



Ministerul Mediului
și Pădurilor

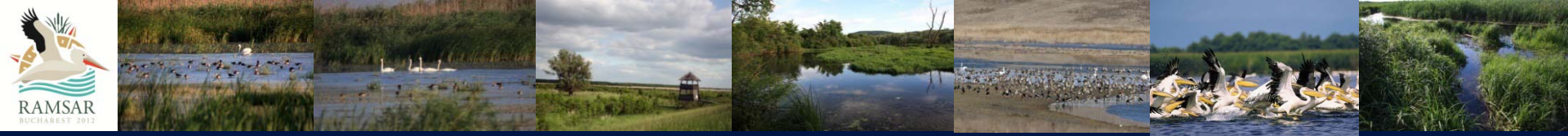
Wetland conservation and sustainable use in Romania

*Dr. Grigore Baboianu,
Executive director, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania*

**11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands
Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012**

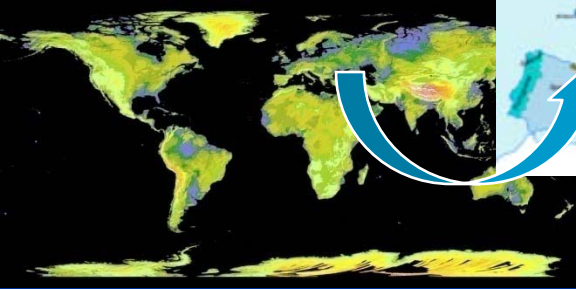
“Wetlands: home and destination”





Romania

Total surface: 238,391 km²
Inhabitants: 19,042,936 (2011)
Ethnic Groups: Romanian 89%,
 Hungarian 7.5%, Gipsy 1.9%,
 German & others 1.6%
Position: Central South-Eastern
 45° N Latitude
 25° E Longitude



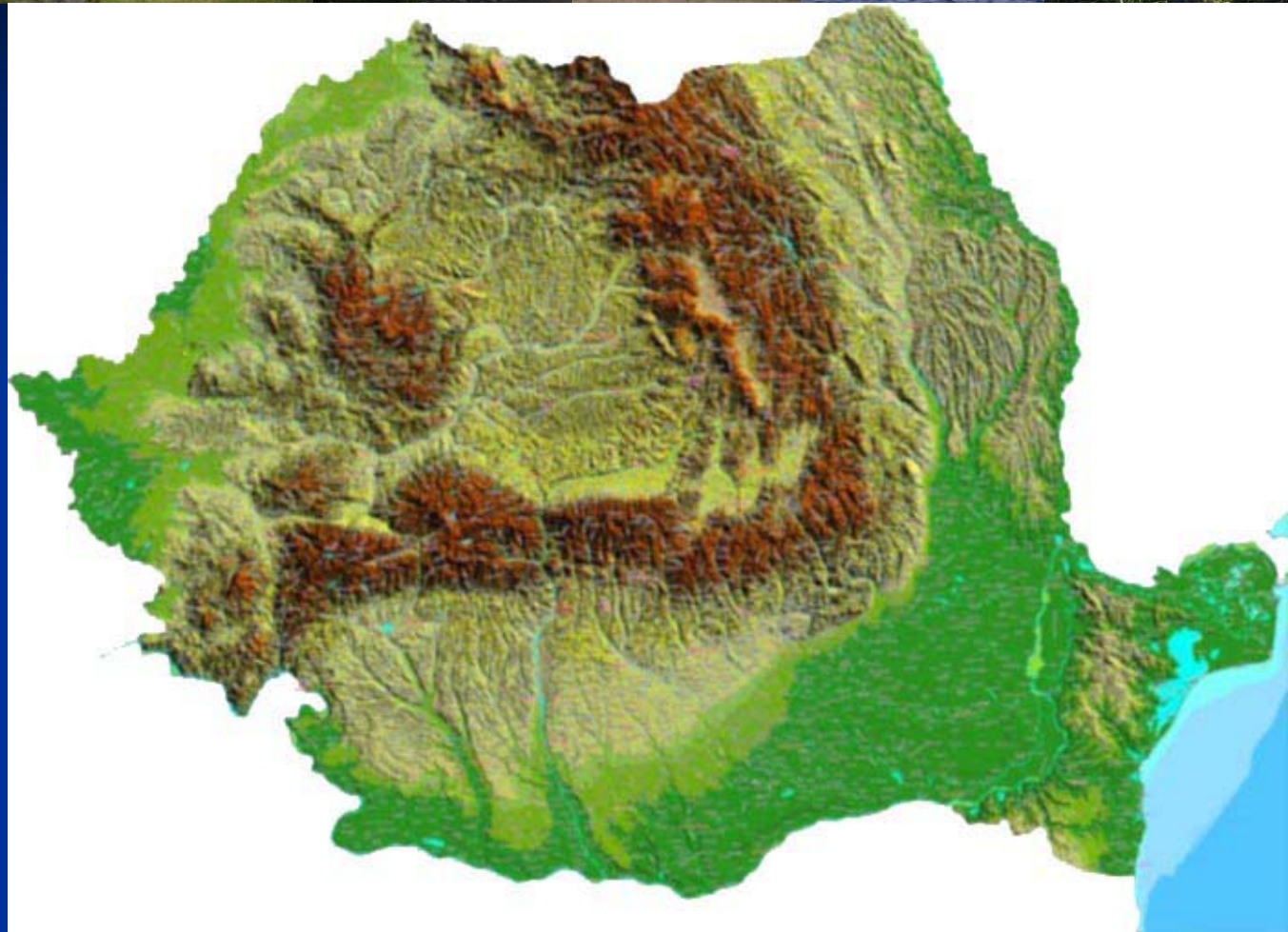
Climate:
 Temperate (8 -11° C)
 Rainfall: 400-600 l/y

