

Ramsar Information Sheet

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BulgariaDragoman Marsh Karst Complex



Designation date 11 February 2011
Site number 1970
Coordinates 42°55'17"N 23°03'35"E
Area 14 940,97 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1970 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 13 February 2020

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

Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is the only one of its type in Bulgaria and rare for the Balkan Peninsula. The site includes limestone hills with depressions between them where wetlands are formed. The complex is unique because includes various types of wetlands - the last preserved in Bulgaria karts marshes (the large Dragoman and Aldomirovtsi marshes), wet meadows, alkaline peatlands and artificial wetlands. Dragoman Marsh is the biggest limestone marsh in Bulgaria - now its area covers about 400 ha. Aldomirovtsi Marsh (120 ha) is linked to it through subterranean waters and was declared as protected area in 1989. Very specific is the region close to the Tsraklevtsi village with a variety of different wet grasslands. Several karst springs close to Bezden village provide water to two artificial lakes and the Blato River. In the southeast part of the site next to the Blato River are located the Petarch Fishponds which provides very good conditions during bird migration and with a great potential for wetland restoration. The area around the wetlands is mainly agricultural land (arable land, meadows and pastures), part of which is temporarily flooded by the spring rains and melting snow.

In the 1930-50s drainage channels and pump stations were built to drain part of the wetlands. The life in the Dragoman Marsh disappeared for decades. But in the 90s these facilities stopped working and the wetlands have been quickly restored.

The Ramsar site is characterized by very rich biodiversity - includes nesting sites of rare and threatened birds and relict marshes and marsh plants. 256 species of birds (61% of Bulgarian avifauna), 9 amphibians, 9 reptiles, 23 mammals and 180 vascular plant species are registered in the site. In the Chepan Mountain and its surrounding karst hills, there are many rare Bulgarian and Balkan endemic plant species. The area is a habitat for many butterfly and dragonfly species of European and international importance.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Compiler 2

Institution/agency

Sofia University

Postal address

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

From year 2011
To year 2019

Fax +359 2 9406127

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex

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 O No

(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?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

Boundaries description

Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is located in West Bulgaria, Sofia district and in the territory of four municipalities: Dragoman, Godech, Slivnitsa and Kostinbrod. The site is situated about 30 km from the capital Sofia in direct proximity to the Sofia – Belgrade international E80 motorway. The North part of the boundary of Ramsar site follows the catchment boundary of the Dragoman Marsh and the Tsraklevtsi wet meadows – the crest of the Chepan Mountain. The Southeast part of the boundary covers the Bezden Reservoirs, Karst springs and Petarch Fishponds. The dry hills in the centre of the Ramsar site influence the ecological character of the wetlands through significant subterranean water flows. The Southern parts of the boundary follows the upper course of Blato river and Protected Site Aldomirovtsi Marsh. The area of the Ramsar site is almost completely included in the Natura 2000 site BG000322 "Dragoman" designated under the Habitats Directive and partially overlaps with the Natura 2000 site BG0002001 "Rayanovtsi", designated under the Birds Directive.

The Protected site Aldomirovtsi Marsh designated under the National Protected Areas Act falls within the boundaries of the Ramsar site.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does Sofia District; Dragoman, Godech, Slivnitsa and Kostinbrod Municipalities the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population Dragoman town; Slivnitsa town; Sofia city centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other Yes O No

Yes O No countries?

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the Yes O No (9) territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 14940.97

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 14940.967

GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

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Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Continental biogeographic region

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The Biogeographical Regions Map of Europe, The European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity, 2008, http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/

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

The permanent rivers and streams and the permanent freshwater marshes and pools provide regulating Hydrological services provided services such as hazard reduction (flood control), pollution control and detoxification (water purification),

Other ecosystem services provided

Provisioning services - fresh water and wetland non-food products.

The Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex contains the last conserved karst marshes in Bulgaria and one of the few on the Balkan Peninsula – Dragoman and Aldomirovtsi Marshes.

The vast wet grasslands around the marshes and also in the eastern part of the complex are unique because of their natural flooding regime and their relict flora - one of the best examples in the Continental biogeographic region.

The complex shelters vast diversity of plants and animal species characteristic and rare for the region. Some of the plant formations and plant species are typical for the Boreal region and Northern Europe and their existing on a low altitude in South-Eastern Europe is of high conservation value.

