



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 20 October 2017

## Italy

### Busatello marsh



Designation date	3 October 2017
Site number	2315
Coordinates	45°06'37"N 11°05'15"E
Area	443,00 ha

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

### Summary

The Busatello Marsh is the only remaining freshwater marsh to survive after the drainage of a vast system of wetlands which up to a century ago formed the Tartaro and Ostiglia marshes, that along with the 'Grandi Valli Veronesi' extended to about 30,000 ha.

Due to subsidence of the surrounding land resulting from the drainage, the marsh is higher than the surrounding land. Therefore all along its boundary it is dyked and water inflow is assured by water pumps.

Some species of rare plants or plants at risk of extinction in the local area are present at the site.

Moreover the marsh represents a stop-over during migration for many species of birds and an important breeding ground for other birds.

Finally, the site gives refuge to other species of animals which are on various red lists.

The whole marsh area extends over 80 hectares; it is however managed by two different administrations, the Busatello Marsh ("Palude del Busatello", province of Verona –VR-, Veneto Region) and the Ostiglia Marshes ('Paludi di Ostiglia', province of Mantova –MN-, Lombardy Region).

It is important to note that in 1984 the Ostiglia Marshes were placed under the Ramsar Convention, while the Busatello Marsh was declared a Ramsar Site by Italian Environment Ministry starting from September 30, 2008.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

##### Compiler 1

Name	Ernesto Cavallini
Institution/agency	WWF OF VERONA ASSOCIATION
E-mail	ern.cavallini@virgilio.it
Phone	+39 333 678 5798

#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2000
To year	2015

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Busatello marsh
Unofficial name (optional)	Palude del Busatello

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image  
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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#### Boundaries description

The whole "Busatello marsh" Ramsar Site is placed within the Gazzo Veronese municipality (VR). The Site borders on east by the other Ramsar Site, the Ostiglia swampland (Ostiglia municipality, MN) and the remaining borders with farming land and channels. The northern border, which is 950m long, follow the Tione River's dam, while southern border consists of the Fissero-Tartaro-Canalbianco 450m long dam. The Site's limits are the same as Natura 2000 site IT3210013 "Palude del Busatello". Only a part of the Site is closely a marshland. The farmland's inclusion in the Ramsar Site is justified in the complex hydrogeological context of the large area. Indeed, once Po - Veneto Valley, including the Adige and Po River final stretch, constituted a massively extensive wetlands system, called as "Grandi Valli Veronesi", where hygrophilous woods were also well represented. This broader land has been reclaimed for decades: actually Busatello's wetland (implemented jointly with Ostiglia' swampland) is keeping its original places appearance and it may be defined as "last valley" fully preserved from the great remediation. The effective wetland (80ha), artificially improved, depends on drainage water from the agricultural soil. Moreover, Busatello's wetland constitutes specific characteristics of hanging gardens established within a few meters above neighbouring ground level: ploughed by a complex net of channels and drainages whose contribute to artificially supplying water in the swamp. The adjoining farming areas are therefore part of a unique system, which defines a fragile freshwaters equilibrium and themselves are generally wet.

### 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Veneto
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Gazzo Veronese

### 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

- a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes  No
- b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes  No

### 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	443
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Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from  
GIS boundaries

443

## 2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental

### 3 - Why is the Site important?

#### 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided: The main hydrological value is the potential to partly purify the rich in nutrients waters flowing from the surrounding cultivated areas.

Other ecosystem services provided: It is an important stop-over area for migration and breeding ground for birds.

Other reasons: It is the largest freshwater marsh still present in Province of Verona. It is the last remaining area of the extensive system of marshes located between the rivers Adige, Tartaro and Po (known as the Great Veronese Valleys) to survive the reclamation works carried out in the 19th and 20th centuries. In the Po Valley (Pianura Padana) this type of environment is actually rare.




- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification: It hosts many species of plants and animals typical of wetland ecosystems. Many of these species are threatened or in decline in the Po Valley. Moreover, it hosts more than 170 birds species, 226 plants, 7 amphibious, 6 reptiles and numerous invertebrates most of these strictly connected to marshy ecosystems.

- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

#### 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<i>Hottonia palustris</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Flora	The species has become very rare in the Province of Verona. Strictly connected to wetlands became extremely rare in intensive cultivated plains such as Pianura Padana
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Flora	The species has become very rare in the Province of Verona. Strictly connected to wetlands became extremely rare in intensive cultivated plains such as Pianura Padana
<i>Salvinia natans</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	VJ - Red List of Italian Flora	The species has become very rare in the Province of Verona. Strictly connected to wetlands became extremely rare in intensive cultivated plains such as Pianura Padana

#### 3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	GITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
<b>Birds</b>																		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge Warbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	The site is important for migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Wintering and breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	The site is important for migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	The site is important for migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Tarabuso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	Wintering site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	The site is important for migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	The site is important during migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Torciccolo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	The site is important for migration
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius minor</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Savi's Warbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Western Yellow Wagtail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron; Black-crowned Night-Heron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Birds Directive Annex I.	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	Bearded Reedling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Passer italiae</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Italian endemism
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Breeding site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	GITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana parva</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Breeding site
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tyto alba alba</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I Birds Directive	
<b>Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea</b>																		
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Anguilla	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				CR 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	The species has become rare in the Province of Verona
<b>Others</b>																		
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	European Toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	The species is threatened in the Po Valley
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Testuggine palustre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Habitats Directive Annex II	The species has become rare in the Po Valley
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Hyla intermedia</i>	Raganella italiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Italian endemism. Reproduction site.
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitat Directive 92/43	
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Rana latastei</i>	Rana di Lataste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates	Northern Italy's endemic species. Reproduction site.
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Habitats Directive 92/43 Annex II,IV	The Italian population is in serious decline
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	greater horseshoe bat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	The Italian population is in serious decline
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	lesser horseshoe bat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - Red List of Italian Vertebrates. EC Habitats Directive Annex II, IV	The Italian population is in serious decline
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Triturus carnifex</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitats Directive 92/43	
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Endangered species in Northern Italy, very rare in the Po Valley

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

### 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
EU 3150: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lakes and ponds, more or less turbid, waters, particularly rich in dissolved bases (pH usually > 7), with free-floating surface communities of the Hydrocharition or, in deep, open waters, with associations of large pondweeds (Magnopotamion).	EU Habitats Directive Annex I
EU 91E0*: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Riparian forests of <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , of temperate and Boreal Europe lowland and hill watercourses (Pal. 44.3: Alno-Padion). Occur on heavy soils periodically inundated, but otherwise well-drained and aerated during low-water.	EU Habitats Directive Annex I



## 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

### 4.1 - Ecological character

The water level in the marsh is 2 meters higher than the level of the surrounding land.  
 The marsh is supplied with water by means of an electrical pump.  
 Most of the area is covered by reeds (*Scirpo-Phragmitetum*), sedges (*Carex elata* and *Carex riparie*), and aquatic plants/ferns (*Myriophyllum-Nupharetum*, *Salvinio-Spirodeletum polyrhizae*).  
 There also are some areas of willows (*Salix alba* and *Salix cinerea*) and small zones of bulrush.  
 Mixed sedge-reed beds are taking the place of "pure" sedge, probably due to a continual reduction in the summer harvesting of sedge, which favors the growth of the reeds.  
 Some of the wetland areas are starting to suffer from silting problems, with the increase of species of infesting weeds coming from the nearby countryside such as *Urtica dioica*, *Rubus caesius*, *Humulus lupulus*, *Sambucus nigra*.  
 The quality of the rich in nitrates water entering the marsh is responsible for a relevant eutrophication process.  
 The massive presence of alien fauna species such as the *Myocastor coipus*, the *Procambarus clarkii*, the *Silurus glanis* and the *Carassius carassius*, directly competes with the native fauna and, in the case of the *Myocastor*, it also damages the marsh embankment.  
 Swamp management long ago was very effective due to the production of typical marsh grasses as *Phragmites australis* and *Carex* spp.: this contributed to a protection of special features, despite of now that are in risk of extinction.

