



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

11 Ramsar Site(s) covering 130,411 ha

### Vlasina

Site number: 1738 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Surdulica

Area: 3,209 ha | Coordinates: 42°42'28"N 22°20'31"E | Designation dates: 13-11-2007

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The Site includes the Vlasina reservoir, the highest and largest artificial lake in Serbia, its jagged shore, surrounding hills with forests, wet meadows and peat bogs. There are two islands and several narrow and elongated peninsulas with many meadows and birch thickets. The Vlasinsko blato was one of the largest peat bogs in Europe until it was flooded to create the reservoir in 1950, and the remaining bogs on the shoreline are among the most important refuges of characteristic bog plants in the Balkans. The largest national population of round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) can be found. During flooding events, large patches of these bogs detach from the shoreline and form characteristic floating peat islands. The Site is important for its biodiversity; recently two of the rarest bird species in Serbia, the common rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) and the citrine wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) have been discovered breeding around the shores of the reservoir. A colony of the internationally protected sand martin (*Riparia riparia*) can also be found. To boost economic growth, large investments have been made in tourism. This development poses several threats to the wetland related to unplanned urbanization, considerable water level regulation, spreading of agricultural complexes, and construction of roads and waste depots. Even though it is legally prohibited, peat is still cut from the shoreline and islands, irretrievably destroying rare habitats.

### Gornje Podunavlje

Site number: 1737 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina

Area: 22,480 ha | Coordinates: 45°45'N 18°57'E | Designation dates: 13-11-2007

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Gornje Podunavlje. 20/11/2007; Vojvodina; 22,480 ha; 45°45'N 018°57' E. Special Nature Reserve; Important Plant Area; IBA. A marsh complex along 36km of the Danube River, forming a natural unity with the Gemenc and Kopacki Rit Ramsar sites in Hungary and Croatia respectively. The site is a unique mosaic of aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystems and an important centre of ecosystem, species, and genetic diversity. A large number of rare and nationally or internationally threatened plant species and their communities are supported, as well as vulnerable habitats. This area is the habitat of rare plant species such as winter aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*, water violet *Hottonia palustris*, and mare's tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, an important spawning place and a migratory route of fishes, a nesting place of the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and the black stork *Ciconia nigra*, as well as the habitat of the largest population of the red deer *Cervus elaphus* in Serbia. Especially rich ethnic and folkloric traditions converge in the area, which is a centre for traditional festivals. Hunting and commercial and sport fishing are well developed, and controlled forestry is practiced within the site. The effects of previous drainage and irrigation works present a threat, as do eutrophication and invasive alien species. Ramsar site no. 1737. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski Rit

Site number: 2028 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina

Area: 8,292 ha | Coordinates: 45°10'40"N 20°04'09"E | Designation dates: 08-03-2012

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Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski Rit. 08/03/12; Vojvodina; 8,292 ha; 45°10'40"N 20°04'10"E. Special Nature Reserve, IBA. A well preserved mosaic of river arms, ridges, meanders, canals, ponds, reed beds, wet meadows, marshes, pastures and forests along both sides of the Danube. This alluvial area is shaped by regular flooding and vegetation succession, as well as by human activities, and harbours large numbers of threatened plant species such as Water Violet *Hottonia palustris* and Four-leaved Clover *Marsilea quadrifolia*. It is crucial as a spawning ground for many fish species such as Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus* and important for many birds, including Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, amphibians like Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, and diverse species of invertebrates, reptiles and mammals. It is used for forestry, hunting, traditional fishing as well as for cattle breeding to preserve native species of horses, donkeys and cows. Pristine landscapes, authentic settlements and monuments of cultural and historical significance make the site attractive as a tourist destination. Various factors threaten this site including the spread of invasive plant species, reed burning, illegal fishing and hunting, and infrastructure developments. Ramsar Site no. 2028. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Labudovo okno

Site number: 1655 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina

Area: 3,733 ha | Coordinates: 44°48'N 21°18'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2006