Typical for the wetlands are the aquatic communities. There is a prevalence of the reed beds and reed mace beds as well as the communities of tall Cyperaceae species. These are surrounded by a rich complex of different types of meadows. Some of the wetlands are the very rare in Southern Europe alkaline fens with the relict localities of some Boreal species. A very important fact is the dynamic of the water quantities, which is a reason of seasonally and yearly changes in the areas covered by the typical wetlands and the meadows.

The water influxes from the closed basins of the marshes and the wet meadows and comes out to the surface as karst spring with high water quality. The springs are important source of potable water. The following wetland related habitats are included in the Annex I of the Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC: 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.;

3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation; 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); 6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis);

7220 * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion); 7230 Alkaline fens;

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Other reasons

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

The complex is a "hotspot" of biological diversity and is evidently species-rich. The different types of wetlands and the surrounding barren rocky ridges sustain rich biological diversity, mainly in terms of various habitat types, plant and bird species.

256 species of birds have been recorded so far in the area, which forms about 61% of the Bulgarian avifauna. Of these 148 are ever-recorded as breeding.

Up to date 9 species of amphibians, 9 reptiles, 23 mammals and 180 vascular plants are recorded in the area.

After the restoration of the Dragoman Marsh an amazing increase of breeding water-related birds was Justification observed. In 1996 only 70 breeding pairs of non-passerines from 11 species were recorded, in 2007 about 900 pairs of non-passerines from 21 species were recorded.

Similar trend is observed at the Aldomirovtsi Marsh.

In the surrounding karst area of the wetlands, the huge variety of habitats determines lots of species of breeding passerines too, many of which of conservation concern - 5 species of larks (Lullula arborea, Calandrella brachydactyla and Melanocorypha calandra in Annex I of Birds Directive 2009/147/EC), 3 species of shrikes (Lanius collurio and L. minor in Annex I of Birds Directive 2009/147/EC), 5 species of buntings (Emberiza hortulana in Annex I of Birds Directive 2009/147/EC), etc.

☑ 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
Aldrovanda vesiculosa	Waterwheel	V	V		EN		Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; Directive 92/43 EEC - II, Bern Convention - I.	Re-introduced
Astragalus wilmottianus		2	V				Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	Balkan endemic species.
Caldesia pamassifolia			Ø		LC		Annex II of the Directive 92/43 EEC and in the Annex I of the Bern Convention. Red Data Book of Bulgaria - RE; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II	The species has been inhabited the coastal parts of the Dragoman marsh (Znepol region), but the drainage of the wetland has led to the disappearance of the only population in Bulgaria. The species need to be re-introduce here.
Digitalis laevigata		2	V				Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	Balkan endemic.
Edraianthus serbicus		2	V				Bulgarian Red Data Book: EN; Included in the European list of rare, endangered and endemic plant species (VU); Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III.	Balkan endemic -Western Bulgaria and Easter Serbia
Elatine alsinastrum		2			NT		Red Data Book of Bulgaria – CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	
Erysimum comatum			2					endemics for Western Bulgaria and Easter Serbia
Fritillaria meleagroides		2	2				Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - I	In this region are the only two known localities of this species in the country.

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Himantoglossum caprinum	Goat-Like Himantoglossum	Ø	Ø				Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Council Directive 92/43 EEC - IIb; Bern Convention - I; IUCN - NT; CITES - II; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III	Balkan endemic.
Hippuris vulgaris		✓			LC		Red Data Book of Bulgaria – CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	
Jurinea tzar-ferdinandii		✓	2				Bulgarian Red Data Book-VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	Endemic for Western Bulgaria and Easter Serbia
Lathyrus palustris	Marsh Vetchling	v			LC		Red Data Book of Bulgaria – CR	
Malcolmia orsiniana angulifolia		2					Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	
Paeonia tenuifolia	Peony	2	2				Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Bern Convention	Interglacial relict
Pedicularis palustris	European Purple Lousewort	2	Ø		LC		Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	
Plantago maxima	Giant Plantain		2				Biological Diversity Act - III	Only one locality of the species is known in the country
Salix rosmarinifolia	Rosemary-leaved Willow	✓	>				Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act - III	Distribution: Europe (Scandinavian Peninsula, Central and Eastern). In the country in ramsar site Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is its only one locality.
Tulipa hungarica	Urumov's Tulip	2	Ø		NT		Tulipa urumoffii - Bulgarian Red Data Book: EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	Bulgarian endemic
Utricularia minor	Lesser Bladderwort	2			LC		Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	
Viola pumila		2					Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III	

