Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

(RIS) - 2009-2012 version

Dunarea Veche – Bratul Macin

	1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.	
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	http://romania.panda.org/	Division Sign of No.	
	cmunteanu@wwfdcp.ro	Designation date Site Reference Number	
	Bucuresti		
	ROMANIA		
_	2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:		
	25.08.2012		
	3. Country:		
	ROMANIA		
	4. Name of the Ramsar site:		
	OLD DANUBE – MACIN ARM (Local name: Dunarea Ve	eche – Bratul Macin)	
	5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing	,	
	This RIS is for (tick one box only):		
	a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ⊠; or		
	b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site \square		
	b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its decomposition.	signation or earlier update:	
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^{**} Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

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

7. Map of site:

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

- a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
 - i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes⊠;
 - ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) yes ⊠;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

The western boundary keeps the configuration of the Danube, starting next to Braila in north until next to the locality Agaua. Then it goes near Ciobanu in south. The eastern boundary goes near the localities Macin, Turcoaia, Traian, Peceneaga, Ostrov, Magurele, Daeni. One important road, forming the northern border of the site, is DN22 which is linking Smardan and Macin villages.

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

44°59'01" N, 28°09'14" E

9. General location:

The site is located in the S-E part of Romania, in Braila, Tulcea and Constanta counties. The site is situated on the territory of several villages: Garliciu, Turcoaia, Harsova, Frecatei, Daeni, Ostrov etc. The nearest large town is Braila (216 292 inhabitants), 4 km West from the site.

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

The average elevation is 17 m above the sea.

The minimum altitude is 0 m.

The maximum altitude is 198 m.

11. Area: (in hectares)

26 792 ha

Wetlands area: 3 802 ha

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The site Dunarea Veche – Bratul Macin is a part of the Danube meadow but it covers also a small part of the Dobroudja Plateau. The site is situated on the route of an important migration corridor, so it is important as a breeding and resting place for some rare and very rare bird species. The landscape is specific to the meadows, with lakes between the sand dunes, marshes, shrub dominated wetlands, fishponds, islands, acacias and poplars, canals and drainage channels etc, so the appropriate conditions for the existence of a great biodiversity. The vegetation is composed by aquatic macrophites (*Phragmites, Typha sp. etc*), poplars and oaks forests, shrub etc. The fauna is specific to the wetlands, with amphibians (*Bombina bombina, Hyla arborea* etc), reptiles (*Emys orbicularis*) and other species. The site was designed as a special protection area in 2007 for the protection of 58 birds species listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive. A part of the site is declared as a site of community importance, under the Habitats Directive, for the protection of the following habitats: Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*, Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic

vegetation of *Chara* spp, Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodion rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation, *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* galleries and species: *Bombina bombina, Emys orbicularis, Misgurnus fossilis.* The site is also important for the sturgeon species. Inside the site, there are 3 nature reserves, designated in 2004: Lacul Traian (Traian Lake), Peceneaga and Magurele. Peceneaga reserve was declared for the contrast between the very ancient rocks of Dobroudja and the new sediments of the Danube, which creates an interesting landscape. The Traian Lake is very important for the protection of the bird species, while Magurele reserve has an important population of Spurge *Euphorbia myrsinites*.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

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



14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

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

Criterion 2:

The site supports the following species of the Bird Directive Annex I:

Scientific name (IUCN RED LIST status 2012.1)	Common name	Breeding (pairs)	Winter (individuals)	Migrants (individuals)
Accipiter brevipes	Levant Sparrowhawk	12-15		30 (S*, A**)
Acrocephalus melanopogon	Moustached Warbler	80-100		
Alcedo atthis	Common Kingfisher	110-140		
Anthus campestris	Tawny Pipit	350-400		
Aquila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle			2930 – 5500 (S,A)
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	30-50		
Ardeola ralloides	Squacco Heron	40-60		
Aythya nyroca	Ferruginous Duck	30-50		
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern	12-15		
Branta ruficollis (EN)	Red-breasted Goose			30 (W***)
Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	2		
Burhinus oedicnemus	Eurasian Thick- knee	12-20		
Buteo rufinus	Long-legged	8-11		