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Relief:

- Mountains (35%)
 - Carpathian, 910 km
 - Dobrogea
- Hills (35%)
- Plains (30%)
- Black Sea (245 km)
- Danube Delta (3,510 km²)





Wetlands in Romania

In Romania there were inventoried:

➤ **Lakes:** 3,450 (2,650 km² - 1,1%): mountain (glacial, carst, vulcanoes), floodplain, reservoirs, marine and coastal lagoons and lakes of Danube Delta.

➤ **Rivers:** 120,000 km:
(Danube River (1,075 km)
28 rivers >162 km
(8,096 km))

➤ **Swamps:** 215
(52 km²)





Main use/role of wetlands:

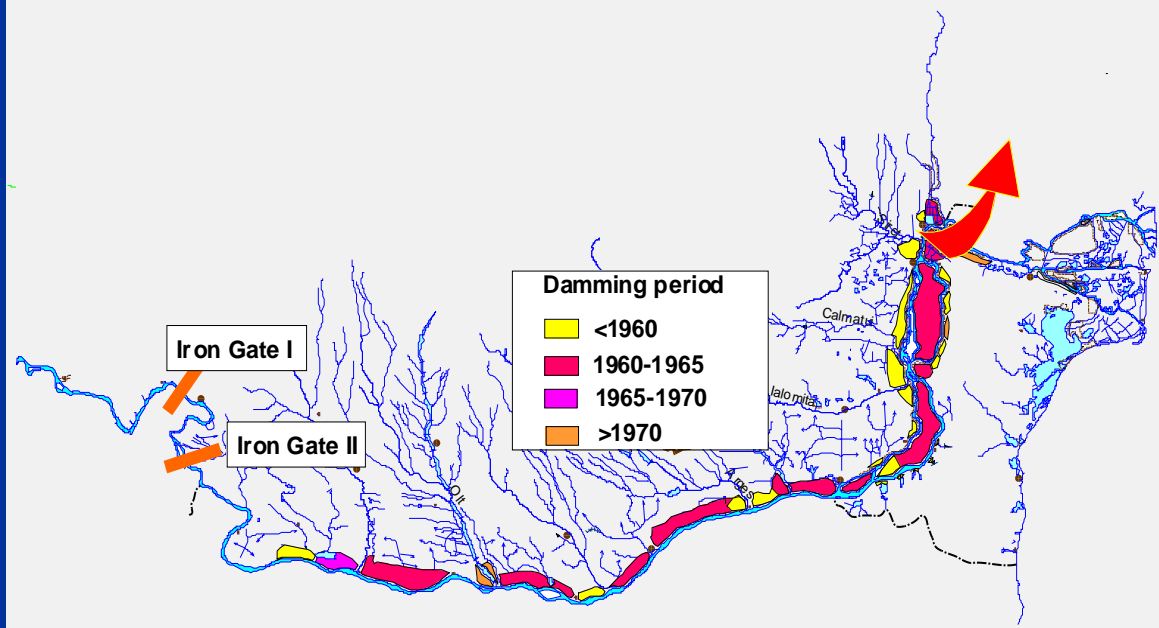
- Flood Control
- Groundwater Replenishment
- Shoreline Stabilisation & Storm Protection
- Sediment & Nutrient Retention and Export
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Water Purification
- Reservoirs of Biodiversity
- Wetland Products
- Recreation/ Tourism
- Cultural Value

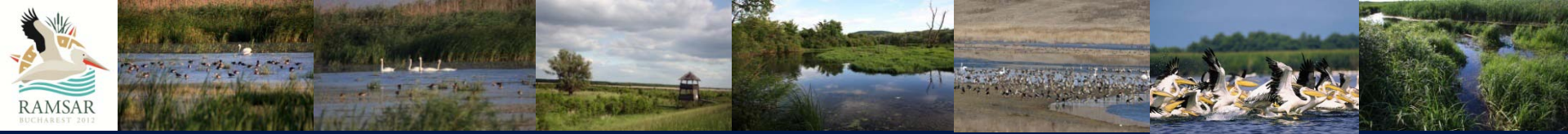


Main threats and pressure on wetlands

- Damming upstream Danube Delta (Danube Floodplain) / inside Danube Delta (performed during the last century);
- Land reclamation for urban for development;
- Development of navigation;
- Pollution;
- Natural resources over exploitation;
- Climate changes.

