Ispani Mire

Site number: 894  |  Country: Georgia  |  Administrative region: Adjara
Area: 782.7 ha  |  Coordinates: 41°51'24"N 41°48'05"E  |  Designation dates: 07-02-1997

Ispani Mire is a peatland complex near the southern end of Georgia's Black Sea coast. The wetland is divided into two major peat bogs: Ispani I in the southwest and Ispani II in the north, the latter being the bigger and better preserved. Their composition is unique, as the water level is very constant without groundwater feeding, due to the evenly distributed annual precipitation. This uniformity allows the wetland to be remarkably biodiverse, hosting rare and relict vegetation communities and supporting the migration of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered sociable lapwing (Vanellus gregarius) and the vulnerable eastern imperial eagle (Aquila heliaca). Other noteworthy species are also found, such as the European otter (Lutra lutra), the common carp (Cyprinus carpio) and the white-headed duck (Oxyura leucocephala). Peat extraction and drainage in the 1930s caused major disturbance to Ispani I, which is now regenerating and improving its condition. In contrast, Ispani II is in a near-pristine state. A management plan for the wetland is in place.

Wetlands of Central Kolkheti

Site number: 893  |  Country: Georgia  |  Administrative region: Guria, Samegrelo
Area: 33,710 ha  |  Coordinates: 42°12'N 41°42'E  |  Designation dates: 07-02-1997

Wetlands of Central Kolkheti. 07/02/97; Guria and Samegrelo; 33,710 ha; 42°12'N 041°42'E. State Reserve, Nature Reserve. A coastal alluvial plain, dissected by rivers with extensive peat wetlands and lakes. The site supports a wealth of relict and endemic flora and fauna species. Vegetation consists of typical bog and peatland species, with freshwater marshes supporting reedbeds and brackish areas supporting halophytic plants. Various species of waterbirds use the site for wintering. Nesting species in internationally important numbers include Halitatos albicilla and Pandion haliaetus. Human activities include tourism, small scale fishing, agriculture, timber cutting, peat extraction and hunting. Bronze Age artifacts are found at the site. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2005. Ramsar site no. 893. Most recent RIS information: 1996.