	Buzzard			
	Greater Short-toed	20		
Calandrella brachydactyla	Lark	20		
Caprimulgus europaeus	Eurasian Nightjar	50-70		
Charadrius alexandrinus	Kentish Plover	4		
Chlidonias hybrida	Whiskered Tern	460-500		
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern	44-50		
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	24		13200-75780
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork			2000-4000
C: 11:	Short-toed Snake-			50 - 100 (S, A)
Circaetus gallicus	eagle			
<i>a</i> .	Western Marsh-	10-18		530 – 1370 (S, A)
Circus aeruginosus	Harrier			(' '
Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier			28-136 (W)
Circus macrourus	Pallid Harrier			20
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	1		150-350 (S, A)
Coracias garrulus	Roller	120-130		
Dendrocopos syriacus	Syrian Woodpecker	70-80		
Dryocopus martius	Black woodpecker	15-20		
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	320-380		
Emberiza hortulana	Ortolan Bunting	120-130		
Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon	22-34		
Ficedula albicollis	Collared Flycatcher			200
	Red-breasted			200
Ficedula parva	Flycatcher			200
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle	1		20-30 (W)
Hieraaetus pennatus	Booted Eagle			50 – 100 (S, A)
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt	24		·
Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern	40-60		
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	400		
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike	120		
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull			40
Larus minutus	Little Gull			400
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark	300		
Melanocorypha calandra	Calandra Lark	300		
Milvus migrans	Black Kite	4-5		
0	(Black-crowned)	120 110		
Nycticorax nycticorax	Night Heron	120-140		
Oenanthe pleschanka	Pied Wheatear	60-90		
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey			20 (S, A)
Pelecanus crispus (VU)	Dalmatian Pelican			34-45
Pelecanus onocrotalus	Great White Pelican			300-600
Pernis apivorus	Honey Buzzard			1500-3000 (S, A)
Phalacrocorax pygmeus	Pygmy Cormorant		180	200
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff		100	200
Prignow	Grey-faced			
Picus canus	Woodpecker	30		
Platalea leucorodia	Spoonbill			80-90
Plegadis falcinellus	Glossy Ibis			240-280
Porzana parva	Little Crake	30-80		2.0 200
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	8		
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern	34		
S. STING GOOGLOWS	1.11.11	<i>5</i> i		

Sterna hirundo	Common Tern		400
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper		80

The data presented above was collected between 2000 and 2010, referenced from the following bibliography:

- H.G. 971/2011 Hotarare de Guvern pentru modificarea si completarea H.G. nr. 1284/2007 privind declararea ariilor de protectie speciala avifaunistica ca parte integranta a retelei ecologice europene Natura 2000 in Romania;
- 2. Papp, T., Fantana, C., editors (2008) Important Bird Areas in Romania published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association "Milvus Group";
- 3. "Romanian Ornithological Society" database;

The site additionally supports a number of species protected in Europe, including species listed in *the EU Habitat Directive*:

Amphibians: Bombina bombina (An. II, IV), Triturus dobrogicus (An. II)

Reptiles: Emys orbicularis (An II, IV), Testudo graeca (An. II)

Fishes: Cobitis taenia (An. II), Misgurnus fosillis (An. II), Pelecus cultratus (An. II), Rhodeus sericeus amarus (An. II), Aspius aspius (An. II), Gobio kessleri (An. II), Alosa tanaica (An. II), Gymnocephalus schraetzer (An. II), Sabanajewia aurata (An. II), Zingel streber (An. II), Zingel gingel (An. II).

Mammals: Spermophilus citellus (An. II), Lutra lutra (An. II)

Criterion 3:

Due to great species richness of protected bird species (both European and globally threatened), the site can be considered a "hotspot" of biological diversity. At least 59 bird species belonging to Annex I of the Bird Directive can be found, 2 of them being globally threatened.

