

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

2009-2012 version
Suhaia

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

17 February 2012

3. Country:

Romania

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Suhaia

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**

7. Map of site :

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

i) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes

ii) digital (electronic) format (optional): yes

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

The southern limit of the site is defined by the border with Bulgaria and the northern limit mostly by DN51A national road, which continues also in the east. In the west, the boundary is given by the Traian town administrative limit, goes down to the Danube and follows the dyke bank area up to Turnu Magurele harbour.

The present's site surface (19594 ha) covers Suhaia Lake, as well as its surroundings to the Danube, completely integrating Nature 2000 ROSPA 0102 Suhaia site perimeter (4473 ha). The Ramsar Site is identical with the IBA Suhaia.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

43°44'17" N, 25°11'33" E

9. General location:

South Romania

Large administrative unit: Teleorman County.

The Lake Suhaia is situated in the South of Romania, Teleorman County, on the administrative territory of Suhaia village (ca. 4,600 inhabitants), at 5.3 km from Suhaia and Viisoara villages.

10. Elevation (m):

Min: 2, Max 40, Med: 19.

11. Area: (in hectares)

19594 ha

12. Overview:

Until 1960, the site represented once one of the large wet areas that succeeded the Danube's Delta, being supplied with Danube's water through Garla Iancului. Wetland's typical ecological conditions, periodic flooding and high to excessive humidity present during certain periods of the year led to wet meadows. The presently declared IBA (Important Birding Area) includes water surface (972 ha), fishing ponds (240 ha), reed (120 ha), swamps (20 ha), perimeter dikes and ditches (101.5 ha). The typical habitat is static continental freshwater. Present vegetation consists of aquatic plants, rootless floating species (*Lemna minor*, *Lemna trisulca*, *Salvinia natans*, *Wolffia arrhiza*, *Hydrocharis morsuranae*), as well as plant species with roots (*Myriophyllum vertillatum*, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Ceratophyllum submersum*, *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Najas marina*, *Nymphaea alba*, *Nuphar luteum*, *Nymphoides peltata*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, *Potamogeton sp.*, etc.). One of the main and most important plant species is represented by reed (*Phragmites australis*) and bulrush (*Typha latifolia*, *Typha angustifolia*), for they offer a great support for feeding and breeding of many rare and threatened bird species as well as for: invertebrates (*Proserpinus Proserpina*, *Parnassius mnemosyne*, *Apatura metis*, *Lycaena dispar*), fish (*Umbra krameri*, *Misgurnus fossilis*, *Pelecus cultratus*), amphibians (*Bombina bombina*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Rana dalmatina*, *Bufo viridis*), reptiles (*Natrix tessellata*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Lacerta agilis*) and mammals (*Mustela nivalis*, *Felis silvestris*, *Sus scropha*).

Suhaia Lake provides very important places for birds that are breeding, resting and nesting. Suhaia Lake is sheltering around 21 species that can be found on Annex I of Birds Directive, and 1 that are globally threatened.

13. Ramsar Criteria:



14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11 above:

Criterion 2:

The site supports the following species of the Bird Directive Annex I:

Scientific name	Common name	Breeding (pairs)	Migrants (individuals)
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	30-40	
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	20-60	
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	60-100	
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	(Great) Bittern	30-40	
<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Whiskered Tern	150-200	
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern		2500-3000
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	90-160	
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	6-10	
<i>Crex crex</i>	Corncrake	8-10	
<i>Egretta (Casmerodius) alba/-us</i>	Great Egret	20-30	

<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	200-400	
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	80-100	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	60-100	
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican	8-10	44-96
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant	80-100	200-500
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff		8000-10000
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	160-200	
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis	0-40	
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Avocet	20-30	
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	0-4	
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper		1000-2200

The Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is also listed as threatened on a global level (VU, IUCN).

The data presented above was collected between 2000 and 2010, referenced from the following bibliography:

1. Munteanu, D., (coord.), 2004 – Aree de importanță avifaunistică din România – Documentații. Societatea Ornitologică Română;
2. H.G. 971/2011 – Hotărâre de Guvern pentru modificarea și completarea H.G. nr. 1284/2007 privind declararea ariilor de protecție specială avifaunistică ca parte integrantă a rețelei ecologice europene Natura 2000 în România;
3. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association “Milvus Group”;
4. PETRESCU, A., 2002 - Preliminary list of the avifauna from the Danube Meadow, between the flowing mouth of the Olt and Suhaia Lake (South of Romania). Travaux du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa", Vol. 44: 375-389;
5. PETRESCU, A., CHIȘAMERA, G., 2003 - Contributions to the knowledge of the avifauna of Suhaia Lake (Southern Romania). Travaux du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle “Grigore Antipa” 2003, Vol. 45: 321 – 329;
6. “Romanian Ornithological Society” database;

The site additionally supports a number of species protected in Europe, including species listed in **the EU Habitat Directive**:

Amphibians: *Bombina orientalis* (An. II, IV), *Triturus cristatus* (II, IV), *Rana dalmatina* (IV), *Bufo viridis* (IV)

Fish: *Umbra krameri* (II, also VU, IUCN), *Misgurnus fossilis* (II), *Pelecus cultratus* (II, V)

Reptiles: *Natrix tessellata* (IV), *Emys orbicularis* (II, IV), *Lacerta viridis* (IV), *Lacerta agilis* (IV)

Mammals *Felis silvestris* (IV)

Criterion 4:

Being located on a major migratory route, Suhaia territory represents an important area for resting and feeding of rare and very rare bird species.