Species listed under Criterion 3 which are not yet included in the Catalogue of Life:	
Astragalus wilmotianus, endemics for Western Bulgaria and Easter Serbia	

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	qualifies co	Criterion	eriod of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds											
/	Acrocephalus paludicola	Aquatic Warbler	2 0000				W		V	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU , Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive 2009/147/EC - III/1, 2; BeC-III	

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies contributes under criterion criterion 2 4 6 9 3 5 7 8	Deriod of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red / List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
AVES	Anas crecca	Eurasian Teal; Green-winged Teal				LC			Directive 2009/147/EC - II; CMS - II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard				LC			Directive 2009/147/EC - II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas querquedula	Garganey				LC			Directive 2009/147/EC - II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Anas strepera	Gadwall				LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR , Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-III; CMS-II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Aquila heliaca	Asian Imperial Eagle; Eastern Imperial Eagle	Ø000000			VU	✓		Red Data Book of Bulgaria – CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 1, rare; Directive 2009/147/EC – I; Bern Convention – II	
CHORDATA / AVES	Aquila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle				LC		V	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU , Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-II; CMS-I, II; CITES - II	Criterion 4: The karst stony ridges provide food resources for a number of birds of prey during migration and winter
CHORDATA / AVES	Ardea alba	Great Egret	Ø Ø□□□□ 8			LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria – CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Bern Convention – II; CMS – II; Directive 2009/147/EC - I	only breeding locality in the country away from the Danube River (7-9 pairs) - 1 of the southernmost breeding localities in Europe (Bulgaria lies on the southern limit of breeding zone Criterion 4: important stopover for this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Ardea cinerea	Gray Heron; Grey Heron	ØØ00000			LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria – VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – III; Bern Convention – III	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron				LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 3; Bern Convention – II; CMS – II; Directive 2009/147/EC - I	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	ØØ00000			W			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU , Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive 2009/147/EC - III/1, 2; BeC-III; CMS-II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Aythya nyroca	Ferruginous Duck	ZZ 30			NT		Ø	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU , Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; ECS-spec 1, VU; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-III	the largest breeding locality of the species in Western Bulgaria and Sofia basin in particular (25-35 pairs); important stopover during migration, Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Botaurus stellaris	Eurasian Bittern	ØØ000011			LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EN , Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-I	important on a national scale population (9-12 pairs, which forms around 20% of the national total) Criterion 4: establishment of new heronry, increase in numbers of this species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard	0800000			LC			Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – III	Criterion 4: The karst stony ridges provide food resources for a number of birds of prey during migration and winter
AVES	Buteo rufinus	Long-legged Buzzard	ØØ00000			LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU, Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS–spec 3, EN; Directive 2009/147/EC – I; CITES-II; BeC-II; CMS-II	Criterion 4: The karst stony ridges provide food resources for a number of birds of prey during migration and winter
CHORDATA / AVES	Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark				LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU, Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; ECS-spec 3; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-II	Turkkestan-mediterranean species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Speci qualifi unde criteri 2 4 0	ies er ion	COI	pecies ntribute under riterior 5 7	Pop Size	Period of po	op. Est. (% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red A List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status Justification
CHORDATA / AVES	Ciconia ciconia	White Stork									LC			Directive 2009/147/EC - I; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	V								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU, Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS–spec 3; Directive 2009/147/EC – I; BeC-II; CMS-II CITES-II; CMS-II
CHORDATA / AVES	Circaetus gallicus	Short-toed Snake Eagle	V								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU, Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II; ECS-spec 3; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-II; CITES-II; CMS-II
CHORDATA / AVES	Circus macrourus	Pallid Harrier	Ø 🗆 C								NT			Red Data Book of Bulgaria-EX; BeC- II; CMS-II; ECS-Spec 3; Directive2009/147/EC – I
CHORDATA / AVES	Coracias garrulus	European Roller									LC		 ✓	Red Data Book of Bulgaria-VU; BeC- II; CMS-II; ECS-Spec 2; Directive2009/147/EC – I
CHORDATA / AVES	Crex crex	Corn Crake	77								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria – VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Directive 2009/147/EC – I; Bern Convention – II; CMS – II
AVES	Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	~								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria – VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Bern Convention – II; Directive 2009/147/EC - I
CHORDATA / AVES	Emberiza hortulana	Ortolan Bunting									LC			Directive 2009/147/EC - I; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III
CHORDATA / AVES	Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	2 00								EN		2	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR, Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – III; ECS–spec 3; Directive 2009/147/EC – II; BeC-III; CITES-II
CHORDATA / AVES	Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel	2 00								LC		2	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR, Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; ECS-spec 1, decreased; Directive 2009/147/EC - I; BeC-II; CITES-II; CMS-II
CHORDATA / AVES	Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon									NT		 ✓	Red Data Book of Bulgaria-CR; BeC- II; CMS-II; ECS-Spec 3; Directive2009/147/EC – I
CHORDATA / AVES	semitorquata	Semicollared Flycatcher	2 00								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria-VU; BeC- II; CMS-II; ECS-Spec 2; Directive2009/147/EC – I
CHORDATA / AVES		Eurasian Coot									LC			Directive 2009/147/EC - II Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	gallinago	Common Snipe	22C								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; ECS–spec 3, decrease; BeC-III; CMS-II Criterion 4: recently proven breeding of Common Snipe Gallinago in the country
CHORDATA / AVES	Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen									LC			Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive 2009/147/EC- II Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Grus grus	Common Crane	7								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EX; ECS-spec 1, VU; BeC-II; CMS-II; Directive2009/147/EC - I; CITES-II Criterion 4: In the past (end of 19th century) the conditions in the area of Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex were suitable even for breeding of Common Crane

