Ramsar Information Sheet

Update version, previously published on 6 October 2006

Hungary

Rába valley

Designation date	6 October 2006
Site number	1645
Coordinates	47°05'26"N 16°45'27"E
Area	9 552,31 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 Rába River is the most important river of Western Hungary; the Rába Valley is the largest valley of Western Transdanubia. The area includes the Rába River's section from Alsószölnök to the border of Győr-Moson-Sopron County. The Csörnöc-Herpenyő Brook collecting the waters of the Hegyhát also belongs to it. The Rába meanders freely, unregulated in its own valley and forms oxbows at several locations. The section below Sárvár is regulated and flows between dykes. The Rába Valley is flanked on the right side by a prominent hill range while the left side is predominantly plain. The main soil type of the valley is raw alluvial soil, in some places diversified by fen soils. The alluvium's physical soil types are clay, sand and gravel. The latter two are quarried in industrial quantities. In the place of the abandoned quarries, several large ponds have formed. Apart from the woodlands and oxbows flanking the river, only a few grasslands remain in natural conditions, because most of them have been ploughed up or some of them have been partly colonized by forests.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Ágnes Gruber
Institution/agency	Directorate of Őrség National Park
Postal address	H – 9941Őriszentpéter, Siskaszer 26/A .
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2006
To year	2013

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Rába valley
Unofficial name (optional)	Rába-völgy

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ◉ No ○
(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately	☑
(Update) The boundary has been extended	☐
(Update) The boundary has been restricted	☐
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has decreased
(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately	☑
(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately	☑
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	☐
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

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

Former maps	0

Boundaries description (optional)

The new boundary follows recently changed property lines and the shoreline of the waterbody more accurately.

2.2.2 - General location

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

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): 9552.31

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 9553.34

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Pannonic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

European Commission DG Environment webpage
Bern Convention/ EU Habitats Directive

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

Other reasons: Rába is a representative example of a natural or near-natural middle-reach river type found within the Pannonic biogeographic region. This part of Rába is the only unregulated, meandering river in Hungary.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification: Rába supports populations of plant and animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region. Rába holds a rich fish and insect fauna. The populations of Zingel zingel, Zingel streber, and Gymnocephalus schraetzer are important. High banks are formed by natural processes and are used by Merops apiaster, Alcedo atthis and Riparia riparia for nesting. Charadrius dubius and Actitis hypoleucos live on gravel reefs, forming the stronghold of the Hungarian population.

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

☑ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification: Rába supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species and populations that are representative of wetland benefits and thereby contributes to global biological diversity. It is estimated that the greatest Hungarian population of Eudontomyzon mariae lives in Rába and its water system.

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification: Rába is an important source of food and spawning ground for fishes, of which Zingel zingel, Zingel streber and Gymnocephalus schraetzer are to be noted in particular, as they have their Hungarian strongholds here.

☑ Criterion 9 : >1% non-avian animal population

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
Lindernia procumbens	Prostrate false pimpernel	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Bern Convention Appendix I, Habitats Directive IV	
Trapa natans	Water Caltrop	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Bern Convention Appendix I	

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	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Common Sandpiper	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	35			LC	☐	☐		Criterion 3: This species live on gravel reefs, forming the stronghold of the Hungarian population. 30-40 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Alcedo atthis*	Common Kingfisher	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	65			LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive: Annex I	50-80 pairs Criterion 3: High banks are formed by natural processes and are used by this species for nesting.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aythya nyroca*	Ferruginous Duck	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	2			NT	☐	☑	European IUCN: Vulnerable, Global IUCN: Near Threatened, Birds Directive Annex I	1-3 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Charadrius dubius*	Little Ringed Plover	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	25			LC	☐	☐		Criterion 3: This species live on gravel reefs, forming the stronghold of the Hungarian population. 20-30 pairs
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Crex crex*	Corn Crake	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	8			LC	☐	☐	Birds Directive: Annex I	5-10 pairs in the grassland
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	White-tailed Eagle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1			LC	☑	☑	Birds Directive: Annex I	1 pair
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Merops apiaster*	European Bee-eater	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		Criterion 3: High banks are formed by natural processes and are used by this species for nesting.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Milvus migrans*	Black Kite	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1			LC	☐	☐	European IUCN: Vulnerable, Birds Directive Annex I	1 pair
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Riparia riparia*	Sand Martin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	550			LC	☐	☐		Criterion 3: High banks are formed by natural processes and are used by this species for nesting. 500-600 pairs
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Cobitis taenia*	Spine loach	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		2	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 9: 2% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	*Eudontomyzon mariae*	Ukranian Brook Lamprey	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	0		39	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 7: It is estimated that the greatest Hungarian population of Eudontomyzon mariae lives in Rába and its water system. Criterion 9: 39% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Gymnocephalus baloni*	Danube ruffe; Balon' s Ruffe	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		1	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 9: 1% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Gymnocephalus schraetser*	Striped ruffe	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	0		14	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annexes II and V	Criterion 8: Rába is an important source of food and spawning ground for this species. Criterion 9: 14% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Leuciscus aspius*	Schied; Schied; Schied	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		2		☐	☐		Criterion 9: 2% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Misgurnus fossilis*	Mud loach	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Rhodeus amarus*		☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		4	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 9: 4% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Romanogobio albipinnatus*	White-finned gudgeon; White-finned gudgeon; Whitefin gudgeon	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		17	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 9: 17% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Romanogobio kesslerii*	Kessler' s gudgeon	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		17	LC	☐	☐		Criterion 9: 17% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Sabanejewia aurata*	Golden spined loach; Aral spined loach	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	0		13	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 9: 13% of Hungarian pop.
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Zingel streber*	Danube streber	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	0		31	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annex II	Criterion 8: Rába is an important source of food and spawning ground for this species. Criterion 9: 31% of Hungarian pop.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Zingel zingel*	Zingel; Zingel	☑	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	0		48	LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annexes II and V	Criterion 8: Rába is an important source of food and spawning ground for this species. Criterion 9: 48% of Hungarian pop.
Others																		
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	*Bombina bombina*	European Fire-bellied Toad	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	European Fire-bellied Toad	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Castor fiber*	Eurasian Beaver	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix III, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	*Emys orbicularis*	European pond turtle	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	European Otter	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐	CITES: A (I), Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	*Pseudepidalea viridis*	Green Toad	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	*Rana dalmatina*	Agile frog	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Bern Convention Appendix II, Habitats Directive Annex IV	