### 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

#### Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks	Fiume Tone and Fiume Tartaro	2	10	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools	Busatello marsh	1	60	Representative

#### Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches	Scolo Germina, Fosso Seriola (Albina), Scolo Osone, Scolo Catena, Fosso Pila	2	5	Representative

#### Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Corine biotopes code 44.44 Po oak-ash-alder forests (Po <i>Quercus</i> - <i>Fraxinus</i> - <i>Alnus</i> forests, EUNIS habitat type code G1.	4
Farmland and irrigated land	360

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

##### Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>		IUCN Red List = LC
<i>Carex appropinquata</i>		IUCN Red List = LC
<i>Cicuta virosa</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Euphorbia palustris</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Jacobaea paludosa</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Oenanthe aquatica</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Sonchus palustris</i>		IUCN Red List = LC
<i>Trapa natans</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>		IUCN Red List = LC Species on the Red List of vascular plants of Regione Veneto

## Invasive alien plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Impacts
<i>Bidens frondosa</i>		Potentially
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>		Potentially
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Sacred lotus	Potentially
<i>Phyllostachys aureosulcata</i>		Potentially
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>		Potentially
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia; Black Locust	Potentially
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>		Potentially

## 4.3.2 - Animal species

## Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Impacts
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Carassius auratus</i>		Actually (major impacts)
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>		Actually (minor impacts)
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Silurus glanis</i>		Actually (major impacts)
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>		Potentially
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		Actually (minor impacts)
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>		Potentially

## 4.4 - Physical components

### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfa: Humid subtropical (Mid with no dry season, hot summer)

### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Fissero, Tartaro, Canalbianco

### 4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

Organic

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes  No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The area is formed by alluvial terraces of relatively old deposits from the Tione, Tartaro and Po Rivers. The substrate is formed from peat and silt. According to the American classification of Soil Taxonomy, USDA 1975, the soils come under Histosols being characterized by a high content of organic substances. On the regional map of soils they are defined as very thin, organic, bounded by outcropping water table, with impeded drainage (areas which preserve the hydromorphic conditions with wetland vegetation and peat deposits. These characterized a large part of the territory before the land reclamation).

### 4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water destination

Presence?
To downstream catchment

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Water inflow is assured by means of an electrical water pump which lifts water 3 meters from an input canal which drains water from surrounding farm land. In the marsh there are some canals which supply water to the different zones. Water levels are regulated by means of bulkheads. Between December 2015 and March 2016 these canals were cleaned to remove plants and sedimentation that had obstructed them for years. Surplus water drains into the River Tione which flows near the wetland.

(ECD) Connectivity of surface waters and of groundwater

The marsh can receive water from the Canal bianco channel and from Molinella River. Surplus water drains into the River Tione which flows near the wetland.

#### 4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Vegetal biomass is left in place so that the marsh increases in thickness year by year and evolves toward a wet woodland.

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour

The water is quite murky in the input points from the outside and in the resulting distribution channels.

(ECD) Water temperature

5<°C<26 in the years 2010-2015

#### 4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

7.5

#### 4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

Mxohaline (brackish)/Mxosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)

Unknown

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water

2< Oxygen mg/l<14

The high variability of this parameter is probably due to reduced hydrodynamics, which causes isolation among stations, and the alternation of photosynthetic and respiration processes.

#### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

Mesotrophic

Oligotrophic

Dystrophic

Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Inorganic nutrients are highest near the input points of eutrophic waters from the countryside. At these sites water transparency was considerably reduced and macrophytes, when present, were covered by a thick layer of epiphytic material.

On the contrary, low phytoplankton and nutrient concentrations, high water transparency and extended macrophyte stands (*Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar luteum*) were found in the central portion of the Reserve. Sediments resulted extremely fluffy all over the channel due to fast accumulation of organic matter; organic matter content was ~20% at all investigated sites and total N and P content represents a considerable internal load able to sustain nutrients regeneration.