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	qual un	erion	C	und crite	outes ler rion	Pop. Size	p. Est. º	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red / List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / AVES	Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike									LC			Annex I of Birds Directive2009/147/EC	
CHORDATA / AVES	Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike									LC			Annex I of Birds Directive2009/147/EC	
CHORDATA / AVES	Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit									NT			Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive2009/147/EC- II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
AVES	Lullula arborea	Woodlark									LC			Annex I of Birds Directive2009/147/EC)	
CHORDATA / AVES	Melanocorypha calandra	Calandra Lark									LC			Annex I of Birds Directive2009/147/EC)	
CHORDATA / AVES	Milvus migrans	Black Kite	V								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 3, VU; BeC-II; CMS-II; Directive2009/147/EC – I; CITES-II	Criterion 4: The karst stony ridges provide food resources for a number of birds of prey during migration and winter
CHORDATA / AVES	Neophron percnopterus	Egyptian Vulture	2								EN		V	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; BeC-II; CMS-II; Directive2009/147/EC - I; CITES-II	
CHORDATA / AVES	Otis tarda	Great Bustard	2								VU		2	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 1, VU; BeC-II; CMS-II; Directive2009/147/EC – I; CITES-II	
CHORDATA / AVES	Oxyura leucocephala	White-headed Duck	2								EN		2	Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; ECS-spec 1, VU; BeC-II; Directive2009/147/EC - I	
CHORDATA / AVES	Pastor roseus	RosyStarling													Criterion 4: an important stopover during migration, especially in spring
CHORDATA / AVES	Pelecanus crispus	Dalmatian Pelicar									VU	V	V	Red Data Book of Bulgaria – CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 1, rare; Directive 2009/147/EC – I; Bern Convention – II; CMS – I, II	
CHORDATA / AVES	Pernis apivorus	European Honey Buzzard	V								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; BeC-II; Directive 2009/147/EC – I; CITES-II, CMS-II	Criterion 4: The karst stony ridges provide food resources for a number of birds of prey during migration and winter
	Philomachus pugnax	Ruff									LC			Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; Directive2009/147/EC-I, II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Plegadis falcinellus	Glossylbis	I								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 3, decrease; BeC-II; Directive2009/147/EC – I; CMS-II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Podiceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe; Eared Grebe	V								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – III; BeC-II	Criterion 4 : Currently the habitats in both large wetlands are largely recovered and the results are evident: breeding of Blacknecked Grebe
CHORDATA / AVES	Porzana parva	Little Crake	V								LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II; BeC-II; CMS – II; Directive2009/147/EC – I	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion 2 4 6	1	contr un crite	eriori	D. Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / AVES	Porzana porzana	Spotted Crake							LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II; BeC-II; CMS – II; Directive2009/147/EC – I	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Porzana pusilla	Baillon's Crake							LC			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - CR; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; ECS-spec 3; BeC-II; Directive2009/147/EC – I	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating species.
CHORDATA / AVES	Rallus aquaticus	Water Rail							LC			Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III; Directive2009/147/EC - II	Criterion 4: important stopover for a number of this migrating individuals of the species.
Others													
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Barbastella barbastellus	Western Barbastelle	Ø00						NT			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; BeC-II; CMS - II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC - II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Lutra lutra	European Otter							NT	V		Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV; BeC-II	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Myotis bechsteinii	Bechstein's Myotis							NT			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; BeC-II; CMS – II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Rhinolophus euryale	Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat							NT			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; BeC-II; CMS – II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	meneryi	Mehely's horseshoe bat							W			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - W; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; BeC-II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – I, IV; CMS - II	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Spermophilus citellus	European Ground Squirrel; European Souslik							W			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II; BeC-II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV	
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	Testudo hermanni	Hermann's tortoise	Ø00						NT			Red Data Book of Bulgaria – EN; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Bern Convention – II; CITES – II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Vormela peregusna	Marbled Polecat							W			Red Data Book of Bulgaria - VU; Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; BeC-II; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV	

