

WHC Nomination Documentation

File name: 219.pdf UNESCO Region EUROPE

SITE NAME ("TITLE") Srebarna Nature Reserve

DATE OF INSCRIPTION ("SUBJECT") 9/12/1983

STATE PARTY ("AUTHOR") BULGARIA

CRITERIA ("KEY WORDS") N (iv)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

7th Session

(The Committee made no statement)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The Srebarna Nature Reserve is a fresh-water lake supplied from the Danube, extending over 600 hectares. It is the breeding home of close to 100 species of birds, many of which are rare or endangered. Some 80 other bird species migrate and seek refuge there every winter.

1.b. State, province or region: Bulgaria, County of Silistra, village of Srebarna

1.d Exact location: Situated 16 km west of the town of Silistra and 1 km south of the Danube

1. Specific location

People's Republic of Bulgaria

a) *Country*

b) *State, Province or Region*

County of Silistra, village of Srebarna

c) *Name of property*

Nature and Biosphere Reserve "Srebarna"

d) *Exact location on map and indication of geographical co-ordinates*

Situated at 16 km west of the town of Silistra and 1 km south of the Danube (map of Bulgaria enclosed)

2. Juridical data

a) *Owner*

state property

b) *Legal status*

**Nature Reserve - decree No 2-11-931 of September 20, 1948 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest
Acknowledged as a Reserve of the Biosphere in 1977 by UNESCO. Special diplom awarded**

c) *Responsible administration*

County's People's Council of Silistra and the Department of Natural History at the Country Historical Museum

3. Identification

a) *Description and inventory*

The proposed entry falls into the category "geological and physiographic formations and precisely outlined area which are habitats of threatened by extinction plant or animal species with extraordinary and world value from the point of view of science, nature protection or natural beauty".

"Srebarna" Nature Reserve is a fresh-water lake adjacent to the Danube. Total area 600 ha. Breeding grounds of 99 bird species most of which are rare or endangered in world, regional or national scale - *Pelecanus crispus*, average 67 pairs; *Haliaeetus albicilla* 1 pair; *Casmerodius albus* 10-15 pairs; *Plegadis falcinellus* 50-5000 pairs; *Platalea leucorodia* 3-10 pairs; *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* about 20 pairs. Eighty bird species else are found in the lake during migration or wintering of which *Anser erythropus*, *Anser anser* and *Branta ruficollis* are of international importance.

For the most of its bird inhabitants Srebarna is an ageold, traditional breeding ground of great significance for maintaining their populations.

Prominent feature of the reserve is the opportunity which surrounding hills offer to the birdwatchers and ornithologists for observation of the birds without disturbing them. As far as we know not one of the known wetland of Europe can boast with such a natural commodity.

It is strictly prohibited to exercise any activities within the reserve except well controlled research.

~~Enclosed here are:~~

1. Map of the Protected Natural Areas in Bulgaria
2. Sketch of the reserve and surrounding terrains

b) *Maps and/or plans*

3. Identification (cont'd)

c) *Photographic and/or cinematographic documentation*

Various photographic materials since 1948 containing panoramic and landscape photos, close-ups of rare plant and animal species.

Films: 3 popular science pictures from 1948, 1953 and 1972 each showing natural beauty, richness and changes in this ecosystem.

Here enclosed:

1. Panoramic view of the Reserve (color slide 6X6, author Tanyu Michev).
2. Colony of the Pelicans (color card, author T.Michev)
3. Colony of the Pelicans (black-and-white photos, author Lothar Guethert, DDR)

d) *History*

Fresh-water lake formed by carrying away of the earth masses from the valleys of two little rivulets at their flowing into the Danube.

Till 1949 the lake was regularly inundated by the Danube. From 1949 till 1978 between the lake and the river there was a dyke which prevented inundation and disturbed the natural water regime of the wetland; since 1978 the connexion between the lake and the river was restored.

Not far from the lake is the village of Srebarna with 3000 inhabitants. Three km to the east is the village of Tataritza whose inhabitants are of old russian origin (the so called lipovanians).

