Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 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).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

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DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

Iron Gates Natural Park Administration,
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Mehedinti County, Romania.
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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May, 2009

3. Country:

Romania

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Iron Gates Natural Park (Parcul Natural Portile de Fier)

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 ✓;
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:

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) ✓;
JPEG and ArcView image (Annex Maps)

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** ❑.
A map will be given in ArcGIS 9.1 format

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 is the same as Iron Gates Natural Park as described in Romanian Government Decision 230/2003

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

East part: N 44°38'20", E 22°34'53"
North part: N 44°50'48", E 21°34'53"
South part: N 44°28'22", E 22°08'35"
West part: N 44°50' 02", E 21°21' 08"
center of the site: N 44°41' E 21°56'

9. General location:

The site lies in south-western Romania, in Caras Severin and Mehedinti Counties, on the left side of Danube River in Danube Defile Area (in the immediate vicinity of The Republic of Serbia). The center of the site is at about 100 Km to Drobeta Turnu Severin (Mehedinti county center) and 450 Km to Bucharest. The limits are represented by the Danube's valley to the South, the river Nera to the West, the Danube's tributaries watershed to the North, and a winding line from downstream Gura Vaii to the Motarat Peak to the East.

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

The average altitude is 350-400 m
The minimum elevation is 35 m
The maximum elevation is 968 m

11. Area: (in hectares)

115 665,8 ha

12. General overview of the site:

The Iron Gates Natural Park is situated in South West Romania, in the immediate vicinity of The Republic of Serbia, stretching on over 115,655 hectares, partially on territories belonging to the administrative competence of Caras-Severin and Mehedinti Counties, at the south of Locvei and Almajului Mountains and in South-West Mehedinti plateau.

After conclusion of construction works at Iron Gates I Dam, major changes occurred in the aquatic ecosystems of the area and, most importantly, the transition from running streams ecosystems to the particularly lake-like ones.

This phenomenon led to the decline of many species (*Accipenseridae*, bentic fauna) and the emergence of other species that are characteristic to lake-like ecosystems, many of them invasive as, for example *Carasius* species.

The large majority of wetlands are situated in the western part of the park and appeared as a result of risen levels of Iron Gates Dam Reservoir and of permanent flooding of neighboring agricultural lands. These ecosystems represent migration paths for many migrating bird species.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

1 •	2 •	3 •	4 •	5 •	6 •	7	8 •	9
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	❑	✓	✓	❑

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

1st Criterion:

The Iron Gates Natural Park area is in full compliance with the definition given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, according to which *natural parks are areas that are meant to protect and conserve landscape assemblies where, in time, the interaction of human activities with nature created a distinct area of significant landscape/cultural value, often with great biologic diversity.*

Danube's Defile is especially attractive, alternating abrupt rocky regions where human activity has been virtually inexistent, with hilly areas with agricultural lands, pastures and orchards. This alternation confers to the Danube Defile a unique picturesque landscape and great variety of habitats.

The Danube Defile, 134 km in length between Buzias and Gura Vaii villages, is the most spectacular European one. Its main characteristic is the alternation of valleys and narrowing sectors, differentiated by the extremely complex geological structures crossed by the river. The current state of wetland and of avifauna of the park is a consequence of constructing the Iron Gates Dam and, as such, of the appearance of new wetlands adequate for aquatic and limicolous birds.

The site covers the Iron Gate Dam Reservoir and the adjacent mountains (Almaj and Locva) , and it is defined by large rivers mouth, hills and depressions, small villages which created the conditions for natural and cvasinatural ecosystems, such as associations of ash and poplar (Fraxineto-Populeta), but also comprising communities with *Trapa natans* and *Salvinia natans*, the west part of the site being known also like a very good habitat for *Marsilea quadrifolia*, species endangered or vulnerable in Europe. Also the presence in large surfaces of *Typha* spp. and *Phragmites* spp. communities creates the conditions for breeding, feeding and nestling of bird species mentioned here. From the EU Habitats Directive the following habitat types are present:

3140 Hard oligo-mesotropic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.
3150 Natural eutrophic lackes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* – type vegetation
40A0* Subcontinental peri – Pannonic scrub
6250* Pannonic loess steppic grasslands
6110* Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the *Alysso-Sedion albi*
6260* Pannonic sand steppes
62A0 Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grasslands (*Scorzoneratalia villosae*)

6170 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
6190 Rupicolous pannonic grasslands (*Stipo-Festucetalia pallentis*)
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (*important orchid sites)
6250 Pannonic loess steppes
6430 Hydrophylous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of montane to alpine levels
6440 Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the *Cnidion dubii*
6510 Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*)
8160* Medio-European calcareous screes of hill and montane levels
8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
8230 Siliceous rock with pioneer vegetation of the *Sedo-Sclarention* or of the *Sedo albi-Veronicion dillenii*
8310 Caves not open to the public
9180* *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines
9530* Sub-Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pines
91L0 Illyrian oak-hornbeam forest (*Erytronio-Carpinion*)
91M0 Pannonian-Balkanic turkey oak – sessile oak
91DA Dobrogean oriental hornbeam-lime-oak forest
91I0* Euro-Siberian steppic woods with *Quercus* spp.
91AA Eastern white oak woods
91K0 Illyrian *Fagus sylvatica* forests (*Aremonio-Fagion*)
91V0 Dacian beech forests (*Symphito-Fagion*)
91Y0 Dacian oak-hornbeam forest
92A0 *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* galleries
9110 *Luzulo-Fagetum* beech forest
9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests
9150 Medio-European limestone beech forests of the *Cephalanthero-Fagion*
9170 *Galio-Carpinetum* oak-hornbeam forests

2[d] Criterion:

The site includes many threatened and near threatened species from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, also protected by the national law regarding the protected areas: otter - *Lutra lutra* (Near Threatened), ferruginous duck – *Aythya nyroca* (Near Threatened), corncrake - *Crex crex* (Near Threatened), imperial eagle - *Aquila heliaca (*Vulnerable), European pond terrapin - *Emys orbicularis* (Lower Risk/near threatened), Herman's turtle-*Testudo hermanni* (Lower Risk/near threatened). Besides, many species of European concern inhabit and use this site. Species like pygmy cormorant – *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus,* european fire-bellied toad – *Bombina bombina,* common tree frog – *Hyla arborea*, northern crested newt – *Triturus cristatus*, asp – *Aspius aspius*, Balkan loach – *Cobitis elongata*, white-finned gudgeon – *Gobio albipinnatus* and streber – *Aspro streber* are mentioned like Least Concern in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, but there are protected by the national law : 57/2007 Law regarding the natural protected areas system, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna conservation (this law is the one which ratifies the two European directives: Birds and Habitats Directives).
A complete list of endangered, vulnerable or threatened species is presented in the RIS annex. (Annex RIS PNPF, Section 14, Criterion 2).

The site supports animal species protected **under the convention on the conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**: Birds: *Aquila clanga, A. heliaca, Aythya nyroca, Falco naumanni, Haliaeetus albicilla* (Appendix I); *Accipiter brevipes, A. gentilis , A. nisus, Acrocephalus palustris, Anas acuta, A. clypeata, A. crecca, A. penelope, A. platyrhynchos, A. querquedula, A. strepera, Anser albifrons, A. anser, A. fabalis, Aquila clanga, A. heilaca , A. chrysaetos, A. pomarina, Ardea purpurea, Aythya ferina, A. fuligula, A. marila, A. nyroca, Botaurus stellaris, Burhinus oedicnemus, Bucephala clangula, Buteo buteo, B. lagopus, Cettia cetti, Charadrius dubius, Chlidonias leucopterus, C. niger, Ciconia ciconia, C. nigra, Circaetus gallicus, Circus aeruginosus, C. macrourus, Coracias garrulus, Coturnix coturnix, Crex crex, Cygnus cygnus, Cygnus olor, Erithacus rubecula, Falco cherrug, F. naumanni, F. peregrinus , F. subbuteo, F. tinnunculus, F. vespertinus, Ficedula albicollis , F. hypoleucos, Gallinago gallinago, Gavia arctica, G. stellata, Grus grus, Haliaeetus albicilla, Himantopus himantopus, Hippolais icterina, Ixobrychus minutus, Limosa limosa, Locustella luscinoides, Luscinia megarhynchos,*

Merops apiaster, Melanitta fusca, M. nigra, Mergus albellus, M. merganster, M. serrator, Milvus migrans, M. milvus, Monticola saxatilis, Muscicapa striata, Neophron percnopterus, Numenius arquata, N. phaeopus, Pernis apivorus, Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Platalea leucorodia, Plegadis falcinellus, Phoenicurus ochruros, P. phoenicurus, Phylloscopus collybita, P. trochilus, Podiceps auritus, P. griseigena, Recurvirostra avosetta, Saxicola rubetra, S. torquata, Scolopax rusticola, Somateria mollissima, Sterna hirundo, Sylvia atricapilla, S. communis, S. curruca, Tringa glareola, T. hypoleucos, T. totanus, Vanellus vanellus (Appendix II); mammals: *Eptesicus nilssonii, E. serotinus, Miniopterus schreibersii, Myotis bechsteinii, M. blythii , M. capaccinii, M. emarginatus, M. myotis, Plecotus auritus, P. austriacus, Rhinolophus hipposideros, R. blasii, R. euryale, R. ferrum-equinum, Vespertilio murinus* (Appendix II)*; fishes: Acipenser ruthenus* (Appendix II).

The site supports species protected under **the EU Birds Directive**: *Accipiter brevipes, Alcedo atthis, Aquila chrysaetos, A. clanga, A. heliaca, Ardea purpurea, Ardeola ralloides, Asio flammeus, Aythya nyroca, Botaurus stellaris, Bubo bubo, Burhinus oedicnemus, Calandrella brachydactyla, Caprimulgus europaeus, Chlidonias niger, Ciconia ciconia, C. nigra, Circaetus gallicus, Circus aeruginosus, C. macrourus, Coracias garrulus, Crex crex, Cygnus cygnus, Dendrocopos leucotos, D. medius, D. syriacus, Dryocopus martius, Egretta alba, E. garzetta, Emberiza hortulana, Falco naumanni, F. peregrinus, F. vespertinus, Gavia arctica, G. immer, G. stellata, Grus grus, Haliaeetus albicilla, Hieraaetus pennatus, Himantopus himantopus, Ixobrychus minutus, Lanius collurio, L. minor, Lullula arborea, Mergus albellus, Milvus milvus, Neophron percnopterus, Nycticorax nycticorax, Oenanthe pleschanka, Pernis apivorus, Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Picus canus, Platalea leucorodia, Plegadis falcinellus, Podiceps auritus, Recurvirostra avosetta, Sterna hirundo, Strix uralensis, Surnia ulula, Sylvia nisoria, Tringa glareola.* (Annex I) and **under the EU Habitats Directive**: fishes: *Aspius aspius, Barbus meridionalis, Chalcalburnus chalcoides, Cobitis elongata, C. taenia, Cottus gobio, Eudontomyzon dandorfi, Gobio albipinnatus, G. kessleri, G. uranoscopus, Gymnocephalus schraetzer, Misgurnus fossilis, Pelecus cultratus, Rhodeus sericeus amarus, Sabanejewia aurata, Umbra krameri, Zingel streber, Zingel zingel* (Annex II)*; Gymnocephalus baloni* (Annex II, IV); amphibia: *Bombina bombina, B. variegata, Triturus cristatus* (Annexes II and IV); *Bufo viridis, Hyla arborea, Pelobates fuscus, Rana dalmatina, Rana lessonae* (Annex IV) reptilia: *Emys orbicularis, Testudo hermanni* (Annexes II and IV)*, Ablepharus kitaibelii, Coluber jugularius caspius, Coronella austriaca, Elaphe longissima, Lacerta agilis, Lacerta viridis, Natrix tessellata, Podarcis muralis, Podarcis taurica, Vipera ammodytes* (Annex IV); mammals: *Canis lupus, Lutra lutra, Lynx lynx, Ursus arctos, Miniopterus schreibersii, Myotis bechsteinii, M. blythii, M. capacinii, M. emarginatus, M. myotis, Rhinolophus hipposideros, R. blasii, R. euryale, R. ferrum-equinum* (Annexes II and IV), *Cricetus cricetus, Eptesicus nilssonii, E. serotinus, Felis silvestris, Plecotus auritus, P. austriacus, Vespertilio murinus* (Annex IV); insects: *Lycaena dispar* (Annex II, IV); plants: *Eleocharis carniolica, Paeonia officinalis* ssp. *banatica* (Annex II),