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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

Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is in the "Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters" region > "Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)" subregion /Köppen-Gieger Climate Classification System/. The site is in the upper and middle part of river basin, in Danube River Basin District of Bulgaria.

The water is circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) and fresh (<0.5 g/l) and usually there is permanent water present.

In the 19th century Dragoman Marsh has been the biggest limestone marsh in Bulgaria, one of the most important places in Bulgaria for the Crane (Grus grus), both in terms of breeding and migration. Unfortunately in the thirties of the 20th century the whole marsh was drained. Canals, drainage channels and pump stations were built, and the area was changed into arable land. Subsequently, a lot of rare species in the area got extinct. After the 1990s all types of drainage activities stopped and the Dragoman Marsh slowly started recovering and nowadays almost all rare and endemic species have recovered or are increasing in number.

The following habitats are present (according to Directive 92/43 EEC Annex I): 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.; 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation; 40A0 * Subcontinental peri-Pannonic scrub; 6110 * Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the Alysso-Sedion albi; 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites); 62A0 Eastern sub-Mediterranean dry grasslands (Scorzoneratalia villosae); 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); 6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis); 7220 * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion); 7230 Alkaline fens; 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; 8310 Caves not open to the public; 9150 Medio-European limestone beech forests of the Cephalanthero-Fagion; 9170 Galio-Carpinetum oak-hornbeam forests; 91H0 * Pannonian woods with Quercus pubescens; 91M0 Pannonian-Balkanic turkey oak -sessile oak forests; in the Site, there are also arable lands, forest plantations, and one big limestone quarry.

With all its diversity, Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex not only support the biodiversity but also provides a variety of ecosystem services/benefits, including fresh water; wetland non-food products; regulating services such as pollution control and detoxification, hazard reduction etc.; cultural services such as recreation and tourism, scientific and educational service, etc.

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

Inland wetlands

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 >> Mt Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		4	6.69	Representative
Fresh water > Flowing water >> N: Seasonal/ intermittent/ irregular rivers/ streams/ creeks		4	9.7	
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		2	365.07	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		3	178.04	
Fresh, saline, brackish or alkaline water > Geothermal >> Zg: Geothermal wetlands		4	0.02	

Human-made wetlands

Human-made wellands				
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		3	72.07	
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		1	506.43	
6: Water storage areas/Reservoirs		4	32.75	
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		4	6.28	

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Non-Ramsar type areas	13790.02

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Allium cupani		rare
Anemone sylvestris		Bulgarian Biological Diversity Act - III
Eryngium palmatum		Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III
Ferula heuffelii		Balkan-Carpathian endemic
Minuartia recurva bulgarica		Bulgarian endemic subspecies
Sempervivum marmoreum erythraeum		Bulgarian endemic, included in the European list of rare, endangered and endemic plant subspecies
Tragopogon balcanicus		Balkan endemic
Verbascum eriophorum		Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - III

4.3.2 - Animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	Gallinago media	Great Snipe				Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; IUCN-NT
CHORDATAAVES	Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew				Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – III; IUCN-NT
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Bombina variegata	Yellow-bellied Toad				Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria - II, III; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, III
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Eriogaster catax					Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	Lycaena dispar					Biological Diversity Act of Bulgaria – II, III; Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II, IV
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Spalax leucodon	Lesser Blind Mole Rat;Lesser Mole Rat				Council Directive 92/43/EEC – II
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Triturus karelinii					Council Directive 92/43/EEC – IV

Invasive alien animal species

interior and a similar operior					
	Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
	CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	Pseudorasbora parva	Stone morokos	Potentially	unknown

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfb: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)
a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres) 1202
Entire river basin
Upper part of river basin 🗹
Middle part of river basin ☑
Lower part of river basin
More than one river basin \Box
Not in visual basin

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.