In 1942 the lake was declared as a waterfowl refuge and was put under strict control. In 1948 it was declared as a Nature Reserve and in 1977 acknowledged as a Biosphere Reserve.

e) *Bibliography*

1. Hodek, E. 1882. Der Wanderer Heim. Mitt. Orn. Ver, Wien, 6
2. Reiser, O., 1894. Materialien zu einer Ornithologia Balkanica - II, Bulgarien. Wien.
3. Bulgurkov, K., 1958. The ichthyofauna of the Nature Reserve Srebarna, Proceedings of the Institute of Zoology, vol. VII (in Bulgarian).
4. Paspaleva-Antonova, Maria, 1961. Contribution to the Srebarna ornithofauna, Proc. of the Inst. of Zool. vol. X (in Bulgarian)

5. Michev, Tanyu, 1968. The Nature Reserve Srebarna. In "Our Reserve and Natural Monuments". "Nauka i iskustvo" Publishing House, Sofia.
6. King, W., 1979. Red Data Book, vol. 2, IUCN, Morges, Switzerland.
7. Carp, E.A. 1980. A Directory of western Palearctic Wetlands. IUCH-UNEP.
8. Iliev, Rosen, An Album of the Nature Reserve of Srebarna. Septemvri Publishing House (in Bulgarian)
9. Michev, T. and R. Iliev, 1982. Pelicans, reeds, men. "Zemizdat Publishing House, Sofia.

4. State of preservation/
conservation

a) *Diagnosis*

The lake is in good condition after the natural water regime has been restored. A solid fence had been constructed between the village and the lake. Two guards. A natural history museum staffed with 2 biologists and technical personnel.

b) *Agent responsible for preservation/conservation*

Administrative: Committee for the Environmental Protection at the Council of Ministers of P.R. of Bulgaria. Scientific: Research and Co-ordination Centre for the Protection and Restoration of the Environment, BAS.

c) *History of preservation/conservation*

In 1942 declared as a waterfowl refuge; in 1948 declared as a nature reserve.
Organizing a buffer zone around the reserve is imminent.

d) *Means for preservation/conservation*

1 000 000 leva for restoration of the natural connexion with the Danube. The project was accomplished in 1978.
400 000 leva for constructing a building for a museum and field ecological station. The project was accomplished in 1981.


e) *Management plans*

1. Organizing a buffer zone around the reserve is imminent.
2. A project has been discussed regarding establishing a joined nature reserve on both riversides of the Danube and the islands in it together with Socialist Republic of Roumania.

5. Justification for
inclusion in the World
Heritage List (cont'd)

b) *Natural property*

The Nature and Biosphere Reserve "Srebarna" is an old and traditional habitat of a number of rare and threatened by extinction bird species of world (*Pelecanus crispus* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*), regional (*Casmerodius albus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Anser erythropus*), and national (*Podiceps griseigena*, *Anas streperus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Netta rufina*, *Chlidonias nigra*, *Chlidonias hybrida*, *Anser anser*, *Panurus biarmicus*) importance. In recent times the nature reserve Srebarna becomes increasingly important as a ground for conservation education.

Signed (on behalf of State Party) 

Prof. Dr. Simeon NEDYALKOV

**Director of the Research and Coordination Centre for
Preservation and Restoration of the Environment and
Chairman of the Bulgarian National MAB Committee**

Date **Sofia, December 7, 1982**

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE
ET LA CULTURE

Date de réception : : 15.6.82
N° d'identification : 219
Original : Anglais

CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Proposition d'inscription présentée par la
République populaire de Bulgarie

Réserve de Srebarna

1. LOCALISATION PRECISE

a) Pays

République populaire de Bulgarie

b) Etat, province ou région

Comté de Silistra, village de Srebarna

c) Nom du bien

Réserve de Srebarna

d) Localisation exacte sur les cartes avec indication des coordonnées géographiques

La réserve est située à 16 km à l'ouest de la ville de Silistra, à 1 km au sud du Danube.

2. DONNEES JURIDIQUES

a) Propriétaire

Propriété de l'Etat

b) Statut juridique

Etablie comme réserve naturelle par le décret n° 2.11.931 du 20 septembre 1948, par le Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Forêts. Elle fut désignée comme réserve de la biosphère par l'Unesco en 1977, et a reçu un certificat à cette occasion.

c) Administration responsable

Le Conseil populaire du Comté de Silistra, qui dépend du Département d'Histoire naturelle au Musée d'Histoire du Comté.

3. IDENTIFICATION

a) Description et inventaire

Le bien proposé pour inscription remplit les critères de "formations géologiques et physiographiques et les zones strictement délimitées constituant l'habitat d'espèces animale et végétale menacées qui ont une valeur universelle exceptionnelle du point de vue de la science ou de la conservation."