The site supports species protected under **the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**: *Aquila heliaca*, *Haliaeetus albicilla, Lutra lutra* (Appendix I)

The site also supports species protected under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and National legislation (see points 21 and 22),

3[d] Criterion:

The bio-geographic conservation feature of Iron Gates Natural Park and especially of Danube Defile is given by the wide variety of lithologic under-layers, the climatic characteristics, and the youngish appearance of the relief (steep versants, longitudinal profiles of the valleys with marked slope breaks and the weak transversal profiles).

Main characteristics of Iron Gates Natural Park are: phytocenologic diversity, mosaic-like aspect of associations, frequent changes in vegetal layers, all these in close correlation with versants exposure, valleys corridors and presence of petrographic and lithologic abrupt outcrops. The ecological features allowed the conservation of some quaternary and pre-quaternary flora and fauna elements. The biogeographic ford role of Danube Narrow Path is obvious given the existence of intersecting migration corridors of flora and fauna elements, since late tertiary to this day.

A special feature of Park's fauna is given by the mixture of mountain boreal elements with South Mediterranean, South-East Illyrian, Balkan, Moesian species, together with the relict character of Northern and Southern elements surviving in enclaves. The site supports endemic plants species (e.g. *Pinus nigra* Arn. ssp. *banatica*, *Minuartia cataractarum* Janka, *Prangos carinata* Griseb., *Stipa danubialis* Dihoru et Roman, *Tulipa hungarica* Borbas (limited to solely this area), *Dianthus banaticus* (Heuffel) Borbas, Schur, *Campanula crassipes* Heuffel, Waldst. et Kit., *Thymus comosus* Heuffel ex. Griseb.

In general, the flora of Iron Gates Natural Park is well represented by all main systematic groups: *Algae* comprising 74 families, 171 genera and 549 species; *Fungi* comprising 48 families, 252 genera and 1077 species*; Lichens*, with its 34 families, 67 genera and 375 species; *Bryophyta* with 31 families, 98 genera and 296 species; *Cormophyta* comprising its 67 orders, 114 families, 540 genera, 1395 species, 272 sub-species and 5 varieties.
All research undertaken so far revealed that Iron Gates Natural Park fauna comprises 5205 denominations of which 4873 are non-vertebrate and 332 vertebrate. Of vertebrates, a high density is shown by *Aves Class* with 218 species, *Pisces Class* with 47 species and, in lowest density, *Amphibian Class* with only 14 species.

4th Criterion:

A lot of bird species arrive here during migration: corncrake – *Crex crex, Anser albifrons, Scolopax rusticola,*nesting: *Vanellus vanellus, Picus canus, Ixobrychus minutus*, or for wintering: common snipe - *Gallinago gallinago*, great white egret - *Egretta alba,*
The mammals (European bear – *Ursus arctos*, Linx – *Lynx lynx*, common otter – *Lutra lutra*) find here an optimal environment for reproduction and protection against hunters, the site being surrounded by hunting areas.
The list comprising all bird species is presented in the RIS annexes (Annex RIS PNPF, Section 14, Criterion 4).

5th Criterion:

218 bird species, from the total of about 500 European bird species, inhabit the site, breeding, nesting, wintering or in migration.
The list comprising the bird species which inhabit characteristic humid areas, which make altogether more than 20,000 individuals, is presented in the RIS annex (Annex RIS PNPF, Section 14, Criterion 5).

7th Criterion:

The ichtyofauna of Iron Gates Natural Park area is very well represented by all the Danube basin species. 47 fish species, many of them mentioned in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species or in EU Habitats Directive and Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), inhabit water covered areas in the site.
All fish species are presented in the RIS annex. (Annex RIS PNPF, Section 14, Criterion 7).

8th Criterion:

Within the Ramsar Site the special interest has the Iron Gates 1 Water Reservoir. According to studies conducted in the area, the reservoir is a true kindergarten for *Acipenser ruthenus*, a species that migrates upstream to lay the eggs.

For other fish species migrating into Danube at maturity, the similar situation exists all along the *green corridor* of Danube River, especially in the western part of the park (ASPA pools and swamps). These pools, swamps, tributaries gulfs and the Nera delta have important role for reproduction of many fish species, such as *Umbra krameri, Barbus meridionalis, B. barbus, Cobitis taenia, C, elongata*.

Unfortunately, there is no synchronization between the regulation of water levels in reservoir and fish spawning period, so it often happens that fish row remain on dry surface. Another problem is absence of synchronization between the fishing prohibition period and spawning period. This decimates the fish populations in the Iron Gates area. Other specific threats for fish species are mentioned under the point 26a.

