



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Georgia

4 Ramsar Site(s) covering 36,010 ha

Bugdasheni Lake

Site number: 2,434 | Country: Georgia | Administrative region: Javakheti Plateau, Ninotsminda District

Area: 119.3 ha | Coordinates: 41°12'02"N 43°40'55"E | Designation dates: 08-07-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is comprised of Bugdasheni Lake, an alpine lake of volcanic origin, and marshes, boggy meadows and rivers. It is a part of a mountain steppe landscape on the Javakheti plateau. The wetland is important for the biological diversity of the region: it contains up to 19 endemic plant species, and supports numerous bird species – amounting to 40,000 individuals – during their migration and breeding periods. A rocky isle in the south-eastern part of the Lake is a particularly important nesting site for various waterbirds, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and the nationally vulnerable great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*). The Site also supports internationally important numbers of nationally vulnerable ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), which breed and moult in the wetland. Rechanneling of the water supply from the Zagranichnaja River is one of the main threats to the wetland, as it now loses half of its water during some periods. Overgrazing, haymaking, pollution from cattle farming, and invasive species are other factors adversely affecting the Site.

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

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

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.

Madatapa Lake

Site number: 2,435 | Country: Georgia | Administrative region: Javakheti Plateau, Ninotsminda District

Area: 1,398 ha | Coordinates: 41°10'57"N 43°46'53"E | Designation dates: 08-07-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Madatapa is a shallow freshwater lake, surrounded by marshes, boggy meadows, rivers and streams. It is situated on the Javakheti plateau, in southern Georgia, and forms part of the area's mountain steppe. It is one of the largest lakes in the region, and is characterized by its representative biodiversity. Because it is located along the African-Eurasian migration flyways, the Site is a very important resting and staging spot for waterfowl. It supports more than 200 species of birds, many of which are internationally threatened, such as velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). The lake is especially important for the nationally endangered common crane (*Grus grus*), which is found in internationally important numbers in the Site. This makes the wetland one of the most popular spots for birdwatching. Overgrazing, invasive species, pollution from cattle farming, illegal hunting and eutrophication as a result of damming activities are the main threats to the Site.

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

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

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 *Haliaetos 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.