La réserve naturelle de Srebarna est un lac d'eau douce adjacent au Danube et couvre une superficie totale de 600 ha. C'est une zone de nidification pour 99 espèces d'oiseaux, la plupart desquels sont rares ou menacés d'extinction aux niveaux mondial, régional ou national. Ces espèces comprennent le pélican frisé (Pelecanus crispus), qui compte environ 67 couples ; le pygargue à queue blanche (Haliaeetus albicilla), 1 couple ; Casmerodius albus, 10-15 couples ; l'ibis falcinelle (Plegadis falcinellus), 50-5000 couples ; la spatule blanche (Platalea leucorodia), 3-10 couples ;

le cormoran pygmée (Phalacrocorax pygmaeus), environ 20 couples. 80 autres espèces d'oiseaux peuvent être observées sur le lac durant les migrations ou l'hivernage, y compris l'oie naine (Anser erythropus), l'oie cendrée (Anser anser) et la bernache à cou roux (Branta ruficollis), dont l'importance se situe au niveau international.

Srebarna est une zone de nidification ancienne, traditionnelle, de grande importance pour le maintien des populations de la plupart de ses espèces d'oiseaux.

Les collines environnantes fournissent aux observateurs d'oiseaux et ornithologues un poste d'observation idéal qui permet d'étudier les populations d'oiseaux sans les déranger. Il y a peu de zones humides en Europe qui peuvent se vanter de posséder une telle facilité naturelle.

Il est strictement interdit d'effectuer quelque activité que ce soit dans la réserve, excepté de la recherche contrôlée.

b) Cartes et/ou plans

Voir annexe

c) Documentation photographique et/ou cinématographique

Diverses photographies ont été faites depuis 1948, y compris des photographies panoramiques, des photographies du paysage et des gros plans d'espèces animales et végétales rares.

3 films scientifiques destinés au grand public, faits en 1948, 1953 et 1972 montrent la beauté naturelle et la richesse du site et permettent de noter les changements subis par cet écosystème dans le temps.

d) Historique

Le lac d'eau douce a été formé après que la terre ait été emmenée par les eaux de deux petites rivières qui s'écoulent dans le Danube.

Jusqu'en 1949, le lac était régulièrement inondé par les eaux du Danube. De 1949 à 1978, une digue, construite entre le lac et la rivière, a supprimé les inondations et a ainsi perturbé le régime aquatique naturel de cette zone. La liaison entre le lac et la rivière a été rétablie en 1978.

Le village de Srebarna, qui compte 300 habitants, est situé près du lac. Le village de Tataritza, dont les habitants ont une ancienne ascendance russe (ceux que l'on appelle lipovaniens), se trouve à 3 km à l'est.

En 1942, le lac a été déclaré refuge pour la sauvagine et placé sous contrôle strict. Il a été érigé en réserve naturelle en 1948 et désigné comme réserve de la biosphère en 1977.

e) Bibliographie

1. Bulgurkov, K., 1958. (L'ichthyofaune de la réserve naturelle Srebarna). Actes de l'Institut de Zoologie, vol. VII (en Bulgare).
2. Carp, E.A., 1980. A Directory of Western Palearctic Wetlands. IUCN-UNEP.
3. Hodek, E., 1882. Der Wanderer Heim. Mr. H. Orn. Ver, Vienna 6.
4. King, W., 1979. Red Data Book, vol. 2, IUCN, Morges, Switzerland.
5. Michev, T., 1968. La Réserve naturelle de Srebarna. In "Nos réserves et monuments naturels". Maison d'édition "Nauka i iskustvo", Sofia.
6. Michev, T. et R. Iliev, 1982. Des pélicans, des roseaux, des hommes. Maison d'édition "Zemizdat", Sofia.
7. Paspaleva-Antonova, M., 1961. (Contribution à l'avifaune de Srebarna), Actes de l'Institut de Zool. 2 vol. Vol. X (en Bulgare).
8. Reiser, O., 1884. Materialien zu einer Ornis Balkanica - II, Bulgarien. Vienna.

4. ETAT DE PRESERVATION/DE CONSERVATION

a) Diagnostic

Le lac est en bonne condition depuis que le régime aquatique naturel a été restauré. Une barrière solide a été construite entre le village et le lac. Il y a 2 gardiens pour la réserve et un musée d'histoire naturelle dans lequel travaillent 2 biologistes et un personnel technique.

b) Agent responsable de la préservation ou de la conservation

Aspects administratifs : Comité pour la protection de l'environnement, Conseil des Ministres de la République populaire de Bulgarie.

Aspects scientifiques : Centre de recherche et de coordination pour la protection et la restauration de l'environnement, B.A.S.

c) Historique de la préservation ou de la conservation

Srebarna a été déclarée refuge pour la sauvagine en 1942 et réserve naturelle en 1948.

