



## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

N/A

2 341 Ramsar Site(s) covering 252 479 417 ha

### 1100 Altitude Wetland

Site number: 1 893 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeju Island  
Area: 13 ha | Coordinates: 33°21'N 126°28'E | Designation dates: 12-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

1100 Altitude Wetland. 12/10/09; Jeju-do (Island); 13 ha; 33°21'N 126°28'E. Within National Park, UNESCO World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve. A mountainous wetland consisting of a number of unique freshwater marshes and pools, situated on Jeju Island. As the name suggests, the site is located at 1100m asl within the Mt Halla World Heritage site. The wetland is in an area of low gradient enabling the capture and retention of freshwater, to form small permanent lakes and peat bogs that support diverse floristic assemblages and significant endemism. The site supports 3 threatened bird and one plant species within Korea, as well as a number of mammal, reptile and insect species endemic to Jeju Island. The site is culturally and religiously important to the local communities. Visits to the site are increasing, with 900,000 visitors in 2008. Visitation is managed by Mt Halla Visitor Centre. 1100 Altitude Wetland was designated as a Wetland Protected Area in 2009 and is managed under 3 management plans as part of the World Heritage and Biosphere programs. Ramsar site no. 1893. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Abberton Reservoir

Site number: 220 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 726 ha | Coordinates: 51°49'N 00°52'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Abberton Reservoir. 24/07/81; England; 726 ha; 51°49'N 00°52'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI, Statutory Bird Sanctuary. A large storage reservoir with three separate basins, located near the coast. Numerous species of molting, passage, wintering and feeding waterbirds use the site in nationally and internationally important numbers. Up to 39,000 waterbirds winter at the site. Also supported is the UK's only tree-nesting colony of Phalacrocorax carbo (360 pairs). Ramsar site no. 220. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Abras de Mantequilla

Site number: 1 023 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Los Ríos  
Area: 22 500 ha | Coordinates: 01°28'S 79°45'W | Designation dates: 14-03-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Abras de Mantequilla. 14/03/00. Los Ríos. 22,500 ha. 01°28'S 79°45'W. A natural permanent swampy lagoon-lake system. The wetland plays an important role in the conservation of bird fauna biodiversity by supporting 3 migratory species: *Anas discors*, *Chordeiles minor* spp. and *Catharus ustulatus*; 3 rare species and 8 endemic species, including *Furnarius cinnamomeus*, *Veniliornis callonotus callonotus*, *Galucidium peruannum* and *Turdus maculirostris*. It also supports a significant population of indigenous fish and at the same time is a source of food, a spawning site and a development area for those species of fish that depend upon the wetland. However, over-exploitation of water resources combined with the introduction of tilapia for fish-farming are resulting in a dramatic decline of the populations of indigenous species, not only in Abras, but in all coastal area watercourses. An assessment of the current state of the wetland is foreseen and should serve as a basis for development of a management plan for the area. Ramsar site no. 1023. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

### Abrolhos Marine National Park

Site number: 1 902 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Bahia  
Area: 91 300 ha | Coordinates: 17°49'S 38°49'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Abrolhos Marine National Park. 02/02/10; Bahia; 91,300 ha; 17°49'S 038°49'W. National Park, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Park is divided into two distinct areas: a) Timbebas reefs and b) Abrolhos Archipelago and Parcel dos Abrolhos. They include a mosaic of marine and coastal environments such as coral reefs, algae bottoms, mangroves, beaches and sandbanks. The site sustains IUCN-Red List critically endangered species such as Leatherback Sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), as well as other endangered and vulnerable species, including Loggerhead Sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and many threatened fish species such as the Groupers and the coral (*Millepora nitida*). The area is considered an archeological site due to the number of wrecks found on its waters. It provides livelihood for more than 20,000 fishermen and 80,000 tourism-related posts in the Bahia State area. The threats within the park include illegal fishing, the great number of tourists which causes stress on the bird and coral population and increased litter; and pollution from ship ballast cleaning activities. Research and tourist facilities and activities include a visitors' center inaugurated in 2004, the Research and Monitoring Center of Abrolhos, a voluntary internship program for undergraduate students, and a consultant council composed of different stakeholders in the community. The site is part of the core zone of the Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlântica) Biosphere Reserve. Ramsar site no. 1902. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Adutiskis-Svyła-Birveta wetland complex

Site number: 1 992 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region: Ignalina and Svencionys district

Area: 6 881 ha | Coordinates: 55°15'N 26°41'E | Designation dates: 15-11-2011

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Adutiskis-Svyła-Birveta wetland complex (Adučiškio-Svylos-Birvetos šlapžemiu kompleksas). 15/11/11; Utena, Vilnius; 6,881 ha; 55°15'15"N 26°41'28"E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 SPA. The largest part of the site consists of wet forests dominated by aspen, birch, black alder and spruce stands, of which about 30% grows on peat land. The site also includes a system of fishponds (800 ha), open areas of raised bogs, several rivers and their floodplains, a network of drainage canals, a number of temporal oxbow lakes, and two clay-pits. Five of the site's habitat types as well as several rare plant and animal species are listed under the EU Habitats Directive. More than 500 species of higher vascular plants have been identified and birds of more than 150 species have been recorded, including some 50 species that are protected in Lithuania. The site hosts more than 1% of the population of White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (10,000) and of the Taiga Bean Goose subspecies *Anser fabalis fabalis* (1,100). It is one of the key staging grounds for migratory water birds in eastern Lithuania, and the site, particularly its raised bogs, is important for groundwater recharge, aquaculture (mainly carp) and commercial timber production. It is threatened by drainage activities, large-scale fires, clear-cutting of old growth forest, and unsustainable agricultural uses. Ramsar Site number: 1992. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Agh-Ghol

Site number: 1 075 | Country: Azerbaijan | Administrative region:

Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 40°01'N 47°38'E | Designation dates: 21-05-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

## Agua Dulce

Site number: 1 813 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora

Area: 39 ha | Coordinates: 31°55'N 113°01'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Agua Dulce. 02/02/08; Sonora; 39 ha; 31°55'N 113°01'W. Located within the Biosphere Reserve Del Picante y Desierto de Altar, which highlights the only riparian ecosystem of the region, Sonoyta river, considered of binational interest and shared between the USA and Mexico. At present, there is a mutual interest in establishing indicators for its management and conservation. Agua Dulce is a 3km stretch of the Sonoyta where water comes to the surface, creating conditions of an oasis in a desert. Among the main species found in the site is the Pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), listed as endangered by the US and as endemic and endangered in Mexico's legal system. There is a considerable presence of the turtle species *Kinosternon sonoriense longifemorale*. The resident and migratory bird species that use the Pacific Flyway find in Agua Dulce a habitat of importance for food, shelter, resting and reproduction. Agua Dulce is characteristic for retaining water throughout the year, acting as the main source of water for wildlife in the area, and supporting an excellent biological diversity. Ramsar site no. 1813. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Aguelmams Sidi Ali - Tifounassine

Site number: 1 468 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Ifrane

Area: 600 ha | Coordinates: 33°07'N 05°03'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aguelmams Sidi Ali - Tifounassine. 15/01/05; Ifrane, Khénifra; 600 ha; 33°07'N 05°03'W. Biological and Ecological Reserve, Permanent Hunting Reserve. A complex of three mountain wetlands at 1900-2100m that are fed by snowmelt and springs - they are among the most southernmost representatives of the lacustrine mountain ecosystems of the temperate paleo-arctic bioregion. The wetlands are important wintering sites for migratory birds such as the Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) and the Crested Coot (*Fulica cristata*), as well as important sites for the maintenance of invertebrate endemism in the area. Other roles of the site, which is underlain by a karstic system, include its recharge of the groundwater table and provision of a drinking hole for local mammals such as the genet, jackal and Red fox. Activities around the area mainly include livestock raising, followed by tourism, rainbow trout aquaculture and sports fishing, especially in summer. The main threats are water extraction, overgrazing and organic pollution by animal and human use. Different NGOs have undertaken awareness programmes on the ecological, especially ornithological values of the site. Ramsar site no. 1468. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Agusalu

Site number: 1 999 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Ida-Viru

Area: 11 000 ha | Coordinates: 59°05'N 27°32'E | Designation dates: 27-01-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Agusalu. 27/01/10; Ida-Viru County; 11,000 ha; 59°05'N 27°32'E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000, IBA. Part of Estonia's largest mire complex Agusalu-Puhatu, consisting of bogs, transition mires and fens characteristic for the biogeographic region. Coniferous as well as alluvial deciduous forests surround the mire complex. The site supports many regionally and nationally protected bird species such as Hazel Hen *Bonasa bonasia*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, and Willow Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*. It is the most important breeding place in Estonia for Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* and acts as a refuge for mammals with large habitat requirements, including Wolf *Canis lupus*, Lynx *Lynx lynx* and Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*. Moreover, the Flying Squirrel *Pteromys volans* can be found in the site. In terms of flora, nationally red-listed species occur, among them several orchid species. The complex plays an important role in the recharge and discharge of groundwater and the maintenance of water quality, especially due to its proximity to an oil-shale mining area. Besides the gradual move of oil-shale pits towards the site, the surrounding area is also threatened by the intensification of forestry and by drainage activities. Traditional picking of cranberries and mushrooms as well as small-scale forestry are practiced within the site. Ramsar Site no. 1999. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 1 009 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Mindanao  
Area: 14 836 ha | Coordinates: 08°17'N 125°53'E | Designation dates: 12-11-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary. 12/11/99; Mindanao; 14,836 ha; 08°17'N 125°53'E. A vast complex of freshwater marshes and watercourses with numerous shallow lakes and ponds in the upper basin of the Agusan River and its tributaries, which rise in the hills of eastern Mindanao. Some parts of the marsh have been converted into fishponds and rice paddies. The site acts as storage for rain water and reduces the downstream flow of flood water into Butuan City and other population centers. The Marsh supports the largest expanses left in the Philippines of seven habitat types and includes a very large area of swamp forest and a peat swamp forest not found anywhere else in the country. High silt loads caused by deforestation and other activities in the catchment are a continuing problem. The Marsh is sparsely populated because of seasonal flooding, and the population are 1) permanent residents of the Marsh who live in floating houses, 2) people who live within the Marsh in the dry seasons and move to the peripheries during the flood season, and 3) people who live permanently on the peripheries and move into the marsh on a daily basis. Trapping of crocodiles for sale on commercial farms is an important activity. Ramsar site no. 1009. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Aiguamolls de l'Empordà

Site number: 592 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cataluña  
Area: 4 784 ha | Coordinates: 42°14'N 03°06'E | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aiguamolls de l'Empordà. 26/03/93; Cataluña; 4,784 ha; 42°14'N 03°06'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park, Integral Natural Reserve. A series of coastal saline and freshwater wetlands in the floodplains of two rivers, separated from the sea by dunes. The site includes lagoons, pools, marshes and drainage channels supporting salt-resistant vegetation, wet meadows, lush reed and sedge beds, and woodlands. The site's flora and fauna include several rare species. Various species of wintering and nesting waterbirds are supported. Human activities include conservation education, tourism, and peat extraction. Ramsar site no. 592. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Ain Dahab

Site number: 1 696 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Siliana Governorate  
Area: 560 ha | Coordinates: 35°53'N 09°28'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ain Dahab. 07/11/07; Siliana; 560 ha; 35°53'N 09°28'E. Located in central Tunisia, this wetland, whose name literally means "source of gold", originates in a karstic environment well-known for its underground hydrological formations, which in turn host an important population of bats (*Pipistrellus* sp) that has not yet been fully studied. The portion of the site above ground has the typical flora and fauna of central Tunisia, which is characterised by a rocky semi-arid landscape. The site is virtually intact, and extensive cattle grazing probably constitutes its main stressor. Ramsar site No. 1696. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Ain Elshakika

Site number: 1 026 | Country: State of Libya | Administrative region: Jabal al Akhdar District  
Area: 33 ha | Coordinates: 32°46'N 21°21'E | Designation dates: 05-04-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ain Elshakika. 05/04/00; Darnah; 33 ha; 32°46'N 021°21'E. National Park. An hypersaline coastal sebkha with limestone rock formations to the south, dunes and mudflats with extensive shrubs from west to east. The site has two connections to the sea, and at high tide seawater reaches the sebkha during winter and raises the water level to about one meter, but freshwater springs decrease the salinity to some degree. Part of Kouf National Park, the site is an important wetland for migratory and resident waterbirds and has great potential for ecotourism and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 1026.

### Ain Elzarga

Site number: 1 027 | Country: State of Libya | Administrative region: Jabal al Akhdar District  
Area: 50 ha | Coordinates: 32°47'N 22°21'E | Designation dates: 05-04-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ain Elzarga. 05/04/00; Darnah; 50 ha; 32°47'N 022°21'E. National Park. A small natural sebkha or depression with at least one natural connection to the sea, wet all year round but with increasing water levels and salinity during summer. The sebkha, with mudflats and salt marsh community, is surrounded by dunes from east to west and rocky hills to the south and east. The site is one of the most important wetlands in the area of the Kouf National Park for migratory waterbirds. The birdwatching and ecotourism potential is considerable but undeveloped. Unsustainable hunting and destruction of vegetation, especially during summer, are considered threats. Ramsar site no. 1027.

### Akan-ko

Site number: 1 540 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Prefecture  
Area: 1 318 ha | Coordinates: 43°27'N 144°06'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Akan-ko. 08/11/05; Hokkaido; 1,318ha; 43°27'N 144°06'E. National Park. A freshwater caldera lake lying between two active volcanoes, Me-akandake and O-akandake, formed by volcanic subsidence. A number of rare aquatic freshwater algae, particularly the well-known Marimo *Cladophora aegagropila* are observed. The lake is also an important habitat for the largest freshwater fish in Japan, Japanese Huchen *Hucho perryi* and Kokanee *Oncorhynchus nerka*. In addition, 65 species of birds and 24 mammals, for example, Eurasian Brown Bear and Yezo Sika Deer, also depend on the lake ecosystem. The lake is surrounded by mixed forests of conifers and deciduous trees such as Ezo Spruce *Picea jezoensis*, Sakhalin Fir *Abies sachalinensis*, and Japanese oaks. Main landuses include hydroelectric power generation, fishery, aquaculture, and boating. At Akan Lakeside Eco-Museum Center and Marimo Exhibition Center, visitors, about 1.56 million per year, learn about the history of the lake and the status of Marimo and fish species. Ramsar site no. 1540. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Åkersvika

Site number: 13 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark county  
Area: 428,1 ha | Coordinates: 60°48'N 11°07'E | Designation dates: 09-07-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Åkersvika is one of the largest and best-developed freshwater deltas in Norway, where the unregulated Svartelva and Flakstadelva rivers join in the adjacent shallow basin, which feeds into Lake Mjøsa. Following the Ramsar Advisory Mission (no.64) in 2010, new areas were added to compensate for areas excluded due to a road enlargement. The Site is a freshwater embayment of an artificially regulated lake and lower river reaches composed of open water, exposed mudflats, wet grassland, and *Alnus/Salix* scrub, with shoreline vegetation dominated by moss. The vegetation is composed of various bog, meadow, scrub and woodland communities supporting a number of rare and nationally red-listed habitats and plant species. The reserve is one of the most important staging sites for wetland birds following inland migration routes in Norway; and a total of 226 bird species have been recorded. Large numbers of ducks and waders rest in Åkersvika, both in spring and in autumn, which also supports 1 % of the biogeographic population of the pink footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. 16 species of fish have been registered in Åkersvika and the Site is considered as the main spawning ground in the Mjøsa Lake. The area functions as a barrier or trap for sediments and has an important function for sedimentation and nutrient fixing as well as flood control. Human activities include sport fishing, nature observation and environmental education. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to housing and urban areas, roads and railways, and invasive species. Large areas of sedge meadow are being taken over by meadow communities and *Salix* scrub, following the cessation of burning and grazing in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Regulation of Lake Mjøsa has also accelerated this process. Management measures are now being implemented to stop the overgrowth.

## Akiyoshidai Groundwater System

Site number: 1 541 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Yamaguchi Prefecture  
Area: 563 ha | Coordinates: 34°15'N 131°18'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Akiyoshidai Groundwater System. 08/11/05; Yamaguchi; 563 ha; 34°15'N 131°18'E. "Quasi-National Park". One of Japan's largest karst topographies, situated in western Honshu with the karst tableland extending 13,000 ha on a gradual plateau and centrally located groundwater system developed underneath, forming three limestone caves of Akiyoshido, Taisido and Kagekiyodo. 'Karrenfeld' pinnacles and small dolines on the tableland are observed. Sometimes an ephemeral lake appears in Kaerimizu Uvala which functions as a rainwater drain. The site functions as a groundwater recharge area with some 50m deep springs observed in the downstream of Koto-gasa river to Aokaga-gawa river. The site is important for unique organisms endemic to caves in the area, including *Sinella akiyoshihana*, *Allochthoniue kobayashii akiyoshiensis*, numerous shellfish and several species of bats such as Horseshoe bat and Eastern Bent-winged bat. The area is surrounded by karst grasslands with fringe Kama poljes which are used in some parts as paddy fields. Akiyoshidai is a Quasi-National Park with approximately 900,000 tourists visiting every year. The Natural History Museum conducts regular research. Ramsar site no. 1541. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Akkeshi-ko and Bekambeushi-shitsugen

Site number: 614 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido  
Area: 5 277 ha | Coordinates: 43°03'N 144°54'E | Designation dates: 10-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Akkeshi-ko & Bekambeushi-shitsugen. 10/06/93; Hokkaido; 5,277 ha; 43°03'N 144°54'E. National Wildlife Protection Area; Natural Park; Natural Monument; Anatidae & Crane Network Site. A brackish lake with river inflow, surrounded by saltmarsh, extensive fens, and bogs and connected to the sea. The mire supports oyster and clam fisheries and numerous bird and plant species. Current land use includes fishing, aquaculture, tourism and forestry. The condition of the Manchurian Crane habitat is monitored. Ramsar site no. 614. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Akrotiri

Site number: 1 375 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Cyprus  
Area: 2 171 ha | Coordinates: 34°37'N 32°58'E | Designation dates: 20-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Akrotiri. 20/03/03; Cyprus (Western Sovereign Base Area); 2,171 ha; 34°37'N 032°58'E. The largest aquatic system in Cyprus, located on Akrotiri Peninsula, the southernmost part of the island. Also listed as an Important Bird Area, the site is of a special European interest because it presents 11 natural habitat types listed in annex 1 of the European Commission Habitats Directive and 45 bird species included on Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive, and it supports 13 endemic species of plant such as *Ophrys kotschyi*. It is composed of two distinct areas that are hydrologically connected - the first and largest area is the salt lake and sand flats situated in the centre of the peninsula. Over the past three centuries, this former lagoon has been isolated from the sea and a number of saltmarsh vegetation communities now surround the lake. A eucalyptus forest borders the northern side of the lake and is an important raptor roosting area. The second distinct area, northeast of the salt lake, is the Fassouri marshes made up of a matrix of freshwater habitat types, including grazing marsh and reedbeds. Rain water is the key hydrological input for both areas, though the lake does get occasional input from the sea during storms. The site is part of the UK RAF military Sovereign Base Area; a management plan is under development with local stakeholders. Ramsar Site no. 1375. [Ramsar mission to the site.] Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Akyatan Lagoon

Site number: 943 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Adana  
Area: 14 700 ha | Coordinates: 36°38'N 35°16'E | Designation dates: 15-04-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Akyatan Lagoon. 15/04/98; Adana; 14,700 ha; 36°37'N 035°16'E. Cultural and Natural Asset; Wildlife Protection Area. A coastal lagoon surrounded by brackish marshes, sandy shores, freshwater pools, wet meadows, and dunes. Among the dunes are pits extending below sea level that fill with freshwater in the rainy season. The site provides habitat for several globally threatened species, including breeding marine turtles, and regularly supports internationally important numbers of numerous species of migrating, wintering and breeding waterbirds. Human activities include agriculture, scientific research, and an important fishery. The area has high historical and archaeological value. Ramsar site no. 943. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Alagol, Ulmagol and Ajigol Lakes

Site number: 49 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Mazandaran  
Area: 1 400 ha | Coordinates: 37°21'N 54°35'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alagol, Ulmagol & Ajigol Lakes. 23/06/75; Mazandaran; 1,400 ha; 37°21'N 54°35'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. Ulmagol and Ajigol are seasonally-filled freshwater lakes, fed by autumn and winter rains, which become desiccated in drought periods. Alagol is slightly saline and fringed by extensive reed and grass marshes. Ulmagol is sparsely vegetated. There are several human settlements. The site supports Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), flamingos, and nesting White-tailed Plover. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to high levels of disturbance from wildfowl hunters and the extraction of water for irrigation purposes, which has lowered lake levels considerably, especially during summer. Ramsar site no. 49. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Alakol-Sasykkol Lakes System

Site number: 1 892 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Almaty Oblast and East Kazakhstan Oblast  
Area: 914 663 ha | Coordinates: 46°16'N 81°32'E | Designation dates: 25-11-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alakol-Sasykkol Lakes System. 25/11/09; Almaty, East Kazakhstan Oblasts; 914,663 ha; 46°16'N 81°32'E. State Nature Reserve. The Lakes System is Kazakhstan's largest reserve for nesting wetland birds and a major migratory stop, with over a hundred thousand waterbirds and semi-aquatic birds stopping annually. The system, located in an ancient tectonic depression, comprises 529 river-fed lakes, ranging from saline to fresh water, providing highly diverse habitat for 342 bird species, including 11 internationally threatened species, 203 nesting bird species, and appreciable numbers of moulting waterfowl during summer. Humid, desert, lowland, and mountainous types of habitats are located in very close proximity, and the site is characterized broadly as having five vegetation types: desert, meadow, forest, submerged aquatic, and shrubs. Overlaying significant groundwater resources, the Lakes System also hosts a large variety of endemic and relict plant and fish species, as well as two internationally Vulnerable mammal species (*Vormela peregusna* and *Gazella subgutturosa*). The three largest lakes are important fisheries, with annual assessment of optimum catch quotas. The lakes attract many visitors during the summer months, and a viewing tower and visitor centre are planned for construction. The lakes' ecological character is affected by illegal hunting and fishing, uncontrolled water extraction, cattle grazing, recreation, and fires. A management plan has been developed. Ramsar site no. 1892. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Alam-Pedja

Site number: 905 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Tartu, Jõgeva, Viljandi Counties  
Area: 34 220 ha | Coordinates: 58°28'N 26°13'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alam-Pedja. 17/06/97; Tartu, Jõgeva, & Viljandi Counties; 34,220 ha; 58°28'N 26°13'E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000, IBA. A large, mostly flat wilderness area with a complex of mires separated by unregulated rivers and associated floodplain meadows and surrounded by extensive forests, including swamp forest or carrs of special botanical value. The area is a very important spawning site for several fish species, an important stop-over site for numerous species of migrating waterfowl, many of them threatened, and it supports a rich assemblage of mammals. The site is used for traditional berry-picking and small-scale fishing and plays an important role in groundwater hydrology and maintenance of water quality. A visitor's centre was opened in 2008 including two nature trails. (The site was extended in 2012 from originally 26,000 ha). Ramsar site no. 905. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Aland-Elbe-Niederung und Elbaue Jerichow

Site number: 1 307 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Sachsen-Anhalt  
Area: 8 605 ha | Coordinates: 52°45'N 11°49'E | Designation dates: 21-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aland-Elbe-Niederung und Elbaue Jerichow. 21/02/03; Sachsen-Anhalt; 8,605 hectares, 52°45'N 11°49'E. Biosphere Reserve, EU Special Protection Areas. Comprises two large parts of the floodplain of the Elbe river, including two EU Special Protection Areas and part of the Biosphere Reserve "Flusslandschaft Elbe". Both areas are composed of near-natural floodplain meadows, despite anthropogenic changes, with dynamic floodplain development and regular flooding occurring at a reduced level. The area is of outstanding importance for breeding, resting and wintering waterbirds, waders and grassland species. The site harbours large gatherings of *Cygnus bewickii* (2.7% of NW European flyway population), *Cygnus Cygnus* (2%), *Anser fabalis* (30%), *Anser albifrons* (2.5%), and *Grus grus* (6.6%). The area offers opportunities for research and education activities. Grassland habitat is maintained by mowing and grazing. Public water bodies are used mostly for fishing. Problems with waterbird hunting arise regularly. Ramsar site no. 1307. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Albanian Prespa Lakes

Site number: 2 151 | Country: Albania | Administrative region:  
Area: 15 119 ha | Coordinates: 40°48'N 20°57'E | Designation dates: 13-06-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Albanian Prespa Lakes (Liçenet e Prespes Shqiptare). 13/06/2013; Korçë; 15,119 ha; 40°51'23"N 20°56'43"E. National Park, part of the trilateral international Prespa Park. A high altitude basin (max. 2287m asl) located in the southeastern Balkan Peninsula in the Mediterranean biogeographical region. The site includes two inter-linked lakes, Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa, and is characterized by tree-dominated wetlands, seasonal freshwater marshes and flooded agricultural lands, permanent rivers and creeks, canals, drainage channels, freshwater springs, subterranean karst and cave hydrological systems. The terrestrial ecosystem is dominated by the Mali i Thate (Dry Mountain) calcareous massif that extends south from the Albanian-Macedonian border. The boundary of the site is the same as the boundary of Prespa National Park regarding the aquatic component. The fauna and flora is characterized by not only high diversity but also a high level of endemism. The site is internationally important for globally endangered bird species such as Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), and it supports diverse and endemic fish, mammal and amphibian communities. The lakes play an important role in groundwater recharge and sediment trapping, and the main economic activities within the site are agriculture, livestock raising, fishery, forestry and tourism. Threats to the ecological character include eutrophication caused by intensive agriculture practices and the introduction of alien fish species for recreational fishing, which has also contributed to profound modification of the natural ecosystem of the lake. A management plan is currently in preparation. Ramsar Site no. 2151. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Albufera de Adra

Site number: 704 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 75 ha | Coordinates: 36°45'N 02°57'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Albufera de Adra. 04/10/94; Andalucía; 75 ha; 36°45'N 002°57'W. Natural Reserve. The site, considered to be of national botanical importance, consists of two endorheic lagoons in the Adra River Delta. Vegetation includes reed, rush and sedge beds. The area is a nesting and wintering site for, among others, the globally endangered duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. Several species of waterbirds winter at the site. Human activities include fishing and hunting. Ramsar site no. 704. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Albufera de Valencia

Site number: 454 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valenciana  
Area: 21 000 ha | Coordinates: 39°20'N 00°21'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Albufera de Valencia. 05/12/89; Comunidad Valenciana; 21,000 ha; 39°20'N 000°21'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. A large coastal lagoon fed by streams, rivers and irrigation channels, fringed by areas of rice cultivation. The site is separated from the sea by an urbanized dune peninsula. Vegetation is dominated by aquatic, halophytic, and dune communities. The site's fauna is notable for its species diversity. Regional endemics include fish and crustaceans. The area supports a rich assemblage of breeding waterbirds, and large numbers of various species of waterbirds, especially ducks, winter at the site. Human activities include rice cultivation, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 454. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Aldabra Atoll

Site number: 1 887 | Country: Seychelles | Administrative region: Aldabra group  
Area: 43 900 ha | Coordinates: 09°24'S 46°20'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aldabra Atoll. 02/02/10; 43,900 ha; 09°24'S 046°20'E. World Heritage Site. The Aldabra Atoll is part of the Seychelles archipelago in the Western Indian Ocean, some 1150km southwest of the main island, Mahé. As the largest raised coral atoll in the world, it is widely recognized as one of the most remarkable oceanic islands on Earth. It comprises seven wetland types, including permanent shallow marine waters, coastal saline lagoon area, marine subtidal aquatic seagrass beds and mangrove swamps. The numerous habitat types allow for the support of many different species at different stages of their life cycles. This includes endangered and vulnerable species such as the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* and the Aldabra giant tortoise *Geochelone gigantea*; endemic species of flora (40 species) and fauna such as the Madagascar sacred ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus abbotti* and 100% of the populations of two species of endemic insectivorous bat (*Chaerephon pusillus* and *Triaeonops pauliani*). Land use on Aldabra is extremely low with the only uses being research, an education outreach programme, and minimal tourism as tourists are not allowed to stay overnight. The main threats facing the site are potential oil spills from a nearby tanker route, alien invasive species introduction and establishment, and, as with other low-lying islands, climate change. Ramsar site no. 1887. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Alde Feanen

Site number: 578 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland  
Area: 2 124 ha | Coordinates: 53°08'N 05°56'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alde Feanen. 07/01/93; Friesland; 2,124 ha; 53°07'N 005°55'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC); National Park. Alde Feanen is an area of freshwater lakes, reed lands, forested marshland and grasslands which make up one of the few remnants of an extensive peat bog landscape. The boundaries of the Ramsar Site have been adjusted to the boundaries of the Natura 2000 site. It supports rare and endangered species of birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and butterflies, and notable plants such as the critically endangered bog orchid (*Hammarbia paludosa*), making it important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Moreover, the Site is an important breeding, staging, moulting and wintering area, supporting more than 20,000 birds and up to 1% of the population of shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*), barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*). It also plays an important role in flood regulation and groundwater replenishment. As well as water management, the Site is used for farming, commercial fisheries, oil and gas extraction, and recreational activities such as angling and nautical sports. The main threats derive from drainage, pollution and eutrophication caused by farming activities, and habitat disturbance due to tourism. Ramsar Site no. 578. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Alde-Ore Estuary

Site number: 862 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 547 ha | Coordinates: 52°06'N 01°32'E | Designation dates: 04-10-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alde-Ore Estuary. 04/10/96; England; 2,547 ha; 52°05'N 001°33'E. Special Protection Area, SSSI. An estuary complex of three rivers comprising various habitats including intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, a vegetated shingle spit, saline lagoons, and semi-intensified grazing marsh. The site supports nationally scarce plants and invertebrates and notable assemblages of breeding and wintering wetland birds. Human activities include recreation, fishing, livestock grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 862. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Alderney West Coast and the Burhou Islands

Site number: 1 587 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Channel Islands  
Area: 15 629 ha | Coordinates: 49°43'N 02°15'W | Designation dates: 24-08-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Alderney West Coast and the Burhou Islands. 24/08/05; States of Alderney, Bailiwick of Guernsey; 15,629 ha; 49°43'N 002°15'W. Protected Zone. Comprises the western coast of Alderney and adjacent shallow waters and islets in the strongly tidal, high-energy system of the northern Channel Islands. It includes diverse and inter-related ecosystems such as sandy beaches with shingle banks, marine subtidal aquatic beds, rockpools, sandbars, and pebble beach and rocky marine shores, including sea cliff and rocky offshore islands. The rocky islets are a very important bird breeding place. A large nesting population of northern gannets are established on the Garden Rocks and Ortac with about 11,900 individuals. It also provides habitat for a seal colony to the north of Burhou Island and some fish and shellfish species such as e.g. lobsters, bass and plaice. The site hosts about 100 species of seaweeds, which play a very important role in supporting all the marine fauna and thus the large nesting bird population. A Land Use Plan protects the terrestrial part of the area within the site, including intertidal rock formations. Besides commercial and non-commercial fishing, tourism is the main activity: there is a visitor centre which provides both educational measures for children and information materials for the general public. Common visitor activities are birdwatching, walking and rockpooling over the summer months. Ramsar site no. 1587. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Aloppkölen-Köpmankölen

Site number: 1 113 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jämtland county  
Area: 20 079 ha | Coordinates: 62°38'N 13°40'E | Designation dates: 19-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large wetland complex composed of northern bogs, mixed mires including well developed string mixed mires, soligenous and string fens, wet forests and numerous lakes, pools, streams and springs. In the northern parts of the Site, vegetation is dominated by heather and cloudberry, while sedge and Sphagnum mosses dominate in the southern parts. The wet mires support a rich avifauna including large numbers of waders and other waterbirds such as the nationally threatened common reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, which use the Site as breeding and foraging grounds. The springs and spring fens support a typical diversity. The Site is used for hunting, fishing and cloudberry picking, and also provides livestock fodder for reindeer husbandry by the local Sami population. The threats affecting the ecological character of the Site are limited; however mining and quarrying could have a major impact. The management plans for Henvålen and Källbackskiftet nature reserves cover part of the Ramsar Site. A restoration plan is being implemented to counteract the acidification of its streams.

### Al Wathba Wetland Reserve

Site number: 2 142 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Emirate of Abu Dhabi  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 24°16'N 54°35'E | Designation dates: 25-04-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve. 25/04/2013; Abu Dhabi; 500 ha; 24°15'41"N 54°35'08"E. Protected Area. A complex of natural and human-made surface water bodies located approximately 40 km southeast of Abu Dhabi city. Formerly a salt flat ('sabkha' in Arabic) that used to flood only during winter rainfall, it is now maintained by a regular supply of tertiary treated freshwater from a nearby sewage treatment plant. This regulation of the water level results in hypersaline, brackish and freshwater habitat of varying depths, providing an ideal site for many wetland dependent species within a hyper-arid biogeographic region. The area was declared as a reserve after the first successful breeding of the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) there in 1998, marking the first known successful breeding of this species in the Arabian Peninsula since 1922. Threatened wildlife can be seen, including the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and the vulnerable Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*). The site also regularly supports breeding populations of the Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). Access to the general public is currently limited to educational tours and bird watching groups; however, a future visitor centre is being planned to encourage tourism. Ramsar Site no. 2142. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Al-Zora Protected Area

Site number: 2 309 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Ajman Emirate  
Area: 195 ha | Coordinates: 25°26'N 55°29'E | Designation dates: 27-09-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a protected area covering 195 hectares at the end of the one-kilometre Ajman Creek which flows into the Gulf. It is dominated by mangrove forests but also includes a number of other coastal and inland wetland types such as intertidal mudflats, lagoons and creeks. Al-Zora Protected Area is recognised as one of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in the region; it supports 87 bird species including the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) and Socotra cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*). It is also an important area for migrating birds such as the broad-billed sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*), and the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) in winter. The Site is significant locally as it is the only protected area and the largest mangrove area in Ajman city and the Emirate of Ajman; and more widely for the species which it supports.

### Amazon Estuary and its Mangroves

Site number: 2 337 | Country: Brazil  
| Administrative region: Federative Republic of Brazil. States of Pará (Regions of Marajó, Northeast portion of the state of Para and Lower Amazon), of Amapá  
Area: 3 850 253 ha | Coordinates: 01°09'S 46°48'W | Designation dates: 19-03-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the Marajó archipelago, the world's largest fluvial-maritime archipelago, at the mouth of the Amazon River. It consists of a corridor of 23 conservation units with a combined area of over 3.8 million hectares. On this stretch of coast lies one of the biggest continuous mangrove formations in the world; with over 8,900 square kilometres stretching over 700 km, it holds 70% of the mangroves of Brazil. The Site is adjacent to other Ramsar Sites: Cabo Orange, Baixada Maranhense, Reentrancias Maranhenses and Parcel Manuel Luiz. The Site and the wider Amazon estuary and coastal basins ecoregion are extremely biodiverse and of great international importance. Around 40 species found in the Site are both nationally and globally threatened, and 21 more listed as threatened on Brazil's Red List. Marine, freshwater and terrestrial species including mammals, reptiles, birds and fish are included among these.

### Amirkelayeh Lake

Site number: 47 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Gilan  
Area: 1 230 ha | Coordinates: 37°17'N 50°12'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Amirkelayeh Lake. 23/06/75; Gilan; 1,230 ha; 37°17'N 50°12'E. Wildlife Refuge. A deep, freshwater lake supporting extensive reedbeds and a rich floating and submerged vegetation. The lake is fed by springs and run-off, and at times of high water level drains into the Caspian Sea. The area is important for several species of wintering waterbirds, mostly Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). Past human activities have included intensive duck hunting, which is now banned. Ramsar site no. 47. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### Ammersee

Site number: 93 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 6 517 ha | Coordinates: 48°01'N 11°08'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ammersee. 26/02/76; Bayern; 6,517 ha; 48°01'N 11°08'E. Nature Reserves. A large, natural, freshwater lake with fluctuating water levels situated in a glaciated valley. The site consists of narrow gravel beaches and supports various types of reeds, moorland areas scrub and meadows. An important area for breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds. The site supports a commercial fishery and recreational activities. Ramsar site no. 93. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Ammiq Wetland

Site number: 978 | Country: Lebanon | Administrative region: Qabb Elias  
Area: 280 ha | Coordinates: 33°46'N 35°46'E | Designation dates: 16-04-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ammiq Wetlands. 16/04/99; 280? ha. Privately-owned. The last remaining significant wetland in the country, a remnant of much more extensive marshes and lakes that once existed in the Beqaa Valley. It remains an important staging and wintering area for migratory waterbirds en route between Europe and Africa. Reedbeds of *Phragmites* sp. and *Typha* sp. dominate, interspersed with open fields of coarse pasture. The site has been designated as an Important Bird Area: notable species include the globally threatened Black-winged Pratincole, Ferruginous Duck, White Pelican and Great Snipe. Local people and visitors from other parts of the country use the area for outdoor recreation. During the summer the site provides irrigation for the surrounding agricultural land and supports livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 978.

## Amvrakikos gulf

Site number: 61 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Ipiros  
Area: 23 649 ha | Coordinates: 39°06'N 20°55'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Amvrakikos gulf. 21/08/75; Aitolokarnania, Preveza, Arta; 23,649 ha; 39°06'N 020°55'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A coastal inlet connected to the sea. The extensive delta of two rivers including freshwater marsh with the largest reedbeds in Greece, wet meadows and seasonally inundated land, lagoons, barrier spits, a major saltmarsh, and some of the most extensive tracts of riparian forest remaining in Greece. The area supports a rich reptile and amphibian fauna, is important for breeding, staging and wintering numerous species of waterbirds, and provides important feeding grounds for nesting raptors. Nesting species include globally threatened *Pelecanus crispus*. Human activities include traditional fishing, intensive fish farming, livestock grazing, and (illegal) housing construction. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because numerous human activities have modified the water balance, and the demand for irrigation water has led to increasing salinity levels. Ramsar site no. 61. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Anavilhanas National Park

Site number: 2 296 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Amazonas state  
Area: 350 469,8 ha | Coordinates: 02°28'S 60°49'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Anavilhanas National Park is located in the state of Amazonas on the lower course of the Rio Negro ("Black River") within the tropical rainforest of the Amazon basin. Of great scenic beauty, the Site features various forest formations, as well as river and lake ecosystems. On the islands of the vast Anavilhanas archipelago in the Rio Negro, 48 species of birds have been recorded, as well as the margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) a small cat, and the Amazonian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), the largest South American freshwater herbivore, which is endemic to the Amazon basin. The Rio Negro is an important waterway for traditional communities settled along the banks. The threats to the Site's natural resources include logging on the archipelago's islands, commercial fishing, hunting, trafficking of wild animals and sand mining.

## Anda

Site number: 2 155 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 52,5 ha | Coordinates: 69°04'N 15°10'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a small rocky island situated on the underwater plateau to the north of the Øksnes peninsula. At higher altitudes the island is covered by a thin layer of peat and seabird guano, which support vegetation growth. The Site is one of the few mountains for pelagic seabirds in Norway; its location between the continental shelf to the west and the shallow fjords to the east means that the ocean around Anda provides diverse and reliable feeding conditions for breeding colonies of Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (the largest breeding colony in Nordland county), black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and black guillemot *Cephus grylle*. The birds do not depend on the larvae brought northwards by the coastal currents, but feed on local populations of sand eels in the adjacent fjords, as well as mesopelagic fish on the shelf edge. Within the nature reserve, collecting eggs from some gull species such as *Larus argentatus*, *Larus marinus* and *Larus canus* is permitted. During the nesting season the island is closed to tourism. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are overfishing and invasive species such as mink.

## Andakill Protected Habitat Area

Site number: 2 129 | Country: Iceland | Administrative region: Borgarfjardarsysla County  
Area: 3 086 ha | Coordinates: 64°33'N 21°47'W | Designation dates: 18-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Andakill Protected Habitat Area (Andakill, Hvanneyri). 18/02/2013; Borgarfjardarsysla County; 3,086 ha; 64°33'41"N 021°46'09"W. Nature Reserve, Habitat Protected Area. A complex wetland located at the estuary of the fjord Borgarfjörður, with two rivers, Hvítá and Andakilsá, and the lake Vatnshamravatn, as well as alluvial floodplains, marshes, and managed hayfields. The shallow and rich freshwater lake hosts numerous species of waterbirds, among them shelducks *Tadorna tadorna* and the White-Tailed Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. When the tide is low, extensive mud, sand and gravel bars provide important feeding grounds for waterbirds. There is a peninsula into the fjord which consists of rows of rocky outcrops and extensive freshwater bogs. Along the river Hvítá there are alluvial plains created by regular floods containing high sediment loads and providing an important resting, feeding and breeding area for such wetland birds as the Greenland White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. On the other side of the peninsula, the floodplains of river Andakilsá include extensive wetlands and marshes primarily used for livestock grazing. The main hydrological value of the wetland is flood control, sediments and nutrients retention, carbon storage, and shoreline stabilization. Within the site there is the campus of the University of Agriculture of Iceland and a wetland centre for research and awareness raising for visitors. Ramsar Site no. 2129. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Anhui Shengjin Lake National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 248 | Country: China | Administrative region: Chizhou City  
Area: 33 340 ha | Coordinates: 30°23'N 117°05'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Anhui Shengjin Lake National Nature Reserve is located on the south bank of the middle and lower reaches of the River Yangtze. Dominated by lakes and freshwater marshes and boasting good water quality, it is one of the best preserved inland freshwater lake systems along these stretches of the River. The Site plays a role in regulating floods along the Yangtze, and contributes to water purification and regional climate regulation. It also provides an important stopover and wintering ground for migrating waterbirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway: a total of 175 bird species have been recorded, including globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), and the endangered oriental stork (*Ciconia boyciana*). Known as the "Chinese crane lake", Shengjin Lake is the largest wintering ground in China for the vulnerable hooded crane (*Grus monacha*) whose numbers can reach up to 500, the highest population count in the world.

## Anillo de Cenotes

Site number: 2 043 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Estado de Yucatán  
Area: 891 ha | Coordinates: 20°43'N 89°19'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Anillo de Cenotes. 02/02/09; Yucatán; 891 ha; 20°43'21"N 089°19'23"W. A complex of 99 cenotes (or sinkholes) that cover approximately 5 km wide with a radius of 90 km in a zone of high permeability. Anillo de Cenotes ("ring of cenotes") is a unique water system in Mexico and the world and is the product of a large meteor impact 65 million years ago, the Chicxulub Crater, which fractured the surface layers of the Earth's crust and led to the ring alignment of the aquifer outcrops. It forms a cavernous complex network which acts as a weir and pipeline of large bodies of water. These cenotes serve as resting grounds for waterfowl during their migration to the South and hold endemic species of reptiles, such as the Yucatan Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina yucatanana*), amphibians like the Yucatan Mushroom-tongue Salamander (*Bolitoglossa yucatanana*), and birds such as the Ridgway's Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ridgwayi*), the Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*), and the Black Catbird (*Melanoptila glabirostris*). The cenotes are also home to a number of endangered or threatened species, such as the fish species *Ogilbia pearsei*, *Ophisternon infernale*, and *Poecilia velifera*. Among the factors adversely affecting the site are the accidental introduction of exotic species, environmental changes due to tourism, and the extraction of large volumes of water for tourist resorts. Ramsar Site no. 2043. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Annaiwilundawa Tanks Sanctuary

Site number: 1 078 | Country: Sri Lanka | Administrative region: North Western Province  
Area: 1 397 ha | Coordinates: 07°42'N 79°49'E | Designation dates: 03-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Annaiwilundawa Tanks Sanctuary. 03/08/01; Northwestern Province; 1,397ha; 07°42'N 079°49'E. Sanctuary. An ancient system of human-made cascading tanks or reservoirs, ranging between 12 and 50 hectares each and totaling some 200 ha, dating back to the 12th century, which help to sustain traditional paddy fields in the area as well as islets of natural vegetation. In addition to being unique to the biogeographical region, the site harbors quite a few species of threatened fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, and especially reptiles and supports up to 40% of the vertebrate species found in Sri Lanka. The system serves as an important refuge for migratory birds and also supports about 50% of the country's freshwater fish species, including at least three endemic species. Only 3-4 meters deep, it is a highly productive wetland with an array of zooplankton and phytoplankton, which also makes it extremely important for migratory fish. The tanks store water, in this dry region, for irrigation purposes, and also play a major role in flood control, aquifer recharge, retention of pollutants and sediments, and nutrient export. Local communities have practiced sustainable traditional farming and fishing since ancient times, but extension of prawn (shrimp) farms in surrounding areas has resulted in mangrove destruction and pollution and eutrophication caused by waste water releases; other potential threats derive from the spread of two species of alien invasive fish and four of plants and from the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in nearby coconut plantations. An upgrade to the status of Nature Reserve, with permanent staff, is foreseen. Ramsar site no. 1078. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Ånnsjön

Site number: 26 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jämtland  
Area: 11 031 ha | Coordinates: 63°16'N 12°33'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ånnsjön is a large, nutrient-poor freshwater lake surrounded by extensive mires. The Site includes marshland, a sandy ridge, eroded peat steps, and spectacular waterfalls. Rare inland deltas located at the western and north-western shores of the lake are valuable conservation and educational sites. The mires around the lake are good examples of maritime-influenced mire types. There is a mixture of bogs and fens with a diverse flora. Ånnsjön is very important for migratory and breeding wetland birds such as nationally vulnerable northern pintail *Anas acuta*, common reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The Site includes two bird sanctuaries where public access is seasonally restricted. On the steep slope near the lake, in the peat of Klockamyren, there are two 4,600- and 6,100-year-old layers of pine trunks which indicate that the area was then forested. The Site provides livestock fodder for reindeer husbandry by the local Saami population. It also has some value for flood control and is used for hunting, fishing and cloudberry picking. Ånnsjön is a popular birdwatching location, especially in spring and summer. Visitor facilities include footpaths, board walks and birdwatching hides and towers.

## Anzali Wetland Complex

Site number: 40 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Gilan  
Area: 15 000 ha | Coordinates: 37°25'N 49°28'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Anzali Mordab (Talab) complex. 23/06/75; Gilan; 15,000 ha; 37°25'N 049°28'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. A large, freshwater lagoon fed by several rivers and separated from the sea by a dune system; supports extensive reedbeds and abundant submerged and floating vegetation. The permanent wetland is surrounded by seasonally flooded marshes and ab-bandans (water impoundments) fringed by reedbeds and damp grassland. The site is of international importance for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. The massive spread of the exotic floating water fern *Azola* is suppressing native flora which is important food for waterbirds. This site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to change in water levels and increased nutrient-enrichment, leading to the rapid spread of the reed *Phragmites australis*. Ramsar site no. 40. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Apoi Creek Forests

Site number: 1 751 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Bayelsa State  
Area: 29 213 ha | Coordinates: 04°42'N 05°47'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Apoi Creek Forests. 30/04/08; Bayelsa; 29,213 ha; 05°47'N 004°42'E. Forest Reserve. A tidal freshwater, lowland swamp-forest located in the Central Niger Delta and composed mainly of marshes, mangrove forests and fresh water swamps. The forest is dense and rich in several ecologically and economically valuable flora and fauna species. The site supports the endemic and endangered Niger Delta Red Colobus monkey amongst others, and serves as an important spawning and nursery ground for fish. It also contributes to the livelihood of local dwellers through provision of non-timber forest products, agricultural land and fisheries. Digging of canals for transport of timber constitutes a potential threat. The site is technically state-owned but practically under customary authority of local families and communities. The Niger Delta Wetlands Centre works for the study and protection of the Red Colobus and its habitat. Ramsar site no. 1751. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Apsley Marshes

Site number: 255 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 880 ha | Coordinates: 41°59'S 148°12'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Apsley Marshes has some of the best representatives of a range of wetland types in the Tasmania biogeographic ecoregion, including estuarine waters, coastal freshwater marsh and swamp. The Site is located at the mouth of the Apsley River. It has a great richness and diversity of freshwater and marine plants, including some nationally threatened species such as the swamp everlasting (*Xerochrysum palustre*). The wetland is also significant for waterbirds such as the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The floodplains have been used as part of a working agricultural property since the early 19th century; other human activities include livestock grazing, birdwatching, and duck hunting. The Site can be said to be an illustration of the "wise use" principle and in particular the concept of sustainable agriculture and conservation within a Ramsar Site.

## Aqajarua

Site number: 381 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Qeqertarsuaq  
Area: 22 350 ha | Coordinates: 69°39'N 51°58'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aqajarua (Mudderbugten) and Sullorsuaq (Kvandalen). 27/01/88; Qeqertarsuaq; 22,350 ha; 69°39'N 051°58'W. A shallow marine area and adjacent river valley forming an extensive coastal delta with vast mudflats, sand banks and saltmarsh, dominated by a large ice-cap. Vegetation varies from heathland and water tolerant plants to sparse alpine communities. An important area for several species of breeding and staging shorebirds and the most important site in the western Arctic for molting *Somateria spectabilis* (30,000). Local people harvest the area's natural resources and hunting is regulated. Ramsar site no. 381. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Aquatic-cliff complex of Cape Kazantyp

Site number: 1 393 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Crimean Autonomous Republic  
Area: 251 ha | Coordinates: 45°28'N 35°51'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aquatic-cliff complex of Cape Kazantyp. 29/07/04; Crimean AR; 251 ha; 45°28'N 035°51'E. Nature Reserve. Coastal area of the Sea of Azov composed of pebble and detritus-coquina bays with thickets of macrophytic algae *Cystoseira barbata* and vascular plants *Zannichellia major* and *Zostera noltii*. It is an important spawning ground for crustaceans and rare fish species, such as the Great Sturgeon *Huso huso ponticus*, and maintains a significant proportion of indigenous fish species. The site is used as a nesting and migration stop-over, especially for the Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, and qualifies under Criterion 6 for the bird populations of *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Gelochelidon nilotica* and *Larus genei*. Marine mammals (*Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*) visit the area. During hot summer sometimes, fish kill occurs due to abrupt decrease of the oxygen content. The Nature Reserve has a visitors' centre and management plan. Ramsar site no. 1393. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag

Site number: 1 394 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Crimean Autonomous Republic  
Area: 224 ha | Coordinates: 44°56'N 35°14'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag. 29/07/04; Crimean AR; 224 ha; 44°56'N 035°14'E. Nature Reserve, Important Bird Area. Located at the southeastern part of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag comprises sublittoral marine areas up to 6 metres depth, bays, a narrow strip of pebble-boulder coast and coastal cliffs up to 120m high. It is an important place for birds, notably during migrations, and other vulnerable animal species such as the bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Myotis emarginatus*, colonies of which settle in the grottoes. The marine area with nationally rare algae and seagrass meadows constitutes a good spawning habitat for many fish species and supports, among others, the Great Sturgeon *Huso huso ponticus*. Dolphins approach the coast periodically. Ecological trails and a nature centre are near the site. Ramsar site no. 1394. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Aquatic-coastal complex of Cape Opuk

Site number: 1 395 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Crimean Autonomous Republic  
Area: 775 ha | Coordinates: 45°01'N 36°12'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aquatic-coastal complex of Cape Opuk. 29/07/04; Crimean AR; 775 ha; 45°01'N 036°12'E. Nature Reserve. Combination of steep limestone rocks on the seaside (marine boundary lines along 6 meter isobath), sandy-coquina spits, and a salt lake. Thousands of birds winter in the wetland complex or stop during their migrations, especially the White-fronted Goose, Mallard, Garganey, and Coot. Threatened species such as the Eagle *Aquila heliaca* or the Bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* occur within the area. Thickets of macrophytic algae provide a suitable habitat for protected species such as the Great Sturgeon and the Black Sea Salmon and constitute an important spawning ground for many other fish species. Dolphins and porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*) are observed periodically. Environmental education activities and scientific researches are carried out annually. Ramsar site no. 1395. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Arao-higata

Site number: 2 054 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Kyushu-Okinawa  
Area: 754 ha | Coordinates: 32°58'N 130°25'E | Designation dates: 07-03-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Arao-higata. 03/07/12; Kumamoto; 754 ha; 32°58'10"N 130°25'30"E. National Wildlife Protection Area. Arao-higata is situated in the eastern side of the central part of the Sea of Ariake and is the largest single tidal flat in the Central Kuroshio Current biogeographic region. The site serves as an important wintering and stopping point for the migratory waterbirds along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway, including shorebirds which feed on the biota of the tidal flats. The endangered Black faced spoonbill *Platalea minor* and the vulnerable Saunder's gull *Larus saundersi* occur and the site regularly supports more than 1% of the world population of the latter. Commercial laver (seaweed) culture and fishing for short-neck clams are carried out in the site. Ramsar Site no. 2054. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Archipelago Velyki and Mali Kuchugury

Site number: 2 282 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizhska Oblast  
Area: 7 740 ha | Coordinates: 47°34'N 35°12'E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of an archipelago of sandbank islands ("big" and "small" Kuchugury), as well as the surrounding shallows in the upper reaches of the Kakhovka Reservoir in the floodplain of the Lower Dnieper (Dnipro) River in south-eastern Ukraine. It is an important nesting location for wetland bird communities; the shallow waters with rich benthos and good protection from the wind and storms are attractive to birds during moulting periods and seasonal migrations. During the autumn migration up to 30,000 waterfowl individuals have been observed. 156 bird species, 18 mammal, 54 fish, 867 insect, 163 plant, 14 alga and 16 fungus species have been recorded. A ridge of sand dunes, which are the largest location of the endemic *Centaurea konkae*, helps to protect the plant diversity. The Site is valuable as a reproduction site for the development of fish stocks throughout the Kakhovka Reservoir, and so the state of the wetland also influences the status of many game fish species. The wetland is of great importance as a natural filter of fresh water within the Reservoir. In this shallow part of the Reservoir, water is extracted for agricultural irrigation and also as a drinking water resource. The wetland is of great importance as a natural filter of fresh water within the Kakhovka Reservoir. In the shallow part of the reservoir, water extraction is conducted not only for irrigation of agricultural landscapes, but also as a drinking water resource.

