic lakes with *Hydrocharition* – type vegetation; (2330) inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands vegetation.

2. The site is important for it supports 64 bird species vulnerable and endangered at European scale, with at least 17 taxa listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The most significant and most rare species, in addition to the globally endangered aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, include such birds as spotted crane *Porzana porzana*, shoveler *Anas clypeata*, corncrake *Crex crex*, little gull *Larus minutus*, little tern *Sterna albifrons*, common tern *S. hirundo*, whiskered tern *Chlidonias hybrida*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and night heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*.

In addition, 15 birds species found at the site are listed by the Polish Red Data Book of Animals. It is also one of most important breeding sites in Poland for gadwall *Anas strepera*, black cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, garganey *A. querquedula*, mallard *A. platyrhynchos*, red-crested pochard *Netta rufina*, greylag goose *Anser anser* (240 – 250 pairs).

The Park is also important for survival of rare and critically endangered plant species as e.g. *Thesium ebracteatum*, listed by the Annex II to Habitat Directive. Noteworthy is also the presence of two red listed plants: *Nymphaea candida* and *Nymphoides peltata* (Polish Red Data Book of Plants).

4. The NPWRM is very important since it provides safe shelter for large numbers of avifauna at critical life stages of moulting and flight-feather exchange, especially for populations of ducks (shoveler *Anas clypeata*, teal *A. crecca*, wigeon *A. penelope*, mallard *A. platyrhynchos*), coot *Fulica atra*, crane *Grus grus*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*. During the breeding season the site supports up to 14000 pairs of pochard *Aythya ferina* and up to 250 pairs of greylag goose *Anser anser*. The site also supports these and many other waterfowl during winter.

The site is of significance in view of Criterion 4 as it constitutes one of nationally most important resting places for migrating avifauna gathering in flocks of many thousands. The most numerous populations have: whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, bean goose *Anser fabalis*, white-fronted goose *A. albifrons*, greylag goose *A. anser*, wigeon *Anas penelope*, mallard *A. platyrhynchos*, teal *A. crecca*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *A. fuligula*, coot *Fulica atra*, crane *Grus grus* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax*.

The wetland is regarded as being internationally significant since it provides one of the best wintering sites for white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* in Europe.

Vast spring flooding in the wetland provides one of the most important spawning sites for fishes in Western Poland.

5. Waterfowl concentration in the Park exceeds 20 000 individuals. During spring and autumn migrations gather there such species e.g. bean goose *Anser fabalis* – about 100000, white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* – about 60000, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* up to 40000 individuals and coot *Fulica atra* – up 20000

individuals. Altogether the site may host above 250000 of water birds at a time during the spring and autumn migration.

6. The site is of international significance for supporting 1 and more percent of the individuals in a population of waterbirds. It is a major gathering site supporting at least above 9 % of the Central and South-Western European populations of bean goose *Anser fabalis* (50000 wintering individuals) and more than 1% of the N-W European population of coot *Fulica atra* (19300 individuals). During spring and autumn migrations gather there such birds as: bean goose *Anser fabalis* up to 130000 individuals; more than 20% of the population on migration tract of the white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* up to 60000 individuals; 4% of the migrating population of mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (40000 individuals) and whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (more than 2600 individuals) for more than 4% of migrating populations. tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (up to more than 9 000 individuals – above 1 % of the Central European population). In winter the site supports a considerable percent of the Baltic population of white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (ca 2%) i.e. up to 50 individuals. Data according to information provided by the Park Management and “IBAs of EU Importance in Poland” 2004.

Reference book for the thresholds %: 4th edition of Waterbirds population Estimates-

8. In spring when the water level in Warta and Postomia rivers is usually the highest, vast tracts of flood water provide a very good spawning ground for fishes: *Salmo salar* and *Salmo trutta* m. *trutta*. The Park provides a most important site for both species in the whole lower Warta and middle Odra. These rivers constitute migrating corridors for the two above species whose spawning nests have been observed every year since its reintroduction into Drawa River in 1985.