La création d'une zone tampon autour de la réserve est imminente.

d) Moyens de préservation ou de conservation

1 000 000 de leva ont été dépensés pour restaurer la liaison aquatique naturelle avec le Danube : le projet a été terminé en 1978. 400 000 leva ont été dépensés pour la construction d'un musée et d'une station écologique de terrain. Le projet a été achevé en 1981.

e) Plans de gestion

1. Il est prévu de créer une zone tampon autour de la réserve dans un proche avenir.
2. Des discussions ont eu lieu avec la République socialiste de Roumanie en vue d'établir un ensemble de réserves naturelles sur les deux rives du Danube et sur ses îles.

5. JUSTIFICATION DE L'INSCRIPTION SUR LA LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

b) Bien naturel

La réserve de Srebarna est un habitat ancien et traditionnel pour un certain nombre d'espèces d'oiseaux rares ou menacés ayant une importance à l'échelle mondiale, pélican frisé (Pelecanus crispus) et pygargue à queue blanche (Haliaeetus albicilla), à l'échelle régionale, Casmerodius albus, spatule blanche (Platalea leucorodia), ibis falcinelle (Plegadis falcinellus), cormoran pygmée (Phalacrocorax pygmaeus), bernache à cou roux (Branta ruficollis), oie naine (Anser erythropus) et à l'échelle nationale, grèbe jougris (Podiceps griseigena), canard chipeau (Anas strepera), fuligule nyroca (Aythya nyroca), nette rousse (Netta rufina), guifette noire (Chlidonias niger), guifette moustac (Chlidonias hybrida), oie cendrée (Anser anser), mésange à moustaches (Panurus biarmicus).

Récemment, la réserve de Srebarna a pris une importance croissante dans le domaine de l'éducation relative à l'environnement.

Signature (au nom de l'Etat partie) _____

Nom et prénom : Prof. Dr. Simeon Nedyalkov

Titre : Directeur du Centre de Recherche et de Coordination pour la Préservation et la Restauration de l'Environnement, Président du Comité national MAB bulgare.

