

Designation date: 24/09/2002 Ramsar Site no. 1229

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Dimitar Popov, Doncho Kirov
Green Balkans NGO, 1 Skopie Str., 4004 Plovdiv
Bulgaria, tel: +359 32 626977,
dpopov@greenbalkans.org

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

09.04.2012

3. Country:

Bulgaria

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.
POMORIE WETLAND COMPLEX (POMORIE LAKE, POMORIYSKO EZERO)

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or

- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

No major changes to ecological character have occurred since previous RIS. Extension of the boundaries is proposed to coincide with designated SPA "Pomorie Lake" BG0000152.

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

New boundaries are defined by existing Natura 2000 site – SPA BG0000152 "Pomorie Lake" designated with Order No RD-78/3.02.2009 of the Minister of Environment and Water, published in State Gazette 14/2009.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

42° 35'N 27° 37'E

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

Pomorie Lake is situated in the southeastern region of Bulgaria along the Black Sea coast. It is located 25 km to the north of the city of Burgas, in direct proximity to the Burgas-Varna motorway. It is near the northern part of the town of Pomorie. The administrative region is the local Municipality of Pomorie, District of Burgas.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Varies from 0,3 m below sea level up to about 2 m above sea level.

11. Area: (in hectares)

921.5 ha

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland. The site is a natural hypersaline coastal lagoon connected to the Black Sea by an artificial canal. The lagoon is associated with salt marshes, reed beds, salt pans and settling pools. Current economic activities include salt production and the extraction of medicinal mud. Pomorie Lake and its wetlands are one of four comprising the wetland complex surrounding the city of Burgas and is of significantly high importance to breeding, wintering and migrating birds along Europe's second largest flyway "Via Pontica." The mouth of the Aheloy River, located to the North of Pomorie Lake with small artificial waterbody is included also in the site. Pomorie Lake is declared an Important Bird Area (BG037) in 1989 and since 2001 a Protected site under Bulgarian legislation (Order No RD 31/23.01.2001, published in State Gazette 16/2001) with area of 760.8 ha. Since Bulgaria's EU accession in 2007 two NATURA 2000 sites are designated: SPA "Pomorie Lake" BG0000152 and SCI "Pomorie" BG0000620.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	•	2	•	3	•	4	•	5	•	6	•	7	•	8	•	9
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14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

There are only two Salinas (type 5 of Human-made wetlands in Ramsar classification) in the Black Sea biogeographical region: Atanasovsko Lake and Pomorie Lake. They have representative, rare and unique characters. They are examples of millennium long sustainable co-existence between man and nature.

Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

- Vascular plants listed, as rare and threatened species included in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria are 13 species and include: Siberian sea rosemary /*Argusia sibirica*/, Common Duckweed /*Lemna gibba*/, Sea Bindweed /*Calystegia soldanella*/, *Centaurea arenaria*, *Centaurea gracilentia*, *Petrosimonia brachiata*, *Suaeda heterophylla*, Purple spurge /*Euphorbia peplis*/, *Stachys maritima*, *Erodium hoefftianum*, and *Trachomitum venetum*. Species threatened on a European level: Small Bugseed /*Corispermum nitidum*/, Tamarisk, Salt Cedar /*Tamarix sp.*/ is rather common along the banks.

- Fish listed in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria includes: Danube Bleak /*Chalcalburnus chalcoides*/, Southern ninespine stickleback /*Pungitius platygaster*/, Three-spined stickleback

/Gasterosteus aculeatus/, Atherina mochon pontica, Caucasian dwarf goby /Knipowitschia caucasica/.

- Rare and threatened reptiles occurring in the region are Spur-thighed tortoise */Testudo graeca/ (VU)*, Hermann's tortoise */Testudo hermanni/ (NT)*, and European pond turtle */Emys orbicularis/ (NT)* which are listed in the IUCN Redlist .