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

continental - according to EEA,

geobotanical region of deciduous forests - according to Kondracki,

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Geobotanical region of deciduous forests of Central Europe at the edge of the East-European region of mixed forests (boreal) – according to the Polish regionalisation by Jerzy Kondracki, 2001: Regional geography of Poland. The region embraces eastern part of Denmark, southernmost Sweden, central and north-eastern Germany and most of the territory of Poland except for its two mountain ranges (Alpine region) and the north-eastern edge of the country, belonging to sub-boreal or East-European mixed forest biogeographic region.

According to EEA – the region is identified as “continental” (EEA publication 2002: Europe’s biodiversity – biogeographical regions and seas).

Eastern Europe - Waterbird Population Estimates, Wetland International 2002.

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The wetland lies in the Lower Warta Valley, in Gorzów Valley, within the former river delta, later transformed into one mouth discharging into Odra river. The Gorzów Valley was formed as a result of merging of two valleys of Warta and Noteć rivers in the postglacial period.

The valley is filled in with peats overlying a bed of sands and covered by wet meadows, beds of sedges, grasses - *Glyceria* spp and *Phalaris arundinacea* as well as by willow shrubs. Formerly the area was drained and relics of that activity remained as ditches, canals and dikes. In some places dry dunes with xerotherm vegetation (Czarnowska Hill) protrude over the area. Local climate has a distinct maritime character with temperatures lower than country averages. The majority of soils are hydrogenic peats and muds but other soil types are also encountered including grey-brown podsol soils, podsol, rusty podsol, brown and black soils. Warta river together with its leftside tributary – Postomia and small river Racza Struga combine to create the hydrological network of the Park along with numerous canals, oxbows and ditches. The largest oxbow Old Warta flows through the northern part of the Park, it was formerly (before 17th century) one the most

important beds of the river. The dam at the left side of Warta is situated further aside from the river bed thus flooding water spills freely over the meadows. This area stays under water over the larger part of the year. The northern part of the Park, called the Northern Polder, is separated from Warta river by a massive dam. Water accumulating in this reservoir is being pumped to Warta river and the water levels remains stable and lower than in the wetland southern part. In the Polder landscape the prevailing surface is taken by meadows cut by oxbows and canals. The water level and surface within the site are subject to strong fluctuations, at times the water stretch is 10 km wide covering the whole valley. Annual fluctuations of water table may reach up to 4 m what is conditioned mainly by the water level in Odra river. The water level usually rises in late autumn and remains stable over winter. The highest water usually occurs in March/April and can last over 10 weeks. Later water level decreases and lowest levels can be observed from August to October.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The catchment of the Park embraces a part of Odra and Warta basins. Other important rivers include: Noteć, Postomia and Obra. These rivers with their tributaries create river network of the region. The landscape is flat and dominated by meadows and pastures. Regional climate is shaped by the inflow of marine air masses. Average temperatures are lower than the respective averages for the country. Precipitation is low and decreasing from west to east from 550 mm to less than 500 mm. Vegetation period is long: 210 – 220 days. The soil fertility is not high; most widespread are meadow peat, mud, podsol, rusty podsols and brown soils.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The reservoirs of NPMWR play important role as storage reservoirs for flood control in the lower course of Odra river. The levees and other hydrotechnical facilities ensuring flood safety remain under control of the Regional Water Management Division. These facilities and the river bed require maintenance in an adequate technical state. In the area activities are conducted to ensure a free flow of water and ice.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar “Classification System for Wetland Type” present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • **Zk(a)**

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • **Zk(b)**

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • **Zk(c)**

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

P, Ts, U, W, Xp 4, 6, 9

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The vegetation cover is strictly dependent upon flooding. Without local depressions the area is vulnerable to rapid desiccation as soon as flood waters disappear what leads to demise of aquatic and reedbed vegetation. Along the shores of Warta and Postomia, in canals and oxbows there develop simple aquatic plant communities with *Lemna minor*, *L. gibba*, *L. trisulca* and *Spirodela polyrhiza*. These habitats are also occupied by partially submerged species *Nuphar lutea* and *Nymphaea alba* – both under protection in Poland.

