



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Bosnia and Herzegovina

3 Ramsar Site(s) covering 57,192 ha

Bardaca Wetland

Site number: 1,658 | Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina | Administrative region: Republic Srpska
Area: 3,500 ha | Coordinates: 45°06'05"N 17°27'13"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007

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Bardaca Wetland (Bardaca-mocvarni kompleks). 02/02/07; Republic of Srpska Entity; 3,500 ha; 45°06'N 017°27'E. Important Bird Area. Situated in the floodplain of the Sava River near the border with Croatia, about half of the Ramsar site comprises fishponds constructed since the early 20th century and further enlarged in the 1960s for irrigation purposes. The ponds, floodplain forest, meadow and swamp areas support a range of endangered species and make an important nesting and stopover site for birds. There is a rich fish fauna (e.g., *Gymnocephalus schraetzer*, *Zingel streber*) and a range of amphibians such as *Salamandra salamandra*, *rana dalmatina*, and the pond tortoise *Emys orbicularis*. The hydrological regime has been interrupted by the construction of channels, pump stations, and damming of nearby streams, but presently pressure comes from permanent, intensive agricultural practices such as intensive pasturing and unwise use of fertilizers and pesticides. Aquaculture and fish production remain a primary economic pursuit. With assistance from the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, a management plan is currently under development. Ramsar site no. 1658. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

Hutovo Blato

Site number: 1,105 | Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina | Administrative region: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Area: 7,824 ha | Coordinates: 43°03'06"N 17°47'12"E | Designation dates: 24-09-2001

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Located near the lower reaches of the River Neretva, the Site comprises swamps, lakes, wet meadows and riverine forests. These provide favourable conditions for many wetland species, particularly of birds and fish, several of which are internationally threatened. Since 1988, the Site has been listed as an Important Bird Area, highlighting the importance of these habitats to migratory and resident species such as the European turtle dove and the common pochard. 63% of the fish species found on the site are indigenous, making it a very valuable hotspot for biological diversity. Human activities such as fishing and hunting, diversion of water to power plants, agricultural intensification, urbanization and growing tourism pose potential threats. Changes in the local climate also threaten the stability of the ecosystem, having caused an increased rate of habitat alteration in recent years.

Livanjsko Polje

Site number: 1,786 | Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina | Administrative region: Hercegbosanska Zupanija

Area: 45,868 ha | Coordinates: 43°51'53"N 16°49'30"E | Designation dates: 11-04-2008

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Livanjsko Polje (Livno karst field). 11/04/08; Hercegbosanska canton; 45,868 ha; 43°53'N 016°47'E. The largest karst depression in the Dinaric karst and perhaps the largest periodically flooded karst field in the world. The site comprises seasonally flooded agricultural land and alluvial forest, seasonal marshes and pools, permanent streams, karst springs and sinkholes, and the largest peatland in the Balkans. Together with the Sava wetlands, it is the most important wintering, migration, and breeding site for waterbirds and raptors in the country and a key site of the Central European Flyway. The polje is important for the identity of the local community of Livno, well-known for its traditional cheeses, and for a wide range of recreational pursuits. Threats include water extraction for energy production, a planned coal-fired thermoelectric plant, and unsustainable peat excavation. Ramsar site no. 1786. Most recent RIS information: 2008.