## Archipel Bolama-Bijagós

Site number: 2 198 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Bolama Region  
Area: 1 046 950 ha | Coordinates: 11°14'N 16°02'W | Designation dates: 14-01-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Archipel Bolama-Bijagós. 21/01/14; Bolama Region; 1,046,950 ha; 11°14'N 16°02'W. Biosphere Reserve. The archipelago has the only active delta islands in the Atlantic Coast of West Africa. The intertidal mudflats host one of the largest populations of migratory shorebirds in the world (with over 870,000 recorded in 2001) on the East Atlantic flyway. Visitors include the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). The influence of coastal upwelling and estuaries and the large areas of mangrove support the reproduction and early growth of a large number of fish species. The site hosts the largest colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Africa, and provides a habitat for over 15 vulnerable species including the Hippopotamus, West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), Timneh Parrot (*Psittacus timneh*), Atlantic Humpbacked Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermodochelys coriacea*) and Green Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The archipelago is also a source of livelihoods for over 32,000 inhabitants, who use some areas for rice farming, palm plantations and subsistence fishing, and the others for cultural and spiritual purposes. The main threats facing the site are overfishing, tourism and ongoing offshore oil exploration and bauxite mining in the neighbouring regions. Ramsar Site no. 2198. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Archipel et dunes d'Essawira

Site number: 1 469 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Essawira  
Area: 4 000 ha | Coordinates: 31°30'N 09°48'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Archipel et dunes d'Essawira. 15/01/05; Essawira; 4,000 ha; 31°30'N 09°48'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest, Permanent Biological Reserve, Hunting Reserve. A coastal site composed of sand dunes, the biggest archipelago on Morocco's Atlantic coast, sandy beaches and rocky outcrops. It hosts a number of Macaronesian endemic species, such as the plants *Chenolea tomentosa*, *Polycarpha nivea* and *Helianthemum canariense*, as well as other rare North African species, including seven endemic reptiles and amphibians. The archipelago constitutes an important stop for migratory species and a nesting site for Eleonora's Falcon, which is represented by 3.5% to 10% of its world population. Thanks to the upwelling, artisanal and professional fishing are very productive activities along the coast. Tourism is also developing, posing potential threats to the site in the future, in addition to poaching and over-fishing. The archipelago is also of archaeological importance due to the presence of Greek, Phoenician and Roman remnants, as well as more recent Portuguese bastions dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. A management plan is currently being developed, together with the set-up of an Environmental Education Centre to act as a biodiversity observatory. Ramsar site no. 1469. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Area between the Pura & Mokeritto Rivers

Site number: 697 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Taimyr Autonomous Okrug  
Area: 1 125 000 ha | Coordinates: 72°32'N 85°30'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Area between the Pura & Mokeritto rivers. 13/09/94; Taimyrsky/Dolgano-Nenets Autonomous Area; ~1,125,000 ha; 72°32'N 085°30'E. Nature Reserve. A hilly plain with an extensive network of rivers, streams and lakes supporting diverse Arctic tundra communities that set it apart from the adjacent monotonous tundras. Habitats include the moss-cotton-grass tundras, dwarf shrub bogs, hummocky, spotty, and polygonal bogs. There are important feeding places for raptors and breeding habitats for Arctic fox *Alopex lagopus* and lemmings. The site supports the threatened bird species *Branta ruficollis* and *Anser erythropus*. Large numbers of breeding and molting waterbirds are supported, particularly White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, Bean goose *A. fabalis* and Red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*, about 25% of the Taimyr Peninsula population. 80% of the Taimyr population of wild reindeer *Rangifer tarandus* are supported. Human activities include commercial hunting for Arctic fox, bird hunting, and small-scale fishing. There is a biological station at the site. Ramsar site no. 697. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Cuatrociénegas

Site number: 734 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Coahuila  
Area: 84 347 ha | Coordinates: 26°51'N 102°08'W | Designation dates: 22-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Cuatrociénegas. 22/06/95; Coahuila; 84,347 ha; 26°51'N 102°08'W. Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna. An intermontane valley with springs linked by a channel system, keeping the water circulating constantly; includes extensive areas subject to flooding. There are gypsum deposits in the form of dunes, one of only three such landforms in North America. Riparian woodland, grassland, montane forests, chaparral and desert scrub communities are present. Long isolation in specialized habitats has given rise to high biological diversity and endemism, with the site providing habitat for numerous threatened or vulnerable species. Human activities include plant collection, limited grazing and agriculture, and sport fishing. Industrial-scale extraction of minerals from gypsum dunes has occurred since 1979. Ramsar site no. 734. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Laguna de Términos

Site number: 1 356 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Campeche  
Area: 705 016 ha | Coordinates: 18°40'N 91°45'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Laguna de Términos. 02/02/04; Campeche; 705,016 ha; 18°40'N 91°45'W. Wildlife Reserve. The largest coastal lagoon on the Mexican shore of the Gulf of Mexico. Mangrove forests of approximately 127,000 ha are a major feature and produce as much as 716,000 tons of dead leaves every year. The coastal waters are enriched with nutrients by upwelling and turbulence, while the lagoon receives freshwater from rivers and swamps. Other vegetation types are evergreen tropical forest, thorny forest, palmetto (*Sabal mexicana*) forest, reedbeds of cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and Jointed Flatsedge (*Cyperus articulatum*), and patches of Bent Alligator Flag *Thalia geniculata*. Flagship animals of the site include the Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*, the Horseshoe Crab *Limulus polyphemus* and endemic amphibians *Rana brownorum*, *Bolitoglossa yucatanica*; and reptiles *Anolis ustus*, *A. cozumelae*, *A. quercorum*, amongst others. Ciudad del Carmen, with a population of almost 100,000, is an important industrial port located on the barrier island of the lagoon. A variety of fishing, agricultural and livestock raising activities are done in the site, all of which are causing problems of sedimentation, pollution, deforestation and reduction of stocks. Further conflicts have arisen with the oil pipes that traverse the area. Ramsar site no. 1356. Most recent RIS information: 2004. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Yum Balam

Site number: 1 360 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 154 052 ha | Coordinates: 21°28'N 87°19'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Yum Balam. 02/02/04; Quintana Roo; 154,052 ha; 21°28'N 87°19'W. Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal lagoon and a mosaic of low and medium forests on the northern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, home to a rich fauna, including the jaguar, Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, Crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus* and *C. moreletii*), sea turtles, American Manatees *Trichechus manatus*, Spiny Lobsters *Panulirus argus*, and the near-threatened Ocellated Turkey *Agriocharis ocellata*. Besides the well preserved forests, noteworthy vegetation communities are those of Everglades palms (*Acroelorrhaphe wrightii*), mangroves and petenes. Fishing is the main income source for locals yet the main problem for the area as well, as fishing intensity has increased and stocks diminished. Tourism, forestry, cattle ranching and agriculture are of low intensity today, yet their impact could grow in the next years. Ramsar site no. 1360. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Área Natural Protegida Estatal Presa de Silva y Zonas Aledañas

Site number: 2 024 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Guanajuato  
Area: 3 934 ha | Coordinates: 20°56'N 101°51'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Área Natural Protegida Estatal Presa de Silva y Zonas Aledañas. 02/02/11; Guanajuato; 3,934 ha; 20°55'37"N 101°50'48"W. State Natural Protected Area. A number of dams with shallow waters presenting different habitats, including emerged vegetation and flooded vegetation areas whose climatic, trophic, structural and functional characteristics make them important sites for aquatic birds, both resident and migratory. The migratory birds share distribution of habitat with the USA and Canada within the Central Americas Flyway. There are records of 79 species of birds in the site such as *Anas platyrhynchos diazi*, *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*, *Fulica americana*, *Recurvirostra americana*, *Ardea alba*, *Egretta thula*, and *Charadrius vociferus*, among others. The site plays an important role in sustaining terrestrial wildlife under adequate water quality conditions in the region. The Ramsar Site is located within the Natural Protected Area Presa de Silva y Zonas Aledañas declared in 1997 and contains a portion outside the protected area, including important groundwater recharge areas and other streams that have to be protected as well. Ramsar Site no. 2024. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Area Natural Protegida Laguna del Jocotal

Site number: 970 | Country: El Salvador | Administrative region: San Miguel  
Area: 4 479 ha | Coordinates: 13°20'N 88°15'W | Designation dates: 22-01-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Área Natural Protegida Laguna del Jocotal. 22/01/99; San Miguel; 4,479 ha; 13°19'50"N 88°14'54"W. The site is formed by two permanent freshwater lagoons, Laguna del Jocotal and Laguna San Juan. It is one of the best examples of freshwater flooded wetlands in the Central America Pacific that in addition to its huge biodiversity, plays an important role in flooding control and climate regulation. It stands out by its richness and diversity of migratory and resident waterbirds. It is characterized by the presence of patches of *Bravaisia integerrima*, commonly known as "freshwater mangrove". The system supports several threatened species, like *Plectrohyla guatemalensis* (Critically Endangered, IUCN Red List) and *Puma yagouaroundi* (CITES, appendix 1), among other species locally endangered. It is partially a National Protected Area. The area of the site has been extended in 2012 from 1,571 to 4,479 hectares. Ramsar site no. 970. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Áreas de Protección de Flora y Fauna de Nahá y Metzabok

Site number: 1 331 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 7 216 ha | Coordinates: 17°03'N 91°36'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Áreas de Protección de Flora y Fauna de Nahá y Metzabok. 02/02/04; Chiapas; 7,216 ha; 17°03'N 091°36'W. Natural Protected Area. Part of the Selva Lacandona region, considered the most important for biodiversity in North America, as the physiographic conditions and humidity enhance the development of ecosystems ranging from pine tree forests and marshes to tall everlasting forests and produce a high number of animal and vegetal species per surface unit. Some 40,000 species of fauna and flora live in these habitats - in other words, an area of only 0.4% of the country's surface contains 48% of the birds species, 33% of bats, 11% of the reptiles and 25% of the mammals of Mexico. The importance of the Selva Lacandona region for biodiversity is highlighted by the presence of 5 other protected areas in the surroundings, though the main threats (water pollution from pesticides, habitat fragmentation, fire risk, and land invasion due to a poor productivity of the surrounding cultivated lands) are still threatening this area. Ramsar site no. 1331. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Arroyos y manantiales de Tanchachín

Site number: 1 766 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: San Luis Potosí  
Area: 1 174 ha | Coordinates: 21°50'N 99°08'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Arroyos y manantiales de Tanchachín. 02/02/08; San Luis Potosí; 21°50'N 099°08'W. Located in the Huasteca region, southeast of the Sierra Madre Oriental, the system is a source of water and has a great number of streams and springs. It supports a number of fauna species found under national special protection such as the Lithobates berlandieri, Crocodylus moreletii, Buteogallus anthracinus, Myotis nigricans, and Panthera onca which is endangered. The site also supports endemic species at a national level, which are also threatened, such as Ctenosaura pectinata, Pituophis deppei and Vireo griseus. Many flora species found in the site are of great importance for the surrounding human communities, such as Cedrela mexicana (artisanal use and precious woods), Sabal mexicana (domestic use for the construction of roofs), Acacia farnesiana (construction of fences), Quercus oleoides (domestic use as a combustible), Persea americana, Manilkara zapota y Diospyros digna (as a source of food). The present uses of land are agriculture (mainly sugar cane) and livestock, which are also considered the main threats to this site. Ramsar site no. 1766. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Artificial Lake Kerkini

Site number: 58 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Kentriki Makedonia  
Area: 10 996 ha | Coordinates: 41°13'N 23°08'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Artificial lake Kerkini. 21/08/75; Serres; 10,996 ha; 41°13'N 023°08'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 18 May 1999. Special Protection Area EC Directive; No Hunting Zone. Near the border between Greece, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslavia, an nutrient-rich, freshwater reservoir in an alluvial plain between mountain massifs, supporting extensive beds of floating vegetation and subject to wide variations in water level. The site includes mudflats, seasonally flooded forest, and sand banks, and supports the largest mixed nesting colony of waterbirds in Greece. Numerous species of waterbirds occur in winter and during spring and autumn migration periods, including several globally threatened or endangered species. Human activities include silviculture, fishing, intensive livestock grazing, irrigated agriculture, and illegal hunting and tree felling. The site has suffered changes in ecological character due to water management projects and increasing nutrient-enrichment. For these reasons it was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 58. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Arun Valley

Site number: 1 011 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 529 ha | Coordinates: 50°56'N 00°31'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Arun Valley. 16/12/99; England; 529 ha; 50°55'N 000°31'W. SSSI. Consists of three SSSIs in an area of wet meadows on the floodplain of the River Arun between Pulborough and Amberley, subject to occasional flooding, dissected by a network of ditches, several of which support rich aquatic flora and invertebrate fauna. The site is of outstanding ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl and breeding waders. It supports seven wetland invertebrate species that are listed as threatened in Britain, one of which is endangered, and there are four nationally rare and four nationally scarce plant species. Much of the site is currently under appropriate management through organizations such as the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB, but influencing private landowners on management issues will continue to be important. Recreational activities include birdwatching and walking, and a visitor's center, bird hides, and a tea shop are present. Ramsar site no. 1011. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 347 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Nevada  
Area: 9 509 ha | Coordinates: 36°25'N 116°20'W | Designation dates: 18-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. 18/12/86; Nevada; 9,509 ha; 36°25'N 116°20'W. National Wildlife Refuge. A unique oasis ecosystem of streams, pools, and wet meadows, formed around springs supplying a tributary of the Amargosa River. The site lies within an area exhibiting the greatest biological endemism in the USA. Four species of endangered endemic fish and an endemic aquatic insect are present, and several of the region's plants are listed as threatened or endangered endemic species. Other endemics include several molluscs and one mammal. The water table is close to the surface and soils are mostly saline, often with a well-developed salt crust. Human activities have consisted of agriculture, irrigation, peat and clay mining, and off-road vehicle use. Ramsar site no. 347. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Site number: 1 220 | Country: Australia  
| Administrative region: External Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands  
Area: 58 300 ha | Coordinates: 12°14'S 123°07'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve; 21/10/2002; Australian Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands; 58,300ha; 12°14'00"S 123°07'00" E; Nature Reserve. The reef itself is one of only three emergent oceanic reefs in the northeastern Indian Ocean and the only one in the region with vegetated islands. The site comprises numerous marine habitats, including seagrass meadows, intertidal sand flats, coral reef flats, and lagoons, and it supports a diverse range of species, including a significant sea snake community, a possibly genetically distinct population of Dugong, highly diverse marine invertebrate fauna, and numerous endemic species, particularly of sea snakes and molluscs. It is also a nesting and feeding site of Hawksbill, Loggerhead, and especially Green Turtles, as well as an estimated 50,000 breeding pairs of various species of seabirds. A high abundance and diversity of sea cucumbers, over-exploited near other reefs in the region, can be found, with some 45 species recorded. The site is located some 500 nautical miles west of Darwin. Traditional fishers from Indonesia are permitted partial access for shelter and fresh water, but there are otherwise few visitors because of the site's isolation. Feral introductions pose a threat, though the alien rat population is now thought to have been eradicated; poachers constitute another possible concern. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1220. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Ashtamudi Wetland

Site number: 1 204 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kerala State  
Area: 61 400 ha | Coordinates: 08°57'N 76°35'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ashtamudi Wetland. 19/08/02. Kerala. 61,400 ha. 08°57'N 076°35'E. An extensive estuarine system, the second largest in Kerala State, which is of extraordinary importance for its hydrological functions, its biodiversity, and its support for fish. The site supports a number of mangrove species as well as over 40 associated plant species, and 57 species of birds have been observed, including six that are migratory. Nearly 100 species of fish sustain a lively fishing industry, with thousands of fishermen depending directly upon the estuary for their livelihood. Population density and urban pressures pose threats to the site, including pollution from oil spills from thousands of fishing boats and from industries in the surrounding area and conversion of natural habitat for development purposes. Ramsar site no. 1204. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Asköviken-Sörfjärden

Site number: 1 114 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västmanland and Södermanland Counties  
Area: 12 251 ha | Coordinates: 59°28'N 16°40'E | Designation dates: 19-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Asköviken-Sörfjärden consists of two sizable bays of Lake Mälaren and an archipelago of some 160 islands and isles between them, which together are representative of a near-natural wetland type (freshwater lake and permanent marshes) in the EU Boreal region. The site supports more than 20,000 waterbirds and more than 1% the biogeographic population of the bean goose *Anser fabalis*. The shallow bays are important spawning and nursery grounds for a number of fish species and are also important for foraging birds. The Site supports several rare or commercially important fish species including the eel *Anguilla Anguilla* and the European pike-perch or zander *Sander lucioperca*. Mälaren is one of the few lakes in Sweden that harbours *Vimba vimba*. More than 75 globally and nationally red-listed species are present, including birds, fish and molluscs, fungi, moss and lichen, and insects. The Site has hosted human settlements from the 11th century, and a 17th century royal shipyard in the archipelago encouraged the cultivation of oak trees. The Site has high ornithological, recreational, touristic, historical, and educational values. Lake Mälaren is used as a drinking-water reservoir, for fishing, and for the transport of goods.

## Åsnen

Site number: 429 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Kronoberg  
Area: 17 866 ha | Coordinates: 56°38'N 14°43'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Åsnen is a large, shallow nutrient-poor freshwater lake with bays and islands. On the north side are meadows and marshland which flood regularly. Vegetation includes coniferous and deciduous forest, scattered scots pine, and several bogs. The interaction between the freshwater and terrestrial habitats enables the extraordinarily rich biodiversity within the Site and its surroundings. The lake supports a rich variety of fish, including rare species such as the critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla*, which encourage a vast community of breeding birds including the nationally threatened black tern *Chlidonias niger*. It is also an internationally important staging area for migratory Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans), including large numbers of bean goose *Anser fabalis*, greylag goose *Anser anser*, and common merganser *Mergus merganser*; in total 35,000 waterbirds are regularly supported by the Site. Management plans for the overlapping Natura 2000 sites and the Nature Reserves are being implemented.

## Aspskär Islands

Site number: 2 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 728 ha | Coordinates: 60°15'N 26°24'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aspskär Islands. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 728 ha; 60°16'N 026°25'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Nature Reserve, Baltic Sea Protected Area. Characterized by six mostly treeless islands with occasional stands of Black Alders (*Alnus glutinosa*), the small archipelago is a representative example of a near-natural wetland type in the European Boreal region, dominated by shallow marine waters and rocky offshore islands. The site forms an important breeding area for archipelago birds, including the most important islet for Alcids in Finland, including the largest Finnish colony of Razorbills with 650 pairs and 150 pairs of Black Guillemot. The main threat is caused by oil pollution, but the American Mink may cause notable damage, especially in the colony of Alcids, and trapping occurs as well. The area is guarded and landing is prohibited during the breeding season of birds, where the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute monitors annually the development of archipelago bird populations. Ramsar site no. 2. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Astola Island

Site number: 1 063 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Balochistan Province  
Area: 5 000 ha | Coordinates: 25°07'N 63°52'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Astola (Haft Talar) Island. 10/05/01. Balochistan. 5,000 ha. 25°07'N 63°52'E. An uninhabited island about six km in length, some 25 km south of the desert coast of Balochistan. It is the only significant offshore island along the north coast of the Arabian Sea, and as such maintains the genetic and ecological diversity of the area. The endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and possibly the Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nest on the beach at the foot of cliffs, and it is a very important area for endemic reptiles such as the viper *Echis carinatus astoli*. The island is said to have an aura of mystery and is venerated by Hindus; there are architectural remains of an ancient temple to the Hindu goddess Kali Devi, as well as a prayer yard constructed for a Muslim saint associated with oceans. It serves as a base for fishermen between September and May, but is unfrequented during the period of rough seas and high tides. Feral cats originally introduced by fishermen to control the endemic rodent population pose an increasing threat to birds' nesting and breeding sites. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1063. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Atanasovo Lake

Site number: 292 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Burgas  
Area: 1 404 ha | Coordinates: 42°34'N 27°28'E | Designation dates: 28-11-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Atanasovsko Lake. 28/11/84; Burgas; 1,404 ha; 42°34'N 27°28'E. Partially Maintained Reserve. The site has been extended from 1,050 ha to 1,404 ha in 2002. Situated on the southern Bulgarian coast, Atanasovsko is one of the four lakes of the Burgas wetland complex surrounding the city. The wetland has a highly recognized significance for biodiversity and as a resource pool for various products utilized by people. It is a shallow hyper-saline lagoon associated with salt marshes, reedbeds, a complex of salt pans (outside the Ramsar sites) and settling pools surrounded by a dike and a freshwater canal. This is one of the two salinas in the Black Sea region and demonstrates rare and representative examples of wetland habitats. A hot spot for biodiversity with many red-listed species of plants and animals, it is a well-known bottleneck site for migratory birds with around 60,000 raptors and 240,000 storks, pelicans and cranes passing over the site and often landing in large numbers for staging - the highest numbers in Europe of migrating White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Dalmatian Pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*, Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, and Red-footed Falcons *Falco vespertinus* have been recorded here, and the site is a very popular destination for birdwatchers, photographers, scientists and bird ringers from nearby and abroad. The main human uses are salt production and extraction of curative mud. A management plan will soon be approved. Active organizations include the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife Bulgaria, and the Bulgarian Ornithological Centre. Ramsar site no. 292. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Atnsjømyrene

Site number: 1 955 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark County and Oppland County  
Area: 533 ha | Coordinates: 61°55'N 10°04'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Atnsjømyrene is a large mire complex dominated by flat fens, which also includes pools, ponds and parts of the Atnsjøen lake. A characteristic of the Site is its nutrient-poor vegetation, though willow and birch forests are common along the watercourses and mire edges. The mixture of different wetland types makes the Site a valuable breeding area for waterbirds, and especially ducks and waders. The mires are important water reservoirs and offer flood protection during periods of snow melt and heavy precipitation. The Site is used for hunting, sports fishing, berry picking and sheep grazing. It is an important monitoring Site, chosen in 1986 as a reference inland watercourse, where scientists can monitor long-term variations in natural processes and ecosystems that are almost untouched by technical alterations. The restoration of the Site is planned – trenches dug for agricultural reasons such as peat harvesting will be filled, and dams will be built to increase water retention.

## Atol das Rocas Biological Reserve

Site number: 2 259 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Rio Grande do Norte  
Area: 35 186,4 ha | Coordinates: 03°51'S 33°47'W | Designation dates: 11-12-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Atol das Rocas Biological Reserve is an oceanic island ecosystem which includes the only atoll in the South Atlantic, formed predominantly by coralline algae rather than corals. Located 267 km north-east of the coastal city of Natal, it is also part of the "Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves" World Heritage site. Atol das Rocas hosts a great variety of endemic and migratory species, of which some are endangered and many of economic interest. It is an important reproductive site for green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and also hosts Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), all categorized as endangered or critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. It also maintains at least 14 endemic mollusc species, including six which are endemic to the Site; five species of sponges not recorded in neighbouring areas and probably new to science, therefore provisionally considered endemic to Atol das Rocas; and 15 species of corals endemic to Brazil. It accommodates the largest concentration of tropical seabirds in the western Atlantic, with an estimate of at least 150,000 birds of 29 species. It is also an important breeding, feeding, and nursing site for lemon shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*) and hosts five endemic species of fish. Recreation and tourism are not permitted, and only research and monitoring are conducted. The main threats to the Site's ecological character include illegal fishing, introduction of invasive species, disturbances caused by visitors, and commercial and military overflights.

## Aulnaie de Aïn Khiar

Site number: 1 293 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'El Tarf  
Area: 180 ha | Coordinates: 36°40'N 08°20'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aulnaie de Aïn Khiar. 04/06/03; El Tarf; 180 hectares; 36°40'N 08°20'E. National Park. A wetland type characteristic of the El Kala National park but extremely rare elsewhere in Algeria. L'Aulnaie (alder grove) de Aïn Khiar shelters several species, represented by ash *Fraxinus* sp., alder *Alnus glutinosa*, and poplar *Populus* sp., whose principal characteristic is high water demand. Located between the littoral sand bar and the agricultural plain of El Tarf, the site receives water during winter from the floodplains of the Oued El Kebir which flows through the region and transforms it into marshy zone. This forest environment includes the country's largest number of raptors and large avifaunistic species as well as Ardeidae (herons, bitterns). Loss of trees and shrubs to illegal cutting and natural causes, as well as pressures from agricultural expansion, are seen as the chief potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1293. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Autertal - St. Lorenzener Hochmoor

Site number: 1 979 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Carinthia, Feldkirchen  
Area: 48 ha | Coordinates: 46°52'N 13°55'E | Designation dates: 02-08-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Autertal/St. Lorenzener Hochmoor.12/09/11; Carinthia; 48 ha; 13°55'11'E 046°51'54"N. Natura 2000 site. The Autertal is a valley situated in the Gurktaler Alps, north of the small village of St. Lorenzen. The site consists of various representative, rare, natural and near-natural wetland types listed under the EU Habitats Directive, but is predominantly a raised bog with mountain pine surrounded by various types of sedge land and wet grassland. The site also supports numerous internationally, nationally and regionally rare species of plants and animals, including different bat species such as *Myotis myotis*, dragonfly species like *Leucorrhinia pectoralis*, moss species such as *Drepanocladus vernicosus* and mammals like lynx (*Lynx lynx*). The site is used for extensive hunting and fishing, extensive farming (hay meadow, summer pasture for cattle, alpine pasture), forestry, and recreation (especially hiking, snowshoe-hiking, mountain biking and skiing). Forest succession presents a threat. The hydrology of the raised-bog is disturbed, but several wooden dams have been built into the drainage ditch in order to raise the water table and rebuild the requirements for active bog-growing. The surrounding nutrient-poor meadows and coniferous forest are sustainably managed. A management plan and nomination as a biosphere reserve "Biosphärenpark Nockberge" are in preparation. Ramsar Site number: 1979. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Avon Valley

Site number: 926 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 385 ha | Coordinates: 50°49'N 01°48'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Avon Valley. 02/02/98; England; 1,385 ha; 50°47'N 001°48'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland, and small areas of woodland. The area classified as inland and human-made wetland. It supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally rare species. Over the winter it supports *Anas strepera* (667 individuals, representing 2.2% of the population). Human activities include recreation, fishing, permanent pastoral agriculture, and grazing. Ramsar site no. 926. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Awarua Wetland

Site number: 102 | Country: New Zealand | Administrative region: South Island  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°34'S 168°31'E | Designation dates: 13-08-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

13/08/76; South Island; ~20,000 ha; 46°34'S 168°31'E. Scientific Reserve. The site consists of a coastal lagoon, peatlands, saltmarsh, gravel beach, ponds, and lakes. These habitats provide important staging areas for waders, as well as breeding, feeding, and molting areas for various other waterbirds. Endemic butterfly species occur, as do two species of endangered fish. The site supports numerous native plant species, some typical of alpine regions. Human activities include sport fishing, bird hunting, and general recreation. Formerly called Waituna Lagoon Ramsar site, boundaries extended in 2008. Ramsar site no. 102. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Axios, Loudias, Aliakmon Delta

Site number: 59 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Kentriki Makedonia  
Area: 11 808 ha | Coordinates: 40°30'N 22°43'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Axios, Loudias, Aliakmon delta. 21/08/75; Thessaloniki, Imanthia, Piera; 11,808 ha; 40°30'N 022°43'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive; No Hunting Zone. An extensive river delta including brackish lagoons, saltmarshes, and large areas of mudflats. Vegetation consists of scrub, riparian forest, wet meadows, reedbeds, and halophytic communities. 30 freshwater fish species occur in the river. An extremely important area for nesting and migrating waterbirds. Various species of wild birds and Scolopacidae worthy of conservation or globally threatened occur at the site. Human activities include fishing, shellfish aquaculture, agriculture, livestock grazing, and sand extraction. Because dam and irrigation networks considerably altered river hydraulics and urban wastes and agricultural inputs end up in the delta, the site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 59. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Aydar-Arnasay Lakes system

Site number: 1 841 | Country: Uzbekistan | Administrative region: Dzhezak and Navoi Territory  
Area: 527 100 ha | Coordinates: 40°47'N 67°46'E | Designation dates: 20-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aydar Arnasay Lakes System. 20/10/08; Dzhezak, Navoi; 527,100 ha; 40°47'N 067°46'E. Ornithological zakaznik (protected area). The largest reservoir of Uzbekistan, consisting of freshwater lakes situated in the middle stream of the Syrdarya river and on the irrigated massif of Golodnaya steppe and Kyzylum desert. The site is located at the crossroads of the Afro-Eurasian and Central Asian flyways and a centre for migrating and wintering waterbirds, with more than 100 species noted. It provides habitat to threatened species like White-headed Duck *Savka* (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Sociable Lapwing (*Chettusia gregaria*), Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Red-breasted Goose (*Rufibrenta ruficollis*), Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), and Pallas Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*) and provides an important source of food and a spawning ground for various species of fish. The main vegetations are reed communities used by local people, saltwort and tamarisk. An action plan for maintaining the stability of ecological conditions, 2008-2015, is in place. Ramsar site no. 1841. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Ayrag Nuur

Site number: 977 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Uvs Province  
Area: 45 000 ha | Coordinates: 48°53'N 93°25'E | Designation dates: 13-04-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ayrag Nuur. 13/04/99; Hovd Province; 45,000 ha; 48°53'N 093°25'E. Proposed National Park. A shallow, freshwater lake in the Mongolian Great Lakes Basin. An exceptionally important breeding and resting site for a variety of waterbirds and the only remaining place in Mongolia where the Dalmatian Pelican regularly comes to breed. The lake is of fundamental importance for the groundwater recharge of the area. Other noteworthy waterbird species include the globally threatened Swan Goose and Relict Gull. Land use around the wetland is limited to semi-nomadic animal husbandry. Ramsar site no. 977. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Azraq Oasis

Site number: 135 | Country: Jordan | Administrative region: Zarqa Governate  
Area: 7 372 ha | Coordinates: 31°49'N 36°48'E | Designation dates: 10-01-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Azraq Oasis. 10/01/77; 7,372 ha; 31°49'N 036°48'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Waterbird Reserve. A formerly permanent, spring-fed wetland and extensive (6,127ha) seasonally-flooded mudflat of a large drainage basin. Under natural conditions, the lush oasis supported reed and sedge communities restricted to Jordan and Azraq. It is a valuable staging area for migrating birds and serves as an important water supply for local communities, as well as the main water source for the capital city, Amman. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because unsustainable groundwater extraction led to the almost complete desiccation of the site. In February 1998 it was reported that phase one of the physical rehabilitation was almost complete, and the next phase involving addressing the social and economic concerns of the people living in the site vicinity would begin. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1990. Ramsar site no. 135. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Ba Be National Park

Site number: 1 938 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Bac Kan Province  
Area: 10 048 ha | Coordinates: 22°24'N 105°36'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ba Be; 02/02/2011; Bac Kan Province; 10,048 ha; 22°24'N 105°36'E. Ba Be is a National Park and an ASEAN Heritage Park. The Man and Biosphere Committee of Vietnam is currently supporting the designation of Ba Be as a Biosphere Reserve.

Ba Be National Park supports the only significant natural mountain lake in Vietnam and is the most important wetland in the country's protected area system because it is the only site that has a natural lake surrounded by a mountainous karst ecosystem. It supports a number of globally threatened species such as the endangered Francois' Langur (*Trachypitecus francoisi*), the endangered Big-headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*), and is home to endemic species such as the Vietnamese Salamander (*Paramesotriton deloustali*).

The site is recognised as an Important Bird Area, supporting more than 1% threshold population of the endangered White-eared Night Heron (*Gorsachius magnificus*), a species which also has a very restricted habitat range.

Ba Be Lake is important for regulating water supply, it provides water for irrigation in the dry season and helps to mitigate floods from four rivers during the wet season.

Archaeological evidence from mountain caves indicates that Ba Be was inhabited from the late Pleistocene some 20,000 years ago, up to the Le-Mac dynasties in the 16th century.

Threats to the site include infrastructure development, hunting of birds, fuel and solid waste pollution, and clearance of forest for agriculture.

The Provincial People's Committee of Bac Kan Province is responsible for the management of this site. BirdLife International Vietnam Programme provided valuable assistance in the listing of this site.  
Ramsar site: 1938 Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Bacino dell'Angitola

Site number: 426 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Calabria  
Area: 875 ha | Coordinates: 38°44'N 16°14'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bacino dell'Angitola. 11/04/89; Calabria; 875 ha; 38°44'N 016°14'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. An artificial irrigation reservoir and the only freshwater wetland along a substantial stretch of the Tyrrhenian Sea coast. Vegetation is characterized by emergent species with the banks supporting typical riparian vegetation giving way to Mediterranean scrub. Up to 6,000 waterbirds of numerous species occur in winter and during migration periods. The area has an important conservation education function. Ramsar site no. 426. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Bafing-Falémé

Site number: 1 719 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: 9  
Area: 517 300 ha | Coordinates: 12°00'N 11°30'W | Designation dates: 16-10-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bafing-Falémé. 16/10/07; Labé; 517,300 ha; 12°00'N 011°30'W. Includes managed resource protected areas (IUCN cat. VI). An extensive area of rolling terrain, 800m-1000m altitude, including gallery forest, shrub and wooded savannah, and floodplains, near where the Bafing River descends from the Fouta Djallon massif northward to become the Senegal River in northwestern Mali. The area has an important influence on the hydrology of the Senegal River basin and it also supports an array of threatened species such as chimpanzees, lions, and vultures. Human uses include agriculture and pastoral pursuits in the floodplain areas. There is presently no management plan for the whole site, but steps are being taken to alleviate threats from unmanaged forestry, brush fires, poaching of protected species and out of season hunting. Ramsar site no. 1719. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Bafing-Source

Site number: 1 720 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: 9  
Area: 317 200 ha | Coordinates: 10°28'N 11°56'W | Designation dates: 16-10-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bafing-Source. 16/10/07; Mamou; 317,200 ha; 10°36'N 11°50'W. Includes classified forests (IUCN cat. VI). An extended highland area, 800m-1500m altitude, of varied hilly terrain with shrub and wooded savannah, gallery forest, and wet meadow. The site supports a number of threatened species, including the Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and the West African Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*). The region is semi-arid, especially during the dry season November to May, and several large and small ponds provide refuge that is vital as the fragmentation of habitats due to demographic pressures has made free movement difficult for many species. Small-scale agriculture and pasturage, as well as fishing and working with wood products, are the chief uses of the site's resources, but unplanned land uses such as deforestation of steep slopes and river banks have had damaging effects, including increased flooding. Increasingly weak and irregular precipitation is seen as one of the principal threats to the character of the site, as well as growing population pressure. Ramsar site no. 1720. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Bahía de Cádiz

Site number: 1 265 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 36°30'N 06°11'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahía de Cádiz. 24/10/02; Andalucía; 10,000 ha; 36° 30'N 06° 11'W. Natural Park (Parque Natural, 2 Parajes Naturales), Special Protection Area and proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directives. An outstanding example of Atlantic tidal marshes on the Iberian Peninsula. Much of the saltmarshes have been transformed into salt pans. Nowadays, most of them are no longer in use and have reverted to more natural habitats or been transformed into pans for aquaculture. Natural habitats also include sandy beaches and rocky islets. The Bay of Cadiz is a crucial refueling site for migrating and wintering waterbirds, hosting more than 1% (Ramsar Criterion 5) of 14 different East Atlantic populations. It also harbours more than 1% of the breeding populations of 5 different shorebirds. The Bay is crucial for spawning, nursery and foraging of 9 commercially important fish species and harbours up to 60 different fish. The Bay was settled in ancient times, as revealed by archeological remains - it is now surrounded by urban centres (400,000 inhabitants) and the Cadiz port facilities. This creates urban, tourism and leisure pressures on the protected area. Ramsar site no. 1265. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Bahía de Panamá

Site number: 1 319 | Country: Panama | Administrative region: Panamá  
Area: 48 919 ha | Coordinates: 08°57'N 79°01'W | Designation dates: 20-10-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahía de Panamá. 20/10/03. Panamá. 48,919 ha. 08°57'N 079°01'W. Located to the east of Panama City on the the Pacific coast, the site features broad intertidal mudflats divided by several estuaries, mangrove forests, swamp forests, and freshwater pools. It is renowned as an important stopover for migrating shorebirds: up to 360,000 individuals have been counted in one season and it is estimated that 1-2 million birds stop there during migration. The site harbours over 8% of the world population of Western Sandpipers *Calidris mauri* with records of over 280,000 birds, 20% of Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, and over 1% of the biogeographical populations of Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* and Grey or Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. Endangered species in the area include the Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*, Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*, Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta* and the endemic tree species *Annona spreguei*. Fishing and agriculture are the main human activities in the area, but due to its proximity to Panama City, pressures from urban development are increasing, as well as pollution from sewage waters discharged into the sea. Several research activities with shorebirds have taken place, and the site was recently declared an Important Bird Area. Ramsar site no. 1319. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Bahía de Samborombón

Site number: 885 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Buenos Aires  
Area: 243 965 ha | Coordinates: 36°15'S 57°15'W | Designation dates: 24-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahía de Samborombón. 24/01/97; Buenos Aires; 243,965 ha; 36°15'S 57°15'W. An extensive, intertidal zone which includes marshes, tidal channels, brackish swamps, and crab and mud flats. Vegetation is predominantly herbaceous, forming a mosaic of communities crisscrossed by meandering freshwater streams, creating a complex hydrological system with a diversity of wetland types. Human activities include cattle ranching, fishing, hunting, firewood cutting and nutria trapping (*Myocastor coypus*). The site is a source for domestic water. There are a conservation education centre and biology station at the site. Ramsar site no. 885. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Bahía de San Quintín

Site number: 1 775 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California  
Area: 5 438 ha | Coordinates: 30°26'N 115°58'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahía de San Quintín. 02/02/08 ; Baja California ; 5,438 ha; 30°26'N 115°58'W. Located in a Mediterranean transitional biogeographic region between temperate and subtropical zones, the site is home to a number of threatened or endangered bird species such as *Rallus longirostris levipes*, *Laterallus jamaicensis*, *Sterna antillarum browni*, *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*, *Polioptila californica atwoodi* and *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*, and holds the densest population of *Polioptila californica atwoodi* couples. It is the only area in the Pacific coast of Baja California where *Laterallus jamaicensis* have been sighted. More than 25,000 migratory waterbirds hibernate in the wetland, which supports 30-50% of the total *Branta bernicla nigricans* population during that period. *Astragalus harrisonii*, *Chorizanthe chaetophora*, *Chorizanthe interposita*, *Chorizanthe jonesiana* are endemic flora species of the Mediterranean area found here. The collection of bivalve mollusks, mining, salt mines, hunting, livestock and sand and gravel extraction are among the most important economic activities carried out in the site. The extensive use of agrochemicals, as well as disorganized urban growth, are the main factors that negatively affect the bay. Ramsar site no. 1775. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Bahía Lomas

Site number: 1 430 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Región de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena  
Area: 58 946 ha | Coordinates: 52°38'S 69°10'W | Designation dates: 06-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahía Lomas. 06/12/04; Región de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena, 58,946 ha; 52°38'S 069°10'W. Located in northern Tierra del Fuego Island, Ramsar's second southernmost site lies on the border with Argentina and faces the Magellan Strait. It features the largest intertidal flats in Chile, fronting a 69 km long beach and several salt marshes. The bay is renowned for its high concentrations of migratory shorebirds from October to March, with records of more than 41,000 Red Knots *Calidris canutus*, over 88% of the population in the Americas; 4,500 Hudsonian Godwits *Limosa haemastica*, 23% of the global population; 12,000 White-rumped Sandpipers *Calidris fuscicollis*, 3% of global population, as well as near threatened species such as the Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis* and the Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*. Precipitation is scarce and vegetation is typical of the Patagonian steppe, dominated by the grasses *Festuca pallescens* and *F. gracillima*. Large cetaceans have frequently stranded in the flats, with 21 species recorded. Human population is very scarce and sheep grazing is the main activity, as well as oil extraction from two platforms within the flats. The impact of pollution from oil spills from large vessels as well as from the platforms is a concern, but fortunately there is large recirculation of water thanks to the prevailing currents. Ramsar site no. 1430. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Bahiret el Bibane

Site number: 1 697 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Médenine Governorat  
Area: 39 266 ha | Coordinates: 33°15'N 11°13'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahiret el Bibane is a large lagoon of around 33 km by 10 km near the Libyan border, which is separated from the sea by two peninsulas (Solb el-Gharbi and Solb ech-Charki) which almost meet. The Site also covers the coastal waters outside the lagoon, the smaller Bahar Alouane lagoon, and two "sebkhet" or salt flats. The lagoon is an important nursery for fish which grow in the rich waters of the lagoon and then go out to sea; it is famous throughout Tunisia for its fish production. A large traditional fish barrier with traps allows the fish to enter the lagoon to grow and later to leave. At 3.5 km long this is the longest such barrier in the Mediterranean. Bahiret El Bibane is also an important breeding and wintering site for water birds. It hosts wigeon (*Anas penelope*), northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), common crane (*Grus grus*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), several species of gull such as the Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyetus melanocephalus*), little gull (*Larus minutus*) and black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), as well as the Caspian tern (*Sterna caspia*).

## Baie d'Ad-Dakhla

Site number: 1 470 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Ad-Dakhla  
Area: 40 000 ha | Coordinates: 23°45'N 15°50'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baie d'Ad-Dakhla; 15/01/05; Ad-Dakhla; 40,000 ha; 23°45'N 015°50'W. A 37km-long bay separated from the ocean by a system of dunes, with a mosaic of habitat types including intertidal seagrass beds, algal plains and salt/sand pans. The site has high botanical diversity, hosting several species which are rare, vulnerable or Macaronesian, Moroccan or Saharan endemics, including the vulnerable dwarf eelgrass *Zostera noltii*. These form the habitat for more than 120 mollusk species, among which are an endemic crustacean, *Cerapopsis takamado*, and 41 fish species. This is also the northernmost limit of the Atlantic humpbacked dolphins' distribution and the second most important migratory waterbird wintering site in Morocco, having hosted an average of close to 60,000 birds between 1995 and 2000; among the best-represented species are the Caspian tern, the Lesser Black-backed Gull, and the Great Ringed Plover. Fishing and tourism are important activities, which may pose threats in the future, especially in terms of pollution, if left to develop indiscriminately. A harbour which is being built at 12km from the site may also affect the hydrological and sedimentary balance of the area. No management plan exists as yet, but plans are envisaged to create different exploitation zones in the site, for both conservation and aquaculture purposes. Ramsar site no. 1470. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Baie de Khnifiss

Site number: 209 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Tan Tan  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°03'N 12°15'W | Designation dates: 20-06-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baie de Khnifiss. 20/06/80; Tan Tan; 20,000 ha; 28°03'N 012°15'W. Biological Reserve. Located on the East Atlantic Flyway, a shallow tidal lagoon of open water, mud, sandflats and saltmarsh giving way to sand inundated cliffs and rocky desert. Upwelled nutrient-rich cold water enters the lagoon and plays a major role in its ecology. Abundant invertebrate, fish fauna, and *Zostera* beds support internationally important numbers of staging, wintering and nesting birds. Human activities include livestock grazing by nomads and traditional fishing. Significantly expanded as of 15/01/05. Ramsar site no. 209. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Baie de l'Isle-Verte

Site number: 362 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Quebec  
Area: 2 215 ha | Coordinates: 48°01'N 69°20'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baie de l'Isle-Verte. 27/05/87; Québec; 2,215 ha; 48°01'N 069°20'W. National Wildlife Area. Some of the last-remaining, unreclaimed *Spartina* marsh along the St. Lawrence River. The site includes an intertidal zone, providing important breeding habitat for the duck *Anas rubripes* and serves as an important resting and feeding site for large numbers of migratory Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), particularly in spring. There is a seasonal visitors' center with trails and an interpretation programme. Ramsar site no. 362. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Baie de Somme

Site number: 925 | Country: France | Administrative region: Picardie  
Area: 19 043 ha | Coordinates: 50°13'N 01°36'E | Designation dates: 23-01-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site represents the largest natural estuary in northern France composed of vast sand, mudflats, and grassy areas. The exceptional character of the Site is reflected by its avifauna diversity with 365 bird species identified. Located at the confluence of migratory routes, the Site is one of the most important European resting and feeding areas for migrating waterbirds. It also provides a refuge during cold weather events, especially for waders and ducks. During the wintering period, the Site sustains over 1% of the individuals of the biogeographic population of the Northern pintail, Northern shoveller and common shelduck. The Site also supports 275 species of plants, including various rare species such as the fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*. Human activities include cattle grazing, hunting, commercial fishing, shellfish farming, and tourism. The "Maison Ramsar de la baie de Somme" is one of two study centres at the Site. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to drainage, hunting, invasive species, pollution, and recreational and tourism activities. Silting up of the estuary is accelerating and will alter the food web in the estuary which will in turn become less suitable for migrating and wintering waders. All protected areas on the Site have a management plan and a site-specific management plan covering the whole Ramsar Site is in place for the period of 2014-2022.

## Baie du Mont Saint-Michel

Site number: 709 | Country: France | Administrative region: Basse-Normandie-Bretagne  
Area: 62 000 ha | Coordinates: 48°40'N 01°37'W | Designation dates: 14-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baie du Mont Saint-Michel. 14/10/94; Basse-Normandie, Bretagne; 62,000 ha; 48°40'N 001°40'W. World Heritage site, Special Protection Area. The site represents large areas of saltmarshes with a very diverse morphology, and comprises sand/gravel beds of bivalves, reefs of *Sabellaria alveolata*, rocky islets, cliffs and dunes. It is ranked fifth in the world for its exceptional tidal range, and constitutes one of the best examples of Quaternary sedimentation in the world. The area features a great number of habitats with a high biological richness. It is the best French site for *Halimione pedunculata*, one of the most interesting and rare species of European saline grasslands. Up to 100,000 waders winter at the bay, including over 1% of the populations of *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Calidris canutus*, and *C. alpina*. Marine mammals such as dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* and seals *Phoca vitulina* also visit the site. Human activities include recreation, fishing, shellfish farming, waterfowl hunting, and sand extraction. In the terrestrial area there is intensive agriculture and semi-extensive herding of cattle. Ramsar site no. 709.

## Baixada Maranhense Environmental Protection Area

Site number: 1 020 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Maranhao  
Area: 1 775 036 ha | Coordinates: 03°00'S 44°57'W | Designation dates: 28-02-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baixada Maranhense Environmental Protection Area. 29/02/00; Maranhão; 1,775,036 ha; 03°00'S 044°57'W. Extensive low, seasonally flooded coastal lands characterized by fields, gallery forests, mangrove swamps, and lacustrine basins along the northeast coast of Brazil. The site qualifies under all of the representative/uniqueness criteria (new Criterion 1) and most of the biodiversity criteria, including those for waterfowl and fish. The Maranhense coast concentrates large fluvial and fluvial-marine plains and flat lowlands, crossed by canals of brackish water, relatively unaffected by human activity due to a population density of only 26 inhabitants per square km. At certain times, seawater is able to reach far up the rivers, and the area is different from other seasonally flooded parts of the Amazon or perennially flooded areas of the Pantanal because of this marine influence and saline intrusion. The four significant rivers rise annually and flood their banks to fill the many lakes with water for gradual release over time. In the estuaries, mangrove swamps occur by penetrating the narrow natural waterways among the fields up to the limit of tidal influence. During Dec.-June rainy seasons the fields are flooded, leaving small islands called "tesos". Human uses include subsistence agriculture (mainly rice, corn, cassava and beans), fisheries, mineral exploitation of clay and sand, exploitation of plants (especially nuts from the Babaçu), and limited ecotourism. Potential threats include mangrove deforestation and growing urban and industrial development. An "ecological economic zoning project" is under study for implementation in 2000. Ramsar site no. 1020. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Bakotska Bay

Site number: 1 396 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khmelnytska Oblast (Region)  
Area: 1 590 ha | Coordinates: 48°35'N 26°56'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bakotska Bay. 29/07/04; Khmelnytska Oblast; 1,590 ha; 48°35'N 026°56'E. National Park. The site was formed during the filling of a low-lying area of the Dniester River valley with waters of the newly-constructed Dniester Reservoir located downstream. It supports vulnerable bird and fish species such as Lesser Kestrel, Corncrake, and the fish Zingel and has a special importance for birds of prey. Various bird species like Mallard, Mute Swan, Great White Egret, and Little Egret use the wetland complex for a long period of time during their spring and autumn migrations. The site is also important as spawning grounds for common and rare fish species. Nature conservation activities and scientific research are carried out; leisure, fishing, hunting are regulated by the Podilski Tovtry National Park. Changes of the water level due to Dniester Reservoir drawdown adversely affect the site. State ownership. A monastery from the 9th century was built into the limestone rocks. Ramsar site no. 1396. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Bala'an K'aax

Site number: 1 332 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 131 610 ha | Coordinates: 19°19'N 89°03'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bala'an K'aax. 02/02/04; Quintana Roo; 131,610 ha; 19°19'N 089°03'W. Reserva Estatal. Flooded low everlasting forests, with an endemic vegetation type from the Yucatán peninsula. They are a shelter for the great majority of animal species in the region, enhanced by the site's inaccessibility. The importance of the area's vegetation lies in the great quantity of endemic species, but also because it supplies water for the region and other, more coastal wetlands. Because of the karstic nature of the ground, a complex subterranean system is present, including an associated unique and unknown biodiversity. The area contains around 601 vertebrate species, of which 27% are threatened, under special protection or endangered according to international or national lists. Changes in land property and planning are the main threat to this area. Ramsar site no. 1332. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Balandra

Site number: 1 767 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 448,7 ha | Coordinates: 24°18'N 110°19'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Balandra.02/02/08; Baja California Sur; 449 ha; 24°19'N 110°20'W. A coastal wetland in the Gulf of California that supports the largest mangrove community in La Paz Bay, including three of the four mangrove species found in Mexico: *Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicenia germinans* and *Laguncularia racemosa*. It belongs to the Nearctic biogeographic region, characteristic of North America, and is a breeding site for migratory and resident birds such as *Pelicanus occidentales*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Fregata magnificens* and *Egretta caerulea*. The dominant reptile species is the *Dipsosaurus dorsalis* and the most abundant the *Callisaurus draconoides*, which is also threatened. The richness in marine mammals is one of the highest in the world, including whales species such as *Balaenoptera physalus*, *Balaenoptera edén*, *Megaptera novaeangliae* and *Eschrichtius robustus*. There are records of seven among the eleven recognized species of baleen whales and 20 of the 68 of the toothed whales. Among the hydrological values provided are coast line stabilization, protection against storms, and retention of sediments and nutrients. Balandra is a recreational center for local visitors, who use the site mainly for artisanal fishing of bivalves and fish. Ramsar site no. 1767. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Baldoyle Bay

Site number: 413 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Dublin  
Area: 203 ha | Coordinates: 53°24'N 06°08'W | Designation dates: 25-10-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baldoyle Bay. 25/10/88; Dublin; 203 ha; 53°24'N 006°08'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A tidal embayment separated from the sea by a major sand dune system. Vast mudflats are exposed at low tide and there are extensive beds of *Spartina*. The site is internationally important for the wintering goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, and nationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds use the site. Human activities include bait digging, shooting, and low levels of recreational boating and fishing. Ramsar site no. 413.

## Ballaugh Curragh

Site number: 1 642 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Isle of Man  
Area: 193 ha | Coordinates: 54°19'N 04°31'W | Designation dates: 06-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ballaugh Curragh. 06/09/06; Isle of Man; 193 ha; 54°19'N 004°31'W. SSSI. A complex mosaic of interrelated peatland habitats dominated by grey willow and birch scrub locally known as 'curragh'. Of particular significance is the presence of wet bog woodland, natural dystrophic ponds, Molinia meadows on peaty soils, and especially the purple moor-grass-dominated fen pastures with good populations of marsh orchids. Amongst the high diversity of breeding birds the site also supports the threatened Corncrake *Crex crex*, which is ascribed to the continuing presence of traditionally managed farmland. The biodiversity of the site is known to have contributed to its cultural importance as an early settlement, and hence to its considerable value as an archaeological resource. Thus Ballaugh Curragh forms a culturally-defined area of the Isle of Man as well as a distinct wetland, and as such has provided valuable archaeological and palynological (spores and pollen) records. The presence of impressive numbers of winter hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* and traditionally-managed meadows with summer displays of thousands of orchids attracts visitors both for bird-watching and the popular 'orchid tours' run by the Manx Wildlife Trust. Ramsar site no. 1642.

## Ballyallia Lough

Site number: 845 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Clare  
Area: 308 ha | Coordinates: 52°53'N 08°55'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ballyallia Lough. 11/06/96; 308 ha; 52°53'N 008°55'W. Wildfowl Sanctuary. Two small lakes set amongst heavily farmed land, with a low-lying floodplain of wet grassland and rough grazing. Vegetation consists of emergent plants, rushes, reeds, a fen-like community and a well-established hazel woodland. The site supports internationally and nationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 845.

## Ballycotton Bay

Site number: 830 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Cork  
Area: 92 ha | Coordinates: 51°50'N 08°00'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ballycotton Bay. 11/06/96; Cork; 92 ha; 51°50'N 008°00'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildfowl Refuge. The site includes a mobile shingle beach and a series of three wetlands dominated by reed and marsh vegetation. It supports nationally, regionally or locally important numbers of numerous species of waterbirds. The site is also notable for its large numbers of rare migrant birds that breed in the phragmite beds. Human activities include livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 830.

## Ballymacoda

Site number: 831 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Cork  
Area: 375 ha | Coordinates: 51°52'N 07°55'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ballymacoda. 11/06/96; Cork; 375 ha; 51°52'N 007°55'W. An estuary of intertidal sand and mudflats flanked by reclaimed marshy fields and saltmarsh, sheltered by a stabilized shingle bar and extensive sandy beach. Internationally important numbers of waterbirds winter at the site and up to 106 wetland species use it. The marshy fields are important feeding areas for various species of waterbirds. Human activities include intensive agricultural use, cattle grazing, and silage. Ramsar site no. 831.

## Ballynahone Bog

Site number: 967 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 243 ha | Coordinates: 54°49'N 06°40'W | Designation dates: 31-12-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ballynahone Bog. 31/12/98; Northern Ireland; 243 ha; 54°49'N 006°40'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The site comprises peatlands including peat bogs, swamps, fens, and birch woodland. The bog vegetation is characterized by Sphagnum mosses and periodic dwarf-shrubs such as *Erica tetralix* and *Calluna vulgaris*. The peatland species occurring on the site include a number of scarce species typical of lowland raised bogs such as the bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and invertebrates such as the large heath butterfly (*Coenonympha tullia*). Human activities include nature conservation, rough and shifting grazing, and mineral exploitation. Ramsar site no. 967. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Balsfjord Wetland System

Site number: 1 186 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms county  
Area: 1 795 ha | Coordinates: 69°27'N 18°59'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises three large marine tidal areas located in the inner part of the Balsfjorden fjord, which at low tide reveal large areas of mud and sand flats. Wet coastal meadows are found between the tidal areas and cultivated land outside the Site boundaries, while gallery forests line the Site in some locations. Several rivers and streams discharge into the fjord through the tidal flats within Kobbvågen and Sørkjosleira. The third area, Grindøysundet, was added in 2017; it contains some small ponds important for birdlife. The fjord has high densities of intertidal invertebrates and fish populations which support large numbers of shorebirds and seabirds. Balsfjorden, and Sørkjosleira in particular, is important as one of only two resting sites in northern Norway for large numbers of spring migrant knots, which fly directly from early spring staging areas in the United Kingdom and the Wadden Sea. They stay in Balsfjorden for two or three weeks in May, and build up substantial fat reserves before apparently flying non-stop to their breeding grounds in Greenland and Arctic Canada. Some livestock grazing and gravel digging is practiced by local people, but the Site enjoys low traffic and little human impact.

## Bañados del Este y Franja Costera

Site number: 290 | Country: Uruguay | Administrative region: Rocha, Treinta y Tres, Cerro Largo  
Area: 407 408 ha | Coordinates: 33°48'S 53°50'W | Designation dates: 22-05-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bañados del Este y Franja Costera. 22/05/84; Rocha, Treinta y Tres; 407,408 ha; 33°48'S 053°50'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Biosphere Reserve. Sharing the border with Brazil, this vast complex of coastal wetlands includes lagoons and parts of several rivers. An important wetland for locally nesting shorebirds and migratory shorebirds (17 species) which breed in the Nearctic realm and winter in Uruguay; generally supporting at least 25 species of birds. The region supports an endemic palm, various mammals, endangered plants and animals, and an economically important fishery (80 species). Human activities include agriculture (especially rice), forestry, and livestock rearing. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988 and 1993. Ramsar site no. 290. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Bañados del Izozog y el río Parapetí

Site number: 1 087 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Santa Cruz  
Area: 615 882 ha | Coordinates: 18°27'S 61°49'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bañados del Izozog y el río Parapetí. 17/09/01; Santa Cruz; 615,882 ha; 18°27'S 061°49'W. Partially within National Park. The largest and most important wetlands in the Santa Cruz region of the multinational Chaco biogeographical region, the site supports a diverse community of flora and fauna characteristic of the rivers of the Chaco. The Bañados lie at the termination of the river's course in a tectonic depression and are of great seasonal importance as a source of water. As the only water source in a region of dry forest, during the dry season the site supplies vital support to at least four species of larger mammals (types of armadillo, panther, peccary, and tapir) which are listed by IUCN as vulnerable or endangered. Ecologically, because of its hydrological connection with the Amazon basin, the site serves as part of a biological and genetic corridor which permits the flow and interchange of species of the wetter north with those of arid zones of the south. The shores of the Parapetí have been inhabited by the Izoceño-Guaraní people since at least the 15th century, who have made little impact upon the natural values of the site, and the area remains the physical and spiritual center of their culture. About a third of the Ramsar site is included within the Parque Nacional Kaa-lyá del Gran Chaco. Construction of a gas pipeline, with associated roadworks, should be well planned so as to preclude fragmentation of habitat. Ramsar site no. 1087. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Bañados del Río Dulce y Laguna de Mar Chiquita

Site number: 1 176 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Córdoba  
Area: 996 000 ha | Coordinates: 30°23'S 62°46'W | Designation dates: 28-05-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bañados del Río Dulce y Laguna de Mar Chiquita. 28/05/02; Córdoba; ca. 996,000 ha; 30°23'S 062°46'W. Reserva Provincial de Uso Múltiple. The largest and most important endorheic catchment in Argentina, the site comprises the large saline lake Mar Chiquita (one of the largest saline lakes in the world, with waters varying between saline and hypersaline), the expansive swamps of the Río Dulce (or Río Petri) on the northern shore, and the mouths of several secondary rivers to the south. The site fulfils all eight of the Ramsar Criteria and is considered one of the most important wetlands in Argentina and in the Chaco ecoregion in terms of the richness of its biodiversity in a range from freshwater to very saline. A number of species meet the waterbird Criteria, including *Egretta thula* (400,000 individuals), *Phalaropus tricolor* (200,000), *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* (42,000), *Bubulcus ibis* (60,000), and *Plegadis chihi* (400,000), and at least 4 species above the 1% threshold. Some 27 species of fish are known to breed in the site. Livestock raising and fishing are principal land uses, with some forestry and agriculture. The area holds enormous anthropological interest for the ancient peoples and lifestyles in evidence and abundance of archaeological sites. Ramsar site no. 1176. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Bangweulu Swamps

Site number: 531 | Country: Zambia  
| Administrative region: Northern Province, Luapula Province, Central Province  
Area: 1 100 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°25'S 29°59'E | Designation dates: 28-08-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bangweulu Swamps. 28/08/91; Northern Province; 1,100,000 ha; 11°25'S 029°59'E. Includes National Parks, Game Management Areas. In addition to providing a breeding ground for birds, fishes and wildlife (e.g., the African elephant *Loxodonta africana*, the buffalo *Syncerus caffer*, and *Sitatunga Tragelaphus spekei*), the site is known to support large numbers of the endemic, semi-aquatic Black Lechwe (vulnerable *Kobus lechwe*) and is home to the threatened Wattled crane (*Grus carunculatus*), as well as the only home in Zambia for the threatened Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*). The swamp is a natural flood controller and important for groundwater recharge and water quality control. The site contains the historical Nachikufu caves with bushman paintings, maintained by the National Heritage Conservation Commission. Threats to the wetland such as poaching will be addressed by the National Wetlands Steering Committee with a proposed general management plan that will steer development away from sensitive habitats. The Zambian Wildlife Authority in collaboration with WWF-Zambia office are collaborating on improving sustainable livelihoods and ecotourism possibilities. The site was extended from 250,000 to 1,100,000 ha on 2 February 2007. Ramsar site no. 531. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Bannow Bay

Site number: 840 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Wexford  
Area: 958 ha | Coordinates: 52°14'N 06°48'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bannow Bay. 11/06/96; Wexford; 958 ha; 52°27'N 006°17'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A sea bay with extensive mud and sand flats, saltmarsh, and sand dunes. The site supports an important range of wintering waterbird species, including *Anas acuta*, *Calidris canutus*, *Pluvialis squatarola*. It is a habitat for internationally important numbers (938) of Brent geese *Branta bernicla hrota*. Ramsar site no. 840.

## Baño de San Ignacio

Site number: 1 981 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Nuevo León  
Area: 4 225,4 ha | Coordinates: 24°52'N 99°21'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baño de San Ignacio. 02/02/09; Nuevo León; 4,225 ha; 24°52'00"N 099°20'41"W. The protected area includes a hydrothermal sulphurous spring that serves as habitat for five endemic species of fish: *Astyanax mexicanus*, *Cyprinodon n. sp.*, *Fundulus ca. grandis*, *Poecilia ca. formosa* and *Cichlastoma n. sp.* In addition, the area supports a great diversity of waterfowl, such as Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Mottled Duck (*Anas flavigula*), and pintail (*Anas acuta*), among others. Unregulated tourist activities are a source of contamination and a major threat to the site. Another threat in the region is the coypu (*Myocastor coypu* Molina), which is an introduced rodent native to South America. The site was declared an Area Subject to Ecological Conservation in 2000. Ramsar Site no. 1981. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Banrock Station Wetland Complex

Site number: 1 221 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia  
Area: 1 375 ha | Coordinates: 34°11'S 140°20'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Banrock Station Wetland Complex is a floodplain wetland complex typical of the lower River Murray-Darling floodplain. It comprises areas of freshwater and areas of secondary salinized floodplain with discrete wetland basins and channels. The Site supports two globally threatened species, the green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and the river snail (*Notopala sublineata*) and provides seasonal habitat for at least ten species of migratory waterbirds listed under Australia's international agreements. The Site adjoins a commercial viticultural enterprise, Banrock Station Wines of BRL Hardy Wine Company, which is managed in a manner complementary to the conservation of the wetland. Conservation, education, science and recreation activities take place within the Site. Surrounding land uses include viticulture, irrigated perennial horticultural, cropping, conservation, residential areas and some grazing of modified pastures. The Site is also recognized for its cultural significance to indigenous Australians.

## Baobolon Wetland Reserve

Site number: 860 | Country: Gambia | Administrative region: North Bank Division  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 13°31'N 15°52'W | Designation dates: 16-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baobolon Wetland Reserve. 16/09/96; North Bank Division; 20,000 ha; 13°50'N 015°90'W. Protected Wetland. A tidal wetland complex on the Gambia River consisting of six major bolons (tributaries), tidal estuaries, and three distinct wetland ecosystems: mangrove forest, saltmarsh and savanna woodland. The tidal flats have been dyked for fresh water retention and rice production. The mangroves provide important fish spawning habitat. The site borders Senegal, offering the potential for bilateral cooperation with management. Human activities are predominantly recreational (birdwatching, wildlife viewing, fishing, and canoeing) and also include mangrove and thatch grass harvesting. Ramsar site no. 860. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Baradla Cave System and related wetlands

Site number: 1 092 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén  
Area: 2 056 ha | Coordinates: 48°28'N 20°31'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Baradla Cave System is the Hungarian part of the 25-kilometre-long Baradla-Domica Cave System, the largest subterranean hydrological system of the karst plateau in Hungary and Slovakia. The Site is characterized by a permanent subterranean stream, ponds, rich dripstone formations, and diverse species representative of subsurface fauna as well as rich archaeological remains. The extended underground world of the Aggtelek and Slovak Karst provides a habitat for more than 500 species of troglobite, troglophile and troglone animals, including endemic species such as the beetle *Duvalius hungaricus* and earthworm *Allolobophora mozsaryorum*. The Site also includes habitats of community interest such as wet meadows and humid grasslands, which support a number of threatened species of plants and animals. The sediment of the cave system plays an important role in the filtration of heavy metal pollution. The most important archaeological sites are the settlements of Bükk culture both inside and in front of the cave entrance, with charcoal drawings unique in Central Europe. More than 100,000 tourists visit the Site annually, for whom tours and study trails, as well as hotels and campsites, are available. Threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to forestry and pollution from wastewater and domestic waste.

## Barberspan

Site number: 35 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: North-West  
Area: 3 118 ha | Coordinates: 26°35'S 25°35'E | Designation dates: 12-03-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barberspan. 12/03/75; Northwest; 3,118 ha; 26°33'S 025°37'E. Provincial Nature Reserve. One of the few permanent, natural water bodies in the highveld. An alkaline, freshwater lake, surrounded by grassland. The lake supports a rich plankton community and ten fish species, and is seasonally important for staging and breeding birds and locally migrant waterbirds. A research station and recreational facilities are located at the site. Ramsar site no. 35. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Bardaca Wetland

Site number: 1 658 | Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina | Administrative region: Republic Srpska  
Area: 3 500 ha | Coordinates: 45°06'N 17°27'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bardaca Wetland (Bardaca-mocvarni kompleks). 02/02/07; Republic of Srpska Entity; 3,500 ha; 45°06'N 017°27'E. Important Bird Area. Situated in the floodplain of the Sava River near the border with Croatia, about half of the Ramsar site comprises fishponds constructed since the early 20th century and further enlarged in the 1960s for irrigation purposes. The ponds, floodplain forest, meadow and swamp areas support a range of endangered species and make an important nesting and stopover site for birds. There is a rich fish fauna (e.g., Gymnocephalus schraetzer, Zingel streber) and a range of amphibians such as Salamandra salamandra, rana dalmatina, and the pond tortoise Emys orbicularis. The hydrological regime has been interrupted by the construction of channels, pump stations, and damming of nearby streams, but presently pressure comes from permanent, intensive agricultural practices such as intensive pasturing and unwise use of fertilizers and pesticides. Aquaculture and fish production remain a primary economic pursuit. With assistance from the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, a management plan is currently under development. Ramsar site no. 1658. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Bargerveen

Site number: 581 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Drenthe  
Area: 2 082 ha | Coordinates: 52°41'N 07°02'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bargerveen. 07/01/93; Drenthe; 2082.5 ha; 52°41'N 007°02'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Site is a remnant of a vast raised bog, which used to cover both sides of the Dutch-German border. Currently the area is formed by subatlantic raised bogs in a landscape of dry and wet heaths, swamp forests, peatland and pools within seasonally flooded agricultural land. The Ramsar Site boundary has been amended to follow the Natura 2000 site, with some residential areas excluded. The Site is of international importance for various species of wintering geese and endangered species of breeding birds such as the common snipe (Gallinago gallinago) and whinchat (Saxicola rubetra). It also supports endangered plant species such as bog asphodel, dragonflies such as the bog hawker and butterflies such as the grizzled skipper. The Site plays an important role in groundwater replenishment and climate regulation, acting as a carbon sink. Human activities include tourism and water management. Drainage is the most important threat to the Site's ecological character; however, hydrological measures have been implemented to promote the natural regeneration of the bog system. Ramsar site no. 581. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Barmah Forest

Site number: 262 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 28 515 ha | Coordinates: 35°55'S 145°08'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barmah Forest. 15/12/82; Victoria; 28,515 ha; 35°55'S 145°08'E. State Park, State Forest. Bordering New South Wales, the site forms part of the largest, periodically inundated, red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forest in Australia. Components include permanent lakes and billabongs, seasonally flooded grassland and sedge communities, and forest with understorey communities determined by flood frequency and duration. An important area for breeding ibis and other colonially nesting waterbirds (cormorants, egrets, spoonbills) in years with extensive flooding. The site supports several rare, vulnerable or endangered plants, fish, birds and mammal species. There are numerous Aboriginal sites and a visitors' centre with interpretive facilities. Human activities include stock grazing and timber harvesting. Ramsar site no. 262. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Barombi Mbo Crater Lake

Site number: 1 643 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: Southwest Province  
Area: 415 ha | Coordinates: 04°40'N 09°23'E | Designation dates: 08-10-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barombi Mbo Crater Lake. 08/10/06; South-West province; 415 ha; 04°40'N 09°23'E. A deep volcanic crater lake, the site forms with three other crater lakes in the Southwest Province of Cameroon the so-called "Afrotropical Cameroon Crater Lakes Ecoregion". It is famous among biologists for the occurrence of 12 endemic fish-species, rendering it one of the places with the highest densities of endemic species per area in the world. For evolutionary biologists, the lake represents one of the few examples where new species have evolved within the confines of a small area by "sympatric speciation". Lake Barombi Mbo is also important due to the presence of freshwater sponges, one of which (*Corvospongilla thysi*) is also endemic. It is an important sacred site to the Barombi tribe: the social and cultural life of the Barombi Mbo People is intimately linked to the use of the resources of the lake through fishing, mythology and transport, and to the surrounding land through farming. It is also a source of clean water for the metropolis of Kumba and its environs. Over-fishing, introduction of foreign fish to the ecosystem, pesticide spraying of cocoa-trees within the catchment area and deforestation on the crater rim are the main (potential and actual) threats to the site. The elaboration and implementation of a management plan needs to occur. Ramsar site no. 1643. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Barrage Al Massira

Site number: 1 471 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Qal'at Essraghna  
Area: 14 000 ha | Coordinates: 32°28'N 07°34'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Al Massira. 15/01/05; Qal'at Essraghna; 14,000 ha; 32°28'N 07°34'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest, Permanent Hunting Reserve. The second biggest reservoir in Morocco, it hosts the vulnerable Marbled Teal and constitutes an important wintering site for coots, ducks and geese especially in dry years. In the summer, it also provides refuge to approximately 20 waterbird species, of which 15 build their nests. The reservoir is said to be the only nesting site of the Common Black-headed Gull in Africa, with the presence of 20 breeding pairs. It is considered the most important inland fishing site in Morocco, with seven commonly fished species and catches amounting to 90 tonnes per year. The number of fishing permits is limited to 12 per year. It plays an important role in irrigation of agricultural land and the supply of drinking water, as well as flood control. Its releases during the summer also allow hydropower production further downstream. The main threats to the site are illegal fishing, pollution and disturbance to birds and eggs during the nesting season. Ramsar site no. 1471. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Barrage de Bagre

Site number: 1 874 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Centre-Est et Centre-Sud  
Area: 36 793 ha | Coordinates: 11°35'N 00°41'E | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bagré Dam, located in the northern Sudanian phytogeographic area, is composed of an artificial permanent freshwater lake and the irrigated lakeside land. The Site is very rich in biodiversity: it is home to trees and shrubs such as *Lannea acida*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Khaya senegalensis*, *Acacia albida* and *Acacia gourmaensis*, and to fish, amphibian, mollusc and aquatic reptile communities. The hippopotamus is the most notable species on the Site, with a total estimated number of 100 individuals. Their presence indirectly supports several valued species of fish in the lake, so they too are valued and protected. The Site is valuable not only for biodiversity conservation but also erosion control, sediment and nutrient retention, storm protection and groundwater replenishment. The stable waters of the lake enable numerous socio-economic and agricultural activities. Poor farming practices have led to soil erosion on the banks and resulting siltation.