- Birds are the most diverse group in the area. Total number of bird species recorded in the region is 269. Of these, three are globally threatened species: Slender-billed Curlew */Numenius tenuirostris/ (CR)*, Dalmatian Pelican */Pelecanus crispus/ (VU)* (rare in periods of migration and wintering), White-headed Duck */Oxyura leucocephala/ (EN)* (rare in winter). Of the 100 bird species included in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria, some 75 have been observed in the region of the lake. It is one of the two most important nesting areas for the Avocet */Recurvirostra avosetta/*, the Kentish Plover */Charadrius alexandrinus/*, the Common Shelduck */Tadorna tadorna/*, the Gull-billed Tern */Gelochelidon nilotica/*, the Little Tern */Sterna albifrons/* and some other species adapted to hyperhaline water basins. It is also important nesting habitat for species like Gadwall */Anas strepera/*, Common Redshank */Tringa totanus/*, Black-Winged Stilt */Himantopus himantopus/*, Collared Pratincole */Glareola pratincola/*, Bearded Reedling */Panurus biarmicus/*, etc. It is a significant area during migration of a number of species, including White Pelican */Pelecanus onocrotalus/*, terns belonging to the *Chlidonias* and *Sterna* genus, a great number of the *Charadriiformes*, and many songbirds, etc. The lake is of importance for birds during the winter, too, especially for species like Pygmy Cormorant */Phalacrocorax pygmeus/*, Common Shelduck */Tadorna tadorna/*, Mute Swan */Cygnus olor/*, Great Egret */Egretta alba/*, etc.

Mammal species found in the area include The Otter - *Lutra lutra* that is listed in IUCN Redlist as NT and listed in Annex II and IV of the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.

The site is a hotspot of biodiversity with 269 bird species, several fish and reptile species among which a globally threatened one and rare ones in the biogeographic region (eg. *Ophisaurus apodus*). It supports several species of plants and animals adapted to the specific hypersaline wetland conditions.

Criterion 4: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

It is an important stopover site for migratory waterbirds such as waders, cormorants, pelicans, egrets and herons, terns and gulls. During cold winters the site hosts notable concentrations of waterfowl such as shelducks, mute swans, pochards, tufted ducks, coots, etc. The site provides suitable specific breeding conditions for several species of terns, avocet, Kentish plover, etc. The largest colony of Sandwich terns at the Balkans numbering 1500 pairs is nesting here.

Criterion 6: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird

Bird species covering the 1% criteria

Sandwich Tern */Sterna sandvicensis/* - breeding – 1500 pairs (2009)

Dalmatian Pelican */Pelecanus crispus/* - migration – 150 ind. (2009)

White Pelican /*Pelecanus onocrotalus*/ – migration – 3000 ind. (2009)

Black Stork /*Ciconia nigra*/ - migration – 500 ind. (2009)

White Stork /*Ciconia ciconia*/ - migration – 50,000 ind. (2007)

Mute Swan /*Cygnus olor*/ – wintering – 1100 ind. (2002)

Common Shelduck /*Tadorna tadorna*/ – migration and wintering – 1300 ind. (2009)

Little Gull /*Larus minutes*/ - migration – 3200 ind. (2009)

Avocet /*Recurvirostra avosetta*/ - migration and breeding :

Pomorie Lake is one of the most important breeding sites for the species in Bulgaria and regionally in the Black Sea and the Balkans. Peak numbers are: 820 (2006); 719 (2007) and 642 (2008) - Source: Michev T., Profirov L.

Breeding pairs are as follows: 67 (2006), 94 (2007) and 128 (2008) - Source: Green Balkans NGO (Kirov D.)

Source: Profirov L. et al: The birds of Pomorie Lake, Status and Checklist, 2010, Green Balkans NGO

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Black Sea

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

16.1 Geology

The region of Pomorie Lake belongs to Burgas synclinorium from the Eastern Srednogorie tectonic region. This is a big and complex structure, which arises from the Nova Zagora and Yambol in western direction and gradually enlarges, in eastern direction. The main axis is with east-west direction. This synclinorium gradually sinks and is lowering near Burgas and in Burgas bay. The geophysical data show that the synclinorium continues in the shelf region. A part of this synclinorium appeared at the land surface between Burgas, Ahtopol and Rezovo.

The Burgas synclinorium is fulfilled by various, thick up to 2 000 - 3 000-m uppercretaceous (coenomanic, turonic and senonic) sediments and volcanogenous rocks. This uppercretaceous sediment - volcanic complex is strongly folded. Thus there many anticlinal and synclinal folds exist. The main axis of these folds is again with east-west direction (S t r a s h i m i r o v, Z a f i r o v, 1981).

16.2 Origins

The lake is of natural origin. It is a lagoon separated from the sea by a sand strip- about 7 km long. A canal with a lock, located in its southern part, connects it with the sea.

