

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

CALAFAT- CIUPERCENI - DANUBE

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

WWF – Programul Dunare Carpati Romania
Ioan Caragea street, no. 26, Corp A, sector 1, cod 010537
Tel: 004 021 317 49 96; fax: 004 021 317 49 97
<http://romania.panda.org/cmunteanu@wwfdcp.ro>
Bucuresti
ROMANIA

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

25.08.2012

3. Country:

ROMANIA

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

CALAFAT - CIUPERCENI- DANUBE (local name: Calafat – Ciuperceni – Dunare)

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:

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): ; **yes**

ii) an **electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ; **yes**

iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

The southern and western boundary of the site is determined by the national border with Bulgaria. In the north the boundary follows a county road (DJ553) from Ciuperceii Vechi until Poiana Mare, where it intersects DN55A. The latter comes from Calafat and links Poiana Mare with three other localities situated right near the site boundary: Tunarii Vechi, Piscu Vechi and Ghidici. Pisculet locality represents an enclave inside the site.

The Ramsar site is overlapping Natura 2000 site ROSPA0013 Calafat – Ciuperceii – Dunare.

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

43°50'46" N, 22°57'09" E

9. General location:

The site is located in the South West of Romania, in Dolj county.

The nearest large town is Craiova (298.643 inhabitants).

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

The average elevation is 35 m above the sea.

The minimum altitude is 2 m.

The maximum altitude is 54 m.

11. Area: (in hectares)

29,206 ha

Wetland Area: 7,084 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 site is situated in the SW part of the Oltenia Plain, very close to the Danube River which had an important role in shaping the landscape of the area. The area was very wild in the past and it used to be under the influences of the Danube floods. After the draining, the construction of the dykes and the channels, the biodiversity was reduced. The forests were cut, the lakes were dried and transformed into arable land. The site is an Important Bird Area and it was declared as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive in 2007. The SPA was declared for the protection of 35 bird species listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive, but it is also important because of the high number of species protected by the Bonn Convention. Some of the species who are finding ideal conditions for nesting are *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Burbinus oedicnemus*. During the migration period, the site is important for *Tringa glareola*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*. The site is also a Site of Community Importance (SCI), designated under the Habitats Directive due to the presence of the following habitats:

Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* —type vegetation, Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodium rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation, Dunes with *Hippophaë rhamnoides*, Humid dune slacks and for the protection of the following species: *Lutra lutra*, *Spermophilus citellus*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina*, *Triturus dobrogicus*, *Alosa immaculata*, *Anisus vorticulus* etc.

Inside the site, there are 3 nature reserves: Balta Neagra, Balta Lata and Ciuperzeni Desa, declared especially for the birds species.

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

Criterion 1:

The Ramsar site includes some important wetlands for continental region cited in the Annex I of Habitats Directive. These wetlands are:

- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp* (habitat 3140);
- Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* – vegetation type (habitat 3150);
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* (habitat 3130);
- Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the *Cnidion dubii* (habitat 6440);
- Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodium rubric* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation (habitat 3270).

The Ramsar site is also fostering two priority habitats under Habitats Directive - Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes – 1530* and Euro-Siberian steppic woods with *Quercus* spp. – 9110*).

Criterion 2:

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

Scientific name	Common name	Breeding (pairs)	Winter (individuals)	Migrants (individuals)
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	P		
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	8-10		
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	8-20		
<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Bonn)	Ferruginous Duck	200-250		700-800

<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Great Bittern	8-12		
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> (Bonn)	Eurasian Thick-knee	20-30		
<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (Bonn)	Red-breasted Goose			P
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Eurasian Nightjar	P		
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern	200-400		
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern			P
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i> (Bonn)	White Stork	60-80		300-400
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> (Bonn)	Black Stork	10-16		120-170
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-Harrier	10-12		
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier		R	
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Roller	80-120		
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				R
<i>Egretta/Casmerodius alba/-us</i>	Great Egret	10-20		
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	500-800		
<i>Falco columbarius</i>			R	
<i>Gavia arctica</i>				R
<i>Gavia stellata</i>				R
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (Bonn)	White-tailed Eagle	3-4		
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	50-100		
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Wood Lark	P		
<i>Mergus albellus</i>	Smew			P
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	2-4		
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	(Black-crowned) Night Heron	380-600		
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey			P
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (VU, IUCN, Bonn)	Dalmatian Pelican			34-51
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican			13-200
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i> (Bonn)	Pygmy Cormorant	120-200		
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> (Bonn)	Spoonbill	100-300		240-350
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (Bonn)	Glossy Ibis	10-20		120-140
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	P		
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper			P