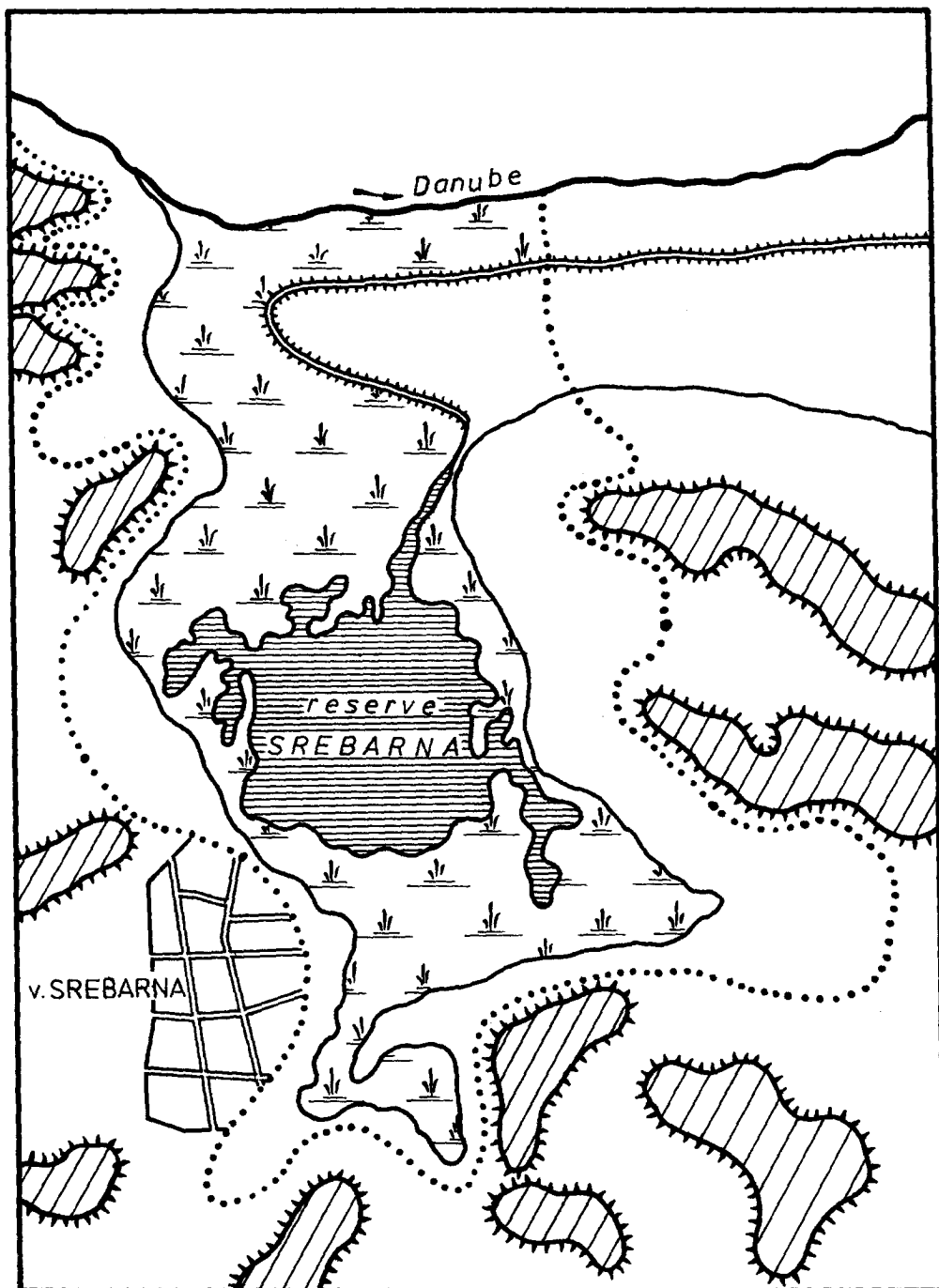
Date : 7 janvier 1982

Annexe

Documentation soumise à l'appui de la proposition d'inscription de
la Réserve de Srebarna sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial

Le Secrétariat a reçu de la République populaire de Bulgarie, à l'appui de la présente proposition d'inscription, les documents dont la liste figure ci-dessous. Ces documents peuvent être consultés à la Division des Sciences écologiques de l'Unesco. Ils seront mis à la disposition des participants lors des réunions du Bureau du Comité du Patrimoine mondial et du Comité lui-même.

- Plan (sans échelle) indiquant la situation de la réserve par rapport au Danube.
- Carte "Les aires protégées de Bulgarie", Comité pour la Protection de l'Environnement au Conseil des Ministres de la République populaire de Bulgarie, 1979. (sans échelle)



WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW

1. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND NAME 219 SREBARNA NATURE AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE
2. LOCATION: Situated 16 km west of the town of Silistia and 1 km south of the Danube, in the County of Silistra, village of Srebarna
3. NOMINATED BY: Research and Coordination Centre for Preservation and Restoration of the Environment
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - (i) Nomination form
 - (ii) Supplementary documentation (IUCN)
 - a) Consultations: Dr. S. Nedialkov; Dr. Z. Kostova; Brian Groombridge.
 - b) Committee on Environmental Protection. 1981. Protected Natural Sites in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Sofia Press, Sofia.
 - c) Institute of Cartography. 1979. Bulgaria Protected Natural Sites. (Map).
5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Srebarna is a fresh-water lake adjacent to the Danube, covering an area of 600 ha. It provides nesting grounds to 99 species of birds and seasonal habitat to an additional 80 species of migratory birds; Srebarna is protected by international legislation, under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). The lake is surrounded by hills which provide a natural boundary and provide an ideal means for observing the waterfowl (see attached data sheet for additional details).

6. INTEGRITY

The boundaries are clear and explicit; the area is strictly protected (with only carefully-controlled scientific research allowed). The site has been established as a biosphere reserve and a Ramsar site. The site is relatively small, so the quantities of breeding pairs are low and probably insufficient in themselves to maintain any of the species; only if other areas are also protected can the species be expected to survive. The site is the largest lake left after drainage of the marshy zone along the Danube and was connected to the river until a dyke was built in 1949; its current situation is therefore not completely natural and is maintained by water management measures (primarily drainage by canal). A buffer zone is being developed around the reserve.

7. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

The site is clearly important on a European scale, for both breeding and migratory waterfowl. While its small size means that the quantities of birds are not comparable to other, larger wetlands, it does have outstanding diversity, containing half the Bulgarian bird fauna. With the degradation of the Danube's waterfowl due to human causes, Srebarna becomes an extremely important wetland habitat.

8. EVALUATION

Srebarna, with its important breeding populations of a number of threatened species of birds and as an important wetland on the Western Palaearctic migratory bird flyway, qualifies for the World Heritage list under criteria iv.

