

# 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: *Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System*

4. Geographical coordinates: 45°48'N 29°55' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.5-2.4 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 19,000 ha

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

Shagany and Alibei and Burnas Lakes are Black-Sea half-closed shallow limans (brackish lagoons) of the small rivers. The total amount of nesting birds are about 1 000 pairs. The main places of seasonal conglomerations supporting about 120 000 individuals are all aquatic areas and bordering agrocoenoses.

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: J

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

1a • 1b • 1c • 1d | 2a • 2b • 2c • 2d | 3a • 3b • 3c | 4a • 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2a, 2c, 3b

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

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)

1c. It plays important biological, hydrological and ecological role in natural functioning and interaction of coastal ecosystems of the Black Sea.

2a. On the territory of site one can find species, which are entered to the Red Data Book of Ukraine (*Himantopus himantopus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Haematopus ostralegus* etc.), and also to the European List of Endangered species (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Rufibrenta ruficollis*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*).

2b. It plays important role in maintaining of biodiversity in the region.

2c. Territory of the site supplies conditions for breeding and wintering of individuals of many species of wetland complex. Numbers of rare and protected species grow there.

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

3c. On the territory of wetland there is more than 1% of European nest population of *Rufibrenta ruficollis*.

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

Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System or the Tuzlovska Group of Limans is situated near Town Tuzly (administrative district – rayon in Odeska Oblast of Ukraine), closed to other Black-Sea wetland site ‘Sasyk 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)

These lakes have common aquatic territory, separated from the sea by sandy spit. The seaside coast is submitted by sandy-shell bar. Continental shores are abrupt. There are some peninsulas and islands, upper reaches of lakes are shallow with low shores.

**Shagany.** The catchment area is 278.8 square km; volume of a lake (brackish lagoon) is 101.9 million of cubic m; the area of a water surface is 78.4 square km; length is 11 km; maximum width is 10 km; average depth is 1.3 m; the maximum depth is 2.3 m.

**Alibei.** The catchment area is 1300 square km; volume of a lake (brackish lagoon) is 127.7 million of cubic m; the area of a water surface is 101.4 square km; length is 18 km; maximum width is 8 km; average depth 1.2 m; the maximum depth is 2.5 m.

**Burnas.** The catchment area is 649 square km; volume of a lake (brackish lagoon) is 31.9 million of cubic m; the area of a water surface is 26.9 square km; length is 9.6 km; maximum width is 3.2 km; average depth 1 m; the maximum depth is 1.5 m.

The climate is temperate continental with short mild winter and long hot summer, precipitation equal to 300-400 mm/year while evaporation is 800-900 mm. Sometimes the lakes are covered with ice (no longer than one month).

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

Conducting moment in development of biome of considered lakes and their efficiency is a salinity of waters. It determines the structure of flora and fauna.

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

Breeding sites - accumulative islands and peninsulas, salt meadows, which are formed under influence of freshening of floodplain biotops in upper of lakes. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex - about 1 000 pairs. The seasonal conglomerations (by numbers about 120 000 individuals) are concentrated on lakes and in bordering agrocoenoses.

Among water plants of this wetland site the are *Zostera noltii*, *Zannichelia major*, *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *Ceramium tenuissimum*, *Chondria tenuissima*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis*, *Ulva lactuca* etc.).

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

There is one of species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine - *Eremogone cephalotes*.

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

On Tuzlovska Group of Limans in different seasons the following rare bird species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine and Europe occurred: *Charadrius alexandrinus* (30-50 breeding pairs), *Glareola pratincola* (about 60 breeding pairs), *Heliaeetus albicilla* (up to 21 individuals), *Himantopus himantopus* (40 breeding pairs), *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (120 individuals), *Rufibrenta ruficollis* (460 individuals) etc.

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

This group of lakes is important for ecological education, recreation and scientific research. It is also traditional place of fishing for the local population.

**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 – fishing of grey mullet and flat-fish, which come to these lakes, recreation, production of salt etc.).

(b) surroundings/catchment area: the same and traditional farming, including grape-making, grazing of sheep, irrigation 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: In connection that this wetland site is almost closed, a water's exchange is complicated in it; intensive flowing of sea water and, as a consequence, - wreck a fish is frequently observed. The lakes are almost deprived of river drains. The level of water in lakes is supported at the expense of atmospheric precipitation, infiltration through a bar and flowing of sea water by artificial canal. Therefore, in especially droughty seasons, water surface of water bodies is much reduced, fodder base of hydrophilous birds decreases.

(b) around the site: There is some pollution of drainage waters from agricultural places in result of irrigation.

**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.)

Creation of Game Reserves ('Zakaznyky') in the Upper of Alibei and near v.Trychatky. By the decision of regional authorities was included in the list of perspective protected objects.

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

Scientific researches within the framework of the state programs on investigation of a fauna and flora, and also balneological importance of water bodies will be carried out here. The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Mechnikov State University of Odesa participate in scientific works.

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

The special educational programs are not present. The nature protecting training is provided within the framework of a comprehensive school. Lectures of the experts and scientists with the basic groups of land users (fishermen, hunters) are carried out.

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

Because of shoaling and silting of bottom, the water body is poorly used by the tourists and people having a rest. In basic, serves a site of rest for the local population.

**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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