Muddy banks are quickly colonized by the communities of pioneering annual plants and aggregations of *Chenopodium rubrum* and *Bidens* spp. Vast tracts of dense reedbeds of *Phalaris* and *Glyceria* develop on heavily inundated sites. They are of great significance for biocoenotic life in the Park providing hiding places for moulting and flight-feather changing birds (geese, cranes). Woodland and shrub communities are represented by groups of *Salix* spp. growing within the reach of the middle water levels, patches of *Salix-Populus* woods and shrubs of *Salix cinerea* more abundantly found in the southern portion of the site. Meadows have significant share in the local vegetation cover, being non-intensively used as pastures for cattle. In the southern part of the Park, *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands developed on sandy soils of Czarnowska Hill.

The contribution of ruderal communities is so far insignificant, anthropogenic assemblages of plants appear only occasionally on road verges and bridges.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Plants of special care include: a rare and vulnerable to extinction aquatic species *Zannichelia palustris*, which can be found in only one place in the Park, in addition to other vulnerable water plants: *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Polygonum brittingeri* and *Batrachium trichophyllum*. Two of aquatic species: *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar lutea* are legally protected in Poland. Noteworthy is also the presence of two red listed plants: *Nymphaea candida* and *Nymphoides peltata* (Polish Red Data Book of Plants).

Typical of the site are such species as: *Rorippa amphibia*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Schoenoplectus lacustris* and sedges – *Carex elata*, *C. acutiformis* and *C. riparia*.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds. The wetland, owing to its vast flooded areas, supports more than 250 species of which more than 170 are breeding birds. The site has special significance for waterfowl whose nesting places sites are shrinking elsewhere. 17 taxa are listed in Annex I of Birds Directive as threatened with extinction, including: bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, little bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, black stork *Ciconia nigra*, white stork *C. ciconia*, great white egret *Egretta alba*, red kite *Milvus milvus*, little crane *Porzana parva*, corncrake *Crex crex*, ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, white-winged black tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, little tern *Sterna albifrons*, little gull *Larus minutus*, golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and crane *Grus grus*.

The numbers of migrating waterfowl gathering at the site exceed 100 thous, and sometimes even 200 thous (IBAs of Eu importance in Poland 2004), it thus represents one of the largest wintering site in Europe. bean goose *Anser fabalis* and white-fronted goose *A. albifrons* were observed to concentrate in flocks of 78 thous in autumn and 33 thous in spring.

Mammals. 38 species were noted in the wetland including 11 predatory species, such as *Vulpes vulpes*, *Meles meles*, *Lutra lutra*, *Mustela nivalis*, *M. erminea*, *Martes foina*, *M. martes* and *Marmota marmota*. Three of the predators are invasive and difficult to control – *Nyctereutes procyonoides*, *Procyon lotor* and *Mustela vison*, the latter species making especially great damage to broods in the wetland.

The wetland is important for *Castor fiber* (listed in Annex II to Habitat Directive H.D.) – recently 70 families of beavers were recorded in the Park. The game is also abundant, wet willow shrubs providing shelter for numerous wild boars, deers and roe-deers.

The site supports large populations of **amphibians** (9 species regularly present) – in particular of frogs, such as *Rana ridibunda* and *Rana esculenta* as well as toads – *Bufo bufo* and *B. viridis*. *Bombina bombina* (species vulnerable to extinction at European scale) has significant population in the Park. Two of the reptiles – *Lacerta agilis* and *Natrix natrix* are legally protected.

Fishes. Ichthyofauna is very rich with dominating species of the carp family – *Abramis brama* and *Carassius carassius*. *Esox lucius* has important population in the flooded areas and at the mouth of Postomia river. Important populations have also predatory fishes, such as *Perca fluviatilis* and *Lucioperca lucioperca*.

