

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

1. Name and address of the RIS compiler:

Kazantypskyi (Kazantyp) Nature Reserve

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2. Country:

UKRAINE

3. Date:

April 7, 2003.

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Aquatic-cliff Complex of Cape Kazantyp

5. Map of the Ramsar site:

yes

6. Geographical coordinates:

45°28' N 35°51' E

7. General location:

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Leninskyi Rayon (Lenino District); 45 km west of the city of Kerch (210 thousand inhabitants) and north of the city of Feodosiya (150 thousand inhabitants), 3 km north of the town of Scholkino (9 thousand inhabitants); near Mysove village.

8. Elevation:

Aquatic area - 0 m; mainland area - up to 100 m above sea level

9. Area:

251 ha

10. Overview:

The site represents a coastal area of the Sea of Azov near the rocky and deeply cut cape of bryozoan-limestone origin with steep, pebble-boulder and detritus-coquina coasts. The sea sublittoral on shoals (depth up to 3 m) with the stony bottom is densely inhabited by macrophytes (their total biomass reaches about 3 kg/sq.m.), predominantly algae *Cystoseira barbata* and vascular plants *Zannichellia major* and *Zostera noltii*. Among this vegetation, such rare fish species as *Huso huso ponticus*, *Hippocampus guttulatus microstephanus*, *Umbrina cirrosa*, *Trigla lucerna* spawn; and also Decapoda crustaceans *Carcinus aestuarii*, *Upogebia pusilla*; and Misidacea crustaceans: *Hemimysis serrata*, *Hemimysis anomala*. Rare bird species Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* and large communities (up to 10 thousand individuals) of other birds of the wetland complex, including those rare in Ukraine and Europe, nest within the site.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

1 2 4 6 7 8

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

Criterion 1: The site represents a unique coastal area of the sea with depths mainly to 6 m (this isobath is located at 60-300 m from the coast) with thickets of mainly macrophytic algae on firm (stony) substrata of the Sea of Azov around of outside ring ridge of the cape of bryozoan-limestone origin (mainly formed by fossil remnants of the bryozoan species *Membranipora lapidosa*), composed of a series of small stony bays with narrow (up to 10 m wide) pebble-boulder coastal strips, and detritus-coquina areas (up to 30 m wide). Landslides of Lower Maeotian limestones, occasionally Lower Sarmatian clays and Quaternary loam and sandy coquina deposits stretch from the cape into the sea.

Criterion 2: Permanently the species Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* is registered (listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine and Bern Convention; 6-8 pairs nest and up to 160 individuals can be simultaneously met at the end of summer and in spring). At the end of summer, in spring and winter (when the sea is not frozen) up to 10 thousand birds of the wetland complex occur within the site. Periodically it is possible to meet rare in Ukraine and Europe bird species, such as Saker *Falco cherrug*, Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedienemus*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*; marine mammals *Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*; fishes *Huso huso ponticus*, *Hippocampus guttulatus*, *Umbrina cirrosa*, *Trigla lucerna*; Decapoda crustaceans *Carcinus aestuarii*, *Upogebia pusilla*; and Misidacea crustaceans *Hemimysis serrata*, *Hemimysis anomala*.

Four fish species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine are registered in sea waters. There are good conditions for reproduction of commercial edible fish species, *Platichthys flesus luscus* and *Liza aurata*.

Thickets of marine vascular plants and algal macrophytes form one of the rarest types of natural habitats listed by Resolution n° 4 (1996) of Standing Committee of the Bern Convention for the Emerald Network.

Criterion 4:

Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve together with Aktash Lake and the adjacent Astanivska floodplain are listed among the 138 most valuable areas of Ukraine, defined for the Important Bird Area Programme. The value of the site is determined by the presence of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (2 000-5 000 individuals), Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (6-8 pairs nest and up to 160 individuals can simultaneously stay during their migration), Avoset *Recurvirostra avosetta* (130-285 pairs), Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (40-72 pairs), Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (2 700 pairs), Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* (3 200 pairs), Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* (2 200 pairs), and Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (360 pairs). These species nest and concentrate partly here for feeding and flying away from here during water freezing in winter.

Criterion 6:

The following species are regularly present on the site:

- _ 2 000 to 5 000 individuals (1%= 1 200) of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
- _ 360 pairs of Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (1%=270 individuals).
- _ 3 200 pairs of Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* (1%= 1 800)

Criterion 7

The site supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish species (garfish *Belone belone euxini* Gunther, fresh-water smelt *Pungitius platygaster platygaster* (Kessler), Mediterranean scad *Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus* Aleev, Atherine *Atherina mochon pontica* Eichwald, mullet *Mullus barbatus ponticus* Essipov, *Platichthys flesus luscus* (Pallas) and about 20 species of gobies, including: *Neogobius platyrostris platirostris* (Pallas), giant goby *Gobius cobitis* Pallas, black goby *Gobius niger* Linnaeus, *Zosterisessor ophiocephalus* (Pallas), *Proterorhinus marmoratus* (Pallas) that contributes to global biological diversity.