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

Amphibians: *Triturus dobrogicus* (An. II), *Bombina bombina* (An. II and IV)

Fish: *Alosa immaculata* (An. II), *Pelecus cultratus* (An. II), *Cobitis taenia* (An. II), *Sabanejewia aurata* (An. II), *Gymnocephalus schaeretzer* (An. II), *Gymnocephalus balonii* (An. II), *Aspius aspius* (AN. II), *Gobio albipinnatus* (An. II), *Misgurnus fossilis* (An. II), *Rhodeus sericeus amareus* (An. II)

Reptiles: *Emys orbicularis* (An. II and IV)

Mammals: *Spemophilus citellus* (An. II), *Lutra lutra* (An. II and IV)

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

1. OUG 57/2007 – Ordonanța de urgență privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei și faunei sălbatice;
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;

Criterion 4:

Being located on a major migratory route, Calafat – Ciupereni - Dunăre territory represents an important area for resting and feeding of rare bird species.

The site is important for breeding populations of the following species: *Ardea purpurea*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Burhinus oedipnemus*, *Cblidonias hybrida*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Egretta/Casmerodius alba/-us*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Platalea leucorodia* and *Plegadis falcinellus*.

During migration, the site is important for the following species: *Aythya nyroca*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Platalea leucorodia* and *Plegadis falcinellus*.

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.

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

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

a) biogeographic region:

- 1) World: West Palearctic
- 2) Europe: Continental

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

- 1) Udvardy, 1975
 - 2) Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC (1992)
- Donita, N., et al. (2005) Habitatele din Romania, Bucuresti

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.

Geology and geomorphology:

The site is situated in the Romanian Plain, in the SW part of the Oltenia Plain. From geological point of view, the basement of the site is represented by the Moesian Platform, covered by layers of gravels, sand and loes in the Quaternary period. The relief of the site is represented by sand dunes which alternate with depressions covered by lakes. On the sand dunes, there were acacia plantations in the past, but, after 1990, when the land was restituted, most of them were cut, aspect that contributes to the intensification of the desertification in the area.

Soil type and chemistry range:

The soils are from the azonal soil class: they are formed from flood sediments; they are recent and have increased moisture. On the terraces, the soils are from the chernozoms class, while in the forest areas some specific forest soils appear (argiloiluvial soils).

Origins:

The wetland has natural origins, but the landscape was transformed by the human intervention.

Hydrology:

The hydrology is represented by the Danube, but also by a big number of lakes situated between the sand dunes: Balta Ciupereni, Balta Lata, Balta Lunga, Balta Tarova, Balta Arcerului, Balta Neagra.

Water quality:

The water quality is moderate.

Depth, fluctuations and permanence of water:

Maximum depth: 1.5m medium depth: 1m

Wetland area: 7084 ha

Climate:

The climate is temperate continental, with sub Mediterranean and West influences. The temperature annual average in Calafat is 11.7^o C. The coldest month is January with -2,0^o C, while the hottest is in July, 23.4^o C. In July, the values can very often reach 40-42^o C. The annual rainfall average is 580 mm, but in the summer the level of aridity is high and the drought very frequent. The dominant winds are from SW (20%) and from West direction (14%). A local wind is Austrul, a dry wind with origins in the Mediterranean area.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Area:

The catchment area is a part of the Oltenia Plain.

Geological characteristics:

The geology is represented by layers of gravels, sand and loess which cover the crystalline schists of the Moesian Platform. The catchment area is formed by the Danube terraces, and the highest altitude is around 100 meters.

Soil type:

The soils are from the chernozoms class, while in the forest areas some specific forest soils appear (argiloiluvial soils).

Land use:

In the catchment, most of the land is arable land, then broad leaved forest, inland marshes, transitional woodland shrubs.

