Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 1 January 2007
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Hungary

Biharugra Fishponds

Designation date	26 May 1997
Site number	903
Coordinates	46°56'18"N 21°35'21"E
Area	2 791,00 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

Biharugra Fishponds consists of intensively used lakes at the eastern boundary of Hungary near the neighbouring Romania. The lake system with the characteristic steppe vegetation and the fragmented forests provide suitable breeding, feeding and staging place for plenty of endangered, protected species.

The water level of the fishponds is controlled. Ancient marshes are connected to the fishponds which are also an elemental part of the Ramsar Site. Two marshes, the Ugrai-rét and the Sző-rét are the biggest and most remarkable within the site.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Bota Viktória
Institution/agency	Körös-Maros National Park Directorate
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2007
To year	2014

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Biharugra Fishponds

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	No change to area

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?	No

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 boundary of the Ramsar site partly follows the boundaries of the Körös-Maros National Park and partly the boundaries of the Biharugra and Begécs fishponds.

2.2.2 - General location

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

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): 2791

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 2781.28

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Pannonian

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

European Commission DG Environment webpage
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The site includes the second largest Hungarian fishpond-system, surrounded by meadows, characteristic salt grasslands, fragmented forests and arable lands. The former marshland called Kis-Sárrét has changed since the early 1900s after draining and filling up the swampy areas. The site connects closely to the fishponds of Cefa and the Forest of Radvani situated at the other side of the border, in Romania. It is an important breeding and migration stopover site for many bird species, including the globally endangered Anser erythropus. It holds large heron colonies, and on passage thousands of waterfowl occur here. In the last few years the ponds and neighbouring forests have become one of the most important wintering area of Haliaeetus albicilla in Hungary.

The site still maintains plant communities typical of the region (but in most other places already devastated), such as Achilleo-Festucetum pseudovinae and Artemisio-Festucetum pseudovinae on pastures, Agrostio-Beckmannietum in shallow, wet depressions, and Agrostio-Alopecuretum pratensis in temporarily wet meadows. Marshes hold Bolboschoenetum maritimi and Caricetum acutiformis ripariae communities, which are important for orchid species such as Orchis morio and Orchis laxiflora ssp. elegans. The fishponds are largely covered by reedbeds (Scirpo-Phragmitetum). Older, shallow ponds hold valuable communities, such as Lemno-Utricularietum and Trapetum natensis.

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

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	more than 20000
Start year	2009
Source of data:	Zoological database of the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate 2009-2014

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird 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
Anacamptis morio	Green-winged Orchid	☑	☐	☐		☐	(Bern Convention)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
Anacamptis palustris	Lax-flowered Marsh Orchid	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	(Bern Convention)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
Anacamptis palustris elegans	Loose-Flowered Orchid	☑	☐	☐		☐	(Bern Convention)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
Cirsium brachycephalum	Small-flowered Thistle	☑	☐	☐		☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
Dactylorhiza incarnata	Early Marsh Orchid	☑	☐	☐		☐	(Bern Convention)	The site supports viable populations of this species.

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																		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas acuta*	Northern Pintail	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	571			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 571 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas clypeata*	Northern Shoveler	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	2851	2007-2012	6	LC	☐	☐		(Average of 2851 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration. Criterion 6: North-west & Central Europe (win)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas crecca*	Eurasian Teal; Green-winged Teal	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	4402			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 4402 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas penelope*	Eurasian Wigeon	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1873			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 1873 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Mallard	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	46010	2007-2012	2.3	LC	☐	☐		(Average of 38 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. Criterion 6: Population of 17 020 – 75 000 between 2007-2012 Biogeographic region: Eastern Europe/Black Sea & East Mediterranean
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas querquedula*	Garganey	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	257			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 257 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas strepera*	Gadwall	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	394			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 394 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.