16.3 Hydrology

Saltwater from the Black Sea enters the lake by means of tidal influxes infiltrating through the sand bar. The single canal connecting the lake to the Black sea is located in the southern side of the lake and water is flowing in and out through tidal influxes, gravity and wind dynamics. The water flows from the open lake into the cells or pools, which are located further north, allowing enough time to increase the salinity. Water is then mechanically pumped through a canal to the saltpans inducing further solar and wind evaporation required for the collection of salt. A drainage canal collects all water from the salines and fresh water and returns it to the sea.

The average salinity is about 50‰, but in the evaporation basins of the salines it is much higher. There is only one freshwater tributary that is not constant and a drainage canal has been constructed for protection of the lake from fresh water inflow. In the past the water from the drainage canal was pumped by a pump station via pipeline to the sea but it is disused for past 12 years. At present freshwater is introduced into the lake mainly by rainfall. Evaporation is 3-4 times higher than the inflow of freshwater and seawater.

16.4 Soil Characteristics and Type

When taken at ~30cm depth, the soil is fine, homogenous, high viscosity, sulfuric, dark greyblack with 78% water. The substrate of Pomorie Lake is black hydrogen sulphide curative mud, which is a natural resource with particular value. This value is determinate by its high medical quality, restricted deposits (only in Pomorie Lake and Atanasovsko Lake) and very long process for creation (1 cm layer for about 100 years). Medical institutions in Pomorie are supplied with curative mud from Pomorie Lake.

16.5 Water Characteristics

The average depth is 0.6m and the maximum is 1.4m. The basins in the western part are extremely shallow at 0.2-0.3 m. Water level fluctuations are from 50 cm below sea level up to 12 cm above sea level (Height system: Baltic sea level, note: average Black sea level is 28 cm below Baltic sea level).

16.6 Climate:

The average annual precipitation is between 450 and 500 mm. The maximum rainfall is in June and November and the minimum is in August and September. The average annual air temperature varies is 12-13 °C. The region is characterized by a rather mild winter climate the average January temperature is 1.5–2.5 °C. Only 20 days during the total winter period have negative temperature values. The summer rainfall is rather scarce – 90 to 150 mm and the average temperature in July is 22.5-23.5 °C. The summer breeze is quite typical: 13-15 days in June and 18-21 in July and August. Average annual wind speed is 4.1 m/sec.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

17.1 Surface area

33,55 sq. km

17.2 General geology and geomorphological features

The area is situated in the northeastern part of Burgas depression. The relief in the lake area is typical coastal plain with average altitude of 1-2 m above sea level. To the west-northwest the relief gradually changes to a slope reaching 80-90 m above Kamenar village.

17.3 General soil types

Typical for the catchment area are soils of the type Vertisols. These are low in nitrogen and phosphorus but have good levels of potassium.

17.4 Climate

General climate type is Continental-Mediterranean. Four distinct seasons with a rainy spring, dry hot summer, mild autumn and mild winter with a little and irregular snow. The maximum rainfall is in June and November and the minimum is in August and September.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The inflow to the lake comes mainly from the sea by means of infiltrations through the sand bar and through the canal connecting lake to sea. The drainage canal in the western part is stopping a great part of the surface and ground waters from the catchment. Only during heavy rains some fresh waters enter the lake when these are above the capacity of the drainage canal. The sand bar separating the sea and lake is fortified with a rocky dike (since 1980s) and is important for the shoreline stabilization. In the past before the rocky dike was constructed during winter storms the sand bar was regularly cut and large quantities of sea water entered the lake causing floods in town.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

J, 5, A, E, F, 9, 2

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

There are six main biotopes represented:

- 1.) The hypersaline Pomorie Lake which contains no woody, emergent or subemergent vegetation.
- 2.) The shallow waters with marsh vegetation along the banks (mainly Narrow Leaf Cattail /*Typha angustifolia* /and Common Reed /*Phragmites communis*/, etc.), marshes totally covered with aquatic vegetation (Common Reed /*Phragmites communis*/, Narrow Leaf Cattail /*Typha angustifolia*/, Common Cattail /*T. Latifolia*/, Common Clubrush /*Schoenoplectus lacustris*/, etc.) and halophytic grass formations of Alkali grass /*Puccinelieta convolutae*/, *Limonieta gmelinii*, Salt Wort /*Salicornia europaeae*/, *Aleuropeta littoralis*, etc.
- 3.) The hyperhaline basins of the man-made salines used for salt production (with insignificant cover of *Salicornia herbacea*, Salt Wort /*S. Europaea*/, etc.).

