

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: *Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit*

4. Geographical coordinates: 46°54'N 37°20' E

5. Altitude (average and/or max. & min.) 0.2-1.8 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2,000 ha

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

This wetland site is the sandy-shell spit and the shallow bay of the Azov Sea with shallow lakes and silt islands. In winter on these areas one can find several thousand *Anseriformes*. 3 000 pairs of waterfowl nest there.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of 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: 3b, 2c

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

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

Dr. Volodymyr P. Stoilovskyi, Dmytro A. Kivganov. Biological Faculty of the Mechnykov State University of Odesa, 2, Shampanskyi Prov., 270058 Odesa, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 4824 954-32. E-mail <sterna@kivdma.tm.odessa.ua>

Under support of the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs (Director: Mykola P. Stetsenko), Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine / 1, Timiriazevska Street, Central Botanical Garden, Kyiv, 252014, UKRAINE. Tel/Fax 380 44- 295 26 47. E-mail <parks@parks.FreeNet.Kiev.UA>

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 3 000 pairs of waterfowl nest there.

3b. Regularly one can find large conglomerations of *Anseriformes*, *Ciconiiformes* and *Charadriiformes*, which are indicators of environment quality of wetland.

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

Bilosaraiska Bay is the bay of the Azov Sea. Wetland site 'Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit' is situated in South of Pershotravneve Town (centre of administrative district) in Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine.

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)

Bilosaraiska Spit (peninsula) has accumulative origin. Length is 14 km, width is 12 km. The spit is formed by shell-sandy, here and there - by silt sediments. The surface of spit is poorly hilly plain. East

part is raised, there are the dunes here. In downturn of western part of spit, there are the salt-marshes. Small lakes are numerous. Western coast of bay is swampy, with thickets of reed.

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 about 13‰.

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 shallow Berda River and several small 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.

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

The western coast of bay is swampy and covered by reed vegetation. The usual elements of landscape are islands and shallows, fresh-water limans and shallow-water lakes, and also floodplains of river Mokra Belosaraika. Belosaraiska spit is sea sandy-shell beach with littoral swamps, reed and rush growth. There are a lot of moist solonchaks (saline soils) and saline meadows.

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

Main breeding sites: sandy-shell marine beach, littoral swamps, reed and cane groups, damp saltings and saline meadows. Total amount of nesting birds - 2 500-3 000 pairs. The seasonal conglomerations by numbers up to 1 000 individuals are marked only in the spring and in the autumn.

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 borysthenicus* (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.)

There are relic fish species from the Red Data Book of Ukraine such as: *Huso huso ponticus*, and *Acipenser stellatus* (the item of commercial fishery) and species of birds *Charadrius alexandrinus* (5-10 breeding pairs), *Egretta alba* (about 100 individuals).

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 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 - 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 peninsula varies; the quantity of salty lakes on territory of peninsula 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 drippings 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 'Bilosaraiska Kosa' (= 'Bilosaraiska Spit') 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 the National Nature Park 'Lukomoria' 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 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, 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 Donetska Oblast (Director: Svyatoslav S. Kurulenko. Address: 13 Pushkin Str., 340000 Donetsk, UKRAINE. Tel./Fax: +380 622 37-01-76. E-mail: <postmaster@ecology.Donetsk.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.

Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland

Telephone:+41229990170 Fax:+41229990169 e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org