DAMMING OF DANUBE RIVER FLOODPLAIN IMPACT ON DANUBE DELTA'S FISHERY





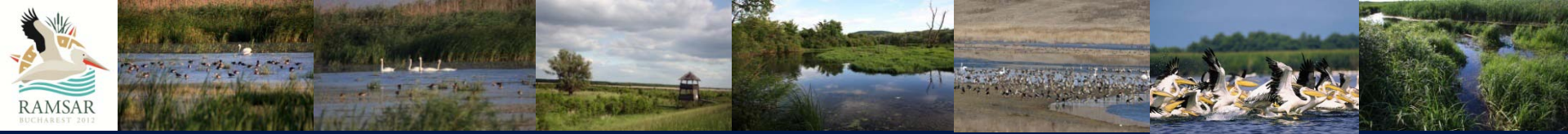
The main components of the protection of wetlands:

- a) Improvement of the national legal framework according with the International Conventions ratified by Romania and EU Directives;
- b) Establish the Governmental Institutions/Organizations involved in the protection of wetlands;
- c) Improve the involvement of the NGOs in the issues of wetlands conservation an wise use;
- d) Elaborate and implement strategies, programs and projects;
- e) Develop the transboundary and regional cooperation;
- f) Implement actions for the protection of wetlands and wise use.

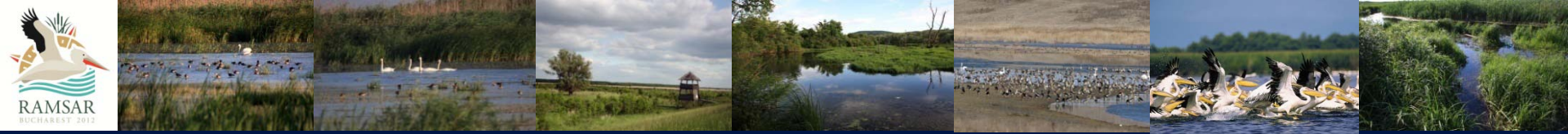


Improvement of the National Legal Framework

- Romania ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1991 (Law nr. 5/1991) and Danube Delta was the first area designated as Ramsar site (21.06.1991), and:
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS),
- Convention on International Trade of the Endangered Species (CITES),
- UNESCO - World Heritage Convention,
- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and others that were integrated in the national legal framework



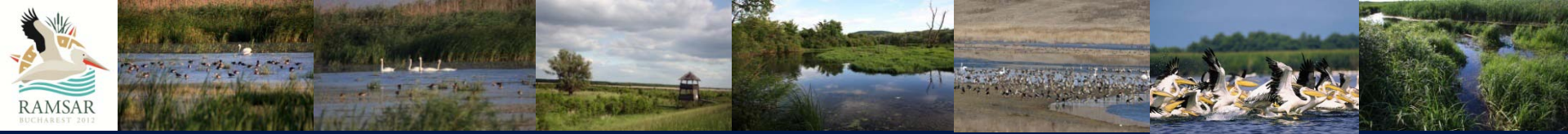
- EU Directives on Habitats and Birds – Natura 2000 Network, Water Framework Directive, and others are part of national legislation:
- Law 49/2011 (OUG 57/2007) for protection of biodiversity and protected areas (special chapter for Ramsar sites)
- Law for protection the water resources nr. 107/1996
- Special Law for Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (82/1993)
- Law 265/2005 (OUG 195/2005) for protection of the environment



Protection of wetlands: Governmental Organizations

- Romanian Academy of Science/ Commission for Monuments of Nature
- Ministry of Environment and Forests
- National Environment Protection Agency / Regional / Local Environment Agencies
- Environment Protection National Guard
- Water Management National Authority “Romanian Waters” / Basin Water Management Directorates
- Local Authorities
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority
- Administrations of Nature Protected Areas.

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Protection of wetlands: Non Governmental Organizations participation

- Romanian Ornithological Society / Bird Life International
- World Wild Fund for Nature – Romania (**an important support for designation of 12 new Ramsar Sites, 4 newest designated sites and 8 new proposals**)
- Save the Danube and the Delta,
- More Green
- Ecological Consultancy Centre
- Mare Nostrum, and many others as part of the Coalition for the Environment

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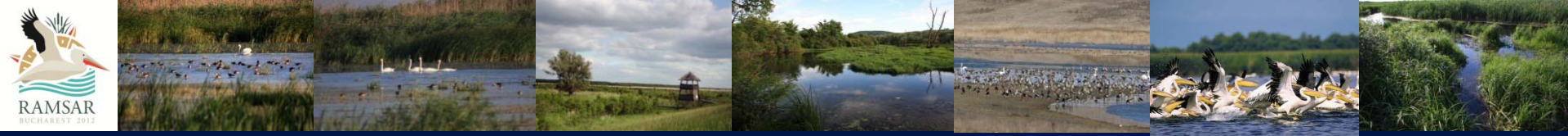
Protection of wetlands: Programs and Projects

- National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation;
- Management Plans for Hydrographic Basins in Romania within the Water Framework Directive;
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- National Strategy for Preventing the Desertification;
- Management Plans and Regulations for Ramsar Sites, Natura 2000 Network and Protected Areas;
- Master Plan – Support for Sustainable Development in Danube Delta.



Transboundary and Regional cooperation

- Transboundary cooperation agreements on border waters management (Bulgaria, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Serbia);
- Trilateral Agreement (Romania/Republic of Moldova/Ukraine) on the Management of Protected Areas from Danube Delta and Lower Prut River;
- Agreement between Romania, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on “Lower Danube Green Corridor”;
- EU Strategy for Danube River Region.



