

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

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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 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
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.

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

Serhan CAGIRANKAYA
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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

20.08.2009

3. Country:

TURKEY

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

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

LAKE KUYUCUK (KUYUCUK GÖLÜ)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

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

On the attached map of the site, red border indicates the Ramsar Site border, it is the same with ecological impact zone and it mostly follows the wildlife reserve border. It only leaves the wildlife reserve boundary in the north part of the site. Because the road splits the site in two parts. Only the Ramsar site boundaries cover all of the site. The blue border indicates the wetland zone and red hatching areas indicate the primary conservation zone. These areas are mostly important for bird species.

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

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

40° 45' N , 43° 27' E

9. General location:

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

Lake Kuyucuk is located within the borders of Kars province in north eastern Turkey. It is 37 km far from Kars downtown and is 23 km far from Armenian Border.

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

1627 m. average

11. Area: (in hectares)

416 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 Kuyucuk Lake is one of most important wetlands of Kars, located 37 km northeast of the city center, and 15 km west of Akyaka town. Lake Kuyucuk is located in north-eastern Turkey and is a part of Caucasian Biodiversity Hotspot. It is a stream- and spring-fed freshwater lake (depth 13 m) situated on the Kars-Akyaka plateau (1627 m elevation), in the centre of an open, undulating landscape. Emergent vegetation is sparse, although *Phragmites* and various sedge species do occur in more sheltered bays and offshore shoals. Human activities include cereal production and livestock grazing. Frozen in winter, the lake is a crucial breeding and stop-over site for many birds between spring and fall. Lake Kuyucuk also attracts birdwatchers and nature tourists.

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:

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

Criterion 1: Lake Kuyucuk is located in a Caucasian Biodiversity Hot spot which have been identified by Conservation International. The site contains a rare example of a natural or near natural wetland type found within this biogeographic region.

It is not only an important bird area, but also a key biodiversity area. It is located along African-Eurasian migration flyways which is one of the most important bird migration routes in the world. The lake, situated on the Kars-Akyaka high plateau, in the center of an open, undulating landscape is fed with stream and spring water (max depth 13 meters) which is diverted for livestock. Human activities around the lake include cereal production and stock-grazing. Surrounded by treeless steppe and sparse *Phragmites* reed patches, the surrounding vegetation is mostly removed by sheep and cattle. Since it is a broad, shallow freshwater lake, it is the most important regional lake for birds' feeding and roosting.

Criterion 2: 20 of Turkey's 27 currently present threatened or near threatened bird species (according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1. <www.iucnredlist.org>) do or should occur at Lake Kuyucuk. The following abbreviations are used below: NT – near threatened; VU – vulnerable; EN – endangered; CR – critically endangered; LC – least concerned. Detailed information will be given in Annex 1.

Nine globally threatened (listed below) and nine near threatened species have been recorded at Lake Kuyucuk. Of these, there is a breeding population of globally Endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).

Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) – VU, Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) – EN, White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) – EN, Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) – EN, Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) – VU, Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) – VU, Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) – VU, Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) – VU, Sociable Plover (*Chettusia gregaria*) – CR.

Three globally threatened species are expected at Lake Kuyucuk based on their regional presence and satellite-tracking data. Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)– VU, Saker (*Falco cherrug*) – EN, Sociable Plover (*Chettusia gregaria*) – CR.

The lake supports high number of individuals of Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) - LC (VU in Europe; listed in the Appendix II of the Bern Convention) - visiting migrants and breeding population. *Elymus sosnowskyi* (Poaceae) – EN, National Red Data Book for plants which is an endemic plant species.

Criterion 3:

210 bird species have been recorded at Lake Kuyucuk (see point 29). This constitutes 77% of all bird species recorded in Kars province, 45% of the bird species recorded in Turkey, and more than half the bird species recorded in the Caucasian Biodiversity Hotspot, which includes Kuyucuk Lake. Among these, there are large numbers of characteristic species such as Ruddy Shelduck (thousands).

Criterion 4: Lake Kuyucuk is one of the most important stop-over sites for migrating birds both in the fall and in the spring. It has been observed that almost all migrating species use the site for roosting and feeding including species like red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*). Also we know that white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) which is a globally endangered species is breeding in the site. The lake is frozen between the dates December 15 to March 20.

