

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:

04.09.98

For office use only.

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22/05/91

7IT046

Designation date

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Italy

3. Name of wetland:

Diaccia-Bottrona

4. Geographical coordinates:

42° 47' 40" – 42° 47' 33"N; 10° 56' 55" – 10° 56' 62"E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.). 0 – 4 ma.s.l.

6. Area: (in hectares) approx. 1,050 ha

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

This wetland is situated in the Province of Grosseto and comes under the councils of Castiglione della Pescaia and Grosseto. Reclamation of the area was started but never completed. The area is formed by fresh/brackish waters and there are important species 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:

It is a clear example of an unusual wetland area for this particular biogeographical region. The area is especially important for the upkeep of the ecology and genetics of the region due to the quality and distinctiveness of the flora and fauna present. A substantial number of unusual aquatic species are present which indicate the area's biodiversity.

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* - 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:

Servizio Conservazione della Natura U.O. Aree Protette (Nature Conservation Service).
Provincial Administration Department.

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)

They indicate the biological characteristics of the area.

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

The area is located in Tuscany (Central Italy) in the Province of Grosseto. It is about 10km from the town of Grosseto and about 2km from village of Castiglione della Pescaia.

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
Refer to “Notes on Climate”.

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

Refer to “Water Flows” report.

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

Refer to “Specific Environmental Information” report.

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

194 different types of flora have been identified in the area, of which 32 species, 30 subspecies and varieties. The presence of *Juncus subulatus* and *Crypsis aculeata* is particularly interesting. The following families are present: *Euri-mediterranei*, *Paleotemperati*, *subcosmopoliti*, *Euroasitici* and *Cosmopolita*. The difference in the types of flora in the Diaccia zone and the Botrona zone are thought to be due to the different types of waters. The Botrona zone has characteristics that are typical of fresh or slightly brackish waters whereas the Diaccia zone shows alkaline characteristics.

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

Approximately 150 species of birds are seen in the area throughout the year. The distribution of the bird presence shows a peak of 83 species in the months of March and April and 47 species in October. The most important species or families that are seen are the following: *Ardeidae* (bitterns, egrets, herons), *Anatidae* (widgeons, teals, wild duck, pintails, shovellers, gadwalls), cormorants, marsh-harriers, *Charadriiformes* (stilt-plovers, avocets, *Charadrius*, sandpiper, snipes, redshanks, greenshanks), water-rail, reed buntings.

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

The area is situated near the village of Castiglione della Pescaia which is a popular tourist attraction during the summer months. The Diaccia Botrona wetland is what remains of a much larger area between Castiglione della Pescaia and Grosseto, in which the ancient Romans established the port of Traiano (of which some remains can still be seen). Subsequently, due to floods and geological changes, the land was raised and a lake was formed (Lake Prile) which gave the area its swamp-type characteristics. The Lorena family began reclamation of the Maremma area. An influential figure in this reclamation project was certainly Leonardo Ximenes, evidence being the Casa Ximenes, known locally as the “La casa rossa” (The Red House). This territory today represents a reference point for the study and observation of birdlife.

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

The land in which the area falls is part public and part private property.

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

Most of the area is not farmed and it is virtually uninhabited.

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

Fish-farming activities in the area produce wastes which are treated then discharged into the waters; lowering of the watertable; poor efficiency of the water circulation; clay-pigeon shooting range

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)

A Nature Reserve has been set up in the area (a copy of the relative Act is attached, together with the Regulations for Nature Reserves). The area is also a Special Protection Zone (IT5190034) and a Site of EU Interest (IT5190011).

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

None. (The proposed projects have all been implemented)

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

A project is underway for the restoration of the water circulation system within the Serrata Diaccia Botrona.

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

Guided tours, visitors' centres and sign posts are currently being set up.

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

Guided tours, visitors' centres and sign posts are currently being set up.

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

The area falls within the protected areas of the Province of Grosseto.

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

Dr, P. Pettini, Director for the Development and Conservation of the Territory. Grosseto Provincial Administration.

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- “*Indagine faunistico-ambientale sul territorio palustre della Diaccia Botrona*” (Study of the fauna and the environment in the Diaccia Botrona wetlands) by the University of Pisa, Department of the Science of Animal and Human Behaviour.
 - “*Il progetto generale di assetto dell’area della Diaccia Botrona riserva naturale*” (The general plan of the Diaccia Botrona Nature Reserve) - L.R.49795, Pierluigi Aminti et.altri.
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