## Barrage de la Komienga

Site number: 1 875 | Country: Burkina Faso  
| Administrative region: à cheval entre la Région de l'Est (en grande partie) et la région du Centre-Est  
Area: 17 545 ha | Coordinates: 11°11'N 00°37'E | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated in the east of the country, the Site comprises a permanent freshwater lake, as well as human-made features including several irrigated land areas and a dam which is principally used for the production of hydroelectricity. The presence of the dam has allowed for diversification of income generating activities, to include fishing, and crop and livestock farming. The Site is also home to a variety of flora and fauna. Threatened animal species include hippopotamus, lion and black crowned crane. The site also hosts the vulnerable African mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*. It is known to support over 20,000 water birds; at least 7,000 waders and 15,000 from the Anatidae family have been recorded. The most frequent birds are *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Phalacrocorax africanus*, and Anatidae such as *Dendrocygna viduata*, *Dendrocygna bicolor*, *Sarkidiornis melanotos* and *Plectropterus gambensis*. Various threats affect the Site, including considerable erosion, declining fish yields, and increasing levels of eutrophication due to pollution from livestock and cotton cultivation. The fishery developed rapidly, following a strong demand for fresh fish linked to the growing needs in the big cities of Burkina Faso. This development led many fishers to set up around the lake. A management plan was drafted in 2005, but is not yet being implemented. Communication, education and awareness activities are carried out by the departments of water, forests and agriculture, and fisheries resources, village associations, and project stakeholders.

## Barrage de la Tapoa

Site number: 1 876 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Tapoa  
Area: 3 479 ha | Coordinates: 12°07'N 01°43'E | Designation dates: 10-07-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Tapoa dam, built in 1961 on the temporary Tapoa river, is in the northern Sudanian area (Sudanian domain) in the east of Burkina Faso. It is the principal water reservoir in the region and home to various flora and fauna, while providing income-generating activities to local communities. The Tapoa, a tributary of the River Niger, flows only six months a year between June and December, during and following the rainy season. At the end of the dry season, it is almost completely dry. The Ramsar Site is noted for its importance as a breeding area for numerous fish species, including *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Sarotherodon galilaeus*, *Lates niloticus* and *Hyperopisus bebe*. The Site contributes to the financial empowerment of local communities: it supports fishing, animal rearing and market gardening, and allows people and particularly women to generate income from non-timber forest products. As a result of its large water storage capacity, the reservoir is important for groundwater replenishment and flood control. The Site faces several threats including siltation of the reservoir, over-exploitation of fish resources, overgrazing, and bushfires. Despite the absence of a management plan, the participatory management of the Site by grassroots communities (groups of fishers and farmers) ensures conservation of the biodiversity.

## Barrage de Sidi El Barrak

Site number: 2 017 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Béja  
Area: 2 734 ha | Coordinates: 37°01'N 09°01'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage de Sidi El Barrak. 02/02/12; Beja; 2,734 ha; 37°00'41"N 009°01'18"E. One of the most important dams and reservoirs in Tunisia for its use for irrigation, supply of potable water to the Tunis and Sfax areas and the Sahel, and amelioration of the quality of water of the Medjerda Cap Bon canal. The site, adjacent to the Mediterranean coast in the northwest, is rich in fish species, including the vulnerable Common Carp *Cyprinus carpio*, and mammals like the near-threatened otter *Lutra lutra* among others. The wetland produces over 100 tons of fish per year for commercial purposes, especially the Mediterranean sea bass and the zander. It is characterized by natural and artificial forests rich in both timber and non-timber forest products, and provides a source of livelihood for most of the local population who carry out agricultural practices as well as fishing around the area. It has just been connected to the national network of Tunisian waters through the Sejnanae dam. Ramsar Site no. 2017. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Barrage de Sidi Saad

Site number: 2 018 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Kairouan  
Area: 8 650 ha | Coordinates: 35°22'N 09°40'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage de Sidi Saad. 02/02/12; Kairouan; 8,650 ha; 35°22'N 009°40'E. A dam and reservoir that was created in 1981 to fight against floods of the river Zeroud and ensures a supply of potable water in the region of Kairouan. It is a breeding zone for several fish species and includes introduced freshwater fish like the carp *Ctenopharingodon* sp., zander *Sander lucioperca*, common roach *Rutilus rutilus*, rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* and catfish *Silurus glanis*, as well as the introduced marine Mullet, and occasionally the semi-aquatic turtle *Mauremys leprosa* is observed on the site. It supports several species of waterbirds including herons, the coot *Fulica atra*, and Great Crested Grebe. The watershed is located in the Mediterranean Biome-North Africa and characterized by high relief hosting some tufted reeds and benthic fauna, dominated by phanerogram plants like the sago pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*. The site is state-owned but provides livelihoods through fishing and irrigated agriculture to people in the region, though over-exploitation of these resources is seen as a potential threat. Ramsar Site no 2018. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Barrage de Tougouri

Site number: 2 253 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre-Nord  
Area: 1 221 ha | Coordinates: 13°19'N 00°32'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage de Tougouri is a permanent freshwater reservoir characterized by a thick forest reserve of hygrophilous plant species including *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, *Kaya senegalensis*, *Mitragyna inermis* and *Ficus gnaphalocarpa*. It hosts an important population of Nile crocodiles, herons, ducks, teals and spotted-backed weaver, and serves as a breeding ground for the cattle egret. Fish species in the Site include tilapia, sardines and catfish. The reservoir supplies groundwater for most wells in the communities and so plays an important role in the area's hydrological cycle. The main human activities include crop farming, fishing and cattle rearing. The Site is facing current threats from droughts which are exacerbated by overgrazing and the unsustainable management of many wetlands.

## Barrage de Yalگو

Site number: 2 258 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre-Nord  
Area: 4 522,4 ha | Coordinates: 13°35'N 00°19'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Barrage de Yalگو is the province of Namentenga's most important reservoir in terms of its water capacity and contribution to the local economy. It is a unique inland wetland characterized by dense savannah vegetation dominated by trees including *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Guiera senegalensis*, *Acacia pennata*, *Anogeissus leiocarpus* and *Mitragyna inermis*. The wetland is home to different turtle species, the Nile crocodile, royal python, savannah monitor, goliath heron, hammerhead stork, African grey hornbill and the pied crow, which are threatened by hunting and loss of breeding areas. Fish commonly recorded in Yalگو include the Nile tilapia, catfish of the genus *Clarias*, and the West African lungfish *Protopterus annectens*. These are of a high nutritional and commercial value to the local communities. The main hydrological functions of the Yalگو include surface and groundwater supplies for wildlife, human consumption and irrigation.

## Barrage Lebna

Site number: 1 698 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nabeul Governorate  
Area: 1 147 ha | Coordinates: 36°45'N 10°54'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Lebna. 07/11/07; Nabeul; 1,147 ha; 36°45'N 010°54'E. Located in the extreme northeast of the country near Cap Bon, this lake is an artificial barrage isolated from the rest of the national dam system, effectively preventing any water exchange between this site and other nearby barrages. After its construction in 1987, it soon became a primary destination for tens of thousands of waterfowl migrating between Africa and Europe, some of them threatened, like the marbled teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), among others. No major adverse effects have been reported for the site. Ramsar site No. 1698. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Barrage Merguellil

Site number: 2 010 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Kairouan  
Area: 714 ha | Coordinates: 35°34'N 09°44'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Merguellil. 02/02/12; Kairouan; 714 ha; 35°33'57"N 09°44'19"E. A reservoir and dam equipped with water and soil conservation techniques intended to intensify and enhance agricultural production within the basin. It is home to diverse species at different critical stages of their life cycle, including the endangered White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. There are several waterbird species including *Ardea cinerea*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, and *Sylvia melanocephala*. Within the basin, *Eucalyptus* sp is the dominant plant in the forest flora. Human pressure through agricultural activities is a challenging situation in the area and has caused the degradation and erosion of watersheds. This results in water pollution and sediment accumulation which is seen as a persistent threat for the site. The dam is also known as the Barrage El Haouareb. Ramsar Site no. 2010. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Barrage Mlaabi

Site number: 2 077 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nabeul  
Area: 98 ha | Coordinates: 36°50'N 10°59'E | Designation dates: 21-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Mlaabi. 21/09/2012; Nabeul; 98 ha; 36°49'44"N 10°59'07"E. A freshwater storage area on the Cap Bon peninsula constructed mainly for ground water recharge, serving today for irrigation of summer plants. It supports several populations of waterbirds migrating between African wintering grounds and Eurasian breeding grounds as well as North African endemic species including IUCN red-listed White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*, up to 32 individuals) and Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). The main habitats are shallow lake waters that host aquatic plant species, principally dense populations of *Ruppia cirrhosa* and *Zannichellia palustris*. The main land use is agriculture (mainly cereal farming upstream, animal rearing on mountainsides, vegetable, fruits and tobacco cultivation downstream). Ramsar site no. 2077. Most recent RIS information 2012.

### Barrage Mohammed V

Site number: 1 472 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Nador  
Area: 5 000 ha | Coordinates: 34°41'N 02°57'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Mohammed V. 15/01/05; Nador; 5,000 ha; 34°41'N 02°57'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. The site consists of a reservoir from a dam that was built in 1967 on the Moulouya River, situated in an arid valley with several gorges, where the most common plant type is tamarisk, while on the upstream side eucalyptus abounds. The site constitutes an important refuge area for waterfowl in both summer, when members of *Fulica atra* and *Tadorna casarca* nest in the area, and winter, when 40 species frequent the site, with an average of more than 25,000 individuals. The reservoir also hosts the east Moroccan endemic barb, *Barbus moulouyensis*. The site provides the city of Nador with potable water and allows the irrigation of 60,000 ha of land in the areas of Bou Areg and Triffa. The dam also contributes to hydropower generation and is a fishing site. No significant factors threaten the site. Ramsar site no. 1472. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Barrage Oued El Hajar

Site number: 2 013 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nabeul  
Area: 254 ha | Coordinates: 36°50'N 11°02'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Oued El Hajar. 02/02/12; Nabeul; 254 ha; 36°50'N 11°02'E. One of the most recent and biggest freshwater dams in a series recently constructed in Tunisia for agricultural purposes (mainly cereal farming upstream, animal rearing on hillsides, and vegetable and tobacco cultivation downstream). It contributes to flood control during long rainy seasons. The site is an important "migratory bottleneck" for migrating birds which pass across the Mediterranean Sea, and is also a nesting and wintering ground for several waterbirds, among which are endangered and vulnerable species like *Oxyura leucocephala* and *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. In spring, it provides a resting place for several species (not only waterbirds) which migrate to Africa in winter. It harbours more than 1% of the population of several important waterbird species including *Arythya nyroca*, *Oxyura leucocephala* and *Phoenicopterus roseus*. A major threat is the use of fertilizers in agricultural activities carried out around the site, which may in the long run lead to eutrophication. Ramsar Site no. 2013. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Barrage Oued Ermal

Site number: 2 014 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Zaghuan  
Area: 620 ha | Coordinates: 36°21'N 10°21'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Oued Ermal. 02/02/12; Zaghuan; 620 ha; 36°20'56"N 10°20'55"E. A dam and reservoir that constitutes a vital area for several waterfowl at various critical stages of their life cycle. It is a nesting place for such waterbirds as Cattle Egret, Spoonbill, Eurasian Coot, Shoveler Ducks, Plover, Gadwall, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Northern Lapwing, Common Snipe, Marbled Duck, Marsh Harrier, Kingfisher, Water Pipit, Skylark, and Chiffchaff. The vegetation surrounding the site is dominated by *Eucalyptus* sp. The dam has a significant hydrological value as a source of irrigation for a large area immediately downstream in the plains of Bouficha. The area has important historical value due to the presence of the Roman monument "Temple des eaux". It is threatened by the rearing of animals, which increases soil erosion and causes the destruction of the natural vegetation as well as a decrease in the quantity of water and potentially the death of fish species. Ramsar Site no. 2014. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Barrage Sidi Abdelmoneem

Site number: 2 016 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nabeul  
Area: 31 ha | Coordinates: 36°51'N 10°56'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage Sidi Abdelmoneem. 02/02/12; Nabeul; 31 ha; 36 51'31"N 10 56'00"E. An artificial wetland near the tip of the Cap Bon peninsula with isolated freshwater filling up in winter as a result of rainfall and runoffs from agricultural practices. The site provides nesting opportunities for many vulnerable waterfowl species like the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* classified as endangered and vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List. Land use is characterized by agriculture (cereals, farming on the mountain slopes, and gardening), and the main hydrological value of the site is to provide water for irrigation and contribute to groundwater recharge. The main habitats include shallow waters that host plant species *Ruppia* sp and *Zannichellia* sp as well as the edges of the water bodies colonized by a dense population of *Typha* cattail or bulrush. Ramsar Site no. 2016. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Barras de Cuero y Salado

Site number: 619 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Atlántida  
Area: 13 225 ha | Coordinates: 15°45'N 87°02'W | Designation dates: 23-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barras de Cuero y Salado. 23/06/93; Atlántida; 13,225 ha; 15°45'N 087°02'W. National wildlife refuge. An extensive complex of linked coastal, estuarine and riverine wetlands. Much of the area is composed of flooded forest and mangroves with coconut plantations lining the beaches. A group of families lives within the Refuge practicing traditional fishing and agriculture (palm plantations). The area provides an important source of drinking water, excellent summer grazing for cattle, and supports a rich fish fauna and a wide variety of resident and migratory waterbirds. Endangered fauna include the reptiles *Crocodylus acutus* and *Caiman sclerops fuscus*, and a small population of manatees (*Trichechus manatus*). Ramsar site no. 619. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Barrière de Corail Nosy Ve Androka

Site number: 2 285 | Country: Madagascar  
| Administrative region: Région de Atsimo-Andrefana (Sud-Ouest), ainsi que les districts de Toliary II et d'Ampanihy  
Area: 91 445 ha | Coordinates: 24°34'S 43°52'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site is a cluster of eight areas along the southern coast of Madagascar. It includes a network of coral reefs and marine habitats, such as deep shoals with deep coral reefs and beaches. It hosts about 140 species of corals, 240 species of fish, molluscs, echinoderms and marine phanerogams. There are also rare species such as the critically endangered coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*, five species of marine turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*), dugongs, dolphins and whales. There are three species of damselfish (*Pomacentrus sulfureus*, *Pomacentrus trilineatus* and *Abudefduf sparoides*) which are endemic to the western Indian Ocean. The Site is also the only breeding place for an endemic colony of red-tailed tropicbird. The ecological and economic values of the coral reefs support the human population of the south-western region, particularly through fishing and tourism. However, anthropogenic pressures threaten their integrity, as do droughts that have caused agro-pastoralists to take up fishing as an alternative livelihood.

## Bas-Kouilou-Yombo

Site number: 2 325 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Kouilou  
Area: 55 124 ha | Coordinates: 04°25'S 11°51'E | Designation dates: 25-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the estuary of the River Kouilou and its sandy shores and sand banks, other permanent and temporary rivers, lakes, the Yombo lagoon, marshes including some dominated by *Cyperus papyrus*, and flooded and swamp forests including mangrove forests. Due to its diverse ecosystems and the permanent presence of water, the Site maintains populations of chimpanzees, sitatunga (*Tragelaphus speki*), African buffalo and hippopotamus, and fish such as the slender lungfish (*Protopterus dolloi*) which is endemic to the Congo Basin and neighbouring river basins. Exploitation of parts of the Site such as the Monje mombomo river has long been forbidden, ensuring the stability of habitats and the maintenance of biological diversity. Silting at the mouth of the River Kouilou and Yombo lagoon constitutes a real threat to the Site.

## Bas Ogooue

Site number: 1 851 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Moyen Ogooue/l'Ogooue Maritime  
Area: 1 370 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°42'N 10°10'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bas Ogooue (lower Ogooue basin) comprises a vast alluvial plain (some 200 kilometres long and 70km wide), with marshes, lakes and rivers in the west of the country. Luxuriant vegetation covers half of the Site in dense forest, riparian marshes and savannah. It supports several threatened species such as gorilla, chimpanzee, elephant, buffalo, mandrill, African manatee and hippopotamus. Other noteworthy species include waterbirds such as herons, African cormorant and falcons, and fish populations including tilapia and carp. The rich natural resources of the Site are commonly used by local populations for various purposes, some of which are uncontrolled and may threaten the ecosystems. There is no specific management plan, but local regulations aim to protect and maintain the natural resources and ecosystems. A National Park and Biosphere Reserve are being developed.

## Basse-Mana

Site number: 643 | Country: France | Administrative region: Guyane Française  
Area: 59 000 ha | Coordinates: 05°40'N 53°47'W | Designation dates: 08-12-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Basse-Mana. 08/12/93; Guyane Française; 59,000 ha; 05°40'N 053°54'W. Parc Naturel Régional (2001). A plain of sandy barrier beaches, freshwater and brackish swamps, marine clays, mudflats, unexploited mangrove forests, swampland forests and pinot palm (*Euterpe oleracea*) stands. The alternation between erosion and large mud deposits (mudflat formation), preceding future coastal growth, is noteworthy. The site provides important habitat for nesting turtles, wintering grounds for numerous species of waders and feeding, staging, nesting and breeding areas for waterbirds. Human activities include nature tourism, beach activities, fishing, hunting, farming, and conservation education. Most land is owned by the state but the Kalinas Amerindian people have right of usage. The site is an important turtle study and protection station and contains various archaeological or funerary sites. Consumption of marine turtle eggs has diminished but remains within the traditional rights of the Kalinas. Ramsar site no. 643. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Basses Vallées Angevines

Site number: 715 | Country: France | Administrative region: Pays de la Loire  
Area: 6 450 ha | Coordinates: 47°34'N 00°28'E | Designation dates: 01-02-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Basses Vallées Angevines. 01/02/95; Pays de la Loire; 6,450 ha; 47°34'N 000°28'W. Hunting Reserve. Vast alluvial plain encompassing the confluence of four rivers and supporting grasslands dominated by various communities of wet-meadow plants and sparse rows of ash and willow. The site supports various threatened, endemic or rare plants. The wetland is a stopover point of international importance for several Anatidae species and wading birds on the spring migration from their wintering grounds to their breeding grounds in northern and northeastern Europe, and it provides internationally important wintering and nesting habitat for several species of waterbirds. Human activities include agriculture, forestry, boating, fishing and bird hunting. Ramsar site no. 715. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

### Basse Vallée de l'Ouémé, Lagune de Porto-Novo, Lac Nokoué

Site number: 1 018 | Country: Benin | Administrative region:  
Area: 91 600 ha | Coordinates: 06°39'N 02°32'E | Designation dates: 24-01-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Basse Vallée de l'Ouémé, Lagune de Porto-Novo, Lac Nokoué. 24/01/00; 91,600 ha; 06°39'N, 002°32'E. The coastal area between Cotonou and the capital Porto Novo at the mouth of the Ouémé River, varied ecosystems comprising swamp forest (*Mitragyna inermis*, *Raphia hookeri*) and periodically inundated forest (*Berlinia grandiflora*, *Dalium guineense*); flooded prairies of *Paspalum vaginatum* and *Typha australis*, and floating vegetation dominated by water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*); and mangrove plantations (*Rhizophora racemosa*). Some 78 species of fish have been identified, and 168 species of birds, as well as sitatunga, several pythons, and terrestrial and marine tortoises. Human uses include fishing by 24,000 professional and 13,000 seasonal fisherpeople, bringing employment to some 200,000 people in total; agricultural production, chiefly of manioc, maïs, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and market gardening. Palm trees (*Raphia hookeri*) are the object of strong economic activities in construction, palm wine, etc. Ramsar site no. 1018.

### Basse Vallée du Couffo, Lagune Côtière, Chenal Aho, Lac Ahémé

Site number: 1 017 | Country: Benin | Administrative region:  
Area: 47 500 ha | Coordinates: 06°30'N 02°00'E | Designation dates: 24-01-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Basse Vallée du Couffo, Lagune Côtière, Chenal Aho, Lac Ahémé. 24/01/00; 47,500 ha; 06°30'N 002°00'E. Comprising Lac Ahémé, some 24km in a north-south direction, the Kouffo River as it enters the lake near Bopa in the north, and the marshy areas extending ca.10km from the lake to the Atlantic Ocean. Main ecosystems include mangroves, swamp, flooded grassland, and artificial formations resulting from the coconut palm industry. Local fishery employs about 10,000 fishermen, and the harvesting of crabs and oysters is reserved exclusively for women. There is also significant production of salt and palm wine and culture of maïs and market garden products. Ramsar site no. 1017.

### Bassin d'Arcachon - Secteur du delta de la Leyre

Site number: 1 996 | Country: France | Administrative region: Aquitaine  
Area: 5 175 ha | Coordinates: 44°40'N 01°02'W | Designation dates: 27-10-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bassin d'Arcachon - Secteur du delta de la Leyre. 27/10/11; Aquitaine; 5,175 ha; 44°39'52"N 001°01'51"W. Natura 2000 (SPA, SIC). Covering a substantial part of the delta, the site is important for many species dependent on the intertidal zone such as threatened fish species. The mosaic of habitats, also including seasonally flooded forests, meadows, salt marshes and fish ponds, acts as a stop-over and wintering site for migratory bird species, many of them protected on a European level. It offers habitat for numerous species of insects, reptiles and mammals, some of them threatened globally. *Luscinia svecica namnetum*, a species of Bluethroat endemic to the French Atlantic coast, also occurs here. The site is important in flood regulation and acts as a buffer zone between Arcachon Bay and its watershed. The Ornithological Park 'Le Teich' forms part of the site, contributing to its popularity as a tourist destination. Further human uses include aquaculture, salt production, agriculture and hunting. The abandonment of traditional management practices, the related overgrowth with invasive species, water pollution and siltation threaten the site. Ramsar Site no. 1996. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Bassin de la Lufira

Site number: 2 318 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo  
| Administrative region: Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami et Lualaba  
Area: 4 470 993,2 ha | Coordinates: 09°21'S 26°55'E | Designation dates: 31-10-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The vast Site in the south-east of the country consists of rivers and their floodplains, natural and artificial lakes and ponds, waterfalls, papyrus and other marshes, and marshy forests. The main river feeding it is the Lufira. The prevailing soil and climatic factors ensure the maintenance of the Site's unique biological diversity. Many endemic species are present: 16 bird species including the Lufira masked weaver, the Upemba masked weaver and the black-faced waxbill; 15 reptile species including the Upemba mud turtle, the lined water snake and the Mulanje water snake; and at least two endemic amphibians, the Katanga thick-toed gecko and the frog *Afraxalus upembae*. The Lufira Basin remains the only biotope for rare mammals such as the Grant's zebra and the greater kudu, and it is also home to populations of giant sable and roan antelope. The lack of control and regulation of mining activities and the related hydrometallurgical treatment plants presents a real threat to the Site.

### Bassin du Drugeon

Site number: 1 266 | Country: France | Administrative region: Franche-Comté  
Area: 6 445 ha | Coordinates: 46°50'N 06°10'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bassin du Drugeon. 02/02/03; Franche-Comté; 5,906 ha; 46°50'N 006°10'E. Proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directive. A peatland landscape complex in the Jura foothills with a rich variety of natural habitats including dry grasslands, alkaline moors, active mires, river floodplains, ponds and lakes. It holds important populations of threatened plants including *Saxifraga hirculus*, *Liparis loeselii* and *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*. Of conservation interest are the local populations of waterbirds, including corncrake *Crex crex*, spotted crane *Porzana porzana*, and snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, of the toads *Alytes obstetricans* and *Bufo calamita*, the newt *Triturus cristatus*, the rare butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia*, and a number of dragonflies. The Drugeon river course was restored in large parts during the 1990s with the help of European Union LIFE subsidies, including measures to improve its water quality, reduce water pollution, and make agricultural practices more environmentally friendly. The main land uses are agriculture and forestry, some hunting and fishing, cycling and walking, plus the beginnings of nature tourism benefiting from the newly established mire track. Ramsar site no. 1266. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Bassin du Nakanbé-Mané

Site number: 2 254 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre-Nord  
Area: 19 477 ha | Coordinates: 12°58'N 01°26'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bassin du Nakanbé-Mané is a seasonal inland wetland featuring an artificial water reservoir and a unique forest reserve of 1,000 hectares composed of *Acacia nilotica* and savannah grasslands. It follows a stretch of the Nakanbé River, the second-largest and most important watercourse in Burkina Faso after the Mouhoun River. The Nakanbé supplies water to major cities in the country and feeds thousands of people who rely on it for agriculture and fishing. The forest reserve offers ideal habitat for monkeys, rabbits, bats, weavers, pythons and Nile crocodiles, which are found in large numbers. The main threats to the ecological integrity of the Site include the excessive unregulated abstraction of water and chemical pollution caused by illegal gold mining.

## Bassin versant Oti-Mandouri

Site number: 1 721 | Country: Togo | Administrative region: Région des Savanes  
Area: 425 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°37'N 00°38'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bassin versant Oti-Mandouri. 02/02/08; Savanes; 425,000 ha; 10°37'N 00°38'E, Réserve de Faune. A complex of several permanent and temporary rivers (including River Oti Mandouri and its tributaries), marshes, gallery forests, tree and shrub savannas and undergrowth, which confer a habitat for 27 mammal species, 37 known fish species, crustacean, mollusks, birds and reptiles amongst others. Vulnerable species like the Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), in addition to their conservation value, play an important role in the culture of the people. Plant species such as the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*) and a sacred wood species called Togobegue are worshiped by the surrounding populations. The main products presently exploited by the inhabitants include fuel and work wood, bush meat, fish, mollusks and crustaceans, mainly for subsistence but also for sale in neighboring villages. The permanent presence of guards at this site contributes to combating deforestation, illegal hunting and unsustainable exploitation of fish resources. In addition to this, there are sacred forests where the local population carries out community rituals. Ramsar site no. 1721. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Baturiya Wetland

Site number: 1 752 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Kano State  
Area: 101 095 ha | Coordinates: 12°32'N 10°30'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Baturiya Wetland. 30/04/08; Kano; 101,095 ha; 12°31'N 10°29'E. Game Reserve. A good example of a natural wetland of the Sudano-Sahelian biogeographical region, comprising ponds and seasonally flooded land that is replenished by the annual flooding of the Kafin Hausa River. It supports a great diversity of flora and fauna and is particularly important for its waterbirds. A wide range of resident and migratory waterbirds depend on this wetland - the Yellow billed stork, Knob-billed goose, African Grey Hornbill, etc. A large population of over 10,000 inhabitants living in the surrounding villages depend on the wetland's resources for their livelihood. They practice agriculture, fishing and general harvesting of resources. The site falls entirely within the Baturiya Wetland Games Reserve, which is under "Multiple Use Management" in which state and local officials grant licences for exploitation of resources (hunting, fishing, grazing, woodcutting, etc.). The Game Reserve has been proposed as a National Park to reinforce the present management system. Ramsar site no. 1752. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Bau Sau Wetlands and Seasonal Floodplain

Site number: 1 499 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Dong Nai Province  
Area: 13 759 ha | Coordinates: 11°28'N 107°23'E | Designation dates: 04-08-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bau Sau (Crocodile Lake) Wetlands and Seasonal Floodplains. 04/08/05; Dong Nai; 13,759 ha; 11°28'N 107°23'E. Cat Tien National Park. A freshwater complex and transition zone between the Great Annamite ecoregion and lower Mekong Delta with Vietnam's last remaining lowland semi-evergreen forests representative of the Indo-Chinese region. Bau Sau is a key habitat for 50 very rare IUCN red-listed species like Siamese Crocodile, Asian Arowana, Black-shanked Douc, Asian Elephant, Wild Gaur, Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon and Smooth-coated Otter, 131 endemic fish and 6 species of turtles, tortoises and terrapins. Several red-listed birds include *Pseudibis davisoni*, *Cairina scutulata*, *Grus antigone* and *Leptoptilos javanicus*, and plants *Dipterocarpus dyeri* and *Diospyros mun*. Despite human activities such as subsistence fishing, hunting and collection of wood products, it is the best-conserved and almost pristine habitat of the national park as a result of enhanced protection by local management. It also serves as a floodwater retention reservoir with significant flow regulation protecting populated downstream localities. An ecological threat arises from invasion of exotic *Mimosa pigra* and water hyacinth bringing succession from open water to swamp vegetation. Conservation efforts include control of invasive species, crocodile census, waterbird surveys, awareness raising and range patrolling. Ramsar site no. 1499. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bayerische Wildalm

Site number: 1 723 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bavaria  
Area: 7 ha | Coordinates: 47°35'N 11°47'E | Designation dates: 09-10-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bayerische Wildalm. 09/10/07; Bayern; 7 ha; 47°35'N 11°47'E. Flora-Fauna-Habitat, EC Directive SPA. An area of remarkable peatland concentration in the southern state of Bavaria which extends across the frontier to the Austrian Ramsar site of the same name. The site is a karst depression, or polje, with a natural brook that vanishes into one big and several small ponors (swallow hole). The bottom of the polje is covered completely by a fen which is hydrologically controlled both by water coming from the sloping fens along the polje slopes and by periodic floods of the brook. The mires show typical features of mire type representative for the Limestone Alps, with many endangered plant species, which form the chief basis for the site's nomination to the List. Ramsar site no. 1723. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Bayerische Wildalm and Wildalmfilz

Site number: 1 489 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Tyrol  
Area: 133 ha | Coordinates: 47°35'N 11°48'E | Designation dates: 11-05-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bayerische Wildalm and Wildalmfilz. 15/12/2004; Tyrol, 132,566 ha; 47°35'N 11°48'E; Natura 2000, Protected Mire. A large fen area covering the whole bottom and the slopes of a Karst depression with a natural brook that vanishes into a Ponor (Polje), and a saddle bog connected by fens and wet meadows to the southern slopes. Situated on the border between two biogeographical regions, the Northern Prealps and Fyisch Zone and the Northern Limestone Alps, the site supports typical endangered mire plant communities for both regions, such as peat moss and sedge including bog sedge and bottle sedge communities. The water regime encompasses an outstanding mixture of paludification mire, terrestrialisation mire and inundation mire. As is typical for the Alps, the saddle bog Wildalmfilz has developed from a paludification mire, where groundwater influence is restricted to the lagg zone along the mire margin in the south where a big sloping fen, the Wildalmmoos, borders on the bog. As with all mires of the Tyrol, the site is protected by the conservation law and peat extraction or drainage of mires is prohibited. Ramsar site no. 1489. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bear Island

Site number: 1 966 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 298 171 ha | Coordinates: 74°26'N 19°02'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bear Island, locally known as Bjørnøya, is an isolated island situated half way between the Svalbard archipelago and the Norwegian mainland. The Site, which also covers the surrounding waters, is one of Europe's few remaining intact ecosystems. The northern and western parts of the island are covered with lakes and small ponds which constitute 10% of the land area, and the south and east are dominated by tall mountain formations and some steep sea cliffs. 126 different bird species have been observed, of which 33 breed on the Site, including the razorbill *Alca torda* which is endangered in Svalbard. The seabird colonies in southern Bjørnøya are among the largest in the northern hemisphere: it is estimated that over one million seabirds gather here during the breeding season. The Site supports over 1% of a population of the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, with an estimated 135,000 breeding pairs. It is also an important resting and foraging site for migrating birds such as pink-footed geese *Anser branchyrhynchus*, barnacle geese *Branta leucopsis* and brent geese *Branta bernicla hrota*. The rich shallow seas, where the Atlantic and Arctic waters meet, support the entire food chain and make an important foraging area for many species. In total there are 24 fish species – the Site is an important nursery ground for cod, haddock and Greenland halibut – and most of the Arctic's whale and seal species have been observed. Monitoring programmes have been active since 1986, and there is a weather station of the Meteorological Institute on the island.

## Beaverhill Lake

Site number: 370 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Alberta  
Area: 18 050 ha | Coordinates: 53°30'N 113°30'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Beaverhill Lake. 27/05/87; Alberta; 18,050 ha; 53°30'N 113°30'W. A broad, shallow lake set in a rolling landscape containing many smaller water bodies, or "sloughs". The vegetation includes emergent shoreline communities, forest, natural and cultivated grassland. An important breeding and staging area for various migratory waterbirds. Nesting species include a variety of ducks, colonies of *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus* and *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Spectacular numbers of birds occur particularly during fall migration, when over 200,000 Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) gather. Notable concentrations (for the prairie region) of migratory shorebirds also occur. Ramsar site no. 370. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Becher Point Wetlands

Site number: 1 048 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 708 ha | Coordinates: 32°22'S 115°44'E | Designation dates: 05-01-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Becher Point Wetlands are shrub swamps and seasonal marshes that have formed in an extensive sequence of inter-dunal depressions, which have themselves arisen from seaward advancement of the coastline over recent millennia. This type of wetland system is rare in southwestern Australia, while examples of this type of geomorphological sequence in equally good condition and within a protected area are rare worldwide. The series of wetlands within the Site exhibits a continuum of development in geomorphology, hydrology and vegetation and is considered to be a unique wetland system in Western Australia, and one of the youngest wetland systems on the Swan Coastal Plain. The sedgelands of the Site are included in the national list of threatened ecological communities. Land use within the Site is confined to nature conservation, and the surrounding areas are residential.

## Béda-Karapanca

Site number: 901 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Barany  
Area: 8 668,9 ha | Coordinates: 45°57'N 18°46'E | Designation dates: 30-04-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is formed by freshwater tree-dominated wetlands, river branches, oxbow lakes, marshland, meadows and reedbeds, located on the active floodplain of the southernmost part of the River Danube, adjacent to Ramsar Sites in Serbia and Croatia. The river is characterized by its high biodiversity, providing shelter to threatened species of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and molluscs including the thick shelled river mussel, as well as many protected waterbird species such as the Eurasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and corn crake (*Crex crex*). The Site also supports threatened breeding birds such as the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and the black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). The floodplain plays an important role in sediment trapping. The water level is artificially regulated by a sluice system, allowing fish to spawn in the retained flooded area. Human activities include fishing, forestry and hunting. There is a nature education centre in the area. Potential threats to the ecological character of the Site are colonization by invasive tree species such as maple ash, poplar and eastern black walnut, and overgrazing by wild animals such as red deer and wild boar. In the surrounding area, the deepening of the riverbed due to former river regulation has caused water levels to fall.

## Beeshazar and Associated Lakes

Site number: 1 313 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Narayani Zone  
Area: 3 200 ha | Coordinates: 27°37'N 84°26'E | Designation dates: 13-08-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Beeshazar and Associated Lakes. 13/08/03; Chitawan; 3,200 ha; 27°37'N, 84°26'E. National Park buffer zone. An extensive, typical oxbow lake system of the tropical Inner Terai area in Central Nepal, lying inside buffer zone of the Royal Chitwan National Park, a World Heritage site. Situated between the Mahabharat mountain range to the north and the Siwalik range to the south, this forested wetland provides excellent habitat as a water hole and corridor for endangered wildlife species, including the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), endangered tiger (*Panthera tigris*), one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), vulnerable Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*), Sloth Bear (*Melalurus ursinus*), Marsh Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptotilos javanicus*), Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), and Band-tailed fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*). The surrounding forest area is populated by nearly 100,000 people who practice farming and fishing in the lake, which is managed through a fishing contract, awarded once a year. Thanks to heightened awareness of the site's importance the protection of its resources has been improved, e.g. invasive species posing threats to the wetlands are manually removed by local communities and authorities of the Royal Chitwan National Park. Due to the recent designation as the buffer zone, the Buffer Zone Management Committee has been constituted for its participatory management. There is a training centre for Armed Forest Guards/Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation which was formerly known as the Rhino Patrol, and a visitor center established at Royal Chitwan National Park. Ramsar site no. 1313. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Belene Islands Complex

Site number: 1 226 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Veliko Tarnovo and Pleven  
Area: 18 330 ha | Coordinates: 43°39'N 25°09'E | Designation dates: 24-09-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Belene Islands Complex. 24/09/02; Pleven; 18,330 ha; 43°40'00"N 025°11'00"E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Managed Reserve, Nature Park. The Ramsar Site has been extended by 11,432 ha with the inclusion of additional islands and agricultural lands on the Danube river banks. The Site is formed by a complex of one big island (Belene) and nine smaller islands, characterized by freshwater marshes, seasonally-flooded riverine forests, and agricultural and semi-natural land cut by drainage channels. It is exceptionally biodiverse and hosts several rare species of plants including white waterlily *Nymphaea alba* and water shamrock *Marsilea quadrifolia*, as well as globally threatened species of birds such as the Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, great bustard *Otis tarda* and aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. The Site is also important for mammals, amphibians and fish. It plays an important role in flood mitigation and sediment trapping. The main threats are related to drainage projects for navigation purposes and habitat degradation caused by the abundant population of wild boar. Part of Belene island has been utilized as a prison since 1948. Other human activities include agriculture, farming and small-scale timber harvesting. Large-scale wetland restoration projects have been successfully completed, a visitor's centre has been built and a new management plan for the Site has been approved and implemented. Ramsar Site no. 1226. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Belfast Lough

Site number: 958 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 432 ha | Coordinates: 54°40'N 05°51'W | Designation dates: 05-08-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Belfast Lough. 05/08/98; Northern Ireland; 432 ha; 54°38'N 005°54'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. The inner part of the lough comprises areas of intertidal foreshore composed of mudflats and lagoons, and land, both reclaimed and being reclaimed, which form important feeding/roosting sites for significant numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl. The outer lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores with some small sandy bays and beach-head saltmarsh. It regularly supports internationally important numbers of Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) in winter. Human activities include tourism, recreation, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 958. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Benfleet & Southend Marshes

Site number: 648 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 251 ha | Coordinates: 51°32'N 00°41'E | Designation dates: 14-02-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Benfleet & Southend Marshes. 14/02/94; England; 2,251 ha; 51°32'N 000°41'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, SSSI. The site comprises an extensive series of saltmarshes, mudflats, and grassland supporting a diverse flora and fauna. Internationally important numbers of several species of wintering waterbirds occur at the site. Human activities include tourism, recreation, research, fishing, shellfish and bait collection, livestock grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 648. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Berbak National Park

Site number: 554 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: Jambi Province, Sumatra  
Area: 162 700 ha | Coordinates: 01°24'S 104°16'E | Designation dates: 19-11-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Berbak. 08/04/92; Jambi; 162,700 ha; 01°24'S 104°16'E. National Park. A vast area of undisturbed peat swamp forest (115,000ha) and freshwater swamp forest (45,000ha), dissected by a large river and inhabited by a small group of native people. The forests are inundated for most of the year. In the dry season, brackish water penetrates up to 10km upstream. The site supports more than 150 tree species and over 34 species of fish, and is an important area for staging shorebirds. Three endangered species of birds (Storm's Stork, White-winged Wood Duck, and Hornbill), eight species of notable mammals (including the Sumatran Rhino, Tapir, Tiger and Malayan Sun Bear) and two species of notable reptiles (Estuarine Crocodile and False Gharial) are found here. Coastal mudflats located outside the reserve are important feeding grounds for waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 554. Most recent RIS information: 1991.

## Berda River Mouth & Berdianska Spit & Berdianska Bay

Site number: 772 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizka Oblast  
Area: 1 800 ha | Coordinates: 46°44'N 36°48'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Berda River Mouth and Berdianska Spit and Berdianska Bay. 23/11/95; Zaporizka Oblast; 1,800 ha; 46°44'N 036°48'E. Game Reserve. The site, a shallow bay of the Azov Sea and small river delta, includes accumulative islands, a spit, dunes, and saline lakes. Vegetation includes emergent and submergent species and saline floodplain swamps supporting numerous nationally threatened or endemic plant species. Large numbers of numerous species of waterbirds nest, feed and winter at the site. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, fishing, aquaculture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 772. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve

Site number: 1 927 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Minsk region  
Area: 85 149 ha | Coordinates: 54°38'N 28°30'E | Designation dates: 25-01-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve. 25/01/2010. Belarusian Lakeland: 85,149 ha; 54°38'N 028°30'E. Biosphere Reserve: Natural Area of Strict Protection, Important Bird Area (IBA), Important Plant Area (IPA). This Ramsar Site is located in the northern part of the country, in the Belarusian Lakeland area. The site lies on three administrative districts in the watershed of the Berezina and Essa rivers basins, Lepel and Dokshitsy districts (Vitebsk region) and Borisov district (Minsk region), its nearest industrial centre being Minsk city. The reserve is a unique complex of coniferous and broad-leaved forests, floodplain, transition mires and raised bogs, meadows, floodplain black alder and birch forests. Forested rivers and lakes cover 86,5 % of the territory. Mires have become rare in Belarus as a result of heavy drainage activities and have practically disappeared in Central Europe. The complex of the reserves undrained mires is one of the largest in Europe and has high-level protection. The reserve is habitat for a number of threatened plant and animal species and it is one of the most important nesting and concentration sites of wetland birds in Belarus. In particular, the site supports 111 species of animals listed in the National Red Data Book of Belarus, which represents 59,8 % of the total number of species listed, including 10 mammal species, 58 birds, 2 amphibians, 1 reptile, 2 fish species and 38 insect species. Moreover, the site counts 74 plant species listed in the National Red Data Book. The main factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character are periodic fires and overgrowth of mires with scrub and reed. An officially approved management plan is currently being implemented. Ramsar Site no.1927. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Berezovye Islands, Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea

Site number: 691 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Leningrad Oblast  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 60°18'N 28°30'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Berezovye Islands, Gulf of Finland. 13/09/94; Leningrad Oblast; 12,000 ha; 60°18'N 028°30'E. Nature Reserve. An archipelago in the Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea. The islands have highly indented shorelines, with many bays, inlets, channels, and extensive intertidal mud and sand flats. The islands are dominated by pine forests and include spruce and birch stands as well as areas of mires and bogs. The site is important for migrating and breeding populations of waterbirds. Between 300,000 and 500,000 birds occur on migration in spring, including numerous species of ducks, geese, swans, and gulls. The site provides important habitats for many threatened animal species. Human activities include fishing, navigation, haymaking, sport fishing, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 691. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Bertha's Beach

Site number: 1 103 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: East Falkland  
Area: 4 000 ha | Coordinates: 51°55'S 58°25'W | Designation dates: 24-09-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bertha's Beach. 24/09/01; 4,000 ha; 51°55'S 058°25'W. Sandy beach on the northern shore of Choiseul Sound, East Falkland, connecting former islands to the mainland, and surrounding marine waters. The site is a good representative example, in relatively natural state, of several different wetland habitat types found along this coast, including shallow marine waters, kelp beds, rocky shores, peatlands, and coastal freshwater lagoons, as well as tussac vegetation on two islands. The site supports appreciable numbers of threatened fauna and flora. The endemic Falkland Steamer Duck (*Tachyeres brachydactyla*) and several endemic subspecies, such as Upland Goose, Kelp Goose, and Tussacbird, are also present. Breeding Southern Sea Lion (*Otaria flavescens*) and colonies of Gentoo Penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*) are supported at a critical stage in their biological cycle (Criterion 4). Direction Island, 1 km offshore and part of the site, presents a magnetic anomaly which affects ships' compasses and caused the wreck of the Norwegian barque Bertha in 1892, thus naming the site. Livestock grazing is practiced in the area, and overgrazing is a potential problem as elsewhere on the islands. Disturbance caused by construction and military activities has decreased markedly in recent years, and the farm manager and military authorities control access to the site. Ramsar site no. 1103. Most recent RIS information: 2001. [Note: On 24 October 2001, the Argentine Republic made a diplomatic protest to this designation.]

## Bertiandos and S. Pedro of Arcos Lagoons

Site number: 1 613 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Região Norte  
Area: 346 ha | Coordinates: 41°46'N 08°38'W | Designation dates: 02-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bertiandos and S. Pedro of Arcos Lagoons. 02/12/05; Região Norte; 346 ha; 41°45'N 008°39'W. Natura 2000, Protected Landscape, partly National Ecological Reserve. A complex of permanent and temporary freshwater lakes on the right bank of the Lima River, hosting a broad range of 500 inventoried floristic and many fauna species. It is an important habitat for aquatic bird species for breeding, resting and migrating species, supporting amongst others *Gallinula chloropus*, *Alcedo atthis* and *Ardea purpurea* or *Caprimulgus europaeus*. It also supports two migrating fish species, *Anguilla anguilla* and *Petromyzon marinus*, that use the Estorãos River during the larval age and as an ecological corridor for the spawning sites located upstream. The strong relations between the area and the local population are part its cultural value, together with environmental education, leisure activities and outdoor recreation. Some of these activities may affect the ecological features, especially the agricultural developments of corn and rye-grass succession, with increasing abandonment of the pastures areas, and the intensification of agricultural production, including the spread of exotic species plantation (*Eucalyptus globulus*). Further impacts on the species composition and spread of some exotic species are caused by frequent forest fires and the cleaning of drainage trenches in the flooded space. Ramsar site no. 1613. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Beung Kiat Ngong Wetlands

Site number: 1 941 | Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic | Administrative region: Champasak Province  
Area: 2 360 ha | Coordinates: 16°25'N 106°03'E | Designation dates: 16-06-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Beung Kiat Ngong Wetlands. 16/06/2010; Champasak Province; 2,360 ha; 14°45'N 106°03'E. Beung Kiat Ngong Wetlands lie partly within Xe Pian and the Dong Hua Sao National Protected Areas.

This important wetland complex includes swamps, lakes and marshes and is the only place in Lao where peatland areas are found. This tributary of the Xe Khampho River supports up to 200-300 fish species and is important for fish spawning (e.g. *Channa* sp.) and moving upstream during the wet season. During the dry season it acts as a sanctuary for the Walking catfish (*Clarias batrachus*) and some 20 other fish species. Aquatic habitats are home to freshwater tortoises such as the vulnerable Malayan snail-eating turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*), and the site is important as a feeding area for waterbirds that may occasionally also nest there.

The site is important for flood control and maintaining ground water, and local people engage in subsistence and commercial fishing, harvesting of wild vegetables, rice and non-timber products, as well as over 350 species of medicinal plants.

Threats include peat extraction for fertilizer, unsustainable fish harvesting, and conversion of marsh areas into rice-paddy.

The Agriculture and Forestry District Office and the Water Resources and Environment Agency are responsible for the management of this site. Ramsar site no. 1941. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Bhitarkanika Mangroves

Site number: 1 205 | Country: India | Administrative region: Orissa  
Area: 65 000 ha | Coordinates: 20°39'N 86°54'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bhitarkanika Mangroves. 19/08/02. Orissa. 65,000 ha. 20°39'N 086°54'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. One of the finest remaining patches of mangrove forests along the Indian coast - 25 years of continued conservation measures have made the site one of the best known wildlife sanctuaries. The site's Gahirmatha beach is said to host the largest known Olive Ridley sea turtle nesting beach in the world, with half a million nesting annually, and the site has the highest density of saltwater crocodile in the country, with nearly 700 *Crocodylus porosus*. It is a major breeding and wintering place for many resident and migratory waterbirds and is the east coast's major nursery for brackish water and estuarine fish fauna. Like many mangrove areas, the dense coastal forests provide vital protection for millions of people from devastating cyclones and tidal surges - of India's 58 recorded species of mangroves, 55 species are found in Bhitarkanika, a wider mangrove diversity than in the Sundarbans! Traditionally, sustainable harvesting of food, medicines, tannins, fuel wood, and construction materials, and particularly honey and fish, has been the rule, but population pressures and encroachment may threaten that equilibrium. Ramsar site no. 1205. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Bhoj Wetland

Site number: 1 206 | Country: India | Administrative region: Madhya Pradesh  
Area: 3 201 ha | Coordinates: 23°14'N 77°20'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bhoj Wetland. 19/08/02. Madhya Pradesh. 3,201 ha. 23°14'N 077°20'E. Two contiguous human-made reservoirs - the "Upper Lake" was created in the 11th century by construction of an earthen dam across the Kolans River, and the lower was constructed nearly 200 years ago, largely from leakage from the Upper, and is surrounded by the city of Bhopal. The lakes are very rich in biodiversity, particularly for macrophytes, phytoplankton, zooplankton, both natural and cultured fish species, both resident and migratory birds, insects, and reptiles and amphibians. Since implementation of a management action plan was begun in 1995 with financial support from the government of Japan, a number of bird species have been sighted which had rarely or never before been seen in the region. WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. A photo essay is available at [http://ramsar.org/photo\\_essay\\_india\\_bhoj.htm](http://ramsar.org/photo_essay_india_bhoj.htm). Ramsar site no. 1206. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Biebrzański National Park

Site number: 756 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Podlaskie  
Area: 59 233 ha | Coordinates: 53°30'N 22°46'E | Designation dates: 24-10-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biebrzanaki National Park is one of the largest and most well-preserved areas of natural swamps and peatlands in the Continental biogeographical region. It comprises several types of swamp, grass tussock communities, alder forest and some cultivated land. The Biebrza river that runs through the Site features a number of meanders and oxbows in various stages of succession, which provide a great variety of habitats. The area hosts a large number of rare, endemic and endangered species, including such rare taxa as the moth *Catocala pacta*, European fire-bellied toad, otter, musk rat, wolf and elk, for whom this variety of habitats is essential. Moreover, numerous migrating waterbirds use the wetland for feeding, resting, moulting and breeding. Flower meadows provide nourishment for breeding wild animals, and they support insects which also serve as pollinators of nearby crops. The area is also valuable for human populations, as in and around the Park there are over 600 kilometres of canoeing, cycling, running and walking trails and educational paths equipped with viewing towers, platforms and boardwalks. The local population also earns some additional income by gathering herbs and fruits. The area faces some increasing threats, which include dredging, canalization, water management and invasive alien species. A management plan is currently being prepared.

## Biesbosch

Site number: 197 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Brabant and Zuid-Holland  
Area: 9 640 ha | Coordinates: 51°44'N 04°47'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biesbosch. 23/05/80; Noord-Brabant; 9,640 ha; 051°44'N 004°46'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), National Park. The Site, at the confluence of the Rhine and Meuse rivers, is formed by tidal freshwater floodplain marshes characterized by reedbeds, swamp forests and creeks. The original Ramsar Site, named De Biesbosch (southern part), was extended significantly to follow the Natura 2000 boundary, resulting in the addition of an area of over 6,800 ha. Biesbosch is rich in biodiversity and supports globally threatened species of waterbirds such as bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*). It also regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, and the shallow waters play an important function as a spawning, nursery and feeding grounds for various fish and mollusc species. The Site's hydrological values include flood control, sediment and nutrient retention, and water purification. It is also used for farming and reed cutting, and it hosts wind farms and commercial fisheries. The threats to the ecological character of the Site include the continuing industrialization and urbanization of the surrounding areas. Ramsar site no. 197. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Big Chapelsk Depression

Site number: 1 397 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kherson Region  
Area: 2 359 ha | Coordinates: 46°29'N 33°51'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Big Chapelsk Depression. 29/07/04; Khersonska Oblast; 2,359 ha; 46°29'N 033°51'E. IBA, Nature Reserve, Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova'. Natural shallow depression (or "pod") filled by water from melted snow and rains -- thanks to additional water from artesian wells, the lake, at the central part of the depression, never dries up. Hundreds of thousands of birds use the depression during autumn and spring migrations. Among them, large flocks of White-fronted Goose, Crane, Red-breasted Goose, and Ruddy Shelduck feed during the daytime on the steppe and agricultural lands of the surroundings and come back to rest at night in the site. Non-freezing lakes permanently supplied by fresh water from artesian wells of the local zoo provide wintering opportunities for birds such as the mallards (5 to 16 thousand individuals) or the white-fronted geese (up to 40 thousand). Research and bird monitoring are carried out. The Biosphere Reserve and zoo receive up to 60,000 tourists annually but visits to the site itself are limited to about 500. A decrease of the water level periodically occurs every 12 years and disturbs the fauna distribution pattern. Ramsar site no. 1397. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Biharugra Fishponds

Site number: 903 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Békés County  
Area: 2 791 ha | Coordinates: 46°56'N 21°35'E | Designation dates: 26-05-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the second-largest Hungarian fishpond system, surrounded by meadows, characteristic salt grasslands, fragmented forests and arable lands. Ancient marshes are connected to the fishponds, of which the Ugrai-rét and the Sző-rét marshes are the biggest and most remarkable within the Site. The wetland system is closely connected with the fishponds of Cefa and the Radvani forest in neighbouring Romania. The Site maintains plant communities typical of the region, which support a rich botanical landscape, with relict species typical of loess steppes and species typical of bogs and woodlands. The area provides resting, breeding, feeding and staging areas for numerous endangered and protected waterbirds and waders, including the globally vulnerable lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus* and the red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*. Threatened species of mammals include the European otter *Lutra lutra* and the steppe polecat *Mustela eversmannii*. Human activities include intensive fishing, cattle and sheep breeding, farming and reed harvesting. "Kunhalom", a hill probably used for burial purposes 1,100 years ago, has important archaeological value. There is a visitor centre near Sző-rét, and the fishponds can be visited with a permit. Potential threats include inflow of polluted water from the River Sebes-Körös, and herbicides and pesticides sprayed on the surrounding agricultural land. A habitat restoration plan has been carried out in Ugrai-rét.

## Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit

Site number: 773 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Donetsk Oblast  
Area: 2 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°54'N 37°20'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit. 23/11/95; Donetsk Oblast; 2,000 ha; 46°54'N 037°20'E. Game Reserve. A sandy-shell spit and a shallow bay of the Azov Sea, the site includes shallow lakes, dunes, and silt islands. Vegetation consists of saltmarshes and meadows, swampy areas, reed and rush thickets. Numerous endemic and nationally rare plant species and relic fish species occur. The site is important for several thousand wintering Anseriformes and up to 3,000 pairs of nesting waterfowl. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, fishing, aquaculture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 773. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Bird-lakes of Rääkkylä and Kitee

Site number: 1 502 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland  
Area: 1 227 ha | Coordinates: 62°12'N 29°57'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird-lakes of Rääkkylä and Kitee. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland; 1,227 ha; 62°10'N 029°56'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. Five lake areas distributed in a circumference of about 50km, forming the most important complex in Northern Karelia for breeding and migrating wetland birds. About 600 pairs of 18 species breed in the areas and the wetlands are important as staging areas for waterfowl during migration periods. Hovinlampi-Ylälampi, Joki-Hautalampi and Jouhtenuslampi are lake-like bays of Orivesi watercourse in a quite pristine state with boggy shores in process of slowly overgrowing. In general, the vegetation is gradually phasing into extensive flood meadows dominated by sedges. Apart from the overgrown northern part, the Juurikkajärvi lake is characterized by extensive helophyte vegetation and meadows at its edges. Päätyeenlahti is a narrow lake bay with vast and rich submerged vegetation. Extensive sedge meadows, willow growths and quaking bogs are exceptionally abundant on the shores. Hunting of waterfowl in autumn and fishing in spring is intense in most areas and, with boating activities around holiday cottages, disturbs both breeding and staging birds. Ramsar site no. 1502. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird-Lakes of Rantasalmi

Site number: 1 503 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland  
Area: 1 109 ha | Coordinates: 62°01'N 28°24'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird-lakes of Rantasalmi. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland; 1,109 ha; 62°01'N 028°24'E. Natura 2000, SPA and partly SCI, WHCP, Mire Conservation Programme. A diverse and representative complex characterized by flood meadows, reedbeds and a range of different mire types. All four wetland areas of the site are connected to Lake Haukivesi. Putkilahti-Ruskeaperä is a shallow lake with extensive growths of water horsetail and common reed, with flood meadows and poor fens of about 20 different mire types. Both lakes Kosulanlampi and Pieni Raudanvesi are in process of overgrowing with diverse vegetation. The area of Vaahersalonlampi is a narrow sound of Lake Haukivesi, surrounded by extensive sedge meadows and an alder zone, which gradually transforms into pasturage with diverse meadows and an old-growth silver birch forest. Overgrowing of all lakes is caused by the discharge of effluent waters, and a peat mining area nearby increases the humus contents of the lake. Concurrently American Mink and Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) populations may cause damage to the breeding of birds. Overall, the traditional pasturing forms the valuable shape of the cultural landscape and two birdwatching towers have been constructed to serve recreational and natural interests. Ramsar site no. 1503. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird Wetlands of Haapavesi

Site number: 1 504 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 3 616 ha | Coordinates: 64°15'N 25°26'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Haapavesi. 02/02/04; Oulu; 3,616 ha; 64°15'N 025°30'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP and Mire Conservation Programme. Eight closely situated lakes and two mires forming a diverse wetland complex with an exceptionally high density of breeding and staging waterfowl and waders in the Middle-Ostrobothnia. In spring or autumn, more than 1,000 individuals of Wigeons, Tufted Ducks and Goldeneyes can be seen and more than 400 Whooper Swans rest at the lakes on peak days. At Lake Ainall the highest daily counts of both waterfowl and waders may reach more than 2,000 individuals in May. The site represents the mire vegetation regions of southern aapa mires and of eccentric bogs and Sphagnum fuscum bogs, but also sedge fens supporting wide growths of water horsetail and nymphs. The lakes are surrounded mainly by paludified forests of pine and birch. Open mires are separated from each other by various types of pine bogs and spruce mires, which in certain places transform into wet meadows and grassy types. Draining activities are causing an increase of the humus content of the waters and the drying up of some flark areas of the mires in recent years. Significant values of the site also include birdwatching and outdoor recreation. Ramsar site no. 1504. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird Wetlands of Hailuoto Island

Site number: 1 505 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 6 512 ha | Coordinates: 65°02'N 24°45'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Hailuoto Island. 02/02/04; Oulu; 6,512 ha; 65°00'N 024°45'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Area, Finnish Waterfowl Habitats, Mires, Eskers and Shores Conservation Programmes. A number of wetlands distributed all over Hailuoto Island in the Bothnian Bay, a unique area for breeding and migrating birds and important threatened and endemic plant communities. According to estimates more than 35% of the over-wintering populations of continental Europe migrate via Hailuoto Island and nearby coasts, and even summer flocks of waterfowl reach 8,000 Goosanders and 2,000 Goldeneyes. The site is characterized by extensive reedy bays, coastal meadows and sandy shores. The northern shore is formed by a wide esker area. Dunes of various types occur on the shores as well as wrinkling flads and gloes, typical forms of lagoons in the Baltic Sea. Former sea bays with extensive sedge meadows and bush zones, sometimes reedbelts and deciduous forests, sandbanks and countless small islets, reefs and shoals are found in the western and southern parts. Significant values include scientific research on fauna and flora and monitoring of restoration measures as well as environmental education, birdwatching and outdoor recreation activities. Ramsar site no. 1505. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari

Site number: 1 506 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 55 196 ha | Coordinates: 59°51'N 23°22'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Hanko and Tammisaari. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 55,196 ha; 59°49'N 023°10'E. National Park, Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Baltic Sea Protected Area. A complex of archipelago, shallow sea bays as well as flads and gloes, two types of lagoons created by land upheaval. Covering a large range of biotopes from limnetic, brackish zones to marine and offshore ones, it includes important natural wetland habitat types such as coastal lagoons, boreal Baltic coastal meadows, bog woodland and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods with a notable amount of nationally threatened flora and fauna species. Tens of thousands of both ducks and waders use the area during migration, and it regularly supports 6% of the biogeographical population of Caspian Tern, which represents Finland's largest colony. Oil pollution damage is the main threat because of shipping routes to the recently-enlarged Hanko harbour and near the southern parts of the area. There is a heavy pressure for recreational usage and building on the shores. Tourist facilities are present, including a visitor centre, nature trails, camping sites as well as an observation tower, because of special interest in birdwatching at Hanko Peninsula. Ramsar site no. 1506. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird Wetlands of Lapväärtti

Site number: 1 507 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 1 224 ha | Coordinates: 62°12'N 21°27'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Lapväärtti. 02/02/04; Western Finland, 1,224 ha; 62°11'N 021°26'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. A variety of wetland types forming a very valuable site for both breeding and migrating wetland bird species. Due to a small connection to the open sea, the old sea bay Härkmerifjärden still supports some typical brackish water plant species, surrounded with forests of spruce and Grey Alder at its shores. Other lakes are characterized by a wider variety from growths of common club-rush, water horsetail, water lilies, and common reed. The River Lapväärtinjoki discharges into a long and narrow sea bay, the estuary of which is characterized by extensive, uniform growths of reeds, sedges and willows, surrounded by deciduous and mixed forests and agricultural land in the northern part. Negative influences include overgrowing, increasing acidity (which has caused a few mass destructions of fishes), and the building of holiday cottages; ditching carried out in the early 1990s has drained the area considerably. Ramsar site no. 1507. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird Wetlands of Siikajoki

Site number: 1 508 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 2 691 ha | Coordinates: 64°50'N 24°45'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Siikajoki. 02/02/04; Oulu; 2,691 ha; 64°52'N 024°48'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. The four main adjacent shore areas around Siikajoki consisting of capes, a river estuary, mires and shoals, which together form a unique wetland unit for breeding and migrating bird fauna. At the centre of the site is the Merikylänlahti sea bay characterized by coastal meadows in the process of turning into a gloe lake formation. In general the flora of the site contains two very special groups, the endemic species of the Gulf of Bothnia and the so-called *Primula nutans* (Siberian primrose) group of arctic species in isolation from the main distribution areas of the Arctic Ocean. The importance of the area is exceptional in migration periods. Increased recreation and extension of holiday dwelling constructions, as well as intensive hunting of waterfowl, are causing disturbance. Furthermore the planned road connection to Hailuoto Island threatens the northeastern part of the Ramsar site. Ramsar site no. 1508. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bird Wetlands of Vanajavesi Area

Site number: 1 509 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western and Southern Finland  
Area: 702 ha | Coordinates: 61°12'N 24°14'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bird Wetlands of Vanajavesi Area. 02/02/04; Western Finland, Southern Finland; 702 ha; 61°13'N 024°15'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Eight separate areas forming a representative wetland complex of four lakes and four bays with a valuable wetland bird fauna. Different wetland types include reed zones with small open-water areas and submerged or floating-leaved vegetation or extensive growths of water horsetail and wide sedge meadows. Bays are rather small and sheltered with vegetation dominated by common reed, common club-rush and water horsetail. During the breeding season the site supports more than 500 pairs of 16 species, among them 10 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I, including several pairs of e.g. Slavonian Grebe, Bittern, Whooper Swan and Crane. The lakes and bays are also important staging areas for waterfowl during migration and molting periods. Eutrophication of the lakes and the impact of American Mink and Raccoon Dog populations on breeding birds affect the ecological character of the site. Visitors enjoy the site for outdoor recreation and birdwatching activities benefiting from facilities such as two observation towers at two different lake areas. Ramsar site no. 1509. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Bistret

Site number: 2 063 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Dolj County  
Area: 27 482 ha | Coordinates: 43°53'N 23°35'E | Designation dates: 13-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bistret. 13/06/12; Dolj County; 27,482 ha; 43°52'34"N 023°34'40"E. Natura 2000 (SPA). A mosaic of different habitats, including Bistret Lake, the Danube river, fishery and lagoon complexes, islands, meadows, agricultural land and forests that harbours a diversity of species of flora and fauna, especially birds. Being located along a major migratory route, the site is a nesting, resting and feeding site for many regionally and globally threatened bird species such as the endangered Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* and the vulnerable Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. The site is used for agriculture; fishing and recreational activities. Bistret Lake acts as a water reservoir and influences the groundwater level. The area surrounding the Lake is of archaeological importance, with one of the most important Bronze Age complexes on the Lower Danube. The operation of the fish farm poses certain threats to the site, as does poaching and solid waste disposal. Ramsar Site number: 2063. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Bitahai Wetland

Site number: 1 434 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan  
Area: 1 985 ha | Coordinates: 27°42'N 100°01'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bitahai Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 1,985 ha; 27°50'33"N 099°59'10"E. Provincial Nature Reserve. An alpine wetland between 3,000 and 4,260 meters above sea level, with swamps, lake, peat lands, and adjacent forest cover. The site has very high hydrological values such as flood prevention and control in the key catchment zones of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau; as part of the Jinsha River watershed in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, it supplies water to the aquifers and stabilizes the flow in the lower reaches of the Yangtze. The lake is the home of the endemic fish *Ptychobarbus chungtienensis chungtienensis* and the vulnerable Black-necked crane *Grus nigricollis* and, situated within the Central Asia and East Asian-Australasia Flyways, it is an important wintering and stopover site for many migratory birds. The Reserve attracts a large number of tourists every year, and partnerships with academic institutes have been established to study and monitor its ecology. Human uses are largely husbandry and agriculture, with a majority of cash income generated from collecting and selling *Tricholoma matsutake* mushroom, raising cows, and selling dairy products. Since Ramsar designation in 2004, management efforts have been scaled up: frequent patrols were put in place to prevent illegal hunting and fishing, and training on management and biodiversity conservation has been provided to staff. Ramsar site No. 1434. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Biviere di Gela

Site number: 397 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sicilia  
Area: 256 ha | Coordinates: 37°01'N 14°20'E | Designation dates: 12-04-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biviere di Gela. 12/04/88; Sicilia; 256 ha; 37°01'N 014°20'E. National Park, Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal, freshwater lagoon at the mouth of the Torta River backed by hills and separated from the sea by a dune system. Vegetation consists of submerged aquatic plants and emergent species. The site is used for commercial fishing and as a water source for irrigation of surrounding cultivated land. The area is important as a staging area for numerous species of migratory birds, including important numbers of *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. The site also supports the highest diversity of nesting waterbirds of any wetland in Sicily. Ramsar site no. 397. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Biwa-ko

Site number: 617 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Shiga Prefecture  
Area: 65 984 ha | Coordinates: 35°15'N 136°05'E | Designation dates: 10-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biwa-ko. 10/06/93; Shiga, Honshu; 65,984ha; 35°15'N 136°05'E. Lake Biwa Quasi National Park Special Zone; Wildlife Protection Area; Anatidae Network Site. Surrounded by vast reedbeds, the country's largest lake is the world's third oldest. Seventy species of aquatic plants have been recorded, as well as numerous relict plants. 53 species of fish, of which 11 are indigenous, and 172 bird species use the area for feeding, roosting or staging. Waterbird counts record over 50,000 birds annually. Most of the site is composed of beaches or natural and urban park zones used for tourism and recreation. Pearl and fish production are economically important. There is increasing urban demand for water from the lake. Ramsar site no. 617. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Björkör and Lågsjär Archipelago

Site number: 4 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Åland  
Area: 6 309 ha | Coordinates: 59°54'N 20°07'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Björkör and Lågsjär Archipelago. 28/05/74; Åland; 6,309 ha; 59°52'N 020°02'E. Natura 2000 SPA. Two archipelago areas comprising two forested islands with freshwater pools, over 150 treeless skerries and rocky islets, and surrounding marine areas. The vegetation of Lågsjär Island has recovered after the cessation of grazing in the early 1960s, and is exceptionally diverse considering the harsh archipelago conditions. It is a very important feeding area for waterfowl during migration periods and among the few important wintering areas for Steller's Eider in the Northern Baltic. The underwater banks of Lågsjär Archipelago are important feeding areas for waterfowl during migration periods. In spring up to 10,000 of both Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks rest in the area on peak days. Amongst the threatened species hosted by the site are also the Ringed and Grey Seal. Negative impacts are caused by oil pollution, and increased boating in the breeding season causes disturbance to birds. A bird station has been in operation since 1964. Ramsar site no. 4. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Black Bog

Site number: 1 032 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 183 ha | Coordinates: 54°40'N 07°01'W | Designation dates: 28-07-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Black Bog. 28/07/00; Northern Ireland; 183 ha; 54°40'N 007°01'W. Area of Special Scientific Interest. A large lowland raised bog, exhibiting the full range of characteristic vegetation, and one of the two largest intact active bogs in Northern Ireland with hummock and hollow pool complexes, one of the best examples of this habitat type in the UK. Past drainage works for peat extraction have affected part of the site, but remedial steps have been taken and further restoration will be carried out if required. A management plan is in place and regular monitoring is carried out. Ramsar site no. 1032. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### **Black River Lower Morass**

Site number: 919 | Country: Jamaica | Administrative region: Southwestern region  
Area: 5 700 ha | Coordinates: 18°04'N 77°48'W | Designation dates: 07-10-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Black River Lower Morass. 07/10/97; St. Elizabeth; 5,700 ha; 18°04'N 077°48'W. Conservation Area, Game Reserve, Protected Area. The largest freshwater wetland ecosystem in Jamaica and the Caribbean. The site includes mangrove swamps, permanent rivers and streams, freshwater swamp forest, and peatlands. It is a biologically diverse and extremely complex natural wetland ecosystem that supports diverse plant and animals communities which include rare, endangered and endemic species. The site supports human habitation, livestock grazing, fishing, tourism and cultivation. Ramsar site no. 919. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### **Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven**

Site number: 844 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Mayo  
Area: 683 ha | Coordinates: 54°03'N 10°00'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven. 11/06/96; Mayo; 683 ha; 54°03'N 010°00'W. A composite of diverse marine and coastal habitats that includes vast dune systems and extensive areas of dune grassland with saltmarshes occurring in sheltered bays and inlets. The grasslands are of considerable botanical importance. The site also includes several brackish lakes important to various species of breeding waders, large numbers of wintering waterbirds of various species, and internationally important numbers of Brent geese. Ramsar site no. 844. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### **Blackwater Estuary**

Site number: 543 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 4 395 ha | Coordinates: 51°44'N 00°49'E | Designation dates: 11-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Blackwater Estuary. 11/03/92; England; 4,395 ha; 51°45'N 000°52'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site, one of the largest estuarine complexes in East Anglia, consists of intertidal mudflats fringed by saltmarsh, shingle and shell banks, and offshore islands. Surrounding terrestrial habitats include a sea wall, grassland, ancient grazing marsh and associated fleet and ditch system. This rich mosaic of habitats supports an outstanding assemblage of nationally scarce plants and a nationally important assemblage of rare invertebrates. Internationally and nationally important numbers of waterbirds winter at the site. Human activities include marine aquaculture, tourism, commercial and sport fishing, shellfish and bait collection. Extended on 12/05/95 from the former Ramsar Site known as Old Hall Marshes. Ramsar site no. 543. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### **Blackwater Estuary**

Site number: 836 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Waterford  
Area: 468 ha | Coordinates: 51°57'N 07°48'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Blackwater Estuary. 11/06/96; 468 ha; 51°57'N 007°48'W. The Blackwater River estuary includes well-developed marsh communities, numerous dry woodlands, sedges and reedbeds. The site supports large numbers of various species of wintering waterbirds and a high population of otter. Human activities include reed harvesting for thatch. Ramsar site no. 836.

### **Blahnita**

Site number: 2 110 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Dolj County  
Area: 45 286 ha | Coordinates: 44°26'N 22°38'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Blahnita. 02/02/2013; Dolj County; 45,286 ha; 44°25'31"N 022°38'17"E. Nature Reserves; Natura 2000 Network (SPA, SCI). The landscape of this site is represented by swamps, permanent lakes and sand dunes covered with acacias, poplars, oak forests and grasslands, inhabited by a rich and diverse fauna which finds exceptional conditions for nesting and breeding in the area. The site has been designated as a special protection area (SPA) under the Birds Directive for the protection of 16 bird species listed in Annex I, such as the *Himantopus himantopus*, the *Chlidonias hybrida* or the *Egretta garzetta*. The site is also important for the protection of many migratory species listed under the Bonn Convention as for example the *Coracias garrulous*, the *Ixobrychus minutus* and the *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*. Within the Ramsar Site most of human activities are related to agriculture, fishing and forestry, which bring with them potential threats of water pollution, poaching, overfishing and dumping affecting the ecological character of the wetland. In order to avoid these impacts, a management plan is to be developed by the Romanian Ornithological Society. The village of Hinova within the site has been inhabited since the Roman era. Ramsar Site no. 2110. Most Recent RIS information: 2012.

### **Blaikfjället**

Site number: 2 167 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västerbotten County  
Area: 43 487 ha | Coordinates: 64°39'N 16°02'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Blaikfjället is a vast high plateau to the east of the Fennoscandian mountain range. The Site is one of the largest unexploited mire complex areas in Scandinavia, where unusually in Sweden, the mires follow the local topography of the plateau and even cover some higher areas. The Site is of importance in preserving the biological diversity of north Scandinavian mire and taiga forest ecosystems, such as mire bird fauna, fungi, and insects which depend on dead wood. Almost all northern boreal mire and forest bird species are present, and the Site is important as a moulting, roosting, staging and breeding site for wetland birds. The peatland areas are important for carbon sequestration. The land has been used for extensive reindeer farming for several hundred years by the Saami people, which has some influence on the wetland vegetation. Remnants of the former hay harvesting, such as paths and barns, can also be observed. Currently the Site is mainly dedicated to nature conservation and research, recreation, fishing and hunting. Management plans for the two overlapping nature reserves and the Natura 2000 sites are being implemented. Due to its pristine state and high ecological value the Site has been proposed as a National Park.

## Blekinge skärgård

Site number: 1 115 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: County of Blekinge  
Area: 12 958 ha | Coordinates: 56°07'N 15°27'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of three separate areas along the south-east coast of Sweden. Separated by shallow marine waters, these discrete entities include islands, coastal meadows and marshes, beaches and rocky shores. The area supports more than 100 nationally red-listed species, primarily insects and birds, and more than 20,000 waterbird individuals, especially ducks, gulls and cormorants. The Site is important for breeding, resting and wintering birds and supports over 1% of the biogeographic population of the tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, the common eider *Somateria mollissima* and the great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. The waters are important as spawning and recruiting areas for fish including herring *Clupea harengus*, pike *Esox Lucius* and perch *Perca fluviatilis*. Remains of medieval house foundations and ancient graves can be seen on some islands, and preservation of the cultural landscape of the area is seen to be of national interest. The Site is used for growing livestock fodder as well as for fishing, recreation, bird watching and ecological tourism. The main threats to its ecological character relate to fishing and harvesting of aquatic resources and of non-timber crops in the surrounding areas. There are 12 nature reserves within or partially within the Site, all with management plans in place. Restoration measures of grassland and meadows are carried out on some of the islands through the GRACE (Grazing and Restoration of Archipelago and Coastal Environments) project.

## Blesbokspruit

Site number: 343 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Gauteng  
Area: 1 858 ha | Coordinates: 26°19'S 28°30'E | Designation dates: 02-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Blesbokspruit. 02/10/86; Gauteng; 1,858 ha; 26°17'S 028°30'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 6 May 1996. Bird Sanctuary, Nature Reserve. One of the few permanent water bodies in the Transvaal region. Formed during the 1930 construction of road and pipeline embankments for the mining industry. Seasonally important for several species of locally migrant waterbirds and various notable mammals. Mining activities take place upstream. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in May 1996 in response to contamination by large quantities of polluted water discharged from adjacent mines. Ramsar site no. 343. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Bliksvaer

Site number: 1 187 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 4 316 ha | Coordinates: 67°16'N 13°59'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of eight separate areas along the north-western coast of Norway, comprising numerous skerries and islets and a larger island, with shallow marine waters, rocky shores, and some sandy beaches. Its wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks, as well as brackish marshes, are typical of the biogeographic region. The Site is a breeding area for a number of seabird species, the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (with 10-15 pairs recorded), and the harbour porpoise *Phoca vitulina*. It is also a wintering area for the great northern diver *Gavia immer* and the yellow-billed loon *Gavia adamsii*. The Site is used for recreational activities, fishing and sheep grazing. Traditionally the breeding population of common eiders were exploited for down and egg collection, which contributed to a high population of species as they benefited from predator protection and erection of breeding-houses. The abandonment of some such traditional practices threatens the ecological character of the Site, but there are plans to revive them. Heather and juniper burning as well as grazing are practised to prevent overgrowing. The Site was extended in 2012.

## Blue Bay Marine Park

Site number: 1 744 | Country: Mauritius | Administrative region: Grand Port district  
Area: 353 ha | Coordinates: 20°27'S 57°42'E | Designation dates: 31-01-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A unique coastal wetland recognized for its exceptional underwater seascape with diverse marine fauna and flora, especially its coral diversity (38 coral species representing 28 genera and 15 families). The presence of mangroves, seagrass meadows, and macro algae contribute to the overall stability of the marine environment and make it a habitat for about 72 fish species and the endangered green turtle, as well as a nursing ground for juvenile marine species. This site adjoins the popular Blue Bay Beach, 5 metres away, which is widely used by the local community for recreational purposes, and tourism is also significant. Threats posed to the coral ecosystem by diving activities are controlled by allowing only certified divers to operate in the area. Management of Marine Protected Areas is ensured by the Fisheries and Marine Regulations of 2001, which makes special provisions for this site. In addition, there is a steering committee for the management of the park drawn from most of the environment-related ministries (Agro-industry, Environment, Tourism, Housing and Lands, etc.), and daily patrols are conducted to enforce the regulations.

## Blue Lake

Site number: 800 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 338 ha | Coordinates: 36°24'S 148°19'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

One of only four cirque lakes found on mainland Australia. Situated at ca.1,800m altitude, in a periglacial setting within the Kosciuszko National Park, it is surrounded by alpine herb fields, heaths, fens and bogs that support various native plants and animals, including rare, vulnerable and endangered species such as the Mountain pygmy possum (*Burrhamys parvus*), the Alpine tree frog (*Litoria verreauxii*) and the anemone buttercup (*Ranunculus anemoneus*), as well as several invertebrate species restricted to the alpine zone. Human activities include conservation education, skiing, and ice climbing. Possible impacts of climate change are seen as potential threats to the site.

## Bodensee: Wollmatinger Ried - Giehrenmoos & Mindelsee

Site number: 89 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Baden-Württemberg  
Area: 1 286 ha | Coordinates: 47°41'N 09°07'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bodensee: Wollmatinger Ried, Giehrenmoos & Mindelsee. 26/02/76; Baden-Württemberg; 1,286 ha; 47°41'N 009°07'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive, Council of Europe Diploma, Nature Reserves Landscape Reserve. Two separate sectors composed of a shallow embayment of extensive reedbeds, seasonally inundated meadows, and a small nutrient-rich lake. The site is internationally important for numerous species of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. Plants include endemic and notable species. Waterbird hunting has been prohibited. Human activities include research and biological monitoring, forestry, extensive fishing, recreation, urban development, agriculture and grazing. Ramsar site no. 89.

## Bodrozug

Site number: 422 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County  
Area: 4 220 ha | Coordinates: 48°11'N 21°25'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is characterized by grassland, marshland, reedbeds and areas of woodland. It supports hygrophilous communities important for maintaining biological diversity within the Pannonic biogeographic region. It is one of the best-preserved floodplains in the country, and includes several lakes at the confluence of the rivers Tisza and Bodrog. More than 250 bird species use the Site for nesting and as a resting ground during migration. The Site supports threatened species of birds such as the greater white-fronted goose and mammals including the European otter, and is an important spawning ground for fish such as the spined loach. Moreover, the Site plays an important role in flood control and local climate regulation, favouring the local production of the renowned Tokaji wine. Human activities include mowing, angling and livestock grazing. The Rákóczi Castle is situated at the mouth of the river Bodrog and adds historical value to the Site. The main threats are posed by invasive species of flora and the inflow of cyanide-polluted waters from the rivers Szamos and Tisza, caused by a gold mine spill near Baia Mare, Romania in 2000.

## Boeng Chhmar and Associated River System and Floodplain

Site number: 997 | Country: Cambodia | Administrative region: Kampong Thom Province  
Area: 28 000 ha | Coordinates: 12°49'N 104°17'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Boeng Chhmar and Associated River System and Floodplain. 23/06/99; Kampong Thom, Siem Reap provinces; 28,000 ha; 12°48'20"N 104°16'55"E. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A lake formed amid inundated forest in the northeast fringe of Tonle Sap lake, consisting of permanent open water surrounded by a creek system and flooded forest which becomes one with Tonle Sap in the wet season. The site is a good example of near-natural wetlands that play a substantial hydrological and biological role in the natural functioning of two major rivers, Stoeng Stoung and Stoeng Chikreng. The area supports a large assemblage of plant, fish and waterbird species, many of which are listed as rare, vulnerable, or endangered, including the Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*, Mekong Giant Catfish *Pangasianodon gigas* and Giant Barb *Catlocarpio siamensis*. The site regularly supports more than 20,000 individuals of a number of large waterbird species on an annual basis. The Tonle Sap region plays a vital role in Cambodia's economy by supplying fish to the population, and several million people depend upon its productivity. The population in the Ramsar Site increased by 37% from 1998 to 2003, leading to increased pressure on fish resources and wood collection, with more frequent dry season fires, all of which are affecting the sites ecological character, turning the forest to grasslands and shrublands. However, efforts to manage these pressures continue with the creation a management plan and fish sanctuaries covering part of the Ramsar Site. Ramsar site no. 997. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Bofedales y Laguna de Salinas

Site number: 1 317 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Arequipa, Moquegua  
Area: 17 657 ha | Coordinates: 16°22'S 71°08'W | Designation dates: 28-10-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bofedales y Laguna de Salinas. 28/10/03. Arequipa. 17,657 ha. 16°22' S 71°08'W. National Reserve. A salt high Andean lake in the Puna at 4,300m altitude, Laguna de Salinas lies at the bottom of an endorheic basin with geothermal activities amidst snow-capped mountains and volcanoes. Open peat bogs known as bofedales surround the lake, providing an important grazing area for native camelids such as vicuñas and llamas as well as habitat for the endemic pupfish *Orestias agassizii*. Chilean (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), James's (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*), and the endangered Andean flamingoes (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*) inhabit the lake, reaching over 20,000 during the rainy season. *Calidris* spp sandpipers also winter in large numbers. Salt and borate mining is an important economic activity in the lake itself but also the main concern for the site due to the necessary soil removal of its operations. The impacts of overgrazing, the traditional activities of picking duck's eggs, and trout culture are being addressed through a Management Plan of the Salinas and Aguada Blanca National Reserve, to which the Ramsar site belongs. Ramsar Site No. 1317. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Bolinas Lagoon

Site number: 960 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: California  
Area: 445 ha | Coordinates: 37°55'N 122°41'W | Designation dates: 01-09-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bolinas Lagoon. 01/09/98; California; 445 ha; 37°55'N 122°41'W. Located in California, less than 20 kilometers up the coast from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Bolinas Lagoon is a tidal embayment of open water, mudflat, and marsh which provides productive and diverse habitats for marine fishes, waterbirds, and marine mammals, and it is also part of a much larger protected natural habitat complex in the region. The site is located on the Pacific Flyway, which makes the Lagoon an ideal staging ground and stopover site for migratory birds, and the temperate climate provides wintering habitat for a wide array of ducks, geese, and shorebirds. The area supports a number of recreational uses, including the use of manually-powered watercraft. Ramsar site no. 960. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Bolle di Magadino

Site number: 231 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of Ticino  
Area: 663 ha | Coordinates: 46°10'N 08°52'E | Designation dates: 18-02-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bolle di Magadino is one of the last near-natural river estuary landscapes in Switzerland. The Site encompasses the estuaries of the rivers Ticino and Verzasca into Lake Maggiore, and 3.4 kilometres of the lake shore. Bolle di Magadino is characterized by a natural succession of vegetation types ranging from open water to mesophilic forests, including groups of aquatic plants, reed beds, wet meadows and alluvial forests. Habitats such as marshes with tall sedges, *Salix* thickets, *Alnus* carr and other riverine woodlands create an interlinked mosaic of remarkably rich habitat of high biodiversity and landscape value. The Site is home to an impressive number of rare and endangered species, including some whose distribution in Switzerland is limited to the canton of Ticino. The Site harbours 54 plant and 154 animal species listed on the red lists of endangered species in Switzerland. An additional 25 plant and 87 animal species are protected at the European level. The Site is an important breeding area for many species of waterbirds as well as a significant stop-over and wintering ground for waterfowl. Human activities influencing the Site include nature conservation, forestry, agriculture, tourism, industry, and an airport. The surrounding areas are characterized by intensively cultivated land and urban zones. The Fondazione Bolle di Magadino manages the site and is responsible for the implementation of projects related to species conservation and habitat restoration.

## Booby Pond and Rookery

Site number: 702 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Little Cayman, Cayman Islands  
Area: 82 ha | Coordinates: 19°40'N 80°04'W | Designation dates: 21-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Booby Pond & Rookery. 21/09/94; Cayman Islands; 82 ha; 19°40'N 080°04'W. The site is a representative example of a coastal, landlocked, mangrove-fringed saline lagoon system of a kind that is widespread among low-lying islands in the region. It contains a breeding colony of approximately 7,000 Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*) which accounts for at least 30% of the total Caribbean population. Human activities include tourism, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 702.

## Bool and Hacks Lagoons

Site number: 322 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia  
Area: 3 200 ha | Coordinates: 37°08'S 140°41'E | Designation dates: 01-11-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bool & Hacks Lagoons. 01/11/85; South Australia; 3,200 ha; 37°08'S 140°41'E. Game Reserve, Conservation Park. Lying in an ancient inter-dune drainage system, the lagoons are artificially manipulated for flood control. An important site for waterbirds; duck and swan numbers reach 15,000 and 55,000 individuals respectively. Numbers of two species of nesting ibises exceed 50,000. The reserve is open for shooting on a limited basis, depending on seasonal factors, but the use of lead shot is prohibited. Ramsar site no. 322. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Borcea Arm

Site number: 2 111 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Calarasi County  
Area: 21 529 ha | Coordinates: 44°17'N 27°40'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Borcea Arm (Bratul Borcea). 02-02-2013; Calarasi, Ialomita Counties; 21,529 ha; 44°17'12"N 027°40'03"E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI). Located along a major migratory route, the Danube meadow site represents an important area for resting and feeding of a great variety of bird species. It contains many breeding populations of *Accipiter brevipes*, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Alcedo atthis* and *Ardea purpurea* among others. During migration, the site is also important as a resting area for populations of *Aythya nyroca*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Pandion haliaetus* in their way from Russia to the Mediterranean and African countries. The Danube meadow shapes the landscape with lakes between sand dunes, marshes, fishponds, islands, canals and drainage channels, transforming the site into a cradle of biodiversity richness. The vegetation is represented by aquatic macrophytes (*Phragmites*, *Typha* sp., etc.), poplars, shrubs and oak forests. The site provides a regulatory ecosystem service, reducing the Danube floods in the area. Within the site, Popina Bordusani contains historical and archaeological ruins which belong to one of the most ancient prehistoric settlements in Ialomita County, dated to 7,000 years old. A management plan has been developed but it is still pending approval. Ramsar Site no.: 2111. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Borsodi-Mezőség

Site number: 1 745 | Country: Hungary  
| Administrative region: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County and North-Hungary NUTS Region.  
Area: 18 470,9 ha | Coordinates: 47°46'N 20°49'E | Designation dates: 20-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Borsodi-Mezőség is the largest alkaline marshland complex on the right bank of the River Tisza. The main wetland types, still preserved in good, natural conditions, are permanent and intermittent marshes, hayfields and wet meadows which form a mosaic vegetation pattern with arid vegetation habitats (such as steppe grasslands on loess and sandy soil). The Site provides important staging habitats and water bodies for migratory birds including the common crane (*Grus grus*), while a large number of threatened waterbirds nest there. Endangered mammals such as the Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*) and the otter (*Lutra lutra*) can be found. The undisturbed grasslands constitute the only known current habitat of the southern birch mouse (*Sicista subtilis*) in Hungary. Traditionally, extensive animal husbandry has been practiced, and other activities include hay and reed harvesting and fishing. The ecological character of the Site is threatened by the regulation of the River Tisza and the spread of invasive species such as desert false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) and boxelder (*Acer negundo*). Conservation projects have been carried out under the EU's LIFE programme.

## Bot - Kleinmond Estuarine System

Site number: 2 291 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape Province  
Area: 1 349,8 ha | Coordinates: 34°21'S 19°07'E | Designation dates: 31-01-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bot-Kleinmond Estuarine System is in the coastal Southern African temperate area, within the Agulhas Bioregion. It consists of an estuarine lake, flanked by deeply weathered Bokkeveld shale terrain and mountains oriented perpendicular to the coastline. The Site is recognized as one of the ten most significant wetlands for waterbirds in South Africa during the dry summer months; 86 species of waterbird have been recorded there. The bird community changes markedly from year to year according to changes in the estuary conditions related to water levels and periodic breaches of the estuary mouth. Overall bird abundance is determined mainly by the presence or absence of red-knobbed coots (*Fulica cristata*) which can occur in extremely high numbers. The Site is also important as a nursery area for fish, with 41 species from 24 families recorded, of which 19 species are dependent on estuaries to complete their lifecycle. The surrounding communities of Kleinmond, Fisherhaven and Hawston have a close relationship with the Bot River estuary. Many residents and holidaymakers use the estuary for fishing, swimming and boating. Some invasive species (including the red-eyed wattle *Acacia cyclops* and the African clawed frog *Xenopus laevis*) have had major impacts.

## Bowling Green Bay

Site number: 632 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland  
Area: 35 500 ha | Coordinates: 19°27'S 147°15'E | Designation dates: 22-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bowling Green Bay. 22/10/93; Queensland; 35,500 ha; 19°27'S 147°15'E. National Park, Fish Habitat Reserve. A representation of the major, coastal communities of the north Australian wet-dry tropics. The coastal plain includes mangrove forest, mudflats and saltmarshes providing breeding habitat for predatory fish and waterbirds. Of 244 bird species, 103 breed here and 13 species are rare, vulnerable or endangered. The site supports several species of plants, mammals, amphibians and reptiles also rare, vulnerable or endangered. The seagrass beds provide feeding habitat for the threatened herbivores Dugong dugong and *Chelonia mydas*. The site is contiguous with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Bowling Green Bay Fish Habitat Reserve. Human activities include commercial and recreational harvesting of fish and shellfish and recreational pursuits. Ramsar site no. 632. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Brekhovsky Islands in the Yenisei Estuary

Site number: 698 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Taimyr Autonomous Okrug  
Area: 1 400 000 ha | Coordinates: 70°30'N 82°45'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Brekhovsky Islands in the Yenisei estuary. 13/09/94; Taimyrsky/Dolgano-Nenets Autonomous Area; ~1,400,000 ha; 70°30'N 082°45'E. An estuarine wetland complex, made up of a network of rivers, streams, lakes, islands, floodplains, and terraces supporting various types of tundra communities. The site supports various species of regionally rare and threatened birds. An internationally important area for breeding, staging and molting waterbirds, in particular for the Red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*. The estuary provides important habitats for whitefish *Coregonus* sp. and Siberian sturgeon *Acipenser baer*. Traditional activities include fishing, reindeer-breeding, and Arctic fox hunting. It is a busy waterway and oil pollution is common. Ramsar site no. 698. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Breydon Water

Site number: 821 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 203 ha | Coordinates: 52°36'N 01°39'E | Designation dates: 29-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Breydon Water. 29/03/96; England; 1203 ha; 52°35'N 001°37'E. Special Area for Conservation, Special Protection Area, SSSI. An inland tidal estuary with extensive areas of mudflats exposed at low tide. The site is internationally important for wintering waterbirds, notably Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, and it supports important numbers of passage birds. Human activities include recreation, hunting, and agriculture. Extended in March 2000 from 515 to 1203 ha. Ramsar site no. 821. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Bridgend Flats, Islay

Site number: 403 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 331 ha | Coordinates: 55°47'N 06°16'W | Designation dates: 14-07-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bridgend Flats, Islay. 14/07/88; Scotland; 331 ha; 55°46'N 006°16'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 9 November 1991. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. An area of sand and mudflats backed by saltmarsh. An important feature of the site is the well-developed transition from upper saltmarsh to freshwater marsh and fen, which exhibits a high botanical diversity. Internationally important numbers (up to 14,000 birds) of geese from the Greenland breeding population roost at the site. Ramsar site no. 403. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Broadland

Site number: 68 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 4 623 ha | Coordinates: 52°40'N 01°32'E | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Broadland. 05/01/76; England; 4,623 ha; 52°44'N 001°36'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, SSSI. A low-lying wetland complex composed of the Bure, Yare, Thurne, and Waveney river systems of the Norfolk Broads. The mosaic of wetland habitats includes open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh, and fen meadow, with an extensive complex of flooded medieval peat diggings. Outstanding assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates occur at the site -- amongst a rich insect fauna are nationally rare dragonflies, spiders, moths, and butterflies, and the area is a stronghold for the butterfly *Papilio machaon britannica* as well as a number of nationally rare breeding birds, including *Botaurus stellaris* and *Circus aeruginosus*. Several species of waterbirds winter there and include internationally important numbers of Bewick's swan, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*. The region is important for recreation, tourism, agriculture, and wildlife, and there is a large conservation education centre. Extended on 21/09/94 from the former Ramsar Sites known as Bure Marshes and Hicking Broad & Horsey Mere. Ramsar site no. 68. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Broekvelden/Vettenbroek

Site number: 1 240 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland  
Area: 700 ha | Coordinates: 52°02'N 04°46'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The complex of shallow slightly brackish lakes criss-crossed by land strips, peatlands, reed fringes, wet meadows and improved grasslands is near the city of Gouda. The current landscape has been formed by land reclamation and peat extraction. The Ramsar Site boundaries were aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014, resulting in a reduction of 14 ha. The Site is of international importance for the significant number of waterbirds which congregate there, with average peak numbers of over 50,000 from 2005/2006 to 2009/2010. It hosts nearly 3% of the western Siberian/northwestern-northeastern European population of the Eurasian wigeon and 1% of the individuals of northwestern European population of gadwall. The main human uses include boating, commercial fisheries, farming, and tourism. The Site is threatened by non-industrial pollution and the expansion of agricultural land.

## Buccoo Reef / Bon Accord Lagoon Complex

Site number: 1 496 | Country: Trinidad and Tobago | Administrative region: Tobago  
Area: 1 287 ha | Coordinates: 11°10'N 60°57'W | Designation dates: 08-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Buccoo Reef / Bon Accord Lagoon Complex. 08/07/05; Tobago; 1,287 ha; 11°10'N 060°57'W. Restricted Area (in the process of being designated as Environmentally Sensitive Area). Located on the southwestern coast of Tobago near Scarborough, this site contains several under-represented wetland types such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests. Endangered and vulnerable species in the area include various types of coral (*Acropora palmata*, *Diploria labyrinthiformis*, *D. strigosa* and *Siderastrea siderea*) as well as the critically endangered Hawkbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and at least 119 fish species. As the major tourist attraction in Tobago, the reef continues to be adversely affected by intense tourist activity and pollutant discharges. So far the restricted area status and existing management plan have been unable to prevent these impacts. Ramsar site no. 1496. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Buenavista

Site number: 1 233 | Country: Cuba | Administrative region: Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus

Area: 313 500 ha | Coordinates: 22°27'N 78°49'W | Designation dates: 18-11-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Buenavista. 18/11/02. Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus. 313,500 ha. 22°27'N, 078°49'W. National Park, Protected Area, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Located in Cuba's central region, Buenavista is made up of various coastal and continental wetland types, including extensive beaches and dune systems, coastal lagoons, mangroves and karst. The karstic mound formations in Buenavista Bay are unique within the Cuban archipelago. The site boasts important flora and fauna, as well as areas of high archeological, speleological, and cultural value. Currently, there are no human settlements within the wetland, which is protected under different conservation schemes, but various economic activities take place in the area, among them commercial and sports fishing, forestry, cattle farming and tourism. Conservation efforts are centered on regulating these activities, as well as on improving management capacity of the site. Ramsar site no. 1233. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Bujagh National Park

Site number: 46 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Gilan

Area: 3 177 ha | Coordinates: 37°25'N 49°29' E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bujagh National Park. 23/06/75; Gilan; 3,177 ha; 37°27'N 049°55'E. National Park. A broad, shallow embayment of the Caspian Sea and associated deltaic wetlands at the mouth of the Sefid Rud River. With a variety of marine, coastal and inland freshwater and brackish wetland types, the site is important as a spawning and nursery ground for fish, and as breeding, staging and wintering area for waterfowl, including Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. It supports more than 1% of the Caspian populations of Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* and Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*. The site also supports the globally Endangered Caspian Seal *Pusa caspica*. Bujagh National Park is floristically diverse and has 24 endemic species together with many traditionally-used medicinal plant species. The site is used for recreational and commercial fishing including aquaculture, livestock grazing, reed-cutting, hunting, rice farming and recreation/tourism. It is impacted by waterfowl hunting, transport pressure from commercial fisheries, recreation, uncontrolled summer grazing and illegal fishing; a decrease in wintering waterfowl has been attributed to fishing and hunting disturbance. A management plan is under development. Bujagh National Park is an Important Bird Area and is considered a potential site for the reintroduction of the Siberian Crane. The original Ramsar site (1975) was significantly enlarged as of 17 September 2009. Ramsar site no. 46. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Bul Syayeeef

Site number: 2 293 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Abu Dhabi Emirate

Area: 14 504,5 ha | Coordinates: 24°18'N 54°21'E | Designation dates: 27-09-2016

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bul Syayeeef is a coastal wetland covering over 14,500 hectares in the west of the Musaffah channel, about 20 kilometres outside Abu Dhabi City. The international importance of the Site is due to its highly diverse wetland habitats including mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds, and the large number of species which they host. Its tidal mudflats are home to over 80 migratory and resident birds. In 2009 it hosted one of the largest breeding events of the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) with a record of 2,000 breeding pairs and 801 hatchlings. The Site also supports globally threatened species such as the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), the Socotra cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*) and the dugong (*Dugong dugon*) are all classed as vulnerable. Potential threats within and around the Site are related to the growth of housing and commercial and industrial areas, transportation and fishing activities.

## Bumdeling

Site number: 2 032 | Country: Bhutan | Administrative region: Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag District

Area: 141,5 ha | Coordinates: 27°40'N 91°26'E | Designation dates: 05-07-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bumdeling. 07/05/12; Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag; 142 ha; 27°40'23"N 091°26'29"E. Wildlife Sanctuary. One of the glacial valleys northeastern Bhutan, it was a rice-producing floodplain until a series of floods washed away the paddy fields and left it fallow with sandy soil. It is home to at least 74 bird species, including the vulnerable Black-necked Cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) that migrate from the Tibetan plateau each year to winter at the site. Other endangered species recorded at the site include the Snow Leopard (*Panthera unica*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Asiatic Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus primaevus*) and Himalayan Musk Deer (*Moschus leucogaster*). Located at 1,900 to 2,000 meters above sea level, the fairly isolated valley is at a much lower altitude than other crane wintering areas in Bhutan and is comparatively warmer with a warm-broad leaf forest dominating the area. Alder (*Alnus nepalensis*), Maple (*Acer* sp.) and Birch (*Betula* sp.), found in and around the wetland, are used for making traditional household items and represent the main source of income for some communities in the area. The river Kholong Chhu and its three tributaries flow through the wetland; while the tributaries provide the local communities with a source of water for irrigation and drinking, the main river will be the site of a hydropower project 35km south of the wetland, which will not impact on the site itself. Ramsar Site no. 2032. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Bundala

Site number: 487 | Country: Sri Lanka | Administrative region: Southern Province

Area: 6 210 ha | Coordinates: 06°10'N 81°12'E | Designation dates: 15-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bundala. 15/06/90; Southern Province; 6,210 ha; 06°10'N 081°12'E. Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. Four shallow, brackish lagoons and salt pans interconnected by channels with associated marshes, dunes and scrub. It is the most important wintering site in southern Sri Lanka for migratory shorebirds, regularly holding over 15,000 individuals of various species, and provides habitat for rare and threatened waterbird species. Human activities include commercial salt extraction, subsistence fishing, wildlife tourism, livestock grazing, and firewood collection. Ramsar site no. 487. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Bung Khong Long Non-Hunting Area

Site number: 1 098 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Nong Khai Province  
Area: 2 214 ha | Coordinates: 17°59'N 103°59'E | Designation dates: 05-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bung Khong Long Non-Hunting Area. 05/07/01; Nong Khai Province; 2,214 ha; 17°59'N 103°59'E. Non-Hunting Area. One of the largest lakes in northeastern Thailand along the Lao frontier, the site supports nationally vulnerable and endangered fish and birds and is important for some 33 species of wintering migratory waterbirds. It also qualifies under both of the Ramsar fish criteria, supporting a number of endemic species and acting as a vital food source and spawning ground for the important subsistence fishing industry. Ramsar site no. 1098. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Burry Inlet

Site number: 562 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 6 672 ha | Coordinates: 51°39'N 04°12'W | Designation dates: 14-07-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Burry Inlet. 14/07/92; Wales; 6,672 ha; 51°39'N 04°11'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast. An estuarine complex with extensive areas of intertidal sand and mudflats. The site includes the largest continuous area of saltmarsh in Wales and major dune systems at the estuary mouth. Nationally and internationally important numbers of several species of wintering waterbirds are supported, with numbers reaching 42,563 individuals. Ramsar site no. 562. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Busanga Swamps

Site number: 1 659 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Northwestern Province  
Area: 200 000 ha | Coordinates: 14°05'S 25°47'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Busanga Swamps. 02/02/07; Northwestern Province; 200,000 ha; 14°05'S 25°47'E. Game Management Area, National Park in part. A wide variety of ecosystem types such as swamps (which serve in groundwater recharge and flood control for the Kafue and Zambezi rivers), lagoons, woodlands, rivers and large grassy plains dominated by grassland vegetation. It hosts the vulnerable Wattled crane (*Grus carunculatus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), and Lion (*Panthera leo*) and supports significant numbers of migratory birds and other fauna such as the Blue Duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*), Wildbeest (*Connochaetes gnou*) and Zebra (*Equus burchelli*). There is a wide variety of fish, including *Tilapia* sp., and fishing is an important livelihood activity for the local population and a sport activity for tourists. The site is of local historical and traditional importance through fables arising from a Baobab tree located in this site. The National Park is state-owned with stress on non-consumptive use of resources such as tourism and other recreational activities, while the GMA is communally owned, allowing for sustainable consumptive use of resources in accordance with the Zambia Wildlife Act. There is an interim management plan which promotes public awareness, increased local participation and multi-sectoral approach in the wetland management. The Ngoma research station within the site also promotes vegetation research in the site. Ramsar site no. 1659. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Busatello marsh

Site number: 2 315 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto  
Area: 443 ha | Coordinates: 45°07'N 11°05'E | Designation dates: 03-10-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Busatello Marsh is the only freshwater marsh remaining after the drainage of a vast system of marshes which, along with the wetlands of the Grandi Valli Veronesi, once extended over about 30,000 hectares. The Site consists of the part of the marshland located in the Gazzo Veronese municipality, together with the surrounding farmland and channels. The adjacent Palude di Ostiglia Ramsar Site ([Site no. 297](#)) covers the remaining part of the marshland. The Site is raised above the surrounding areas, which subsided after they were drained. It is therefore contained by dykes along its boundary and water is pumped in as necessary. The Site hosts an abundance of species particular to marshy ecosystems, including 226 plants, more than 170 birds, seven amphibians, six reptiles and numerous invertebrates. Rare plant species are present which are at risk of extinction in the local area. The Busatello Marsh is an important migration stop-over area and breeding ground for birds, including nationally threatened species such as the critically endangered sedge warbler *Arocephalus schoenobaenus*, and the endangered Eurasian wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.

## Butrint

Site number: 1 290 | Country: Albania | Administrative region: Vlora  
Area: 13 500 ha | Coordinates: 39°50'N 20°00'E | Designation dates: 28-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Butrint. 28/03/03; Vlora; 13,500 ha; 39°50'N 20°00'E. National Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site. A wetland complex in the southwestern part of Albania, famous for its archaeological monuments (ancient port of Buthrotum), historical significance, and natural richness. The core area is composed by a tectonic lagoon of 1600 ha, known as Lake Butrint, that is surrounded by forested hills and mountains and complemented by saltwater and freshwater marshlands. Butrint supports a large number of plants and animals considered as having an unfavorable conservation status either nationally or internationally, such as *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Caretta caretta*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, and *Monachus monachus*. The area is also an important spawning ground, food source and migration path for fish. The main activities are fishing, mussel farming, stock raising, vineyards and cultural tourism. Ramsar site no. 1290.

## Bwabwata-Okavango Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 193 | Country: Namibia | Administrative region: Namibia  
Area: 46 964 ha | Coordinates: 18°13'S 21°44'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bwabwata – Okavango. 13/12/13; Kavango Region; 46,964 ha; 18°12'43"S 21°45'36"E. National Park. The site consists of the lower Okavango River, part of the Okavango Delta Panhandle and permanently or temporarily flooded marshes and floodplains bordered by riparian forest and open woodland. It supports IUCN Red-Listed species, including the vulnerable African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*, Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*, Lion *Panthera leo*, Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula* and the endangered Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*. The site supports one of the highest diversities of species in the Zambezi Flooded Savannas ecoregion. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded, the highest number of any site in Namibia. The site provides a variety of ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Current land use includes tourism, crop cultivation and livestock farming. Small-scale farming dominates, typically of a few hectares of millet, sorghum and maize with a small number of goats and cattle. A management plan was drafted recently and is in the process of official approval. Parts of the southern boundary of the site are contiguous with the northern boundary of the Okavango Delta Ramsar Site in Botswana. Ramsar site no. 2193. Most recent RIS information 2013.

## Byle Lake and Koza Berezyna Mire

Site number: 2 281 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivnenska oblast  
Area: 8 036,5 ha | Coordinates: 51°30'N 25°45'E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Stokhid, Prypiat and Styr rivers, this Site includes an extensive eutrophic and mesotrophic bog area, a deep oligotrophic karst lake, swamp forests, pine woods and a small channelled river flowing across the bog. Byle Lake is one of the biggest karst lakes of the Polesia Region. Koza Berezyna Mire was formed in a glacial valley and is an important habitat for glacial relict plant species such as *Salix lapponum* and *Vaccinium macrocarpum*. The Site is very important for the conservation of the rare flora and fauna of the region: over 900 native plant species and nearly 500 animal species have been recorded there, a number of them nationally red-listed. The Site is an important breeding habitat for wetland-dependent birds including the nationally endangered western capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* as well as the common crane *Grus grus*, black stork *Ciconia nigra* and common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. The wetland complex plays an important role in the maintenance of hydrological regimes of the central part of Western Polesia, in addition to carbon storage and climate regulation. Its ecological character depends on the cooperation of local communities, who collect berries and mushrooms on the Site for selling. Traditional recreational activities are concentrated around Byle Lake. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to droughts. Since 2006, the Rivnensky Nature Reserve, of which the Ramsar Site is part, has an ecological and education centre and organizes annual events focused on the importance of environmental conservation and the value of wetlands and the Site.

## Cabo Orange National Park

Site number: 2 190 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Amapá  
Area: 657 328 ha | Coordinates: 03°39'N 51°11'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cabo Orange National Park (Parque Nacional do Cabo Orange), 02/02/2013; Amapá; 657,328 ha; 03°38'59"N 051°11'24"W. An extensive site characterized by periodically and permanently flooded grasslands, unique in the Amazon region, as well as by its mangroves, which act as "fish nurseries" and are vital for the maintenance of some of Brazil's most important fisheries. The site is rich in biodiversity and supports globally threatened species such as the Black Bearded Saki (*Chiropotes satanas*), the Great Billed Seed Finch (*Sporophila maximiliani*), the yellow spotted River Turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) and the Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*) among others. To date, 358 species of birds, 19 species of plants, 54 species of mammals have been identified in the park. Apart from its biodiversity and water resources, the associated marine and estuarine fisheries production is essential for the economy of Brazil, which has made the area one of the most intensively fished areas in the region with overfishing and illegal fishing constituting the main threat to the site. Other threats include the spread of the invasive species of shrimp *Macrobrachium rosebergii*, overexploitation of two species of turtles (*Podocnemis unifilis* and *Podocnemis expansa*), and forest fires. Ramsar Site no. 2190. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Cache-Lower White Rivers

Site number: 442 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Arkansas  
Area: 99 166 ha | Coordinates: 34°17'N 91°09'W | Designation dates: 21-11-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cache-Lower White Rivers. 21/11/89; Arkansas; 99,166 ha; 34°17'N 91°09'W. This Site, representative of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Ecosystem, is part of the remaining 20% of wetlands in this area, which are accordingly vital for the survival of the numerous species that depend on them. It is the most important breeding area for Wood ducks in Arkansas and one of the most important wintering areas for Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in North America. Apart from supporting bird species during critical stages of their life cycles, this Site also acts as a fish spawning and nursery area. Furthermore, it also provides important habitat for threatened or endangered species such as the ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and fat pocketbook mussel (*Potamilus capax*). The wetlands of the Cache-Lower White Rivers are rich in biodiversity and support 250 species of birds, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, 60 species of mammals, 40 of mussels and 100 of fish as well as over 70 species of trees and over 50 of shrubs. The main threats to the Site are associated with long-standing agriculture, forestry and oil and gas development. The threats include altered hydrology and flood regimes, reduced water quality, invasive plant and animal species, loss of natural communities, forest fragmentation, and the overall cumulative habitat effect of land and water resource development activities. Site No. 442. Most Recent RIS information: 2011.

## Cache River and Cypress Creek Wetlands

Site number: 711 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Illinois  
Area: 24 281 ha | Coordinates: 37°18'N 89°02'W | Designation dates: 01-11-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cache River - Cypress Creek Wetlands. 1/11/94; Illinois; 24,281 ha; 37°17'59"N 89°02'18"W. This Site, located at the juncture of four ecological provinces, contains rare examples of forested swamps dominated by bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) along the Lower Cache River. The entire Site represents the northernmost extension of the Mississippi Embayment. It is highly biodiverse and supports 103 regionally endangered or threatened species as well as numerous species of waterfowl that feed, rest and nest at the Site. Over 20% of the population of canvasback ducks (*Aythya valisineria*) pass over the Site, during their autumn and spring migrations on the Mississippi flyway. It also supports over 1% of one of the largest populations of the Illinois Chorus frog (*Pseudacris streckeri illinoensis*), and 84 endemic species of fish that make up 44% of the fish documented in the State. Furthermore, flood events in the Cache River basin deliver significant nutrients, organic matter and fish numbers into the larger Ohio and Mississippi river systems. The main threats are associated with the large agricultural areas surrounding the Site and the clearing of land for agriculture. This has led to increased erosion, sedimentation and loss of riparian areas. Site No. 711. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Caddo Lake

Site number: 633 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Texas, Louisiana  
Area: 7 977 ha | Coordinates: 32°45'N 94°08'W | Designation dates: 23-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caddo Lake. 23/10/93; Texas; 7,977 ha; 32°45'N 94°08'W. State Park, Wildlife Management Area. Shallow, heavily vegetated waters of the lake, its sloughs, swamps, backwaters, and hardwood forests. It is one of the best examples in the southern United States of the mature *Taxodium distichum* community. Wintering habitat is available for substantial numbers of waterbirds and one of the highest populations and best breeding area for *Aix sponsa* exists here. The mature hardwoods are vital to the survival and productivity of Neotropical migrants. There is small boat traffic to lakeside developments scattered throughout the site. The Caddo Lake Institute has been very active in pursuing Ramsar issues globally. Management of the site has benefited from Caddo Lake's association with Mr Don Henley, a prominent musician and member of the Eagles rock group. Ramsar site no. 633. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Cairngorm Lochs

Site number: 216 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 173 ha | Coordinates: 57°05'N 03°42'W | Designation dates: 24-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cairngorm Lochs. 24/07/81; Scotland; 173 ha; 57°04'N 003°47'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI, Scenic Area. A composite site of five separate arctic and alpine freshwater lakes comprising a large part of Britain's most important mountain area. At over 1,000 m. in altitude, the lakes are of considerable limnological value and support highly specialized populations of zooplankton and phytoplankton that develop below the winter ice-cover. Flora and fauna are generally impoverished due to environmental conditions. At the heart of the Scottish skiing industry, it is a popular destination for climbers and walkers. Ramsar site no. 216. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Caithness Lochs

Site number: 928 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 1 379 ha | Coordinates: 58°31'N 03°26'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caithness Lochs. 02/02/98; Scotland; 1,379 ha; 58°29'N 003°20'W. Special Area for Conservation, SSSI. A suite of six lochs and a mire in the extreme north of mainland Scotland. The lochs cover a range of types from oligotrophic to eutrophic and support a wide diversity of aquatic and wetland vegetation including submerged and floating aquatic communities and species rich marginal, fen and swamp communities. In winter these lochs support internationally important wintering populations of whooper swan (Icelandic), Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*, 420 individuals, representing 1.4% of the population), and greylag goose (Icelandic). Human activities include fishing, permanent pastoral agriculture, and hunting. Site significantly expanded in 2000. Ramsar site no. 928. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Caithness & Sutherland Peatlands

Site number: 971 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 143 503 ha | Coordinates: 58°21'N 04°01'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caithness & Sutherland Peatlands. 02/02/99; Scotland; 143,503 ha; 58°20'N 003°56'W. The site forms one of the largest and most intact areas of blanket bog in the world, including an exceptionally wide range of vegetation and surface pattern types, some of which are unknown elsewhere. It supports a diverse range of breeding waterfowl, including internationally important populations of Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) and nationally important populations of ten other waterfowl species. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, fishing, grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 971. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Calafat - Ciuperceni - Danube

Site number: 2 112 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Dolj County  
Area: 29 206 ha | Coordinates: 43°51'N 22°57'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Calafat-Ciuperceni-Danube. 02/02/2013; Dolj County; 29,206 ha; 43°50'46"N 022°57'09"E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI); Nature Reserve. The site, situated in the southwestern part of the Oltenia Plain, very close to the Danube River, comprises three Nature Reserves for the protection of migratory and water birds under the Bonn Convention and the Birds Directive. Some of these species find ideal conditions for nesting, such as the *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Ciconia ciconia* and *Burhinus oedicnemus*. During the migration seasons, the site is also important for the *Tringa glareola*, the *Pelecanus crispus*, the *Platalea leucorodia* and the *Plegadis falcinellus*. Furthermore, the site represents habitats of community importance as natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion, rivers with muddy banks and *Chenopodium rubri* and *Bidens* vegetation, dunes with *Hippophaë rhamnoides* and humid dune slacks. The site plays a very important role in mitigating Danube flood damages. The area was very wild in the past; after years of draining, however, and the construction of dykes and channels, the biodiversity has been reduced. The forests have been cut and many of the lakes have been dried and transformed into arable land. A management plan has been developed but not yet implemented. Ramsar Site no. 2112. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Caldeira da Graciosa

Site number: 1 798 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 120 ha | Coordinates: 39°02'N 27°58'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caldeira da Graciosa (Furna do Enxofre). 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 120 ha; 39°01'N 027°58'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A volcanic crater on Graciosa island, one of the largest of its kind with a perfect vault, containing on its bottom a lake of cold and sulphurous freshwater. It constitutes a rare example of cave and lake with volcanic activity of small geysers inside. There are important native and endemic species of arthropods characteristic of this habitat and the endemic species of bat *Nyctalus azorica* can also be found there. The cavern Furna do Enxofre (on the World Heritage tentative sites list) is the high point of the island for tourists, and the access to its grounds is made in circles through the stairs of a curious tower built in the cave. Ramsar site no. 1798. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Caldeira do Faial

Site number: 1 799 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 312 ha | Coordinates: 38°35'N 28°43'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caldeira do Faial. 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 312 ha; 38°35'N 028°42'W. Nature Reserve, Sítio de Importância Comunitária SIC. A big circular depression created by a volcanic explosion situated in the central part of Faial Island. The caldera, 390 metres deep, is in good conservation status and supports different wetland types with species native and endemic to the Azores and Macaronesia, as well as laurel forest. It hosts unique wetland ecosystems including mires, forested and non forested peatlands, seasonal freshwater marshes and streams. The presence of many endemic invertebrates and some threatened plant species (*Bellis azorica*, *Lactuca watsoniana*, *Veronica dabneyi* and *Isoetes azorica*) confers high ecological importance to the site. The wetland is also very important in the island context for the hydrological value as supplies freshwater to the inhabitants. It also has scenic and tourist value, being one of the main attractions of the island. Ramsar site no. 1799. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Caldeirão do Corvo

Site number: 1 800 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 316 ha | Coordinates: 39°43'N 31°07'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caldeirão do Corvo. 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 316 ha; 39°42'N 031°06'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Regional Nature Park, Sítio de Importância Comunitária SIC. A crater that covers most of Corvo Island's surface and includes two permanent lakes with some scattered islets. The wetland has very good and representative habitats of peat dominated by peat moss Sphagnum and Macaronesian woodlands of great importance at regional level. The site regulates all of the aquifer of the island. The area is well known as passage for many migrant birds either from Europe or North America as the island is more or less at the same distance from both continents. Colonies with high numbers of threatened species of seabirds also occur, e.g., Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) and the roseate terns (*Sterna dougallii*). Of the 35 birds species recorded in the site, 21 are also breeding here. Threats to the site include invasive flora species. Ramsar site no. 1800. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Camargue

Site number: 346 | Country: France | Administrative region: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur  
Area: 85 000 ha | Coordinates: 43°30'N 04°30'E | Designation dates: 01-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Camargue. 01/12/86; Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; 85,000 ha; 43°30'N 004°30'E. Biosphere Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Reserve, Regional Natural Park, Hunting Reserve. The Rhône River delta, incorporating vast expanses of permanent and seasonal lagoons, lakes and ponds interspersed with extensive Salicornia flats, freshwater marshes, and a dune complex. The wetlands, subject to a salinity gradient, are partly supplied by rainfall, but the main source is groundwater pumped to sustain irrigated agriculture. The Camargue is of international importance for nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds. Among the various breeding species are Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.), with extremely large numbers of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) occurring in winter. Human activities include tourism, hunting, fishing, agriculture and raising livestock. Ramsar site no. 346. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Cameron Reservoir

Site number: 650 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 69 ha | Coordinates: 56°17'N 02°51'W | Designation dates: 14-03-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cameron Reservoir. 14/03/94; Scotland; 69 ha; 56°18'N 002°51'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. An artificial loch with beds of aquatic and marginal vegetation. The open water is used as a roost by an internationally important wintering population of pink-footed geese, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, that feed on the surrounding farmland. The site serves as a domestic water supply. Human activities include recreation hunting and fishing. Ramsar site no. 650. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Canal del Infiernillo y esteros del territorio Comcaac

Site number: 1 891 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 29 700 ha | Coordinates: 29°11'N 112°14'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Canal del Infiernillo y esteros del territorio Comcaac (Xepe Coosot). 27/11/2009; Sonora; 29,700 ha; 29°10'N 112°14'W. A channel between Island Tiburón and the Sonora coast in northwestern Mexico, characterized by the presence of sea-grass beds, mangrove estuaries, seasonal creeks and small coral reef patches. The sea-grass beds are the largest concentration of annual marine grasses in the eastern Pacific, and the mangroves are located at the northern limit of this vegetation type. These wetlands provide refuge, substrate and food to several species that are the basis for commercial and artisanal fisheries. In addition, the site is habitat of 81 endemic invertebrate species of Gulf of California and several threatened species, such as mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Rhizophora mangle*), totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), marine turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Caretta caretta*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Chelonia mydas agassizi*) and Brant Goose (*Branta bernicla*). For more than 2000 years the ethnic group Comcaac has inhabited this region and show an extensive ecological traditional knowledge, upon which they base their fisheries management practices. In contrast to several other regions in the Gulf, the seabeds in the site have not been disturbed by the nets of shrimp vessels, but they are currently threatened by overfishing and tourist development. Ramsar site no. 1891. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Canaralele de la Harsova

Site number: 2 113 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Ialomita and Constanta Counties  
Area: 7 406 ha | Coordinates: 44°41'N 27°55'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Canaralele de la Harsova. 02/02/2013; Ialomita, Constanta Counties; 7,406 ha; 44°40'37"N 027°55'28"E. Important Bird Area; 2 Nature Reserves; Natura 2000 Network (SPA, SCI). Situated in the confluence of two Danube branches, Dunarea Veche and Bratul Borcea, on a major migratory route, the site represents an important area for resting and feeding of rare bird species. It provides shelter to important populations of protected birds catalogued under Annex I of the Birds Directive, as for example *Accipiter brevipes*, *Circus macrourus* and *Pelecanus onocrotalus*. The land situated in the surroundings of the Danube branches is covered by temporary lakes which also represent an important space for breeding and nesting of many other birds like *Accipiter brevipes*, *Alcedo atthis* and *Botaurus stellaris*. The site plays an important role in reducing and regulating the effects of Danube floods. Within its boundaries, the most important human activities are forestry, navigation and agriculture. A management plan is going to be developed under the framework of an environmental project approved in 2011. In Harsova at the edge of the site are the remains of the 2nd century Roman Carsium Fortress. Ramsar site no. 2113. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Caño Negro

Site number: 541 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Alajuela  
Area: 9 969 ha | Coordinates: 10°52'N 84°45'W | Designation dates: 27-12-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caño Negro. 27/12/91; Alajuela; 9,969 ha; 10°52'N 084°45'W. Part of the International System of Protected Areas for Peace; National Wildlife Refuge. A shallow freshwater lagoon near the Nicaraguan border, surrounded by seasonally inundated marshes and woodland. Part of an important network of Nicaraguan and Costa Rican wetlands used seasonally by many species of breeding or migrating waterbirds. The site supports small numbers of the endangered stork, *Jabiru mycteria*, important populations of the reptile *Caiman crocodylus fuscus* and the fish *Atractosteus tropicus*. A scientific research station is maintained. Ramsar site no. 541. Most recent RIS information: 1991.

