Caves of the Demanova Valley

Site number: 1,647 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Liptovský Mikulas
Area: 1,448 ha | Coordinates: 48°58'59"N 19°34'59"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2006

View Site details in RSIS

Caves of the Demanova Valley (jaskyne Demánovskej doliny). 17/11/06; Liptovský Mikulas; 1,448 ha; 48°59'N 019°35'E. National Park, European protected bird territory. Part of the longest cave system in the country with a total measured length of 35,044 meters. The system consists of nine speleologically interconnected caves and further associated smaller caves. Hydrological and hydrogeological characteristics of the territory influence the underground wetlands supporting suitable conditions for the existence of rare and endangered water invertebrates as well as terrestrial organisms that are dependent on these water areas. The majority of the above-ground forests are under a nature protection scheme. Due to the karst structure the area replenishes water-bearing layers that form part of an underground hydrological system and aquifer, which provides the most important source of drinking water for the city of Liptovský Mikulas. Surface wetland habitats also support important amphibian populations. Two of the caves, the Demanovska Cave of Liberty and Demanovska Ice Cave, are open for public visits. Beyond these attractions, the intensive use of the valley for tourists' recreation activities and facilities, such as chalets, ski tows and cable-cars, increasing traffic and road constructions, are affecting the underground waters quality negatively. Ongoing research activities covering a range of geo-scientific disciplines are intended to improve the protection, especially of biotic components, such as endemic species. Ramsar site no. 1647. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

Domica

Site number: 1,051 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Kosice
Area: 622 ha | Coordinates: 48°28'50"N 20°28'01"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001

View Site details in RSIS

Domica. 02/02/01; Kosice Region; 622 ha; 48°29'N 020°28'E. Protected Landscape Area, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site. Sub-surface wetlands (types Zk(b) and Ts, permanent subterranean streams, lakes, wetlands with diverse subterranean fauna), discovered in 1926; part of the 25km-long Domica-Baradla Cave System, the largest subterranean hydrological system of the plateau karst shared by Slovakia and Hungary, in the natural functioning of which it plays a substantial hydrological, biological, and ecological role. The site has special value for a large number of endemic and rare plant and animal species, especially subterranean hydrobionts. The cave system has important tourism functions, with guided tours by boat and foot, electric lighting, and a visitors' centre, and a signposted transborder nature trail surrounds the area on the surface. The cave also has very significant archeological remains of Paleolithic and Neolithic occupancy. Ramsar site no. 1051. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

Dunajské luhy

Site number: 605 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Bratislava,Senec,Dunajská Streda,Komárno
Area: 14,488 ha | Coordinates: 47°55'23"N 17°26'40"E | Designation dates: 26-05-1993

View Site details in RSIS

Dunajské luhy (Danube flood plains). 26/05/93; 14,488 ha; 47°56'N 017°35'E. A section of the Danube River and its floodplain along the Austrian and Hungarian borders. The site includes a network of tributaries, oxbow lakes, sand and gravel banks, floodplains, floodplain forest, reedbeds, marshes, and low-lying meadows. The floodplains represent the most valuable source of drinking water aquifers in Central Europe. The area is important for its diverse flora and fauna and especially for staging waterbirds. Human activities include forestry, recreation, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 605. Most recent RIS information: 1998.
**Latorica**

Site number: 606  |  Country: Slovakia  |  Administrative region: Kosice
Area: 4,405 ha  |  Coordinates: 48°29'25"N 22°01'23"E  |  Designation dates: 26-05-1993

View Site details in RSIS

Latorica. 26/05/93; Trebisov; 4,405 ha; 48°29’N 022°01’E. Landscape Protection Area, Nature Reserve. The widest part of the Latorica River, including a well-developed network of oxbow lakes, tributaries, seasonal pools, reedbeds, marshes, wet meadows, pasture and floodplain forest. The site borders Ukraine. The area supports a rich wetland fauna of dragonflies (Odonata), amphibians, and nesting waterbirds. Human activities include fishing, hunting, forestry, livestock grazing, and haymaking. Area extended in 2003. Ramsar site no. 606. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

**Moravské luhy**

Site number: 604  |  Country: Slovakia  |  Administrative region: Brodské

View Site details in RSIS

Moravské luhy (Morava flood plains), 26/05/93; 5,380 ha; 48°25’N 016°54’E. Protected Area Landscape. A section of the Morava River that forms the border with Austria and the Czech Republic. The site, the most important section of the river’s floodplain, includes tributary channels, oxbow lakes, sand and gravel banks, abandoned sand and gravel pits, reedbeds, freshwater marshes, seasonal pools, wet meadows, pastures, and seasonally inundated forests. A centre of biodiversity, with 600 species of cyanophytes and algae, 880 of vascular plants, 200 species of spiders and 300 of beetles; also an important habitat for migratory bird species and a spawning ground and nursery for many natives species of fish. Part of the ‘Triilateral Ramsar Platform’ collaboration with Austria and the Czech and Slovak Republics and four NGOs, an initiative which won the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award in 2002. Area extended in 2003. Ramsar site no. 604. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