The site is important for breeding populations of the following species: *Ardea purpurea*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Crex crex*, *Egretta (Casmerodius) alba/-us*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta* and *Tadorna ferruginea*.

During migration, the site is important for the following species: *Chlidonias niger*, *Larus cachinnans*, *Larus ridibundus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Tringa glareola*, as well as for over 20000 individuals of other migratory waterfowl.

Please see justification of criterion 2 for the list of bird species.

The site is highly important for waterfowl's habitat, sheltering sedentary wild birds on one hand, as well as northern population that rest during migration periods.

Criterion 5:

The Lake Suhaia represents an important staging area for most of migratory species on their way from Russia to Mediterranean and Africa. During migration in spring and autumn, over 35000 birds can be recorded annually (Annex I).

The data presented above was collected between 2000 and 2008, referenced from the following bibliography:

Criterion 6:

During migration, a number between 44 up to 96 (individuals) of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) can be found here.

The data presented above was collected between 2000 and 2010, referenced from the following bibliography:

1. H.G. 971/2011 – Hotarare de Guvern pentru modificarea si completarea H.G. nr. 1284/2007 privind declararea ariilor de protectie speciala avifaunistica ca parte integranta a retelei ecologice europene Natura 2000 în Romania;
2. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association “Milvus Group”;
3. “Romanian Ornithological Society” database;

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:

Europe: Continental

World: West Palearctic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC (1992)

Donita, N., et al. (2005) Habitatele din Romania, Bucuresti

16. Physical features of the site:

Geology and geomorphology: Suhaia is a meadow lake, with freshwater and a low degree of mineralisation. It has a natural origin, being created by the Danube flood in the low meadow. The water of the lake was accumulated in a depression created in the alluvial deposit transported by the Danube during the Quaternary Period (Holocene). The relief is generally characterised by low altitudes and by a succession of depressions that were created with the contribution of Calmatui, a very small river, with the source in the hilly areas.

Soil type and chemistry range: The ecological conditions, the floods and the high level of the humidity are influencing the soils that are very rich in nutrients. The soils are formed from flood sediments, they are recent and have increased moisture - they belong to the azonal soils class.

Origins: Natural and anthropic

Hydrology: Regarding the hydrology of the site, the lake is very connected with the Danube waters and the periodicity of the river level. That means the level of the water in the lake is depending of the Danube level. The Suhaia Lake is connected with the Danube through channels and it has a depth of 2.2 m maximum.

Water quality: The water in Suhaia Lake is hyper-eutrophic, however allowing the growth for many fish species and maintaining biological diversity of the area.

Depth, fluctuations and permanence:

Climate: The climate is temperate continental, with an annual average of the temperature of 11°C. In the winter, the temperature is - 2^o C and, in July, the warmest month, the temperature is 22-23^o C. The precipitations are influenced by the air masses, the site being located in an area where the western air masses (from Atlantic) are interacting with the eastern masses (from Siberia). The rainiest month is June.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Area: Danube floodplain and terraces

Geological characteristics: The Suhaia Lake is situated in the ex-flooding meadow of the Danube river, but its hydrological regime is also influenced by Calmatui river. Calmatui river has 134 km length and the area of the catchment is 1379 square kilometres. It springs from the hilly area situated in the north of the Romanian Plain and it flows through the Danube terraces. The creation of these terraces is related with the ice ages from the Quaternary Period. From geological point of view, the terraces are composed from sand and gravels covered by loess. What is particular for these loess deposits are the depressions formed

because of the settling processes. The surface of these depressions can vary from 1-2 ha to 150 ha, and their depth is 1 to 5 metres. Some of them are occupied by water and, during the summer they are affected by salinization.

Soil type: The soils in the catchment area are from the cernisols class - in the Romanian System of Soil Taxonomy – chernozems.

Climate: The climate is temperate-continental, with an annual average of the temperature of 10-11^o C. The rainfall average is rising with the altitude, from the Danube meadow and the plain through the hilly areas. The dominant winds are from West.