## Cap des Trois Fourches

Site number: 1 473 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Nador  
Area: 5 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°26'N 02°59'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cap des Trois Fourches. 15/01/05; Nador, 5,000 ha; 35°26'N 002°59'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. A very beautiful site situated at the end of a rocky peninsula in the Mediterranean, composed of cliffs, caves and gravelly beaches, with clear water underlain by a sandy bottom and seagrass beds. The site hosts a number of rare and threatened species, including the monk seal, two species of limpets (*Patella ferruginea* and *Patella nigra*), the Loggerhead turtle, the Fin whale and two species of dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus* and *Delphinus delphis*). The water quality is very good thanks to a particular phenomenon of sea currents which ensures that pollution from the nearby cities is transported away from the promontory. The main activities taking place in the area are fishing and tourism, which also constitute, although still at a small scale, the main threats to the site, including construction of tourism facilities, dynamite fishing, pollution by solid waste, and disturbance of local fauna. There are plans to declare the area a permanent biological reserve for the monk seal. The MedWetCoast programme has also proposed some conservation and management measures which still need to be implemented. Ramsar site no. 1473. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Cape Barren Island, east coast lagoons

Site number: 256 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 4 473 ha | Coordinates: 40°23'S 148°24'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

East Coast Cape Barren Island Lagoons (ECCBIL). 16/11/82; Tasmania; 4,473 ha; 40°22'S 148°23'E. Crown Land. The Site is a complex of shallow, saline lagoons among stretches of coastal dunes and beaches. It is still largely unaffected by direct human disturbances. It supports 13 threatened plant species, four of which are endemic to Tasmania. The site also supports nationally threatened ecological communities such as the Oyster Bay Pine (*Callitris rhomboidea*) forest and freshwater aquatic herbland. Locally significant numbers of many waterbird species use the area. Human activities consist of livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 256. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Cap Tourmente

Site number: 214 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Quebec  
Area: 2 398 ha | Coordinates: 47°04'N 70°48'W | Designation dates: 15-01-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cap Tourmente. 15/01/81; Québec; 2,398 ha; 47°04'N 070°48'W. National Wildlife Area. The site incorporates a range of habitats, from a 600m summit to extensive intertidal flats and coastal marshes containing a significant proportion of the remaining *Scirpus americanus* marsh vegetation, vital for the goose *Anser caerulescens atlanticus*. This marsh vegetation is restricted to the freshwater, tidal parts of the St. Lawrence River. Thousands of ducks and nearly the entire world population of the goose stage here during fall migration to feed. The geese also pass through in spring. 700 plant species have been recorded (several rare), many reaching their northern limit of distribution. Approximately 75,000 people visit the area each year. Ramsar site no. 214. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Carlingford Lough

Site number: 936 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 831 ha | Coordinates: 54°03'N 06°07'W | Designation dates: 09-03-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Carlingford Lough. 09/03/98; Northern Ireland; 831 ha; 54°03'N 006°07'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site includes mudflats, saltmarsh, small rocks, and shingle islands on the border with Ireland. It supports an important assemblage of vulnerable and endangered Irish Red Data Book bird species. It provides habitats for terns, including *Sterna hirundo*, *S. dougallii*, *S. paradisaea*. The site is used for recreation, fishing, marine aquaculture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 936. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Carlos Anwandter Sanctuary

Site number: 222 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Valdivia  
Area: 4 877 ha | Coordinates: 39°41'S 73°11'W | Designation dates: 27-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Carlos Anwandter Sanctuary. 27/07/81; Región X; 4,877 ha; 39°41'S 073°11'W. Nature and Scientific Research Sanctuary. An estuarine area of the lower Río Cruces, its tributaries and riparian zone of emergent marshes, grassland and islands, subject to tectonic subsidence. The site supports numerous waterbirds, including two endangered species, and provides nesting areas for a stable population of 3,000 individuals of the vulnerable *Cygnus melanocoryphus*. Human activities include livestock grazing, tourism, and use of the river for transportation. Ramsar site no. 222. [photos] Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Caroni Swamp

Site number: 1 497 | Country: Trinidad and Tobago | Administrative region: Trinidad  
Area: 8 398,1 ha | Coordinates: 10°34'N 61°27'W | Designation dates: 08-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caroni Swamp. 08/07/05; Trinidad; 8,398 ha; 10°34'N 061°27'W. Protected Area. An extraordinarily important wetland near the capital Port of Spain, since it is ecologically diverse, consisting of marshes, mangrove swamp (5,996 ha), brackish and saline lagoons, and tidal mudflats in close proximity. A total of 20 endangered bird species have been recorded in the site, including the Scarlet ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*), Comb duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*), White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), Snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*), and the severely threatened Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). The swamp has been modified by attempted reclamation, and there is some seasonal cultivation on the landward fringe. Caroni Swamp is important economically for oyster and fish harvesting, for hunting and for ecotourism. Ramsar site no. 1497. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Cascadas de Texelo y su entorno

Site number: 1 601 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 19°24'N 97°00'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cascadas de Texelo y su entorno. 02/02/06; Veracruz; 500 ha; 19°24'N 097°00'W. Situated in the Neovolcanic Transversal Axis, the Texelo waterfalls are a wetland surrounded by mountain cloud forests that host a high proportion of endemic fauna and flora, as well as internationally threatened and vulnerable species such as *Magnolia schiedeana*, *Symplocos coccinea* and *Stanhopea tigrina*. In the past, the introduction of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) has affected the integrity of the site, while at present the greatest threats are posed by illegal logging, poaching and changes in land use for agricultural, cattle and urban uses. Ramsar site No. 1601. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Castle Loch, Lochmaben

Site number: 796 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 108 ha | Coordinates: 55°07'N 03°26'W | Designation dates: 15-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Castle Loch, Lochmaben. 15/03/96; Scotland; 108 ha; 55°07'N 003°26'W. SSSI. A freshwater loch with a range of habitats including emergent vegetation, birch and alder carr, areas of acidic, marshy grassland, and plantation woodland. The site regularly supports internationally important numbers of wintering Pink-footed Geese Anser brachyrhynchus and notable assemblages of breeding and wintering birds, as well as nationally scarce plants and uncommon invertebrates. Human activities include fishing, hunting, small-scale recreation, and commercial forestry. Ramsar site no. 796. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Castlemaine Harbour

Site number: 470 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Kerry  
Area: 2 973 ha | Coordinates: 52°07'N 09°50'W | Designation dates: 30-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Castlemaine Harbour. 30/05/90; Kerry; 2,973 ha; 52°07'N 009°55'W. Nature Reserve. The estuary of two rivers at the head of Dingle Bay and a complex of mudflats, sandbanks, and saltmarshes protected from the sea by extensive dunes. The mudflats support one of the four largest Zostera beds in Ireland providing food for various species of wintering waterbirds, including internationally important numbers of the goose Branta bernicla hrota. Ramsar site no. 470.

### Catahoula Lake

Site number: 523 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Louisiana  
Area: 12 150 ha | Coordinates: 31°30'N 92°06'W | Designation dates: 18-06-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Catahoula Lake. 18/06/91; Louisiana; 12,150 ha; 31°30'N 092°06'W. National Wildlife Refuge. A large, poorly drained depression subject to artificially controlled, seasonal fluctuations. The lake is fed by the Little River and numerous smaller water courses and is subject to back-flooding. Few plants are ecologically adapted to the extreme variations in water level, although annual grasses and sedges flourish. The most important inland wetland for waterbirds in Louisiana, with peak counts exceeding 400,000 birds. The endangered eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus occurs as a non-breeding visitor. The lake also supports sport and commercial fisheries. Long-term historical hunting at the site has led to a high density of lead pellets in the lake, the use of which is now illegal. The lake overlies an important oil field that has been commercially exploited for 40 years. Ramsar site no. 523. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Caves of the Demanova Valley

Site number: 1 647 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Liptovský Mikulas  
Area: 1 448 ha | Coordinates: 48°59'N 19°35'E | Designation dates: 17-11-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Caves of the Demanova Valley (Jaskyne Demänovskej doliny). 17/11/06; Liptovský Mikulas; 1,448 ha; 48°59'N 019°35'E. National Park, European protected bird territory. Part of the longest cave system in the country with a total measured length of 35,044 meters. The system consists of nine speleologically interconnected caves and further associated smaller caves. Hydrological and hydrogeological characteristics of the territory influence the underground wetlands supporting suitable conditions for the existence of rare and endangered water invertebrates as well as terrestrial organisms that are dependent on these water areas. The majority of the above-ground forests are under a nature protection scheme. Due to the karst structure the area replenishes water-bearing layers that form part of an underground hydrological system and aquifer, which provides the most important source of drinking water for the city of Liptovský Mikulas. Surface wetland habitats also support important amphibian populations. Two of the caves, the Demanovska Cave of Liberty and Demanovska Ice Cave, are open for public visits. Beyond these attractions, the intensive use of the valley for tourists' recreation activities and facilities, such as chalets, ski tows and cable-cars, increasing traffic and road constructions, are affecting the underground waters quality negatively. Ongoing research activities covering a range of geo-scientific disciplines are intended to improve the protection, especially of biotic components, such as endemic species. Ramsar site no. 1647. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Cayo-Loufoualeba

Site number: 1 740 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Kouilou  
Area: 15 366 ha | Coordinates: 04°52'S 11°56'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cayo-Loufoualeba. 13/12/07; Kouilou; 15,366 ha; 04°53'S 011°57'E. A complex of marine and continental wetlands in the south, including the Malonda mangrove, the Loémé and Malonda rivers, Cayo and Loufoualeba lakes, small streams, marshes and submerged forested islets, resulting in a highly diversified ecosystem. It is an important refuge for the Hippopotamus and Chimpanzee, species of conservation concern. About 378 bird species (including about 284 breeding birds) and a significant number of waterbird species restricted to the Congo-Guinea biome have been spotted, thus contributing significantly to maintaining the biodiversity of the region. As an important source of fish, fuel wood, water for domestic use, and other forest and water resources and as a site associated with traditional beliefs, it is of considerable socio-cultural value to the surrounding population. An overall hydrological balance is maintained by ground water recharge ensured by the lakes, flood prevention, shoreline stabilization and nutrient retention ensured by the marshes and vegetation cover. In the absence of a management plan for the site, it presently benefits from the hunting law which bans hunting from November to May every year. Resource use in some zones is also restricted to clan members, hence ensuring controlled exploitation of resources. Ramsar site no. 1740. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Cayos Miskitos y Franja Costera Inmediata

Site number: 1 135 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Atlántico Norte  
Area: 85 000 ha | Coordinates: 14°23'N 82°46'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cayos Miskitos y Franja Costera Inmediata. 08/11/01; Atlántico Norte; 85,000 ha; 14°23'N 082°46'W. Marine Biological Reserve. Offshore Caribbean island and shoals and adjacent mainland coastal areas 12km to the west, comprising an impressive array of wetland types, principally frequently-flooded areas dominated by shrubs, riverine systems in which are found gallery forests, and estuaries bordered by mangrove forests in near-natural state. At the Cayos Miskitos Reserve, there is one of the largest extensions of sea grass in the Caribbean, intermingled with coral reefs, areas which support several rare and endangered species, including the Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas), Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), the Caribbean manatee (Trichechus manatus), the "Tucuxi" freshwater dolphin Sotalia fluviatilis, and caiman crocodile (Crocodilus fuscus). The Association of Indigenous Women of the Costa Atlántica recently initiated a promising ecotourism project. Ramsar site no. 1135. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Central Marshes

Site number: 2 241 | Country: Iraq  
| Administrative region: Shared between three Governorates - Maysan, Thi-Qar and Basrah  
Area: 219 700 ha | Coordinates: 31°11'N 46°59'E | Designation dates: 07-04-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Central Marshes are one of the three areas (along with Hammar Marsh, Ramsar Site no. 2242, and Hawizeh Marsh, Site no. 1718) that make up the once extensive and biodiverse Mesopotamian marshlands in southern Iraq. All three have now been designated as Ramsar Sites and so are under international conservation management.

The Site is a staging and wintering area for a number of globally threatened species such as the endangered Basra reed warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) and the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) that migrate between their breeding grounds in western Siberia and their winter quarters in eastern and southern Africa. Other globally threatened species include the endangered Euphrates soft-shelled turtle (*Rafetus euphraticus*) and the vulnerable smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*).

The Site provides a range of important regulating services such as flood control, water storage and purification, and climate regulation. The marshlands, before their drainage in the 1990s, were populated by Marsh Arabs who built floating islands and reed houses, developing entire villages linked by networks of main and minor channels. Thus, the marshes are also of extraordinary historical and cultural values. However, these services were either disrupted or degraded due to the extensive draining that took place in the 1990s due to war and land reclamation. In the 2000s, re-flooding and restoration projects brought back water and some of the biodiversity.

## Central Syvash

Site number: 115 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic  
Area: 80 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°07'N 34°15'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Central Syvash. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic; 80,000 ha; 46°07'N 034°15'E. National Nature Park, Azov-Black-Sea Ornithological Station. Part of an extremely large lagoon, the site includes spits, islands, saline lowlands, and peninsulas along the Azov Sea. Vegetation consists of salt-tolerant species consisting of halophytic grasses and fringed by extensive areas of steppe, and diverse meadow, grass-marshy and aquatic plant communities. The site supports numerous species of rare, vulnerable or endangered waterbirds and raptors and internationally important numbers of waterbirds and waders. Nesting wetland birds consist of 10,000 pairs, and up to 1,000,000 waders and waterbirds molt, stage and winter at the site. Human activities include fishing, recreation, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 115. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Cepkeliai mire

Site number: 625 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region: Varėna district  
Area: 11 227 ha | Coordinates: 54°00'N 24°30'E | Designation dates: 20-08-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cepkeliai mire (epkelis raistas). 04/10/93; Varena; 11,227 ha; 54°N 024°30'E. Strict Nature Reserve and Natura 2000 site. The epkeliai swamp (5,858 ha), also known as the epkeliai wetland, and the Pastalik swamp (966 ha) form the largest wetland in Lithuania. Upland bog covers more than half of the wetland territory. The wetland is surrounded by lowland bogs, wooded continental dunes, a sandy plain, and the Katra River valley. The upland bog is a habitat for species typical of the northern regions of Lithuania while the sands surrounding the upland bog are home to species typical of southern Lithuania. This gives the site special significance as a reservoir of species biodiversity. There is a visitor centre and an educational nature trail and tourism activity is limited to 2,000 to 3,000 visitors per year. The site is threatened by natural succession due to rapidly declining agricultural activities in the surrounding territories which results in increased forest coverage. A management plan was prepared in 2004 and is currently being implemented. Ramsar Site No. 625. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Cerknisko jezero z okolico

Site number: 1 600 | Country: Slovenia | Administrative region: Cerknica  
Area: 7 250 ha | Coordinates: 45°45'N 14°23'E | Designation dates: 19-01-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cerkniako jezero z okolico (Lake Cerknica and its environs). 19/01/06; 7,250 ha, 45°45'N 014°23'E. Natura 2000 site, Ecologically Important Area, Regional Park. The largest and most typical intermittent karst lake in its region. It is formed during rainy periods when the volume of water can no longer be drained through sinkholes, and the lake has no surface outflow, discharging exclusively underground. Numerous picturesque karst phenomena, such as karst sources, estavelles, ponors and ponor caves, abound, and the Kri-na cave is renowned for its underground lakes; the Rakov - kocijan valley, formed by the collapse of ceilings of underground caves, and the River Rak are fed mainly by water from the lake. These special habitats support many rare and endemic species, such as cave beetle and cave salamander, and the lake is the only nesting site in Slovenia for the red-necked grebe, the redshank and the ferruginous duck as well as a breeding place for the corncrake. Remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Iron Age settlements are found on Gorica Island in the middle of the lake, as well as prehistoric settlements from the 12th to the 4th centuries BC and a Roman necropolis nearby. Frequent, unpredictable flooding makes intensive agriculture impossible, but pasture and forest uses are widespread, besides some small recreation grounds; appropriate tourist facilities are needed to avoid adverse effects of unorganised tourism. Ramsar site no. 1600. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Chandertal Wetland

Site number: 1 569 | Country: India | Administrative region: Himachal Pradesh State  
Area: 49 ha | Coordinates: 32°29'N 77°36'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chandertal Wetland. 08/11/05; Himachal Pradesh, 49 ha; 32°29'N 077°36'E. A high altitude lake on the upper Chandra valley flowing to the Chandra river of the Western Himalayas (4,337m asl.) near the Kunzam pass joining the Himalayan and Pir Panjal ranges. It supports CITES and IUCN Redlisted Snow Leopard and is a refuge for many species like Snow Cock, Chukor, Black Ring Stilt, Kestrel, Golden Eagle, Chough, Red Fox, Himalayan Ibex, and Blue Sheep. These species, over the years, have developed special physiological features as adaption strategies to cold arid climate, intense radiation, and oxygen deficiency. Some 65% of the larger catchment is degraded forest due to overgrazing by the nomadic herdsman, while 35% are covered by grasslands. Other threatening factors to this fragile and sparse vegetation are summer trekking, littering waste, and lack of sanitation facilities. Since declaring the site a nationally important wetland in 1994, the authorities have been providing funds for ecotourism facilities. Spiti Forest Department is the custodian and State Council of Science, Technology and Environment is coordinating conservation management. Ramsar site no. 1569. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Chany Lakes

Site number: 680 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Novosibirsk Oblast  
Area: 364 848 ha | Coordinates: 55°02'N 77°40'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chany Lakes. 13/09/94; Novosibirsk Oblast; 364,848 ha; 55°02'N 077°40'E. Federal Nature Reserve, Wildlife Refuge. A large lacustrine system, characteristic of the western Siberian forest-steppe. Lake Chany is an enclosed water body composed of freshwater and brackish areas. Vegetation is dominated by mire, meadow, and meadow-solonchak and includes meadow-forest associations, diverse steppe vegetation, and reedbeds. The site supports large (over 20,000) breeding and migrating populations of numerous species of waterbirds, some of which are rare or globally threatened. Human activities include agriculture, livestock grazing, hay harvesting, commercial and sport hunting and fishing. A field station is located in the area. Ramsar site no. 680. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Chashma Barrage

Site number: 816 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Punjab Province  
Area: 34 099 ha | Coordinates: 32°25'N 71°22'E | Designation dates: 22-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chashma Barrage. 22/03/96; Punjab; 34,099 ha; 32°25'N 071°22'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A storage reservoir on the Indus River supporting various aquatic plants. Up to 200,000 waterbirds of numerous species use the site for staging and wintering. An especially important staging area in spring and autumn for cranes. Over 50 species of birds, some of which are globally endangered, use the site for breeding. The site is used as storage for irrigation water, electricity generation, livestock grazing, reed harvesting, and fishing. Planned dam construction upstream would affect the water regime, limiting the site's use for water storage. Ramsar site no. 816.

## Chat T Boul

Site number: 1 044 | Country: Mauritania | Administrative region: Willaya du Trarza  
Area: 15 500 ha | Coordinates: 16°33'N 16°24'W | Designation dates: 10-11-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chat T Boul. 10/11/00; Keur-Masséne; 15,500 ha; 16°33'N 16°24'W. Chat T Boul lies along the Atlantic coast, immediately north of the Parc National du Diawling Ramsar site, around a former mouth of the Senegal river. Behind a ca.10km strip of coastal dunes, in some areas with a cover of Sahelian-type vegetation, the site includes a number of wetland types, from both permanent and temporary brackish and saline lakes and pools, estuarine waters, intertidal mud/sand flats and forested wetlands, sandy shores, and intertidal marshes. The site qualifies under the uniqueness and biodiversity Criteria, as well as under the 1% threshold for waterbirds (6) -- with several species (including *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Phoenicopterus ruber*, *Larus genei*, and *Recurvirostra avosetta*) meeting that standard -- and under Criterion 8 on importance for fish stocks. A number of small-scale traditional fishing and transhumant grazing practices are seen in the area, which also receives an annual allotment of fresh water under the management plan of the Diawling Park. Possible threats are foreseen from a proposal concerning evacuation of agricultural run-off from rice fields and from overexploitation of coastal fish stocks, as well as from the spread of shrimp and lobster farming. Ramsar site no. 1044. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Chatyr Kul

Site number: 1 588 | Country: Kyrgyzstan | Administrative region: Naryn Oblast  
Area: 16 100 ha | Coordinates: 40°37'N 75°18'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chatyr Kul. 08/11/05; Naryn Oblast; 16,100 ha; 40°37'N 075°18'E. State Reserve. A saline high altitude lake (3,530m asl.) in the Tien Shan Mountains with pristine ecosystem. The main inflow runs from the Ak-say river and the lake plateau is bound between the edges of At-Bashi (4,700m) and Kakshalto ridges (5,500m) with permanent snowfields and glaciers, forming the border between Kyrgyzstan and China. It is one of the few habitats for Pamiir Brown-headed Gulls, a breeding area for Bar-headed geese, and crucial for nine species of moulting ducks, especially *Tadorna ferruginea*, representing about 40% of the global population. A significant population of IUCN Redlisted Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*) is also found grazing at the plateau. The absence of ichthyofauna, high transparency and shallowness of the lake support luxuriant growth of submerged macrophytes like *Potamogeton* and high population of rare invertebrates like *Gammarus krevetki*. Located near the Torugart Pass, the lake basin was once a part of the Silk Route, and remnants of a 10th century caravanserai can still be seen. Over hundreds of years, local nomads have been using the lake area for grazing horses in summer. Ramsar site no. 1588. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Cheremske Bog

Site number: 2 272 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volynska oblast  
Area: 2 975,7 ha | Coordinates: 51°32'N 25°32'E | Designation dates: 24-10-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Prypiat, Styr and Stokhid rivers, this wetland complex includes mesotrophic mires, swampy forests and two glacial karst lakes. The Site supports a large number of rare plant and animal species listed in the national red list of Ukraine, and is particularly important for some species as it is located on the southern limit of their distribution. Sphagnum-sedge vegetation, areas of sedge-reed associations, sparse pine and common birch forests prevail on the mires. Occupying nearly one-third of the mire, the nationally red-listed *Scheuchzeria palustris* predominates among marsh vegetation. 11 rare vegetation communities can be found on the Site. Cheremske Bog plays an important role in maintaining the hydrological regime of the northern and central Western (Polesie) region as well as in groundwater recharge and flood control. The absence of human activities has left the mire in a near-natural state, and it serves as a model for studies of wetlands and their geological, geomorphological and succession processes.

## Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Complex

Site number: 375 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Virginia  
Area: 45 000 ha | Coordinates: 38°00'N 76°20'W | Designation dates: 04-06-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Complex. 04/06/87; Virginia; 45,000 ha; 38°00'N 076°20'W. National Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife Management Area, State Park, Natural Environment Area, Natural Resources Management Area. A vast estuarine complex, composed of multiple, physically separate protected areas. Ten major rivers enter the system. Natural habitats include sand beaches, dunes, mudflats, open water with submerged beds of aquatic vegetation, intertidal marshes, freshwater marshes, and lakes. The Bay is of particular importance for very large numbers of staging and wintering Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and other waterbirds. Breeding birds include two nationally endangered species. Other notable fauna include endangered marine turtles. The Bay's fishery (blue crab and oyster) is of significant economic importance, yielding a dockside value of \$60 million per year. Environmental education, conservation-oriented recreation, and scientific research are the primary management objectives. Hunting and trapping of birds and mammals are strictly controlled. Ramsar site no. 375. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Chesil Beach & The Fleet

Site number: 300 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 748 ha | Coordinates: 50°37'N 02°32'W | Designation dates: 17-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chesil Beach & The Fleet. 17/07/85; England; 748 ha; 50°37'N 002°31'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast. A shingle storm beach of international geomorphologic importance, and a shallow lagoon subject to strong tidal and salinity gradients supporting saltmarsh and reedbeds. The area is internationally important for wintering ducks, geese, and swans and nationally important for breeding birds. The Dorset coast is an important centre for tourism and recreation. The area is near a major port and the town of Weymouth. Ramsar site no. 300. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Cheyenne Bottoms

Site number: 411 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Kansas  
Area: 10 978 ha | Coordinates: 38°31'N 98°43'W | Designation dates: 19-10-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cheyenne Bottoms. 19/10/88; Kansas; 10,978 ha; 38°31'N 098°43'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve, State Wildlife Area. A natural, elliptical basin on the Great Plains. Principle natural inflows to the basin are intermittent; additional water is supplied via an artificial canal. Several broad ecological zones are recognized, based on the vegetation communities present. Approximately 45% of all migratory shorebirds nesting in North America stage at Cheyenne Bottoms. Classified as "critical habitat" for the endangered crane *Grus americana*, the site supports other threatened or endangered birds during nesting, staging or wintering periods. Open to the public, it is an important area for conservation education, recreation and scientific research. Plans for industrial hog farming nearby remain an issue. In April 2002 the site was extended by 2,942 ha and brought under management by The Nature Conservancy. Ramsar site no. 411. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Chichester and Langstone Harbours

Site number: 378 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 5 810 ha | Coordinates: 50°49'N 00°57'E | Designation dates: 28-10-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chichester & Langstone Harbours. 28/10/87; England; 5,810 ha; 50°48'N 000°55'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserve. Two large estuarine basins linked by a channel and including extensive intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits, and dunes supporting reedbeds and some grassland. Numbers of wintering waterbirds regularly exceed 20,000 individuals and include internationally and nationally important numbers of several species. Human activities include recreation and dredging for oysters and clams. Ramsar site no. 378. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Chiemsee

Site number: 95 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 8 660 ha | Coordinates: 47°53'N 12°29'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chiemsee. 26/02/76; Bayern; 8,660 ha; 47°53'N 012°29'E. Nature Reserve. A large, freshwater lake situated in a glaciated basin, with fringing reedbeds and areas of scrub. The mouth of the Tiroler Achen River is situated on the site and supports vast mudflats and moorland. Internationally important as a staging and wintering area for waterbirds, the site supports various breeding birds and several notable plant species. Access and leisure activities are restricted and fish spawning areas are protected. A nature conservation center is located in Uebersee. Ramsar site no. 95. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Chignecto

Site number: 320 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Nova Scotia  
Area: 1 020 ha | Coordinates: 45°48'N 64°16'W | Designation dates: 16-10-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chignecto. 16/10/85; Nova Scotia; 1,020 ha; 45°48'N 064°16'W. National Wildlife Area; Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Half the site consists of *Spartina*-dominated saltmarsh dissected by numerous tidal creeks and channels. The freshwater wetlands range from sink-hole ponds, small lakes and bogs to reed marsh. An important staging area for geese (up to 6,000) and three species of ducks during spring migration. Recreation and urban expansion are main human activities. Ramsar site no. 320. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Chilika Lake

Site number: 229 | Country: India | Administrative region: Orissa State  
Area: 116 500 ha | Coordinates: 19°42'N 85°21'E | Designation dates: 01-10-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chilika Lake. 01/10/81; Orissa; 116,500 ha; 19°42'N 085°21'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993; removed from the Record, 11 November 2002. Brackish lake separated from the Bay of Bengal by a long sandy ridge and subject to sea water exchange, resulting in extreme seasonal fluctuations in salinity in different sections of the lake. Saline areas support aquatic algae. The site is an important area for breeding, wintering and staging for 33 species of waterbirds. It also supports 118 species of fish, including commercially important species. Significant numbers of people are dependent upon the lake's resources. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to problems caused by siltation and sedimentation which was choking the mouth of the lake; removed from the Record in 2002 following rehabilitation efforts for which the Chilika Development Authority received the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for 2002. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2001. Ramsar site no. 229.

## Chinhoyi Caves Recreational Park

Site number: 2 103 | Country: Zimbabwe | Administrative region: Mashonaland West administrative province  
Area: 33,4 ha | Coordinates: 17°21'S 30°08'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Chinhoyi Caves make up the most extensive cave system in Zimbabwe. The Site is a rare near-natural Karst system composed of limestone, dolomite, and a pool of cobalt blue water which is so clear that silver-hued fish and underwater rock formations are seen many metres below the surface. It receives at least between 750mm and 1000mm of rainfall a year, and supports a unique flora including the bleedwood tree *Pterocarpus angolensis*, Cape fig *Ficus sur* and violet tree *Securidaca longipedunculata*. Bird species include the bat hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* and the grey crowned crane *Balearica regulorum*, while the fish found include largemouth bass *Micropterus salmoides* and gilt-head seabream *Sparus aurata*. The area serves as a camping and recreation site for the thousands of visitors to the Caves.

## Chippenham Fen

Site number: 544 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 112 ha | Coordinates: 52°18'N 00°25'E | Designation dates: 11-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chippenham Fen. 11/03/92; England; 112 ha; 52°18'N 000°25'E. Nature Reserve, SSSI. A spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management. The site is notable for its ecological diversity, from characteristic sedge fen to fen meadow, chalk grassland, *Alnus/Salix* carr and ancient woodland (*Fraxinus*, *Quercus*, *Betula*). More than 300 species of flowering plants have been recorded, including very rare, regionally rare or local species, as have several rare invertebrates (moths). A notable assemblage of breeding birds includes *Gallinago gallinago*, *Scolopax rusticola*, *Luscinia megarhynchos*, *Acrocephalus* spp., and *Locustella naevia*. Scrub is periodically removed and the fen meadows are mown. Ramsar site no. 544. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain

Site number: 2 243 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Wisconsin and Illinois  
Area: 1 584 ha | Coordinates: 42°28'N 87°49'W | Designation dates: 25-09-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain, on the south-western shore of Lake Michigan, features the highest quality coastal dune and swale ecosystem in south-east Wisconsin and north-east Illinois. It includes six globally rare and representative wetland types and supports two United States federally-listed Threatened and Endangered species which are associated with wetland communities: the eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) and the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). It also has the largest known populations of Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), categorized as Endangered by the IUCN Red List and as threatened in the state of Illinois. It also provides the largest near-contiguous block of stopover habitat for migratory birds along the entire Illinois coast and south western Lake Michigan coast in Wisconsin. The main threats to the site include invasive plant species, urban development (including residential and industrial areas, and roadways) and conversion of grasslands and woodlands in the surrounding areas for agriculture.

## Choghakhor Wetland

Site number: 1 939 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region:  
Area: 1 687 ha | Coordinates: 31°55'N 50°54'E | Designation dates: 03-03-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Choghakhor Wetland; 03/03/2010; Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari Province; 1687 ha; 31°55'N 50°54'E. Designated a no hunting area.

Choghakhor Wetland supports more than 47 bird species, with breeding populations of migratory birds such as the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*). It supports more than 1% of the population of Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and harbours threatened species such as the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the vulnerable Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*). Choghakhor Wetland is considered to be one of the most important sites in Iran for the endemic Zagros pupfish (*Aphanius vladkovii*).

It is important for flood control, ground water replenishment, and is generally considered a reservoir for biodiversity. Plants with important medicinal (e.g *Achillea millefolium*) properties can be harvested, and locals engage in livelihood activities such as fishing and agriculture.

Threats to the site include the collection of bird eggs and poaching. Dam construction in 1991 has caused increasing water levels in the wetland which in turn, has affected the availability of bird habitats.

The Department of Environment is responsible for the management of this site. Ramsar site:1939 Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve, Shanghai

Site number: 1 144 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shanghai  
Area: 32 600 ha | Coordinates: 31°29'N 121°58'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve is located on the easternmost tip of Chongming Island, the biggest estuarine alluvial island in the world. The Site mainly comprises estuarine waters and intertidal mud, sand or salt flats. The wetland holds the biggest and the only remaining natural mudflat on the Yangtze estuary. The rich natural resources of the wetland include flourishing mudflat vegetation, well developed tidal creeks and diverse benthos. Located within the ecotone of the Yangtze River, Yellow Sea and East China Sea, the Site is a typical, unique, diverse and thriving ecosystem. Plants such as *Phragmites* and the endemic *Scirpus mariqueter*, which occupy a large part of the wetland, play important roles in enriching primary productions, purifying water, resisting storm tides and protecting the coastlines from erosion. The wetland serves as an important wintering and stopover site for 111 species of migratory waterbirds, including globally threatened species such as the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) and vulnerable hooded crane (*Grus monacha*). It is also an important habitat and migratory channel for the critically endangered Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*). The 94 species of freshwater, seawater and migratory fish found here account for over 80% of the total Yangtze estuarine fish species.

## Chott Aïn El Beïda

Site number: 1 414 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Ouargla  
Area: 6 853 ha | Coordinates: 31°58'N 05°22'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott Aïn El Beïda. 12/12/04; Ouargla; 6,853 ha; 31°58'N 005°22'E. A saline depression surrounded by palm plantations, crossed by a number of canals that drain excess water from the plantations and the nearby town. Several bird species on the Eurasian-African pathway use the site as a stopover; some winter there, such as the Ruddy Shelduck, and others nest there, including the Black-winged Stilt and the Pied Avocet. A number of mammals also occur at the site, but these still remain largely unknown. The vegetation is Saharo-Mediterranean belonging to 12 families, the most represented of which is the Chenopodiaceae. Of note is *Zygophyllum cornutum* for its medical properties against gastric ailments and which should benefit from special protection measures due to over-harvesting. Pollution from wastewater is the main threat to the avifauna of the site. A project is currently underway to elaborate a management plan for the site, which also hopes to increase awareness through the construction of an eco-museum, a visitors' centre, bird watchtowers and educational campaigns. Ramsar site no. 1414. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Chott de Zehrez Chergui

Site number: 1 294 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: wilaya de Djelfa  
Area: 50 985 ha | Coordinates: 35°15'N 03°30'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott de Zehrez Chergui. 04/06/03; Djelfa; 50,985 ha; 35°15'N 003°30'E. A vast endorheic depression, part of an extensive system of large chotts in the high steppes between the Atlas Tellien and Atlas Saharien mountains, populated by numerous permanent and seasonal lakes and pools and shrub-dominated wetland. The site is uncommon for the Mediterranean area in view of the extent of its surface area and catchment and particularly for its presence in an arid zone. It is also representative of the Mediterranean area in the presence of several types of soils and steppe vegetation. It is extensively used for pasturage and plays an important role in groundwater recharge and flood control. A number of rare and endemic plant species are found, including the herb *Herniaria mauritanica* and the glasswort *Salicornia arabica*. The Marbled Teal, listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List, is recorded in small groups, but insufficient research has been done on other species. Ramsar site no. 1294. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Chott de Zehrez Gharbi

Site number: 1 295 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Djelfa  
Area: 52 200 ha | Coordinates: 34°56'N 02°48'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Like the nearby Chott de Zehrez Chergui, the Site is an endorheic depression with numerous permanent and seasonal lakes and pools and shrub-dominated wetland, situated between the northern and southern ranges of the Atlas mountains. The *sebkha* (salt flat) around the *chott* (salt lake) supports vegetation characteristic of the high plains of the Maghreb steppe area. At least six regionally-rare sand- and salt-loving plant species are found on the Site, including *Herniaria mauritanica*, *Cordylocarpus muricatus*, *Tetraena cornuta* and *Salicornia arabica*. Apart from traditional or modern salt production, which has always been practiced in the sebkha, the pastures of Zehrez Gharbi are particularly noted for the production of beef, veal, and the local "Ouled Djelal" sheep. The neighbouring area has a subsistence cereal crop and small areas of agricultural development financed by the state.

## Chott Ech Chergui

Site number: 1 052 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Saïda  
Area: 855 500 ha | Coordinates: 34°27'N 00°50'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott Ech Chergui. 02/02/01; Saïda; 855,500 ha; 34°27'N 000°50'E. The second largest chott in North Africa, after the Chott Djerid in Tunisia: an extensive closed depression containing permanent and seasonal saline, brackish, and freshwater lakes and pools, as well as hot springs. The site is representative of the Mediterranean region in the diversity of habitats which are included, from steppe areas that are always green to the surroundings of the chott and the "sebkhas" which are completely without vegetation, as well as purely aquatic lake and marsh vegetation. Many threatened and vulnerable plant species are present, as well as at least two vulnerable species of Anatidae, and it is an important nesting and wintering site for several species of migratory waterbirds. Human uses include agriculture, and raising of livestock, particularly sheep and camels; the thermal springs offer possibilities for tourism. Overgrazing, poaching, desertification, and deforestation for firewood are seen as potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1052. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Chott El Beïdha-Hammam Essoukhna

Site number: 1 415 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Sétif et wilaya de Batna  
Area: 12 223 ha | Coordinates: 35°55'N 05°45'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott El Beïdha - Hammam Essoukhna. 12/12/04; Sétif, Batna; 12,223 ha; 35°55'N 005°45'E. A brackish, temporary lake surrounded by a meadow composed of halophytic species; during the dry season salt encrustations occupy a large part of the site. It is important for the wintering of two species, *Tadorna tadorna* and *Phoenicopterus ruber*, which have been represented in relatively high proportions in recent years, though rarely exceeding the 1% threshold due to the fact that several other wetlands occur nearby. The lake plays a role in sediment retention and flood control during years of exceptional rains, and is an important grazing area for sheep that can feed on the *Atriplex* spp. It also holds an archaeological interest thanks to the presence of shell-middens, mounds up to 150m-long and 10m-high which contain tools, bones, ash and snail shells which date back to the Capsian civilization, ca.7,000 BC. In the site's surroundings there are cereal and other cultivations, and some forestry activities further south. The problems of erosion and desertification recently became evident, and the elaboration of a management plan is seen as the only solution towards achieving the wise use of the site. Ramsar site no. 1415. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Chott Elguetar

Site number: 2 005 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Gafsa  
Area: 7 400 ha | Coordinates: 34°17'N 08°55'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott Elguetar. 02/02/12; Gafsa; 7,400 ha; 34°17'25"N 008°54'49"E. A seasonal intermittent saline lake (chott, or sebhka) at the northern limit of the Sahara, it is a natural wetland almost in its primary state, characterized by a combination of large shallow depressions irregularly flooded. Vegetation present includes halophytes adapted to long dry periods stretching to over 5,000 ha of the site. The diversity in the vegetation is determined by the presence of water in the sites which is also very important for increasing the water table level and providing a breeding ground for water birds. The site provides habitat for a good number of threatened species, including the Scimitar Oryx *Oryx dammah*, Addax *Addax nasomaculatus*, and Dama Gazelle *Gazella dama*, which are critically endangered, the gazelles *Gazella leptoceros* and *Gazella cuvier* which are endangered, and *Gazella dorcas*, which is vulnerable. It supports several mammals throughout their life cycles, and it is a nesting and wintering ground for many waterbirds. Traces of religious and industrial activity have been found which date back 40,000 years, as well as evidence of Neolithic and Berber cultures from an early time. Ramsar Site no. 2005. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Chott El Hodna

Site number: 1 053 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: M'Sila,Batna  
Area: 362 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°26'N 04°42'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott El Hodna is part of a serie of *chotts* (salt lakes) fed by water from the Tell Atlas range to the north and the Saharan Atlas to the south. The landscape features vegetated Maghreb steppe with seasonal brackish and saline lakes and pools, marshes and freshwater springs. Around the *chott* are *wadis* (valleys) and oases, and a surrounding *sebkha* (salt flat) which is devoid of vegetation. The remarkable animal and plant population is important for the biodiversity of the Hodna region. There are 119 species of birds, 10 of reptiles and 20 of mammals such as the vulnerable Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) and African houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata*). Among the bird species found are the vulnerable marbled teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*); the collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) and black-bellied sandgrouse (*Pterodles orientalis*) also nest here. The Site is home to Roman ruins and other archaeological remains. The main human activities are pastoralism and salt production. Potential threats include pollution from urban and industrial waste water; over-exploitation of water, salt, sand, and soil; over-grazing; and tree cutting for firewood.

### Chott El Jerid

Site number: 1 699 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Tozeur and Kebili Governorates  
Area: 586 187 ha | Coordinates: 33°42'N 08°24'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott El Jerid. 07/11/07; Tozeur, Kebili; 586,187 ha; 33°42'N 008°24'E. A vast saline depression located between the mountain range of Cherb to the north and the desert to the south, representing a characteristic wetland of the northern Sahara. Of special interest are the fossil water aquifers that nourish the oases around the site, and some economically interesting oil reservoirs. The site also hosts an important steppe fauna and flora and supports between 3,000 and 15,000 Mediterranean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), or 3.5% of the individuals for this species in this biogeographical region. Climate change and overgrazing on the borders of the chott risk provoking a loss of vegetation cover and erosion. Ramsar site No. 1699. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Chott Melghir

Site number: 1 296 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'El Oued, de Biskra et de Khenchela  
Area: 551 500 ha | Coordinates: 34°15'N 06°31'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large complex of seasonal salt lakes and pools and freshwater pools, representative of arid and hyper-arid saharan environments. It is a rare type of semi-permanent wetland in a steppe zone; it lies at one of the lowest points of the Sahara desert, at 35m below sea level. During the winter rainy season, the lake is filled by numerous *wadi* (periodically drying rivers), mostly from the north and north-west. A characteristic vegetated *chott* area, which surrounds the *sebkha* or salt lake, shelters vulnerable and threatened flora species, including 14 endemic species, the most notable of which are *Fagonia microphylla* and *Oudneya africana*, found only in Algeria, and *Ammosperma cinerea* which is endemic to southern Algeria. Some mammals frequent the Site, such as wild boars, golden jackals, hares and foxes, and it is also used for grazing.

### Chott Merrouane et Oued Khrouf

Site number: 1 054 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: El Oued  
Area: 337 700 ha | Coordinates: 33°53'N 06°11'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wetlands with saline and permanent water bodies fed by the Oued-Khrouf, excess irrigation water from palm groves and upstream groundwater used by and discharged from neighbouring villages. Located in an arid steppe region, the Site provides habitat for a remarkable range of sedentary and migratory birds, and fish including indigenous species which remain little known. In 1999, more than 28,000 birds were recorded including more than 14,000 greater flamingos. Western marsh harrier and migrating osprey have also been recorded. The distribution of plant species is conditioned by the hydrophilicity and salinity of the soil. This vegetation is grazed by herds, but used above all by local residents for roofing and for shade. Threats to the ecological character of the Site include pollution from untreated wastewater from irrigated palm groves, poorly regulated hunting, overgrazing and wind erosion.

### Chott Oum El Raneb

Site number: 1 416 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Ouargla  
Area: 7 155 ha | Coordinates: 32°02'N 05°24'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a permanent water body fed by wastewater from five settlements and surrounded by sand dunes. It provides an important refuge for wintering and migratory waterbirds crossing the desert on the Eurasian-African routes. Greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* and black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus* breed here; Eurasian wigeon, ruddy shelduck, Eurasian coot, glossy ibis, pied avocet, grey heron and Kentish plover are also found. Pollution from wastewater is a concern for the future, and a study is being undertaken to look into the possibility of installing a purification plant.

### Chott Sidi Slimane

Site number: 1 417 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Ouargla  
Area: 616 ha | Coordinates: 33°17'N 03°45'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chott Sidi Slimane. 12/12/04; Ouargla; 616 ha; 33°17'N 003°45'E. A wetland surrounded by palm trees and a dense reed bed that is an important refuge for migratory and sedentary waterbirds. The site hosts more than 1% of the vulnerable Marbled Teal's biogeographic population. The Phragmites beds provide a nesting site for species like Fulica atra, Gallinula chloropus and Porphyrio porphyrio. The water body is important for the local population as it allows excess water from the palm cultivations to be drained there. The date palms constitute local people's main livelihood. The tourism potential of the area still remains unexploited despite the site's natural beauty and its faunal and floral richness. Ramsar site no. 1417. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Chott Tinsilt

Site number: 1 418 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 2 154 ha | Coordinates: 35°53'N 06°29'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, a shallow brackish lake fed by rainwater, water runoff and wastewater from the village of Souk Naâmane, is surrounded by tamarisk and *Salicornia* species. The area is an important wintering site for significant numbers of waterbirds, especially *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas penelope* and greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*. Cereal and vegetable cultivation are practiced at subsistence and industrial levels outside the Site, as well as livestock farming: livestock pass through the Site. There is also potential for salt harvesting. The proximity of the village leads to uncontrolled hunting, pollution from wastewater, erosion and water diversion for irrigation. Some conservation measures have been partially implemented, such as catchment management initiatives and controls, re-vegetation, and improvements to water quality.

### Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo

Site number: 1 852 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ivindo/Mvoung  
Area: 103 333,7 ha | Coordinates: 00°05'N 12°22'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo ("Waterfalls and rapids of the Ivindo river"), within the Ivindo National Park, is a wide plain with valleys in the centre that maintain a dense hydrographic network, with representative example of the rivers, waterfalls, rapids and marshes of Gabon. Three out of five endemic waterbirds found in Cameroon and Gabon, such as *Batis minima*, have been recorded in the Site. Several populations of fish (including *Nannocharax* and *Labeo* species, *Atopochilus savognani*, and *Doimea typica*) have adapted to the specific conditions caused by the heavy currents. A wide variety of flora is also supported, such as velvet tamarind, African satinwood and African greenheart. The site is used by local communities as well as the inhabitants of the urban centres of Makokou, Booué and Ovan; this has led to over-exploitation of the forest resources, over-fishing and pollution from the towns and from iron-ore mining activities at Belinga. A management plan for Ivindo National Park was being prepared in 2016, to also cover the Ramsar Site. The art and sculpture of the area are of cultural and ritual importance, while neolithic remains and stone-age tools dating back between 60,000 and 120,000 years have been discovered.

### Ciénaga de Lanier y Sur de la Isla de la Juventud

Site number: 1 234 | Country: Cuba | Administrative region: Isla de la Juventud  
Area: 126 200 ha | Coordinates: 21°36'N 82°48'W | Designation dates: 18-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ciénaga de Lanier y Sur de la Isla de la Juventud. 18/11/02. Isla de la Juventud. 126,200 ha. 21°36'N, 082°48'W. Managed Resource Protected Area (IUCN Category VI). Occupies the southern part of the Isla de la Juventud, including the Ciénaga de Lanier marshland. The site, located in the second largest island of the Cuban archipelago includes diverse biotopes, among them semi-deciduous forests, reef lagoons, marine grasslands, mangroves and peatlands. Within the Caribbean, the site is a truly unique mosaic of ecosystems - amongst them a karstic plain connected to the island's southern coast. This subterranean drainage system yields clear waters that favor the formation of coral reefs. A number of threatened species are present in the site, including green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*), and American crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*). The region possesses a high number of endemic plant species, and constitutes an important nesting site for various chelonian, amphibian, crustacean and fish species. The main threats to the site include forest fires, the future increase of tourism activities in the area, and the possible effects of climate change. Ramsar site no. 1234. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Ciénaga de Tamasopo

Site number: 1 814 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: San Luis de Potosí  
Area: 1 364,2 ha | Coordinates: 21°50'N 99°18'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ciénaga de Tamasopo. 02/02/08; San Luis Potosí; 1,364 ha; 21°50'N 099°18'W. One of the last lentic wetlands of Neotropical climate found in San Luis Potosí, which allows it to hold many flora and fauna species of ecological importance. Among them are the Tule (*Typha* sp), water lilies, the freshwater turtle *Kinosternon integrum*, serpents, migratory birds, and the Moreletti Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*). The site is important for waterfowl species such as *Anas clypeata*, *A. strepera*, and *A. americana*, which use this area for resting during their migration journey. Other important fauna species include *Boa constrictor*, *Crotalus scutulatus*, *Ctenosaura pectinata*, *Kinosternon integrum*, *Lampropeltis triangulum*, *Pituophis deppei*, *Accipiter striatus* and *Buteo albicaudatus*. The flora species *Dioon edule* is under special protection in Mexican law. Agriculture and livestock are the main activities undertaken in the site. Ramsar site no. 1814. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Ciénaga de Zapata

Site number: 1 062 | Country: Cuba | Administrative region: Matanzas province  
Area: 452 000 ha | Coordinates: 22°20'N 81°22'W | Designation dates: 12-04-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ciénaga de Zapata. 12/04/01; Matanzas; 452,000 ha; 22°20'N 81°22'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, national park. The largest and best-preserved wetland in the Caribbean, the site is outstanding for the diversity of its bird species, especially migratory birds, and for the presence of threatened endemic species. Part of a large karst watershed, the site includes a very large variety of wetland types, including subterranean karst hydrological systems. The enormous resources of its rivers, lakes, marshes and pools, swamp forests, intertidal flats and estuarine waters, as well as a number of humanmade wetland types, are vitally important for the human communities both within the site and in its vicinity within the site, some 19 communities, with a total of about 10,000 persons, make their livelihood chiefly by forestry, tourism, and fishing. The site has extraordinary cultural values for Cuban and Caribbean heritage, because of its important archaeological sites of ancient pre-agricultural communities as well as the customs and traditions of the present population and their traditional use of natural resources. Ramsar site no. 1062. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Ciénegas de Lerma

Site number: 1 335 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Estado de México  
Area: 3 023 ha | Coordinates: 19°14'N 99°30'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ciénegas de Lerma. 02/02/04; Estado de México; 3,023 ha; 19°14'N 99°30'W. The biggest remnant wetlands in central Mexico, and especially in the Mexico and Toluca valleys, spreading over more than 3,000 ha and three lakes (lagunas) which are what remains from the 27,000 ha wetland present at the end of the 19th century. They contain several types of habitats, among which are deep water areas (more than 5m), floating and submerged vegetation areas, and areas of riparian vegetation. There is a great diversity of aquatic fauna and flora, including dozens of endemic and threatened species. The site is also important for migratory species as it is one of the biggest wetland areas they find during their journey. The Ciénegas also supply some aquatic plants used for local art craft, medicine and cooking. The different water holes are also sacred places for local people, though the lack of water has prevented them from practicing their ritual in recent years. The restitution of the water flows in the central parts of Mexico is, nowadays, the main issue for conserving these areas. Ramsar site no. 1335. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Claish Moss

Site number: 218 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 568 ha | Coordinates: 56°45'N 05°44'W | Designation dates: 24-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Claish Moss. 24/07/81; Scotland; 568 ha; 56°44'N 005°44'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI. One of Britain's best examples of a patterned raised mire system. The area is noted for its high water quality and is divided into distinct units by various streams. 14 species of moss are supported, as well as scarce higher plants. The moss supports an interesting invertebrate fauna, including a nationally important assemblage of nine dragonfly species. Deer are culled annually to prevent overpopulation. Ramsar site no. 218. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Clara Bog

Site number: 415 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Offaly  
Area: 460 ha | Coordinates: 53°19'N 07°37'W | Designation dates: 06-12-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Clara Bog. 06/12/88; Offaly; 460 ha; 53°19'N 007°37'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. One of the largest raised bogs left in Ireland. The site consists of hummocks, hollows, pools and Sphagnum lawns and is unique in the degree of development and varieties of the soak systems present. Soak systems are now almost extinct due to peat extraction. The site is important for several nationally rare mosses and invertebrates. Human activities include conservation education and, outside the reserve, peat extraction continues. Ramsar site no. 415.

## Cleveland Dam

Site number: 2 102 | Country: Zimbabwe | Administrative region: Harare Metropolitan Province  
Area: 1 050 ha | Coordinates: 17°50'S 31°09'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cleveland Dam is a unique peri-urban wetland within the Zambezi biome. It is the largest protected natural area in Harare and is known as a key biodiversity hotspot and Important Bird Area. Dominated by miombo woodlands, shrubs, grasslands and aquatic plants which protect the watershed, the wetland offers an important stopover, breeding and feeding ground for thousands of migrating birds including the African pygmy goose *Nettapus auritus*, the maccoa duck *Oxyura maccoa* and the African spoonbill *Platalea alba*. Other noteworthy species include the leopard *Panthera pardus*, the African rock python *Python sebae* and the vulnerable ground pangolin *Smutsia temminckii*. With its water capacity of 910 million litres, the dam is at the source of the Mukuvisi River, which stretches 42 km into Lake Chivero and from there supplies most of the drinking water to Harare City and neighbouring towns. The ecosystem services provided by Cleveland Dam include water purification, flood control and soil formation. Human activities in the Site include fishing, harvesting of non-timber forest products, bird watching, canoeing, tourism and walking safaris.

## Cobourg Peninsula

Site number: 1 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Northern Territory  
Area: 220 700 ha | Coordinates: 11°25'S 132°15'E | Designation dates: 08-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cobourg Peninsula has a long history of natural conservation and protection, and it was Australia and the world's first Wetland of International Importance. The Site comprises a peninsula with extensive tidal flats, fringing coral, rocky reefs, estuaries, mangroves, riverine wetlands, permanent freshwater and brackish ecosystems and melaleuca (paperbark) swamps, dominated by eucalyptus forest. The hydrological regime varies widely due to the seasonal rainfall. There is a steep salinity gradient between the estuaries and backswamps. The Site supports several globally threatened animal species such as the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), as well as numerous rare plants and extensive mangrove communities. The Site supports an abundance of waterbirds such as ducks, plovers, sandpipers and egrets. It contains many archaeological sites and features of indigenous, Macassan and European origin, and an ongoing 'living culture' that is maintained by the Arrarrkbi, the traditional indigenous owners of Cobourg Peninsula. The majority of the Site is managed as a conservation reserve, with some tourism and education, commercial fishing and low-level traditional owner hunting and gathering. In the surrounding areas, cultured pearl farming, aquarium fish harvesting, mud crabbing, mackerel trolling and mineral exploration take place.

## Codrington Lagoon

Site number: 1 488 | Country: Antigua and Barbuda | Administrative region: Barbuda  
Area: 3 600 ha | Coordinates: 17°39'N 61°51'W | Designation dates: 02-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Codrington Lagoon. 02/06/05. Barbuda; 3,600 ha; 17°39'N 061°51'W. National Park. A relatively well-flushed and healthy ecosystem, comprising mangroves, seagrass beds, algal mats, tidal and mud flats, beaches and coral reefs, supporting a diversity of marine species such as juvenile lobster, reef fish, sea turtles (including endangered Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles), and marine mammals, as well as nesting sea birds. The site includes the entire western and northwestern section of Barbuda near Codrington, the only town on the island. The lagoon is one of the island's greatest economic assets as it supports a thriving lobster fishery and an expanding tourism market that is largely centered on the nesting colony of frigate birds. Sea level rise and salt water intrusion of aquifers are foreseen as potential threats to the ecological character. Ramsar site no. 1488. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Colas del Embalse de Ullibarri

Site number: 1 255 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: País Vasco  
Area: 397 ha | Coordinates: 42°54'N 02°33'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Colas del Embalse de Ullibarri. 24/10/02; País Vasco; 397 ha; 42°54'N 002°33'W. Proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directive. Two parts of the extensive Ullibarri-Gamboako reservoir basin east of the regional capital Vitoria-Gasteiz. Since the creation of the reservoir in 1957, these two shallow bays have developed rich emergent vegetation that provides habitat for many species, including breeding and wintering waterbirds, and supports 2500 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (1% criterion). Threatened species occurring include the water plant *Najas minor*, the frog *Rana dalmatina*, and the European mink *Mustela lutreola*. Human uses include water sports, research and education activities, walking and nature observation along the long shorelines. Ramsar site no. 1255. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Coll

Site number: 723 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 2 209 ha | Coordinates: 56°39'N 06°30'W | Designation dates: 31-03-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coll. 31/03/95; Scotland; 2,209 ha; 56°39'N 006°30'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. The site supports substantial areas of maritime heath, blanket mire, and open water. The occurrence and botanical composition reflect the long interaction between landforms and low-intensity agriculture. The site supports internationally important numbers of geese, together with several nationally rare wetland plant species. Human activities include tourism, livestock grazing, hunting, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 723. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Colne Estuary

Site number: 665 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 701 ha | Coordinates: 51°48'N 00°59'E | Designation dates: 28-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2). 28/07/94; England; 2,701 ha; 51°49'N 000°58'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, SSSI. A short, branching estuary with five tidal arms flowing into the main river channel. The site includes an intertidal zone of mudflat communities. The estuary is of international importance for wintering Brent geese and Black-tailed Godwit and of national importance for breeding little terns and five other species of wintering waders and wildfowl. Various habitats include mudflats, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, reedbeds, sand and shingle spits, and unused gravel pits. The site supports outstanding assemblages of invertebrates and plants, several of which are nationally scarce. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, recreation, research, and military activities. Ramsar site no. 665. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Columbia Wetlands

Site number: 1 463 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: British Columbia  
Area: 15 070 ha | Coordinates: 50°41'N 115°13'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Columbia Wetlands. 05/06/05; British Columbia; 15,070 ha; 50°41'N 115°13'W. Wildlife Management Area. The largest of its kind in British Columbia, this wetland qualifies under all eight Criteria and comprises a regionally unparalleled diversity of 16 habitats and shelters around 216 species, of which the bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and badger (*Taxidea taxus*) are endangered. A nesting and rearing habitat for over 180 species of birds, total counts in excess of 10,000 swans, geese and ducks have been recorded in spring, 15,000 ducks in autumn, and up to 1200 tundra swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) in single day counts (1977). Several indigenous and introduced fish species spawn and feed in the area, 31% of which is composed of standing and flowing water. Despite having a management plan in place, human intervention has been on the rise in the past few years. Ramsar site no. 1463. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Comana Natural Park

Site number: 2 004 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Giurgiu County  
Area: 24 963 ha | Coordinates: 44°09'N 26°09'E | Designation dates: 05-03-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Comana Natural Park (Parcul Natural Comana). 25/10/11; Giurgiu County; 24,963 ha; 44°09'N 026°09'E. Natural Park, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI). A complex in the flat plain of southern Romania characterized by a high diversity of flora and fauna and consisting mainly of forests, agro-ecosystems, meadows, rivers, lakes, canals, oxbow lakes and a micro-delta. Some 157 bird species have been observed in the park, which regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds, many of them migratory. The park also supports numerous fish species, including the endemic *Petroleuciscus boristhenicus* and the internationally threatened *Umbra krameri*. Neajlov River and its microdelta are optimal habitats for the Otter (*Lutra lutra*), and the Tree-marten (*Martes martes*), Fitchew (*Putorius putorius*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*), and Badger (*Meles meles*). Of the 1,300 plant species, 72 are threatened nationally and species like *Marsilea quadrifolia* L. are also protected in Europe. Special conservation areas have been established for thorn *Ruscus aculeatus* as well as for the Romanian peony *Peonia peregrina*, which lends its name to the Peony Festival, celebrated in the park in May. The site plays an important role in water purification, flood protection, shoreline stabilization, groundwater recharge, and stream flow maintenance. About 10,000 people who live inside the park directly benefit from these services and also use the site for fishing, hunting and traditional agriculture. Historical importance derives from the Comana Monastery, built by Vlad Tepes (commonly known as "Dracula") in 1462. Ramsar Site no.2004. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Complejo Bahía de Jiquilisco

Site number: 1 586 | Country: El Salvador | Administrative region: Usulután  
Area: 63 500 ha | Coordinates: 13°13'N 88°32'W | Designation dates: 31-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Bahía de Jiquilisco. 31/10/05; Usulután; 63,500 ha; 13°13'N 88°32'W. The Jiquilisco Bay Complex constitutes the largest extension of brackish water and saltwater forest in El Salvador, including numerous estuaries and canals, sand dunes and beaches, various isles of different sizes, a freshwater lagoon complex and seasonally saturated forests connected to the mangroves, of which at least 6 types are present. The site constitutes the habitat of the large majority of coastal waterbirds in the country and nesting site of species such as *Rynchops niger*, *Sterna antillarum*, *Charadrius wilsonia* and *Haematopus palliatus*. The surrounding beaches are also nesting sites for the green turtle (*Chelonia agassizi*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), all of them threatened due to the overexploitation of their eggs. The site performs a very important function in the prevention of natural catastrophes by stabilizing the soil and preventing erosion. The most important economic activities involve fishing, shellfish extraction, aquaculture, salt extraction, cattle ranching and coconut plantations. There is some tourism in the area. Ramsar site no. 1586. Photos. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Complejo Barra de Santiago

Site number: 2 207 | Country: El Salvador | Administrative region: Ahuachapán and Sonsonate  
Area: 11 519 ha | Coordinates: 13°42'N 90°01'W | Designation dates: 16-01-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Barra de Santiago. 16/01/14; Ahuachapán, Sonsonate; 11,519 ha; 13°42'24"N 90°0'59"W. The Site contains an area representative of the mangroves of the dry Northern Pacific ecoregion of Central America and a palm tree (*Brahea salvadorensis*) swamp representative of an ecosystem specific to the Mesoamerican dry tropical forest ecoregion. It supports numerous threatened or endangered species. Among these are four species of marine turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Chelonia mydas*) and other species severely threatened by their commercial trade value, such as the yellow-naped parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*). The mangroves also support about 75% of the commercially important coastal fauna in El Salvador. Many of these species, such as the shrimp of the Penaeidae family, depend on the mangroves as feeding, spawning and nursery areas. The Site is important for local communities as they depend on artisanal fishing for their livelihoods. It is threatened by unregulated urbanization, overgrazing, the growth of sugar cane and the increasing demand of wood for construction, as these have caused deforestation, changes in the hydrology of the area and pollution. Ramsar Site No. 2207. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Complejo de Corrubedo

Site number: 598 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Galicia  
Area: 550 ha | Coordinates: 42°33'N 09°02'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo de Corrubedo. 26/03/93; Galicia; 550 ha; 42°33'N 09°02'W. Natural Park, Wildlife Refuge. A major dune system with an enormous shifting dune. The site includes partially enclosed sandbar lagoons, and numerous streams form an extensive marshy area giving way to a belt of pine trees. The area provides an outstanding example of dune flora and is particularly notable for several endemic species and sub-species. The site supports salt-resistant vegetation and extensive reedbeds. Numerous reptiles, amphibians, and mammals are present, and the area is important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include tourism, agriculture, and rush harvesting. There are an information centre and bird observatory available to visitors. Ramsar site no. 598. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Complejo de Humedales Cuyabeno Lagartococha Yasuní

Site number: 2 332 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Amazonía Norte  
Area: 773 668,5 ha | Coordinates: 00°34'N 75°46'W | Designation dates: 24-08-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Amazon biogeographic region, and provides a corridor connecting the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve with the Yasuní National Park, one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in the world. This important complex contains several types of wetlands, including the Cuyabeno flooding forests, permanent rivers, lakes and pools. At over 770,000 hectares, it is the largest Ramsar Site in Ecuador. Around 1,500 species of plants, 600 species of birds and 167 species of mammals are found in the Site. It hosts ecological communities such as a community of moriche (or morete) palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*), and endemic and vulnerable plant species such as the terrestrial herbs *Reldia multiflora* and *Nautilocalyx glandulifer*. Particularly noteworthy is the presence of threatened aquatic mammals such as the Amazonian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), giant otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and river dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*). Communities belonging to six of Ecuador's indigenous nations (Cofán, Kichwa, Huaorani, Shuar, Secoyas and Sionas) depend directly on the natural resources of the Site. It supplies fresh water and is important for activities such as tourism and fishing. Among the main threats to the Site are the exploration and drilling of oil and natural gas, hunting and fishing, the presence of invasive species, and changes in land use.

### Complejo de humedales del Abanico del río Pastaza

Site number: 1 174 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Loreto  
Area: 3 827 328,9 ha | Coordinates: 04°00'S 75°25'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo de humedales del Abanico del río Pastaza. 05/06/02; Loreto; 3,827,329 ha; 04°00'S 075°25'W. An enormous alluvial fan composed of volcanic sediments brought down from the Andes of Ecuador and deposited along the river Pastaza and associated streams and secondary rivers leading to the river Marañón. The site contains an extraordinary diversity of both permanent and seasonal wetland types, with abundant lakes and remnant islands. Some 9 species of fauna from CITES Appendix I are supported, as well as 70 from Appendix II, and 17 species found in IUCN's Red List are present. Parts of the site near the river Urituyacu are particularly important for the palms *Phytelephas tenuicaulis* and *Aphandra natalia*, and the Pastaza supports a large population of the palm *Elaeis oleifera*, seen only a few places elsewhere in Peru. Nearly 300 species of fish have been recorded. Human occupation, largely restricted to the banks of the principal rivers, is a low-density mix of indigenous and settler communities who cultivate banana, cassava, and maize. Studies of the area by WWF Perú and the Centro de Datos para la Conservación de la Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina facilitated the preparation of the site's designation. Ramsar site no. 1174. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Complejo de Humedales de la Estrella Fluvial Inírida (EFI)

Site number: 2 217 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Guainía  
Area: 250 158,9 ha | Coordinates: 03°49'N 67°51'W | Designation dates: 08-07-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Ramsar Site is located in the Orinoco – Amazon transition zone. It comprises the confluence zones of the rivers Inírida- Guaviare, Guaviare-Atabapo and Guaviare-Ventuari which join the Orinoco River. This is a unique area as its flooded forests belong to the Amazon biome while its 'whitewater', 'blackwater' and 'clearwater' hydrological ecosystems are characteristic of the Orinoco River. Because of its unique location, the Site supports numerous species. Among these are threatened or endangered species such as the military macaw (*Ara militaris*), the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) as well as endemic species of the Orinoco basin such as *Sorubim lima*, *Pseudoplatystoma metaense* and *P. orinocoense* among others. It is also supports 476 fish species (50% of the fish species of the Orinoco Basin and 34% of the country's species), 200 species of mammals, 903 of plants and 324 species of birds. The Site also has important cultural values for the indigenous communities that live there and depend on it for their livelihoods. The threats to the Site include gold mining and the increase in the extent of land used for agriculture.