Please see justification of criterion 2 for the list of bird species.

Criterion 4:

Being located on a major migratory route, Dunarea Veche – Brațul Macin territory represents an important area for resting and feeding of rare bird species.

The site is important for breeding populations of the following species: Accipiter brevipes, Acrocephalus melanopogon, Alcedo atthis, Anthus campestris, Ardea purpurea, Ardeola ralloides, Aythya nyroca, Botaurus stellaris, Burhinus oedicnemus, Buteo rufinus, Calandrella brachydactyla, Caprimulgus europaeus, Charadrius alexandrinus, Chlidonias hybridus, Chlidonias niger, Ciconia ciconia, Ciconia nigra, Circaetus gallicus, Circus aeruginosus, Circus pygargus, Coracias garrulus, Dendrocopos syriacus, Dryocopus martius, Egretta garzetta, Emberiza hortulana, Falco vespertinus, Haliaeetus albicilla, Himantopus himantopus, Ixobrychus minutus, Lanius collurio, Lanius minor, Lullula arborea, Melanocorypha calandra, Milvus migrans, Nycticorax nycticorax, Oenanthe pleschanka, Picus canus, Porzana parva, Recurvirostra avosetta and Sterna albifrons.

During migration, the site is important for the following species: Accipiter brevipes, Aquila pomarina, Branta ruficollis, Ciconia ciconia, Circus cyaneus, Circus macrourus, Circus pygargus, Ficedula albicollis, Ficedula parva, Haliaeetus albicilla, Hieraaetus pennatus, Larus melanocephalus, Larus minutus, Pandion haliaetus, Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Philomachus pugnax, Platalea leucorodia, Plegadis falcinellus, Sterna hirundo and Tringa glareola.

The site is also highly important for waterfowl's habitat, sheltering sedentary wild birds on one hand, as well as northern population that rest during migration periods.

Please see justification of criterion 2 for the list of bird species.

Criterion 5:

The Ramsar site is visited regularly by more than 20 000 migratory waterfowl as the justification of criterion 2 demonstrate, the biggest contribution to this number being assured by *Ciconia ciconia* and *Ciconia nigra*.

Criterion 6:

During the migration period a number of 300 - 600 individuals of *Pelecanus onocrotalus* occur which is more than 1% of the world population. The same situation can be recorded for *Ciconia nigra* registering $2\,000 - 4\,000$ individuals annually and for *Ciconia ciconia*, which is overpassing strongly the threshold of 1% with $13\,200 - 75\,780$ individuals annually.

Criterion 8:

The Ramsar site Dunarea Veche Măcin includes a Danube river arm and natural lakes acting like feeding places, spawning ground and migratory path for around 20 fish species from which 11 species are present in the Annex II of Habitat Directive (see justification of criterion 2).

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

a) biogeographic region:

- 1) World: West Palearctic
- 2) Europe: Steppic
- b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):
- 1) Udvardy, 1975
- 2) Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC (1992)

Donita, N., et al. (2005) Habitatele din Romania, Bucuresti

16. Physical features of the site:

Geology and geomorphology:

In this area, the Danube valley has the largest width, 55 – 60 km. The site Dunarea Veche – Bratul Macin is situated in the E part of the Romanian Plain and it represents a part of the Danube meadow in the Calarasi-Braila sector (this sector is called Sectorul Baltilor – Lakes Sector, because the Danube is splitting in 2 branches and big lakes used to form between them before the embanking of the river). The 2 branches are Borcea and Old Danube. Borcea is also a proposal for a Ramsar site. The Old Danube branch takes a big quantity of the Danube water and it has 480 meters of width. On the right side of the river, the relief is represented by the Dobroudja Plateau. The basement of the site is represented by the Moesian Platform, composed by crystalline schists and it is situated around 1300 m depth (below sea level). Above the basement, a thick layer of sediments was deposited by the Danube in the former lake which used to cover the Romanian Plain thousands of years ago. These sediments are represented by sand, gravels, clay, marls, but also by loess etc. The newest sediments date back from Holocene period. Geologically, the eastern part of the site is distinct because of the presence of the green schists, the oldest rocks of Romania.

