



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

North Macedonia

3 Ramsar Site(s) covering 46,821 ha

Dojran Lake

Site number: 1,735 | Country: North Macedonia | Administrative region: South-East
Area: 2,696 ha | Coordinates: 41°12'47"N 22°44'03"E | Designation dates: 02-08-2007
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dojran Lake (Dojransko Ezero). 02/08/07; 2,696 ha; 41°13'N 022°45'E. Monument of Nature; Balkan Green Belt (EECONET); CORINE site. A shallow eutrophic lake with no natural outlets and its surrounding swamp and thermal spring, located in the southeast of the country and shared with Greece. The local community employs a unique and ancient fish hunting practice, with its own implements and traditions using birds and reed traps, first described by Herodotus in the 5th century B.C. and thought now to be practiced only here. The lake hosts several endemic species and subspecies of fish as well as 11 endemic invertebrates and many protected bird species. More than 100 individuals of *Pelecanus crispus* are supported every year in the period from November till March. A decreasing water level from over-abstraction is perceived as a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 1735. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Lake Ohrid

Site number: 2,449 | Country: North Macedonia | Administrative region: Ohrid Municipality, Struga Municipality and Debarca Municipality
Area: 25,205 ha | Coordinates: 41°03'32"N 20°43'54"E | Designation dates: 15-02-2021
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site straddles the mountainous border between North Macedonia and Albania. It has been a World Heritage Property since 1979. The Lake's low-nutrient, high-oxygen environment boasts one of the highest rates of biodiversity of any inland water body on Earth when measured by surface area: it hosts 1,200 species, with over 200 of them endemic and many of them protected such as the freshwater snail (*Acroloxus macedonicus*), the endemic belvica (*Salmo ohridanus*) and the velvet duck (*Melanitta fusca*). The Lake is fed primarily by springs, as rainfall and water from nearby Lake Prespa trickles through underground watercourses in the karst landscape. These channels are chemically diverse, creating unique microhabitats that contain globally unique invertebrate species. The oxygen-rich conditions and clear water allow vertical habitats to descend to depths of 150 metres, supporting endemic taxa throughout the food web from phytoplankton to predatory fish. The Site includes Studenchishte marsh on the eastern shore, which features alkaline nutrient-filtering marshes and fens that provide nesting, spawning and wintering grounds for birds and fish. The marsh has been diminished by land-use changes and habitat degradation, but it is still home to nationally rare plants and insects, endemic invertebrates, and protected reptiles and amphibians. Humans have been settling around the lake shore for over 8,000 years, making it a hotspot for palaeological research. Today, the Lake provides freshwater to hundreds of thousands of residents who benefit from carp and Ohrid trout fisheries and a growing tourism industry.

Lake Prespa

Site number: 726 | Country: North Macedonia | Administrative region: Resen
Area: 18,920 ha | Coordinates: 40°55'59"N 21°00'59"E | Designation dates: 04-04-1995
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Prespa. 03/05/95; 18,920 ha; 40°56'N 021°01'E. Strictly Protected Nature Reserve; Ornithological Reserve. A Pliocene Lake (2-3 million years old), providing important feeding areas for large numbers of the Pelicans that breed nearby in Greece. The site includes cultivated land, meadows, pastures, reedbeds, and forests. Commercial and recreational fishing and conservation education are the only human activities. There is a visitors' center at the site. Ramsar site no. 726. Most recent RIS information: 1998.