Climate:

The climate is temperate continental, with sub Mediterranean and West influences. The temperature annual average in Calafat is 11.7^o C. The coldest month is January with -2^o C, while the hottest is in July, 23.5^oC. In July, the values can very often reach 40-42^o C. The annual rainfall average is 580 mm, but in the summer the level of aridity is high and the drought very frequent. The dominant winds are from SW (20%) and from West direction (14%). A local wind is Austral, a dry wind with origins in the Mediterranean area.

18. Hydrological values:

The site has importance in reducing the effects of the Danube floods.

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)

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

b) dominance:

Tp + Ts - Permanent freshwater marshes + Seasonal freshwater marshes – 16%
 Sp + Ss – Permanent saline marshes + Intermittent saline marshes – 6.8%
 M – Permanent rivers – 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 site is important for conservation of the habitat 92A0 included in the Annex I of Habitats Directive – Galleries of *Populus alba* and *Salix alba*, many of the areas covered with this type of forests being in a natural state without human impact.

In the wetlands areas, Danubian communities with *Cyperus fuscus* and *C. flavescens* or with *Chara tomentosa*, *Nitella gracilis*, *Nitellopsis obtuse* and *Lychnothamnus barbatasi* or ponto-Danubien communities with *Bidens tripartite*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Polygonum hydropiperi* or with *Lemna minor*, *L. trisulca*, *Spirodela polyrhiza* and *Wolffia arrhiza* are present.

The Ramsar site is also fostering two priority habitats under Habitats Directive - Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes – 1530* and Euro-Siberian steppic woods with *Quercus* spp. – 91I0*).

21. Noteworthy flora: N/A

22. Noteworthy fauna: N/A

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:
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24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) **within the Ramsar site:** 80 % of the land are private property and 20 % is public.

b) **in the surrounding area:** most of the land in the surrounding area is private.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) **within the Ramsar site:** In the site, the most important human activity is forestry and agriculture.

b) **in the surroundings/catchment:** In the catchment area the 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:** hunting, poaching, grazing, fertilisation, floods etc.

b) **in the surrounding area:** use of fertilizers, hunting, poaching.

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 site is an Important Bird Area and it was declared as an Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive in 2007. The site also covers part of the Site of Community Importance ROSCI 0039 Ciuperceni-Desa, designated under the Habitats Directive. Inside the site, there are 3 nature reserves: Balta Neagra, Balta Lata and Ciuperceni Desa, declared especially for the birds species.

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

In the Ramsar site area there are three natural reserves designated under Law 5/2000 regarding the approval of the national territory use, Section III – Protected areas: Ciuperceni – Desa – 200 ha, Balta Lata – 28 ha and Balta Neagra – 1.2 ha. These areas have typical marshes vegetation being the most natural parts of the site.

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

The management plan is awaiting approval by the Ministry.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

A management plan and a regulation for the area has been developed by the custodian of the Natura 2000 site but is not approved yet by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

N/A

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

N/A

31. Current recreation and tourism:

N/A

32. Jurisdiction:

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

33. Management authority:

National Forestry Administration – Forestry Direction Dolj,
Daniel Drignei,
Iancu Jianu Str, no. 19, Craiova, jud. Dolj
Email: office@craiova.rosilva.ro
Tel: + 40 251 421 363

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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. 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;
4. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
5. Liška I., Wagner F., Slobodnik J. – editors (2008) - Joint Danube Survey 2, Final Scientific Report – published by ICPDR.
6. Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterstrom, 2010 – "Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition";
7. Munteanu, D., (coord.), 2004 – Arii de importanță avifaunistică din România – Documentații. Societatea Ornitologică Română;
8. OUG 57/2007 – Ordonanța de urgență privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei și faunei sălbatice;
9. Papp, T., Fantana, C., - editors (2008) – Important Bird Areas in Romania – published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association "Milvus Group";
10. "Romanian Ornithological Society" database;
11. Talpeanu, M., 1965 – Avifaune de la region inondable du Danube, en Oltenie; Trav. Mus. Hist. Nat. „Gr. Antipa”, 5: 293-317;
12. Talpeanu, M., 1968 – Influence des endiguements de la region inondable du Danube sur l'ornitofaune dans le secteur Calafat-Corabia. Trav. Mus. Hist. Nat. „Gr. Antipa”, 8/2: 939-946;
13. Talpeanu, M., 1971 – Rezervația de la Ciupercenii Noi (Dolj) – refugiu pentru păsările din Lunca Dunării. Studii și Cercet., Craiova: 34-41.

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