Protection of wetlands: Initiatives and Projects

➤ Carpathian Wetlands Initiative: Czech, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine



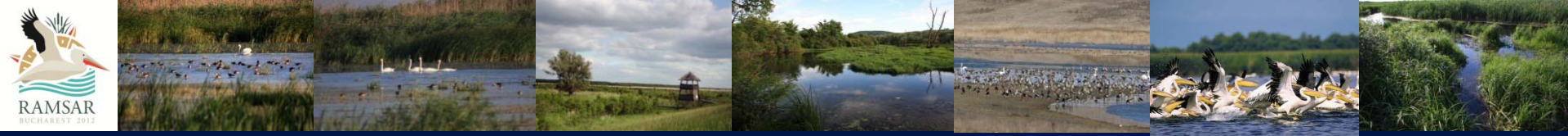


Protection of wetlands: Initiatives and Projects

- Regional Ramsar Initiative on the Black Sea Coastal Wetlands – BLACKSEAWET: Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine



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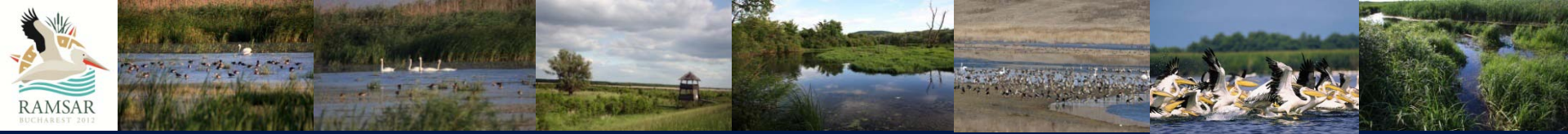


Protection of wetlands: Initiatives and Projects

Danube Nature Protected Areas Network: 18 Nature Protected Areas – Wetlands from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia



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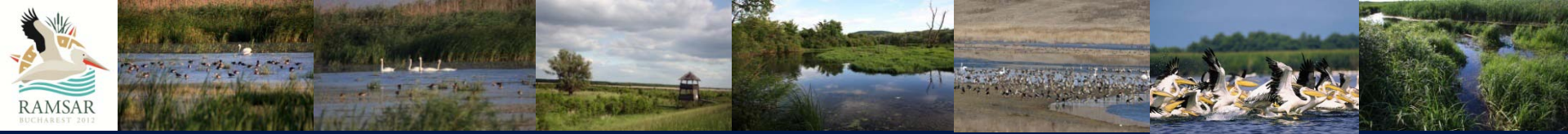
Protection of wetlands: Actions to respond to the threats and pressure

“The wise use of wetlands is defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development”. “Wise use” therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of humankind”. *(Ramsar Convention)*



Protection of wetlands: Actions to respond to the threats and pressure

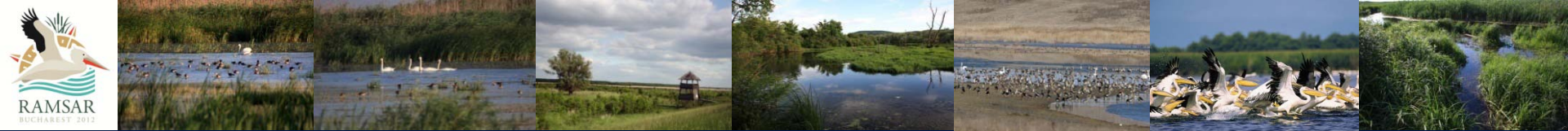
- Wetlands restoration works in the Danube Delta and flood plains of Danube River and its tributaries;
- Restoration of habitats and ecosystems, endangered species, affected landscape;
- Waste waters management ;
- Development of nature protected areas network, including the designation of new more Ramsar Sites, as well;
- Development the eco - agriculture
- Public awareness and community involvement.



Protection of wetlands: New actions for near future

- Periodically reporting on the implementation of the management objectives in Ramsar Sites and Nature Protected Areas;
- Improve the financial support for the implementation the management objectives/projects in Ramsar Sites/NPA;
- Implementation of the Water Framework Directive;
- Improve the SEA and EIA procedures in all projects related with the wetlands;
- Speed up the implementation of the wetlands restoration projects;
- Improve the public awareness and the community involvement in the wise use of the wetlands;
- Implementation of regional cooperation.

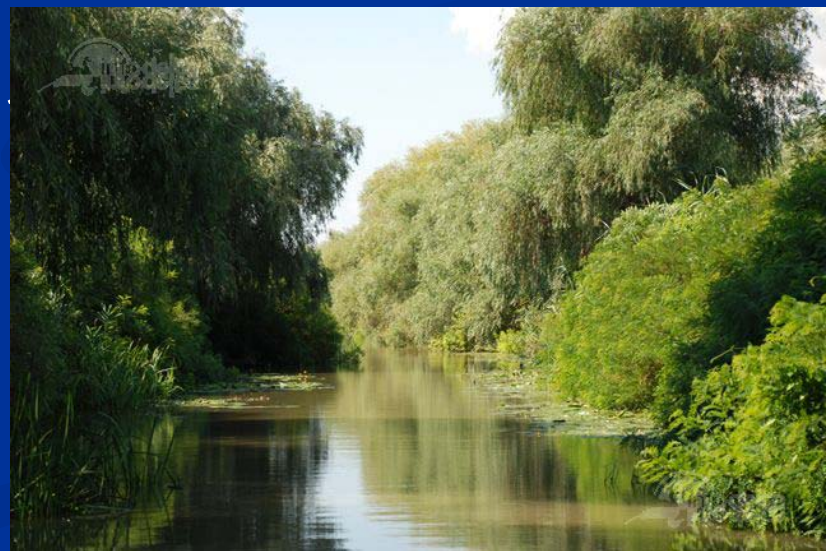
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Ramsar Sites