Coastal

Several karst springs close to Bezden village provide water to two artificial lakes and the Blato River. In the southeast part of the site next to the Blato River are located the Petarch Fishponds, which provides very good conditions during bird migration and has a great potential for wetland restoration.

Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex is in Danube River Basin District of Bulgaria.

4.4.3 - Soil

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)

In the whole area there are several soil types as: Alluvial and alluvial – meadow and sandy-loam soils; Leached chernozem-smolnitza, clay; Meadow chernozem-like heavy loam to slightly clayey; Leached cinnamonic forest; Rendzinas (humus - calcareous).;

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	2	No change
Water inputs from groundwater		No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change
Feeds groundwater	No change

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

Water depth and fluctuations:

The depth of the water in the Dragoman and Aldomirovtsi Marshes is an average of 1-1.5 meters in the central parts (up to 2 meters in some years and seasons). The levels fluctuate every year (up to 70 cm) - with early spring normally the highest and late summer the lowest. In early spring extensive areas of meadows around the two marshes and close to Tsraklevtsi and Bezden are temporarily flooded. In the 1930-50s drainage channels and pump stations were built to drain part of the wetlands. The life in the Dragoman Marsh disappeared for decades. But in the 90s these facilities stopped working and the wetlands have been quickly restored.

4.4.5 -	Sediment	regime

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change ⊚ Increase O Decrease O Unknown O

Unknown □

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Mesotrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase □ Decrease □ Unknown □

(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 i) broadly similar O ii) significantly different of site itself:

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 $\hfill\Box$

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

1 To Wolfer Hing Oct Wood		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium

Regulating Services

r togulating controcc			
	Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
	Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	High
	Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	Low
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

	-	
Natu	re conservation	on, arable land, fishery, forestry, hunting, grazing, irrigation, quarry.
See	additional ma	aterial for further information.

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

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 $\ensuremath{\omega}$ use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

In 2009 a project for using the Dragoman marsh vegetation as source of renewable energy is being developed by Balkani Wildlife Society-https://www.euronatur.org/en/news/detail/news/new-euronatur-project-dragoman-marsh-in-bulgaria/.

 ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of forme 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

4.6 - Ecological processes

1.6 - Ecological processes	
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning migration	Bird Migratory Route Via Aristotelis
(ECD) Pressures and trends concerning any	
of the above, and/or concerning ecosystem	Human intrusions and disturbance
integrity	

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

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Pub	ш	OVVI	1013	111	ν

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	2	2
National/Federal government	/	/

Private ownership

i iivate owiicisiiip		
Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	✓	✓
Foundation/non- governmental organization/trust	V	V
Religious body/organization	✓	2

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified mixed ownership	2	/

5.1.2 - Management authority

agency or organization responsible for	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water (RIEW) - Sofia
managing the site:	
Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	D. Dimitrov, Senior Expert
Postal address:	Address: 136 "Tsar Boris III blvd.", Sofia tel.: +359 888 418 223
E-mail address:	zp@riew-sofia.org

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	2	No change
Unspecified development	Medium impact	Medium impact		No change	V	No change

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage	Medium impact	Medium impact	✓	decrease		No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	High impact	High impact	✓	No change		No change
Renewable energy		unknown impact		No change	✓	No change

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Utility and service lines (e.g., pipelines)		unknown impact		No change	/	No change

Biological resource use

Biological rocodico do						
Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Logging and wood harvesting	Medium impact	Medium impact	2	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
(Para)military 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

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact	Medium impact	\checkmark	No change		No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

within the Ramsar site:

The untreated wastewaters of Dragoman are discharged into the Dragoman Marsh. This worsens the water quality and is a very serious threat to biodiversity, as can lead to eutrophication of the wetland.