### Complejo de humedales Lagos de Tarapoto

Site number: 2 336 | Country: Colombia  
| Administrative region: Municipios de Puerto Nariño y Leticia, departamento del Amazonas  
Area: 45 464 ha | Coordinates: 03°47'S 70°32'W | Designation dates: 28-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located on the River Amazon in the far south of the country, consists of several lakes interconnected by rivers and creeks. The Lakes of Tarapoto sustain plant and animal species including the ceiba tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), 136 species of fish including the largest known freshwater fish, the pirarucu (*Arapaima gigas*), and more than 153 bird species. Grey and pink dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*) use the Site as a habitat to teach their calves to fish. It also hosts threatened mammals such as the tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), the giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*), the Amazonian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*). This great biodiversity, and in particular the fish resources, supports the 22 indigenous communities of the TICOYA (Ticuna, Cocama and Yagua) indigenous reservation. The ecosystem also provides important functions such as flood and erosion control, waterways for transportation, recreation and tourism. The designation of the Lagos de Tarapoto Wetlands Complex as a Wetland of International Importance was achieved after a consultation process was completed and indigenous, national and regional authorities agreed to protect the Site.

### Complejo de Humedales Laguna del Otún

Site number: 1 781 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Risaralda  
Area: 6 579 ha | Coordinates: 04°45'N 75°25'W | Designation dates: 25-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo de Humedales Laguna del Otún. 25/06/08; Risaralda; 6,579 ha; 04°45'N 075°25'W. National Park. A complex of wetlands located within the Los Nevados National Natural Park in the Central Andes of Colombia. It includes lagoons, swamps, peatlands interconnected or functionally related with one another and influenced by glaciers and páramo vegetation. The site is home to 52 species of birds, of which the most vulnerable are the aquatic species *Oxyura jamaicensis* andina and *Podiceps occipitalis* juninensis, with reduced populations and very localized distribution in Colombia this makes them more susceptible to the degradation of their habitats, generated mainly by agricultural and livestock expansion. Other endangered bird species include *Vultur gryphus*, *Hapalopsittaca fuertesi* and *Ognorhynchus icterotis*. Among the important flora species found in the site are *Espeletia hartwegiana* centroandina, *Podocarpus oleifolius* and *Polylepis sericea*, which are also found under special protection. In July 2006, the site suffered a fire that damaged more than 3,000 ha. A restoration plan is ongoing. Ramsar site no. 1781. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Complejo de Humedales Ñucanchi Turupamba

Site number: 1 625 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Napo  
Area: 12 290 ha | Coordinates: 00°16'N 78°09'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo de Humedales Ñucanchi Turupamba. 05/06/06; Napo, Pichincha; 12,290 ha; 00°16'S 078°09'W. The Ñucanchi Turupamba wetland complex performs an important hydrological function by recharging aquifers, filtering water and regulating the water level of the adjacent peatlands. It also hosts endangered species such as the CITES Appendix I spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and the andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*). The site constitutes an important nesting and breeding ground for numerous waterfowl species. A number of water storage areas have been built within the site for water treatment, irrigation and to generate electricity for approximately 1,500,000 people. Ramsar site No. 1625. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Complejo Güija

Site number: 1 924 | Country: El Salvador | Administrative region: Santa Ana  
Area: 10 180 ha | Coordinates: 14°17'N 89°29'W | Designation dates: 16-12-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Güija. 16/12/10; Santa Ana; 10,180 ha; 14°17'N 089°29'W. This Ramsar Site includes the Protected Natural Area San Diego y San Felipe Las Barras, a lagoon complex and its surrounding flooded areas. A part of the Güija complex is also representative of the Central America Dry Tropical Forest ecosystem, which is considered threatened by World Wildlife Fund (WWF). This ecosystem sustains IUCN Red List endangered species like the thorny iguana (*Ctenosaura flavidorsalis*) and species listed in appendices I and II of CITES as *Amazonia albifrons*, *Puma yagouaroundi* and *A. auroplliata*. The Site also records 59,000 water birds including migratory species such as *Anas discors*, *Anas clypeata* and *Dendrocygna bicolor*, and a high fish diversity that includes 14 native species from El Salvador. These natural resources support fishing at both commercial and subsistence levels as well as other main productive activities such as agriculture and tourism. Invasive species like water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) in some lagoons, the expansion of agricultural land, intentional burning, and water pollution due to the lack of sanitation system in the surrounding communities constitute the main threats for the Güija Complex. A management plan for fisheries resources in the lagoon complex and a management plan for the protected natural area are currently being implemented for conservation actions within this Ramsar Site. Ramsar Site No. 1924. Most recent information: 2010.

### Complejo intermareal Umia-Grove

Site number: 452 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Galicia  
Area: 2 561 ha | Coordinates: 42°28'N 08°50'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo intermareal Umia-Grove. 05/12/89; Galicia; 2,561 ha; 42°28'N 008°50'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Refuge. A complex of coastal wetlands composed of three physically separate units consisting of an intertidal embayment and dune system, a freshwater lagoon, and island coastline. The area is important for waterbirds and supports the largest number of wintering shorebirds (over 10,000) along the Atlantic coast of Spain. The site also supports an interesting flora, including endemic species. Human activities include tourism, shell-fishing, fishing and marine aquaculture. Ramsar site no. 452. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Complejo Jaltepeque

Site number: 1 935 | Country: El Salvador | Administrative region: La Paz y San Vicente  
Area: 49 454 ha | Coordinates: 13°22'N 89°03'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Jaltepeque. 02/02/2011; La Paz y San Vicente; 49,454 ha; 13°22'N 89°03'W. The Jaltepeque Complex is the second biggest brackish water area and intertidal forested wetland in El Salvador. The site includes a permanent shallow water marine ecosystem and other coastal wetlands such as estuaries, sandy beaches, salt flats, and coastal brackish and freshwater lagoons as well as permanent and stationary rivers and streams. Its diverse habitats provide nesting refuge for turtles like *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea*, listed as endangered and critically endangered on the IUCN Red List, and other vulnerable species such as the turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* and crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*). The mangrove area in the site is a main resting area for aquatic migratory birds, where 64 species such as *Larus* spp, *Thalasseus* spp, and *Charadrius* spp have been reported. This Ramsar Site sustains fundamental local economic activities such as fishing, subsistence and industrial aquaculture, livestock, agriculture and tourism. It also provides a barrier against natural phenomena and enables aquifer recharge. The main threats to the Ramsar Site include the loss of forest due to the expansion of agricultural and livestock land, inappropriate fishing techniques, illegal hunting and water pollution generated by sewage coming for nearby communities and pesticide use. The Jaltepeque Complex also includes the Astillero Natural Protected Area (NPA) and is currently on the process of designating the Escuintla, Isla La Calzada y Tasajera as NPAs. The management plan for the Ramsar Site is under review, nevertheless conservation activities are currently done by local stakeholders. Ramsar Site no. 1935. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Complejo Lacustre Laguna del Negro Francisco y Laguna Santa Rosa

Site number: 877 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Atacama  
Area: 62 460 ha | Coordinates: 27°27'S 69°13'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Lacustre Laguna del Negro Francisco y Laguna Santa Rosa. 02/12/96; Región III; 62,460 ha; 27°17'S 069°08'W. National Park. The Ramsar Site includes the area surrounding two brackish water lagoons united by the Pantanillo-Ciénaga Redonda biological corridor. The site acts as an important regulator of the biotic and abiotic elements forming the ecological web of this Andean ecosystem by supporting species such as the Andean gull (*Larus serranus*) and the Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) catalogued as vulnerable under Chilean policy, as well as at least 1% of the total population of the Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*), James's Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) and the Horned Coot (*Fulica cornuta*). There are vestiges of pre-Hispanic occupation in the surrounding area, as well as human activities which include water extraction for mining activities and tourism. The Ramsar Site has a management plan for the areas included in the Nevado Tres Cruces National Park. Ramsar Site no. 877. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Complejo Lagunar Bahía Guásimas - Estero Lobos

Site number: 1 790 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 135 197,5 ha | Coordinates: 27°32'N 110°29'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Lagunar Bahía Guásimas Estero Lobos. 02/02/08; Sonora; 135,198 ha; 27°32'N 110°29'W. A wetland ecosystem located in the northwest coast of the Mexican Pacific, with mangrove areas composed of the species *Avicennia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Rhizophora mangle*. It is of great importance for hibernation of aquatic migratory and coastal birds, supporting 4% of the aquatic migratory bird populations in the winter and 9.4% of the coastal birds observed in the northern Pacific coastal zone. Among the bird species found are *Egretta rufescens*, *Rallus longirostris*, *Rallus limicola*, *Sterna antillarum*, *Grus canadensis*, *Branta bernicla*, among others. Mammal species such as *Zalophus californianus californianus*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Globicephala macrorhynchus*, *Delphinus delphis* and *Myotis vivesi* can also be observed. Its bays and estuaries are reproduction, nursery and development grounds for species such as the Blue Shrimp (*Penaeus stylirostris*). Fishing (mainly shrimp and oyster), agriculture, hunting and extensive livestock are the most common activities undertaken. There is currently a proposal to establish the Aquatic Wildlife (Flora and Fauna) Protection Area Bahía Lobos. Ramsar site no. 1790. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Complejo lagunar de La Albuera

Site number: 1 256 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Extremadura  
Area: 1 878 ha | Coordinates: 38°42'N 06°46'W | Designation dates: 20-12-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo lagunar de La Albuera. 20/12/02; Extremadura; 1,878 ha; 38°42'N 006°46'W. Proposed Special Protection Area and proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directives. A cultivated plain with steppe grazing lands and Mediterranean oak savannah, including seven shallow, temporary endorreic pools and four smaller artificial freshwater ponds, covering together some 40 ha. The temporary pools and ponds represent about half of this EC priority habitat in the Extremadura region. They attract a variety of breeding, migrating and wintering waterbirds. Threatened steppe birds, bustards and sandgrouse are also abundant on the site. Human uses include agriculture and grazing and traditional exploitation of natural resources (timber, plant, mushrooms, etc.). Ramsar site no. 1256. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Complejo Llanganati

Site number: 1 780 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Tungurahua, Cotopaxi  
Area: 30 355 ha | Coordinates: 01°06'S 78°21'W | Designation dates: 25-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complejo Llanganati. 25/06/08; 30,355 ha; Tungurahua, Cotopaxi ; 01°06'S 078°21'W. Parque Nacional. A complex of lagoons of glacial origin, situated between 2,960m and 4,571m a.s.l. and fed by rivers and seasonal floods, as well as swamps and extended peatlands associated with different types of vegetation, which gives them particular characteristics. They are an important source of water for the nearest populated areas. It is habitat to more than 14 flora species found in the IUCN Red List, such as *Draba aretiodes*, *Siphocampylus asplundii*, *Gentianella jamesonii* which are endangered, as well as others which are categorized as vulnerable. The complex belongs to the Tropical Andes Hotspot, said to be the richest and most biodiverse region of the planet, which includes a sixth of the plants of the Earth in 1% of the territory. It holds a number of endemic flora and fauna species, as well as migratory birds. The site is listed under IUCN Management Category II (National Park) and became a BirdLife International Important Bird Area' in 2005. Ramsar site no. 1780. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Complexe d'Aires Protégées Pô-Nazinga-Sissili

Site number: 2 366 | Country: Burkina Faso  
| Administrative region: Le CAP/PONASI est situé sur les limites territoriales de trois régions administratives et que sont : - la Région du Centre-est (chef-lieu T)  
Area: 301 972,6 ha | Coordinates: 11°20'N 01°23'W | Designation dates: 27-10-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, within the West Sudanian Savannah, is one of the largest ecological regions of biodiversity conservation in Burkina Faso. The diverse flora and fauna of its different types of savannah include mammals, birds and reptiles. The complex, which is also known as "CAP/PONASI", hosts large herbivores such as elephant, buffalo, sable antelope and waterbuck. It is also a habitat for threatened species such as the African bush elephant *Loxodonta africana* and the trees *Azélia africana* and *Vitellaria paradoxa*. The Site serves as an ecological corridor enabling large mammals such as the elephants to migrate from similar ecosystems in northern Ghana (namely the Morago River area and Mole National Park). During the European winter, it is a milestone in the migration routes of some Western Palearctic migratory birds such as storks. The Ramsar Site includes many cultural sites. Despite the absence of a management plan, it has some tourism facilities such as watchtowers and observatories to improve the conditions for visitors. The complex is threatened by the fragmentation of its ecosystem due to livestock and arable farming activities, logging, charcoal burning, poaching, and conflicts between people and elephants. These conflicts have a negative impact on the food security and livelihoods of the affected populations, leading them to have a hostile attitude towards wild animals around their communities.

### Complexe de Sidi Moussa-Walidia

Site number: 1 474 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Al Jadida  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 32°54'N 08°49'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe de Sidi Moussa-Walidia. 15/01/05; Al Jadida; 10,000 ha, 32°54'N 008°49'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest, Permanent Hunting Reserve, Zones d'Intérêt pour la Conservation des Oiseaux au Maroc. The site consists of two lagoons, four swamps, salines and salt marshes that are separated from the sea and a sandy beach by a system of sand dunes. Most waterbird species that migrate the east-Atlantic route pass this site and more than 3% of birds that winter in Morocco choose this wetland complex, including the two endangered species Marbled Teal and Eurasian spoonbill. This area also forms the southern distribution limit of an endemic Moroccan amphibian, *Pelobates varaldii*. The main human activities include agriculture and livestock raising, but salt is also exploited and the Japanese oyster is cultivated in one of the lagoons. Excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers is causing groundwater contamination, while water extraction for irrigation has caused the wetlands' surface area to decrease by 21% between 1957 and 1991. The transformation of wetlands into saltworks, although benefiting the waders, has reduced flora and fauna biodiversity, especially of invertebrates. Disturbance to birds by different anthropogenic factors is also a cause of concern. A management plan is proposed for the future. Ramsar site no. 1474. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Complexe des lacs Ambondro et Sirave (CLAS)

Site number: 2 224 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Menabe  
Area: 14 481,5 ha | Coordinates: 20°54'S 43°56'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Complexe des lacs Ambondro et Sirave (Complex of Lakes Ambrondo and Sirave, or CLAS) features a variety of habitats including dune lakes, mangrove forests, intertidal zones and marshes. It supports a remarkable diversity of species such as the endangered Verreaux's sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*) and ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), and the near-threatened brown lemur (*Eulemur fulvus*). It also supports birds including the endangered Madagascar heron *Ardea humbloti*, Madagascar pond-heron *Ardeola idae* and Madagascar teal *Anas bernieri*, as well as the vulnerable black-banded plover *Charadrius thoracicus*, and is an important breeding and nesting ground for migratory waterbirds such as the curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, common greenshank *Tringa nebularia* and the common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Other species depending on the Site include the greater flamingo, which contributes greatly to its tourism value. The Site hosts the largest mangrove forest in the region and nourishes about 90% of the local population; human activities include agriculture, fishing and hunting.

### Complexe des lacs de Manambolomaty

Site number: 963 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Le site se localise dans la région Melaky  
Area: 7 491 ha | Coordinates: 19°02'S 44°24'E | Designation dates: 25-09-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe des lacs de Manambolomaty is located in the western centre of Madagascar and made up of four lakes (Ankerika, Soamalipo, Befotaka and Anerika) and part of the Manambolomaty forest. The entire Ramsar Site is included in the Tsimembo Manambolomaty protected area. The Site is home to about 9% of the world population of the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), and is known for other endangered water birds, namely the Madagascar heron (*Ardea humbloti*), Madagascar pond heron (*Ardeola idae*), Madagascar sacred ibis (*Threskiornis bernieri*) and Bernier's teal (*Anas bernieri*). The presence of the critically endangered Madagascar big-headed turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) and of precious woods such as rosewood enhances its importance for biodiversity conservation. The lakes also provide ecological services of vital importance for the economic development of the area and the local population.

## Complexe des zones humides de Barrage Ghdir El Goulla et Barrage El Mornaguia

Site number: 2 101 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Ariana  
Area: 273 ha | Coordinates: 36°47'N 10°02'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe des zones humides de Barrage Ghdir El Goulla et Barrage El Mornaguia (Al Mornaguia). 02/02/2013; Ariana; 273 ha; 36°46'42"N 010°02'16"E. Important Bird Area (Part). Fresh water storage areas constructed for potable water supply and irrigation, providing nesting grounds for several waterbirds and a wintering ground for migrating species, including the Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), the IUCN red-listed Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and White-Headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) - up to 73 individuals, representing 14 % of the species population in the West Palearctic biogeographic realm. Different fish species have been identified and the vegetation is essentially *Juncus* sp, *Tamarix gallica* and *Phragmites australis*. Ramsar site no. 2101. Most recent RIS information 2013.

## Complexe des Zones Humides de Bemanevika

Site number: 2 287 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Sofia  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 14°20'S 48°34'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Sofia Region of north-western Madagascar. It is composed of blocks and fragments of dense mountainous tropical rainforest, grasslands, marshes and swamps, lakes, rivers and streams. The Site hosts a complex of ecosystems and provides refuge habitat for the survival and reproduction of many endemic and endangered species. 106 species of birds have been inventoried there. Waterbirds include the critically endangered Madagascar pochard (*Aythya innotata*) which was discovered in 2006 on this site only, the endangered Meller's duck (*Anas melleri*) and Malagasy pond heron (*Ardeola idae*), and the vulnerable Madagascar grebe (*Tachybaptus pelzelni*), Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*). Land birds include the endangered Madagascar serpent-eagle (*Eutriorchis astur*) and the vulnerable red owl (*Tyto soumagnei*), Madagascar marsh-harrier (*Circus macroroeles*), red-tailed Newtonia (*Newtonia fanovanae*) and dusky greenbul (*Phyllastrephus tenebrosus*). In addition, seven species of lemur have been recorded. The Site and the river basin of which it is part also support irrigated rice production. Bemanevika's lacustrine and swampy ecosystems maintain the water regimes of the area and ensure the regulation of the microclimate.

## Complexe des zones humides des Chott el Guetayate et Sebkhet Dhreia et Oueds Akarit, Rekhama et Meleh

Site number: 2 076 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sfax, Gabès  
Area: 4 845 ha | Coordinates: 34°07'N 10°02'E | Designation dates: 21-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe des zones humides des Chott el Guetayate et Sebkhet Dhreia et Oueds Akarit, Rekhama et Meleh. 21/09/2012; Sfax, Gabès; 4,845 ha; 34°06'59"N 010°01'47"E. Intertidal marshes situated in an estuarine coastal environment including beaches and bluffs, crossed by several valleys extending to the Gulf of Gabes. The site supports several waterbird species including the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). Several fish species have been identified here, including migrating species such as the IUCN red-listed catadromous European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), estuarine fish species such as the South European toothcarp (*Aphanius fasciatus*), and marine bivalves. The diversity of habitats encourages the presence of a rich plant diversity including halophytes, perennials and annuals as well as dense tamarisk forests. Its main hydrological values include groundwater recharge, water retention and flood regulation. Main land uses include agriculture and fishing, and it is an important archaeological and cultural site with great historical value. Ramsar site no. 2076. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Complexe des zones humides de Sebkhet Oum Ez-Zessar et Sebkhet El Grine

Site number: 2 100 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Médenine  
Area: 9 195 ha | Coordinates: 33°39'N 10°31'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe des zones humides de Sebkhet Oum Ez-Zessar et Sebkhet El Grine. 02/02/2013; Médenine; 9,195 ha; 33°39'N 010°31'E. Important Bird Area. Comprising permanent estuarine and shallow marine waters including intertidal marshes, the site supports several bird species including the Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, up to 360 individuals, representing 3% of the population of the West Palearctic biogeographic realm, and the Greater Flamingo (2,200 individuals). Estuarine fish species have been identified here, including the estuarine European Toothcarp (*Aphanius fasciatus*) and Thicklip Grey Mullet (*Chelon labrosus*). Several reptiles and mammals such as the Fennec Fox (*Vulpes zerda*), Shaw's Jird (*Meriones shawi*), and the Algerian Hedgehog (*Erinaceus algirus*) have been identified with dense vegetation consisting mainly of halophytes. The main hydrological function is groundwater recharge. The site is remarkable for its natural state with very little human exploitation; the main human activities include traditional fishing and grazing. Ramsar site no. 2100. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Complexe de zones humides de la plaine de Guerbes-Sanhadja

Site number: 1 056 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Skikda, Wilaya d'El Tarf  
Area: 42 100 ha | Coordinates: 36°53'N 07°16'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe de zones humides de la plaine de Guerbes-Sanhadja. 02/02/01; Skikda, El Tarf; 42,100 ha; 36°53'N 007°16'E. Planned Regional Nature Park. A large coastal plain between the hills of Skikda and the forested massif of Chetaïbi near Cap de Fer, including the delta of the Wadi El Kébir. Amongst the characteristic dunes can be found a multitude of depressions and valleys forming lakes and "garâas" (marshes) from a few to several dozen hectares in area, on a plain that is described as a "bioclimatic crossroads" including sub-Saharan and European as well as Mediterranean characteristics. In addition to its significant biological diversity, the site is important for migratory birds (especially as a nesting place for *Oxyura leucocephala* and *Aythya nyroca*) and fish and eels. Human uses include agriculture (especially tomatoes and melons) and grazing; potential threats include unmanaged agricultural expansion and runoff and waste-water from upstream villages. Ramsar site no. 1056. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Complexe du bas Loukkos

Site number: 1 475 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Larache  
Area: 3 600 ha | Coordinates: 35°07'N 06°00'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe du bas Loukkos. 15/01/05; Larache; 3,600 ha; 35°07'N 06°00'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest, Zones d'Intérêt pour la Conservation des Oiseaux au Maroc. A unique complex of wetland types on Morocco's Atlantic coastline, including estuarine waters, shallow marine waters, salt steppes, freshwater swamps and floodplains, in addition to rice paddies in drained areas and a number of abandoned salines. It hosts a number of vulnerable or near-threatened species at the international scale, such as the Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and the Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), as well as at the national scale, including among others the Squacco and Purple Herons, the Red-crested Pochard and the Marsh Owl. The site also presents large water lily and *Salix* expanses, rare for Morocco, and plays an important role in groundwater recharge and flood control. The main activities around the site are agriculture, livestock raising, salt production, and tourism. These are also the main causes of eutrophication, water diversion upstream, and dredging of some areas for further agricultural development. The "Déclaration de Larache 2002" is a project in the pipeline which involves eight governmental and non-governmental partners in contributing to the conservation and sustainable development of this site. Ramsar site no. 1475. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Complexe du bas Tahaddart

Site number: 1 476 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Tanger-Assilah  
Area: 11 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°34'N 06°00'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe du bas Tahaddart. 15/01/05; Tanger; 11,000 ha; 35°34'N 06°00'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. A complex of wetland types (including brackish and freshwater marshes and pools, subtidal aquatic beds, sand dunes, etc.) which are fed by the tides and precipitation. Especially during particularly wet years, they are an important stop for migratory species such as the Greater flamingo and Common crane, as the wetlands constitute the last feeding stop before the Gibraltar Strait, on the way to and from Europe. The complex also hosts the vulnerable Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), whose population is localized and threatened and said to be the only one present in Africa. The area's hydrology and landscape has been negatively affected by developments including roads and railway lines, abandoned salt works, but especially the radio station "The Voice of America" and its access roads, which have replaced a large salt steppe and a part of the lake of Wlad Khallouf. The soils in the area are very fertile thanks to the sediments deposited by floods, but they are today becoming over-exploited, as sediments in floodwaters have decreased due to trapping by upstream dams. Thus agriculture is common, as well as livestock raising, tourism, tuna fishing and sand extraction for construction purposes. An archaeological site has recently been discovered, which is expected to increase the site's cultural value. Ramsar site no. 1476. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Complexe du Parc Urbain Bāngr – Weogo et du lac des trois barrages

Site number: 2 367 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre  
Area: 945 ha | Coordinates: 12°23'N 01°31'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2019  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located in the heart of Ouagadougou, covers 945 hectares including two linked areas: the Bāngr – Weogo Urban Park and the three reservoirs and dams of the city. This urban wetland hosts a remarkable biodiversity with its diverse habitats including savannah, forests and ponds. The Ramsar Site features a protected forest that provides a hotspot of plant biodiversity and a refuge for diverse animal species. The fauna mostly comprises introduced species, including turtles of the genera *Trionyx* and *Cyclanorbis* and roan antelope *Hippotragus equinus*. Among the threatened plants are dry zone mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*) and shea butter trees (*Vitellaria paradoxa*). Restored and protected, this Ramsar Site is currently managed by the Municipality of Ouagadougou. It is a tourist site visited by approximately 25,000 visitors per year, and a training and scientific research centre hosting a number of environmental education activities as well as training programmes for students. The Ramsar Site also has socio-cultural value, as its river (the Kugri-suingo) is considered sacred and home to sacred animal species. In a context of rapid urbanization around the park, pollution by solid and liquid waste and market gardening affect the Site. However, a monitoring plan is being implemented to maintain its social and scientific value, focusing on plant species, birds and water quality.

### Complexe Kokorou-Namga

Site number: 1 071 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Tillabéri  
Area: 66 829 ha | Coordinates: 14°10'N 00°57'E | Designation dates: 17-06-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Part of a wetland shared with Burkina Faso and Mali, the Site comprises four permanent and semi-permanent marshes and pools in a former tributary of the River Niger. Internationally important for a number of reasons, it is particularly valued for its support to waterbirds, with nearly 50,000 representatives of 56 species counted in 2000. The complex is home to endangered species such as the black-crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*), the common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and the western swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*). Three ethnic groups inhabit the region, which are largely Muslim but with a richness which includes veneration of a serpent considered to be a protective spirit for Kokorou and the people living there. Deforestation and overgrazing, as well as desertification, are considered to be threats. The Site has been included as a demonstration project under the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) funded by GEF.

### Complexe Lac de Tunis

Site number: 2 096 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Tunis  
Area: 2 243 ha | Coordinates: 36°49'N 10°14'E | Designation dates: 23-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe Lac de Tunis. 23/01/2013; Tunis; 2,243 ha; 36°49'N 10°14'E. IBA. A coastal brackish lagoon surrounded by intertidal marshes, in close proximity to the city of Tunis. As a central wetland in the Gulf of Tunis, the site receives sea and inland water from surrounding salt flats. It is a good nesting ground for several waterbirds and wintering ground for migrating species such as the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) and the Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), as well as over 6% of the wintering population of Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) in the West Palearctic biogeographic realm. It has a seasonal algal cover and supports over 138 species of aquatic fauna. Mammalian fauna include rodents and several bat species, and it is an important source of food, spawning ground, and nursery for several fish species. The main human activity carried out is fishing, regulated following the protected status of the adjacent Chikly nature reserve. Ramsar site no. 2096. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Complexe Sassandra-Dagbego

Site number: 1 581 | Country: Côte d'Ivoire | Administrative region: Bas-Sassandra  
Area: 10 551 ha | Coordinates: 04°58'N 06°02'W | Designation dates: 18-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe Sassandra - Dagbego. 18/10/05; Bas-Sassandra; 10,551 ha; 004°58'N 006°02'W. Situated at the estuary of the Sassandra River, one of Côte d'Ivoire's biggest rivers, but also including some temporary estuaries, brackish marshes, freshwater swamp forests, alluvial forests, lagoons and mangroves. The site is rare in terms of the co-existence of the three mangrove types: *Rhizophora racemosa* (red mangrove), *Avicennia germinans* (white mangrove), and *Conocarpus erectus* (grey mangrove), which constitute the best-preserved stands in the country. The site hosts species ranging from primates to reptiles, tortoises and sea turtles, some of the great mammals, bats and more than 208 species of birds, especially waterfowl including herons and gulls. Fishing and tourism (aimed at beach and water sports, as well as at the historical colonial town of Sassandra) are the main activities, followed by livestock raising, wood collection and agriculture. The zone surrounding the site has a total population of 130,402 inhabitants. The main threats to the area include mammal and bird hunting, over-fishing and pollution from untreated waste from the urban areas. The Buyo dam upstream has also affected the water level in the wetland. Ramsar site no. 1581. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas

Site number: 1 801 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 2 855 ha | Coordinates: 37°45'N 25°19'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexo Vulcânico das Furnas. 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 2,855 ha; 37°45'N 025°19'W. The site covers the entire valley within an impressive crater of a volcano which still has some secondary activity such as small geysers and numerous springs and streams of hot sulphurous water. The main water body is the Furnas Lake (Lagoa das Furnas), whose shore and shallow waters are among the best habitats for waterbirds migrating through the Azores. The slopes of the crater are home of a good diversity of native plants of the laurel forest of Macaronesia. The Furnas complex is a very well known tourist attraction in the archipelago and it is also of great scientific interest. The eutrophication of the lake and the expansion of exotic invasive species are considerable threats to this site, which is under an urgent recovery plan for its restoration. Ramsar site no. 1801. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades

Site number: 1 802 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 2 171 ha | Coordinates: 37°51'N 25°47'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexo Vulcânico das Sete Cidades. 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 2,171 ha; 37°51'N 025°46'W. Protected Landscape. The site is one of the greatest tourist attractions of the archipelago and includes the whole crater and catchment area of Sete Cidades on São Miguel island and the adjacent smaller mountains of Serra Devassa. Several lacustrine systems occur in the site which is composed of a dozen relatively small ponds and lakes and the famous blue and green lakes (Lagoa Azul and Lagoa Verde) the largest of the Azores (4.38 km<sup>2</sup> and 53.2x10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> of water volume). Besides the high landscape significance, the complex is important as a breeding and stopover area for some species of migrant birds at regional level, especially ducks and waders. The eutrophication of the lakes, the expansion of exotic invasive species, the intensification of grazing and livestock, as well as erosion, are the main threats to this site, which is under a urgent recovery plan for its restoration. Ramsar site no. 1802. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Complexo Vulcânico do Fogo

Site number: 1 803 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores Archipelago  
Area: 2 182 ha | Coordinates: 37°46'N 25°28'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexo Vulcânico do Fogo. 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 2,182 ha; 37°45'N 025°28'W. Sitio de Importância Comunitária SIC, Nature Reserve. Located in the central part of São Miguel island, the biggest of the Azores archipelago, the site includes all the catchment area of the Fogo complex, with the lake of Fogo (Lagoa do Fogo) within the large crater and the geothermal springs, waterfalls and geysers of Caldeira Velha. The site provides electrical energy to the island through its geothermal power plant, and the water springs of Lombadas are also an important economic resource, supplying most of the island and providing mineral water. Ecologically there are several typical and threatened habitats of peatland and laurel forest which support several endemic and native species of plants and animals, such as the snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). The high hydrological and ecological value of the area makes it a perfect refuge and resting site for many migratory birds. The geothermic phenomena attract many tourists every year. The threats for the site are mainly absence of vigilance and illegal dumping. Ramsar site no. 1803. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Con Dao National Park

Site number: 2 203 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Ba Ria Vung Tau  
Area: 19 991 ha | Coordinates: 08°42'N 106°38'E | Designation dates: 18-06-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Con Dao National Park. 18/06/2013; Ba Ria-Vung Tau; 19,991 ha; 8°42'N 106°38'E; National Park. Con Dao is an archipelago of 14 islands located some 80 km off the coast of southern Viet Nam. Con Son, the largest of the islands at 5,700 ha, is situated at its centre. Con Son and Hon Cau are the only two islands in the archipelago with year-round freshwater supplies. The site supports a representative range of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems that are important for the biogeographic region. There are low montane *Melaleuca* forests inland, while along the coast there are dry forests as well as shallow marine waters, coral reefs, seagrass beds, intertidal flats and mangrove forests. These wetland habitats are particularly intact and support a high biodiversity. Some 355 coral species have been recorded of which 56 are classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Also present are the critically endangered mangrove, *Bruguiera hainesii*, and the critically endangered Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* and Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*. The archipelago has been inhabited for 4,000 years. The French colonial government occupied Con Lon Island in the late 19th Century, and established a prison from 1936 to 1975 which is now preserved as a national historic site. Traditionally managed capture fishing is allowed, and local people have also adopted other livelihoods including tourism-related ventures. Ramsar site no. 2203. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Cône d'épandage de Banh

Site number: 1 877 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Loroum  
Area: 10 003 ha | Coordinates: 14°10'N 02°33'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an alluvial fan formation close to the border with Mali, which features seasonal rivers and lakes, and also artificial wetlands such as seasonally flooded agricultural land and water storage areas. The ecosystem is dominated by dry forests occupying closed micro-depressions, connected by channels which ensure their water supply. The temporary water bodies spread in winter and are absorbed into the soil when the dry season starts. The landscape is notable because of the size of the floodplain and the dense vegetation dominated by spiny shrub and *Combretaceae*. The vegetation also extends as gallery forest upstream beyond Banh. The vegetation hosts species such as warthog, crocodile and jackal. It is a refuge for thousands of birds including francolin and guinea fowl, and migratory birds coming (according to the farmers) from the inner delta of the Niger River. The Site also attracts livestock farmers; the end of the rainy season and the drying up of the temporary ponds leads to a convergence of herds towards the wetland. The customary regulation put in place by the stockbreeders prohibits agricultural activities in the endorheic basin of the Sourindou-Mihity, as it constitutes their refuge in case of drought.

### Congaree National Park

Site number: 2 030 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: South Carolina  
Area: 10 539,1 ha | Coordinates: 33°47'N 80°46'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Congaree National Park. 02/02/12; South Carolina; 10,539 ha; 33°47'22"N 80°45'34"W. National Park. A mosaic of freshwater swamp forests, seasonal sloughs, forested peatlands, permanent and seasonal creeks, permanent freshwater lakes, and shrub-dominated wetlands, containing the largest remaining example of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in North America. The park supports a variety of species with different conservation status under the National Endangered Species Act, such as the Rafinesque Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*), Southeastern Myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), and Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). The site is an important over-wintering area for large numbers of temperate migrants and year-round residents. One winter census documented over 2,000 birds per 101 ha, one of the highest wintering bird densities reported in the United States. It supports 56 species of fish, or almost 40% of the freshwater fish species known to exist in South Carolina. Since 2001, a new visitors' center has been opened. Visitor activities include hiking, fishing, birdwatching, canoeing and camping. Threats include the presence of invasive species like feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), kudzu (*Pueraria Montana*), wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), and Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*). Ramsar Site no. 2030. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Conkouati-Douli

Site number: 1 741 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Kouilou  
Area: 504 950 ha | Coordinates: 03°55'S 11°27'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Conkouati-Douli. 13/12/07; Kouilou; 504,950 ha; 03°55'S 011°27'E; National Park. A diverse complex of marine and continental wetland types on the border with Gabon (littoral coast and beaches, mangroves, lagoons, lakes, permanent rivers and streams, papyrus marshes and submerged swamp forests) results in a highly diverse fauna (1207 species in 129 families), makes it a refuge and reproduction zone for fishes, shrimps, crabs, waterbirds and mammals, and maintains the overall hydrological balance of the zone through groundwater recharge, flood prevention, shoreline stabilization and nutrient retention. The resulting fauna diversity contributes to maintaining the biodiversity of the region and gives the site its great biological, hydrological and economic importance. Species of global conservation concern include the forest elephant, gorilla, marine turtles, etc. Fishing and hunting are the major socio-economic activities. Harvesting of forest resources mostly for subsistence also occurs. The waters of the site are exploited for traditional and religious rites, making it culturally important. The National Park has an official management plan but also benefits from the fishing and hunting laws of Congo, further ensuring conservation of its resources. The appearance of invasive aquatic plants, practice of bush fires and slash and burn agriculture, and poaching of turtle eggs are major threats. Ramsar site no. 1741. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Connecticut River Estuary and Tidal River Wetlands Complex

Site number: 710 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Connecticut  
Area: 6 602,8 ha | Coordinates: 41°15'N 72°18'W | Designation dates: 14-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Connecticut River Estuary & Tidal Wetlands Complex. 14/10/94; Connecticut; 6,484 ha; 41°15'N 072°18'W. State Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks. The longest and largest river system in New England. Shifting sandbars have preserved the river's extraordinary assemblage of natural and undisturbed plant and animal communities. The site includes open water; fresh, salt and brackish tidal wetlands; floodplains, river islands, beaches, and dunes. The system serves as essential habitat for numerous regionally, nationally, and globally rare or otherwise significant species and forms an extensive biological corridor that links marine and estuarine waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Many migratory and Neotropical bird species nest or winter in the marshes, which regularly support over 10,000 individuals, consisting of 18 species of waterfowl. Two million people live in the river basin that supports active commercial and recreational fisheries, various tourist facilities and activities. Hunting and trapping represent considerable revenues to the state. Ramsar site no. 710. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Coole Lough & Garryland Wood

Site number: 473 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Galway  
Area: 364 ha | Coordinates: 53°05'N 08°51'W | Designation dates: 30-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coole Lough & Garryland Wood. 30/05/90; Galway; 364 ha; 53°05'N 008°51'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. Part of a low-lying karstic limestone area characterized by a subterranean drainage system and seasonal lakes, known as turloughs, set in a matrix of woodland, limestone heath and grassland. The site and adjacent nutrient-poor lakes are the most important turlough complex in Ireland. Many rare species of flora and fauna and communities associated with the turlough to woodland transition are supported. Water levels fluctuate widely. The lakes are fringed by aquatic vegetation grading into grassland, tall grass and herb communities and, beyond the level of summer flooding, into scrub and high forest. Ramsar site no. 473.

## Coongie Lakes

Site number: 376 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia  
Area: 2 178 952 ha | Coordinates: 27°35'S 139°56'E | Designation dates: 15-06-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coongie Lakes. 15/06/87; South Australia; 2,178,952 ha; 27°34'3.72"S 139°56'26.25"E. Crown Land, National Park, Pastoral Lease. The site is an extensive and complex freshwater wetland system in the floodplain of Cooper Creek, one of the largest dryland rivers in Australia with a predominantly natural flow regime. Some wetlands fill only rarely, others hold water for a limited period after flooding, and others are permanent. A major flood heralds a period of flourishing plant growth and an influx of wildlife with large numbers of waterbirds, especially pelicans, cormorants, herons, ibises, spoonbills, ducks and waders that congregate to feed and breed, dispersing as waters recede. The site is increasingly important for recreation and tourism but the primary uses are cattle grazing, oil and gas production. Ramsar site no. 376. Most recent RIS information: 2013

## Coppenamemonding Nature Reserve

Site number: 304 | Country: Suriname | Administrative region: Saramacca  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 05°56'N 55°43'W | Designation dates: 22-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coppenamemonding. 22/07/85; Saramacca; 12,000 ha; 05°56'N 055°43'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve; Nature Reserve. A wetland complex on a young coastal plain of sand and shell ridges alternating with swamps, dominated by mudflats with mangrove forests on high ground. Inland, saline and brackish lagoons have developed supporting halophytic (salt tolerant) vegetation. An internationally important area for breeding birds, up to 3,000 pairs of herons, egrets and passage and wintering waterbirds. Impressive numbers of *Eudocimus ruber* and *Calidris pusilla* gather at the site. There is limited ecotourism in the reserve and low-level subsistence use by fishermen. Ramsar site no. 304.

## Coral Sea Reserves

Site number: 1 222 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Coral Sea Islands Territory  
Area: 1 728 920 ha | Coordinates: 16°52'S 149°49'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Coral Sea Reserves (Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays). 21/10/02; Coral Sea Islands Territory; 1,728,920 ha; 149°49'E 16°52'S. Nature Reserves. The site is located in the Coral Sea, with its centre some 440km east of Cairns, Queensland and 300km north-east of the Great Barrier Reef. It comprises near-pristine oceanic islet and reef habitats that are representative of the Coral Sea. The undisturbed sandy habitat provided by several islets is used for nesting by the globally endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), while their forest and shrubland support important breeding populations of terns, boobies, tropicbirds and other seabirds. Coral reef habitat within the site supports a distinct community of marine benthic flora and fauna, a relatively rich diversity of decapod crustacean and hydroid fauna, and significant feeding habitat for migratory shorebirds and seabirds. Marine algal communities are a particularly important feature, frequently covering a greater area than the corals. A large number of shipwrecks lend the site marine archaeological significance. In the absence of human residents, the site is used for nature conservation and scientific research, with recreational diving limited to the ten commercial tours of up to 30 passengers each permitted per year, and small numbers who arrive by private yacht. The surrounding area supports commercial fisheries, while dive and fishing-based tourism is again limited, due to the distance from centres of human population. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1222. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Cork Harbour

Site number: 837 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Cork  
Area: 1 436 ha | Coordinates: 51°50'N 08°15'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cork Harbour. 11/06/96; Cork; 1,436 ha; 51°50'N 008°15'W. A harbour consisting of several limestone basins separated from the sea and from each other by sandstone ridges. The harbour is impounded and so is no longer tidal. Vegetation is dominated by rushes and includes algae, wet woodland, and wet grassland. The site supports various breeding waterbirds, internationally important numbers of wintering and spring staging waterbirds, and provides important feeding areas for waders. Human activities include industrial and urban development, recreation and shooting. Ramsar site no. 837.

## Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Site number: 1 888 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Florida  
Area: 5 261 ha | Coordinates: 26°24'N 81°31'W | Designation dates: 23-03-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. 23/03/09; Florida; 5,261 ha; 26°24'N 081°31'W. Located in southwest Florida, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary contains pine flatwoods, wet prairies, cypress swamps, and marshes. The majestic 600-years-old bald cypress trees reach heights of 40m and comprise the largest remaining virgin bald cypress forest in North America. The endangered wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) nests high in these trees. In addition, nearly 200 species of birds including the vulnerable (IUCN) Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), the critically endangered (IUCN) Florida Bonneted Bat (*Eumops floridanus*), and 22 species of threatened or endangered orchids live on the site. Part of the site, formerly used as a mitigation bank, covers created/restored marshes, and the area serves as a vital link between several south Florida watersheds. Nowadays, the site is used for conservation and in limited areas scientific research and tourism. The site is owned and managed by Audubon of Florida, and removal of invasive exotic species, especially of invasive plants and of wild hogs, is a continuing challenge. The Blair Audubon Center within the site serves as a model for National Audubon Society education and interpretation centers throughout the country. Ramsar site no. 1888. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Corner Inlet

Site number: 261 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 67 186 ha | Coordinates: 38°45'S 146°32'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Corner Inlet. 15/12/82; Victoria; 67,186 ha; 38°45'S 146°32'E. Marine and Wildlife Reserve; Shorebird Network Site. An outstanding example of the processes involved in barrier island formation, development of multiple beach ridges, lagoons and swamps, tidal creeks, deltas, and washovers. Of international importance for migratory waterbirds, the area regularly supports up to 29,000 waders, including 50% of the waders wintering in Victoria, and is important as a drought refuge. Internationally important numbers of numerous waterbird species occur. Several birds, mammals, and plants are rare or endangered. Human activities include large-scale port operations, commercial and recreational fishing, bait collection and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 261. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Corredor Costero La Asamblea-San Francisquito

Site number: 1 595 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California  
Area: 44 304 ha | Coordinates: 29°27'N 113°50'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Corredor Costero La Asamblea - San Francisquito. 27/11/05; Baja California; 44,304 ha; 29°27'N 113°50'W. The physical characteristics of the site and its coastal, marine and insular diversity promotes the existence of abundant flora and fauna, including around 35% of the 3,452 marine species recorded for the Gulf of California, of which at least 21 are threatened. Among the species present are the marine turtles *Chelonia mydas*, *Caretta caretta*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Dermochelys coriacea*, as well as the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*). The site contains seagrass beds and coral formations, both of which are underrepresented in the Ramsar List. The introduction of exotic species, the collection of eggs, and various other human activities are adversely affecting the site, which is only partially regulated by a management plan. Ramsar site No. 1595. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Corridor forestier de la Boucle du Mouhoun

Site number: 2 314 | Country: Burkina Faso  
| Administrative region: Région de la Boucle du Mouhoun et région du Centre-Ouest  
Area: 134 553 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 02°56'W | Designation dates: 27-10-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of nine gazetted forests that follow both sides of the Mouhoun River in the Central West region of the country. The forests constitute a reservoir of plant biodiversity; among the predominant trees are *Parkia biglobosa*, *Lannea microcarpa*, and the vulnerable *Vitellaria paradoxa* and *Khaya senegalensis*, which are threatened globally and nationally. Local communities use the fibres, wood and tannins of some of these plants to dress masks and to make their hairstyles. The forest corridor provides refuge for a rich and diversified range of animal species, including African elephant, hippopotamus, roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus koba*) and waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*). Some of these species are essential to the survival of local populations as sources of protein, and for health-related and cultural values. The area is experiencing fairly aggressive erosion which affects its capacity to store water for exploitation during the dry season.

### Cors Caron

Site number: 570 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 874 ha | Coordinates: 52°15'N 03°55'W | Designation dates: 28-09-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cors Caron. 28/09/92; Wales; 874 ha; 52°16'N 003°55'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI. An extensive raised mire complex that developed over a former glacial lake and includes three distinct raised bog domes. The site provides a classic example of the developmental sequence from aquatic conditions, through floodplain fen, to a mire with a varied microtopography. The site supports an important butterfly population and is important for wintering birds, swans, and various raptors. Ramsar site no. 570. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Cors Fochno & Dyfi

Site number: 66 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 2 508 ha | Coordinates: 52°32'N 04°01'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cors Fochno and Dyfi. 05/01/76; Wales; 2,508 ha; 52°32'N 004°00'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; Nature Reserve, SSSI. A bar-built estuarine complex, comprising the Dyfi estuary, two calcareous dune systems, and a large raised mire. The Dyfi is one of the best examples in north-west Europe of a small, drying, nutrient-poor estuary, which has been relatively unaffected by industrial development. A wide range of estuarine habitats are present, including rare transitions to peatland. Cors Fochno is of international importance being the type locality for estuarine raised mire and one of the largest active raised mires in the United Kingdom. The geomorphology, flora and invertebrate faunas are of national importance. The site supports the only regular wintering flock of Greenland white-fronted geese in England and Wales, and is a key site in Wales for breeding waders. The site supports significant tourist trade, recreational and educational usage. Ramsar site no. 66. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Corsydd Môn a Llyn

Site number: 927 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 626 ha | Coordinates: 53°10'N 04°22'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Corsydd Môn a Llyn (Anglesey & Llyn Fens). 02/02/98; Wales; 626 ha; 53°19'N 004°18'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The inland wetland supports a suite of base-rich fens comprising of six component sites, supporting a range of associated floral and faunal rarities. Calcareous springs, predominantly from limestone aquifers, irrigate the fen and result in a distinctive vegetation. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 927. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Creston Valley

Site number: 649 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: British Columbia  
Area: 6 970 ha | Coordinates: 49°10'N 116°35'W | Designation dates: 21-02-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Creston Valley. 21/02/94; British Columbia; 6,970 ha; 49°10'N 116°35'W. Wildlife Management Area. A wide river delta entering the deep waters of Kootenay Lake. Most of the wetlands are under some form of water control regime. The site exhibits an interesting interface between marsh and riparian habitats and dry mountain forest, which provides some of the most important waterbird habitat in British Columbia. During spring and autumn migration, spectacular concentrations of birds (over 40,000) may gather. The area provides significant habitat for numerous mammals, fish, plants, birds and reptiles that are rare or endangered. Archaeological surveys confirm that Aboriginal peoples have lived in the area for thousands of years. Human activities consist of recreation. Powered vessels are prohibited. Some agricultural activity takes place as a management tool and there is a visitors' center. Ramsar site no. 649. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Crna Mlaka Fishponds

Site number: 582 | Country: Croatia | Administrative region: Zagreb County  
Area: 756 ha | Coordinates: 45°37'N 15°44'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Crna Mlaka (Crna Mlaka Fishponds). 18/01/93; Zagreb County; 756 ha; 45°36'40"N 015°44'09"E. Ornithological Reserve, National Ecological Network. An extensive carp fishponds area that represents an important breeding, feeding and staging/stopover site for a number of wetland species, especially birds. The site comprises the alluvial wetland along the lower part of the Kupa River and its tributaries and is surrounded by one of the largest complexes of alluvial oak forests in Europe. The fishponds with their water surface, extensive marsh vegetation, and rich food resources represent important site for migratory and breeding waterbirds such as the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* together with other waterbirds, Crna Mlaka supports up to 15-20,000 birds during the fall migration. The Otter *Lutra lutra* and the Beaver *Castor fiber* also inhabit the fishponds. The site plays an important role in flood retention and control. Factors threatening the ecological character of the wetland include fish production activities and lack of effective water management. Within the site hunting is forbidden and forestry is restricted. Human activities in the ornithological reserve include fish production, recreational fishing and ecotourism. Ramsar Site no. 582. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Cromarty Firth

Site number: 1 001 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 3 747 ha | Coordinates: 57°40'N 04°12'W | Designation dates: 22-07-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cromarty Firth. 22/07/99; Scotland; 3,747 ha; 57°41'N 004°12'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site supports the full range of estuarine habitats. Of particular importance are the extensive intertidal mudflats, which support sizeable beds of *Zostera* spp. The tidal flats are bordered locally by saltmarsh which grades into alluvial woodland at the mouth of the river Conon. It provides habitat for internationally important populations of *Limosa lapponica* and *Anser anser*. The site is used for nature conservation, tourism, and grazing. Ramsar site no. 1001. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 946 | Country: Belize | Administrative region: Belize  
Area: 6 637 ha | Coordinates: 17°44'N 88°29'W | Designation dates: 22-04-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. 22/04/98; Belize, Orange Walk; 6,637 ha; 17°44'N 088°29'W. Wildlife Sanctuary. A subtropical freshwater complex comprising a network of shallow lagoons, streams, creeks, and marshes. The larger of the two included areas centers upon the island village of Crooked Tree (ca.180 households), founded as a logging camp ca.1750, one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in Belize; a secondary group of wetlands, including Jones and Mexico Lagoons, lies on the far side of the Northern Highway a kilometre to the east. The area provides critical habitat for wildlife, particularly migratory and local birds, and the shallow water system is especially important for wading species. A number of Mayan archaeological sites are found in the area. Villagers practice subsistence farming, livestock raising, fishing, logging, and charcoal production, and the area is well-known for its cashew products, especially wine. Development to the northeast raises the possibility of habitat fragmentation and pollution. The Sanctuary is managed on behalf of the Government by the Belize Audobon Society. Ramsar site no. 946. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

### Crouch & Roach Estuaries

Site number: 721 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 736 ha | Coordinates: 51°37'N 00°44'E | Designation dates: 24-03-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Crouch & Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3). 24/03/95; England; 1,736 ha; 51°38'N 000°40'E. Special Area for Conservation, Special Protection Area, SSSI. The site includes the tidal estuaries of the Crouch and Roach Rivers, an extensive and diverse saltmarsh, and a narrow strip of tidal mud. The Dark-bellied Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, occurs in internationally important numbers, and three other species of wader and wildfowl occur in nationally important numbers. The site supports a diversity of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and an outstanding assemblage of nationally scarce plants. Human activities include recreation, agriculture, hunting, fishing, and marine aquaculture. Ramsar site no. 721. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Crymlyn Bog

Site number: 608 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 268 ha | Coordinates: 51°38'N 03°53'W | Designation dates: 08-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Crymlyn Bog. 08/06/93; Wales; 268 ha; 51°38'N 003°53'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI. One of the largest valley floodplain mires in Wales, and amongst the most important in the United Kingdom, the site forms part of an extensive inter-estuarine complex. The site includes the adjacent Pant-y-Sais Fen and consists of a complex mosaic of vegetation types made up of communities characteristic of both nutrient-rich and nutrient-poor conditions. Notable plant communities include the semi-floating fen and the nationally rare cotton-grass *Eriophorum gracile* community. The area is notable for its rich invertebrate fauna, including many nationally rare or highly localized species associated with mires. Ramsar site no. 608. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Csongrád-Bokrosi Sóstó sodic-alkaline pans

Site number: 1 409 | Country: Hungary  
| Administrative region: Bács-Kiskun County (southern part belongs to Csongrád County)  
Area: 865 ha | Coordinates: 46°44'N 19°58'E | Designation dates: 04-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed of two seasonal saline lakes, Nagy-Sóstó of 100 hectares and Kis-Sóstó of 10 ha, sodic-alkaline pans, steppes, a mosaic of temporarily flooded sodic marshes and meadows of the Danube-Tisza Interfluvium area. As it is part of the migration route along the Tisza river valley, the Site supports over 20,000 waterfowl, playing an important role as a resting, feeding and breeding site for the globally endangered saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and regionally threatened species including pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). It hosts several noteworthy plant species and communities, including the regionally endemic *Aster tripolium* ssp. *pannonicus*. Wildfowl hunting has been restricted. Land use is mainly dedicated to agriculture, and a potential threat is the acceleration of the eutrophication process caused by nutrients coming from the arable lands. The wetland plays a significant role in the hydrology of the region through the storage of inland water and the regulation of the groundwater level. However, past melioration measures in the catchment area decreased the extent of wetlands as they lowered the water table.

## Cuenca de Tajzara

Site number: 1 030 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Avilés

Area: 5 500 ha | Coordinates: 21°47'S 65°06'W | Designation dates: 13-06-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cuenca de Tajzara. 13/06/00; Tarija; 5,500 ha; 2147°S 06506'E. Reserva Biológica. Situated in the endorrheic Tajzara basin, 45 kilometres west of the city of Tarija, at 3,700m above sea level, the site consists of a group of seasonal, semi-permanent and permanent lakes, high-altitude streams, marshes and high-Andean pastures. The two permanent lakes (areas between 350 and 800 ha) serve as a refuge for 40 species of birds indigenous to the high-Andean aquatic systems, where about 90% of the high-Andean waterfowl in Bolivia is found. The area is important for migratory shore birds, with year-round concentrations of the vulnerable high-Andean waterfowl species Andean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus andinus*), James's flamingo (*P. jamesi*), and *Fulica cornuta*. More than 30 archaeological sites have been identified near the lakes, ranging from vestiges of primitive hunter-gatherers, pre-Incan hydraulic constructions, cave paintings illustrating aquatic birds, and three Incan roads that lead from the basin to the valley. The main economic activity is the raising of sheep, llamas and cattle; agriculture is limited by the climate, though the families in the area have an average of ½ to 1 hectare for subsistence crops. There is a visitors' centre, a bird-observation site, information material, and facilities for school visits. There are plans to draw up a management plan with the participation of the local communities. The site forms part of the Reserva Biológica de la Cordillera de Sama, which is managed by the Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas through the NGO Protección del Medio Ambiente Tarija (PROMETA). Ramsar site no. 1030. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Cuenca Embalse Arenal

Site number: 1 022 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Alajuela, Guanacasta

Area: 67 296 ha | Coordinates: 10°30'N 84°51'W | Designation dates: 07-03-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cuenca Embalse Arenal. 16/03/00; Guanacaste, Alajuela; 67,296 ha; 10°30'N 084°51'W. Includes Protected Areas. A predominantly human-made lacustrine wilderness area, the site plays a significant hydrological, biological and ecological role in the natural functioning of the Embalse Arenal water catchment in the central part of the country. It holds special value for one or more endemic species or communities of flora and fauna in each of seven protected areas and contains 1,131 species of flora, 884 of them of potential ornamental use. It contains populations of endemic bromelia *Pitcairnia funkia* and sustains threatened and endangered species of fauna, such as the mammals *Tapirus bairdii* (Baird's tapir) and *Leopardus pardalis* (ocelot), and birds such as *Cephalopterus glabricollis* and the *Amazilia boucardi* hummingbird. The wetland provides benefits related to hydropower generation, irrigation, tourism (water sports), recreational fishing and consumption, grazing, domestic agriculture and irrigation, agriculture and aquaculture. A management plan was implemented in 1997. Approximately 80% of the existing legislation is being enforced to regulate activities in the wetland and other protected areas. Environmental education programs are being implemented to involve organized groups, farmers, community leaders, teachers and schoolchildren in the search for better opportunities for the wise use of natural resources. Ramsar site no. 1022. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Cuencas y corales de la zona costera de Huatulco

Site number: 1 321 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Oaxaca

Area: 44 400 ha | Coordinates: 15°47'N 96°12'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cuencas y corales de la zona costera de Huatulco. 27/11/03; Oaxaca; 44,400 ha; 15°47'N 096°12'W. National Park, Community Reserves. The site features coral reefs, uncommon in the Pacific littoral of Mexico, associated with shallow inlets in a coast dominated by cliffs. Mangrove forests are found at the outlet of some rivers and associated with several coastal lagoons. Inland, dry forests of priority importance for conservation are crossed by several freshwater currents. A wealth of fauna and flora inhabits the site, including several endangered and endemic species, including the amphibians *Bufo marmoratus* and *Hyla sartori*, the Sinaloa Wren *Thryothorus sinaloa*, the Golden-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes chrysogenys* and the West Mexican Chacalaca *Ortalis poliocephala*, as well as numerous marine mammals that transit the coastline, such as the Pygmy and False Killer Whales (*Feresa attenuata* and *Pseudorca crassidens*) and the Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus*. Shellfishing, agriculture and tourism are the main activities in the area. Tourism development is considered to be the main threat due to large concentrations of people seasonally and the effect of new infrastructures. Forest clearing, hurricanes and hunting are also of concern. A management plan is in place for the Huatulco National Park and research activities are coordinated with several universities. Gathering of information for designation of the site was supported by the Ramsar Wetlands for the Future Initiative. Ramsar site no. 1321. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Cuilcagh Mountain

Site number: 968 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland

Area: 2 744 ha | Coordinates: 54°14'N 07°48'W | Designation dates: 31-12-1998

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cuilcagh Mountain. 31/12/98; Northern Ireland; 2,744 ha; 54°13'N 007°48'W. The site is a large and relatively intact example of a blanket bog comprising an nutrient-poor lake and exhibiting a wide range of characteristic vegetation and structural features, with well-developed pool, acid flushes, and bog bursts. The bog vegetation is locally characterized by *Sphagnum* mosses but over most of the site dwarf-shrubs and graminoid species dominate. It supports *Pluvialis apricaria* and *Falco columbarius*. Human activities include grazing and nature conservation. Ramsar site no. 968. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Cummeen Strand

Site number: 842 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Sligo

Area: 1 491 ha | Coordinates: 54°17'N 08°30'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cummeen Strand. 11/06/96; Sligo; 1,491 ha; 54°17'N 008°30'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. An estuarine arm of Sligo bay, made famous by poet W. B. Yeats, with mudflats and sandflats. Important arrival point for Brent geese *Branta bernicla* and also has internationally important numbers of *Charadrius hiaticula*. Ramsar site no. 842.

## Curral Velho

Site number: 1 575 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Isla de Boa Vista  
Area: 986 ha | Coordinates: 16°00'N 22°46'W | Designation dates: 18-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Curral Velho Ramsar Site is located on Boa Vista Island. It is composed of a permanent coastal lagoon at the mouth of the Ribeira de Brito Cruzinha, temporary coastal lagoons, the surrounding dune ecosystems and beach, and the islet of Curral Velho. All these areas are of ecological and scientific interest due to their isolated location on an oceanic volcanic island. The Site plays a very important ecological role as it maintains specific vegetation (halophytes, tamarisks and palm trees including coconut palm) while the lagoons provide a feeding ground for migratory birds. It is also home to a number of reptiles, and water birds including the Cape Verde shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*) and the Cape Verde storm petrel (*Oceanodroma jabejabe*), two species endemic to the archipelago. It also includes the most important site for nesting loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in Cabo Verde. Among the activities developed in the area are farming of goats and cattle, artisanal and recreational fishing in coastal areas, tourist excursions using all-terrain vehicles, and bird watching.

## Currawinya Lakes

Site number: 791 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland  
Area: 151 300 ha | Coordinates: 28°48'S 144°33'E | Designation dates: 11-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Currawinya Lakes Ramsar Site has some of the most diverse wetland types in inland Australia, including largely unmodified permanent and intermittent saline and freshwater wetlands. They include the Great Artesian Basin springs, one of the largest artesian groundwater basins in the world. Numerous plant communities are found within Currawinya Lakes and due to the range of wetland habitats present, there is an array of native fauna and particularly an abundance and diversity of waterbird species. The water bodies support large number of breeding birds and provide a refuge habitat in drought conditions for birds, amphibians, reptiles and native fish. The Site is highly significant to local indigenous communities for its archaeological, traditional and contemporary values. There are stone arrangements, native wells, scarred trees (trees with bark removed for canoes and shields), stone artefacts and burial grounds dating back some 400 years. Present use of the area is limited by its remote location. A number of nature-based, low-impact recreational activities take place, including nature walks and drives, wildlife watching, camping, canoeing and fishing.

## Czerwone bog woodland - nature reserve

Site number: 2 339 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Małopolskie  
Area: 114,7 ha | Coordinates: 49°27'N 20°02'E | Designation dates: 11-12-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an active raised bog which, together with the surrounding bog woodland, represents a typical example of a mountain bog. It is a rare complex of three bog habitats of European importance: transition mires and quaking bogs; bog woodland; and active raised bogs. The raised bog has a well-developed dome of between 50 centimetres and 5 metres in height, covering around 35 hectares and overgrown with pine and sphagnum communities. The dome is surrounded by transition mires, which are overgrown in places by shrubs of pine or birch. Noteworthy species include the nationally threatened common sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, the pine *Pinus x rhaetica* and black grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*. The Site is actively managed: much of the scrub was removed from the dome of the peat bog in 2012 and new shoots are removed every two years. The Site is of great importance for carbon storage, education, long-term monitoring and research; it is used as a scientific reference and demonstration site for students. It is also important for recreation.

## Daebudo Tidal Flat

Site number: 2 359 | Country: Republic of Korea  
| Administrative region: Ansan City, Gyeonggi Province, RO Korea.  
Area: 453 ha | Coordinates: 37°13'N 126°34'E | Designation dates: 25-10-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Daebudo Tidal Flat comprises two tidal flats, Sangdong and Goraetburi, on Daebu Island in the Yellow Sea. The Site is a key stopover and feeding ground for the migratory waterbirds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). It supports numerous marine species including over 100 macrobenthic species which are notably abundant; this macrobenthic community serves as an important food resource for the migratory waterbirds passing through the Site each year. Of the various species that the Site supports, some are globally or nationally threatened such as the globally endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), the globally vulnerable Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*) and the nationally vulnerable milky fiddler crab (*Uca lactea*). Owing to its significance in sustaining the migratory waterbirds, the Site was designated as a Wetland Protected Area under the Wetland Conservation Act in 2017. The Ansan City government is committed to implement the protected area management plan to accelerate its protection measures.