Criterion 8:

The sea sublittoral on shoals (depth up to 3 m) with the stony bottom is densely inhabited by macrophytes (their total biomass reaches about 3 kg/sq.m.), predominantly algae *Cystoseira barbata* and vascular plants *Zannichellia major* and *Zostera noltii*. Among this vegetation, such rare fish species as *Huso huso ponticus*, *Hippocampus guttulatus microstephanus*, *Umbrina cirrosa*, *Trigla lucerna* spawn; and also Decapoda crustaceans *Carcinus aestuarii*, *Upogebia pusilla*; and Misidacea crustaceans: *Hemimysis serrata*, *Hemimysis anomala*.

13. Biogeography:

Biogeographical region on the map of Emerald Network of Ukraine: Steppe.

According to geobotanical zoning of Ukraine: Black Sea (Pontic) Steppe Province of the European-Asian steppe region.

Basin affiliation: Southeastern Azov Sea area in the region of the Crimean Peninsula.

14. Physical features of the site:

The geological foundation of the site is formed by thick sedimentary deposits (Crimean and Caucasian directions), which are accumulated on the bottom of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea, and cover the so-called Azov-Kuban' edge flexure. According to geomorphological zoning, the site's territory is part of the northeastern subregion of the Kerch Geomorphological Region. Solonetz and chernozem soils on clays and limestones are widespread in the Kazantyp Cape area.

Fish kill (mainly fishes of the family *Callionymidae*) may be observed during hot summer due to abrupt decrease of the oxygen content, although the water quality corresponds to the "satisfactory" category.

According to climatic zoning, the site's territory is part of the Kerch coastal region, characterized by an arid climate with soft winters. An average annual precipitation is 300 mm, with the maximum in June-August. Evaporation exceeds precipitations twice. The Sea of Azov level increases at the rate of 1-2 mm per year.

Average annual temperature is about +11.0°C, average January temperature – 1.1°C, July, + 23.9°C. The frost-free period usually lasts for 222 days. Northeasterly winds are predominant, in summer they are dry and hot.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

The site is an aquatic-cliff area of the Sea of Azov, which is connected with the Black Sea by the Strait of Kerch. The water inflow is formed by 12 major rivers, the Don and the Kuban are largest among them. For the last 100 years, water salinity increased from 5-8 to 13.8 ‰ due to a decrease of the river inflow.

16. Hydrological values:

The absence of any permanent hydrographic network is characteristic for the site. Temporary spring streams on thalwegs of balkas and ravines dry up in summer. The territory has a deficit of fresh underground waters. Condensation plays an important role in feeding of groundwater layers in strongly fractured limestones.

The process of coastal sea abrasion is characteristic for the site. Waves and surf actively erode positive forms of the relief. The coastline has a finely cut sawtooth outlines.

17. Wetland Type:

A D B E

18. General ecological features:

The main habitat types of the site are sea sublittoral, deeply dissected rocky boulder-pebble and detritus-coquina strips along the coasts.

The site represents a coastal area with depth mainly up to 6 m in the Sea of Azov and around the outer ring ridge of bryozoan-limestone origin (composed of fossil remnants of the bryozoan species *Membranipora lapidosa*), set up from number of small stony bays with narrow (up to 10 m wide) pebble-boulder coastal strips.

Concerning phytobenthos the most productive is the sublittoral area (mainly with stones and boulders on the bottom). Up to 1-m depth their total biomass reaches about 3 kg/sq.m., where three individual coenoses (communities) with domination of *Cystoseira barbata*, *Zannichellia major*, and *Zostera noltii* are found, and at the depths of 2-3 m the maximum biomass of macrophytobenthos is 10-20 times lower. In the pseudolittoral zone, communities are polydominant, with several dominant species, such as *Enteromorpha intestinalis*, *Enteromorpha linza*, *Ectocarpus confervoides* and *Ulotrix flacca*, *Ceramium tenuissimum*, *Polysiphonia opaca* with total biomass of macrophytobenthos communities up to 1 kg and more per 1 sq.m.