4.) The mouth of Aheloy Rivulet with small artificial waterbody with banks covered by *Salix sp.*

5.) The sand bar separating the lake and sea is hosting small sand dunes with specific halophytic vegetation.

6.) Adjacent marine area to the Pomorie Lake.

Ecosystem services provided by the lake include production of sea salts through evaporation and extraction of curative medicinal mud used widely in the specialized hospitals and SPA centers in the town. Recreational value is not widely appreciated and utilized yet but a CEPA program is aiming to promote the site.

Habitats listed in the EU Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC include: 1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand, 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes, 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"), 92D0 Southern riparian galleries and thickets *Nerio-Tamaricetea* and *Securinegion tinctoriae*, 1530 Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes. The site is important as a representative for the Black sea biogeographic region and holding representative values of the listed habitats.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The site is hosting the largest population of *Trachomitum venetum* in Bulgaria and is of national significance for the population of *Salicornia spp.*

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The site is one of only two in Bulgaria where *Artemia sp.* is found naturally and recent studies identified the species as Brine Shrimps */Artemia parthenogenetica/*.

Populations of reptiles and amphibians are very limited. The lake is holding a national and international importance for birds due to its situation along the second largest European flyway – *Via Pontica*. 269 bird species are recorded for the site. Colonies of Sandwich, Common and Little tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*, *S. hirundo*, *S. albifrons*), avocets (*R. avosetta*), Kentish plover (*Ch. alexandrinus*) and black-winged stilts (*H. himantopus*) nesting here are of national and regional importance. During migration the site plays important role as stopover for *Charadriiformes*, herons, storks, pelicans and raptors.

23. Social and cultural values:

- a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

The site has long history related to human activities. It is one of the oldest sea salt producing areas in the Balkans and the Black sea region and the medicinal mud extraction has started in ancient times, too. In the past the sea salt production was a source of wealth for the town of Pomorie and that was reflected in the fact that during Ottoman times the town had a special position and its inhabitants had a special tax allowance because of the salt production. In recent years the sea salt production has decreased and now just a small part of the former salines are still active. In 2002 a Salt Museum was opened dedicated to the history of salt production.

The medicinal mud is a major natural product procured from the lake. There are two major specialized hospitals for “mud therapy” in town – one belongs to the Ministry of Health and the other to Ministry of Defence. In recent years a large SPA hotel complex was established and several of the hotels in town have created their SPA centres.

In 1930s a fishing cooperation was established but it was a short-lived. Further experiments with fisheries were made in second part of 20th century with mullet and plaice but it also hasn't proved profitable. Nowadays only small scale seasonal fishing activities exist.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

State ownership – 89%, Municipal – 3 %, Private – 7%

b) in the surrounding area:

Mostly private

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Medicinal mud extraction, Sea salt production

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Vineyards and agriculture, Urbanized (town)

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Illegal hunting and fishing occur during winter and autumn. In the past the operation of the **Black sea – Pomorie Lake canal** was problematic but it was repaired in 2008. Now the challenge is who will take over the responsibility for its management and maintenance.

Solid Waste is also found throughout the region and in some places within the lake. Community cleanups have begun to occur but the lack of responsibility, interest and awareness still plays a major role in the logic of the citizens dumping in the region. In 2001, in one region of the lake, near the minority ethnic groups, a project has been implemented through the US Peace Corps-USAID to transform a dumpsite into a green zone and park for

the citizens. The entire region is not within regulation of city codes, but a project team has begun to discuss the possibility to create canalization for wastewater, which currently flows in the lake and wetlands, and any other aspects of integration for the citizens. A large scale clean up is under way and signage to be placed but the problem with solid waste especially in Roma district will be “solid” in the future, too.

Privatization and the returning of the land to the private sectors during the past decade have affected the management and use of the resource and will continue into the future. If continued disinterest in producing salt in the prior salinas occurs, some of the land may be converted to resort construction.

b) in the surrounding area:

Strong pressure for **construction of tourist resorts** exists in all surroundings of the lake. The Municipality has developed a project of **General Spatial Plan** that is turning the existing vineyard into urban area. The plan is subject to Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Art. 6 of EU Habitats Directive and the Assessment Report had been revised twice but it is not approved yet but a strong lobbying is under way. Approval of such plan will increase enormously the impact at the site and will deteriorate its importance for nesting and migratory birds.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Protected site in accordance to Bulgarian Protected Areas Act (Order No RD 31/23.01.2001, published in State Gazette 16/2001);

SPA “Pomorie Lake” BG0000152 and SCI “Pomorie” BG0000620 – part of Pan-European Ecological Network NATURA 2000 based on EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

Important Bird Area (BG037) (The IBA is slightly larger than the Ramsar Site).