The relief inside the site is represented by sand banks, sand dunes, islands, depressions covered temporarily by lakes etc. The altitudes vary from 0 meters near the river to 198 m on the hills from the Dobroudja Region. The Danube terraces exist only on the left side of the big river.

Soil type and chemistry range:

The soils belong to the chernozems class, but on small areas the azonal soils, with high degree of humidity, are specific (alluvial soils and the hidrisoils, in the Romanian system of soil classification).

Origins:

The site has a natural origin and it was influenced in time by the Danube floods, but it was also affected by the human intervention.

Hydrology:

The hydrology of the site is assured mainly by Macin Arm (or Old Danube) emerging from the Danube at the entrance of the river in Braila County together with Valciu Arm and navigable Danube. The depth of the phreatic waters is 15-30 meters.

Water area:

2889 ha

Climate:

The climate is temperate-continental, with annual temperature values of over 11.1 °C in Braila. The coldest month is January, with an average temperature of -2° C and the warmest month is July when the average temperature reaches 23° C. The rainfall average is around 500 mm per year because of the eastern dry influences. The dominant winds are from West direction. Some local winds, Baltaretul and Suhoveiul are specific to this area.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Area: Baragan Plain and small part of the Dobroudja Plateau

Geological characteristics:

The basement is represented by the Moesian Platform, composed by crystalline schists and situated around 1300 m depth. Above the basement, a thick layer of sediments was deposited by the Danube in the former lake which used to cover the Romanian Plain thousands of years ago. The Danube shaped its terraces only on the left side, because the Dobroudja Plateau, situated in East, is built in strong rocks (green schists – the oldest rocks in Romania). The sediments are represented by sand, gravels, clay, marls, but also by loess etc. The newest sediments date back from Holocene period. The existence of the loess is the main cause for the existence of a particular geomorphology: small depression created by the process of settling called crovuri, gavane and padine. Sometimes, these depressions are covered by lakes. The area was created by the Danube during Quaternary period (Danube terraces) and the maximum altitude is around 90 m in Baragan Plain, but it surpasses 150 meters in Dobroudja.

Soil type:

The soils belong to the chernozems class; on small areas, some salinization processes appear.

Land use:

In the catchment, most of the land is arable land, followed by broad leaved forest and built land.

Climate:

The climate is temperate-continental, with some aridity influences, from the eastern part of the European continent. The annual temperature value is 11.1°C in Braila. The coldest month is January, with an average temperature of -2° C and the warmest month is July when the temperature reaches 23° C. During the summer, the number of days with daily temperature of over 35°C is high (40-50). Actually, it was very near to Braila, where it was recorded the highest temperature in Romania, over 44°C. The rainfall average is around 500 mm per year and the dominant winds are from West and North direction. Some local winds, Crivatul, Baltaretul and Suhoveiul are specific to this area.

18. Hydrological values:

The site has an important role in reducing the effects of the Danube flood.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

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

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

b) dominance:

M + 9 - Permanent rivers and Canals and drainage channels - 7.6%

Tp+Ts - Permanent freshwater mashes and Seasonal freshwater marshes 3.8%

O – Permanent freshwater lakes – 2.9%

20. General ecological features:

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

The site is important for conservation of the habitat 92A0 included in the Annex I of Habitat Directive – Galleries of *Populus alba* and *Salix alba*, many of the areas covered with this type of forests being in a natural state without human impact. In the second place of importance, in the Ramsar site priority habitat 62C0* Ponto-sarmatic steppes can be found, represented by gramineous steppes (association *Agropyretum pectiniformae*) which in Romania is frequent especially in Dobroudja and petrofilous steppes on Paleozoic schists (association *Sedo hillebrandtii- Polytrichetum piliferi*) which is part of an Dobroudja endemic alliance (*Pimpinello-Thymion zygioidi*).