9. RECOMMENDATION

Srebarna Nature Reserve should be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Bulgarian authorities should be warmly encouraged for their efforts to create a buffer zone around the property, and the proposal to link Srebarna with other reserves on the Romanian side of the Danube should be commended as a very useful means of enhancing the ecological integrity of the property.

International Union for Conservation of
Nature and Natural Resources

15 April 1983 (revised 8 July 1983)

NAME Srebarna Nature Reserve

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY I & IX (Strict Nature Reserve & Biosphere Reserve)

Nominated as a World Heritage Site (Criteria: iv)

GEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 2.11.5 (Middle European Forest)

LEGAL PROTECTION Strict reserve - all economic and tourist activities are prohibited. Established as a Nature Reserve by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, 20 September 1948, Decree No. 2-11-931.

DATE ESTABLISHED Declared as a wildfowl refuge in 1942, and altered to a nature reserve in 1948. Acknowledged as a Biosphere Reserve in January 1977.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION The reserve comprises Srebarna Lake, located 19km from the town of Silistra in Silistra province, and 1km south of the Danube (which forms the border with Romania). 44°05'N, 27°07'E.

ALTITUDE No information

AREA 600ha

LAND TENURE State property

PHYSICAL FEATURES Srebarna is a typical freshwater Danubian lake on the flood terrace of the river, formed after the drainage of the marshy zone along the Danube. The marshes are overlooked by a number of hills, which lie just outside the reserve boundaries.

VEGETATION Srebarna is the only natural tract of land of any considerable extent to be protected in north-eastern Bulgaria, a floristic region of the Ukraine-Kazakh biotic province. Plants include the reed community Phragmites communis which occupies two thirds of the reserve, water lily Nymphaea alba and a number of rare marsh plants.

NOTEWORTHY FAUNA Very rich avifauna - nearly 180 bird species (half of the Bulgarian avifauna), including 80 migratory species. 99 breeding species, including the only Bulgarian colony of Dalmatian pelican Pelecanus crispus (V) (50-100 pairs), white-tailed eagle Haliaeetus albicilla (V) (1 pair), glossy ibis Plegadis falcinellus (50-5000 pairs), white spoonbill Platalea leucorodia (3-10 pairs) and little cormorant Phalacrocorax pygmaeus (20 pairs). The reserve is the only nesting place in Bulgaria for the great egret Egretta alba (10-15 pairs), and there are five other species of heron with some 1000 nests. Others species include mute swan Cygnus olor, a variety of geese Anser anser, A. erythropus, and Branta ruficollis, and ducks Anas strepers, Aythya nyroca, Tadorna ferruginea, and Netta rufina; red necked grebe Podiceps griseigena; two of the three European species of marsh tern Chlidonias nigra, and C. hybrida; bluethroat Luscinia svecica; and bearded reedling Panurus biarmicus. The surrounding hills offer a unique opportunity for ornithologists to study the birds without disturbing them. Otter Lutra lutra (V) is occasionally found in the reserve.

ZONING

A buffer zone is being developed around the reserve.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

A dam built in 1949 prevented regular inundation of the lake by the Danube, resulting in the lake becoming shallower and turning into a marsh. A project was implemented in 1978 which suppressed part of the dam and restored communication with the river. A project has been discussed regarding the establishment of a joint nature reserve with Romania, incorporating both banks and the islands of the Danube.

DISTURBANCES OR DEFICIENCIES

The site is relatively small so the quantities of breeding pairs of birds are low and probably insufficient to maintain any of the species. Muskrats Ondatra zibethica, from central Europe, which are also to be found along the Bulgarian reaches of the Danube, became naturalised in the lake area in 1956. The reserve is well fenced and surrounded by forests, vineyards, arable lands and stretches of steppe (which will be assigned to the reserve). Economic activities around the reserve do not disturb the wildlife within it.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Only carefully controlled scientific research allowed. There is continuous research, mainly to establish the numbers of the different species and the ecological conditions necessary for their long-term preservation.

SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES

A natural history museum and field ecological station.

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

Bulgurkov, K. (1958). Particularités hydrologiques de la réserve - le lac Srébarna et la composition de sa faune piscicole. Izvestija na Zoologischeskija institut s musej pri BAN. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, vol. VII.

Hodek, R. (1982). Der Wanderer Heim. Mitt. Orn. Ver, Wien. 6.

Micev, T. (1958). La réserve Srébarna. Nachi rezervati i prirodni zabeležitelnosti, vol. I.

