

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands  
Słońsk Reserve

1. Country: Poland
2. Date: 23 August 1991
3. No ref. : P0002
4. Name and address of compiler:
5. Name of wetland:  
Słońsk Reserve
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 3 January 1984
7. Geographical coordinates:  
52°33' - 52° 36' N      14°39' - 14°49' E
8. General location:  
The Słońsk Community, Gorzów Province, nearest larger town  
Kostrzyń on the Odra River.
9. Area:  
4234.68 ha including 1097.38 ha under strict protection.
10. Wetland type:  
Artificial reservoir and surrounding Warta River floodplains  
with marshlands, meadows and pastures, the winding Postomil  
River in the vicinity of the confluence of Warta and Odra  
Rivers.      M O S U X 69
11. Altitude:  
10.20 - 15.60 m a.s.l.
12. Overview:  
Flooded meadows and pastures in the Warta floodplain inter-  
sected by numerous drainage ditches. Artificial water reservoir  
with a surface of about 5 100 ha entirely inundated at the  
high water period; at low water level - about 100 ha of water  
sheet. Nature reserve for protecting migrating and wintering  
waterfowl.
13. Physical features:  
The site is underlain by alluvial deposits. Soils are mud  
and peat. The artificial retention reservoir remains under  
the impact of Warta River /the whole basin 54 024 km<sup>2</sup>/ and,  
partially, depends on Odra River.

Water pollution in the reservoir - moderate, in Warta and Odra Rivers - heavy. Water level fluctuations - extensive, frequent but irregular with the annual amplitude of up to 4 m. The water depth, depending on the flooding level is usually less than 2 m. Climate - transitional with oceanic influences predominating, the average annual air temperature is 7.9°C, in January -1.5°C and in July +17.7°C. Annual precipitation is 530 mm.

14. Physical features:

(ECOL. FEA.)

The vegetation of the reserve depends largely on the water level. During dry years there dominate reed canary grass /*Phalaris arundinacea*/, floating sweetgrass /*Glyceria fluitans*/, tripartite bur marigold /*Eidene tripartitus*/; great yellow cr /*Rorippa amphibia*/, great water dock /*Rumex hydrolapathum*/ and various smart weeds /*Polygonum spp.*/ prevailing during wet years. Major plant communities comprise: *Cenantho-Rorippetum*, *Glycerietum maximae*, *Phalaridetum arundinaceae*, *Caricetum rostratae*, *Caricetum gracilis*, *Eidentetum tripartiti*, *Deschampsietum caespitosae* and woodland associations of *Salicetum albofragilis* and *Cerici elongatae-Alnetum*.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

- a/ site:reservoir is State owned, neighbouring grounds - State or communal property
- b/ surrounding area:divided - the waters: State owned while land is either communal, private or State proper

16. Conservation measures taken:

The area is protected as a nature reserve established under the order of the Minister of Forestry and Wood Industry of 21 July 1977 /Monitor Polski 1977 No 19 poz. 107/ and since that time the reserve boundaries remain unchanged. The conservation measures taken include: installation of artificial nes for greylag goose and mallard as well as planting of willows.

17. Conservation measures propped but not yet implemented:

The management plan for the reserve is under preparation to be ready in 1992.



18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

- a/ site: extensive cattle grazing, haymaking, angling and fishing, geese hunting.
- b/ surroundings/catchment: as in the site and, in addition extensive farming activities.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

- a/ at the site: no major threats were reported though potentially, uncontrolled, intensive angling and touristic penetration may pose certain threat in addition to the excessive grazing of domestic geese.
- b/ in the surroundings: the regulation of Warta River including construction of new retention reservoirs upstream e.g. Jeziersko Reservoir; water pollution.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

The reservoir is used as retention basin at the time of flooding and for collecting water pumped from polders.