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Criterion 4: Rába supports plant and animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles and provides refuge during adverse conditions. The meandering parts of Rába, the oxbows, navvy pits and the abandoned gravel pits play an important role in the reproduction of fish species and aquatic insects. These are also essential habitats for them in order to survive summer droughts.

Criterion 9: Expert estimate (Mr. Zoltán Sallai) based on surveys and literature data from the last 25 years

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
Eudontomyzon mariae	☑		threatened ecological community
Carex repens	☑		threatened ecological community
Scirpus radicans	☑		threatened ecological community

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Types of habitats and vegetation are closely related to the typical riparian ecosystems. Because of the regulation of the river, the size and distribution of these habitats has decreased significantly during the last hundred years. However, in the present situation the remaining fragments of these habitats are able to hold their basic features. These are as follows:

- Floodplain meadow (Succiso-Molinietum, Festucetum pratensis, Agrostis albae): Rich biodiversity of lowland meadows can be found along the river. These are one of the most endangered habitats of Rába, because their extension seems to be reduced by agricultural activities.

- Softwood riparian forest (Salicetum albae-fragilis): consists of the species Salix alba, Salix fragilis, Populus alba, and P. nigra. Willow woods can be found in a very narrow line along the river, but some areas of floodplain are covered by extended willow woods. Unfortunately, significant amounts of alien plants are currently found in the area.

- Willow bushes (Salicetum triandre): consists of Salix triandra, S. purpurea, S. fragilis, S. viminalis. Willow bush association appears on scattered reefs. Their existence indicates that the river runs in a natural bed still formed, built and destroyed by natural forces, which is very rare in Europe.

- Hardwood riverside forests (Querco-Ulmetum): consist of Fraxinus excelsior, Quercus robur, Carpinus betulus, Ulmus laevis. These seem to appear on high floodplains, and are rarely flooded. The soil is of good quality, that is why most of them were destroyed and hardly any contiguous patches remain. Their spring aspect is of very rich biodiversity.
largest valley of

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		1	3821	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		2	1910	
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		1	3821	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Acorus calamus	Sweet Flag	Protected plant species in the area
Carex repens		Protected plant species in the area
Cicuta virosa	Northern Water Hemlock	Protected plant species in the area
Elatine triandra	Threestamen waterwort	Protected plant species in the area
Equisetum hyemale	Horsetail Reed	Protected plant species in the area
Fritillaria meleagris	Snake's Head Fritillary	Protected plant species in the area
Gentiana pneumonanthe	Marsh Gentian	Protected plant species in the area
Hottonia palustris	Water Violet	Protected plant species in the area
Iris sibirica	Siberian Iris	Protected plant species in the area
Leucojum vernum	Spring Snowflake	Protected plant species in the area
Ludwigia palustris	Marsh Ludwigia	Protected plant species in the area
Petasites albus	White Butterbur	Protected plant species in the area
Salix elaeagnos	Hoaring willow	Protected plant species in the area
Scilla bifolia		Protected plant species in the area

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	Ardea cinerea	Gray Heron;Grey Heron	18			15-20 pairs
CHORDATA/AVES	Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night Heron;Black-crowned Night-Heron	8			5-10 pairs
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Alburnoides bipunctatus	Spirlin				Bern Convention Appendix III
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Leucaspius delineatus	Foy				Bern Convention Appendix III
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Bufo bufo	European Toad				Convention Appendix III
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	Natrix natrix	Grass snake				Bern Convention Appendix III

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

The climate in the West-Hungarian floodplain of Rába is caused by Atlantic (Alpine), Mediterranean (southern) and Continental (eastern) effects. On the western part of Rába (Szentgotthárd region), the climate is moderately warm and wet with mild winters. In the middle parts it is transitional, and the north-eastern part connected to Kislaföld (Small Plain) is moderately warm and dry with mild winters. The wind usually blows from the north. There are significant differences regarding annual cloud cover, hours of sunlight, temperature, and rainfall. The average number of hours of sunlight is 1850-1900 hours/year, which is less than the national average. Overcasting is also remarkable, on the western parts it can reach 65%. The summer is cooler (19-19,5 oC), the winter is colder (Jan. -2 oC) in the western region than in the eastern region.