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	*Anser albifrons*	Greater White-frontedGoose	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	34245	2007-2012	32	LC	☐	☐		(Average of 34245 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Western Siberia/Central Europe
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anser anser*	Greylag Goose	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	5150	2007-2012	9.2	LC	☐	☐		(Average of 118 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. Criterion 6: Population of 3000-7300 between 2007-2012 Biogeographic region: Central Europe/North Africa
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anser erythropus*	LesserWhite-frontedGoose	☑	☐	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2007-2012	3	VU	☐	☑	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species. Criterion 3: It is an important breeding and migration stopover site for this species. Criterion 6: Population of 1-5 between 2007-2012 Biogeographic region: Fennoscandia
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Anser fabalis*	Bean Goose	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	14			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 14 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ardea alba*	Great Egret	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	113			LC	☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 113 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ardea cinerea*	Gray Heron; Grey Heron	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	387			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 387 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Biharugra Fishponds play an important role in providing suitable habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ardea purpurea*	Purple Heron	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ardeola ralloides*	Squacco Heron	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aythya ferina*	Common Pochard	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	62			VU	☐	☐		(Average of 62 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aythya fuligula*	Tufted Duck	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	151			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 151 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Aythya nyroca*	Ferruginous Duck	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1789	2007-2012	3.6	NT	☐	☑	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 49 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. Criterion 6: Population of 211 – 3367 between 2007 - 2012. Biogeographic region: Eastern Europe/E Mediterranean & Sahelian Africa
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Botaurus stellaris*	Eurasian Bittern	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Branta ruficollis*	Red-breasted Goose	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	51			VU	☐	☑	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 51 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration. The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Bucephala clangula*	Common Goldeneye	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	236			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 236 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Calidris alpina*	Dunlin	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	337			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 337 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.

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	*Chlidonias hybrida*	Whiskered Tern	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	196			LC	☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 196 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Chlidonias niger*	Black Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	148			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 148 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	Black-headed Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	160				☐	☐		(Average of 160 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Egretta garzetta*	Little Egret	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Falco peregrinus*	Peregrine Falcon	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☑	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Fulica atra*	Eurasian Coot	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	107			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 107 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Gallinago gallinago*	Common Snipe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	66			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 66 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	White-tailed Eagle	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	21			LC	☑	☑	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 21 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 3 & 4: In the last few years the ponds and neighbouring forests have become one of the most important wintering area of Haliaeetus albicilla in Hungary.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Ixobrychus minutus*	Little Bittern	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	37			LC	☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 37 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Larus cachinnans*	Caspian Gull; Yellow-legged Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	760			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 760 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Larus canus*	Mew Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	149			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 149 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	2316	2007-2012	1.4	NT	☐	☐		(Average of 2316 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Eastern Europe/Central & Eastern Africa
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Mergellus albellus*	Smew	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	101			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 101 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Microcarbo pygmeus*	Pygmy Cormorant	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	333	2007-2012	1.22		☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 333 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Biharugra Fishponds play an important role in providing suitable habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: Black Sea & Mediterranean
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Numenius arquata*	Eurasian Curlew	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	179			NT	☐	☐		(Average of 179 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.

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	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	Black-crowned Night Heron; Black-crowned Night-Heron	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Great Cormorant	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	969			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 969 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Biharugra Fishponds play an important role in providing suitable habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Philomachus pugnax*	Ruff	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	1878			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 1878 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Platalea leucorodia*	Eurasian Spoonbill	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	456	2007-2012	3.8	LC	☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 451 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration. Criterion 6: Biogeographic region: C & SE Europe/Mediterranean & Tropical Africa
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Plegadis falcinellus*	Glossy Ibis	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Podiceps cristatus*	Great Crested Grebe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	105			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 105 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Podiceps nigricollis*	Black-necked Grebe; Eared Grebe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	67			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 67 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Biharugra Fishponds play an important role in providing suitable habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	Pied Avocet	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	2			LC	☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 2 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	Common Tern	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	92			LC	☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	(Average of 92 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site. The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	Little Grebe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	20			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 20 pairs between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: Breeding on the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Tringa erythropus*	Spotted Redshank	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	901			LC	☐	☐		(Average of 901 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Tringa totanus*	Common Redshank	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Birds Directive Annex I)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	*Vanellus vanellus*	Northern Lapwing	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	2119			NT	☐	☐		(Average of 2119 individuals between 2007 and 2012) Criterion 4: The site plays an important role in providing habitat for resting and feeding this species during migration.
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																		
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	*Misgurnus fossilis*	Mud loach	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
Others																		
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	*Bombina bombina*	Fire-bellied Toad	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)	The site supports viable populations of this species.

