

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

30.07.98

For office use only.

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14/12/76

7IT002

Designation date

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Italy

3. Name of wetland:

Vincheto di Celarda Nature Reserve

4. Geographical coordinates:

46° 00' 55" North; 11° 58' 30" East

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.). 226 m a.s.l.

6. Area: (in hectares) 99 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

It is a flood plain situated on the right bank of the River Piave. It is a typical wetland environment which is entirely surrounded by perennial water courses. There is also an abundance of channels, supplied by springs, and bodies of water within the area. This has given rise to the presence of a very interesting range of flora and fauna.

8. Wetland Type: (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

marine-coastal: A - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - J - K

inland: L - M - N - O - P - Q - R - Sp - Ss - Tp

Ts - U - Va - Vt - W - Xf - Xp - Y - Zg - Zk

man-made: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a - 1b - 1c - 1d / 2a - 2b - 2c - 2d / 3a - 3b - 3c / 4a - 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* X- or - *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits)

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Dr. Lino Sief

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document)

It is a quite extensive biotope, a significant part of which is formed by marsh which has had an important influence on the flora and even more so on the wetland bird life.

The existing wetland area, which has been extended in the past years by the works of man, provides an ideal habitat for numerous species of birds, both resident and migratory, which otherwise would not find a suitable refuge or breeding ground due to the ever-increasing human presence in the territory. The area was once the habitat of otters which for various reasons are no longer present, but their return could be possible if the area is protected and restored to nature.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The area is 6km from the town of Feltre.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuation in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The area is flat with alluvial soils and it is protected from flood flows of the River Piave by defence structures along the river banks. The flood protection works, which have been performed in several stages, are formed with massive stone blocks and no use has been made of concrete structures.

In exceptional circumstances, the waters of the River Piave flood part of the nature reserve carrying silty deposits which enrich the soils.

There is a continental-type climate with long, cold winters, during which temperatures can fall below -20°C. The summer is short and hot. Humidity is always high and fog is common.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

The level of the water table in the reserve is subject to fluctuations depending on the flow of the River Piave which, in addition to being torrent-like, is intensely exploited for the production of hydroelectric energy. The nearest off-take to a power plant is just upstream of the reserve.

The spring waters also have a variable flow, mainly due to the yearly variation in snowfall over the catchment area.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The reserve offers different types of habitat: alluvial xeric, riparian hydric woodland, conifer woodland, meadowland, wetland, area affected by the presence of man.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

Carex spp., *Ranunculus aquatilis*, *Potamogeton spp.*, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, *Schoenus nigricans*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Epipactis palustris*.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Fish: *Salmo trutta marmoratus*, *Thymallus hymallus*, *Barbus plebejus*, *Lampetra flunabilis*, *Anguilla anguilla*, *Cottus gobio*, *Phoxinus phoxinus*, *Esox lucius*, *Austropotamobius pallipes*.

Amphibians – Reptiles: *Rana esculenta*, *Rana agilis*, *Natrix natrix*, *Lacerta viridis*, *Coluber viridiflavus*, *Elaphe longissima*, *Hyla arborea*, *Bombina variegata variegata*, *Salamandra salamandra*.

Birds: *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Alcedo atthis*.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Due to its easy accessibility, the area is highly suitable for didactic-educational activities and to increasing public awareness of respect for the environment. It is a continual destination for school groups and the general public. The Forestry Corp, which is responsible for the conservation of the area, also gives guided tours.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

The site is Government property, whilst the surrounding areas are privately owned.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

A part of the Reserve is kept as pasture land to provide food for the horses of the Forestry Corp. Another part is occupied by service structures and a fish farm (breeding of autochthonous species to restock the water courses in the Province). A small area is occupied by an experimental apiary. The remainder of the reserve is in its natural conditions. The surrounding areas are cultivated and used as pastureland. There are factory buildings (light industry) at approximately 700 m from the site.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

There is often flooding of the Piave River and there is a significant lowering of the water table due to the use of the river waters for hydro power production purposes. Pollution of the adjoining areas could be possible due to discharge from the industrial zones of gas and liquid wastes.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes

which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

It is a protected area classified as a natural biogenetic reserve for animals by Ministerial Decree of 28.12.71. The area has recently been protected from the flood flows of the Piave River by works along the banks, which have had a minimum environmental impact. Monitoring of the factory emissions from the nearby industrial estate is underway.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

None.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

None.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Visitors' Centre with didactic material. An information brochure about the Reserve is available.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

25,000 – 30,000 visitors annually.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Region: Veneto; Province: Belluno; Council: Feltre.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Ministry for Agricultural Policy; State Forestry Corp; Management ex-ASFD Belluno Office.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- C. Cova, A. Merli, M. Pavan – *Prime ricerche sulla fauna dei vertebrati della riserva naturale di popolamento animale e vegetale Vicheto di Celardo* (First research on vertebrates in the Vicheto di Celardo Nature Reserve). Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Roma – Collina Verde 42/1977.
 - Enzo Gatti – *Ricerche sull'entomofauna della riserva naturale Vicheto di Celardo* (research on the fauna of the Vicheto di Celardo Nature Reserve) - Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Roma – Collina Verde 86/1991.
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