Criterion 5: Bird surveys conducted in 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008 recorded over 20,000, 9,000, 9,000, 8,000 ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*) respectively; in 2009 number of ruddy shelducks was 30,000. Apart from ruddy shelducks, more than 10,000 coots, and totally more than 20,000 waterbirds could be observed in the site.

Criterion 6: Every fall, over 10,000 ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) (20% of W Asia, Caspian, Iran, Iraq population) are observed on the lake for multiple days. Bird surveys conducted in 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008 recorded over 20,000, 9,000, 9,000, 8,000 ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*) respectively; in 2009 number of ruddy shelducks was 30,000, constituting 16 - 60% of the population estimated to be – 50,000 individuals (according to: Waterbird Population Estimates, Forth Edition, 2006).

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:** Lake Kuyucuk lies along the eastern edge of the Anatolian Biogeographical Region and is a transitional area between eastern Europe, western Asia, and the Middle East. The Anatolian Biogeographic Region is the westernmost part of the Irano-Turanian phytogeographical region and western Asian elements constitute a major proportion of the terrestrial and aquatic species diversity.

b) **biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation): no detailed biogeographic regionalisation scheme yet exists for the area; the European Environment Agency (2005; <http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/atlas/viewdata/viewpub.asp?id=2671>) classifies the area as Anatolian biogeographic region.

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.

Geologically, the region lies within the recently folded mountain zone of Eurasia. The geology of the region is complex, with sedimentary rocks ranging from Paleozoic to Quaternary, numerous intrusions, and extensive areas of volcanic material. Although there are no active volcanoes in the immediate vicinity of Kuyucuk, the geological structure of most of the region is unstable. Faulting and folding are widespread and mountain building is still in progress. This is particularly conducive to earthquakes.

The central massif region upon which Kuyucuk lies is often referred to as the Anatolian Plateau or the Eastern Anatolian Plateau, although its relief is much more varied than this term suggests. Kuyucuk Lake lies in a gently sloping valley (at roughly 1600m) between peaks greater than 2000 m in elevation. This inter Pontic-Taurus mountain zone typically produces extensive areas of mostly mountainous terrain with pockets of relatively level land in valleys and enclosed basins, of which the greater Kuyucuk Lake area is an excellent example.

The brown and reddish brown soils of the area are characteristic of the driest part of Eastern Anatolia and support extensive dry farming of cereals.

The Kuyucuk-area climate is characterized by relatively large differences between the average summer and winter temperatures. Annual precipitation is very low ranging between 300 and 550 mm annually. Winter temperatures average between -15 and -5°C and summer temperatures average between 16 and 23°C. The lake is frozen between the dates December 15 to March 20.

Maximal depth of the lake exceeds 8m, but averages closer to 4m. This depth can vary greatly depending upon annual snowmelt and anthropogenic interception. While the extent of the lake varies over the year with water level, the summertime perimeter is typically greater than 8 km. The lake itself is typically ovoid in shape with the maximal (NNE-SSW) axis being about 2km and the minor axis spanning roughly 1km. Lake Kuyucuk is fed through a mix of surface and sheet flow from snow melt as well as subsurface recharge from seeps originating in the surrounding mountains.

A very limited obligate and facultative wetland plant zone extends around the perimeter of the lake, typically only a few meters in linear extent. Two notable pockets of wetland vegetation (adjacent to the village of Kuyucuk and along the SE corner of the lake) extend closer to 20m, but are heavily grazed/degraded soon after snowmelt by grazing livestock.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

The surface area of the catchment is difficult to accurately document owing to the great deal of subsurface recharge that forms the mainstay of the lake's input. The area is fed by a watershed of roughly 250,000 hectares in extent, defined by the ridgelines of the surrounding peaks. This region is treeless with grasslands and dry farmed cereals dominating the landscape. Most historic surface seeps or pocket wetlands have long since been degraded by their use as livestock watering holes to the point they have lost essentially all wetland functions. The nearby Kars River is a major component of the regional landscape. However, as the river lies approximately 150 m below the Kuyucuk Lake/valley plain in the Kars gorge, it functions as an ultimate water sink rather than source to the system.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The lake serves a variety of wetland functions and values. First and foremost it is the largest lake in the district and provides essential habitat for wetland-dependent organisms including amphibians, birds, and plants. Water from the lake is currently the only source of water for humans, livestock and agriculture for the three villages surrounding the lake (although recent attempts to drill a more than 100m-deep well in one village may change that). While detailed tracer studies have not been performed, it is likely that lake water ultimately contributes to the nearby Kars River through subsurface flow. The dry farming of crops surrounding the lake keeps agricultural runoff to a minimum.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

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

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

Inland: L • M • N • Q • 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.