Paspaleva-Antonova, M. (1961). Contribution à l'ornithofaune de la réserve Srébarna, région de Silistra. Izvestija na Zoologischeskija institut s musej pri BAN, vol. XV.

STAFF

Two guards and the museum staff of 2 biologists and technical personnel.

BUDGET

No information

LOCAL PARK OR RESERVE ADMINISTRATION

Committee for the Environmental Protection at the Council of Ministers of P.R. of Bulgaria (Administrative); Research and Coordination Centre for the Protection and Restoration of the Environment, B.A.S. (Scientific).

DATE

1982

BULGARIA-Reserve Srebarna

BULGARIA

NAME Reserve Srebarna

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY I (Strict Nature Reserve)
IX (Biosphere Reserve)
X (World Heritage Site - Criteria: iv)

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROVINCE 2.11.05 (Middle European Forest)

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION Srebarna Lake is located on the Danube flood plain, 19km west of the town of Silistra in Silistra province, 1km south of the Danube (which forms the border with Romania). 44°05'N, 27°07'E

DATE AND HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT The area was declared a wildfowl refuge in 1942 and established as a nature reserve by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods on 20 September 1948, Decree No. 2-11-931. It was accepted as a World Heritage site on 7 March 1974, as a Ramsar site on 24 September 1975 and as a biosphere reserve in January 1977.

AREA 600ha

LAND TENURE State government

ALTITUDE Approximately 100m

PHYSICAL FEATURES This freshwater lake is situated on the flood plain of the River Danube, to which it was connected until 1949. The disconnection prevented annual flooding and the level of lake fell one metre per year. However, the lake was reconnected by canal in 1978. The land in the immediate surroundings is marshy, but just beyond the boundaries are low hills.

CLIMATE No information

VEGETATION Srebarna is the only natural tract of land of any considerable extent to be protected in north-eastern Bulgaria, a floristic region of the Ukraine-Kazakh biotic province. Plants include the reed community Phragmites communis which occupies two thirds of the reserve and forms a thick barrier around the lake, water lily Nymphaea alba and a number of rare marsh plants.

FAUNA The reserve was set up primarily to protect the rich avifauna, nearly 180 bird species (half of the Bulgarian avifauna), including 80 migratory species. There are 99 breeding species, including the only Bulgarian colony of Dalmatian pelican Pelecanus crispus (V) (50-100 pairs), white-tailed eagle Haliaeetus albicilla (V) (one pair), glossy ibis Plegadis falcinellus (50-500 pairs), white spoonbill Platalea leucorodia (three-ten pairs) and little cormorant Phalacrocorax pygmaeus (20 pairs). The reserve is the only nesting place in Bulgaria for great egret Egretta

Infobase produced by WCMC, January 1992

alba (10-15 pairs), and there are five other species of heron with some 1,000 nests. Other species include mute swan Cygnus olor, a variety of geese Anser anser, and ducks Anas strepera, Aythya nyroca, Tadorna ferruginea, and Netta rufina; red-necked grebe Podiceps griseigena; two of the three European species of marsh tern Chilidonias nigra, and C. hybrida; and bearded tit Panurus biarmicus. Otter Lutra lutra (V) is occasionally found in the reserve. White-fronted goose Anser albifrons, red-breasted goose Branta ruficollis, and bluethroat Luscinia svecica have become established as wintering species.

CULTURAL HERITAGE The main impact from man was through drainage schemes, but this has now been largely reversed.

LOCAL HUMAN POPULATION A village with 3,000 inhabitants is located on the west coast.

VISITORS AND VISITOR FACILITIES Include a nature museum and guide.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FACILITIES Only carefully controlled scientific research is allowed. There is continuous research, mainly to establish the numbers of the different species and the ecological conditions necessary for their long-term preservation. There is an ecological field station at Srebarna Village.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT A project was initiated in 1978 to reconnect the lake with the Danube to prevent water levels becoming too low and to restore the lake's fish population. Access is strictly controlled to scientific staff with permits and shooting prohibited. The reserve is well fenced. A management decree was issued in 1962. There has been discussion about establishing a joint nature reserve with Romania, including both banks and the islands of the Danube. There is a buffer zone of 575ha.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS Problems include the rapid and abnormal development of succession processes due to annual sedimentation of large reedmace vegetation in the reserve, as well as the insufficient water influence of the Danube. As a result, the reedmace islands are extended and increased in thickness so that wild boars, foxes and jackals now pose a threat to both individual birds nests and colonies. A decrease in the number of nesting pairs of pelican, glossy ibis, white spoonbill etc has been recorded and a 100-year old Dalmatian pelican colony is under threat. Proposals to lift the threat include constructing fencing around colonies and the reserve and increasing the water level and thus the lake depth.