A. Designated Ramsar Sites (8 / 8,250 km²)

- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (21.05.1991)
- Small Island of Braila (15.06.2001)
- Lower Flood Plain of Mures River (02.02.2006)
- Dumbravita Fish Complex (02.02.2006)
- Techirghiol Lake (23.03.2006)
- Iron Gates Natural Park (18.01.2011)
- Poiana Stampei (25.10.2011)
- Comana Natural Park (25.10.2011)





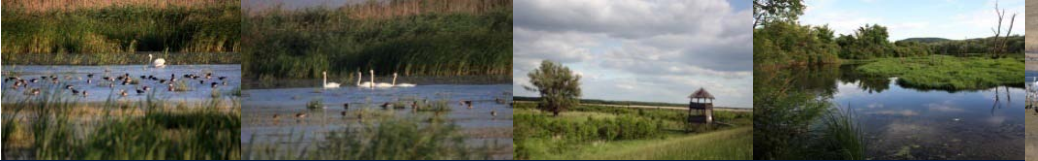
B. Newest Designated Ramsar Sites (4 / 943,6 km²)

- Junction of Olt-Danube Rivers
Total surface: 466.23 km², including wetlands area: 73.02 km²
- Bistreț Lake, Total surface: 274.82 km²
- Iezerul Călărași Lake, Total surface: 50.0 km², including wetland area: 6.81 km²
- Suhaia Lake, Total surface: 195.9 km²



C. New Proposals (on going process): 8 / 1,967.9 km²

- Allah – Bair – Capidava (125.19 km²)
- Blahnița (452.86 km²)
- Borcea Branch of Danube River (212.05 km²)
- Harșova Canarale (74.06 km²)
- Jiu-Danube Rivers Junction(198.00 km²)
- Ciuperceni-Desa (292.06 km²)
- Danube-Ostroave (345.76 km²)
- Old Danube – Măcin Branch (267.92 km²)



Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

(6,470.0 km² / 21.05.1991)



Most important for:
Fishing and fish farming, forestry, reed harvesting, agriculture/cattle breeding, industry, buildings, transport, education, researches, bird habitats/bird watching culture, trade, tourism/recreation

Protected as biosphere reserve & N2000 & WH sites. Special Law/Management plan

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The birds-species in DDBR

TOTAL BIRDS SPECIES
SIGNALLED IN DDBR

331

PROTECTED &
STRICLY PROTECTED BY
BERNA CONVENTION

91

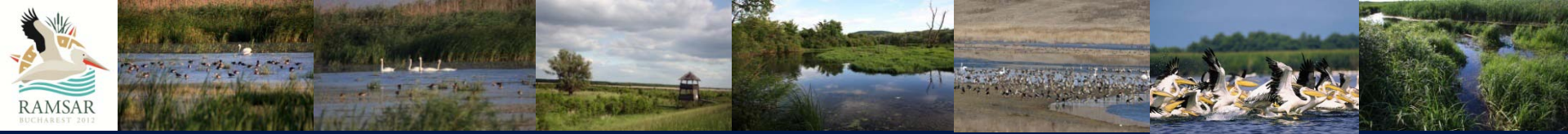
229

320

DECLARED NATURE
MONUMENTS

12





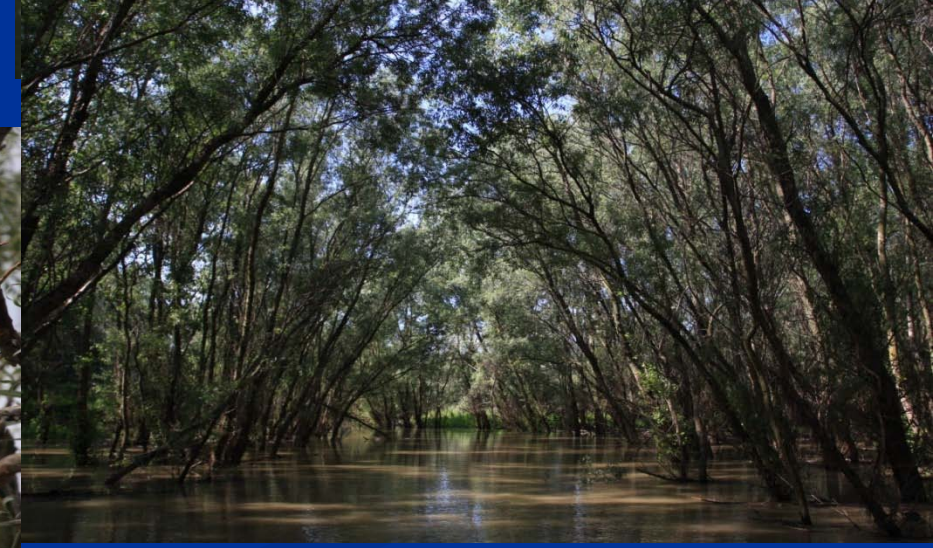
Small Island of Brăila Natural Park (175.86 km²/ 15.06.2001)



