

EUROPEAN WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE INCLUDED IN THE MONTREUX RECORD

The **Montreux Record** (MR) is a register of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments or other human interference. It was established by Recommendation 4.8 (1990) to identify priority sites for positive national and international conservation attention. Resolution VI.1 (1996) established procedures for the utilization of the Montreux Record mechanism, with guidelines on the steps to be taken for *including* Ramsar sites on the Record and *removing* sites from it.

Currently, 25 European Ramsar sites figure in the Montreux Record (45% of all Montreux Record sites). They are listed below. Hopefully, with support from the Ramsar Secretariat, **many of them could be removed from the Montreux Record before COP9 in November 2005. For others, specific actions** may be identified to improve their status rapidly.

7 SITES IN GREECE

Amvrakikos gulf

Included in the MR in 1990 because numerous human activities have modified the water balance and the demand for irrigation water has led to increasing salinity levels.

Axios, Loudias, Aliakmon delta

Included in the MR in 1990 because dam and irrigation networks considerably altered river hydraulics and urban wastes and agricultural inputs end up in the delta.

Kotychi lagoons

Included in the MR in 1990 because of agricultural chemical inputs and grazing pressure.

Lake Vistonis, Porto Lagos, Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons

Included in the MR in 1990 because of high demand for irrigation water, associated changes in salinity, and agricultural, domestic and industrial run-off.

Lakes Volvi & Koronia

Included in the MR in 1990 because of increasingly poor water quality due to a lack of sewage treatment and exacerbated by drought, agricultural run-off and effluent from industry and animal breeding farms caused nutrient-enrichment.

Messolonghi lagoons

Included in the MR in 1990 because of intensive fishing techniques, cattle grazing, illegal hunting and various construction works that led to soil deposition and changed the hydrology and geomorphology of the area.

Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons

Included in the MR in 1990 because of decreasing groundwater levels resulting from increasing irrigation demands and dam construction.

A **Ramsar Advisory Mission** dealt with all sites in November 1988, a follow up in May 1989.

What action is required now?

2 SITES IN BELGIUM

De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Renige

Included in the MR in 1990, removed 1994, replaced on Record in 1999.

Removal possible before COP9?

Schorren van de Beneden Schelde

Included in the MR in 1990 because agricultural intensification led to severe nutrient-enrichment and lowering of the areas' water table. A **Ramsar Advisory Mission** took place in February 1988.

Removal possible before COP9?

2 SITES IN BULGARIA

Durankulak Lake

Included in the MR in 1993 because combined impacts of nutrient-enrichment, groundwater abstraction, and virtually unregulated hunting. A **Ramsar Secretariat visit** took place in November 2003.

Removal possible before COP9?

Srebarna

Included in the MR in 1993 after a long period of deterioration due to a dam construction separating the lake from the river, the lake has suffered from, among other things, erosion of the river bed, severe nutrient-enrichment, and accelerated vegetation succession. A **Ramsar Advisory Mission** took place in April 1992, another one in October 2001

Removal possible before COP9?

2 SITES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Litovelské Pomoraví

Included in the MR in 1997 as water abstraction for domestic supply exceeds the recovery capacity of the natural ecosystem, causing adverse ecological impacts.

What action is required now?

Trebonská rybníky (Trebou fishponds)

Included in the MR in 1994 because of possible threats arising from the privatization process.

Removal possible before COP9?

2 SITES IN ITALY

Stagno di Cagliari

Included in the MR in 1990 because the ecology of the site has been seriously damaged by thermal, industrial and urban effluent from the city of Cagliari, resulting in nutrient-enrichment and major port development projects.

What action is required now?

Stagno di Molentargius

Included in the MR in 1990 because the site is subject to industrial and urban effluent and surrounding areas are rapidly becoming urbanized. Industrial and urban effluent, illegal dumping and poaching, and urban expansion have seriously damaged the ecology of the site. Coastal development has destroyed important nesting sites.

What action is required now?

2 SITES IN POLAND

Jeziro Siedmiu Wysp

Included in the MR in 1990 because of urban and domestic effluent, nutrient-rich agricultural inflow, and vegetation encroachment into the marsh. A **Ramsar Advisory Mission** took place in July 1989.

What action is required now?

Slonsk Reserve

Included in the MR in 1993 because of the Warta river regulation and polluted inflow.

What action is required now?

2 SITES IN SPAIN

Doñana

Included in the MR in 1990 because of activities causing over-exploitation of regional aquifers, leading to a drop in groundwater levels and a reduction in the extent and duration of seasonal flooding in the marshes. A **Ramsar Advisory Mission** took place in October 2002 (first part) and is proposed for early 2005 (second part).

Removal possible before COP9?

Las Tablas de Daimiel

Included in the MR in 1990 because groundwater levels have fallen dramatically due to over-exploitation of the regional aquifer for intensive agriculture. The site has begun to dry up and the Guadiana River ceased flowing in the National Park. A **Ramsar Advisory Mission** took place in March 1988.

What action is required now?

2 SITES IN UNITED KINGDOM

The Dee Estuary

Included in the MR in 1990 because of pressure from industrial and transport development and suffers from a lack of integrated management, owing (in part at least) to multiple administrative bodies. Specific issues include tipping of colliery waste, discharge from paper mills, recreational disturbance, and power station construction. A preparatory Ramsar visit took place in November 1994.

Removal possible before COP9?

Ouse Washes

Included in the MR in 2000 because of declining numbers of breeding waterfowl, changes in vegetation communities, and declining water quality, apparently caused by an increase in summer flooding. A Ramsar Advisory Mission took place in November 2001.

What action is required now?

1 SITE IN AUSTRIA

Donau-March-Auen

Included in the MR in 1990 because of proposed development of a hydro-power dam, its possible impacts, and the difficulty in maintaining the ecological character of riverine meadows and forests. Austria indicated in 1999 that as long as the threat of a Danube-Oder-Elbe shipping channel exists, the site cannot be removed from the Montreux Record. A Ramsar Advisory Mission took place in April 1991.

What action is required now?

1 SITE IN CROATIA

Kopacki Rit

Designated on 03/02/1993, included in the MR on 16/06/1993 as the area is subject to increasing siltation and nutrient-enrichment. During the military conflicts in the region, serious damage resulting from deforestation for firewood was reported. A Ramsar Advisory Mission was proposed.

1 SITE IN DENMARK

Ringkøbing Fjord

Included in the MR in 1990 because of changes in ecological character associated to serious problems of sedimentation and nutrient-enrichment developed as a result of regulation of the River Skjern and runoff of agricultural nutrients during the 1970s and 1980s. A Ramsar Advisory Mission took place in April 1996.

Removal possible before COP9?

1 SITE IN GERMANY

Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart

Included in the Montreux Record in 1990 because of dyke construction, boring for gas, a planned oil pipeline and harbour extension, and low-altitude military overflights. A Ramsar Advisory Mission took place in September 1990.

Removal possible before COP9?