O-Permanent freshwater lakes ~330 ha

Tp-Permanent Freshwater marshes/pools ~85ha (this is primarily a thin fringing wetland vegetation zone between the lake edge and permanent grassland/agricultural zones)

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.

This area may be typical of what much of the Anatolian Steppe grassland-wetland community used to consist of before widespread degradation of these water bodies over the past several hundred years. Plant associations such as *Artemisia austriaca*-*Artemisia fragrans*, *Astragalus-Acanthalimon-Onobrychis* cushion like formations and *Poaceae* formations (*Stipa* sp., *Bromus* sp., *Festuca* sp., *Poa bulbosa*, *Kochia* sp.) are common throughout this ecoregion. Other plant assemblages that dominate in the surrounding catchment include umbellifers belonging to *Ferula*, *Prangos* and other genera and alpine vegetation such as *Draba* sp., *Dracocephalum* sp., *Oxyria* sp., *Polygonum* sp., *Veronica* sp. and other geophytes such as *Trollius* sp., *Scilla* sp., *Gentiana verna*, *Primula* sp. Riparian corridors along the nearby Kars River are dominated by poplar, willow and ash trees as well as *Phragmites* sp., sedges, and *Tamarix* sp.

The annual freezing over of the lake prevents any fish community of significance, but several species of amphibians (*Rana* sp.) are common across the fringing perimeter of the lake.

Wolves, foxes, and other small terrestrial mammals are common across the region and are frequently reported in and around the lake. The bat community is underexplored, but at times quite abundant.

21. Noteworthy flora:

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

Elymus sosnowskyi – EN (National Red Data Book for plants) (Poaceae)

22. Noteworthy fauna:

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

Detailed list will be given by Annex1

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) – NT,
 White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) - EN,
 Red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) - EN,
 Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) – VU,
 Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) - EN,
 Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) – NT,
 Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) – VU,
 Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*) – NT,
 Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) - LC (VU in Europe)

The status of species is indicated in accordance with: IUCN 2009. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.1. <www.iucnredlist.org>. The following abbreviations are used above: NT – near threatened; VU – vulnerable; EN – endangered; CR – critically endangered; LC – least concerned.

23. Social and cultural values:

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

The main income for local people living around Lake Kuyucuk is cattle breeding and agriculture. Lake Kuyucuk is surrounded by three villages and those villagers benefit the lake by watering their cattle, grazing their animals and hay cutting around the lake. There are about 1000 people living in the surrounding villages. When protection and RAMSAR boundaries were being identified by the national wetland commission, an archaeological ruin was identified in the eastern side of the lake by the archaeologists in the commission.

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?

No

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

State owned (% 80)

Private (%20)

b) in the surrounding area:

Private (%100)

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The main human activities within the Ramsar site are wheat and barley farming, livestock grazing and hay cutting by local people. There are also scientific researches, environmental education programmes and nature tourism facilities carried out by Local Society.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

There are three main human settlements around the lake. These are Kuyucuk, Carcioglu and Durakli villages. Main human activities in the surrounding areas are again wheat and barley agriculture, hay cutting, bee keeping and livestock grazing.

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 main ecological threat to the site is overgrazing, esp. grazing of the reed bed areas which is very vital for bird life in the lake. There is no grazing plan or schedule in order to

maintain grassland sustainably. Cattle also cause disturbance for breeding and nesting birds in and around the lake. With effluent streams from the surrounding villages (principally Kuyucuk Village) and livestock “non-point source” waste being the primary pollutant sources.

In 1990s sugar beet farming was allowed around the lake and farmers used water from the lake by using water pumps. After it caused drainage in the lake, sugar beet farming was forbidden by the Ministry of Agriculture. The lake collected water and returned back.

The road on the northern side of the lake is the main road goes to Armenian border. Since Turkish-Armenian border is closed due to political conflicts since 1993, the road does not have a heavy traffic. In case of the opening of the border, this road will host a very busy and heavy traffic, mainly trucks. It can cause human disturbance and pollution in the lake.

b) in the surrounding area:

There is a dam construction project on Kars River for irrigation for farming in the region. If the project is realized, it means that villagers will give up dry farming and start irrigated farming which can cause huge amounts of artificial fertilizer. That could pollute the lake and decrease water quality.