See additional material for further information.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 191

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 191

- 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.

Rába river, right tributary of the Danube

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral ☑
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○
- Organic ☑
  - (Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○
- 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 most dispersed soil types in the floodplain of Rába are meadow soils, marsh soils, forest soils connected to moorland and floodplain, and row swamp soils. The sole soils have the aspects of clay and loam, because leading part of the river deposits are from acid Holocene bedrocks (gravel, sand), and the chemical characteristic of sole soils are also acidic. It is typical to sole soils to be wet through periodically (water-logged), where loose water can be found the formation of peat and “kotu” soil formation is remarkable. On the steep hills, where leaching and acidification are intensified, usually brown forest soils (clay, pseudoglej, podzol) are current. In cultivated lowlands different sub-types of brown forest soils can be found.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

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

See additional material for further information

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☐

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Mesotrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

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:

- Intensive forestry;
- Plans for large-scale developments (industry, traffic, etc.).

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Timber	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	Medium
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The site has important role in flood control through providing a wide floodplain and protecting settlements. The river maintains a relatively high ground water level and enhances productivity of surrounding agricultural land.

The fish fauna is rich, providing opportunity for traditional fishery. Because of the natural conditions, the area provides a unique opportunity to study both the structure and function of a riverside ecosystem and the ecological and behavior characteristics of both the populations and the community of animal and plant species in an undisturbed condition.

The area has great importance for environmental education. Because of the large and diverse habitats, there are many options for hands-on presentation of the structure and function of the ecosystems both to the students and others, without causing significant damage, by utilizing proper methodology.

See additional material for further information

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 ☐

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 ☐

<no data available>

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
National/Federal government	☑	☐
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☐

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

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

within the Ramsar site:

State owned – roughly 60%
Local government –5%
Private – 35%

in the surrounding area:

mainly private

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Dr. Szentirmai István, head of department

Postal address: H-9941 Őriszentpéter, Siskaszer. 26/A

Phone: 36/ 94-548-034
Fax: 36/ 94-428-791
E-mail: orseginp@onp.kvvm.hu

E-mail address: i.szentirmai@gmail.com

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Logging and wood harvesting	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Industrial and military effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

within the Ramsar site:

- intensive and unfortunately uncontrolled canoe tourism during the summer period;
- intensity of forestry has increased since 1970. As a result, the fragmentation of the riverside forest habitats is getting close to the dangerous level for the species living in that habitat.
- constant volume of treated sewage water and the nutrients it carries poses a potential risk for the river and its streams and oxbows.
- uncontrolled fishing activities in the oxbows, introduction of non-native fish species, overloading, littering and disturbance by anglers.
- growing and uncontrolled tourism along the river and on the beaches produce significant littering and disturbance.

in the surrounding area:

- intensive forestry along the river
- runoff of chemicals due to intensive agriculture
- untreated waste water from neighboring settlements, including waste water from leather manufacturers in Austria

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	Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)		whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Park	Őrség		partly

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

Habitat

Measures	Status
Hydrology management/restoration	Proposed

Other:

The “Rába Water Management Plan” is the first complex river basin management plan in Hungary, which was prepared in cooperation with the organizations and bodies based in the river basin. It contains the sustainable development of Rába river in the future, conciliating the protection and development of habitats with the social demands of the region. The plan was prepared by the bodies of water management and nature conservation. The realization would happen with the help of European Union project financing.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

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 ◉

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

Further information

In 2004, a restoration plan was prepared by Directory of Őrség National Park and West-Transdanubian Water Management Authority between Rábagyarmat and Csörötnek. This reach of the river is rich in abandoned gravel pits and oxbows. The plan is about the water supply of the oxbows, increasing the possibilities of fish spawning and development of bird habitats in the region. The realization depends on finances (applications for grants will be submitted).

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented

For several years, macro-invertebrate and fish monitoring work has been carried out in the frame of the National Biodiversity Monitoring System. The Water Framework Directive (60/2000/EC) monitoring also started in 2005. Survey of alien plants was prepared on the whole marked reach. Other studies include surveys and research on birds conducted by NGOs and Őrség National Park Directorate. A habitat map has been made of the reach belonging to the Őrség National Park. From 2013 Őrség National Park Directorate have started to prepare the Management Plan for Rába és Csörnöc völgy Natura 2000 site.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

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KÁROLYI A., PÓCS T., 1968, Délnyugat-Dunántúl flórája I. Acta Acad. Paed. Agr. 6, 329-390.

See other published literature for further information

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
<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Meandering Rába River. (*Dr Tibor Markovics ; Őrségi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (National Park Directorate), 1-1-2012*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2006-10-06