Several of the fish species are protected in Poland and/or listed in the Annex II to Habitat Directive, including: *Rhodeus sericeus* (H.D.), *Misgurnus fossilis* (H.D.), *Cobitis aurata*, *Alburnoides bipunctatus*, *Leucaspis delineatus* and *Neomachilus barbatulus*.

The site is also important for such rare fish species as *Vimba vimba*, *Chondrostoma nasus*, *Pungitius pungitius* and *Abramis ballerus*. As was mentioned under Par 14, river Warta provides migration way for Atlantic species *Salmo salar* and for *Salmo trutta* morpha *trutta* whose spawning nest are in Drawa river, further north of the site. They come to spawn in Warta floodplains in spring and the wetland is their most important breeding place in the lower Warta and middle Odra river.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

The area of NPWMR has not been settled since wide and swampy valley has always been an inhabitable ground inaccessible to man. No artifacts of religious importance were found. The site has general importance as fishery production and extensive agriculture.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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:

The site is close to be a kind of model of wetland wise use at the time being since the Park Management has initiated activities to maintain the traditional agricultural methods in the area and its surroundings, in particular to restore cattle grazing and hay making, and low intensity agriculture by way of land lease to local farmers, recently about 6 thous ha embraced by contracts under agrienvironmental agreements.

- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The State Treasury has about 99% of the area, only 68 ha belongs to private owners (about 1% - 68 ha).

b) in the surrounding area:

Most of the land is owned by the State Treasury but is managed by many agencies, such as Regional Water Management Division, Agency of Agricultural Property of the State Treasury, Forestry Management Offices at Ośno and Dębno, some of the land belong to private owners.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The Park area is used for tourism (natural tourism, angling) for non-intensive agricultural purposes (cattle grazing, haymaking)

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The land outside the Park is used for agriculture and for forestry.

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The Park is at risk of water deficit in the Warta river catchment.

A negative impact on the Park nature may result from disturbances to birds caused by anglers, photographers and nature watchers. Another threat to waterbirds is increased predation of *Mustela vison* escaping from adjacent breeding farms.

b) in the surrounding area:

The surrounding area is affected by water deficit, what may result in significant changes in habitats. Another factor affecting birds is hunting and geese grazing.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

- Nature Reserve Słoński since 1977,
- Ramsar Site Słoński since 1984 (4,235 ha),
- Landscape Park "Warta River Mouth" with a buffer zone established in 1996,
- National Park "Warta River Mouth" with a buffer zone established in 2001; (7 955. 86 ha),
- Ramsar Site: National Park "Warta River Mouth" (7 955. 86 ha),
- Natura 2000 Site "Warta River Mouth" PLB080001; (33 017.8 ha).

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

No

d) Describe any other current management practices:

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

National Park "Warta River Mouth" likewise the former Reserve "Słoński" has always been a site of interest, owing to its unique hydrological situation, for researchers, mainly ornithologists, from various universities both from within and outside the country.

In Chyrzyno a Centre was built of the Park Management, Ecological Education and Research. Main activities involve the monitoring of breeding and migrating birds as well as monitoring of predators and study on the status of *Mustela vison*.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Educational activity is conducted by the Education Centre in Chyrzyno, at the Park Management Headquarters. The Centre has an excellent facility for training and conferences, a room for practical activities enabling the participation of 20 persons and a laboratory. The Centre provides visitors with the information and publications on the Park.

Next to the Park Management building are situated other objects established for educational purposes:

- Educational trail: "Natural Garden of Senses",

- Educational trail “Wetlands”,
- Glass covered viewing tower,
- Water pumping station – technical monument,
- Fire place with facilities,
- Mechanical-biological wastewater treatment plant.

Offer of educational activities includes:

- Interpretation and slide presentation on natural values of National Park “Warta River Mouth”,
- Excursions, activity in the field,
- Field and laboratory workshops,
- Field and laboratory activities for youngest children (I-III grade).