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Labudovo okno. 01/05/06; Vojvodina; 3,733 ha; 44°48'N 21°18'E. IBA, Special Nature Reserve. Marking the southern margin of the Pannonian Plain, the site encompasses an important stretch of the Danube and adjacent areas as well as the Nera River to the border with Romania. Following the construction of the Iron Gate reservoir, the Danube water level rose and the river flow slowed down, causing the flooding of many river islets, lower coastal parts, and lagoons along the southern areas in the Deliblatska peacara Sands and created new aquatic and wetlands habitats. Permanent rivers and freshwater marshes are the main wetlands types, comprising diverse aquatic and wetland communities as well as wet meadows and steppe pastures along the riverbanks. Shallow waters of the Danube provide an ideal spawning area for many of the 50 supported fish species, such as Silurus glanis, Stizostedion lucioperca and Acipenser ruthenus. The site is an important waterbird habitat, especially as a nesting and wintering site for a range of species such as pygmy cormorants *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, little egret *Egretta garzetta*, white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, and common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Besides the strict protection zone and small-scale forestry mainly on river islets, the site is mainly used for agricultural activities based on cattle and sheep grazing. Ramsar site no. 1655. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Ludasko Lake

Site number: 137 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina

Area: 593 ha | Coordinates: 46°04'N 19°48'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1977

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Ludaako Lake. 28/03/77; Vojvodina; 593 ha; 46°04'N 19°48'E. Regional Park; Nature Reserve. One of the few remaining natural lakes of the Panonian Plain. The shallow lake is fringed by extensive reedbeds and surrounded by marshland. The area is important for numerous species of breeding waterbirds, and an ornithological research station is located at the site. Principal human activities include fishing, hunting, reed cutting, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 137.

## Obedska Bara

Site number: 136 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina

Area: 17,501 ha | Coordinates: 44°43'59"N 20°00'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1977

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Obedska Bara. 28/03/77; Vojvodina; 17,501 ha; 44°44'N 020°00'E. Nature Reserve. A seasonally inundated area of the Sava River floodplain, with marshes, ponds, wet meadows, and an oxbow lake. Vegetation includes reedbeds and Salix-Populus and Quercus woodland. The area is important for various species of breeding waterbirds. River regulation has adversely affected fish stocks at the site. The lake is subject to rapid siltation and nutrient-enrichment, resulting in the expansion of reedbeds and Salix scrub, to the exclusion of open water areas. Ramsar site no. 136.

## Slano Kopovo

Site number: 1392 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina Province

Area: 976 ha | Coordinates: 45°37'59"N 20°13'E | Designation dates: 14-05-2004

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Slano Kopovo. 22/07/04; Vojvodina; 976 ha; 45°38'N 020°13'E. Special Nature Reserve; IBA. The site, left over from the draining of an ancient meander of the Tisza River, is a rare and representative example of salt habitats but presents also, on its eastern side, a smaller freshwater depression. It is one of Serbia's most important bird habitats and regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds, breeding and migrating. It is especially suitable for cranes, ducks, geese and shorebirds and supports a significant number of vulnerable, threatened and critically endangered species such as *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Anser erythropus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Falco naumanni*, *Otis tarda*, the rodent *Spermophilus citellus*, and plant communities such as the rare *Thero-Salicornietea* specific to salty grounds. The area is threatened by a decrease in water level, as the drying up of the depressions during summer and autumn is becoming more frequent, caused chiefly by the development of a channel web and dam construction on the Tisza which has lowered the level of the underground waters. Other negative factors are plowing of pastures, use of chemicals and artificial fertilizers for agriculture. Human activities include regulated hunting, livestock husbandry, agriculture, and the use of mud for curing ailments. There is a high potential of scientific research and conservation education. Church remnants from the 9th-11th centuries exist on site. Conservation priorities concern the sanitation and improvement of the water regime. Ramsar Site no. 1392. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Stari Begej - Carska Bara Special Nature Reserve

Site number: 819 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina province