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV V VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

A Management Plan has been developed and currently is undergoing official procedure for approval by relevant authority – Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria – pending approval.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Green Balkans NGO, together with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), has been implementing a program for restoration of habitats of the birds nesting in the lake since 1994. As a part of this program, more than 10 conservation projects have been implemented, with a total amount of more than 100 000 Euro. The main sponsors are BTCV, Green Balkans and the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program. Artificial islands have been built in the lake for nesting of Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Common (*Sterna hirundo*) and Little terns (*Sterna albifrons*) and Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) as well as small caves to support nesting of *Tadorna tadorna*. Considerable achievement is the restoration of the numbers of Sandwich

terns. In the beginning of the program there have been only 6 nesting pairs. In 2001 the numbers of nesting pairs reached 410 and a record of 1500 pairs was achieved in 2009.

Within the GEF/World Bank project “Pomorie Lake – Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable management” following activities were undertaken: detailed design and restoration of sea-lake canal, detailed design was developed for the freshwater drainage canal and system, detailed design for restoration of nesting habitat for threatened water birds, development of a management plan, establishment of Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre, implementation of environmental education and CEPA program.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Management plan is developed but pending approval by relevant authority – MOEW.

Detailed design for restoration of nesting habitat for water birds is developed and its execution is planned for 2012. Funding is assured by Operative Program Environment.

Creation of nesting islets and platforms are planned and funding by LIFE+ is pending. Same situation is with clearing of invasive species (*Amorpha fruticosa*).

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

In the past 10 years Green Balkans NGO team has been undertaking regular bird ringing activities during autumn migration.

No specific field station exists but Pomorie Lake Visitor centre is serving these purposes especially during conservation holidays.

Sandwich tern colour ringing scheme was initiated in 2010 and plans for radio-telemetry for 2011 exist.

Regular monitoring of avifauna has been made since 2002. Mapping of nesting birds was done since 2007.

Different studies and inventories have been implemented during the Management Plan development process.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre was established and opened in 2010. The centre hosts an interactive exhibition and provides optical equipment for observation of birds. Presenting equipment is available and school visits are regular. Two eco-trails have been established – Botanical and Ornithological as well as general information signs with maps of the lake and trails.

Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program has published a leaflet for Pomorie Lake's biodiversity in 2002.

Green Balkans NGO publications on Pomorie Lake:

Posters – 2 types (2002 and 2008)

Leaflets: Educational leaflet (2008), Natura 2000 sites (2007), Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre (2011)

Folder and info sheets (2008)

Calendars “Magic of Pomorie Lake” (2008 and 2009)

A set of post cards (12) and stickers (6) (2008)

Pins and T-shirts (3 types) (2009)

Canvas bags (2010)

GEF/World Bank project: Pomorie Lake – Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable management” – Layman’s report in Bulgarian and English (2010)

Jigsaw Puzzle (2008)

Magic of Pomorie Lake Photo Album (2010)

Checklist of Birds at Pomorie Lake (2010)

Collected reports for the Integrated Management Plan of Pomorie Lake (2010)

A set of posters “Fauna of Pomorie Lake” – Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians (2008)

Pomorie Lake websites – developed and maintained by Green Balkans NGO:

http://www.greenbalkans.org/pomorielake/index.php?c_lang=2

<http://www.greenbalkans.org/pomoriecenter/?lang=1>

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Recreational value is not widely appreciated and utilized yet but a CEPA program is aiming to promote the site. Existing activities include:

Water sports – wind surfing and kite surfing (all year long, but there is official ban for water sports since 2009).

Eco-tourism: birdwatching (mostly in the migration season), conservation holidays for restoration of nesting habitat for water birds (September). Eco-Festival “Magic of Pomorie Lake” was held in 2008 and 2009 with participation of salt producers, medicinal mud hospitals and hotels, eco-tourism companies, directorates of nature parks, etc.

Mud baths along the shores of the lake – summer months.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water – Burgas, Burgas 8000, PO Box 219, 67 Perushtitsa str.

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

There is no management authority. Green Balkans NGO is undertaking mainly CEPA and conservation activities in the area based at Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre (<http://www.greenbalkans.org/pomoriecenter/?lang=2>).

Contact person: Dimitar Popov, dpopov@greenbalkans.org, tel: +359 32 626 977

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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