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/ MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	European Otter	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☑	☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Mustela erminea*	Ermine	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Bern Convention Appendix II)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Mustela eversmanii*	Steppe Polecat	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	*Myotis dasycneme*	pond bat; Pond Myotis	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)	The site supports viable populations of this species.
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	*Triturus dobrogicus*	Crested Newt	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	(Habitats Directive Annex II and IV)	The site supports viable populations of this species.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Criterion 4: See Taxonomic list for additional information on population records of each species.

Bibliographical reference: zoological database of the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate 2009-2014.

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

<no data available>

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The Biharugra fishpond system belongs entirely to the floral province known as Crisicum. The floral province is subdivided into five smaller units, and this Ramsar site belongs to the area of the River Körös.

In general, this unit is the richest botanically, holding relict species of loess steppes as well as valuable species of bogs and woodlands. The pastures have the typical communities of pastures formed on solonetz soils east of the River Tisza. They are mostly covered by Achilleo-Festucetum pseudovinae and Artemisio-Festucetum pseudovinae. Salt berms and salt barrens can hardly be found, except for the Csillaglaposi pasture at Geszt, where the soil is strongly alkaline and berms have formed. Wet, strongly alkaline depressions are covered with Agrostio- Beckmannietum. Temporarily flooded areas hold mostly Agrostio-Alopecuretum pratensis. Slightly more elevated patches are covered by Salvio-Festucetum rupicolae typical of loess soils (Sző meadow). This community has mostly common species, such as Verbascum phoeniceum, Salvia pratensis, Salvia nemorosa, Salvia austriaca, Filipendula vulgaris, etc. Its more intensively grazed, more degraded variety, Cynodonti-Poetum angustifoliae, can be also found at several places. Low-lying marshes are overgrown by alkaline marsh vegetations: Bolboschoenetum maritimi, Caricetum acutiformis ripariae.

The main botanical value of the Csillaglaposi pasture is the tens of thousands of Orchis morio. The extensive tussocky meadows along Begécsi ponds hold a few Orchis laxiflora ssp. palustris. The Ugrai meadow is mostly covered by reedbeds (Scirpo-Phragmitetum) but several typical marsh communities also occur in less deep areas, such as Glycerietum maximae, Bolboschoenetum maritime and Caricetum cutiformis-ripariae. The meadow is dotted with willow bogs Calamagrostio-Salicetum cinereae. The Sző meadow is dominated by reedmace beds (Typhetum latifoliae) and temporarily flooded vegetation. Permanently flooded areas hold valuable floating vegetation: Lemno-Utricularietum. The Ugrai meadow also has an extensive water soldier community, Hydrochari-Stratiotetum.

(See additional material for further information on Ecological character)

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 > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		2		
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands		3		

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
1: Aquaculture ponds		1		
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		4		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Cephalanthera longifolia	Green-winged Orchid	
Cirsium furiens	Cirsium	Habitats Directive Annex II and IV
Clematis integrifolia	Bushy Blue Bell	
Galatella sedifolia	Michaelmas Daisy	
Inula helenium	Elecampane	
Iris spuria	Blue iris	
Lathyrus nissolia	Grass Vetchling	
Ophioglossum polyphyllum	Adder's-tongue	
Ornithogalum pyramidale	Pyramidal Star	EU-CITES B(II)
Peucedanum officinale	Hog`s Fennel	
Phlomoides tuberosa	Jerusalem Sage	
Plantago schwarzenbergiana	Schur	
Salvinia natans	Floating watermoss	Appendix I. Bern Convention
Trapa natans	Water Chestnut	Bern Convention

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

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 is humid continental with dry summers and very cold winters. Biharugra Fishponds is situated on the Hungarian Great Plain, therefore, the precipitation is less than the Hungarian average and the temperature is higher than average. Annual mean temperature is between 10-11 degrees C, annual precipitation is 550-600 mm.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 80

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 90

- 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.