18. Hydrological values:

The water level in the Suhaia lake is depending on the Danube water level, because of the channels which connect the two water bodies. In the past, the role of Suhaia was very important in the control of the Danube flood, but this changed after the embankment of the river. The period when the level of the lake is rising is in springtime, from the end of February to the beginning of May. The groundwater level is close to the surface and is influenced by the level of the lake which play a relatively important role in groundwater replenishment. It represents a source of freshwater together with the alignment of the springs situated on the lakeside and Calmatui river.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Inland:

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Zk(c)
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b) dominance: Xf, 3, M, O, Tp+Ts, 9, 1

Xf - Freshwater, tree-dominated – 9.7%

3 - Irrigated land – 9%

M - Permanent rivers – 8.5%

O - Permanent freshwater lakes – 4.8%

Tp+Ts - Permanent and seasonal freshwater pools – 2.1%

1 – Aquaculture ponds – 1.2%

20. General ecological features:

Vegetal associations are characteristic to wetlands and silvo-stepic region. The forests are represented by Galleries of *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* (92A0) that is protected under Annex I of Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC). Herbaceous layer is established by wetlands flora species: *Carex* sp., *Lisimachia* sp., *Tripartita* sp., *Bidens cernua*, *Lycopus* sp., *Mentha aquatica*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Stachys palustris*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Vitis sylvestris*).

Aquatic vegetation is represented by *Lemna* sp., *Nymphaea alba*, *Nuphar luteum*, *Nymphoides peltata*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, *Potamogeton* sp., *Myriophyllum* sp., *Ceratophyllum submersum*, *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Najas marina*. In Suhaia

Lake, there are times when only one of this species develops the vegetation layer but usually, they form mixed associations.

The swamp vegetation is represented by reed (*Phragmites australis*) alone or in association with bulrush (*Typha latifolia*, *T. angustifolia*), *Sparganium erectum*, *Sparganium ramosus* together with some accompanying plant species like: *Epipactis palustris*, *Carex pseudocyperus*.

21. Noteworthy flora: No

22. Noteworthy fauna: No

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:

N/A

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:

90 % of the land is public, 9% is private and 1% is mixed.

b) in the surrounding area:

Most important part of the land (pastures and arable land) is private

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Most of the surface is aquatic (rivers, lakes – 45 %), then forest (25 %), arable land and pastures.

The main land uses include aquaculture, agriculture, forestry.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

In the surrounding area the main human activities are related with agriculture and 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 illegal setting on fire of the vegetation, poaching, use of fertilizers

b) in the surrounding area:

Poaching, use of fertilizers.

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.

Suhaia has been declared area for special avian protection by Local Council Suhaia in HC 10/2002, recognised at national level by HG 2151/2005 and at European level by HG nr. 971/2011 regarding the modification and completion of HG 1284/2007 regarding the declaration of Special Protected Areas as part of Natura 2000 network which raised the surface of protected area from 1250 ha to 4473 ha. The Ramsar Site fully integrates the Natura 2000 Site and is identical with the IBA Suhaia.

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?:

Suhaia Town Hall has taken the site in custody in 2006 and developed a management plan in 2008; not approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry yet. In August 2011, the custody contract expired and the management of the Natura 2000 site has been passed to EPA Teleorman which will manage the site until it will be given in custody during the next custody award session in 2012.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

N/A

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

N/A

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

Romanian Ornithological Society monitors the site in the framework of the LIFE project ”**Cross-border conservation of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and *Aythya nyroca* at key sites in Romania and Bulgaria**” – 2009 - 2012.

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

There are no specific activities regarding conservation education.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

The site offers recreational and visiting possibilities especially on weekends. The frequency grows during summer for fishing or recreation. Sometimes hunting games are organised in the area.

32. Jurisdiction:

Ministry of Environment and Forests
B-dul.Libertatii nr.12, sector 5, Bucuresti

33. Management authority:

Environmental Protection Agency Teleorman,
Marian Sardan
Str. Dunarii, No 1, Alexandria, Teleorman
Tel: +40 247 316 228
Email: office@apmtr.anpm.ro

34. Bibliographical references:

1. BirdLife International, 2001, Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar sites in Europe, BirdLife International, Wageningen, The Netherlands;
2. Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, “Bird Directive”;
3. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
4. Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterstrom, 2010 – “Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition”;
5. Munteanu, D., Toniuc, N., Weber, P., Szabo, J. & Marinov, M., 1989 Evaluarea efectivelor pasarilor acvatice în cartierele lor de iernare din Romania (1988, 1989). *Ocot. Nat.* 33, 105-112;
6. Munteanu, D., (coord.), 2004 – Arii de importanța avifaunistică din Romania – Documentații. Societatea Ornitologica Romana;
7. OUG 57/2007 – Ordonanta de urgenta privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei si faunei salbatice;
8. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association “Milvus Group”;

9. PETRESCU, A., 2002 - Preliminary list of the avifauna from the Danube Meadow, between the flowing mouth of the Olt and Suhaia Lake (South of Romania). Travaux du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa", Vol. 44: 375-389;
10. PETRESCU, A., CHIȘAMERA, G., 2003 - CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AVIFAUNA OF SUHAIA LAKE (SOUTHERN ROMANIA). Travaux du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa" 2003, Vol. 45: 321 – 329;
11. "Romanian Ornithological Society" database.