One of the biggest problems and threats in the region is the big quarry, which destroys habitats for birds and natural landscapes between Dragoman and Aldomirovtsi Marsh. The quarry is located within the boundaries of proposed Ramsar site. The quarry is granted concession for open mining of construction materials - limestone from the "Dramski vrah" deposit. The concession agreement was signed on 23.11.2007, but the concession contract entered into force on 15.03.1999 with concession period for 25 years and the concession area is in the amount of 330,841 sq. m.

In addition, a lot of unique forests were replaced by European Black Pine (Pinus nigra), which dries and changes the soil and surface structure.

in the surrounding area:

Most of the surrounding area was changed into arable land for agriculture, urbanized areas. There are still some forested areas and abandoned pastures.

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	Dragoman, BG000322	http://natura2000.moew.governmen t.bg/Home/ProtectedSite?code=BG0 000322&siteType=HabitatDirective	partly
EU Natura 2000	Rayanovitsa, BG0002001	http://natura2000.moew.governmen t.bg/Home/ProtectedSite/?code=BG 0002001&layerId=3	partly

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Protected Site	Aldomirovsko blato	http://eea.government.bg/zpo/en/ area.jsp?NEM_Partition=1&categor ylD=6&arealD=83	partly
Protected Site	Nahodishte na Blatno sekirche - s. Buchin prohod	http://eea.government.bg/zpo/en/ area.jsp?NEM_Partition=1&categor ylD=6&arealD=583	partly
Protected Site	Nahodishte na Gigantski zhivovlyak - s. Buchin prohod	http://eea.government.bg/zpo/en/ area.jsp?NEM_Partition=1&categor ylD=6&arealD=581	partly
Protected Site	Rozmarinolistna varba	http://eea.government.bg/zpo/en/ area.jsp?NEM_Partition=1&categor ylD=6&arealD=582	partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Rayanovtsi, BG001	http://bspb.org/media/files/IBA_ and_Natura_2000_Inventory_BG.pdf, page 122 https://www.birdsinbulgaria.org/ own.php?l=en&pageNum_Ovm_All=1&t otalRows_Ovm_All=114&id=1	partly
Important Plant Area	Chepun-Dragoman	p. 445 - https://www.researchgate.net/pro file/lva_Apostolova/publication/ 289126283_Important_Plant_Areas_ in_Bulgaria/links/58f9b9e50f7e9b a3ba4fba18/Important-Plant-Areas -in- Bulgaria.pdf	partly

5.2.3 - IUCN	protected	areas	categories	(2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve
lb Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
Il 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
M Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Legal protection					
Measures	Status				
Legal protection	Partially implemented				

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Reintroductions	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of wastes	Proposed
Research	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented

Other:

• "The Dragoman Marsh – an Example of Wetland Conservation in Bulgaria" of the Balkans Wildlife Society with financial support by the Global Environmental Facility and

the NGO fund of the EEC. A wetland conservation centre was constructed under this project, direct conservation activities carried out, a management plan was prepared and sustainable practices of biomass use were studied and introduced. The activities in the Dragoman Marsh were supplemented and co-financed under several projects.

• "Conservation and sustainable development of the Karst Complex in the Dragoman Marsh in Bulgaria" implemented by the Balkans Wildlife Society and by the Bulgarian

Biodiversity Foundation with financial support by the DBU – Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt.

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?

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning Yes O No

processes with another Contracting Party?

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

Dragoman marsh Wetland Conservation Centre - http://balkani.org/en/about/centres/dragoman-centre/

Facilities accessible from the road between the town of Dragoman and Golemo malovo village provide opportunity for recreational activities at the Dragoman marsh. Two nature trails (500 m), a bird hide and a watchtower have been constructed to provide visitors access and a good view of the marsh. Information plates are positioned along the path, designating different species in the area.

A tourist trail at Chepan Mountain has been marked, and two information plates are placed. Different information booklets about the importance of wetlands and its protection have been published annually since 2003 and distributed among locals, students, volunteers and other target groups.

A 20 minute documentary film about the Dragoman marsh has also been produced and disseminated.

See additional material for further information.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

Further information

Restoration measures are planned in the National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria, 2013 - 2022, but they are not detailed enough.