In the wetlands areas, Danubian communities with *Cyperus fuscus* and *C. flavescens* or with *Chara tomentosa*, *Nitella gracilis, Nitellopsis obtuse* and *Lychnothamnus barbatusi* or ponto-Danubien communities with *Bidens tripartite*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Polygonum hydropiperi* are present.

21. Noteworthy flora:

In the Ramsar site there are present 3 rare plant species:

- *Chinops ritro ssp.* Ruthenicus Scythian Balcan Anatolian element, very rare and important for Dodroudjan genetic fond.
- *Ornithogalum amphibolum* considered vulnerable, endemic for Europe and Scythian element growing on rocky or loeossoid hills.
- Thymus zygioides saxicole and xerophitic species.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

N/A

23. Social and cultural values:

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

N/A

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

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

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

24. Land tenure/ownership:

- a) within the Ramsar site: 100 % of the land are public property
- b) in the surrounding area: most of the land in the surrounding area is private.

25. Current land (including water) use:

- a) within the Ramsar site: The most important human activities are related with agriculture, forestry and fishery.
- b) in the surroundings/catchment: In the catchment area, the main human activities are agriculture and forestry.
- 26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:
- a) within the Ramsar site: hunting, poaching, grazing, urbanization, draining, wind turbines etc.
- b) in the surrounding area: grazing, draining, use of fertilizers, poaching, wind turbines.

27. Conservation measures taken:

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

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

The Ramsar Site is identical with the Important Bird Area (IBA) Dunarea Veche-Bratul Macin and covers SPA Dunarea Veche, SCI Bratul Macin and SCI Podisul Nord Dobrogean.

Inside the site, there are 3 nature reserves, designated in 2004: Lacul Traian (Traian Lake), Peceneaga and Magurele.

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

Ia \square ; Ib \square ; II \square ; III \square ; X IV; V \square ; VI \square

There are 3 natural reserves designated under HG 2151/2004, Traian Lake – 326 ha, Peceneaga Lake – 132 ha and Magurele Lake – 292 ha.

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

The SPA – Dunarea Veche – Bratul Macin (ROSPA0040) has been given in custody in March 2011 to AJPS Galati (Sport Fishermen County Association Galati) and it has a regulation and a management plan not approved yet by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

A management plan has been developed but is not approved yet by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

N/A

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

N/A

31. Current recreation and tourism:

The site is visited for fishing but overall the tourism is not very well developed.

32. Jurisdiction:

Ministry of Environment and Forests

B-dul.Libertatii nr.12, sector 5, Bucuresti

33. Management authority:

AJPS Galati

Ion Stefan

Str. Siderurgistilor, nr. 43, bl. GS1, sc. 1, Galati, jud. Galati

Tel: 0236 425035, 0726 168368

Email: ajps galati@yahoo.com

34. Bibliographical references:

- 1. BirdLife Interational, 2001, Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar sites in Europe, BirdLife International, Wageningen, The Netherlands;
- 2. Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, "Bird Directive";

- 3. H.G. 971/2011 Hotarare de Guvern pentru modificarea si completarea H.G. nr. 1284/2007 privind declararea ariilor de protectie speciala avifaunistica ca parte integranta a retelei ecologice europene Natura 2000 in Romania;
- 4. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- 5. Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterstrom, 2010 "Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition";
- 6. Munteanu, D., (coord.), 2004 Arii de importanța avifaunistica din Romania Documentații. Societatea Ornitologica Romana;
- 7. OUG 57/2007 Ordonanta de urgenta privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei si faunei salbatice;
- 8. Papp, T., Fantana, C., editors (2008) Important Bird Areas in Romania published in cooperation by the Romanian Ornithological Society and Association "Milvus Group";
- 9. "Romanian Ornithological Society" database;

Please return to: Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org