Within the Park 4 educational trails were marked leading across the most attractive areas.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

The Park receives annually around 20 thous visitors and this numbers increases every year. Owing to the specificity of the wetland and due to lack of standard tourist attractions the dominating tourism is natural and educational tourism. Particular large groups of visitors constitute bird watchers from western countries, and from Germany in particular. Until now there are no nationally marked walking paths, however there are roads accessible for walkers and bikers.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

The Park is situated in Lubuskie Voivodeship and is subject to the administration of the Minister of Environment.

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

The Park is managed by the Director of the National Park “Warta River Mouth”.

Address:

Park Narodowy “Ujście Warty”

Chyrzyno 1, 69-113 Górzycy, Poland.

34. Bibliographical references:

- Agapow L. (red.). 1992. Flora i fauna rezerwatu przyrody “Słońsk”. (Flora and fauna of the Słońsk nature reserve – in Polish).
- Bartoszewicz M., Wypychowski K. 2002. Dane niepubl. – PN Ujście Warty. (Unpublished data on the Warta Mouth National Park).
- Engel J. 2007 Personal communication.
- Ehrnsberger R., Dabert J. Błaszak C. (red.). 1999. Przyroda rezerwatu Słońsk. ACARUS, Poznań. (Nature of the Słońsk reserve – in Polish).
- Głowaciński Z. (red.). 2001. Polska czerwona księga zwierząt. Kręgowce. PWRiL, Warszawa. (Polish Red Data Book of Animals).
- Gromadzki M. et al. 1994. Ostoje ptaków w Polsce. Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków, Biblioteka Monitoringu Środowiska, Gdańsk. (Bird sites in Poland)
- Gromadzki M. (red.) 2004. Ptaki. Poradnik ochrony siedlisk i gatunków Natura 2000 – podręcznik metodyczny. Ministerstwo Środowiska, Warszawa. Tom 7 (część I), Tom 8 (część II).

- Jermaczek A., Czwołga T., Krzyśków T., Stańko R. 1993. Ptaki Kostrzyńskiego Zbiornika Retencyjnego w latach 1990-92. (Birds of the Kostrzyn Retention Reservoir in the years 1990-92 –in Polish).
- Liro A., Dyduch-Falniowska A. 1999. Natura 2000 - Europejska Sieć Ekologiczna. MOŚZNIL, Warszawa.
- Plan zagospodarowania rezerwatu przyrody Słońsk dla potrzeb turystyki kwalifikowanej i edukacji przyrodniczej. 1997. Chyrzyno (Management planning for qualified tourism and ecological education in the Słońsk reserve – in Polish).
- Polska Czerwona Księga Roślin. 2001. Instytut Ochrony Przyrody im W. Szafera. Kraków 2001. (Polish Red Data Book of Plants - in Polish).
- Staszewski A., Czaraszkiwicz R. 2001. Rozmieszczenie i liczebność gęsi w Polsce podczas jesiennej migracji i zimowania w latach 1991-1997. Not. Orn. (42) 1: 15-35.(Distribution and population numbers of geese during autumn migration and wintering in the years 1991-1997 – in Polish).
- Siodło P.P., Błaszowska B., Chylarecki P. 2004 Ostoje ptaków o znaczeniu europejskim w Polsce. OTOP Warszawa. (Bird sites of European importance in Poland – in Polish).
- Waterbird Population Estimates, Fourth Edition Wetland International 2006.
- Walczak M., Radziejowski J., Smogorzewska M., Sienkiewicz J., Gacka-Grzesikiewicz E., Pisarski Z. 2001. Obszary chronione w Polsce. IOŚ, III wyd., Warszawa. (Designated areas in Poland).
- Wójcik B. 2002. Sieć ostoi ptaków w Polsce. Wdrażanie Dyrektywy Unii Europejskiej o Ochronie Dzikich Ptaków. OTOP, Gdańsk.
- Wypychowski K. Personal information.
- <http://natura2000.mos.gov.pl/natura2000/pl/>
- <http://www.ramsar.org/>

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
 Telephone: +41 221 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org