**Orava River and its Tributaries**

Site number: 929  |  Country: Slovakia  |  Administrative region: Zilina
Area: 865 ha  |  Coordinates: 49°15'07"N 19°22'30"E  |  Designation dates: 17-02-1998

View Site details in RSIS

Orava River and its Tributaries. 17/02/98; Zilina; 865 ha; 49°15’N 19°22’E. The site represents the major part of the system of submontane streams within the catchment of the Orava River. The riparian vegetation belt is nearly continuous and mostly of edge character, but there are several patches of submontane or montane floodplain forest and well-developed shrub and herb layers. There are over 50 species of vulnerable, rare or endangered vertebrate and invertebrate species. Amongst them are mammals Lutra lutra, Sicista betulina, birds Ardea purpurea, Milvus milvus, Haliaetus albicilla, and invertebrates, including Oligoneuriella rhenana and Ephemerella notata. The stream system contains more than 35% of the entire fish fauna in Slovakia. The area is mainly used for recreation and, on a small scale, for industrial water consumption and gravel extraction. Ramsar site no. 929. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

**Parízské mociare**

Site number: 499  |  Country: Slovakia  |  Administrative region: Západoslavensky
Area: 184 ha  |  Coordinates: 47°51'48"N 18°29'49"E  |  Designation dates: 02-07-1990

View Site details in RSIS

Parízské mociare (Paríz marshes), 02/07/90; Západoslavensky; 184 ha; 47°52’N 018°30’E. Protected Site. An extensive area of swampland supporting extensive reedbeds on the Danube River floodplain. Water levels are artificially regulated. The area includes the only breeding locality for Acrocephalus melanopogon (10 pairs) in the Slovak Republic. Several other species of breeding waterbirds use the site. Under the tenure of a cooperative farm, public access is allowed during the winter months for reed cutting. Ramsar site no. 499. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

**Poiplie**

Site number: 930  |  Country: Slovakia  |  Administrative region: Banská Bystrica
Area: 411 ha  |  Coordinates: 48°04'09"N 19°01'22"E  |  Designation dates: 17-02-1998

View Site details in RSIS

Poiplie. 17/02/98; Banská Bystrica; 411 ha; 48°04’N 19°01’E. The core area of the site is the Ipel River, an important tributary of the Danube River. It is linked with the extensive wetland ecosystem of the Ipoly Valley Ramsar site in Hungary. The area is a unique complex of well-preserved wetland habitats along the middle and lower part of the river floodplain within the Pannonian biogeographical region. Marshes and seasonally flooded grasslands along the river have a high level of biodiversity. There are two fragments of floodplain forest and scattered patches of willow shrub. Important habitat for migratory birds, mammals, amphibians spiders, and dragonflies. The site is used extensively for agriculture, poultry breeding, cattle grazing, and, on a limited scale, tourism. Ramsar site no. 930. Most recent RIS information: 1997.
Turiec wetlands
Site number: 932 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Zilina
Area: 750 ha | Coordinates: 48°54'52"N 18°51'E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998

Turiec Wetlands (Mokrade Turca). 17/02/98; Zilina; 750 ha; 48°54'N 18°51'E. Includes National Nature Reserves and Protected Site. Habitats present include scattered oxbow lakes, permanent and seasonal marshes, fens, seasonally inundated grassland, shrub and tree dominated wetlands, and peat pits. The site is internationally important for fish and benthic organisms (over 1,000 species) such as Acentrella and Rhabdiopteryx. Diverse wetland plant communities contain a large number of rare, endangered plant species, including the orchid Dactylorhiza maculata and Sesleria uliginosa. The site is also important for algae, fungi, and mosses, as well as for 170 bird species and mammals such as Lutra lutra and Sicista beulina. Human activities include scientific research, pastoral agriculture, hunting, recreation, and tourism. Area significantly extended in 2007. Ramsar site no. 932. Most recent Ris information: 2007.
Wetlands of Orava Basin

Site number: 933 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Zilina
Area: 9,287 ha | Coordinates: 49°24'29"N 19°36'50"E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998

View Site details in RSIS

Wetlands of Orava Basin (Mokrade Oravskej kotliny). 17/02/98; Zilina; 9,287 ha; 49°25'N 019°34'E. Important Bird Area; most of the site is situated in the Protected Landscape Area. It has a diverse mosaic of wetland communities, including riverine-forested peatland, wet peat meadows, non-forested shrub, swamp forests, fens, open bogs, and an artificial water reservoir. The site is characteristic of the Western Carpathian biogeographical province. It supports a high diversity of rare and endangered plant and animal species, especially insects (butterflies and dragonflies), amphibians, fish (37 species recorded), mammals (Lutra lutra, Arvicola terrestris and Alces alces), and birds, many of which use the site for breeding, overwintering and feeding. The most numerous bird species are from the Anseriformes and Charadriiformes. Rare migratory species include Haliaetus albicilla, Pandion haliaetus, and Limosa limosa. The area used for recreation, fishing, hunting, agricultural production, and timber harvesting, Ramsar site no. 933. Most recent RIS information: 2006.