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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:

It is part of Palearctic Region, Euro-siberian sub region; Central European
Continental – according to scheme used for Emerald Network

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):
Calinescu R. (1969): Biogeografia Romaniei, Editura Academiei Romane, Bucuresti
Emerald Network (European Environment Agency)

16. Physical features of the site:

The rock diversity of mountain bodies, represented by crystalline, magmatic and sedimentary rocks, results in the highly complex landscape with many spectacular elements, such as sharp ridges, limestone steep slopes, gorges, caves, and intrusive volcanic formation.
All the types and subtypes of soil that have been identified are meadow soils from forest steppe and they have an alluvial character. The regular surplus of nutrients and organic matter represents a benefit for the soils, and the land slowly absorbs the water from floods.
The mountains are represented by crystalline schists of various degrees of metamorphism, with massive granitoid intrusions and sedimentary deposits occur as well.
In the Iron Gates Natural Park area, the Danube receives several tributaries having their sources in the Semenic, Locva, Almaj, Cerna and Mehedinti Mountains. On Romanian territory, the best-known direct affluents at the Danube along the defile, from upstream – downstream, are: Nera, Velica Reca, Tigansca Reca, Radimna, Liuborajdea, Crusovita, Camenita, Oravita, Berzaasca, Cozla, Sirinia, Eliseva, Povalina, Svinita, Tisovita, Plavisevita, Mraconia, Costinet, Ieselnita, Cerna, Bahna, Vodita, Slatinicul Mare, Jidostita. With the exception of the Cerna, whose basin covers an area of 1380 sq km, the length of the other direct affluents is below 70 km, and they are draining small basins (bellow 300 sq. km.), while their total contribution in waters of approximately 60 cubic $m^{-/}$second (out of Cerna's contribution represents 23 cubic m/second) practically does not influence the hydrological regime of the river.
After building the Iron Gates Dam and filing the reservoir, all the river mouths of the Danube's tributaries were flooded and transformed into gulfs. The largest gulfs are Cerna, Bahna, and Mraconia. In the Bazias-Camenita sector the increased water level caused the flooding of the river mouths produced by tributaries, such as Liborajdea, Brestelnic, Camenita, Berzezsca, Sirinia, and Stariste. As a consequence, the aquatic surface increased, and new aquatic and wetland habitats were generated.
During high-flood periods, the narrow sector determines the raising of the level and the increase of the flow rate, while the wide sectors of the valley determine the lowering of the level and the decrease of the rate.
The flowing incline varies along the river bed between 0,09% in the wide sectors of the valley and 0,05% in the defiles.

The Iron Gates Natural Park is characterized by a temperate continental climate with significant Mediterranean influence. Due to the Mediterranean warmer air, the air temperature is usually higher when compared to other mountain regions in Romania. In the Danube Gorges, the southern circulation greatly influences the climate, as the average air temperature is 11^{o} C. The western and southwestern circulation brings into these territories significant quantities of precipitation, higher than other region under 1000 m altitude. The average precipitation quantities vary between 800 and 1000 mm (l/sqm). The wind direction in the Iron Gates Natural Park is mostly southern, but in the Danube Gorges it changes to western and eastern direction of the river valley. The wind speed is characterized by intensity increase during winter and spring, over 20 m/s.
Local winds blowing across few regions of the Iron Gates Natural Park:
Specific breezes caused by the temperature difference between the reservoir and the surrounding slopes;
Cosava blows on the SE-NW general direction at over 70 km/h speed, causing significant temperature decreases;
Gorneac, specific to the Moldova Noua lowland, blows on the NE-SW general direction at over 100 km/h.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

The Iron Gates Natural Park belongs to the southern segment of the orogenetic system of the Carpathians.

The transCarpathian valley of the Danube is carved in rocks of different hardness and lithological structures, which brought about the forming of some sectors of narrow valleys (gorges), corresponding to the zones with more friable rocks or to tectonic lines, and others of wide valleys, corresponding to the zones made up of hard rocks and to a tectonic movement.
The high variety of soils in the Park is a result of wide range of bioclimatic and lithologic conditions. Zonal clay-illuvial podzol soils, acid brown and lithomorphic interzone soils have a high incidence. The several dominant types of soils are:
Slightly leached chernozemns (CLS) occur on the lower terrace of the Danube and consist in clay-loessial deposits, rich in organic matter with a well developed B horizon; carbonates occur at 800-900 cm deep. They are skeletal and toward the dejection cone even proluvial deposits (10-15 cm) can be detected. They yield good corn and wheat crops.
Brown podsoils (BRP) are polyphasic in the Turnu Severin depression. They occur on terraces of average texture, are deep red in colour in the profile, showing marked texture difference and podsolization.
Brown and brown podsol soils (B,VM,BP) are characteristic for the hilly relief and the terraces of small basins and the southern crests of the mountains. Sometimes they are associated with brown acid soils under oak and beech forests or secondary meadows.
Brown acid soils (BO) cover the high crests and the upper basins of the valley; they are saturated, with slight clay inclusions. Toward the mountains crests and in the valleys they are associated with coarse acid parental materials, with brown podzols and ferric illuvial brown podzols (Bfe) with slightly developed A2 and well developed Bfe horizons; locally, ferric illuvial podzols occur as well.
Rendzina(R) occurs on calcareous rocks, under oak forests with southern elements, or under secondary meadows. They are alkaline, rich in organic matter, associated with brown soils and lithosoils on surface rocks.
Terra rosa (TR), deep red in colour throughout the profile, is a polyphasic soil formed on limestone. It occurs on flat grounds associated with the other lithomorphic soils.
Erubasemes (E) are brown soils formed on serpentinites, under oak forests or secondary meadows, saturated, rich in clay, associated with brown soils or eroded soils.
Alluvia and alluvial soils (SA) in the Danube floodplain have a varied texture and evolution. A succession of soils can be noted starting with stratified sand alluvia, humic acid alluvial soils to brown alluvial soils on the high floodplain area and the lower terrace. In the Danube floodplain soils are alluvial carbonate.
Regosoils found on poorly consolidated rock – and lithosoils (LS) on compact rock – are thin, slightly developed, occurring on rough relief in association with highly eroded soils or surface rocks.
The Iron Gates Natural Park is characterized by a temperate continental climate with significant Mediterranean influence.