(ECD) Dissolved organic carbon

Unknow

(ECD) Redox potential of water and sediments

-50<mV<+300 (measurement done in 2002)

(ECD) Water conductivity

450<□S/cm<650 (measurement done in 2002)

#### 4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself. i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The whole area surrounding the marsh is characterized by intensive farming; the most common crop is corn. Farming is mechanized. There is extensive use of chemical fertilizers and herbicides. Irrigation is artificial. The surrounding area is entirely farmland which in part is forced to discharge its surface drainage waters into the wetland, during the heavy rainy periods, to avoid flooding.

## 4.5 - Ecosystem services

### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

#### Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Low

#### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	Medium
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Low

#### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium

#### Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes  No  Unknown

### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

#### Description if applicable

The maintaining of high ecological value is connected to traditional activities such as reed and sedge harvesting nowadays almost over.

iv) 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

## 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

## 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

### 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

#### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

##### Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

##### Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

The owner of the whole wetland (60 ha) and of a neighbor wood (4 ha) is the municipality of Gazzo Veronese. Rivers Tartaro and Tione and their banks are owned by the state property. The remaining areas are private.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Gazzo Veronese Municipality  
WWF Veronese Association

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Andrea Vecchini – Mayor of Gazzo Veronese

Postal address:

Via Roma, 89  
37060 Gazzo Veronese

E-mail address:

segreteria@comune.gazzo.vr.it

## 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

### 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

#### Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Canalisation and river regulation	Medium impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fire and fire suppression	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dams and water management/use	Low impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation clearance/land conversion	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Agricultural and forestry effluents	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

## Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	IT3210013 Palude del Busatello	<a href="http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=IT3210013">http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=IT3210013</a>	whole

## National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National decree for designating Ramsar site (DM30.09.2008)	Busatello Marsh	<a href="http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/normativa/ramsar/ven_dm_30_09_2008_Palude_Busatello.pdf">http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/normativa/ramsar/ven_dm_30_09_2008_Palude_Busatello.pdf</a>	whole
Protected area of local interest (Area Protetta di interesse locale)	Oasi Palude del Busatello (D.C.C. 11.05.1995 n. 38)	<a href="http://www.agraria.org/parchi/veneto/paludedibusatello.htm">http://www.agraria.org/parchi/veneto/paludedibusatello.htm</a>	partly

## Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Ostiglia swamps IT208	<a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/ostiglia-swamps-iba-italy/details">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/ostiglia-swamps-iba-italy/details</a>	whole

## 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

## 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

## Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

## Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented

## Human Activities



Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Regulation/management of wastes	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented

### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes  No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes  No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

There is a visitors' center which is now being developed and improved.  
Some cooperative organizations work in the area where they offer guided tours and educational activities.

### 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, the site has already been restored

### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Proposed
Animal species (please specify)	Proposed
Birds	Implemented

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Le attività di bonifica nella media e bassa pianura v.ese tra Adige e Tartaro - Consorzio di Bonifica Valli Grandi V.esi - Legnago 1969  
Le zone umide della pianura veronese - Museo Civico St. Naturale di VR – Verona 1983  
Studi sulla Palude di Busatello (Veneto e Lombardia)- Museo Civico St. Naturale di VR – Verona 1989  
The Management Plan for the “Paludi di Ostiglia” Nature Reserve - Lombardy Official Bulletin – Milano 1993  
La Palude del Busatello un ambiente da salvare – Provincia di Verona e LIPU – S.Giovanni Lupatoto 1995  
Studi per la caratterizzazione degli habitat del Sito di Importanza Comunitaria Paludi di Ostiglia – PDF document 2003.  
Progetto LIFE-Natura: Paludi di Ostiglia interventi di salvaguardia dell'avifauna prioritaria. Rapporto divulgativo - PDF document 2006

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Palude del Busatello (  
Ernesto Cavallini, 09-05-  
2012 )



Palude del Busatello (  
Ernesto Cavallini, 07-04-  
2016 )



Palude del Busatello (  
Ernesto Cavallini, 10-10-  
2007 )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2017-10-03