Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4. 7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: 5 July 1998

2. Country: **Ukraine**

3. Name of wetland: ***Kugurlui Lake***

4. Geographical coordinates: 45°17'N 28°40' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.5-2.5 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 6, 500 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Kugurluy Lake is a fresh water and shallow lake in lower part of the Danube basin with low swampy shores. The wetland site is important for migrating, breeding and moulting birds (up to 30,000 individuals). It is also important as breeding and nursery places for fish and amphibians.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I if the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

marine-coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K

inland: L • M • N • **O** • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk

man-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12)

Ia • 1b • **Ic** • 1d | 2a • 2b • **2c** • 2d | **3a** • **3b** • **3c** | 4a • 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3a, 3c, 1a

10. Map of site included? Please tick ***yes*** ■ -or- *no* □

On the page together with* Ramsar wetland site 'Kartal Lake'

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

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12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9: (please refer to Annex 11 in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

1a. The Kugurlui Lake is typical flood-plain reservoir, which is situated in lower reach of Danube with flora and fauna, which is characteristic for the largest river deltas in Europe.

2c. The territory of wetland provides conditions for breeding and wintering of many bird species of wetland complex. Numbers of rare and protected species of plants grow there.

3a. On Lake Kugurlui during summer period about 5000 pairs of birds make their nest, in autumn-winter period one came find to 30 000 individuals.

3b. On this territory a big number of species of *Anseriformes* and *Charadriiformes* and *Pelecaniformes* are constantly placing, which are indicators of wetland environment.

3c. On the territory of wetland more than 1% of European nest population of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, about 3% of *Platalea leucorodia*.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Kugurlui Lake is situated at the Danube River, near Izmail City in Odeska Oblast of Ukraine, near the Romanian border, closed to Ramsar wetland site 'Kartal Lake'.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area* climate)

The Kugurlui Lake is an oxbow lake in the Danube floodplains and is connected with it by several canals through which flood

waters come. It also connected by small ducts with the Yalpug and Kartal Lakes.

The area of Kugurlui water smooth fluctuates very much and is within 60 to 80 sq. km. The volume of water mass is about 72 million km^3, an average depth is 1,04 м (maximum – about 3 m). In some years the depth does not exceed 0,6-0,9 м. During drought period the depth reaches to 1,5 м. Sediments are formed with black silt. The mineral composition is changing from hydrocarbonic to chlorid-natrium, and mineralization is shifting between 450-3390 mg/l. The climate is temperate continental with short mild winter and long hot summer, precipitation equal to 350-400 mm/year while evaporation is 800-900 mm. Sometimes the lake is covered with ice (no longer than one month).

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)

Water level in the Kugurluy Lake depends upon water level in the Danube River. Up to 86% of inflow is the Danube water which contain sediments about 170 g/m^3 (40.000 tonns per year). In connection with a shoaling, the water body well gets warm, that promotes rough development of hydrobionts, being fodder base for fishes and waterfowl birds.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Banks of the waterbody are hidden in the Danube floodplains. The emerged vegetation (mainly *Phragmites australis, Typha angustifolia, Scirpus lacustris, Butomus umbellatus)* occupies the fourth part of the lake's surface.

The submerged plant communities (mainly *Potamogeton perfoliatus, P.pectinatus, Vallisneria spiralis ,Chara sp.)* cover up to 10% and even more of aquatic surface.

The fish production of the lake is near 20-60 kg/ha per year.

Breeding sites – floodplains, red - swamp vegetation with sites of free water.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating. e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

There are species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Aldrovanda vesculosa, Cladium mariscus, Epipactis palustris, Leucojum aestivum, Marsilea quadrifolia, Orchis palustris, Salvinia natans* (relic) *and Trapa natans* (relic).

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

The Kugurlui Lake is one of the wetlands, which are the most important as places of settle of waterfowl. On its territory there were researched about 240 bird species, 57 from which are entered to the Red Data Book of Ukraine, including *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (about 80 breeding pairs), *Platalea leucorodia* (150 breeing pairs) and *Turricaspia lincta*. 5 from rare species have European natureprotective significance. The Kugurlui Lake has an importance as place of nest of *Aythia nyroca, Pelecanus crispus* and also as place of rest of *Pelecanus onocrotalus* too. In nest period one can find *Ixobrychus minutus, Nycticorax nycticorax, Fulica atra, Cygnus olor, Plegadis falcinellus* etc . During migration there is considerable numbers of *Ciconia ciconia, Anas platyrhyncha, Aythia ferina, Larus ridibundus* etc. On wintering during last years considerable numbers of waterfowl one can find, among them there are *Anser albifrons* and *Chen caerulescens* etc.

Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex is near 5000 pairs. Places of seasonal conglomerations are all aquatic areas with a mosaic reed - swamp vegetation. Total amount of birds is up to 30 000 individuals.

19. Social and Cultural Values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The Kugurlui Lake is important for ecological education, recreation and scientific research. It ia also traditional place of fishing for the local population. The important archaeological value (excavations of ancient buriel sites are currently being).

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: State and collective ownership

(b) surrounding area: State, collective and private ownership

21. Current land use:

(a) site: There is some limited and controlled exploitation of natural resources at the site - hunting, fish-breeding and fishing, grazing of cattle and sheep, haymaking, recreation etc.).

(b) surroundings/catchment area: the same and traditional farming, including grape-making, cultivation of rice and cutting of reed etc.

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

(a) at the site: Processes of a silting are accelerated. A natural exchange of water with Danube and Yalpug Lake is limited. During floods on the Danube River, the artificial connection with the river is restored; in these cases there is the intensive raising of suspension and deterioration of water quality. Disturbance of waterfowl by commercial fishing (fishing sites coincide with the main breeding, feeding and resting sites of birds) and recreation activities are the main unfavorable human influences. There is illegal fishing and night spot light poaching of frogs exist also. Mass moving of exotic fish as *Hypophtalmichtys molitrix* and *Ctenopharyngodon idella* in this lake is unfavorable factor for native species of Pisces.

(b) around the site: i) the influence of the pesticides and fertilizers from agriculture; ii) the construction of fishponds in

different parts of the Danube River floodplains.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Using of natural resources is limited and controlled.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

It is foreseen to be included during expansion of the Dunaiskyi (Danube) Biosphere Reserve.

25. Current Scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

It is a lot of scientific projects on investigation of waterfowl birds and wetlands by the experts from the Dunaiskyi Biosphere Reserve and Mechnikov State University of Odesa and research institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

There is nature protecting education within the framework of the program of a comprehensive school. There is distribution of the information booklets, posters etc. There are lectures and publications of the experts of nature protecting and scientific establishments for the local population.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

There is insignificant unorganized tourism.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture / Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial: local Soviets of the Deputies.

Functional jurisdiction: regional administrative authorities of different sectors: State Committee of Forestry (forest use and hunting), Ministry of Agricultural Industry Complexes of Ukraine (farming), State Committee of Fishery (fishing), State Committee of Water Resources (water using) etc.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Land and Resource Users (organizations and institutions and citizens) and local authorities are executive bodies for environment protection. State Department of Ecological Safety in Odeska Oblast (Director: Inesa D. Loeva. Address: 83 Sverdlov Str., 270 107 Odesa, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 482 25-13-22. E-mail: <postmaster@eco14.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>) carries out state control for this protection.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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