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Small Island of Braila
is the most important for bird
population, bird watching, specific
vegetation, fishery, forestry,
tourism/recreation, researches.
Protected as Natural Park
Natura 2000 Site
Management Plan



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Mureş Flood Plain Natural Park, 171.66 km², 02.02.2006

Natura 2000 Sites:

- Community Important Site for 30 bird species and 12 habitats and Special Bird Protection Area to protect the 41 species of birds.
- There can be found over 200 species of birds, mostly protected: Spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Roller (*Coracius garrulus*), Small duck (*Anas querquedula*), Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) White tail eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Bee eater (*Merops apiaster*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*),





The main activities in Mureş Flood Plain Natural Park:

Fishery, sport fishing, forestry, tourism/recreation, education, researches, bird watching



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Dumbrăvița Fishing Complex: 414 ha / 02.02.2006

The designations of the area:

Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area (Natura 2000 Network)

- Protected plant species in Red Book
- Important habitat for 200 birds species
- The single breeding site of Great Egret from central part of Romania
- The largest colony of Purple Heron in the central part of Romania



Main activities: Fish farming, sport fishing, tourism, recreation, bird watching.



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Techirghiol Lake: 1,462 ha / 23.03.2006,

- Around 150 species of birds
- Wintering place for:
 - 7,000 Red-necked geese (*Branta ruficollis*),
 - 40 winter swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*),
 - 34 great egrets (*Egretta alba*),
 - peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*),
 - polar cufundac (*Arctic Gavia*),
 - 1,800 (*Mergus albellus*)
 - 800 White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)
 - 800 cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*)
- Nesting species
 - 30 pairs of stilt (*himantopus himantopus*),
 - 10-12 pairs of dwarf heron (*Ixobrychus minutus*)





Techirghiol Lake waters are divided into three separate entities of dams built in 1983 and 1989, so there is a large area with saline water (52-55 grams of salt per liter) near the east sea, brackish zone (6-8 g / l) intermediate, and sweetened area (1 to 2.3 g / l), located by the "bottom of the lake ".



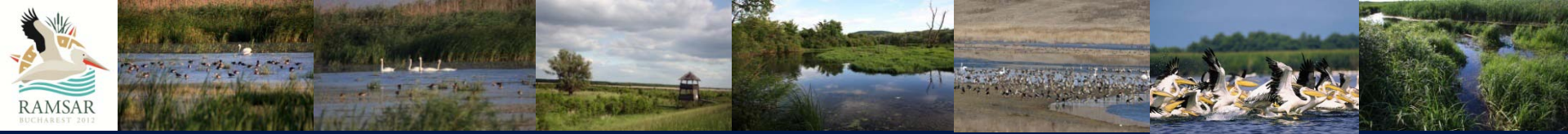


Iron Gates Natural Park: 1,156.66 km² / 18.01.2011

Iron Gates Natural Park is:

- Category V IUCN – "Landscape protected: protected area managed mainly for landscape conservation and recreation".
- Iron Gates Natural Park has two Special Protection Areas, as part of the Natura 2000 Network in Romania, and one was declared as a Site of Community Importance.





Iron Gates Natural Park:

- **The mammals** (European bear – *Ursus arctos*, Linx – *Linx linx*, common otter – *Lutra lutra*) find here an optimal environment for reproduction and protection against hunters.
- **210 bird species**, from the total of about 500 European bird species, inhabit the site, breeding, nesting, wintering or in migration





The main activities: transport, fishery, agriculture, forestry, researches, tourism/recreation, bird watching,

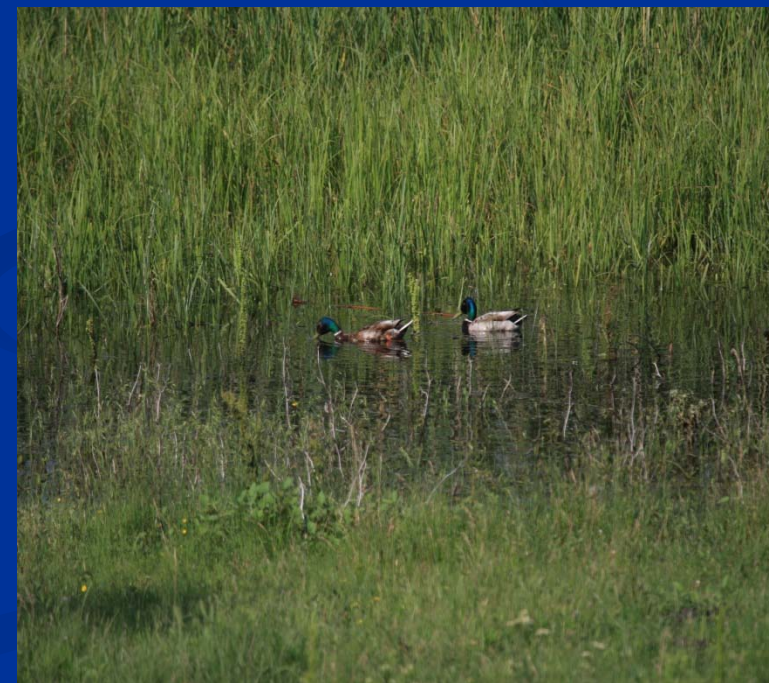




Comana Natural Park: 249.63 km² / 25.10.2011

Comana Lake is the third wetland of Romania after Danube Delta and Small island of Braila and the second after Danube Delta in biodiversity.