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18. Hydrological values:

Iron Gates I Water Reservoir is the largest hydro-technical arrangement on Dabube River and in Romania. It was created behind the Gura Vaii Dam that stands 60,6 meters high. The lake is 130 km long, covers an estimated area of 700 km^2 and an average volume of 12 km^3. The Dam at Gura Vaii was built in cooperation with the Republic of Yugoslavia between 1964-1972 and induced significant mutations in local human and natural ecosystems. The Iron Gates 1 Water Reservoir serves for multiple purposes today, from producing electricity to regulation of water course, fishing, navigation and leisure, being the preferred habitat for many bird species.

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19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

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.

M | Tp | L | Xf | W | Xp | N | U | Ts | 4 | 6 | 7

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20. General ecological features:

Iron Gates Natural Park includes great ecosystems variety that was and continues to be under a significant anthropogenic influence. The main ecosystems may be grouped as follows:

Forest Ecosystems

In the Park predominant are the boreal deciduous forests (about 60% of the Park) with various nuances in the edifying structure of tree species (*Quercus sp., Fagus sp., Fraxinus sp.)*. There are cultivated coniferous forests (in small areas though) where predominant is *Pinus sp*. in ecosystems with the sub-endemic edifier species *Pinus nigra ssp. banatica* (Cioaca Borii-Bostita – a crest near Svinita village)

Bushlike ecosystems (shibliacs)

Following pedologic, climatic and sun exposure conditions, due to past exploitation of forests and to influence of sub-species arrived from the Illiric and sub-Mediterranean area, a great great variety of bushlike ecosystems was developed in vegetal associations typical for the area of Danube Defile. Main edifiers to these ecosystems are: *Quercus pubescens, Carpinus orientalis, Fraximus ornus, Cotinus coggyria, Syringa vulgaris*.

Pastureland ecosystems

Formed and maintained along hundreds of years, pasturelands cover 10% of the Park. The importance of these grasslands lies in the presence of numerous vegetal associations that are a defining mark of Danube Defile landscape.

Rocky slopes ecosystems

The combination of marked petrographic diversity (sedimentary, magma and crystalline rocks) and climatic and exposure factor determined the emergence of various rocky ecosystems (in the areas of Fetele Dunarii, Trescovat and Cioaca Borii, Cazanele Dunarii, Coastele Dunarii) that are important biocenosis for both endemic and rare species (*Tulipa hungarica, Campanula crassipes, Cerastium banaticum*)

Aquatic ecosystems

Major changes occurred in the aquatic ecosystems after the construction of Iron Gates 1 Reservoir, mainly due to the necessary adaptation from river environment to lake conditions. Many species disappeared in the process (Accipenseridae, and benthic fauna) whereas other appeared that are specific to lake environment, many of species being invasive (*Carasius ep.*)

Wetland ecosystems

Most of wetland ecosystems are located in the Western part of the Park and emerged as a direct result of rising levels of the Reservoir and of permanent flooding of neighboring agriculture land. These ecosystems are transit corridors for many bird species.

Agriculture ecosystems

In their long history, the depression areas having deep rich soils suitable for agriculture were constantly reshaped by an intense anthropogenic activity that led to emergence of artificial ecosystems (agroecosystems) and of cultivates landscapes, a defining feature of the overall scenery of Iron Gates Natural Park.

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21. Noteworthy flora:

In general, the flora of Iron Gates Natural Park is well represented by all main systematic groups: *Algae* comprising 74 families, 171 genera and 549 species; *Fungi* comprising 48 families, 252 genera and 1077 species*; Lichens*, with its 34 families, 67 genera and 375 species; *Bryophyta* with 31 families, 98 genera, and 296 species; *Cormophyta* comprising its 67 orders, 114 families, 540 genera, 1395 species, 272 sub-species and 5 varieties.

Out of a total 1,668 taxa inventoried in the Park, 242 (14.5% of the total taxa of the Park) are listed in the "*Red list of superior plants in Romania*", 200 being ranked as very rare taxa, 5 as

vulnerable (*Taxus baccata*, *Beta trigyna,* and *Alyssum tortuosum*) and 2 as extinct taxa (*Geranium bohemicum* and *Alyssum stribrnyi* – they are not any more in the Park)
8 species are listed in the Annex I to Bern Convention: *Tulipa hungarica* Borbas, *Stipa danubialis* Dihoru et Roman, *Salvinia natans* (L.) All., *Colchicum arenarium* Waldst. et Kit., *Pulsatilla grandis* Wenderoth., *Typha shuttleworthii* Koch et Sonder, *Campanula abietina* Griseb. et Schenk and *Eleocharis carniolica* Koch
The number of endemic elements, though not large, comes to supplement the great variety of phytogeographic elements. According to various literatures (Matacă, Roman, Boşcaiu, Dihoru etc.), the number of endemic taxa present in Park's area varies between 28 and 33 elements, of which we could list: *Pinus nigra* Arn. ssp. *banatica*, *Minuartia cataractarum* Janka, *Prangos carinata* Griseb., *Stipa danubialis* Dihoru et Roman, *Tulipa hungarica* Borbas (limited to solely this area), *Dianthus banaticus* (Heuffel) Borbas, *Campanula crassipes* Heuffel, *Thymus comosus* Heuffel ex. Griseb. etc.
171 vegetal associations of cormophytes have been identified and described from 20 vegetation classes. 26 of the vegetal associations are endemic, proving once again the rich floristic diversity of the area.
The general scenery of the Park is dominated by forest with a percentage reaching 80%. The discontinuity of the index results from the insertions of large depression areas that are best suited for agriculture use and inhabitance. Main characteristics of Iron Gates Natural Park, from this perspective, are: phytocenologic diversity, mosaic-like aspect of associations, frequent changes in vegetal layers, all these in close correlation with versants exposition, valleys corridors and presence of petrographic and lithologic abrupt outcrops.
Hygrophilous vegetation areas are quite confined to the meadows sectors of the Danube tributary streams, within straits, but also in some confluence hollows like Cerna, Ieselnita, Mraconia, Camenita, Liubcova, Plavistea, Liubotina, etc. These areas are well populated with several species of willow (*Salix alba, Salix fragilis, Salix triandra, Salix purpurea*), white (*Populus alba)* and black (*Populus nigra)* poplar, whereas black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is found in the valleys of some tributary streams, together with sub-arbutus red boxthorn or blackberry bushes.
In the flooded river meadows areas swamps frequently occur, where predominant are reed (*Phragmintes communis*), pewter (*Scirpus silvatica*), red robin (*Juncus glaucus*), *Galium palustre* etc.
(See also Annex to RIS PNPF, Section 21, Flora)