21. Social and cultural values:

Recreation and angling site for local population.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

According to observations carried out in the years 1977 - 1991, the more numerous bird species encountered in the Reserve comprise / maximal numbers observed in parentheses/:  
breeding birds: 9 species of ducks including mallard /*Anas platyrhynchos*/ - 2 000 pairs; gadwall /*Anas strepera*/ - 250 pairs; shoveler /*Anas clypeata*/ - 200 pairs; tufted duck /*Aythya fuligula*/ - 200 pairs; greylag goose /*Anser anser*/ - 450 pairs  
shelduck /*Tadorna tadorna*/ - 20 pairs; cormorant /*Phalacrocorax carbo*/ - 600 pairs; black-headed gull /*Larus ridibundus*/ - 6 000 pairs; common gull /*Larus canus*/ - 20 pairs; herring gull /*Larus argentatus*/ - 20 pairs; little gull /*Larus minutus* - 5 pairs; common tern /*Sterna hirundo*/ - 280 pairs; black tern /*Chlidonias nigra*/ - 350 pairs; whiskered tern /*Chlidonias hybrida*/ - 5 pairs; lapwing /*Vanellus vanellus*/ - 250 pairs; snipe /*Gallinago gallinago*/; black-tailed godwit /*Ii-*

moose limosa/ - 40 pairs; redshank /*Tringa totanus*/ - 80 pairs;  
coot /*Fulica atra*/ - 14 000 pairs.

The site constitutes a moulting ground for greylag goose /*Anser anser*/ - 2 500 birds; mallard /*Anas platyrhynchos*/ - 20 000; teal /*Anas crecca*/ - 4 000. Migrating and wintering waterfowl include: bean goose /*Anser fabalis*/ - 84 000; white-fronted goose /*A. albifrons*/ - 25 000; ducks - 72 000 / the most numerous include: *Anas platyrhynchos*, *A. crecca*, *Aythya ferrina*/; bald coot /*Fulica atra*/ - 70 000; mute swan /*Cygnus olor*/ - 510 and whooper swan /*Cygnus cygnus*/ - 520.

23. Noteworthy flora:

Aquatic vegetation with characteristic species such as great yellow cress /*Rorippa amphibia*/; water dropwort /*Oenanthe aquatica*/; water speedwell /*Veronica anagallis*/; water plantain /*Plantago pauciflora*/; golden dock /*Rumex maritimus*/; great water dock /*R. hydrolapathum*/; reed canary grass /*Phalaris arundinacea*/; goosefoot /*Chenopodium vulvaria*/; marsh cudweed /*Gnaphalium uliginosum*/. Willow shrubs are composed of crack willow /*Salix fragilis*/, white willow /*S. alba*/ and eared willow /*S. alba* ta/, in addition to small and dispersed alder stands of *Alnus glutinosa*.

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

Only bird counting by the Reserve staff

25. Current conservation education:

Insignificant

26. Current recreation and tourism:

Insignificant

27. Management authority:

The Landscape Parks Administration in the Gorzów Province and the Provincial Nature Conservator in Gorzów.

28. Jurisdiction:

The Environment Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry Department at the Gorzów Provincial Administration.

29. Bibliographical references:

Engel J., Majewski P. 1988. Numbers and species of non-breeding geese in the Słońsk Reserve. *Acta Orn.*, 24: 1 - 8.

Fruziński B. 1973. Ecology of birds in the Kostrzyń Reservoir with special consideration of Anatidae. Annals of Agricultural Academy in Poznań. 30: 1 - 108. In Polish.

Jermaczek A., Czwałga T., Krzyśków T. and Stańko R. 1990. Birds of the Kostrzyń Reservoir during breeding period in the years 1988 - 1989. In Polish.

Majewski P. 1983. Evaluation of the role of the Słońsk Reserve/Poland/ for waterfowl. Acta Orn., 19: 227 - 235.

Nowysz W., Wesołowski T. 1972. Birds of the Kostrzyń Reservoir and its surroundings during breeding period. Not. Przy 6: 3 - 31. In Polish.

### 30. Reasons for inclusion:

Protection of one of the major feeding grounds and moulting sites for waterfowl, mainly for *Anser* spp. Important nesting site of such species rare in Poland as *Anser anser*, *Anas strepera*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Larus minutus* and *Chlidonias hybrida*.