It hosts 141 species of birds and 13 species of fish, of which two: the Comana flossy and chub are found only in this natural habitat.







Poiana Stampei Peat Bog Reserve, 640 ha / 25.10.2011

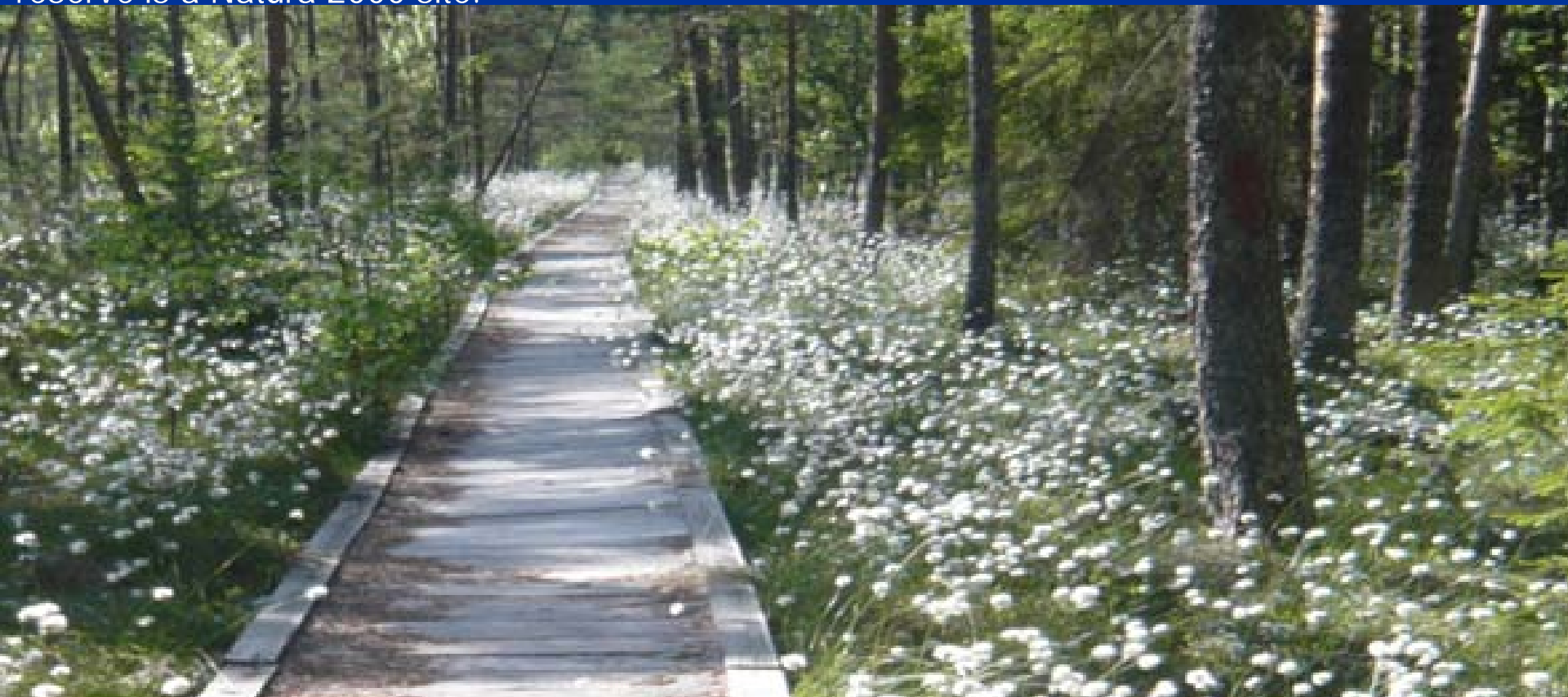
The site is a rare wetland of subarctic tundra character in Romania. There are 1,351 ha of active raised bogs with *Sphagnum magellanicum* identified at national level, from which 400 hectares are included in Poiana Stampei Reserve. It is the largest peat bog in Romania and consists of a raised bog, forested with *Pinus silvestris* f. *turfosa*, surrounded by a *Picea abies* (Norway spruce) forest.



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The site is important for the sub boreal plant communities that grow here: white birch, shrubby birch, eared willow, creeping willow, cranberries and cowberries, bog rose mary, black crowberry, round leaf sundew, fringed pink, sibirian ligularia and *Sphagnum* species. These species are not well represented in Romania due to different climatic conditions. The peat bog was designated a scientific reservation over fifty years ago. As a result, the rare flora and fauna found here has been protected. The designation has also increased interest for scientific research, and now the reserve is a Natura 2000 site.





Newest Designated Ramsar Sites **Bistret (Bistret Lake Area)**

Total surface: 274.82 km²

The Site integrates the Dunareni-Bistret fishery complex (20.30km²)

Abundant flora and fauna diversity of a great scientific interest due to its aviary diversity (around 24 species can be found on Annex I of Birds Directive, and 4 are globally threatened).

Situated on an important migratory route, the present pools offer a great place for temporary or occasionally resting for waterfowl species, Both migratory or sedentary ones.

Provides very important places for birds that are breeding, resting and nesting.