The road on the northern side of the lake is the main road goes to Armenian border. Since Turkish-Armenian border is closed due to political conflicts since 1993, the road does not have a heavy traffic. In case of the opening of the border, this road will host a very busy and heavy traffic, mainly trucks. It can cause human disturbance and pollution around the lake.

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 was designated as a wildlife reserve by the Ministry of Environment & Forestry in 2005. Hunting is forbidden all year at the site. The Ramsar site border mostly follows the wildlife reserve border. It only leaves the wildlife reserve boundary in the north part of the site, where the road splits the site in two parts. Only the Ramsar site boundaries cover all of the wetland (while the reserve does not cover area to the north from the road).

The site includes Important Bird Area (389 ha)

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

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

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

Management plan process is estimated to start in 2010.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

District governorship of Ministry of Environment and Forestry hired two guards from Kuyucuk Village for the protection of the lake. The old dirt road which bisects the lake and which was useless was converted into an island by cutting off 50 meters from each side so that a safe breeding haven for birds has been constructed. The former teacher house in Kuyucuk village was converted into a guesthouse of 6 bed capacity in order to host nature tourists and scientists who are visiting the site.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

Management plan of the site will be planned in 2010.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

Local Society has been carrying out scientific researches since 2004 at the site.

Bird Ringing Studies

A pilot study of ringing at Lake Kuyucuk was done between May 15-28, 2008 by the permission of the Ministry. Birds were trapped with mistnets, ringed and released 24 hours a day during these 13 days.

A total of 1932 birds of 72 species, mainly shorebirds, swallows, sand martins and larks, were ringed at Kuyucuk Station in 2008.

The first feedback has received from Kazakhstan. A garganey (*Anas querquedula*), which was ringed at Lake Kuyucuk in 2008, was shot by a French hunter in Kazakhstan last winter.

Bird Surveys

Since Local Society started to work at lake Kuyucuk in 2004, the checklist of the lake reached to 210 after their studies and surveys for 5 years.

Wetland Restoration Studies

In 2008 ecological restoration work at Lake Kuyucuk began on April 21, 2008. Six experimental exclosures were placed around the lake in order to monitor the effects of grazing. These exclosures were 15 x 10 meters and consisted of 1 meter tall metal stakes covered in chicken wire in order to keep the cattle out so that vegetation cannot be grazed. We will monitor the vegetation, bird, insect and amphibian diversity and abundance inside and outside the exclosures by doing regular surveys, to understand the effects of grazing. This experiment will provide the basic data required for the master plan to protect the biodiversity of the lake.

Assistant Professor Dr. Sean Anderson of California State University Department of Environmental Sciences, a wetland restoration ecologist, is co-leading this effort with Local Society by the support of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. This scientific study is

also supported by the Governorship of Arpaçay district, Kuyucuk people and Kafkas University. The governor of Arpacay provided the funding to build the cattle enclosures and Kuyucuk villagers and students donated their labor. The results of the study will be shared with the public, will help shape the management plan of Lake Kuyucuk and will be published as a scientific article.

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.

In important days, several education studies for students were held by NGOs. By the MoEF will also plan to build bird watching centre and visiting centre by the end of management plan. Also there is a festival which is held by the local NGO, annually. Kuyucuk villagers sell their own products in the festival.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Local Society designed a bilingual web site, www.kuyucuk.org, giving detailed information about Lake Kuyucuk.

According to the society's records, in 2008 over 30 foreign visitors of including one Austrian, one Brazilian, 4 French, 2 South African, one Indian, 6 British, one Irish, one Swiss, 4 Hungarian, one Mongolian, 6 Dutch and 4 Americans came to Lake Kuyucuk. A Turkish and Dutch botanist group of 30 came to Lake Kuyucuk on August 30, 2008. Around 30 Turkish tourists from different provinces in Turkey visited Lake Kuyucuk .

By winning European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) award of 2009 Lake Kuyucuk will be presented and promoted by European Commission to European tourists and become a part of EDEN network throughout Europe.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

Ministry of Environment & Forestry,
General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks,

33. Management authority:

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

Provincial Directorship of Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Kars
Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks

Faik Bey Cad.

36200 Kars / Turkey

Contact Person: Murat Doganay (Director)

Mobile: 00905065556092

Phone: 00904742125850

Fax:00904742126028

e-mail: muratdoganay36@hotmail.com

34. Bibliographical references:

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

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