

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: *Berda River Mouth and Berdianska Spit and Berdianska Bay*

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°44'N 36°48' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.3-2.3 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 1,800 ha

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

This site is the shallow bay of the Azov Sea and mouth of the small river and accumulative islands and spit. About 5000 pairs of waterfowl nest there. Seasonal conglomerations of birds by numbers of 30 000-40 000 individuals are on the bay and spit.

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: A, E

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: 3a, 2c

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)

2c. On wintering in the site one can find several thousand *Anseriformes*, about 5000 pairs of waterfowl nest.

3a. Regularly more than 20000 individuals of birds of wetland complexes one can find there.

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

Berdianska Bay is the bay of the Azov Sea. Mouth of Berda River is in 7 km north-east of Berdiansk City in Zaporizka Oblast of Ukraine, Berdianska Spit and Berdianska Bay on the south of this city.

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 Berdianska Bay is located in the south of of the Azov Sea between Obytochnyi and Berdianskyi Peninsulas. Width of the bay about 50 km, depth - 5-8 m. The bottom in the east part is covered by a silt and shell, western - mainly by sand and shell.

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. Temperature of water in the summer is +22-30°C, in the winter is about 0°C. Salinity is 13-13.5 ‰. Coasts are mainly abrupt, here and there dismembered by ravines and beams. Length of Berdianska Spit is 23 km, width is 15 km. The basis of this peninsula gradually passes in a narrow dry valley and comes to an end by significant expansion. On the east coast of peninsula there are 2 small peninsulas. Peninsula consists, mainly, from sand and breaking shell. The surface is poorly hilly plain with sand hills, height up to 2 m. There are the sand dunes on the west. East coast is cut by small bays. The small shallow salty lakes are available in the widest part of spit.

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

The spit permanently grows because of sand coming from the coastal destruction, due to sea alluvium and shells (mainly *Cardium*).

The influence of the confluent several shallow and drying rivers is not considerable.

The territory of the spit and environmental shallow waters is used for nesting and feeding by 32 species of birds (from 254, marked on the given territory). The site has a rich fauna of hydrobionts. On the north east coast of the bay, Berdiansk City is located. The navigable canal is dug to it.

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

The emerged vegetation (*Phragmites australis*, *Scirpus tabernaemontani*, *Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and submerged vegetation (*Ruppia maritima*, *Zostera marina*, *Zanichellia major*) are common on the shallows of the hulf.

The riverside territory mainly covered by reed vegetation. There is considerable number of solonchaks (saline soils) lowering and shallow-water gulfs. There are also small flood swamps with different state of salt.

Main breeding sites: islands, salt sites, reed associations. Total amount of a nesting ornithocomplex - 3 000-5 000 pairs. Seasonal conglomerations by numbers of 30 000-40 000 individuals are on the bay and spit.

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

Along the coast the following species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine grow *Tamarix gracilis*, *Astragalus borysthenticus* (endemic), *Caragana scythica* (endemic), *Astrodaucus littoralis* (endemic), *Elitrigia stipifolia*, *Stipa capillata*, *S.grafiana*, *S. Lessingiana*, and very rare medicine plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra*.

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

Usual species of birds here are: *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Aythya marila*, *Aythya ferina* etc. There are also *Egretta alba* (70 breeding pairs) and *E.garzetta* (40 breeding pairs).

There are fish species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine as: *Umbrina cirrosa*, relic *Huso huso ponticus*, and also other relic *Acipenser stellatus* (the item of commercial fishery).

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

This wetland site is important for ecological education, recreation and scientific research. It is also traditional place for 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 - fish-breeding and fishing, hunting, recreation etc.).

(b) surroundings/catchment area: the same and traditional farming, including grazing of cattle and sheep, grape-making, 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: During spring and autumn storm an outline of coast of spit varies; the quantity of salty lakes on territory of spit is increased;

(b) around the site: In result of a high technogenous burden, rates of pollution of a habitat environment, especially water (on account of dropings of waste products of the numerous industrial and agricultural enterprises of Azov Sea coastal area), are increased. A recreative burden grows.

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)

Protection carries out within Game Reserve ('Zakaznyk') of State importance 'Berdianska Kosa' (= 'Berdianskyi Peninsula') and other areas by land and resource users.

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

Documents for creation of Pryazovskyi (Near-Azov-Sea) National Nature Park are being elaborating now.

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

The scientific researches will be constantly carried out by the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Pedagogical Institute of Melitopol, State University of Donetsk.

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

The special educational programs are not exist. 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, workers

of the agricultural and industrial enterprises) are carried out.

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

There is 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 of the site.

State Department of Ecological Safety in Zaporizka Oblast (Director: Anatoliy V. Dobrovolskyi. Address: 72a 40 Years of Radyanska Ukraine Str., 330 000 Zaporizhzhya, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 612 33-02-68. E-mail: <gosupr@gueb.Zaporizhze.UA>) carries out state control for this protection.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Inventory and Cadastre Description of Wetlands of the Azov-Black Sea Coast of Ukraine (1993). - Melitopol: Branta. - N1.- 93 p.

Rare Birds of the Black Sea Coastal Area /Edited by: Korziukov, A.I., Koshelev, A.I., Chernichko, I.I. (1991). - Kyiv-Odesa: Lybid. - 270 p.

Red Data Book of Ukraine /Edited by Shcherbak, N.N. (1994). - Kyiv: Ukr. Encycl. - 357 p.

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