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented

The following groups are very well studied:

- Birds
- Otter and suslik
- Butterflies
- Endemic plants of the Chepan Mountain
- Wetland-related plants
- Forests
- Other natural habitats

The following monitoring activities are carried out:

- Bird monitoring monthly bird counting in the whole area is conducted by scientists from Institute of zoology and environmentalists from "Balkani wildlife society".
- Bird ringing conducted by scientists from Institute of zoology;
- In spring and autumn months, bird migrations researches have been conducted for the last 10 years.
- Bat and butterfly monitoring conducted by scientists from Institute of zoology and the National museum of natural history.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Biological Biodiversity Act (in Bugarian) - https://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135456926

Bulgarian Ramsar Sites - https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/Press/Ramsar-knijka.pdf

Information on the Black Sea wetlands protected by the BlackSeaWet Regional Initiative -

https://www.moew.government.bg/static/media/ups/tiny/filebase/Nature/Natura%202000/RAMSAR/Black_Sea_ Wet_Catalog-Final.pdf National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria (2013 – 2022) -

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283017200_National_action_plan_for_conservation_of_wetlands

of high significance in Bulgaria 2013-2022

Ramsar Sites in Bulgaria (only in Bulgarian) - https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/priroda/zastiteni-teritorii/zastiteni-teritorii-s-mejdunarodno-zna chenie/ramsarski-mesta/

Red Book of Bulgaria, 2011, Vol I - Animals http://e-ecodb.bas.bg/rdb/en/vol2/texts.html

Red Book of Bulgaria, 2011, Vol I - Plants - http://e-ecodb.bas.bg/rdb/en/vol1/

Trichkova T., V. Vladimirov, R. Tomov, M. Todorov (Eds.), 2017. Guide to invasive alien species of European Union concern. IBER-BAS,

ESENIAS, Sofia, 184 pp. - https://www.esenias.org/files/ESENIAS Atlas WEB.pdf

Wetlands of international importance for Bulgaria, 2010 -

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Delcho Solakov/publication/283349852 Wetlands of international

importance_for_Bulgaria/links/56362f9d08ae88cf81bd0fb0/Wetlands-of-international-importance-for-Bulg aria.pdf

Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000, BSPB /BirdLife Bulgaria/, 2007

The Biogeographical Regions Map of Europe, The European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity, 2008,

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DELOV, V., P. IANKOV, N. PETKOV, P. SHURULINKOV, S. VELKOV. 2007. Rayanovtsi. - In:

Kostadinova, I., M. Gramatikov (eds.) 2007. Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds,

Conservation Series, Book 11. Sofia. Pp. 120-122. [Bilingual: Bulgarian-English]

HRISTOV, K., P. SHURULINKOV, A. RALEV, I. ZAFIROV. 2008. Great White Egret – A New

Breeding Species of a Mixed Heronry at Dragoman Marsh, Western Bulgaria. Acta zool. bulg. 60, 2: 209-212.

IANKOV, P. (ed.) 2008. Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia. 679 pp.

MIRKOV, I. 1984. Breeding of the Woodchat Shrike (Lanius senator L.) in Sofia region. Orn. Inf.

Bull. 15/16: 70-74. [In Bulgarian]

NANKINOV, D. 1982. The Birds in Sofia. Orn. Inf. Bull. 12: 1-386. [In Bulgarian]

NANKINOV, D., P. SHURULINKOV, B. NIKOLOV, I. NIKOLOV, I. HRISTOV, R. STANCHEV, S.

DALAKCHIEVA, A. DUTSOV, M. SAROV, A. ROGEV. 2004. Waterfowl birds Anseriformes) on the wetlands around Sofia. Bulgarian

Ornithological Centre, Inst. Zool., BAS, Sofia. 136 pp. [Bilingual: Bulgarian-English]

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<3 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Western part of the wetland with Chepan Mountain in the background. (*Iva Fikova*, 16-05-2015)



Dragoman marsh Aldrov anda v ersiculosa
moritoring - The Turtle, Birds
and Plants in Western
Bulgaria Project BC03.SCS18, funded under the BC03
Program of the European
Economic Area Financial
Mechanism 2009-2014 (Iva



From the bird watcherover. (
Iva Fikova, 15-03-2010)



A bird watchover in Dragoman marsh. (Iva



Dragoman marsh. (Iva Fikova. 15-03-2010)



Dragoman marsh. (Iva Fikova. 15-03-2010)



Dragoman marsh (Iva Fikova, 15-03-2010)



Dragoman marsh, Viewfrom Chepan Mountain (*Ivan Yanchev*, 24-05-2009)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter <1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2011-02-11