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22. Noteworthy fauna:

Studies revealed that Iron Gates Natural Park fauna comprises 5205 species of which 4873 are invertebrate and 332 vertebrate, but the list is not over, because of the low knowledge in invertebrate, this being an important point of the future researches, mainly in wetlands. Of vertebrates, a high density is shown by *Aves Class* with 218 species, *Pisces Class* with 47 species and, in lowest density, *Amphibian Class* with 14 species.
A special feature of Park's fauna is given by the mixture of mountain boreal elements with South Mediterranean, South-East Illyrian, Balkan, Moesian species, together with the relict character of Northern and Southern elements surviving in enclaves (*R. Călinescu, S. Iana, 1964*)

Invertebrates
Out of the 4,873 invertebrates living in the Park, these have a special status:
-One species of Decapoda, *Austropotamobius torrentium*, which is included in Annexes III and IVA of national Law 57/2007 regarding the natural protected areas system, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna conservation mentioned like prioritary species;
-Four species of Gasteropoda of which two of them are included in Annexes III and VA of Law 57/2007: *Theodoxus traversalis* C. Pfeiffer, 1928; *Anisus vorticulus* Troschel, 1853, one in Annex IVB of the same law (*Herilla dacica* L. Pfeiffer, 1848) and one in the Annex VA and in Annex III of Bern Convention (*Helix pomatia* L., 1758);
-Insecta is represented in the park by many species of national and comunitary interest, protected by national laws, but also by EU Habitats Directive: *Rosalia alpina, Cerambyx cerdo, Lucanus cervus, Morinus funereus, Osmoderma eremita eremita, Pilemia tigrina, Oxythyrea cinctella, Eriogaster catax, Colias myrmidone, Lycaena dispar, Cordulelogaster heros* etc.
Vertebrates

The Park is home to all classes found in Romania

Ichtyofauna is represented by 47 taxa of which special status was granted to: one species that is strictly protected according to the Annex II of Bern Convention (*Umbra krameri*), 24 species protected by Annex III of same Convention, 16 species that require institution of special conservation areas (according to Annex III and IVA of Law 57/2007). Among the last listed we should mention *Alosa pontica* (Danube mackerel – its presence in the area is no longer certain), *Umbra krameri, Aspius aspius* (asp)*, Misgurnus fossilis* (eel)*, Cotus gobio* etc.

Marine migrating sturgeons like *Huso huso* (great sturgeon)*, Acipenser guldenstaedti* (Black Sea sturgeon)*, Acipenser stellatus* (sevruga) disappeared in 1967 whereas *Hucho hucho* (hucho) disappeared between 1912-1930.

Accipenser ruthenus (sterlet) a common and dominant species in the Danube narrows before the creation of the Reservoir (in the sector Corononi – Golubac and Orşova – Tekija *[Geography of Romanian Danube Valley, 1969*]), is now more and more rare and seldom reaches maturity.

Salmo trutta fario (mountain trout) is present in the basins of Cerna and Slatinicul Mare where it is endemic and also in the hydrographic basins of Berzasca, Sirinea, Mraconia and Ieşelnița where it seems that it was introduced. *Salmo gairdneri irideus* (rainbow trout) may be found in the Danube between Dubova and Orsova. In 1960 the species was introduced in one of small tributary streams of Cerna but with no success.

Generally, the ichtyofauna of Iron Gates Natural Park area is very well represented by all the Danube basin species and is similar to the nase and barbel level, according to the Thienemann (1925) classification, with species like nase *(Chondrostoma nasus),* chub *(Leuciscus cephalus),* barbel *(Barbus barbus),* zanthe *(Vimba vimba),* asp *(Aspius aspius)* and streber *(Aspro zingel).* These species migrate upstream Danube or to its tributaries in certain periods of the year.

In Iron Gates Natural Park there are known 14 amphibians species and 17 reptiles species. One of the amphibians *Pelobates syriacus* and the reptiles *Testudo hermanni, Ablepharus kitaibelii, Lacerta praticola*, *L. muralis, L. taurica, L. viridis, Coluber jugularis* and *Vipera ammodytes* are Mediterranean species.

About its conservation statute, 7 amphibians' species and 10 reptiles' species are included in Annex II of Bern Convention and other 7 reptiles' species are included in the Annex III of the same document. In addition, all the amphibians and reptiles species are protected by the national laws, and some of them included in the EU Habitats Directive Annexes.

Avifauna is represented by 218 bird species, 133 being listed in the Annex II of Bern Convention, 33 of them in the Annex III and 5 (*Aythya nyroca, Aquila clanga, A. heilaca, Falco naumanni, Haliaeetus albicilla*) are included in Annex I of Bonn Convention. Many species are protected also by the national legislation and there are included in the EU Birds Directive Annexes.