The Biharugra Fishponds site is situated on the floodplain of the river Sebes-Körös. The rivers Körös have primarily influenced the topography. (Tisza River Basin)

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(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 site is located on the Hungarian Great Plain, and is characterised by a flat topography. The massive rock formation of the Great Plain is from the Paleozoic era. It can be found 3000-4000 m below the present surface. The rock started sinking in the Miocene, and parallel with sinking, marine and later riverine sediments started to deposit on the surface. At present, Quaternary gravel, sand and clay predominate at the surface, which results in floodplain, meadow and saline soils.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

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

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

In the years of 1909-1911 the marshy area of Biharugra was surrounded by embankment. Between 1960 and 1963 the other part of the fishpond system (at Begécs) was established by draining and filling up the nearest marshy places. Biharugra Fishponds are connected to the river Sebes-Körös with a canal that is the main water supply for the fishpond system.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☐

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

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

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 ☐

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)	High
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Medium

Cultural Services

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

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

One of the most important historical value of the site is a “kunhalom”, an elevated hill that was probably used for burial purposes by Magyars eleven hundred years ago.
Several archaeological finds came up at Begécs from the lakes.

Intensive fishery activity is characteristic. There are also cattle and sheep herds on the meadows between the lakes. Besides these activities, farming is done on arable lands. The distribution of land use is the following: ploughland (2%), grassland (15%), forest (4%), fishpond (61%), reedbed (18%). Hunting of wildfowl is not allowed in the site.

The volume of visitors is not noteworthy.
There is a nature trail next to the Begécs fishponds.

Regular data collection is only about birds. There are basic data of some invertebrates and the rest of the vertebrate groups. Further research is needed. Some research on vegetation has been made. The habitat map of the area was made in 2011.

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
Cooperative/collective (e.g., farmers cooperative)	☑	☑
Commercial (company)	☐	☑
Foundation/non-governmental organization/trust	☑	☐

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

a) within the Ramsar site:
State owned lands are dominant in the site.
The distribution of land ownership is the following: state owned (86%), private (9%), cooperatives and local government (5%)

b) in the surrounding area:
The neighbouring areas mostly belong to cooperatives, local municipalities and state companies.

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

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

Postal address: H-5540, Szarvas, Anna-liget 1.

E-mail address: janos.greksza@kmnp.hu

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

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified/others	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
Agricultural and forestry effluents	High impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Unspecified	High impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

a) within the Ramsar site:
Spreading of reed supplants other habitat types in some areas within the site.
Fish production needs to be harmonised with conservation interests.

b) in the surrounding area:
The fishponds of Cefa on the Romanian side serve as an elemental part of the whole wetland system. Inflow of chemicals is one of the main threatening factors. Herbicides and pesticides are sprayed from agricultural aeroplanes. Water pollution from the river Sebes-Körös is also an important factor.

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	Kis-Sárrét SpecialProtection Area (HUKM10002) & Dél-Bihari szikesek Special Area of Conservation (HUKM20019)		partly

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Park	Körös-Maros National Park		partly
landscape protection area	Biharugra		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
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other:

Clearing of the bushes on Sző-rét, Ugrai-rét (freshwater marshes). A habitat restoration plan has been realized in Ugrai-rét. (Water is now restrained). Hunting with lead shots is no longer permitted since August 2005.

The planned conservation measures have been 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:

The national park has a visitor centre in Biharugra, near Sző-rét.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Animal community	Proposed
Plant community	Proposed

Regular data collection is only about birds. There are basic data of some invertebrates and the rest of the vertebrate groups. Further research is needed. Some research on vegetation has been made. The habitat map of the area was made in 2011.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

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)
<1 file(s) uploaded>

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:

The Ugrai Meadow (*Mr. Béla Motkó, Körös-Maros National Park Directorate, 09-04-2015*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 1997-05-26