## Dafeng National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 145 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jiangsu  
Area: 78 000 ha | Coordinates: 33°16'N 120°48'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dafeng (*Elaphurus davidianus*) National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Jiangsu; 78,000 ha; 33°05'N 120°49'E. National Nature Reserve. A typical intertidal mudflat ecosystem on the coastline of the Yellow Sea, supporting a wide variety of rare animal species, including 315 species of birds (23 of them nationally protected), 600 of insects and 156 of fish, as well as the threatened Pere David's Deer or "Milu" (*Elaphurus davidianus*) for which the Reserve was chiefly gazetted. Following the introduction of 39 Milu in 1986, the population has grown to nearly 1,169 individuals in 2007, said to be the largest Milu population in the world; the population is in fact outgrowing the site's capacity, and research on the release of the Milu into the wild is ongoing. The site provides habitat and breeding areas for various kinds of bird, fish and shellfish. The reserve became a Ramsar site in 2001, and then joined the international migratory network of plovers and sandpipers in 2004, and as an internationally important wetland of great ecological significance, the site obtained permanent protection. The site is important for flood control, sediment retention, and shoreline stabilization, to a high degree. There is a visitors' centre of 600 m<sup>2</sup> visited by about 40,000 tourists every year. Agricultural development, including land reclamation, and chemical runoff are seen as significant threats. Ramsar site no. 1145. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Dagona Sanctuary Lake

Site number: 1 753 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Yobe State  
Area: 344 ha | Coordinates: 12°49'N 10°45'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A large, natural, seasonally flooded oxbow lake that falls in the section of Hadejia-Jamaare River floodplain within the Chad Basin National Park. The site supports over 25 bird species and is one of the most important sites in the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands for wintering Palaearctic and inter-African migrant waterbirds. It also provides a breeding site for the Grey heron and Little Egret. The lake also supports a wide range of fish species, and is an important source of drinking water for local cattle. The sanctuary is under protection as part of the Chad Basin National Park, hence, under the multiple use management, within the site free access to wild resources (wild animals, fish, birds) is forbidden. However, grazing and collection of wild resources are practised by the local population, and there is therefore a need for more stringent enforcement of existing laws.

## Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia

Site number: 1 146 | Country: China | Administrative region: Inner Mongolia  
Area: 740 000 ha | Coordinates: 48°45'N 117°29'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia. 11/01/02; Inner Mongolia; 740,000 ha; 48°33'N 117°30'E; National Nature Reserve, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A complex of lakes, rivers, marshes, shrubs, grasslands and reed beds typical of wetlands in arid steppes, in near-natural conditions. A staging area in the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Flyway, the site is important for some 284 bird species, particularly Anatidae and shorebird species, and exceeds the 20,000 individuals and 1% thresholds for six species. Some 30 fish species are supported, of both Siberian and Northeast China types, and some are economically important. The Dalai Lake region, as the only lower land of the Hulunbeir Plateau, has great significance for flood storage, sediment retention, and groundwater recharge, and is critical for maintaining regional climate. Tourism offers birdwatching, boating, and traditional Mongolian foods, customs, and cultures, and the area is becoming a center for environmental education and research. Fishing is the primary activity, accounting for some 10,000 tons of economic fish per year, and livestock grazing in surrounding grasslands involves more than 2 million animals. Due to the decrease in precipitation in recent years, water supply has decreased and thus reduced the water level of the lake. The reserve became a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002. Ramsar site no. 1146. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Dalian National Spotted Seal Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 147 | Country: China | Administrative region: Liaoning  
Area: 11 700 ha | Coordinates: 39°06'N 121°16'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Da Lian National Spotted Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Liaoning; 11,700 ha; 39°15'N 121°15'E. National Nature Reserve. A coastal area of the Bohai Sea, 20km from Dalian City, consisting of sea floor covered by pedestal rock of between 5 and 40 meters' depth and including over 70 islands and islets with rocky coasts and reefs. The sites provides habitat for 100 species of fish and numerous shellfish, as well as breeding grounds for a number of whale and dolphin species. The reserve is best known for the spotted seal *Phoca vitulina* and attracts large numbers of tourists from the nearby city and elsewhere. The cycle of the seals' lives is tied to the icing and melting conditions, as, following the adults' migratory routes through the Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, and East China Sea, young seals are born on the ice within the site and remain with a nuclear family until the ice breaks up some three months later in March. Shipping and transportation are sources of disturbance to the spotted seals within the site, while a port development within the Liaodong Bay is also a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 1147. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Dallol Bosso

Site number: 1 382 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Dosso  
Area: 892 122 ha | Coordinates: 13°19'N 02°56'E | Designation dates: 26-04-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A system of seasonal watercourses and permanent pools in a long-inactive branch of the River Niger, associated with a 775-kilometre depression running southward from Mali. Sandy soils and a near-surface aquifer contribute to the agricultural importance of the area and enable the only viable West African giraffe population. The Site also supports numerous fish species at different stages of their life cycles; certain species migrate towards the River Niger during the winter season, enriching the biodiversity there. Chief human uses of the area include irrigation agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and the extraction of the salt-like natron. The area boasts dense woody vegetation characterized by *Parinari macrophylla*, *Hyphaene thebaica* and *Acacia albida*. The effects of desertification in the region give cause for concern, including uncertain rains, sand encroachment, and inadequate groundwater recharge, and overgrazing and soil impoverishment through over-cultivation are seen as potential threats. The area is adjacent to Park National du W and is part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of that name.

## Dallol Maouri

Site number: 1 381 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Gaya  
Area: 317 520 ha | Coordinates: 12°16'N 03°34'E | Designation dates: 26-04-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A former north-south tributary of the River Niger along the south-western frontier with Nigeria, the Site is now a complex of permanent saline/alkaline pools and seasonal streams and creeks, with an exceptional complex of vegetation including the Palmyra palm *Borassus aethiopicum* and African doum palm *Hyphaene thebaica*. The permanent or migratory bird species found include squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), western cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*). The nine ethnic groups in the area make their livings by rainy-season agriculture and market gardening, salt extraction, fishing, forestry and grazing. The potential for sustainable tourism is high, and a local research programme financed by Switzerland is studying the potential for sustainable livelihoods. As elsewhere in the region, the effects of desertification are the most worrying threats.

## Danau Sentarum Wildlife reserve

Site number: 667 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: West Kalimantan  
Area: 80 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°51'N 112°06'E | Designation dates: 30-08-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Danau Sentarum. 30/08/94; Kalimantan Barat; 80,000 ha; 00°51'N 112°06'E. National Park. A series of seasonal freshwater lakes, connecting rivers, peat and freshwater swamp forest. The last vast area of primary freshwater swamp forest remaining in Kalimantan, and possibly the last major representative example of this habitat in the Sunda Islands. Over 185 species of fish and 200 species of birds are present. The reserve is home to the largest known inland population of Proboscis monkey. A seasonally fluctuating population lives on the site depending on fisheries, which provide 3,000 wet tonnes annually, for their livelihood. A field management and research centre are located in the reserve. Other human activities include cultivation and traditional harvest of forest products. Ramsar site no. 667. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Danube Delta

Site number: 521 | Country: Romania | Administrative region:  
Area: 647 000 ha | Coordinates: 45°10'N 29°15'E | Designation dates: 21-05-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Danube Delta. 21/05/91; 647,000 ha; 45°10'N 29°15'E. World Heritage Site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Danube delta (Romanian part) consists of a fluvial zone characterized by sandy levees and densely vegetated lakes, a transitional zone of larger lakes, reed swamps and forested levees, and a marine zone, dominated by dune and barrier beach complexes. The site supports a rich flora, fish fauna (75 species), and important populations of several mammals. The area is internationally important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. Nesting species include internationally important numbers of cormorants and pelicans. The inhabitants of the many scattered villages have unique cultural links with the ecosystem. Human activities include fishing, forestry, small-scale cultivation, and tourism. The site was formally twinned with the Camargue Ramsar site by an agreement between the governments of Romania and France, 1992. Ramsar site no. 521.

## Danube Islands - Bugeac - Iotormac

Site number: 2 114 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Calarasi and Constanta counties  
Area: 82 832 ha | Coordinates: 44°14'N 27°46'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Danube Islands-Bugeac-Iotormac (Ostroavele DunariiBugeaciIotormac). 02/02/2013; Calarasi, Constanta counties; 82,832 ha; 44°13'32"N 27°45'48"E. Natural Monuments; Natural Reserves; Natura 2000 Network (SPA, SCI). The site is a part of the Danubes floodplain, where it has the largest width because the Danube splits into two branches which formerly enclosed large lakes. The site is situated on the route of an important migration corridor, so it is important as a breeding and resting place for several rare bird species. The landscape is specific to the meadows, with lakes between the sand dunes, marshes, shrub-dominated wetlands, fishponds and islands providing appropriate conditions for a great biodiversity. Endemic flora like the *Hedysarum grandiflorum* grow within the site. There is a LIFE project financed by the European Union for the protection of these islands, which are considered very important for bird species such as the Falco cherrug, *Haliaetus albicilla* and *Pelecanus crispus*. During wintering and migration, the site is also important for many other threatened species such as the *Ardea purpurea*, *Branta ruficollis*, and *Ciconia nigra*. Human activities which may affect the ecological character of this site are navigation, fishing, poaching, hunting, tourism, urbanisation and wind turbines. The site plays an important hydrological value as it regulates Danube water fluctuation and floods. Ramsar Site no. 2114. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Dashanbao

Site number: 1 435 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan Province  
Area: 5 958 ha | Coordinates: 27°26'N 103°20'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dashanbao Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 5,958 ha; 27°24'36"N 103°20'33"E. National Nature Reserve A peat moor in subalpine swamp meadows, between 2,210 and 3,364 meters above sea level, with shallow water vegetation such as *Poa annua* Linn, *Geum aleppicum*, and *Cyperus serotinus*. Major hydrological functions include flood control and water recharge to supply ground water to downstream and hillside spring vents. The site supports the highest concentration, representing 1/5 of the world population, of Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*, a globally vulnerable species, and is important for other migratory waterbirds, such as *Mergus squamatus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Grus grus*, and *Cygnus cygnus*. The Nature Reserve has been actively managed, with the reserve managers cooperating regularly with the local government and residents to protect natural forests, restore the wetland and return farmland to grassland. Since its establishment, 60 injured or ill Black-necked cranes have been rescued, and research and monitoring activities are conducted in collaboration with a number of research institutions. In 2008, the Wetland Research and Monitoring Center of Dashanbao was built with financial support from the government of China. Ramsar site No. 1435. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Dättern

Site number: 432 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västra Götaland  
Area: 3 990 ha | Coordinates: 58°23'N 12°36'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a shallow, freshwater bay, fringed by reedbeds at the south-west end of Lake Vänern. The nutrient-rich waters support abundant plankton and are regarded as one of the most important spawning areas in Sweden for the pike-perch *Lucioperca lucioperca*. The Site was extended in November 2001 to include part of the River Nossan, which is important for spawning asp (*Aspius aspius*). It also holds an outstanding variety of plant species, with its grazed pastures and shore lines supporting a rich annual flora. Dättern is an important breeding and resting place for birds such as nationally endangered Eurasian penduline tit *Remiz pendulinus* and the nationally vulnerable spotted crane *Porzana porzana*. Human activities include livestock grazing and fishing. Maintaining traditional grazing is essential for maintaining the ecological character of the meadows. 208 hectares of wet meadow have been restored, which has enhanced breeding conditions for birds within the Site. There is a management plan for each of the two nature reserves and a conservation plan for the Natura 2000 Site. An observation platform can be found.

## Dayet El Ferd

Site number: 1 419 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Tlemcen  
Area: 3 323 ha | Coordinates: 34°30'N 01°14'W | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dayet El Ferd, on the high steppe plains of Tlemcen, is a permanent endorheic depression surrounded by pastures and cereal fields. The edges of the brackish *daya* (lake) are dominated by tamarisk shrubs and serve as refuge and nesting sites for various species. The open water area hosts a wide range of birds including greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, common crane *Grus grus*, ruddy shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, common coot *Fulica atra*, raptors and waders. There are also some unidentified amphibians. The only local activity is agriculture, with some water being extracted from the lake. In the past, taxes were collected from passing caravans; today the Site hosts a weekly market, which makes it ideal for combining ecotourism with scientific and cultural research. There are plans to transform the Site into a nature reserve to be linked to Tlemcen National Park.

## Deben Estuary

Site number: 794 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 979 ha | Coordinates: 52°03'N 01°21'E | Designation dates: 11-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deben Estuary. 11/03/96; England; 979 ha; 52°03'N 001°21'E. Special Protection Area, SSSI. A sheltered estuary with areas of saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats displaying the most complete range of saltmarsh community types in Britain. The site supports nationally and internationally important flora and fauna. Important numbers of the Dark-bellied Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, winter at the site. Human activities include large-scale commercial fishing and small-scale recreation, hunting, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 794. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Deelen

Site number: 579 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland  
Area: 514 ha | Coordinates: 53°01'N 05°54'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deelen. 07/01/93; Friesland; 514 ha; 53°02'N 05°55'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Ramsar Site, whose boundary has been adjusted to that of the Natura 2000 site, is one of the few remnants of an extensive peat bog landscape that once covered north-western Overijssel and Friesland. It is characterized by wet meadows, reedbeds, lakes and woodland. The Site is internationally important for endangered breeding birds such as bittern, purple heron and black tern, and it regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the European populations of gadwall, shoveler and barnacle goose. It also plays a very important role in flood control and groundwater replenishment. Human activities include reed harvesting, farming, peat extraction, water management and recreation. The main threats to the Site's ecological character derive from drainage and nutrient pollution from the surrounding farmland. The Dutch Bird Research Organisation SOVON coordinates a national bird monitoring programme at the Site. Ramsar site no. 579. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Deepor Beel

Site number: 1 207 | Country: India | Administrative region: Assam  
Area: 4 000 ha | Coordinates: 26°08'N 91°39'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deepor Beel. 19/08/02. Assam. 4,000 ha. 26°08'N 091°39'E. Sanctuary. A permanent freshwater lake in a former channel of the Brahmaputra river, of great biological importance and also essential as the only major storm water storage basin for the city of Guwahati. The beel is a staging site on migratory flyways and some of the largest concentrations of aquatic birds in Assam can be seen, especially in winter. Some globally threatened birds are supported, including Spotted-billed Pelican (*Pelicanus philippensis*), Lesser and Greater Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus* and *dubius*), and Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*). The 50 fish species present provide livelihoods for a number of surrounding villages, and nymphaea nuts and flowers, as well as ornamental fish, medicinal plants, and seeds of the Giant water lily *Euryale ferox* provide major revenue sources in local markets; orchids of commercial value are found in the neighboring forest. Potential threats include over-fishing and hunting pressure upon waterbirds, pollution from pesticides and fertilizers, and infestation by water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*. A proposal to create a sewage canal from the city directly to the beel is considered to be disastrous in its potential effects. Ramsar site no. 1207. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Deh Akro-II Desert Wetland Complex

Site number: 1 283 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 20 500 ha | Coordinates: 26°50'N 68°20'E | Designation dates: 05-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deh Akro-II Desert Wetland Complex. 05/11/02; Sindh; 20,500 ha; 26°50'N 068°20'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A complex of four major habitats, desert, wetland, marsh, and agricultural, 330km northeast of Karachi, representing an example of a natural inland wetland ecosystem comprising 36 lakes and unique desert habitat, which supports a variety of rare and endangered wildlife species. Based in a typical stable sand desert covered with 5m-10m dunes lying in an east-west orientation, the flat-bottomed valleys between them contain lakes, mostly brackish but five freshwater, recharged by seepage from the Nara and Jamrau irrigation canals and by rainwater. The complex plays host to a considerable number of fauna that are rare (e.g., Desert cat *Felis libyca*, Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* pennant, Garganey *Anas querquedula*, Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*) and endangered (e.g., Marsh crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*, Hog deer *Axis porcinus*, White-eyed pochard *Anthya nyroca*), and it supports many indigenous fish species - though commercial fishing is prohibited, subsistence fishing by local people is permitted. Water scarcity during a current long dry spell is considered to be a threat. WWF-Pakistan assisted in preparations for the designation of the site. Ramsar site no. 1283. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## De Hoop Vlei

Site number: 34 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape  
Area: 750 ha | Coordinates: 34°27'S 20°23'E | Designation dates: 12-03-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

De Hoop Vlei. 12/03/75; Western Cape; 750 ha; 34°27'S 020°20'E. Provincial Nature Reserve. A coastal lake of seasonally varying levels of water and salinity, formed when dunes blocked the course of the Sout River. Important for numerous species of wintering and staging waterbirds. A major research programme is under way to monitor the impact of the military test range on the ecology of the reserve and surrounding area. The native turtle, common in the 1960s, has since become rare. Ramsar site no. 34. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Reninge

Site number: 329 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: West-Vlaanderen  
Area: 2 360 ha | Coordinates: 50°59'N 02°51'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Reninge. 04/03/86; Vlaamse Gewest, 2,360 ha, 50°59'N 002°51'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 17 January 1994, replaced on the Record, 17 May 1999. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A shallow, freshwater lake resulting from peat-cutting since the 16th century. Composed of extensive reedbeds and scrub and surrounded by a wet meadow complex. The area supports an interesting flora including rare species, and is particularly important for breeding, staging and wintering birds; nesting species include ducks. The site includes a 60ha water-supply reservoir. Human activities include intense hunting and agriculture. Ramsar site no. 329. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Deir el Nouriyeh cliffs of Ras Chekaa

Site number: 979 | Country: Lebanon | Administrative region: Ras Chekaa  
Area: 0 ha | Coordinates: 34°18'N 35°41'E | Designation dates: 16-04-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deir el Nouriyeh cliffs of Ras Chekaa. 16/04/99. The site is part of a coastal limestone promontory just north of Beirut, amid the highly-developed narrow coastal plain between Beirut and Tripoli, and is described as "a mosaic of woodland and olive groves". The site is significant because of its position as a coastal headland on the Middle East bird migration route: notable bird species include the White Pelican and Purple Heron. The presence of submarine freshwater springs off the coast at Ras Chekaa is thought to enhance the biodiversity of the waters here. Of historical and cultural interest is the convent of Deir el Nouriyeh. The main agricultural use of the site is the cultivation of olives. Ramsar site no. 979.

## Delaware Bay Estuary

Site number: 559 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Delaware, New Jersey  
Area: 51 252 ha | Coordinates: 39°11'N 75°14'W | Designation dates: 20-05-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delaware Bay Estuary. 20/05/92; Delaware, New Jersey; 51,252 ha; 39°11'N 075°14'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve, National Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife Management Area, Fish & Wildlife Management Area, Nature Preserve, State Park. Major estuarine system in an ecological transition zone. The site consists of more than 70 separate protected wetland areas of varying salinity supporting various marsh communities. An important staging area for over 90% of the North American populations of several migratory shorebird species. More than one million individuals use the region, making it one of the two most important staging areas on the Atlantic coast of North America. Notable flora and fauna include five species of marine turtles, the endangered eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, and several rare or endangered plants. The crab fishery and hunting is valued at over \$85.5 million per year. Ramsar site no. 559. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Delta del Ebro

Site number: 593 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cataluña  
Area: 7 736 ha | Coordinates: 40°43'N 00°44'E | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delta del Ebro. 26/03/93; Cataluña; 7,736 ha; 40°43'N 000°44'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park, Natural Reserve, National Hunting Refuge, Hunting Refuge. A fluvial delta, including shallow coastal waters, beaches, dunes, saline lagoons, salinas, freshwater marshes, and freshwater pools fed by groundwater springs. The delta's flood regime is regulated artificially to promote rice cultivation. Shallow water areas are extremely important as spawning and nursery areas for many species of commercially valuable fish and support outstanding mollusc, shrimp and endemic fish populations. The site supports internationally important numbers of numerous species of waterbirds. Up to 30,000 pairs of waterbirds nest, and 180,000 individuals winter at the site annually. Human activities include hunting, fishing, shellfish harvesting, tourism, agriculture, and limited aquaculture and livestock rearing. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 2000. Ramsar site no. 593. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Delta del Paraná

Site number: 2 255 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Provincia de Santa Fe y provincia de Entre Ríos  
Area: 243 126 ha | Coordinates: 32°16'S 60°43'W | Designation dates: 03-10-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delta del Paraná, located in the Santa Fe and Entre Ríos Provinces, comprises fluvial wetlands associated with the middle and lower sections of the Paraná River floodplain, and includes the territories of two National Parks: "Predelta" and "Islas de Santa Fe".

The extensive floodplain wetlands play an important role in hydrological and biogeochemical regulation, and constitute an important biogeographical corridor in which tropical, subtropical, and temperate species meet. They provide food, shelter, and breeding sites for many species of fish, some of which are migratory, and several species of birds, reptiles, and mammals facing some degree of threat. Some outstanding species are: the marsh seedeater (*Sporophila palustris*), categorized as endangered in the IUCN Red List, and the rufous-rumped seedeater (*S. hypochroma*), both included in Appendix I of CMS; and the jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*), the broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), Geoffroy's cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*), and the neotropical otter (*Lontra longicaudis*), all of which are included in Appendix I of CITES.

The Site provides essential support to the livelihoods of the local communities. The river and smaller channels are used as commercial shipping routes and supply water for domestic and agricultural use, while the wetlands and their natural resources sustain tourism and recreational activities. Moreover, the ancient civilizations which occupied the floodplain and the Parana delta over two thousand years ago left a wealth of archaeological sites.

## Delta del Río Baudó

Site number: 1 387 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Chocó  
Area: 8 888 ha | Coordinates: 04°53'N 77°22'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delta del Río Baudó. 05/06/04; Chocó; 8,888 ha; 04°53'N 077°22'W. The estuary of the Baudó river on the Pacific coast, comprising flood banks, sand beaches, shrub-swamps and swamp forests. Outstanding vegetation includes nato mangroves (*Mora oleifera*, *Mora megistosperma*), with trees reaching 35 m or more in height; mangrove forests (*Pelliciera rhizophorae*, *Avicennia germinans*), and giant reeds. Noteworthy fauna include the Spotted Otter (*Agouti paca*), the peccaries (*Tayassu pecari* and *Tayassu tajacu*), Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*). The wetland is habitat and reproduction site of numerous species of fish such as the cichlid *Cichlasoma kraussii*, the Trahira (*Hoplias malabaricus*) and the Flathead mullet (*Mugil cephalus*). Uses of the site by human communities include forest exploitation, fishing, subsistence agriculture, hunting and basket-making. Potential threats include mangrove felling, overfishing, uncontrolled hunting, boat transportation with off-board engines, and clearing for rice cultivation. Surrounding areas are the collective property of black communities. Ramsar site no. 1387. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Delta Intérieur du Niger

Site number: 1 365 | Country: Mali | Administrative region: Mopti, Tombouctou, Ségou  
Area: 4 119 500 ha | Coordinates: 15°12'N 04°06'W | Designation dates: 01-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delta Intérieur du Niger. 01/02/04; Mopti, Ségou, Tombouctou; 4,119,500 ha; 15°12'N 004°06'W. A vast floodplain situated in the middle of sahelian landscape, rich in natural resources and featuring varied ecosystems (lakes, forest floodplains, flooded grasslands and savannah). It is the largest inland wetland in West Africa and the second largest wetland in Africa, after the Okavanga Delta in Botswana. It supports an exceptionally high number of animal and plants species and is a refuge for many migratory birds, hosting more than 350 species, with 103 waterfowl species listed between 1998 and 2001. Each year more than 1 million birds come from more than 80 countries to use the delta. Several watery sites of the Inner Niger Delta are important for the survival of reptiles such as the Sebae or rock python (*Python sebae*), the Nile varan (*Varanus niloticus*), cobras (*Naja* sp.), vipers (*Bitis arietens*) and also many amphibians. The hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and the manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), both species registered on the IUCN's Red List of the threatened species, are still extant, although now threatened in the delta. The richness of fishes in the delta is another important feature, with some 138 species, 24 of which are endemic. Nearly one million people live on the resources of the delta ecosystems, by agriculture, farming, fishing, crop, navigation, tourism, etc. The Inner Niger Delta is the source of the emergence of the big empires of the 8th to 16th centuries (Ghana, Mali, Songhay), then of the theocratic States of Sékou, Ahmadou and Elhadj Omar Tall. Numerous historic cities like Hamdallay (ancient capital of the Dina), Djenné, Dia and Bandiagara are important economic, political and cultural centers today. The historic city of Djenné and the cliffs of Bandiagara have been on UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage lists since 1989. Ramsar site no. 1365. Most recent RIS information: 2004. Note: The Delta Intérieur de Niger site incorporates the former Ramsar Sites of Lac Horo, Séri, and Walado Debo / Lac Debo, designated on 25/05/87.

## Delta Marsh

Site number: 238 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Manitoba  
Area: 23 000 ha | Coordinates: 50°05'N 98°00'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Creston Valley. 21/02/94; British Columbia; 6,970 ha; 49°10'N 116°35'W. Wildlife Management Area. A wide river delta entering the deep waters of Kootenay Lake. Most of the wetlands are under some form of water control regime. The site exhibits an interesting interface between marsh and riparian habitats and dry mountain forest, which provides some of the most important waterbird habitat in British Columbia. During spring and autumn migration, spectacular concentrations of birds (over 40,000) may gather. The area provides significant habitat for numerous mammals, fish, plants, birds and reptiles that are rare or endangered. Archaeological surveys confirm that Aboriginal peoples have lived in the area for thousands of years. Human activities consist of recreation. Powered vessels are prohibited. Some agricultural activity takes place as a management tool and there is a visitors' center. Ramsar site no. 649. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Deltas del Estero Real y Llanos de Apacunca

Site number: 1 136 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Chinandega  
Area: 81 700 ha | Coordinates: 12°53'N 87°13'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deltas del Estero Real y Llanos de Apacunca. 08/11/01; Chinandega; 81,700 ha; 12°53'N 087°13'W. Natural Reserve. An estuarine ecosystem that is part of the large mangrove systems of the Golfo de Fonseca shared with El Salvador and Honduras, marked by semi-intensive and extensive shrimp cultivation, fishing, and agriculture. Within the site some 35 species of fauna have been identified, and part of the site was declared a Reserve for Genetic Resources in 1996 in order to preserve a species of wild maize (*Zea luxurians* or *nicaraguensis*) that is endemic to Nicaragua and found only in this area. The original diversity of the site has suffered from human impacts such as agrochemical and organic waste, sedimentation, deforestation, and excessive hunting. Ramsar site no. 1136. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Deltas of Rud-e-Gaz and Rud-e-Hara

Site number: 52 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Hormuzgan  
Area: 15 000 ha | Coordinates: 26°40'N 57°20'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deltas of Rud-e-Gaz & Rud-e-Hara. 23/06/75; Bandar-e Abbas; 15,000 ha; 26°40'N 057°20'E. An extensive complex of tidal mudflats, creeks, saltmarshes, mangroves, sandbanks and offshore islands at the mouth of two rivers. A remote area with sparse human population and an extremely arid, low-lying hinterland. The site is important for wintering waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 52. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Deltas of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin and Rud-e-Minab

Site number: 51 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Hormuzgan  
Area: 45 000 ha | Coordinates: 27°05'N 56°45'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deltas of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin & Rud-e-Minab. 23/06/75; Bandar-e Abbas; 45,000 ha; 27°05'N 056°45'E. Coastal mudflats, mangroves and saltmarshes around the deltas of three rivers, subject to spring flooding. A shallow, inshore zone includes mud and sand flats, bars and spits. Arid plains and steppe occur inland. The area is important for wintering waterbirds. There are a few human settlements near the wetlands. Ramsar site no. 51. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## De Mond

Site number: 342 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape  
Area: 918 ha | Coordinates: 34°43'S 20°07'E | Designation dates: 02-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

De Mond (Heuningnes Estuary). 02/10/86; Western Cape; 918 ha; 34°43'S 020°07'E. Nature Reserve. Estuary, dune system, and saltmarsh where shifting dunes are isolating the estuary. Important as wintering, staging and feeding area for several species of breeding birds and locally migrant waterbirds. Provides habitat for various reptiles, notable crustaceans, and the sea horse Hippocampus. Ramsar site no. 342. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Dengie

Site number: 651 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 3 127 ha | Coordinates: 51°41'N 00°57'E | Designation dates: 24-03-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1). 24/03/94; England; 3,127 ha; 51°41'N 000°58'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, SSSI. A remote area of tidal mudflats and saltmarsh between the Blackwater and Crouch Estuaries. The saltmarsh, the largest continuous example of its type in Essex, includes cockleshell spits and beaches and supports an outstanding assemblage of rare coastal flora. The site supports internationally and nationally important populations of wintering wildfowl and waders. In summer the range of breeding coastal birds includes rare species. Human activities include tourism, bait collecting, hunting, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 651. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Densu Delta Ramsar Site

Site number: 564 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Greater Accra Region  
Area: 5 893 ha | Coordinates: 05°33'N 00°18'E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Densu Delta Ramsar Site is an estuary comprising open lagoon, salt pans, freshwater marsh, scrublands and sand dunes. The wetland is fed mainly by the Densu River, which supplies water to approximately half of the Accra metropolitan area. Scattered stands of mangroves are found in some areas around the lagoon, while the freshwater parts of the wetland support stands of *Typha*, *Imperata* grasses, and *Cyperus* sedges. It is estimated that over 57 water bird species, comprising the little egret *Egretta garzetta*, common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, and the rare roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* feed and nest in the area. The entire Delta and its rich mangrove vegetation serves as a major sediment-trapping platform and a shoreline stabilizer for local communities, which depend heavily on the lagoon for commercial fishing, fuelwood harvesting and salt mining.

## Dersingham Bog

Site number: 751 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 158 ha | Coordinates: 52°50'N 00°29'E | Designation dates: 12-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dersingham Bog. 12/09/95; England; 158 ha; 52°50'N 000°29'E. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. East Anglia's largest remaining example of a pure acid valley mire grading into dry heathland. The site includes extensive bog, wet heath, and transition communities over peat, fed by groundwater springs and seepage. In addition to its internationally important plant communities, the site supports important assemblages of birds and numerous nationally important invertebrate species. Human activities include tourism, cutting of vegetation, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 751. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## De Slagbaai

Site number: 203 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire  
Area: 90 ha | Coordinates: 12°16'N 68°25'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

De Slagbaai. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 90 ha; 12°16'N 068°25'W. Within a National Park. A shallow, permanent, saline lagoon, isolated from the sea by a bank of beach rock. Brine shrimp and brine flies provide valuable food sources for birds. The lagoon is a resting area for Phalacrocorax olivaceus (max. 50), and a staging area for a variety of Nearctic breeding species. Ramsar site no. 203.

## Desna River Floodplains

Site number: 1 398 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Sumska Oblast  
Area: 4 270 ha | Coordinates: 52°19'N 33°23'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Desna River Floodplains. 29/07/04; Sumska Oblast; 4,270 ha; 52°19'N 033°23' E. National Park. River network with lakes, oxbows, mires and floodplain meadow areas along the border with Russia, with aquatic and riverside vegetation types, swamp, shrubs, meadow, and partly forest. The site supports rare aquatic plant communities listed in the Green Data Book of Ukraine and internationally threatened species such as the Sterlet, the Common Otter, the Eurasian beaver, the Corncrake and many other birds which nest within the site. Between the new and former Desna River beds, colonies of grebes, ducks, plovers, sandpipers, gulls, and terns are settled. It is an important reproduction place as well for 33 fish species, which contributes to enriching the ichthyofauna stock of the lower river tributaries. Human activities include nature conservation and recreation activities, regulated hunting and scientific research. Observation of bird migrations and bird ringing during the nesting season are carried out. Ramsar site no. 1398. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Detwah Lagoon

Site number: 1 736 | Country: Yemen | Administrative region: Socotra Island  
Area: 580 ha | Coordinates: 12°42'N 53°30'E | Designation dates: 10-08-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Detwah Lagoon (Ditwah Protected Area). 08/10/2007; Socotra Island; 580 ha; 12°42'20"N 53°30'24"E. Important Bird Area, UNESCO World Heritage site. The site is a coastal lagoon on the northwestern side of Socotra Island, an island famously known as 'a jewel of biodiversity' in the Arabian Sea. Consisting of a tidal inlet open to the sea, it is surrounded by sand dunes and 400m high limestone and granite cliffs. The relatively pristine sea grass habitat provides ideal refuge from predators, acting as a feeding area and shelter for juvenile fish, and it is the only site on the island where the vulnerable Leopard Stingray Himantura uarnak and the near-threatened Bluespotted Ribbontail Ray Taeniura lymma have been recorded. It is considered an important roosting and feeding area for waterbirds, with 32 species recorded of which 10 are resident breeding species and 16 wintering species. The endangered Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus and the vulnerable Socotra cormorant Phalacrocorax nigrogularis breed in the site. Flora endemic to Socotra can be found including Croton socotranus and Jatropha unicostata. Unregulated tourism and recreational activities pose a threat, and funding is needed to build capacity to manage and monitor the area, declared protected in 2000. Ramsar Site no. 1736. Most Recent RIS Information: 2013.

### Deurnsche Peel & Mariapeel

Site number: 580 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Brabant & Limburg  
Area: 2 734 ha | Coordinates: 51°25'N 05°54'E | Designation dates: 07-01-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Deurnsche Peel & Mariapeel. 07/01/93; Noord-Brabant; 2,734 ha; 051°25'N 005°54'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The original Ramsar Site's name (Deurnese Peelgebieden) and boundary have been amended to reflect the larger Natura 2000 site. The Site is a former raised bog, with marshland, open water, channels, heathlands, and forests dominated by birch, oak and pine. It is of great importance as a representative landscape type specific to the western European Plain, and it is notable as a resting place for migrating common cranes and tundra bean geese. Regeneration projects have led to substantial increases in the extent of peat moss species such as *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and to a lesser extent *Spagnum fallax*. The Site plays an important role in groundwater replenishment, and the land is used for farming, recreation and water management. Potential threats Site include agricultural intensification, overgrazing, drainage, infrastructure developments and tourism. Ramsar site no. 580. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 249 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Northwest Territories  
Area: 815 900 ha | Coordinates: 66°10'N 74°00'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary. 24/05/82; Northwest Territories; 815,900 ha; 66°10'N 074°00'W. Migratory Bird Sanctuary. An intertidal zone with a series of raised beaches and a marshy plain of mosses and sedges, dotted with shallow lakes and swamps, drained by many small, slow-flowing streams. The area supports the largest goose colony in the world (30% of those breeding in Canada) and more than one million during molting, as well as abundant numbers of various other breeding species. Mammals include *Ragifer arcticus*, large numbers of which summer here before migrating to winter on Baffin Island. Ramsar site no. 249. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Diego Garcia

Site number: 1 077 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: British Indian Ocean Territory  
Area: 35 424 ha | Coordinates: 07°19'S 72°28'E | Designation dates: 04-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Diego Garcia. 04/07/01; British Indian Ocean Territory; 35,424 ha; 07°19'S, 072°28'E. Diego Garcia is the southernmost atoll of the Laccadive-Maldives-Chagos atoll chain. The archipelago has an exceptionally low level of pollution and provides a standard for measuring the impact of human pressures on other coral reef systems. The part of the atoll which is not included in the Ramsar site is the area which, under a 1976 UK/USA agreement, is set aside for military uses as a US naval support facility. The site qualifies for the List under 7 of the 8 Ramsar Criteria and is a particularly good example of a relatively unpolluted coral reef system in a near-natural state, of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of the region, especially its marine life. It provides habitat for marine flora and fauna at critical stages of their biological cycles, including the threatened Hawksbill and Green Turtles, and regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds, including Greater frigate, Red-footed boobies, brown and lesser noddies, amongst others. A feral cat eradication programme is under way and a rat eradication programme is planned. The site's international importance is legally recognized in the BIOT Conservation Policy Statement (1997) which specifies that it will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Convention subject only to defense requirements. Ramsar site no. 1077. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Diepholzer Moorniederung

Site number: 86 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 15 060 ha | Coordinates: 52°34'N 08°48'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Diepholzer Moorniederung. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 15,060 ha; 52°34'N 008°48'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive, Nature Reserves. A region of moor and peat bog on glacial sands. The raised bog areas are important for breeding and staging waterbirds. Human activities include peat extraction and drainage. Water-level management is being practiced to restore the natural raised bogs, and sheep grazing to aid the conservation of the moorlands. Ramsar site no. 86.

### Dikoe Fen Mire

Site number: 2 263 | Country: Belarus  
| Administrative region: Brest Region/Pruzhany District and Grodno Region/Svisloch District  
Area: 23 145 ha | Coordinates: 52°47'N 24°15'E | Designation dates: 30-03-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed primarily of fen mires with numerous scattered forested islands. It is one of the largest mesotrophic fen mires in Europe preserved in its natural state. The wetland supports populations of plant and animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of mire ecosystems of the Continental biogeographic region. The highest diversity of plants is found in the mineral islands, which are microrefugia for several threatened species. The Site also supports open sedge communities of *Caricetum chordorrhizae*, *Caricetum juncellae* and *Caricetum limosae*, providing an important habitat for the globally endangered aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. The globally endangered European bison *Bison bonasus* use the area as a foraging and resting place. The wetland provides important hydrological services, and feeds the Rivers Narev and Yaeslda, which originate in the central part of the mire. Local communities use the Site to collect berries and mushrooms. An information centre is located within the "Belovezhskaya Pushcha" National Park. Due to adjacent melioration systems, the water level in a marginal area of the eastern part of the mire has decreased leading to the development of shrubs and trees. In addition, the area of open sedge mires is shrinking due to the cessation of traditional mire use. This has led to the rapid overgrowth of the open mires with shrubs and reeds, and a decrease in the numbers of the aquatic warbler.

## Dinder National Park

Site number: 1 461 | Country: Sudan | Administrative region: Sennar / Blue Nile States  
Area: 1 084 600 ha | Coordinates: 12°19'N 34°47'E | Designation dates: 07-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dinder National Park (DNP). 07/01/05; Sennar State; 1,084,600 ha; 12°19'N 034°47'E. National Park, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A very large complex of about 40 wetlands, or "mayas", and pools formed by meanders and oxbows that are part of the Rahad and Dinder river drainage systems bordering the frontier with Ethiopia in southeastern Sudan. Both rivers and their tributaries, coming from the Ethiopian highlands across the flat plain of the Park, are seasonal and flow from June to November, peaking in August. The wetlands are vital as a source of water and of the most nutritious grasses for herbivores, especially during the most severe part of the dry season. A large number of animal species are supported, some of which, like the tiang *Damaliscus korrigum*, are endangered. Located in the center of migration routes among three continents, the site is visited by a large number of species of migratory birds, and some of the mayas contain quantities of fish throughout the dry season. Recent archaeological investigations at many locations within the park show promise of important finds from ancient Meroitic and medieval Fung sultanate periods. The local population practices agriculture and pastoralism and many are nomadic within the park during dry and rainy seasons. Illegal fires set by non-local nomadic grazers, poachers, and honey collectors are cited as among the chief threats to the site. Ramsar site no. 1461. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Din Moss - Hoselaw Loch

Site number: 405 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 51 ha | Coordinates: 55°35'N 02°19'W | Designation dates: 14-07-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Din Moss-Hoselaw Loch. 14/07/88; Scotland; 51 ha; 55°35'N 002°18'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. A small freshwater lake with associated fen and raised mire that provides a roosting site for internationally important numbers of wintering geese (2,008) from the Icelandic breeding population. Human activities include bird hunting on nearby lands. Ramsar site no. 405. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Djerba Bin El Ouedian

Site number: 1 700 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region:  
Area: 12 082 ha | Coordinates: 33°40'N 10°55'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Djerba Bin El Ouedian. 07/11/07; Medenine; 12,082 ha; 33°40'N 010°55'E. This site is composed of the southern part of the island of Djerba (514 Km<sup>2</sup>) and the Bin El Ouedian wetland centered on the Al Kantara causeway to the mainland. Djerba has seen a rapid increase in tourism in the past 40 years, carrying with it important human pressures, which include an excessive collection of shellfish, pollution and the removal of sand for local construction purposes. Bin El Ouedian, on the other hand, constitutes a rare portion of the island that has remained almost pristine until now. The influence of the Mediterranean tide, coupled with a characteristic marine hydrology, play a dominant role in the dynamics of this wetland, which supports a remarkable fauna of (shell)fish and waterbirds. The area also contains important archaeological sites such as the old fort of Bordj El Kastil and the Roman site of Méninx. Ramsar site No. 1700. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Djerba Guellala

Site number: 1 701 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Médenine Governorate  
Area: 2 285 ha | Coordinates: 33°42'N 10°44'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Djerba Guellala. 07/11/07; Medenine; 2,285 ha; 33°42'N 010°44'E. Located on the island of Djerba, comprising the coastal areas along the southwest corner of the island facing the mainland at Jorf. The flora and fauna are characteristic of arid zones, and include among others the pink flamingo (*Phoenicopterus (ruber) roseus*) and the Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), which use the site during their migrations between Africa and Europe. Although the site remains almost intact, there is a small risk of pollution from the ships that use the Ajim ferry port. Ramsar site No. 1701. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Djerba Ras Rmel

Site number: 1 702 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Medenine Governorate  
Area: 1 856 ha | Coordinates: 33°52'N 10°54'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Djerba Ras Rmel. 07/11/07; Medenine; 1,856 ha; 33°52'N 010°54'E. The third Ramsar site in Djerba, Ras Rmel ("sand cape") is a sand bar 10 km long located in the north of the island. The bar protects an area of lagoons east of Houmt Souk that is frequented by numerous migratory bird species including the spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and the thick-knee (*Burhinus oedipnemus*). The site suffers from intense pressure from tourism, land pollution (plastic wastes), and the extraction of sand for construction. Ramsar site No. 1702. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Dnieper River Floodplain

Site number: 2 244 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Bragin and Loev district/Gomel region  
Area: 29 352,9 ha | Coordinates: 51°38'N 30°37'E | Designation dates: 29-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Dnieper River Floodplain is a large natural wetland complex consisting predominantly of intermittent freshwater marshes as well as forested and non-forested peatlands, freshwater tree-dominated wetlands and shrub-dominated wetlands. It is one of the last large river floodplains in Europe to be preserved in its natural state. Located along the border with Ukraine, the Site encompasses about 100 km of the river, drainage canals, oxbow lakes and temporary ponds on the Belarus side. The wetland plays a significant role in the natural functioning of the river basin and its underground hydrological systems. It supports the globally threatened lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) as well as nationally threatened plant and animal species. It is one of the most important breeding habitats in Belarus of waterfowl including corn crane (*Crex crex*), and the floodplain meadows serve as spring migration stopovers for many waterfowl, including ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Terek sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*). The temporarily flooded water bodies are critical spawning grounds for rare indigenous fish, notably *Acipenser ruthenus*. The Site is used for gathering berries and mushrooms and for recreational fishing and hunting, and it includes numerous important historical and archaeological sites. The main threats relate to pollution by urban waste water, spring burning of vegetation in the floodplains and overgrowing of mires and open meadows with shrubs. The land and water in the Site are affected by radioactive contamination due to the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

## Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area

Site number: 764 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 76 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°28'N 30°13'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area. 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 76,000 ha; 46°28'N 030°13'E. The Dniester River delta and floodplain lakes consist of islands of floodplain forests, numerous scroll ridges, deep lakes, and floating bogs. Vegetation includes reed thickets, shrubs, and floating plant communities. Internationally important numbers of *Egretta alba* and *Plegadis falcinellus* nest at the site, and over 50,000 birds winter here. Various species of nationally rare flora and fauna occur. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, hunting, fish-breeding and fishing, recreation, and scientific research. The site serves as an important source of irrigation and drinking water. Ramsar site no. 764. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Dnipro-Oril Floodplains

Site number: 1 399 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Dnipropetrovsk Region  
Area: 2 560 ha | Coordinates: 48°32'N 34°45'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dnipro-Oril Floodplains. 29/07/04; Dnipropetrovska Oblast; 2,560 ha; 48°32'N 034°45'E. IBA, Nature Reserve. A well preserved area at the confluence of the Dnipro (or Dneiper) and Oril Rivers, comprising a system of watercourses and related floodplains with numerous lakes, mires, and well-developed flora of vascular plants, including rare communities of *Salvinia natans* and *Trapa natans*, floodplain forests with oak, willow, poplar and alder. The site is an important nesting place for Oystercatcher, Corncrake, Black Stork, Night Heron, and White Tailed Eagle and represents a key point of of the Dnipro bird migration route. Large flocks of Mallard, Garganey, Coot and White-fronted Goose stop over during their autumn migrations. It supports many internationally threatened species such as the mammals *Lutra lutra*, *Castor fiber*, reptile species *Emys orbicularis*, *Vipera ursinii*, amphibians *Bombina orientalis*. Some 40 fish species, including the Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus*, are recorded. The water level depends upon weather conditions but also substantially upon operations of a reservoir built downstream. Ramsar site no. 1399. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Dnipro River Delta

Site number: 767 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast  
Area: 26 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°34'N 32°29'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dnipro River Delta. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast; 26,000 ha; 46°34'N 032°29'E. Game Reserve. The site, a delta of the third largest river in Europe, includes swampy areas, floodplain forests, sandy ridges, and a lake complex. The diverse vegetation consists of hydrophilic communities, islands of floodplain forest, and reed thickets and includes endemic, relic and nationally rare species. Internationally important numbers of *Egretta alba* breed, and large numbers of numerous species of waterbirds molt at the site. An important source of drinking and irrigation water, the site provides the largest water transport artery between the Ukraine and Black Sea countries. Human activities include hunting, aquaculture, fishing, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 767. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Dojran Lake

Site number: 1 735 | Country: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Administrative region: South-East  
Area: 2 696 ha | Coordinates: 41°13'N 22°44'E | Designation dates: 02-08-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dojran Lake (Dojransko Ezero). 02/08/07; 2,696 ha; 41°13'N 022°45'E. Monument of Nature; Balkan Green Belt (EECONET); CORINE site. A shallow eutrophic lake with no natural outlets and its surrounding swamp and thermal spring, located in the southeast of the country and shared with Greece. The local community employs a unique and ancient fish hunting practice, with its own implements and traditions using birds and reed traps, first described by Herodotus in the 5th century B.C. and thought now to be practiced only here. The lake hosts several endemic species and subspecies of fish as well as 11 endemic invertebrates and many protected bird species. More than 100 individuals of *Pelecanus crispus* are supported every year in the period from November till March. A decreasing water level from over-abstraction is perceived as a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 1735. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Dokkadelta

Site number: 1 188 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Oppland  
Area: 375 ha | Coordinates: 60°48'N 10°09'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is the second largest inland delta in southern Norway. Situated where the rivers Etna and Dokka flow into lake Randsfjorden, it includes large shallow areas, mud banks, numerous channels, bogs, meadows and islets dominated by shrubs and alder/shrub gallery forest. As one of the few unspoilt estuaries remaining in the region, the Site is highly important for biodiversity preservation, as it supports numerous nationally red-listed species and a rich invertebrate fauna. It also has an important function as a staging area for several migratory bird species and as a spawning site for many species of fish. The Site is valuable in terms of sediment trapping, nutrient fixing and flood control. The regulation of Dokka river and Randsfjorden lake for hydropower production negatively affects the Site by reducing the flow of water through the delta by half. The National Wetlands Centre at the Site performs a range of tasks, such as education, guiding, management and monitoring of bird populations and flora. Popular activities include birdwatching and fishing.

## Domica

Site number: 1 051 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Kosice  
Area: 622 ha | Coordinates: 48°29'N 20°28'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Domica. 02/02/01; Kosice Region; 622 ha; 48°29'N 020°28'E. Protected Landscape Area, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site. Sub-surface wetlands (types Zk(b) and Ts, permanent subterranean streams, lakes, wetlands with diverse subterranean fauna), discovered in 1926; part of the 25km-long Domica-Baradla Cave System, the largest subterranean hydrological system of the plateau karst shared by Slovakia and Hungary, in the natural functioning of which it plays a substantial hydrological, biological, and ecological role. The site has special value for a large number of endemic and rare plant and animal species, especially subterranean hydrobionts. The cave system has important tourism functions, with guided tours by boat and foot, electric lighting, and a visitors' centre, and a signposted transborder nature trail surrounds the area on the surface. The cave also has very significant archeological remains of Paleolithic and Neolithic occupancy. Ramsar site no. 1051. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Doñana

Site number: 234 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 111 646 ha | Coordinates: 37°02'N 06°25'W | Designation dates: 04-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Doñana. 04/05/82; Andalucía; 111,646 ha; 37°01'N 006°25'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. World Heritage site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, Council of Europe Diploma; National Park. A vast coastal marshland complex, separated from the ocean by an extensive dune system and subject to seasonal variations in water level and salinity. Vegetation includes aquatic species, salt-tolerant plants, Pinus pinea forest, and grassland. The area is of international importance for numerous species of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds, and supports several rare or endangered species. Human activities include nature conservation, charcoal production, bee keeping, wood gathering, fishing, and livestock grazing. The impact of mass tourism and intensive irrigated agriculture in the surrounding area are concerning. Development of tourism, agriculture, and transport are factors influencing management of this vast complex. Fears that these activities are 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, resulted in the site's designation to the Montreux Record in 1990. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 2002. Area extended from 50,720 to 111,646 hectares, April 2007. Ramsar site no. 234. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Donauauen & Donaumoos

Site number: 90 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 8 000 ha | Coordinates: 48°28'N 10°13'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Donauauen & Donaumoos. 26/02/76; Bayern; 8,000 ha; 48°28'N 10°13'E. Nature Reserves. Some of the best examples of riverine wooded meadow habitat in Germany, located along the Danube River, the site includes numerous tributaries and peatbogs. The regulated river creates a succession of reservoirs important for wintering, breeding and staging various species of waterbirds. The site is important for orchid (Orchidaceae) and gentian (Gentianaceae) populations. Ongoing activities include gravel extraction, ground water abstraction, waste dumping, recreation, and afforestation. Ramsar site no. 90. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Donau-March-Thaya-Auen

Site number: 272 | Country: Austria  
| Administrative region: Wien-Umgebung, Gänserndorf, Bruck an der Leitha, Mistelbach  
Area: 36 090 ha | Coordinates: 48°16'N 16°49'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Donau-March-Thaya-Auen. 16/12/82; Niederösterreich; 36,090 ha; 48°17'N 016°48'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Nature Reserve Protected Landscape Area. Bordering the Czech and Slovak Republics, and contiguous with Austria's Untere Lobau Ramsar site, the site consists of oxbow lakes, damp forests, and hay meadows subject to seasonal flooding, and comprises the largest remaining tract of near-natural riverine and floodplain forest in Central Europe. The site supports a diversity of nesting birds, including black and white storks (10 and 30 pairs, respectively). 650 plant species are present, several reaching the westernmost extent of their European distributions. Human activities include forestry, agriculture, hunting, fishing, sugar refining and recreation. Because of the proposed development of a hydro-power dam, its possible impacts, and the difficulty in maintaining the ecological character of riverine meadows and forests, the site was included in the Montreux Record in 1990. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1991. Ramsar site no. 272. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Dongbaekdongsan

Site number: 1 947 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeju Island  
Area: 59 ha | Coordinates: 33°31'N 126°43'E | Designation dates: 14-03-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dongbaekdongsan; 14/03/2011; Jeju-do Province; 59ha; 33°31'N 126°43'E. Nationally-designated Wetland Conservation Area.

Dongbaekdongsan is located on the volcanic island of Jeju, off the southern coast of the Republic of Korea. The site is important for the recharge and conservation of groundwater, as well as for its biodiversity, especially the unique Gotjawal forests. The importance of Dongbaekdongsan is mainly due to the mixture of Aa Lava and Pahohoe Lava rock types that are present at the site. The Aa Lava rocks have crevices and lava tubes, which allows rainwater to seep through and with the Gotjawal forest cover, contribute to a higher rate of groundwater recharge. The groundwater at Dongbaekdongsan is used as one of the many groundwater sources for the approximately half a million people on Jeju Island. The Pahohoe Lava rocks have however fewer cracks and so are better able to retain rainwater. This leads to the formation of streams, ponds and vernal pools and unlike many other Gotjawal forests, the surface water found in the Dongbaekdongsan forest areas is able to support a range of wildlife. This includes important species like the critically endangered *Isoetes sinensis* (F: Isoetaceae), the endemic Cheju Salamander (*Hynobius queipartensis*) and *Mankyua chejuense* (F: Ophioglossaceae), a recently discovered genus. It also supports legally protected Natural Monument species, which are identified as having some natural heritage value such as the Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*) and the nationally endangered Boreal Digging Frog (*Kaloula borealis*). Natural Monuments are strongly linked to Korean cultural heritage and are consequently protected under national law.

The Department of Environmental Policy and Department of Environmental Management, as part of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, is responsible for the management of this site. Ramsar Site no.1948. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Dongcheon Estuary

Site number: 2 269 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Suncheon City  
Area: 539,8 ha | Coordinates: 34°53'N 127°31'E | Designation dates: 20-01-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the south-eastern part of Suncheon City, the Dongcheon Estuary supports vital wintering and stopover habitats for 238 species of birds, of which at least 13 are globally threatened including the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), and far-eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). The Site acts as a transition zone between river and marine environments that provide habitat for 848 species of wild flora and fauna, and a rich aquatic biodiversity due to its varying salinity and nutrients and organic detritus in its sediment. Reed and rice fields along both sides of the Dongcheon River provide habitats for a wide range of wild mammals, aquatic insects and amphibians. The rice fields are key for migrating waterbirds such as hooded cranes (*Grus monacha*), and serve as one of the largest wintering grounds for white-naped cranes (*Grus vipio*). The annual number of visitors to the Dongcheon Estuary as well as the adjacent Suncheon Bay Ramsar Site increased from 1.2 million in 2005 to 1.9 million in 2015, about four times the population of Suncheon City. Of the entire area of Dongcheon Estuary, almost 54% is privately owned and the rest of the land is owned by the national government. Only non-commercial fishing activities are allowed and the only commercial activities on the Site are rice production in its paddy fields.

### Dong dongting hu

Site number: 551 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hunan  
Area: 190 000 ha | Coordinates: 29°20'N 112°57'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dong dongting hu. 31/03/92; Hunan; 190,000 ha; 29°19'49"N 112°59'0"E. National Nature Reserve. A freshwater lake with numerous smaller lakes and ponds, marsh, swamp and wet grassland fed by flooding from the Yangtze and four other rivers. The wetland is an important migration stopover site and wintering area for the critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*), the endangered Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*), and 12 other globally threatened waterbirds, and represents an important refuge for the critically endangered Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) and the vulnerable Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*). About 100 Finless Porpoises live in the wetland, which accounts for 10% of the populations found in the Yangtze River catchment. Freshwater fish aquaculture and fishing are very important to local economic development. A comprehensive coordinating mechanism committee for conserving the Dongting Lake was established in 2007. Ramsar Site no. 551. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Dongfanghong Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 185 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang Province  
Area: 31 538 ha | Coordinates: 46°19'N 133°45'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dongfanghong Wetland. 16/10/2013; Heilongjiang; 31,538 ha; 46°18'34"N 133°44'57"E. Nature Reserve. Located in the transition zone between the Wanda Mountains and the Ussuri River along the border with the Russian Federation, this floodplain supports rare and globally threatened wildlife such as the critically endangered Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* and the endangered Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Tiger Panthera *Tigris*. More than 60 freshwater fish species are found at this site, which is also an important breeding and stopover site for several species of waterbirds. The reserve is important for recharging groundwater, storing water, and regulating river runoff. Ramsar Site no. 2185. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Dongonab Bay-Marsa Waiai

Site number: 1 859 | Country: Sudan | Administrative region: Red Sea State  
Area: 280 000 ha | Coordinates: 20°33'N 37°13'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dongonab Bay-Marsa Waiai. 02/02/09; Red Sea State; 280,000 ha; 20°33'N 037°13'E. National Marine Park. An expanse of coastline including coral reefs, mangroves, off-shore islands, soft-bottom mud flats, sand beaches and hard bottom rocky shores in addition to salt-marshes, sabkha and khor basins. As a result the site is rich in biological diversity and provides support to various threatened species and provides permanent habitats, breeding grounds and areas of refuge for various fish and shrimp. The Bottlenose Dolphin and various shark species have also been recorded within the site. The main land uses within the site are animal breeding, mainly of camels, goats and sheep; fisheries; oyster culture; and tourist activities such as scuba diving. Potential threats arise from major land use changes: a proposed shrimp and fish farming industry project along the southern stretch of coastline, livestock fodder production and ice plants, and overgrazing by nomads and camel herders, as well as declining rainfall. The site comprises a National Marine Park of the same name as well as the Senganeb Atoll NMP, and Marine Protected Area status is in the works for the Mukkawar Island area. Ramsar Site No. 1859 Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Dongzhaigang

Site number: 553 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hainan  
Area: 5 400 ha | Coordinates: 19°59'N 110°35'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dongzhaigang. 31/03/92; Hainan; 5,400 ha; 19°59'N 110°35'E. Nature Reserve. Small shallow sea bay of extensive intertidal mudflats and mangrove swamps. The swamps are important feeding and nursery areas for waterbirds and fish. The site is located in a densely populated region, surrounded by numerous villages and large rice paddies. A mangrove restoration project is under way. Ramsar site no. 553. [reprint of management plan, 1999] Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### Don Hoi Lot

Site number: 1 099 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Samut Songkhram Province  
Area: 87 500 ha | Coordinates: 13°21'N 99°59'E | Designation dates: 05-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Don Hoi Lot. 05/07/01; Samut Songkhram Province; 87,500 ha; 13°21'N 099°59'E. A rare type of natural wetland for Thailand, comprising sandbars at the mouth of the Mae Klong river with a vast area of intertidal mudflats, an extremely productive location for the Hoi Lot (*Solen regularis*), an economically important mollusc unique to this region. Characterized by dynamic coastal features of the Bight of Bangkok in the Gulf of Thailand, formed from river and marine sediments extending some 8km from shoreline into the sea with less than a 1% slope. Mangroves are present along the shoreline on the east side. In addition to its 10 economically important mollusc species, the site is also important for tourism attracted to the natural environment, local identity, traditional fisheries and fishing technologies, seafoods and other fishery products. Development projects are perceived as a potential threat, and water pollution from upriver industries, urban and agricultural runoff present major problems, as do encroachment of mangroves for aquaculture and tourist infrastructure, to the extent that extinction of *Solen regularis* is feared without more effective management. A management plan has been approved by the National Environment Board but not yet budgeted for. Ramsar site no. 1099. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Door Peninsula Coastal Wetlands

Site number: 2 218 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Wisconsin  
Area: 4 630,8 ha | Coordinates: 45°13'N 85°00'W | Designation dates: 10-06-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which occupies a major section of the Eastern Lake Michigan shoreline of northern Door County, comprises diverse examples of regionally and globally significant wetland communities, including interdunal wetlands and northern wet-mesic forest. It supports numerous species of fauna and flora including the rare dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*) and over 150 species of birds that use the site for nesting or as staging areas during autumn and spring migrations. It also hosts the largest known population of the federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). The Site is part of a karst hydrologic system that contributes to accelerated groundwater recharge. Areas of groundwater recharge are a critical habitat component for the Hine's emerald dragonfly. Threats to the Site include invasive species such as giant red grass (*Phragmites australis*), urban development, and increasing recreational vehicle use. Climate change has also been identified as a potential threat, as it could lead to changes in levels of the groundwater and of Lake Michigan, changes in water pH and declines in species richness and diversity.

## Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet

Site number: 897 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 7 837 ha | Coordinates: 57°52'N 04°02'W | Designation dates: 24-03-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dornoch Firth & Loch Fleet. 24/03/97; Scotland; 7,837 ha; 57°51'N 004°02'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI, Special Protection Area EC Directive. The Dornoch Firth is a large complex estuary which has been relatively unaffected by industrial development, whilst Loch Fleet is an example of a shallow, bar-built estuary. Extensive sandflats and mudflats are backed by saltmarsh and sand dunes with transitions to alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland. It supports nationally scarce aquatic plants and British Red Data Book invertebrates. Over the winter it provides habitat for *Anser anser* (1.1% of the population), *Anas penelope* (1.2% of the population), and *Limosa lapponica* (1.1% of the population). Human activities include tourism, forestry, fishing, grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 897. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Dorset Heathlands

Site number: 964 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 6 730 ha | Coordinates: 50°43'N 02°03'W | Designation dates: 01-10-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dorset Heathlands. 01/10/98; England. 6,730 ha; 50°39'N 002°09'W. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. This inland wetland contains numerous examples of wet heath (*Erica ciliaris*, *E. tetralix*) and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are amongst the best of their type in lowland Britain. The site supports a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce wetland plant species and invertebrates (28 species). The area is used for nature conservation, tourism, recreation, rough or shifting grazing, mining, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 964. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex

Site number: 1 970 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Sofia District  
Area: 14 967 ha | Coordinates: 42°55'N 23°04'E | Designation dates: 02-11-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex. 11/02/11; 14,967 ha; 42°56'N 023°01'E. Protected area, Natura 2000 site. Comprises marshes, wet meadows, several karst springs, two artificial lakes, including the Petarch Fishponds, and the Blato River. Dragoman marsh itself is the biggest limestone marsh in Bulgaria and is particularly rich in biodiversity. 256 bird species (61% of Bulgarian avifauna) have been recorded, including internationally endangered species like Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and the Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*. Breeding bird species include Ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca* and Great bittern *Botaurus stellaris*. The area is also important as a stopover site for water bird species like Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. Additionally, many other species can be found that are protected on an international, European or national level. This includes amphibians (e.g. Southern Crested Newt *Triturus karelinii*), reptiles (e.g. European Pond Turtle *Emys orbicularis*), mammals (including bats like the Barbastelle Bat *Barbastella barbastellus* and others such as the Lesser Mole Rat *Nannospalax leucodon* and the Marbled Polecat *Vormela peregusna*) butterflies (e.g. Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*), dragonflies and vascular plant species (e.g.: the Waterwheel Plant *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*, and orchid *Himantoglossum caprinum*). 10 plant species, including tulip species (*Tulipa urumoffii*) are endemic either to Bulgaria or the Balkan Peninsula. The site also has an important role in flood control and ensures good water quality for the surrounding villages. Threats include pollution by untreated wastewaters and a big quarry located within the boundaries of the site. A Wetland Conservation Centre was opened in Dragoman city in 2009 and a website is under preparation ([www.balkani.org/wetlands](http://www.balkani.org/wetlands)). Ramsar Site no. 1970. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Driefontein Grasslands

Site number: 2 104 | Country: Zimbabwe  
| Administrative region: Masvingo, Midlands, Mashonaland East Provinces  
Area: 201 194 ha | Coordinates: 19°16'S 30°47'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dominated by a unique habitat of swamps, lakes, miombo woodlands and Kalahari desert sands, Driefontein Grasslands is home to about 85% of the total national population of the globally vulnerable wattled crane *Bugeranus carunculatus* and the endangered grey crowned crane *Balearica regulorum*. It provides an ideal breeding and feeding ground for the secretary bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*, saddle-billed stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*, African marsh harrier *Circus ranivorus*, and the duck species found in the Site. Other noteworthy species that depend on the Site include the black-bellied bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* and the kori bustard *Ardeotis kori*, the black-breasted snake eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*, and the African fish eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*. Farmers use the wetlands for maize growing, small-scale farming, fishing, and cattle rearing. In 2010 the Conservation Action Plan for Wattled Crane and Grey Crowned Crane in Zimbabwe, which focused on Driefontein Grasslands, was developed to ensure the protection of the species against vleis fires and habitat loss.