The present situation of the avifauna composition is mainly a result of the risen levels of Iron Gates Dam Reservoir and of constant flooding of agriculture neighboring lands which led to the emergence of new wetlands representing aquatic and limicol bird habitats.

A great number of aquatic birds can be observed in winter-spring period on the lake surface and in abutting wetlands: *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* (small cormorant)*, Phalacrocorax carbo* (big cormorant)*, Ardea cinerea* (grey heron)*, Egretta alba* (big egret), *Anas crecca* (small mallard), *A. querquedula* (squawk mallard), *A. acuta* (lance mallard), *A. clypeata* (rața lingurar), *Aythya ferina* (maroon had mallard), *A. fuligula* (crest mallard), *Mergus albellus* (ferestraşul mic), *Fulica atra* (coot) etc. Most of them can be observed during the migration, others are winter visitors and some are sedentary species.

Mammals are represented by 44 species. The most important proportion is the bats population which is represented by two families: *Vespertilionidae* (*Myotis bechsteinii, Myotis capacinii, Vespertilio murinus*) and *Rhinolophidae* (*Rhinolophus eurialis, Rhinolophus ferrum-equinum, Rhinolophus blasii*).

The carnivores are represented both by the big species like bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and small species like mustelides (*Putorius putorius, Meles meles, Martes martes*) (Annex to RIS PNPF, Section 22, Fauna).

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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:

Danube Defile is the place of the first paleolithic settlement in Europe and the place where the first dwellings were ever built; most of the localities are documentary attested in Middle Ages and the XIX-th century. As a result, in Iron Gates Natural Park area there are many historical and religious sites that offer a huge opportunity for tourism. In the same time, as a result of the Danube navigation and the policies of the states that during the time were interested in this, the area has a multi-ethnic population. The majority is represented by Romanians but there are many Serbians, Czechs, Hungarians, Turks, even Greeks and Italians, every ethnic group having its own traditions and customs, and building its own culture. A very important aspect is the one that inter-ethnic conflicts have never occurred here.

- Because the agriculture was and still is a subsistence one, the fishing activities was along the time one of the most important source of life for the inhabitants. (specific current threats for the ichtyofauna are mentioned under the point 26a).

The local people traditionally exploitated the natural resources, namely forests and mineral resources. Traditional pursuits can be considered also the land cultivation, animal husbandry, fishing and the merchandising of vegetal and animal products in local area markets. Many of traditional life and work forms are conserved. The animals, bullocks and horses, are still used in a rudimentary way for carrying, for field and forest work.

The houses, the tools, and the objects which are used in day-to-day life are made by using the local materials and a traditional technique. A special characteristic, which is still conserving is represented by the milling tradition, with water-powered mills on Sichevita River Valley.

In the area there are still conserved the specific customs of varied events (celebrations, weddings, baptisms, funerals). Manifestations with local specific, the “nedeia” (rustic holidays of pastoral origin) are true parade of popular costumes.

Some factors which could effect in a negative way the local specific conservation are representated by the so-called modern influences.

With some exceptions, the phenomenon of industrialization has not affected significantly this area.

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:

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 proportion of in terms of ownership is: state 64,0 %, cityhalls/communities 16,8 % and individuals 19,2 %.

b) in the surrounding area:

The situation is very similar.

25. Current land (including water) use:
a) within the Ramsar site:

Most of the Iron Gates Natural Park surface is represented by forest vegetation terrains (75.476,6 ha) representing 65,3 % of the entire park surface. About 74000 ha (98%) are state or state administration property. The agricultural lands covers 28500 ha (24,6 % of park surface). The structure of agricultural lands is: pasturelands 44,6 % (from which 48,8% individuals property and 51,2% cityhalls/communities property), arable lands 29,1%, hayfields 24,9 %, vineyards and orchards 1,5 %. The waters and wetlands covers 8900 ha (7,7 % of park surface), localities and roads surface 2789 ha (2,4 % of park surface).

b) in the surroundings/catchment:
The situation is similar, excepting the wetlands, whose surface is smaller (less than 1%).

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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:
In concordance with Natura 2000, where A= high intensity, B= medium intensity, C= low intensity and +=positive influence, 0= no influence and -=negative influence

Current No.	Impact	Intensity A,B,C	% from site	Influence +, 0, -
1.	Cultivation	C	10.0	0
2.	Use of pesticides	B	5.0	-
3.	Fertilisation	C	5.0	0
4.	Grazing	B	30.0	-
5.	Abandonment of pastoral systems	B	10.0	-
6.	Removal of dead and dying trees	B	30.0	-
7.	Forest exploitation without replanting	A	50.0	-
8.	Burning	B	10.0	-
9.	Professional fishing	B	10.0	-
10.	Fixed location fishing	C	10.0	-
11.	Hunting	B	60.0	-
12.	Taking / Removal of fauna, general	C	5.0	-
13.	Collection (insects, reptiles, amphibians.....)	B	5.0	-
14.	Crapping, poisoning, poaching	A	100.0	-
15.	Mines	A	10.0	-
16.	Continuous urbanisation	A	10.0	-
17.	Coads, motorways	B	10.0	-
18.	Nautical sports	B	10.0	-
19.	Pollution	A	20.0	-
20.	Water pollution	B	10.0	-
21.	Air pollution	B	20.0	-
22.	Soil pollution	B	10.0	-
23.	Vandalism	B	5.0	-
24.	Management of water levels	A	20.0	-

25.	Erosion	B	5.0	-
26.	Eutrophication	A	20.0	-
27.	Invasion by a species	B	30.0	-

Specific threats for the ichtyofauna include:
- The Iron Gate I dam was built without a system ensuring the marine sturgeons migration;
- The fishing has still an unauthorized and unorganized character and it is done even in the prohibition period;
- The utilization of fishing tools and techniques which are not allowed by the law and the under dimension capturring;

The reservoir water level regulation without ensuring the necessary time for retreating of the low age fish population from the low level waters in the Danube deep waters.