Area: 1,767 ha | Coordinates: 45°15'N 20°22'59"E | Designation dates: 14-03-1996

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Stari Begej/Carska Bara Special Nature Reserve. 25/03/96; Serbia; 1,767 ha; 45°15'N 020°23'E. Special Nature Reserve. The site, a remnant of the once flooded area in the lower Begej River, is a mosaic of fishponds, swamp, marsh, forest, meadow, and steppe intersected by rivers, canals, and embankments. Vegetation consists of salt-tolerant communities, a rich aquatic flowering plant community, and steppe vegetation. Of the 250 recorded bird species, 140 species nest at the site and 100 pass through on migration. Notably, all eight European heron species and *Anser anser* nest at the site. The diversity of biotopes gives rise to high species diversity at the site and includes various rare, endangered, or vulnerable fish, birds, plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Human activities include recreation, birdwatching, sport fishing, and some traditional agricultural. There is an important commercial fishery nearby. Ramsar site no. 819. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Zasavica

Site number: 1783 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Sremska Mitrovica and Bogatić

Area: 1,913 ha | Coordinates: 44°55'59"N 19°31'E | Designation dates: 13-03-2008

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Zasavica. 13/03/08; Vojvodina; 1,913 ha; 44°56' N 019°32' E. Special Nature Reserve, IBA (Important Bird Area). Located in northern Ma va, the riverine ecosystem dominates the area south of the river Sava, with the rivulet Zasavica and its tributary the Batar, for the total length of 33 km. Aquatic and swampy ecosystems line up along with fragments of floodable meadows and forests representing one of the last preserved pristine swamp areas in Serbia. The natural conditions are favorable for many rare plant and animal species, such as greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*), water violet (*Hottonia palustris*), marsh nettle (*Urtica kioviensis*), freshwater sponge (*Spongilla lacustris*), a rare species of oligochaete (*Rynchelmnis limnosela*), Danube crested newt (*Triturus dobrogicus*), ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) as well as otter (*Lutra lutra*) and beaver (*Castor fiber*). It is also the only habitat of the mudminnow, *Umbra krameri*, in Serbia. Traditional grazing and cattle breeding, particularly of autochthonous races, along with the several centuries long usage of the area, supports the maintenance of grassland habitats within the Reserve. Zasavica has inspired many legends and myths, and it is woven into the cultural being of the people. Ramsar site no. 1783. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Peštersko polje

Site number: 1656 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: County of Zlatibor, County of Raška

Area: 3,421 ha | Coordinates: 43°04'54"N 20°07'42"E | Designation dates: 19-03-2006

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Peštersko polje is the largest and highest karst field of the Balkan Peninsula. The Site close to the border with Montenegro originated as a lake, which vanished with the erosion of the karst. This process left peat bogs and small flooded areas exposed, creating a diverse landscape. Peatlands are a rare and endangered habitat in Serbia, and the Site features several of them, including the biggest one in the country. Peštersko polje supports a significant number of internationally and nationally threatened species, including the black tern *Chlidonias niger*, the glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, the aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* and the thick shelled river mussel *Unio crassus*. It is also an important refuge for corncrake (*Crex crex*), which depend on the Site's permanently wet areas to nest (during drought periods most of the surrounding habitats are drained). The main threat to the stability of this fragile ecosystem is the annual extraction of approximately 15,000 cubic metres of peat. A management plan is implemented for the Site, and there are plans to update it for the 2020-2030 period.

## Djerdap

Site number: 2442 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Bor District

Area: 66,525 ha | Coordinates: 44°34'05"N 22°07'52"E | Designation dates: 08-06-2020

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The Site lies within the Djerdap (Đerdap in Serbian) National Park along the right bank of the River Danube, where it passes through the "Iron Gates" gorge separating the southern Carpathian mountains from the north-western Balkans. The area is noted for its geological and landscape features such as caves, gorges and ravines as well as for its cultural heritage including the Lepenski Vir and Vlasac Mesolithic-Neolithic archaeological sites. Đerdap is internationally recognized as an Important Plant Area (IPA); it is dominated by 57 distinct, highly complex and diverse forest communities. Over 1,100 species and subspecies of vascular plants have been identified, making up more than a quarter of all the plant species of Serbia. Wetland habitats consist of an open water reservoir, rivers, streams, ponds and marshes with their associated aquatic plants, reeds and fringe communities of willow (*Salix* spp.) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Đerdap is exceptionally important for migrating and wintering birds due to its geographic location and the fact that large water bodies in the Site rarely freeze. Up to 150,000 birds are present during the winter, the majority of them ducks, geese and swans. The Site is also a breeding ground for a number of protected species such as the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and the black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) both listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.