STAFF There are four officers in the Ecological Field Station and five staff, including a biologist, control and reserve management personnel in the nature museum.

BUDGET No information

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Nature Museum, 7500 Silistra

Institute of Ecology, Ecological Field Station, Gagarin St. 2, 1113 Sofia

Infobase produced by WCMC, January 1992

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PATRIMOINE MONDIAL: CANDIDATURE

EXAMEN TECHNIQUE PAR L'UICN

1. NUMERO D'IDENTIFICATION ET NOM: 219 SREBARNA
2. SITUATION GEOGRAPHIQUE: A 16 km à l'ouest de la ville de Silistia et à 1 km au sud du Danube, dans le district de Silistra, village de Srebarna.
3. CANDIDATURE PROPOSEE PAR: Centre de recherche et de coordination pour la conservation et la restauration de l'environnement
4. DOCUMENTATION:
 - (i) Formulaire de candidature
 - (ii) Documentation supplémentaire (UICN)
 - a) Consultants: S. Nedialkov, Z. Kostova, Brian Groombridge
 - b) Comité de la protection de l'environnement. 1981. Sites naturels protégés de la République populaire de Bulgarie. Presse de Sofia (Sofia).
 - c) Institut de cartographie. 1979. Sites naturels protégés de Bulgarie (carte).

5. DESCRIPTION ET RESUME

Le lac Srebarna est un lac d'eau douce contigu au Danube, d'une superficie de 600 ha, il offre des aires de nidification à 99 espèces d'oiseaux et un habitat saisonnier à 80 autres espèces d'oiseaux migrateurs. Le site est protégé par le droit international en vertu de la Convention relative aux zones humides d'importance internationale, particulièrement comme habitats de la sauvagine (Convention de Ramsar). Il est entouré de collines qui forment une limite naturelle et constituent un site idéal pour l'observation des oiseaux d'eau. (Pour plus de détails, voir la fiche descriptive ci-jointe)

6. INTEGRITE

Les limites du bien sont nettes et précises, la zone est strictement protégée (seules quelques recherches scientifiques soigneusement contrôlées sont permises). Le site a été classé réserve de la biosphère et site de Ramsar. Sa superficie est relativement faible, de telle sorte que le nombre de couples reproducteurs est peu élevé et probablement insuffisant en soi pour permettre la survie des espèces, celles-ci ne pourront se maintenir que si d'autres régions sont également protégées. Le lac Srebarna est le plus grand lac résultant du drainage de la zone marécageuse qui longe le Danube. Il a été relié à ce fleuve jusqu'en 1949 -- date à laquelle on construisit une digue -- sa situation actuelle n'est donc pas totalement naturelle et dépend de mesures d'aménagement hydraulique essentiellement drainage par canal). On crée actuellement une zone tampon autour de la réserve.

7. COMPARAISON AVEC D'AUTRES REGIONS

Le site présente un intérêt évident sur le plan européen, aussi bien pour la reproduction que pour les migrations des oiseaux d'eau. Bien qu'en raison de sa petite superficie, le nombre des oiseaux qu'il abrite ne soit pas

comparable à celui d'autres zones humides plus vastes, la diversité des espèces y est exceptionnelle, et la moitié de l'avifaune bulgare y est représentée. Compte tenu de la dégradation par l'homme des conditions d'existence des oiseaux riverains du Danube, Srebarna est désormais un habitat en terrain marécageux extrêmement important.

8. EVALUATION

La réserve de Srebarna, avec ses importantes populations de reproducteurs appartenant à diverses espèces d'oiseaux menacés et en tant que zone humide importante sur la route des oiseaux migrateurs du paléarctique occidental, remplit les conditions nécessaires pour être inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, au titre du critère (iv).

9. RECOMMANDATION

La réserve naturelle de Srebarna devrait être inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Par ailleurs, il faudrait encourager les autorités bulgares à poursuivre les efforts qu'elles déploient pour créer une zone tampon autour du bien et recommander l'adoption de la proposition visant à relier Srebarna à d'autres réserves situées sur la rive roumaine du Danube, ce qui contribuerait très sensiblement à renforcer l'intégrité écologique du bien.

Union internationale pour la conservation
de la nature et de ses ressources

15 juin 1983