b) in the surrounding area:

Current No.	Impact	Intensity A,B,C	% from site	Influence +, 0, -
1.	Cultivation	C	unknown	unknown
2.	Use of pesticides	B	unknown	unknown
3.	Fertilisation	C	unknown	unknown
4.	Grazing	B	unknown	unknown
5.	Abandonment of pastoral systems	B	unknown	unknown
6.	Removal of dead and dying trees	B	unknown	unknown
7.	Forest exploitation without replanting	A	unknown	unknown
8.	Burning	B	unknown	unknown
9.	Professional fishing	B	unknown	unknown
10.	Fixed location fishing	C	unknown	unknown
11.	Hunting	B	unknown	unknown
12.	Taking / Removal of fauna, general	C	unknown	unknown
13.	Collection (insects, reptiles, amphibians.....)	B	unknown	unknown
14.	Crapping, poisoning, poaching	A	unknown	unknown
15.	Mines	A	unknown	unknown
16.	Continuous urbanisation	A	unknown	unknown
17.	Coads, motorways	B	unknown	unknown
18.	Nautical sports	B	unknown	unknown
19.	Pollution	A	unknown	unknown
20.	Water pollution	B	unknown	unknown
21.	Air pollution	B	unknown	unknown
22.	Soil pollution	B	unknown	unknown
23.	Vandalism	B	unknown	unknown
24.	Management of water levels	A	unknown	unknown
25.	Erosion	B	unknown	unknown
26.	Eutrophication	A	unknown	unknown
27.	Invasion by a species	B	unknown	unknown

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.

The legal status of the site is a natural park. The proposed Ramsar site boundary is the same as the park one.
The scientific documentation was undertaken to the Romanian MaB UNESCO Committee in order to declare the site as an UNESCO Biosphere Reseve.
In the park there are designated 3 Natura 2000 areas: ROSCI206 Portile de Fier (by 1964/2007 Minister Order) and ROSPA026 Cursul Dunarii-Baziasand ROSPA080 Muntii Locvei – Almajului (by 1284/2007 Gouvernement Judgment)

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?:

The Iron Gates Natural Park management plan under the process of approval by the Environment and Water Management Ministry.
The Park Administration annual working plan is based on the Management plan objectives and activities.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The activities concerning the Danube waters are managed by the Romanian Waters National Agency.
The fishing activities are coordinated by the National Fishing Company by granted of water surfaces and controlled by National Fishing and Aquaculture Agency.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

The Iron Gates Natural Park was established by the Romanian Law no. 5/2000.
The Management Plan was made and submitted for the Environment and Water Management Ministry approval.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

Research activities in Iron Gates Natural Park were realized under education/research programs and individual themes. The research domains were in social, economical and environment field.
On December 1964 Romanian Academy initiated the constitution of the “Iron Gates” Group of Complex Researches in order to realize a many-sided and interdisciplinary research project which was finalized by the elaboration of the Iron Gates Complex Atlas – a great value graphic synthesis of the scientific results.
Even many research activities were finalized with remarkable scientific results, those had no practical applicability, and the Iron Gates zone is remaining with social, economical and environment problems.
Many studies were made by several scientific personalities representing a few Romanian universities, research institutes, national and regional museums.
The research infrastructure is represented by two Bucharest University stations at Orsova and Eselnita and the park biology laboratory.

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.

The attitude of local communities and other stakeholders is very important because without their support, the efficiency of protected areas management is much decreased. It is the role of public awareness campaigns to change the inhabitants and visitors attitude in order to preserve local values and traditions and to minimize the natural resources exploitation, with positive repercussion in biodiversity domain.
One of the mains problems in which the Administration will support the local communities is stopping the migration of young population from rural settlements to nearby towns.
The park has 4 Information – Documentary Centers endowed with booklets, leaflets, posters and other informative – educational materials. Others centers like these will be in function starting with 2010, as a result of a project with EU funds.
In the park area there are 2 main trails linking the Czech villages, and 10 ecotourism routes. One of them offers the opportunity to visit the wetlands where two birdwatching towers are built.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

In present time, the tourism activities in Iron Gate Natural Park are fitful and their target is especially the reservoir part between Orsova (the main port) and the Cazanele Mari and Cazanele Mici reserve. It is about nautical tourism revolved on four boats which are able to transport about 50 persons each. In summer time, these boats are required for about one travel per day. The big passenger ships which are voyaging between Germany and Romania are only transiting this area, without having tourism programmes in the site region.
The low lands of Danube defile offers the opportunity of carrying on some competitions and nautical enjoyment.

32. Jurisdiction:

The area is situated on the administrative territory of several localities: Drobeta Turnu Severin, Ilovita, Breznita, Orsova, Eselnita, Dubova, Svinita in Mehedinti county and Berzeasca, Coronini, Sichevita, Garnic, Moldova Noua, Pojejena, Socol and Carbunari in Caras Severin county.
The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development through The National Forest Administration – Romsilva, The Forestry Directorate Mehedinti and Caras Severin County manages the forests in the area which are 98% state property.

33. Management authority:

The National Forest Administration – Romsilva, the Forestry Directorate Mehedinti is the administrator of the protected area. The staff responsible for administration of the protected area work within Forestry Directorate Mehedinti, consists of 19 people. These people are: Marian JIPLEA – sylviculture engineer (park manager), Amalia BALASOIU – voluntary biologist, Catalin TOBOIU - forestry engineer, Constantin GRAMA – accountant, Constantin MARIN - IT Expert, Valeriu TATARU and 13 rangers.
Forestry Directorate Mehedinti
IRON GATES NATURAL PARK Administration, Banatului Street, no. 92, Orsova City, 225200 Mehedinti County, Romania tel / fax 0040 252 362 596
parc@drobeta.rosilva.ro
www.portiledefierpn.ro
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