19. Noteworthy flora:

The marine macrophytic flora consists of 2 vascular plants species (flowering plants *Zannichellia major* and *Zostera noltii*), 15 species of green algae – *Chlorophyta* (*Enteromorpha linza*, *E.intestinalis*, *E.ahineriana*, *E.maeotica*, *Chaetomorpha aerea*, *Ch.capillaris*, *Ch.chlorotica*, *Cladophora albida*, *C.sericea*, *C.siwaschensis*, *C.vadorum*, *Ulva virida*, *Ulotrix flacca*, *Bryopsis hypnoides*, *B.adriatica*), 3 species of brown algae – *Phaeophyta* (*Scytosiphon lomentaria*, *Cystoseira barbata*, *Ectocarpus confervoides*), 11 species of red algae – *Rhodophyta* (*Melobesia lejolisii*, *Chylocladia squarrosa*, *Ceramium diaphanum*, *C.arborescens*, *C.tenuissimum*, *C.pedicellatum*, *C.rubrum*, *Polysiphonia denudata*, *P.subulifera*, *P.opaca*, *Porphyra leucosticta*); i.e., practically all species of poor macrophytobenthos of the Sea of Azov.

On sandy-coquina spits *Asparagus litoralis* and *Thymus littoralis* occur, which are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine.

20. Noteworthy fauna:

Here constantly nest 6-8 pairs of Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine and Appendix 2 of the Bern Convention, about 160 individuals can simultaneously be found at the end of the summer and in autumn). Periodically one can meet some rare and threatened in Ukraine and Europe bird, mammal, fish, and invertebrate species (see i.12). From the end of summer till the beginning of spring, birds of the wetland complex are abundant (up to 10 thousand and more) on water, namely: Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Garganey *Anas*

querquedula, Coot *Fulica atra*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* and others. There are good conditions for reproduction of commercial edible fish, namely: *Platichthys flesus luscus* and *Liza aurata*.

Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve together with Aktash Lake and the adjacent Astanivska floodplain are listed among the 138 most valuable areas of Ukraine, defined for the Important Bird Area Programme. The value of the site is determined by the presence of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (2 000-5 000 individuals), Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (6-8 pairs nest and up to 160 individuals can simultaneously stay during their migration), Avoset *Recurvirostra avosetta* (130-285 pairs), Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (40-72 pairs), Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (2 700 pairs), Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* (3 200 pairs), Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* (2 200 pairs), and Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (360 pairs).

21. Social and cultural values:

There are no social and cultural objects within the site; however, remnants of settlements of the VI century B.C. - IV century A.D., and ancient settlement of the VIII-X centuries A.D. are located nearby.

The *Admiral Nakhimov* Fishing Cooperative Unit, which is located in the central depression of the Kazantyp Cape, carries out fishing in the Sea of Azov, but outside of the site.

22. Land tenure/ownership of:

site:

State ownership on land, transferred to the permanent use to Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve. Administration of the Nature Reserve holds the Certificate on the right of the permanent use of lands.

surrounding area:

On the mainland in the center of the Kazantyp Cape, there are lands of the *Admiral Nakhimov* Fishery.

23. Current land (including water) use:

(a) site:

Scientific research, nature conservation measures and monitoring of the state of environment.

(b) surroundings/catchment:

On mainland: oil extraction in the central depression of the Kazantyp Cape, haymaking, grazing, and viticulture. In the sea: fishing and navigation; in the coastal part – illegal recreation.

24. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

at the site:

In the past: fishing, hunting

At present: recreation, fishing and poaching, fish kill in hot summer.

around the site:

Fishing, navigation, agriculture (mainly plowing of lands and grazing) and recreation.

25. Conservation measures taken:

Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve was created in 1998.

Biodiversity management is carried out according to the Law of Ukraine „On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine” (1991), Temporary Regulation (By-law) of Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve (1998) and the Management Plan of the area and protection of natural complexes of the Reserve (approved by the Order of the Ministry of the Environment and Nature Resources of Ukraine No. 520 of 25 December 2002).

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Beside the already developed general Management Plan for the Nature Reserve, management plans for conservation of specific taxa are being currently developed. The special management plan on the wetland of international importance will be developed.

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

Annually the scientific researches within the framework of developing the Program on Chronicles of Nature of Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve are carried out. Scientific researches are performed mainly by scientists of the Reserve and the curator institution, the State Nikitskyi (Nikita) Botanical Garden of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Yalta).

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

Ongoing environmental education activities for local inhabitants of the village of Mysove and the town of Scholkino, tourists visiting areas near the Nature Reserve. Information leaflets are published annually. In the meantime, the administration building of Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve in Scholkino is used as the Visitors Center.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

No.

30. Jurisdiction:

The site's territory is in national ownership.

Functionally the site is subordinated to the Administration of Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve at the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

31. Management authority:

Kazantypskyi Nature Reserve

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