Olt-Danube Rivers Junction

Total surface: 466.23 km², including wetlands area: 73.02 km²

The site is very important for the conservation of the habitats of 33 birds species listed in the Annex I of the Birds Directive, 50 birds species protected by the Bonn Convention and 1 that is globally threatened. Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and European Roller *Coracias garrulous* are finding very good conditions for nesting in this area, but the site is also a station for the migration of ducks, geese, pelicans and swans.

Subject of a transboundary management Romania/Bulgaria.



Olt-Danube Rivers Junction





lezerul Călărași (Călărași Lake Area)

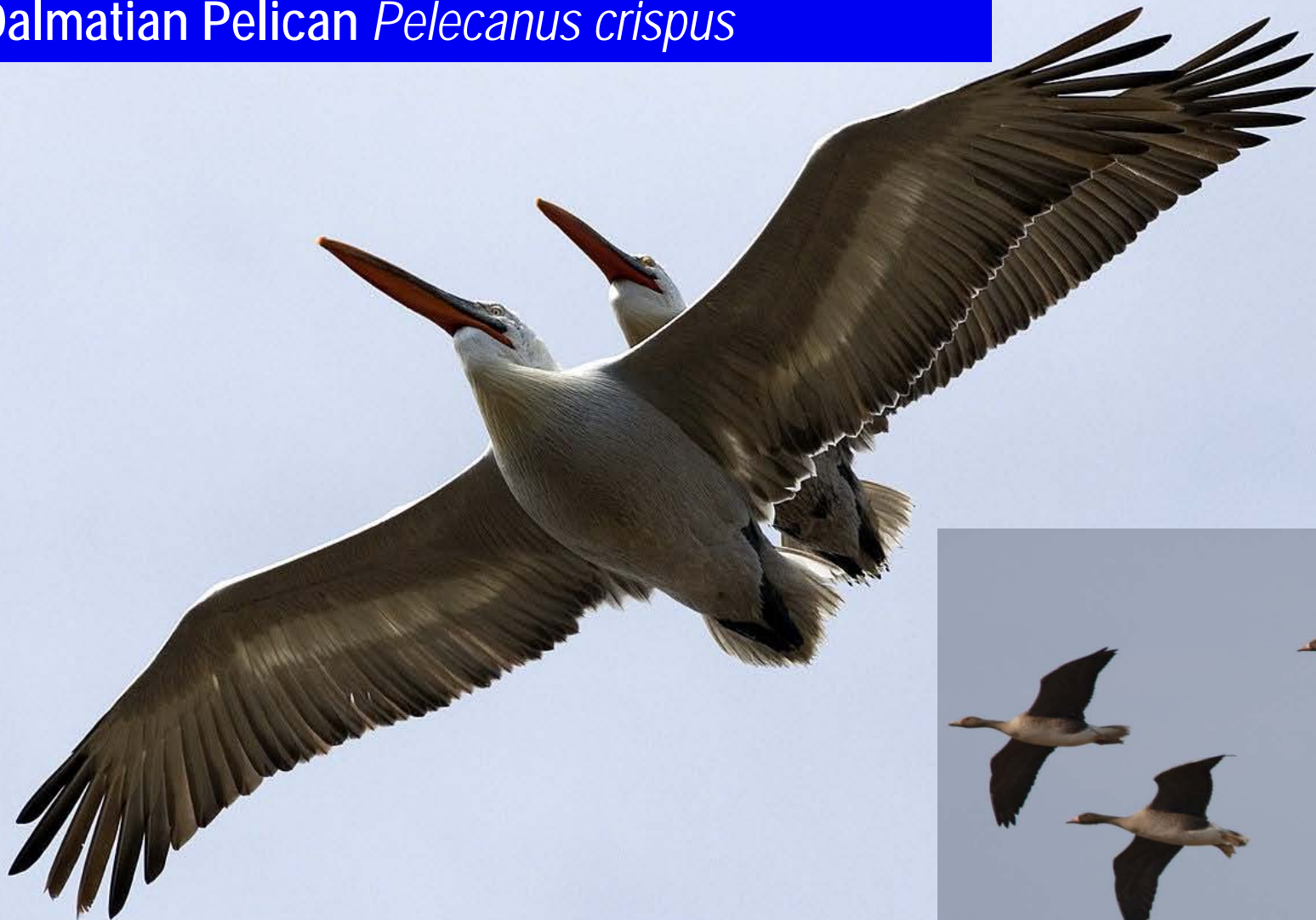
The total surface: 50.0 km², covers the lake and its surroundings to the Danube, overlapping Nature 2000 ROSPA 0051, Including wetland area: 681 ha



Two of the globally threatened bird species:

➤ Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

➤ Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*





Suhaia (Suhaia Lake Area)

Total surface: 195,9 km²

The Lake Suhaia is situated in the South of Romania
The present's site surface covers Suhaia Lake, as well as its surroundings to the Danube, completely integrating Nature 2000 ROSPA 0102 Suhaia Site perimeter (44.73 km²).

The Ramsar Site is identical with the IBA Suhaia.



NEW POTENTIAL RAMSAR WETLAND

Văcărești Lake (Bucharest)

- Total surface: 190 ha
- Permanent ground springs

86 bird species

3 amphibians species

5 reptiles species

4 mammals species























A close-up photograph of a pelican with its wings spread wide, perched on a green branch. The pelican's beak is long and colorful, with yellow, blue, and red stripes. Its feathers are white and brown. In the background, another pelican is visible, also with its wings spread. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Many thanks for your attention!