INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS
SLOVAK REPUBLIC/DANUBE FLOODPLAINS

1. Country: Slovak Republic

2. Date 13.7.1992

3. Ref: 3SV006

4. Name and address of compiler:
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5. Name of wetlands: Danube floodplains/Dunajské luhy

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 26/05/1993

7. Geographical coordinates: 48^0 7' 'N, 17^0 10' 'E - 47^0 45' 'N, 180E

8. General location:
South-west part of Slovakia that represents 76 km long section of the Danube River and its flood-plain downstream from Bratislava to Klizská NEma/rkm 1789-1865/.

9. Area: 14335,42 ha

10. Wetland type: L, M, N, T

11. Altitude: About 120 metres above sea level

12. Overview:
Main stream of the Danube River and its left bank with a well developed branch system, oxbow lakes, sand and gravel banks, floodplains, floodplain forests, swamps and lowland meadows.

13. Physical features:
Neogenous sediments/lime-clays in the north-western part, partially, with pontic and panonic sand and gravel sediments. The central part is created by numerous meanders and the branch system of the Danube River. The eastern part contains a lot of former side canals/oxbow lakes. Territory is the warmest and driest part of Slovakia with an average yearly temperature of 9.8^0c. Precipitation is very low with a yearly average of 550 mm. There are prevailing south-western winds in the area. The area is the most valuable hydrological area in Slovakia. The Danube River's average annual discharge is 2025 m^3/s, annual floods occur mostly in the summer (45,2%) and in the spring (39,8%).

14. Ecological features:
The Danube River and its side canals, sand and gravel banks, reed beds, floodplain forests, oxbow lakes, swamps and other wetlands dependant on high groundwater level and periodical floods. Communities of Saliceto-Alnetum, Querceto-Fraxinetum, Ulmetum populum, Ulmeto-Fraxinetum carpinetum. There is a wide variety of plant species in a relatively small territory. The limiting factor for most of the plant species is the hydrological regime of the Danube River. zoologically the area is the zone of steppe and alluvial forests with typical representatives of the fauna of steppes of south-western Europe and Asia. It is also a significant resting birds area.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:
(a) site: Most of the area is State or cooperative ownership. Just now also a process is ongoing of reprivatization in this territory. Currently, the process of reprivatization is taking place here.
(b) surrounding area:

16. Conservation measures taken:
There are the following protected areas (smaller areas with a strict level of protection): Ostrov Kopác (82.62 ha), Gajc (0.86 ha), Topolové hony (60.06 ha), Ostrovné lucky (54.93 ha), Ostrov orliaka morshéko (22.77 ha), Cicovské mrtve rameno (57.51 ha), Polovnícky les (7.5 ha), Bajdel (8.68 ha), Pansky diel (15.6 ha).

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
1988 - the proposal of Central Danube National Park (NGO = SZOPK)
1991 - the proposal of Danube Landscape Protected Area by the Slovak Institute of Nature Conservation.

18. Current land use:
(a) site: forestry, navigation, water management, recreation and fishing
(b) surroundings/catchment: agriculture, chemical industry, oil refinery, recreation

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:
(a) at the site: - the hydrological regime has been changed (Gabcíkovo dam)
- planting of poplar monocultures
- clear cutting of forests and use of heavy machinery
- pollution of water sources coming from industry, agriculture, people, gravel mining
- unregulated recreation, building of summer houses in the floodplain
(b) in the surroundings/catchment: same as under (a)

20. Hydrological and physical values:
The Danube floodplains represent the most valuable source of drinking water (aquifers) in Central Europe.

21. Social and cultural values:
The territory is part of the protected aquiferous area Zitny Ostrov (the Wheat Island) with rich supplies of ground water and drinking water. The area is used for daily and weekend recreation.

22. Noteworthy fauna:
Fish: *Cyprinus carpio*, *Gymnocephalus schraetser*, *G. baloni*, *Pelecus cultratus*, *Acipenser ruthenus*, *Umbra krameri*, *Zingel zingel*, *Z. streber*.
Amphibians: *Triturus vulgaris*, *T. cristatus*, *Hyla arborea*, *Pelobates fuscus*, *Bufo bufo*, *B. viridis*, *Rana arvalis*, *R. dalmatina*, *R. ridibunda*, *R. lessonae*, *R. esculenta*, *Bombina bombina*.
Reptiles: *Lacerta agilis*, *Elaphe longissima*, *Natrix natrix*, *N. tesselata*, *Coronela austriaca*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Anguis fragilis*.
Birds: (data given by Mr. P. Rac) Nesting populations, estimated number of nesting pairs in 1991: *Podiceps cristatus* (10), *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus* (15), *Nycticorax nycticorax* (50), *Ciconia nigra* (8), *Anser anser*, *Spatula clypeata*, *Netta rufina*, *Milvus migrans* (13), *M. milvus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Riparia riparia* (200), *Luscinia svecica*, *Panurus biarmicus*, *Remiz pendulinus* (200), *Emberiza schoeniclus*, *Ardea cinerea* (150), *Phalacrocorax carbo.* Overwintering populations: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (1500), *Ardea cinerea* (70), *Casmerodius albus* (20), *Anser anser*, *A. fabalis*, *A. albifrons*, *Anas platyrhynchos* (4000), *Aythya fuligula* (100), *Anas crecca* (200), *Bucephala clangula* (1000), *Halieetus albicilla* (10).
Mammals: *Cervus elaphus*, *Capreolus capreolus*, *Sus scrofa*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Lutra lutra*, *Castor fiber*, *Microtus oeconomus*, *Ondatra zibethica*.

23. Noteworthy flora:
Galanthus nivalis, *Leucojum aestivum*, *Nymphaea alba*, *Nuphar luteum*, *Nymphoides peltata*, *Trapa natans*, *Stratiotes aloides*, *Hottonia palustris*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, *Orchis moria*, *O. militaris*, *O. coriophora*, etc.

24. Current scientific research and facilities:
Biological monitoring of the territory influences by the Gabcíkovo waterworks and the three other subsystems of the natural environment

25. Current conservation education:
In spite of the high educational potential, the area has practically not been used for nature

conservation education.

26. Current recreation and tourism:
There are good possibilities for short term recreation and recreational navigation. Several smaller recreation sites (cottages) exist within the area.

27. Management authority:
Slovak Environmental Agency
Branch Office Trnava
Kollarova 8
917 77 Trnava
Slovak Republic

28. Jurisdiction:
District Offices for Environment Bratislava, Bratislava-vidiek, Dunajská Streda and Komarno
District and Local Governments in Bratislava, Bratislava-vidiek, Dunajská Streda and Komarno

29. Bibliographical references:
Proposal for Declaration of the Danube Protected Landscape Area, J. Kramarik, Slovak Institute of Nature Conservation, Bratislava. 1991.

Personal references: P. Rác, the list of birds
H. Kothajová, the list of plant species

30. Reasons for inclusion: 1b, 2a, b, c; 3b.