## Drigh Lake

Site number: 100 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 164 ha | Coordinates: 27°34'N 68°06'E | Designation dates: 23-07-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Drigh Lake. 23/07/76; Sindh; 164 ha; 27°34'N 068°06'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A small, slightly brackish lake with extensive reed marshes and rich aquatic vegetation situated in the Indus floodplain. An important breeding and wintering area for a wide variety of waterbirds, regularly supporting over 20,000 birds, mostly Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), but including 5,000 roosting Black-crowned Night Heron. The surrounding plains are cultivated for rice production. Ramsar site no. 100.

## Drozbitka-Svina

Site number: 2 261 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Polotsk district of Vitebsk region  
Area: 6 727,2 ha | Coordinates: 55°36'N 29°23'E | Designation dates: 29-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Drozbitka-Svina is a forest-swamp massif, located in the floodplains of the Drozbitka and Svina rivers. The Site is composed of fen mires, transition marshes, raised bogs and a hydrological network of permanent freshwater lakes, rivers, creeks and drainage canals. The wetland supports a complex of rare and threatened habitats including Boreal sedge fen mires. The Site is difficult to access and is highly waterlogged, which contributes to the conservation of rare and nationally threatened plant species such as *Salix myrtilloides* and *Carex magellanica irrigua*. It is also an important stopover for the Arctic loon *Gavia arctica* and serves as breeding grounds for the black stork *Ciconia nigra*. The marshes provide important hydrological services linked to water retention, groundwater recharge and water purification, and play a significant role in the natural functioning of the West Dvina River Basin. The Site's active peatlands contribute to carbon retention. A peat extraction plot is located within the territory of the Site. The water bodies are used for amateur fishing, while timber production is ongoing in part of the Site. The main factors affecting the ecological character of the wetland are drainage and hydro-ameliorative works, which have led to the lowering of the groundwater level and acceleration of overgrowing and change in vegetation.

## Druzno Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 563 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Warmińsko-Mazurskie  
Area: 3 068 ha | Coordinates: 54°05'N 19°26'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Druzno Lake Nature Reserve.29/10/02; Warminsko-Mazurskie; 3,068 ha; 54°05'N 019°26'E. Natura 2000 SPA, Nature Reserve. A shallow and largely overgrown lake in the Vistula Delta region near the Baltic Coast, with surrounding wetlands, reedbeds, and swampy alder forests which are a relic of a much larger water body formerly part of the Vistula Lagoon. The most widespread aquatic vegetation is represented through floating communities of different associations of water lilies. The site is important for birds migrating along the Baltic coastline and provides refuge for more than 150 bird species during the summer. The region owes its origins to human draining and damming activities. In several settlements typical old Dutch buildings have been preserved and religious memorials such as 18th-century Mennonite cemeteries, pumping stations, sluices from the 19th century and inclines on the Elblag Canal are industrial monuments of European significance. While the lake was formerly used as a water route for rafting timber, it is now appreciated mainly for tourist cruising and recreational activities. Ramsar site no. 1563. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Duddon Estuary

Site number: 938 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 6 806 ha | Coordinates: 54°11'N 03°15'W | Designation dates: 16-03-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duddon Estuary. 16/03/98; England; 6,806 ha; 54°11'N 003°15'W. Special Area for Conservation, SSSI. The site includes marine and coastal wetlands with intertidal sand, mudflats, and saltmarsh. It supports more than 20,000 waterfowl including *Caldiris canutus* (1% of the population) and *Anas acuta* (2.1% of the population), and the rare natterjack toad *Bufo Calamita*. The site is used for nature conservation, tourism, recreation, fishing, grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 938. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Duinen Ameland

Site number: 2 212 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland.  
Area: 2 054,5 ha | Coordinates: 53°27'N 05°45'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Ameland is a small Wadden Sea island characterised by intertidal marshes, dune slacks and polders. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The Site is of international importance for endangered breeding birds such as bittern and red-backed shrike. Moreover, it supports more than 1% of the individuals of the Eastern Atlantic population of Eurasian spoonbill. The dunes form a natural coastal defence against the erosive forces of the North Sea and support rich flora and diverse lichen communities. The Site plays an important role in freshwater supply. Land use is dedicated to tourism, conservation and research, and there is a visitor's centre in the village of Nes. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are posed by gas exploitation, recreation activities, groundwater extraction and drainage for agriculture.

## Duinen en Lage Land Texel

Site number: 2 213 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Noord-Holland  
Area: 4 088,8 ha | Coordinates: 53°06'N 04°49'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Texel is the largest island in the Wadden Sea; it is characterized by wet and dry dune slacks, woodland, heathland, salt marshes and polders. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The Site is of international importance for breeding and non-breeding waterbirds such as bittern and little tern that forage at low tide in the sandbanks and use the higher beaches and dunes for resting. The Site supports diverse and threatened species of flora such as fen orchid, fewflower spikerush and flea sedge, mosses, endemic mammals such as root vole and butterflies. All are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. The dunes act as a natural coastal defence against the erosive forces of the North Sea and provide freshwater supply. Human uses include tourism, farming, military training, conservation and research. The main threat to the site is bird disturbance caused by the military, tourist and recreation activities.

## Duinen Schiermonnikoog

Site number: 2 214 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland  
Area: 833,1 ha | Coordinates: 53°29'N 06°10'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Schiermonnikoog is the smallest of the five inhabited Wadden Sea barrier islands. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. It is formed by dunes and intertidal mudflats, oak groves, conifer crops and a small freshwater lake and tidal lagoon. The Site is of international importance for European threatened species of breeding birds such as bittern and western marsh harrier, as well as for endangered flora such as fen orchid, musk orchid and yellow centaury. The dunes play an important role in freshwater supply and shoreline stabilization. Land use is dedicated to tourism, conservation and research. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are posed by tourism and groundwater extraction.

## Duinen Terschelling

Site number: 2 215 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland  
Area: 4 040,3 ha | Coordinates: 53°24'N 05°18'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Terschelling is one of the larger islands in the Wadden Sea, characterized by sand dunes and an extensive intertidal mudflat surrounded by grassland, conifer crops, small villages and silt polders claimed from the sea. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The site is of international importance for European threatened species of breeding birds such as little tern, northern harrier and western marsh harrier, and endangered species of flora such as pigmy rush and green-winged orchid. The dunes form a natural coastal defence against the erosive forces of the North Sea and they retain rain water ensuring freshwater supply. Human activities include tourism, conservation and research. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are posed by groundwater extraction and tourism.

## Duinen Vlieland

Site number: 2 216 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland.  
Area: 1 484,1 ha | Coordinates: 53°17'N 05°02'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duinen Vlieland is a small island in the Wadden Sea, characterized by an extensive area of sand dunes, conifer crops and embanked brackish lagoons important for maintaining the biodiversity in the Atlantic biogeographic region. The Site was formerly part of Ramsar Site 1252 (Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart) which was divided into six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014. The Site is of particular importance for breeding and non-breeding bird species. Some of these, such as the great cormorant and Eurasian spoonbill, gather in particularly high numbers. The Site plays also an important role in freshwater supply and shoreline stabilization. Land use is dedicated to tourism, conservation and research. The main threats to the Site are bird disturbance by air force military training and over-exploitation of groundwater.

## Duleby Islands-Zaozerye

Site number: 2 138 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Mogilev region  
Area: 30 772 ha | Coordinates: 53°48'N 29°29'E | Designation dates: 09-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Duleby Islands-Zaozerye. 07/09/2012; Mogilev Region; 30,772 ha; 53°40'00N 029°30'00E. Important Bird Area, Hydrological Reserves, Protected Landscape, Habitat/Species Management Area. Mire complex with prevalence of boreal Sphagnum ridge-hollow bogs, pine swamp forests, and fens. The forests and mire areas provide favourable conditions for the conservation of a considerable number of birds and mammals, as well as national red-listed plant communities. Moreover, the wetland plays an important role in water purification and supply for the rivers of the Dnieper basin and recharges the underground hydrological systems. The main land uses within the site are agricultural production, forestry, mowing and recreation (gathering of berries, mushrooms, and herbal and medicinal plants). The main factors affecting the ecological character of the site are logging, poaching, pollution, eutrophication and radioactive contamination as a result of the transfer of radioactive elements after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. Ramsar Site no. 2138. Most recent RIS Information: 2013.

## Dumbravita Fishpond Complex

Site number: 1 605 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Transylvania, Brasov County  
Area: 414 ha | Coordinates: 45°46'N 25°29'E | Designation dates: 19-01-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dumbravita Fishpond Complex (Complexul Piscicol Dumbravita). 02/02/06; Transylvania; 414 ha; 45°46'N 025°29'E; Special Protection Area (SPA). A complex of reservoir and fishponds surrounded by crops, meadows, dense emergent vegetation with reedbeds, marsh areas and wet grasslands. These habitats support a very rich flora and make an important breeding site for over 30 waterbird species and staging area for more than 100 bird species; besides the most abundant species, there are some that are rare for Romania, such as: *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Branta ruficollis*. The most important economic value is fish production, which uses the entire pond system with its changing hydrological regime and high productivity mudflats for aquaculture. Other human uses include recreation, agriculture, hay harvesting, and grazing, the latter of which contribute to the annual regeneration of grasslands and marshes and avoid overgrowing. Threats are caused by peat exploitation and especially by illegal uncontrolled reed burning, which fragments habitats and affects breeding birds, as does premature hay harvesting in the marshes and the wet meadows. Angling, poaching and walking inside the reedbeds during breeding season affect the site as well, and intensive fish nourishment at the fish ponds might accelerate eutrophication. Ramsar site no. 1605. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Dumme mosse

Site number: 1 117 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jönköping  
Area: 3 098 ha | Coordinates: 57°47'N 14°01'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dumme mosse is a large and diverse mire complex, dominated by raised bogs with small streams and fens, and surrounded by various coniferous and deciduous forests. Different types of open peat bogs are found within the Site including eccentric bogs, sloping bogs, plateau shaped raised bogs and slightly raised bogs. The boundaries of the Site have been adjusted to follow the boundaries of protected areas and wetlands of high conservation value. The Site comprises large areas of open and relatively unspoilt raised bog, where floristic elements from Northern Sweden meet those of Western (oceanic) and Eastern (more continental) bogs. The open water body to the north constitutes an important area for 164 species of birds. Dumme mosse is one of few remaining bogs with open areas that are large enough to provide breeding habitats for Scandinavia's southernmost populations of European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*. The Site is important for the maintenance of hydrological regimes as well as carbon storage. The main threats to its ecological character relate to air-borne pollutants and climatic changes which are making the bog more suitable for pine trees and therefore less attractive as nesting grounds for waders. The wetland provides fresh water for industry and is an important site for bird watching and nature based outdoor activities. Trails and information signs are located within the Site. There are management plans for the two nature reserves.

## Dümmer

Site number: 85 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 3 600 ha | Coordinates: 52°32'N 08°23'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dümmer. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 3,600 ha; 52°32'N 08°23'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive, Nature Reserve. A large lake in a glaciated valley, associated wetlands include peatbogs, inland dunes, dense reedbeds and sedge meadows. An internationally important area for breeding, passage and wintering waterbirds. Human activities have included drainage and cultivation of the peatlands. Currently the lake is used as a reservoir and experiences boat traffic, intensive fishing, and holiday home construction. Restoration measures consist of sediment removal, re-establishment of temporary flooding, and fishing and hunting restrictions. Ramsar site no. 85.

## Dunajské luhy

Site number: 605 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Bratislava, Senec, Dunajská Streda, Komárno  
Area: 14 488 ha | Coordinates: 47°55'N 17°27'E | Designation dates: 26-05-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dunajské luhy (Danube flood plains). 26/05/93; 14,488 ha; 47°56'N 017°35'E. A section of the Danube River and its floodplain along the Austrian and Hungarian borders. The site includes a network of tributaries, oxbow lakes, sand and gravel banks, floodplains, floodplain forest, reedbeds, marshes, and low-lying meadows. The floodplains represent the most valuable source of drinking water aquifers in Central Europe. The area is important for its diverse flora and fauna and especially for staging waterbirds. Human activities include forestry, recreation, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 605. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Dundalk Bay

Site number: 834 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Louth  
Area: 4 768 ha | Coordinates: 54°00'N 06°20'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dundalk Bay. 11/06/96; Lough; 4,768 ha; 54°00'N 006°20'W. An open sea bay with extensive saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mudflats encompassing the estuaries of the four rivers. The intertidal flats support a rich fauna of bivalve molluscs, marine worms and crustaceans that provide the main food source for tens of thousands of waterbirds. The site is internationally important for waterbirds regularly holding over 20,000 birds and supporting over 1% of the Northwest European/East Atlantic Flyway populations of numerous species of waterbirds. The saltmarshes are partially fenced and grazed by sheep and are used as high-tide roosts. Ramsar site no. 834.

## Dungarvan Harbour

Site number: 839 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Waterford  
Area: 1 041 ha | Coordinates: 52°03'N 07°35'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dungarvan Harbour. 11/06/96; 1,041 ha; 52°03'N 007°35'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A coastal bay sheltered by a spit, exposing extensive mud and sand flats at low tide. The site includes beach and dune systems, salt and freshwater marsh. Internationally important numbers of wintering waterbirds use the site and nationally or locally important numbers of numerous other species are supported. The sand flats support extensive oyster farming. Ramsar site no. 839.

## Dunøyane

Site number: 314 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 1 191 ha | Coordinates: 77°03'N 14°58'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located within the borders of Sør-Spitsbergen National Park, consists of three islands covered with rich Arctic vegetation, several freshwater ponds and a number of barren and rocky skerries (small rocky islets). The surrounding sea is shallow and nutrient-rich. The Site is one of Spitsbergen's most important breeding and moulting grounds for barnacle goose and common eider, and supports several other species of breeding waterbirds such as glaucous gulls. Polar bears regularly visit the Site. Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area.

## Durankulak Lake

Site number: 293 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Dobrich Province  
Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 43°42'N 28°30'E | Designation dates: 28-11-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Durankulak Lake. 28/11/84; Varna; 350 ha; 43°42'N 028°30'E. Added to the Montreux Record 16 June 1993. Protected Landscape. A slightly saline, coastal lake in an advanced state of nutrient-enrichment, supplied with water by two springs. The area is important for several species of breeding birds and numerous species of wintering and staging birds. A diverse algal flora consisting of over 70 species is present. Various rare and endemic fish species occur at the site. Due to the combined impacts of nutrient-enrichment, groundwater abstraction, and virtually unregulated hunting, the site was put on the Montreux Record in 1993. Ramsar site no. 293.

## Du-ung Wetland Ramsar Site

Site number: 1 724 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Chungcheongnam-do Province  
Area: 6,7 ha | Coordinates: 36°50'N 126°12'E | Designation dates: 20-12-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Du-ung Wetland Ramsar Site is a rare coastal freshwater lagoon on the west coast of the Republic of Korea, which is fed by underground water. The Site is situated between the sand dunes on the coast and a mountainous area. The prolonged process of weathering has led to the formation of thick soil in the mountainous area, making the Site ideal for the proliferation of vegetation. Despite being the smallest Wetland Protection Area Site in the nation, the wetland supports a high diversity of vascular plants, with 264 species from 177 genera and 68 families. The Site also supports a wide variety of animal species, consisting of 11 species of mammals, 53 bird species, 11 species of fish, seven of amphibians, six of reptiles, 246 of terrestrial insects and 60 of benthic invertebrates. Some of these are globally threatened, such as the endangered Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*), and the vulnerable wild common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and pond frog (*Pelophylax chosonicus*). With its high biodiversity, Du-ung Wetland has attracted various projects since 2002 on wetland, natural monument and ecosystem conservation.

## Dzilam

Site number: 1 045 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Yucatán  
Area: 61 706,8 ha | Coordinates: 21°35'N 88°35'W | Designation dates: 07-12-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dzilam (reserva estatal). 07/12/00; Yucatán; 61,707 ha; 21°35'N 088°35'W. Reserva Estatal. A coastal and marine reserve located in the north of the Yucatán Peninsula, adjacent to the Ría Lagartos Ramsar site. The site includes a unique hydrological system, "anillo de cenotes", a formation caused by the impact of a huge meteor. This site comprises various habitats: marine areas of the continental platform, seagrass beds, intertidal lagoons, sandy dune shores, flooded jungle, dry low jungle and medium height jungle. The site provides important habitat for more than 20,000 waterbirds, such as the Mexican pink flamingo and many other migratory species. It is also an important habitat for a wide diversity of species and life history stages of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, some of them with a high commercial value, and it provides habitat for several endemic, threatened and endangered species of cactus, reptiles and amphibians. The site has extremely important cultural values, as it was an area of residence of prehispanic cultures. 14,000 hectares of the site belong to private landowners. About 68% of the population residing in the area derive their livelihoods from fishing, hunting and agriculture, 8.5% from trade, 7.5% from industry, 4% from tourism, and the rest work for the government. Ramsar site no. 1045. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Easky Bog

Site number: 471 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Sligo  
Area: 607 ha | Coordinates: 54°11'N 08°49'W | Designation dates: 30-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Easky Bog. 30/05/90; Sligo; 607 ha; 54°11'N 008°49'W. Nature Reserve. The area forms the headwaters of the Cowagh River and consists of a plateau covered with highland blanket bog, and the steep slopes of the Ox Mountains, covered by wet heath and mountain blanket bog. Habitat diversity is high, with both rock and peat-based lakes, flushes, streams, pools, heath slopes and very wet, quaking areas. The site forms part of the range of a small wintering flock of the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Ramsar site no. 471.

## East Calcutta Wetlands

Site number: 1 208 | Country: India | Administrative region: West Bengal  
Area: 12 500 ha | Coordinates: 22°27'N 88°27'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

East Calcutta Wetlands. 19/08/02. West Bengal. 12,500 ha. 22°27'N 088°27'E. World-renowned as a model of a multiple use wetland, the site's resource recovery systems, developed by local people through the ages, have saved the city of Calcutta from the costs of constructing and maintaining waste water treatment plants. The wetland forms an urban facility for treating the city's waste water and utilizing the treated water for pisciculture and agriculture, through the recovery of nutrients in an efficient manner - the water flows through fish ponds covering about 4,000 ha, and the ponds act as solar reactors and complete most of their bio-chemical reactions with the help of solar energy. Thus the system is described as "one of the rare examples of environmental protection and development management where a complex ecological process has been adopted by the local farmers for mastering the resource recovery activities" (RIS). The wetland provides about 150 tons of fresh vegetables daily, as well as some 10,500 tons of table fish per year, the latter providing livelihoods for about 50,000 people directly and as many again indirectly. The fish ponds are mostly operated by worker cooperatives, in some cases in legal associations and in others in cooperative groups whose tenurial rights are under legal challenge. A potential threat is seen in recent unauthorized use of the waste water outfall channels by industries which add metals to the canal sludge and threaten the edible quality of the fish and vegetables. Ramsar site no. 1208. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Eastern Syvash

Site number: 769 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic  
Area: 165 000 ha | Coordinates: 45°40'N 35°00'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eastern Syvash. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast, Crimean AR; 165,000 ha; 45°40'N 035°00'E. National Nature Park. The site, part of a large coastal lagoon, is a shallow saltwater bay near the Azov Sea and includes numerous spits, islets, saline lowlands, and peninsulas. Vegetation consists of halophytic grasses fringed by extensive areas of steppe. The area serves as an important nesting, wintering, molting and staging area for internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds and waders. A number of these species are rare, vulnerable or endangered. Human activities include fishing, recreation, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 769. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## East Sanday Coast

Site number: 917 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 1 515 ha | Coordinates: 59°16'N 02°31'W | Designation dates: 11-08-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

East Sanday Coast. 11/08/97; Scotland; 1,515 ha; 59°16'N 002°34'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site comprises inland, marine, and coastal wetlands. The coastline consists of rocky and sandy sections, sand dunes, machair habitats, intertidal flats, and saltmarsh. It supports greater than 20,000 waterfowl, including *Calidris maritima* and *Arenaria interpres*. Human activities include nature conservation and tourism within the site, and fishing, grazing, and mineral exploration in the vicinity. Ramsar site no. 917. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Eco-región Lachuá

Site number: 1 623 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: Alta Verapaz  
Area: 53 523 ha | Coordinates: 15°53'N 90°40'W | Designation dates: 24-05-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eco-región Lachuá. 24/05/06; Alta Verapaz; 53,523 ha; 15°53'N 090°40'W. National Park. The Eco-región Lachuá comprises the "Laguna de Lachuá" National Park and its surrounding buffer zone. Among the most representative species reported in this site are the bat (*Thyroptera tricolor*) - only reported here for Guatemala - and a high concentration of mammals such as the cougar (*Puma concolor*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), and various monkeys and reptiles including the well-known boa (*Boa constrictor*). Fisheries constitute an important resource for the local population. Potential oil exploration and disputes over the allocation of natural resources constitute the greatest threats to the site. Ramsar site no. 1623. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### **Ecosistema Ajos-Bavispe, zona de influencia Cuenca Río San Pedro**

Site number: 2 044 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 182 623 ha | Coordinates: 31°10'N 110°11'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ecosistema Ajos-Bavispe, zona de influencia Cuenca Río San Pedro. 02/02/10; Sonora; 182,623 ha, 31°10'30"N 110°11'17"W. The site covers the principal course of San Pedro River in northern Mexico and 10 swamps in its surroundings. It is representative of the rivers, streams and swamps of the region and the only climax wetlands of the Chihuahua's Desert and the Sierra Madre Occidental. The system has a major hydrological influence in this semi-arid zone by regulating the impact of droughts. It works as a wildlife corridor, providing shelter, food and resting zone for aquatic birds. As well as hosting endemic species like *Agosia chrysogaster* and *Gila intermedia*, the site also works as a wildlife corridor for the American Bear (*Ursus americanus*). It supports a number of species IUCN red-listed such as *Rana chiricahuensis*, *Ambystoma tigrinum*, and *Empidonax traillii*. Threats include inappropriate livestock practices, the overexploitation of aquifers, and pollution, especially in the urban area of Cananea. The planning and management of the basin is being consolidated, and it is led by The Nature Conservancy, Naturalia, and BIDA, A.C. Ramsar Site no. 2044. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

### **Ecosistema Arroyo Verde APFF Sierra de Álamos Río Cuchujaqui**

Site number: 1 934 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 174,1 ha | Coordinates: 27°01'N 108°45'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ecosistema Arroyo Verde APFF Sierra de Álamos Río Cuchujaqui. 02/02/10; Sonora; 174 ha; 27°01'N 108°45'W. This Ramsar Site includes three streams located within the "Sierra de Alamos-Rio Cuchujaqui" Protected Area and Biosphere Reserve. It contains high biological diversity because of elements from the Nearctic and Neotropical biogeographic regions. This includes a number of rare species such as *Ayenia purpusii* and *Cardiospermum cuchujaquense* as well as species listed in Mexican regulation as endangered, like the Green Macaw (*Ara militaris*) and Palma de la Virgen (*Dioon Sonorense*). The site, on the Sierra Madre Occidental migratory route, provides support to Neotropical migratory birds such as Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter Cooper*) and Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). The main threat to this site is water extraction for human consumption; hence alternative water sources have been identified to reduce pressure on the site. Currently the Management Plan for the Sierra de Alamos-Rio Cuchujaqui Protected Area is under review and consensus. Ramsar Site no. 1934. Most recent information: 2010.

### **Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands**

Site number: 1 096 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 261 ha | Coordinates: 38°04'S 145°07'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands. 29/08/01. Victoria. 261 ha. 38°04'S 145°07'E. Two separate wetlands near Melbourne, including both freshwater and brackish lakes (types P, Q, R), both with similar morphology and ecological characteristics and both under an extensive rehabilitation and management regime by Melbourne Water. They are of exceptional significance as examples of cost-effective management of wetlands in an urban setting to provide conservation benefits, manage storm water, and encourage environmental research and education. The site meets Criteria 1 on uniqueness and 2 on support for vulnerable species, and surpasses the 1% threshold for Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*). Both wetlands remained after the draining of the once extensive Carrum Carrum Swamp in the 1860s, but additional local draining and encroachments by farming and grazing have continued into this century. In recent decades active flooding has been pursued through management intervention; in the 1980s ingress of saline groundwater resulted in brackish rather than fresh water in the artificial components of the site, but pumping from nearby creeks is returning the site to a freshwater system. A management plan and birdwatching facilities are in place, and education programmes are run by a local NGO. Ramsar site no. 1096. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### **Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**

Site number: 348 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: New Jersey  
Area: 18 800 ha | Coordinates: 39°44'N 74°12'W | Designation dates: 18-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. 18/12/86; New Jersey; 18,800 ha; 39o43'45"N 74o11'43"W. This site, which includes coastal salt meadows, flooded woodlands and open bays and channels, is of particular importance for waterfowl, specifically the northern black duck (*Anas rubripes*) and Atlantic brant (*Branta bernicla horta*) which nest at the site. It is located on the Atlantic Flyway and so supports over 200 species of bird that use the area each year as a nesting and staging site. Among these species are threatened or endangered species such as the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) and roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). The Site supports rare sea-level fen communities, which in turn support six rare plant species. It is also important as a nursery for fish and shellfish species supporting 167 fish species, 35 macroinvertebrate species and two shellfish species. The high levels of urban development in the surrounding areas have resulted in increased nutrient load due inflows, reduction in baseline subsurface and surface water flows, changes in water and air quality and loss of habitat around and at the edges. In addition, sea level rise poses a major threat as it would lead to the disappearance of some of the tidal marshes. Ramsar Site No. 348. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### **Eerduosi National Nature Reserve**

Site number: 1 148 | Country: China | Administrative region: Inner Mongolia  
Area: 7 680 ha | Coordinates: 39°48'N 109°35'E | Designation dates: 01-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eerduosi National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Inner Mongolia; 7,680 ha; 39°48'N 109°35'E. National Nature Reserve. A typical Euro-Asian grassland and Asian desert with high ecological fragility, including a large number of permanent freshwater and saline lakes and pools. The site supports some 15,000 breeding Relict gull (*Larus relictus*) in May and is a staging area for 60% of the world's population of that species; some 81 other species of waterbirds are also present, including significant numbers of Whooper swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*) and Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). In the surrounding areas, about 3,900 people rely upon small-scale agriculture, forestry, and livestock grazing for their livelihoods. Desertification and soil erosion, as well as over-extraction of groundwater in this area adjacent to the Maowusu and Kubuqi Deserts, are seen as potential threats. Land use is under a holistic planning regime under the Nature Reserve authority. Ramsar site no. 1148. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Eighty-mile Beach

Site number: 480 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 125 000 ha | Coordinates: 19°29'S 120°35'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eighty-mile Beach. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 125,000 ha; 19°31'S 120°40'E. A long section of coastline, extensive white sand beaches, tidal mudflats, with dunes and the most inland occurrence of mangroves in Western Australia. The site includes saltmarsh and a raised peat bog more than 7,000 years old. The area contains the most important wetland for waders in northwestern Australia, supporting up to 336,000 birds, and is especially important as a land fall for waders migrating south for the austral summer. The freshwater springs support unusual plant assemblages. Human activities include tourism and cattle grazing. Ramsar site no. 480. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Eilean Na Muice Duibhe

Site number: 402 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 576 ha | Coordinates: 55°43'N 06°15'W | Designation dates: 14-07-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eilean na Muice Duibhe (Duich Moss), Islay. 14/07/88; Scotland; 576 ha; 55°43'N 06°15'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. An area of low-level blanket mire bounded by two rivers, with scattered peaty pools and lochans. The mire vegetation is oceanic in character, with hummocks of different mosses and stands of *Rhynchospora alba*. Breeding birds include *Gavia stellata*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Calidris alpina* and *Tringa totanus*. The area forms a night-time roosting and feeding area for internationally important numbers of wintering geese of the Greenland breeding population. Human activities include drainage of surrounding areas and peat cutting. Ramsar site no. 402. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Elbauen, Schnackenburg-Lauenburg

Site number: 84 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 7 560 ha | Coordinates: 53°08'N 11°05'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Elbauen, Schnackenburg-Lauenburg. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 7,560 ha; 53°08'N 11°05'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserves. Several physically disjunct areas along the middle reach of the Elbe River. An internationally important staging area for waterbirds with a few species using the site for breeding. Human activities include recreation and hunting. Management activities are focused on habitat protection for amphibians and nesting *Grus grus*. Ramsar site no. 84.

## Elephant Marsh

Site number: 2 308 | Country: Malawi  
| Administrative region: The Elephant Marsh straddles the administrative districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje.  
Area: 61 556 ha | Coordinates: 16°21'S 35°01'E | Designation dates: 01-07-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, situated in the lower Shire valley in Southern Malawi, is a mosaic of rooted swamp vegetation, floating flora and open water with grassy margins and reed beds, interspersed with islands containing reeds, shrubs and palm trees. It was named "Elephant Marsh" by the explorer David Livingstone in 1859, who counted as many as 800 elephants in one sighting. Nowadays the elephants are largely gone, but the Site supports over 20,000 waterbirds. Around 26 waterbird species have been found breeding in the area; among them are the threatened Madagascar squacco heron (*Ardeola idae*), wattled crane (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) and grey crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*). It also supports populations of hippopotamus, and several species of fish and aquatic invertebrates, including the newly identified sub-species of the butterfly *Colotis amata* that breeds exclusively on the lake edge surrounded by the evergreen shrub *Salvadora persica*. Elephant Marsh plays an important role in maintaining the valley's hydrological regime, through flood control, water storage and supply of nutrient-rich sediment. The combination of the different habitat types within the Marsh, and the changes in these over the course of the flood cycle, give rise to the overall productivity of the Site and its importance for the conservation of resident and migratory species. Poaching and the removal of the remaining large trees bordering the Marsh may further impact groups of fauna that rely on these habitats, such as the waterbirds that roost and breed there, and the mammals that take refuge there from the surrounding cultivated and disturbed areas.

## Eling Lake

Site number: 1 436 | Country: China | Administrative region: Qinghai Province  
Area: 65 907 ha | Coordinates: 34°54'N 97°41'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eling Lake. 07/12/04; Qinghai; 65,907 ha; 34°54'25" N 97°40'48"E. Nature Reserve. The largest freshwater lake in the Yellow River catchment with high hydrological values, regulating run-offs, retaining sediments, maintaining water quality, and preventing flooding. At over 4,200 meters on semi-arid plateau, the lake is an important habitat for the endangered Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*. It supports endangered mammals such as the vulnerable White lipped Deer *Przewalskium albirostris* and Wild Yak *Bos mutus*. A number of endemic fish species can be found including *Gymnocypris eckloni* Herzenstein and *Gymnodiptychus ptychocheilus* Herzenstein. The sub-Himalayan plant community forms the main food of livestock and the source of traditional Tibetan herbal medicines. The lake plays an important role in Tibetan Buddhist history and is one of the six holiest sites for pilgrimage. Threats to the site include shrinking glaciers and retreating snow lines caused by global warming, with decreasing water supplies. Ramsar site no. 1436. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 223 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Australia's East Marine Region  
Area: 187 726 ha | Coordinates: 29°27'S 159°07'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve. 21/10/02; Coral Sea Islands Territory; 187,726 ha; 29°41'S 159°06'E. Nature Reserve. Located 50km apart in the northern Tasman Sea, the reefs are the southernmost coral atolls in the world. Their coral structures, which stand on isolated, oceanic sea mounts, are influenced by both tropical and temperate ocean currents. They support a diverse marine fauna, including uncommon and heretofore undescribed fishes and several endemic species of mollusc, and are the only known habitat for these species in a vast area of ocean. To date, some 322 fishes of 174 genera and 75 families have been recorded within the site. A large number of shipwrecks give the area considerable marine archaeological significance. There is no resident human population, and the limited recreational diving and fishing is not seen as a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 1223. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## (El Jagüey) "Buenavista de Peñuelas"

Site number: 1 972 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Aguascalientes  
Area: 34,7 ha | Coordinates: 21°43'N 102°20'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

El Jagüey, Buenavista de Peñuelas. 02/02/2011; Aguascalientes; 35 ha; 21°43' N 102°19'W. The site features six seasonal freshwater and two artificial ponds that are home to eight species of amphibians (four of them endemic to Mexico) and five species of invertebrates endemic to this wetland, as well as to the only viable breeding population currently known worldwide of the endangered species *Smilisca dentata* (Upland Burrowing Treefrog), whose habitat type, the natural grassland-huizachal, is restricted. Natural floods during the summer are key to the balance of the biological community gathering as part of their life cycles, such as feeding, breeding, resting and shelter. Adverse factors affecting the site include motor traffic on the boulevard to the Jesus Teran Airport causing the trampling of individuals of the *Smilisca dentata*, the construction of houses, warehouses and silos for livestock feed, and an increase in the number of paddocks. The planned creation of a Natural Protected Area in the Category of Sanctuary of the Upland Burrowing Treefrog will consist of 201 ha, including all eight ponds of the Ramsar Site. There is presently no management plan in place, but it will be prepared after the Ramsar designation. Ramsar Site no. 1972. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Elkhorn Slough

Site number: 2 345 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Monterey County, California  
Area: 724 ha | Coordinates: 36°50'N 121°45'W | Designation dates: 25-06-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a seasonal estuary comprised of intertidal marshes, mudflats and seasonal brackish pools. The Slough harbours eelgrass beds as well as oyster communities, which provide valuable fish nurseries, and the intertidal mudflats nourish migratory shorebirds. These distinctive estuarine communities are among the rarest and most threatened habitat type in California, which has lost approximately 91% of its wetlands in the last 100 years. This biologically rich estuary provides habitat for more than 340 species of birds, with more than 20,000 waterbirds, more than 500 species of invertebrates, and 100 species of fish, including the representative bat ray (*Myliobatis californica*) and leopard shark (*Triakis semifasciata*). It also provides key habitat for more than 100 individuals of southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) that feed, nest and nurse in the area. This wetland also provides diverse ecosystem services such as pollution control, climate regulation, food provision, and recreational, educational, and research opportunities, attracting thousands of birdwatchers every year. The Site has also been designated as a Globally Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network of Regional Importance.

## El Pantanal Boliviano

Site number: 1 089 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Santa Cruz  
Area: 3 189 888 ha | Coordinates: 18°00'S 58°30'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pantanal Boliviano. 17/09/01; Santa Cruz; 3,189,888 ha; 18°00'S 058°30'W National Park. An enormous area on the eastern frontier with Brazil, part of South America's great Pantanal, the world's largest wetland. The vast complex of rivers, lakes, lagoons, marsh, inundated forests and savannahs, and a major source of the Paraguay river, considered to be even richer in biodiversity and less disturbed than Brazilian portions, supporting astonishing numbers of floral species and fish, birds, and large mammals. The site also includes the Chiquitano forest, a major extension of the most intact dry forest in the world. Historically populated by Chiquitano and Ayoréode peoples in the southern parts, near the Chaco transitional region, others have joined the region over the past century to pursue cattle-grazing and trade with Brazil. Necessary future exploitation of mineral resources must be carefully managed to avoid harm to the region, and expanded cattle grazing may pose a threat to ecological values; deforestation as on the Brazilian side of the border is feared, and the potential effects of the Hidrovia project to open the Paraguay to navigation are being watched carefully. Ramsar site no. 1089. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Emajõe Suursoo Mire and Piiressaar Island

Site number: 906 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Tartu  
Area: 32 600 ha | Coordinates: 58°23'N 27°18'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Emajõe Suursoo Mire and Piiressaar Island. 17/06/97; Tartu County; 32,600 ha; 58°23'N 027°18'E. Mire Reserve, Zoological-Botanical Reserve. A large wilderness area of various types of peatland, rivers, lakes, coasts, and islands. Vegetation consists of fens, swamps, swamp forests, peat bogs, mixed forests, reedbeds, and agricultural areas. The site is an important spawning area for various fish species. Numerous species of vulnerable waterbirds use the site for breeding, molting or staging. The site supports several amphibian, fish, plant and bird species that are vulnerable, endangered or endemic. Human activities include fishing, farming, hunting, seasonally intensive berry picking, and boating. An extremely important area for the hydrology of Lake Peipsi. Ramsar site no. 906. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Emån

Site number: 1 118 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Kalmar  
Area: 1 527 ha | Coordinates: 57°09'N 16°24'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the lower reaches and mouth of the Emån River, the largest and probably the most important watercourse in south-eastern Sweden, and it contains many representative wetland types. The river is broad and calm in most places, with large seasonal variations in water levels and annual flooding of large areas. It is one of the largest continuous wetland areas in the country, with vast areas of reeds, marsh meadow, waterlogged marshland, and meadows bordering the river. These extensive wetlands and the large areas of swamp forests create a unique buffer zone along the river, which keeps it relatively unaffected by chemicals and other human influence. The fauna and flora are rich, with several species included in the Swedish Red List. The Site has an extraordinary fish diversity, with more than 30 species such as the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, the brown trout *Salmo trutta*, and the wels catfish *Silurus glanis*. The valley has been put to human use since the Stone Age and several sites are of national interest for cultural history, including remains of an early barrage near the mouth of the river. Conditions for recreation and tourism, especially sport fishing, are very good.

## Embalse Cerrón Grande

Site number: 1 592 | Country: El Salvador  
| Administrative region: Chalatenango, San Salvador, Cuscatlán, Cabañas  
Area: 60 698 ha | Coordinates: 14°03'N 89°04'W | Designation dates: 22-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embalse Cerrón Grande. 22/11/05; Chalatenango, San Salvador, Cuscatlán, Cabañas; 60,698 ha; 14° 03' N 89° 04' W. Artificial water reservoir that constitutes the largest freshwater body in the country. The reservoir provides relevant environmental products and services such as fisheries production and hydropower generation, water filtration and flood control. The site serves as a place of refuge, breeding and resting ground for several thousand waterbirds, both resident and migratory, and hosts the largest duck populations in the country. Apart from having the largest freshwater fish diversity in El Salvador, it hosts 12 of the 14 native fish species known in the country. Other threatened species in the site include paca (Agouti paca), cougar (Puma concolor), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) and the Red Brocket Deer (*Mazama americana*). Water pollution and eutrophication, deforestation, erosion, and the presence of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) constitute the greatest threats to the wetland. Ramsar site no. 1592. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Embalse de las Cañas

Site number: 870 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Navarra  
Area: 101 ha | Coordinates: 42°29'N 02°24'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embalse de las Cañas. 18/11/96; Navarra; 101 ha; 42°29'N 02°24'W. Natural Reserve, European Community Special Protection Area. The site was originally a permanent brackish lagoon, but it has been converted into an artificial impoundment. It is most important for nesting waterbirds, especially various heron species. The most important breeding bird is *Nycticorax nycticorax* (470 pairs in 1994), which is the largest colony of this species in the entire Ebro Valley. Other valuable breeding waterbirds include *Ardea purpurea* and *Botaurus stellaris*. The lake is surrounded by aromatic shrubs of the Sideritido-Salvion association, in a mosaic with steppe-like Ligeo-Stipetea pasture. The site is visited peripherally and fishing is permitted in parts of the lake. Ramsar site no. 870. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Embalse de Orellana

Site number: 597 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Extremadura  
Area: 5 500 ha | Coordinates: 38°59'N 05°32'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embalse de Orellana. 26/03/93; Extremadura; 5,500 ha; 38°59'N 05°32'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A vast, artificial reservoir built for irrigation purposes and subject to seasonal variations in water level. Located at altitude, the site includes several islands and is surrounded by forests. Of particular importance for nesting birds, the islands support a major colony of *Gelochelidon nilotica* (500 pairs), up to 65,000 wintering waterbirds of various species, and high densities of several raptor species. Human activities include hunting, fishing, boating, and substantially increasing tourism and recreation. Ramsar site no. 597. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Embalses de Cordobilla y Malpasillo

Site number: 703 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 1 972 ha | Coordinates: 37°19'N 04°40'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embalses de Cordobilla y Malpasillo. 04/10/94; Andalucía; 1,972 ha; 37°19'N 04°40'W. Natural Park. The site consists of two reservoirs fringed by dense riparian vegetation consisting of reedbeds, marshes and woodlands. The site supports an internationally important wintering population of the globally-endangered duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, as well as nationally important numbers of various other species of waterbirds. Agriculture is the predominant human activity. Ramsar site no. 703. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Embouchure de la Moulouya

Site number: 1 478 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Berkane  
Area: 3 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°04'N 02°23'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embouchure de la Moulouya. 15/01/05; Berkane; 3,000 ha; 35°04'N 02°23'W. The most significant estuary and floodplain complex of Maghreb's biggest Mediterranean river, this site comprises five systems: marine, estuarine, lacustrine, riverine and palustrine, in addition to the coastal dunes. It is a compulsory stop, given the surroundings' aridity, for European migrants that find refuge in the Tamarix vegetation system. These include Moussier's Redstart (*Phoenicurus moussieri*), the Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), and Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*). Some endemic and rare fish can also be found in the wetlands, which are utilized as spawning and growing grounds during migrations. The site is also important in its storage of floodwaters, which contribute to lowering the groundwater's salinity levels. This area has a high aesthetic value and ecotourism potential. An area of the estuary is dedicated to the culture of juvenile eels, while there are abandoned agricultural fields and pastoral activities taking place in some parts of the estuary. The main threats include wetland habitat loss (by sand and gravel quarries, which have destroyed riverbanks and the Tamarix habitat); transformation of natural habitats into aquaculture ponds; modifications of the hydrological balance and water quality due to agriculture, aquaculture, solid waste and decrease in flood flows; loss of biodiversity and aesthetic value. Ramsar site no. 1478. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Embouchure de l'oued Dr'a

Site number: 1 477 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Guelmim  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°34'N 10°58'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embouchure de l'oued Dr'a. 15/01/05; Guelmim; 10,000 ha; 28°34'N 10°58'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. The estuary of the Dr'a River, which is situated on the northern limit of the Sahara and runs among bushy dunes until it reaches the sea through a gorge. The landscape is composed of three main vegetation types, the Tamarix complex, Phragmites stands, and a salt steppe with *Sarcocornia perennis*, which serve as a refuge for many European migratory bird species, including the Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) and the North African Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo maroccanus*). Different endemic and relict species are found at the site, such as a tropical fish relict, *Tilapia zillii*, different reptile species, an amphibian (*Bufo brongersmai*), and two mammals (Tarfaya shrew and the Occidental gerbil). Fishing is common at the site, as well as raising of sheep, camels and goats, and limited barley agriculture. The main threats include rife poaching (despite the fact that hunting is prohibited), waste from the fishing camps, and disturbance to the environment by 4x4 vehicles. There are plans to create a national park in the area. Ramsar site no. 1477. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Embouchures des oueds Chbeyka-Al Wa'er

Site number: 1 479 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Tantan  
Area: 8 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°14'N 11°42'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Embouchures des oueds Chbeyka-Al Wa'er. 15/01/05; Tan Tan; 8,000 ha; 28°14'N 011°42'W. The estuaries of three temporary rivers that arise in the Moyen Atlas mountain range and run through deep gorges before reaching the coast, where one can find sandy beaches, cliffs and dunes. Salt steppes with the endangered *Sarcocornia perennis* plant species in the upstream area of the site, where the rivers are wider, act as an important refuge for migratory birds, among which the most significant are the Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*), and the Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*). Fishing camps are common in the area, as the waters are rich thanks to upwelling, while tourism is also on the increase due to the area's beauty. Both activities are a cause of disturbance to the birds and of solid waste pollution. The area has been proposed as a Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. Ramsar site no. 1479. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## En Afeq Nature Reserve

Site number: 867 | Country: Israel | Administrative region: Northern Israel, Galilee coastal plain  
Area: 66 ha | Coordinates: 32°51'N 35°05'E | Designation dates: 12-11-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

En Afeq Nature Reserve. 12/11/96; 66 ha; 32°51'N 035°05'E. Nature Reserve. A human-made wetland created as a result of an attempt to restore the drained swamps. Located on the coastal plain, the area supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species of plants and animals. Notable species include the endangered Pygmy Cormorant and the rare Greater Flamingo and Black-necked Grebe. Vegetation includes reedbeds and wet meadows. Human activities are limited but include an important conservation education programme. A visitor center is housed in an 800-year old Crusader fortress. To control the wet meadows, a grazing programme has been implemented. Ramsar site no. 867. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Endla

Site number: 907 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Jõgeva,Järva,Lääne-Viru Counties  
Area: 10 110 ha | Coordinates: 58°52'N 26°09'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Endla. 17/06/97; Jõgeva, Järva, Lääne-Viru Counties; 10,110 ha; 58°52'N 026°09'E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA and SCI), IBA. A freshwater ecosystem of peat bogs, swamp forests, freshwater lakes, and rivers. Vegetation includes dwarf pine shrub, reedbeds, and threatened orchid species. Numerous species of vulnerable or endangered waterbirds use the area for breeding. Human activities include agriculture and sport fishing, and the site is an important area for water supply, conservation education, and scientific research. Educational facilities include a visitors centre, nature trails and watching towers. (The site has been extended in 2012 from originally 8,050 ha.) Ramsar Site no. 907. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Engbertsdijksvenen

Site number: 428 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Overijssel  
Area: 998 ha | Coordinates: 52°28'N 06°40'E | Designation dates: 02-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Engbertsdijksvenen. 02/06/89; Overijssel; 998 ha; 052°29'N 006°40'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). Engbertsdijksvenen is one of the last remaining raised bogs in the Netherlands, with dry heathland, birch forests, ditches and drainage channels. The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned with the Natura 2000 boundary, resulting in the addition of an area of 105 ha. The Site is an important breeding, resting and moulting area for many species of duck, goose, swan and waders. It regularly supports protected species such as the common crane as well as more than 1% of the individuals of the population of tundra bean goose. The wetland plays an important role in groundwater replenishment and carbon sequestration. The main potential threat to its ecological character is drainage. Land use is dedicated to water management, recreation and tourism. There is a visitors' centre and a national bird monitoring programme is carried out at the site by the Dutch Bird Research Organisation SOVON. Ramsar site no. 428. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Ensenada de Pabellones

Site number: 1 760 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 40 638,7 ha | Coordinates: 24°26'N 107°33'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ensenada de Pabellones.02/02/08; Sinaloa; 40,639 ha; 24°26' N 107°34' W. Área Natural Protegida. The site on the Gulf of California coast includes a series of lagoon complexes, estuarine waters, swamps, marshes and meadows supporting important biodiversity. Representing one of the most important refuges of waterfowl in Sinaloa, it supports more than 292 species of migratory and resident bird species. Because of its location in the Pacific Migratory Corridor, it is classified as a Priority Wetland in Mexico, in the Ib IUCN Category (Wilderness Area). The site is of regional importance for the American avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), supporting 10% of the total world population of this species. *Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicenia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa* y *Guayacum coulteri* are amongst the noteworthy flora found in the site. The main land uses are aquaculture and fishing, with the latter negatively affecting the site. Ramsar site no. 1760. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Environmental Protection Area of Cananéia-Iguape-Peruíbe

Site number: 2 310 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: São Paulo state  
Area: 202 307 ha | Coordinates: 24°41'S 47°36'W | Designation dates: 04-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, situated in São Paulo and Paraná States, is a representative wetland area of the Atlantic Forest. It is part of the "Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves" World Heritage site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Site has mangroves, estuaries, rivers, lagoon channels, coastal plains, waterfalls and marine and coastal islands. It also features sandbank forests, dunes and the most extensive and conserved stretch of Atlantic Forest in the country. This mosaic of wetland landscapes of great natural diversity and notable scenic beauty hosts threatened and endemic species such as the critically endangered black-faced lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus caissara*), the endangered Atlantic petrel (*Pterodroma incerta*) and the channel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*). Agriculture, logging, fishing and pollution are among the main threats within the Site.

## Eqalumniut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa

Site number: 386 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Kangaatsiaq, Sisimiut  
Area: 579 530 ha | Coordinates: 67°28'N 50°49'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eqalumniut Nunaat and Nassuttuup Nunaa. 27/01/88; Kangaatsiaq, Sisimiut; 579,530 ha; 67°28'N 050°49'W. A diverse topography of plateau landscapes interspersed with lowland areas of extensive grass steppes, swamp, marshland, numerous lakes, and extensive tracts of dry, barren land at altitude. The site is divided by large glacial valleys, draining the Greenland ice-cap. One of the most important areas in Greenland for the threatened goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, with 3,000 individuals (ca.6% of the world population) gathering to molt. Numerous species of breeding and non-breeding birds use the site. Part of the site has been designated as a reserve for caribou that calve in the area. There are summer hunting and fishing camps. The musk ox (*Ovibos moschatus*), introduced to west Greenland, is slowly spreading into the site. Ramsar site no. 386. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Ertholmene

Site number: 165 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Bornholm  
Area: 1 266 ha | Coordinates: 55°19'N 15°11'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ertholmene. 02/09/77; Bornholm Municipality; 1,266 ha; 55°19'N 015°11'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCA; Nature Conservation Area, Strict Nature Reserve. A group of rocky islands with sparse vegetation, two of which are inhabited. The area is important for several species of breeding waterbirds and the only breeding locality in Denmark for Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* and Razorbill *Alca torda*. The islands are of great cultural, historical, and architectural value. A bird observatory is located at the site. The main island is intensively visited by tourists (about 80,000 per year) but there is no public access to the wetland parts. Ramsar site no. 165. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Estero de Punta Banda

Site number: 1 604 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California  
Area: 2 393 ha | Coordinates: 31°44'N 116°38'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estero de Punta Banda. 02/02/06; Baja California; 2,393 ha; 31°44'N 116°38'W. This wetland preserves a variety of intertidal marshes, mud and sand flats, and seagrass beds that has completely disappeared from the biological corridor stretching from Ensenada to southern California, USA. Apart from the common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), the fauna includes a rich diversity of benthic invertebrates that support the entire food chain of the estuary. Punta Banda is the breeding, feeding and nursing ground of at least 150 species of fish, many of them of commercial importance. The site has also been used for at least the past 2000 years by the Kumiai Indians, hunter-gatherers whose language gave origin to many of the languages now spoken in the area. Since the 1980s the construction of oil exploration and housing infrastructure has affected a considerable portion of the site, and still threatens its integrity. Ramsar site no. 1604. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Estero El Chorro

Site number: 1 791 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 267,1 ha | Coordinates: 19°54'N 105°24'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estero El Chorro. 02/02/08; Jalisco; 267 ha; 19°54'N 105°24'W. An estuarine system located along Mexico's western central littoral. Its mouth is open only 6 months a year and most of the lagoon is surrounded by low and spiny forest vegetation, as well as some mangrove areas with the species *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erectus*. This vegetation allows the site to be an ideal habitat for a great variety of fish, molluscs, crustaceans, reptiles and resident and migratory birds. It is of great importance as resting and feeding grounds for *Himantopus mexicanus*, *Calidris mauri*, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, *Ardea alba*, and *Butorides virescens*. Productive activities include artisanal fishing and guided tours through the site. Mangrove deforestation and agricultural expansion are the main threats. Ramsar site no. 1791. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Estero El Soldado

Site number: 1 982 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 349,9 ha | Coordinates: 27°58'N 110°59'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estero El Soldado. 02/02/11; Sonora; 350 ha; 27°57'48"N 110°58'33"W. Despite its small size the estuary contains high biodiversity, which has earned the title of "unique among the estuaries of the Sea of Cortez." It is representative of a natural coastal wetland of the Mexican Pacific Ocean and is considered the healthiest and most flourishing of its distribution in the northern Gulf of California. Three species of mangrove occur, the Black Mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), the Red Mangrove (*Rizophora mangle*), and the White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*). There is an initial registration of 408 species: 121 invertebrates, 80 fish, 75 birds, 11 reptiles, 9 amphibians, 9 mammals, and 103 plants. The estuary contributes to flood control when there are meteorological events such as cyclones and storms that bring large amounts of water. The uses of the estuary include the extraction and consumption of fishery resources as well as research and education activities. The site is an Area Subject to Ecological Conservation area since 2006. Ramsar Site no. 1982. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Estero La Manzanilla

Site number: 1 789 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 264 ha | Coordinates: 19°17'N 104°47'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estero La Manzanilla. 02/02/08; Jalisco; 264 ha; 19°18'N 104°47'W. An estuarine system located in Tenacatita Bay, one of the five most important bays of Mexico's Pacific coast, surrounded by large clusters of mangrove in good condition, including *Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, and *Conocarpus erectus*. A variety of flora and fauna species are also found, e.g., the site is one of the three areas with large populations of the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). The estuary is essential for the reproduction of several species of aquatic animals and holds the largest reproductive colony of Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) in the area. 55 different species of aquatic birds have been identified, and 42 different species of fish, of 10 different orders and 21 families, use this area as feeding ground. Since 1970, human activities such as urban growth and deforestation have caused a negative impact on the estuary, including the construction of a paved coastal road which has had negative impacts to the mangroves and limited the flow of water to the estuary. Ramsar site no. 1789. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Estero Majahuas

Site number: 1 792 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 786,1 ha | Coordinates: 19°50'N 105°21'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estero Majahuas. 02/02/08; Jalisco; 786 ha; 19°50'N 105°21'W. A good representative of the transition zone where biotic elements of the Nearctic and Neotropical biogeographic regions come together. The vegetation found in the margins of the marsh is composed mainly of the mangrove species *Rhizophora mangle* and *Laguncularia racemosa*, both under special protection. The site supports around 60 species of aquatic birds including *Fulica americana*, *Porphyrio martinica* y *Gallinula chloropus*, *Anas* spp, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, *Chrooceryle americana*, *Ceryle alción*, *Larus heermanni*, *Sterna elegans*, *Mycteria americana*, *Egretta refucens* and *Ardea herodias*. The marsh holds a great number of the crocodile species *Crocodylus acutus* and the marine turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, which uses the beaches during nesting periods. Traditional river fishing and ecotourism are the main activities undertaken in the site. Among the threats to this ecosystem are mangrove deforestation and extension of agriculture and livestock areas. Ramsar site no. 1792. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Estero Milagro

Site number: 731 | Country: Paraguay | Administrative region: San Pedro  
Area: 25 000 ha | Coordinates: 23°34'S 57°22'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estero Milagro. 07/06/95; San Pedro; 25,000 ha; 23°34'S 057°22'W. National Park. The area is characterized by natural grasslands, low forests, wooded savannas and gallery forest, swamps, small marshes, and a great diversity of plant species. The aggregation of lagoons and marshes on calcareous soils, with characteristic plants, are the only formations of this kind in the country. The site provides important aquatic habitat for migratory birds and other animals associated with aquatic environments, as well as habitat for the survival of several rare species and threatened species of plants. The area is used by the local population for agriculture, ranching, exploitation of forest resources, subsistence hunting, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 731. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Esteros de Farrapos e Islas del Río Uruguay

Site number: 1 433 | Country: Uruguay | Administrative region: Río Negro  
Area: 17 496 ha | Coordinates: 32°53'S 58°05'W | Designation dates: 10-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Esteros de Farrapos e Islas del Río Uruguay. 10/12/2004; Río Negro; 17,496 ha; 32°53'S, 058°05'W. Located in the lower stretch of the Uruguay River, downstream from the Salto Grande Dam on the border with Argentina, the site consists of alluvial areas on the river's eastern bank as well as 24 islands, flooded during surges and exposed at low water levels. The system is important for the control of floods and erosion of the river banks. Elevated sand bars along the islands and alluvial plain are populated with forests and allow permanent and intermittent freshwater pools to be present in this dynamic environment. There are records of the near threatened Maned Wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus*, as well as of several endangered birds: the Saffron-cowled Blackbird, *Xanthopsar flavus*, and the Seedeaters *Sporophila cinnamomea*, *S. palustris* and *S. zelichi*, the latter critically endangered. The larger part of the area is owned by the State, and its most abundant use is extensive cattle grazing in the summer, although there is coal, horticulture and citrus production as well. The principal problem affecting the site is soil erosion due to bad agricultural practices in adjacent areas. Ramsar site no. 1433. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Esthwaite Water

Site number: 536 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 137 ha | Coordinates: 54°22'N 02°59'W | Designation dates: 07-11-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Esthwaite Water. 07/11/91; England; 137 ha; 54°22'N 002°59'W. National Park, National Nature Reserve, SSSI, Environmentally Sensitive Area. A freshwater lake situated in a formerly glaciated valley, includes open water, fen and grassland communities supporting plant and breeding bird species typical of such habitats. Amongst features of national importance are the rare plants *Najas flexilis* and *Carex elongata*, and several uncommon aquatic invertebrates, including the water flea, *Alonella exigua*. Ramsar site no. 536. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River

Site number: 1 614 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Região Centro  
Area: 5 075 ha | Coordinates: 40°21'N 07°36'W | Designation dates: 02-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River. 02/12/05; Região Centro; 5,075 ha; 40°21'N 007°37'W. Biogenetic Reserve, Natural Park, Natura 2000 site. Comprises the upper mountain and plateau (up to 1,993m, the highest point in Portugal) as well as the Candeira valley and parts of the Zêzere river valley, which is described as its own biogeographical sector, the "Estrelense", a transition zone between the temperate and mediterranean macrobioclimate. Due to high precipitation, there are various natural lakes, ponds, swamps, bogs, springs, brooks and rivers as well as mat-grass swards, shrublands, rocky environments and little areas of woodlands. The abiotic quality of the site is excellent, being mainly nutrient-poor and having very soft waters because of the high precipitation and the seepage from granite rocks. Thus flora and fauna include excellent examples of the endemic and rare taxa, such as *Narcissus asturiensis* or *Lycopodium clavatum* amongst the plants. Agro-pastoral systems are a traditional activity in the area, which is also used for modern agriculture and forestry. Overgrazing, over-extraction of water for electricity, and uncontrolled rubbish dumping present potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1614. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Estuaire du fleuve Sinnamary

Site number: 1 828 | Country: France | Administrative region: Sinnamary, Iracoubo  
Area: 28 400 ha | Coordinates: 05°25'N 53°05'W | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estuaire du fleuve Sinnamary. 15/09/08; Guyane Française; 28,400ha; 05°25' N 053°05'W. The site, located in French Guyana coast, represents a combination of intertidal mudflats, active sand flats, mangroves, freshwater swamps and seasonally flooded areas that extend towards the delta of the Sinnamary river. It represents the preferred habitat for the aquatic mammal *Trichechus manatus*, a threatened species in the Caribbean region. It is an important area for migratory birds, and *Calidris pusilla* winters here with up to 1,000,000 individuals. The site also serves as nesting and foraging area for the Green Turtle (chelonian mydas) and hosts the spectacled and dwarf caiman. The mangroves play an important role in coast protection and spawning ground. The site also hosts an important archeological site la roche Milot from the pre-Columbian era. Although hunting is prohibited, illegal practices are observed in the site. Ramsar site no. 1828. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Estuaire du Rio Del Rey

Site number: 1 908 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: province du Sud-Ouest, Département du Ndian  
Area: 165 000 ha | Coordinates: 04°37'N 08°43'E | Designation dates: 20-05-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estuaire du Rio Del Rey. 20/05/10; 165000 ha; 8°43' E 4°37' N. The Rio Del Rey Estuary is located in the department of Ndian, at the edge of the Gulf of Guinea, a transboundary site between Cameroon and Nigeria. It hosts approximately 10% of all West African mangroves and half of Cameroon's mangroves. The Rio Del Rey mangroves are a uniquely important habitat for the endemic and threatened species; the Giant frog, *Conraua goliath*. It is the environment of the West African manatee, staging area for the migratory Lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), and the Rachel's Malimbe (*Malimbicus rachelia*). Its ecosystem embodies a biological, ecological and economical significance. It is of biological importance as a spawning ground and nursery path for which fish stocks. On the other hand it is of ecological value through recharge and discharge of underground water and sediment trapping. The economical aspects of the estuary are preponderant for the neighboring population through the fishing and wood industry. The main threat facing this site is the alien invasive species *Nypa fructicans* which is dominating the indigenous mangrove species (*Avicennia germinans*, *Conocarpus erectus*, *Rhizophora harrisonii*, *Rhizophora mangle* et *Rhizophora racemosa*). Ramsar site no. 1908. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Estuário do Sado

Site number: 826 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Regiao Alentejo  
Area: 25 588 ha | Coordinates: 38°28'N 08°44'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estuário do Sado. 08/05/96; Regiao Alentejo; 25,588 ha; 38°27'N 08°43'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. An estuarine area separated from the sea by dunes and dominated by sand and mudflats exposed at low tide. The site includes vast saltmarshes and reedbeds. The area supports an extremely important fauna including migratory waders and other waterbirds -- herons and flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) -- many passerine species, mammals (otter *Lutra lutra*, the wildcat *Felis sylvestris*), and a resident population of the common bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*. Human activities include salt production, commercial fish farming, rice cultivation, cattle raising, hunting, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 826. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Estuário do Tejo

Site number: 211 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Lisboa e Vale do Tejo  
Area: 14 563 ha | Coordinates: 38°50'N 08°59'W | Designation dates: 24-11-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Estuário do Tejo. 24/11/80; Regiao Lisboa e Vale do Tejo; 14,563 ha; 38°50'N 08°57'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. An estuary, with extensive mudflats, saltmarshes, reedbeds, human-made salt pans, and reclaimed agricultural polders. The area is important for at least 16 species of wintering or staging waterbirds, numerous species of breeding birds, and the otter *Lutra lutra*. Human activities include fishing and shellfish collecting, and intensive hunting and agriculture outside the Reserve. Ramsar site no. 211. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Etang de Biguglia

Site number: 520 | Country: France | Administrative region: Haute-Corse  
Area: 1 790 ha | Coordinates: 42°36'N 09°29'E | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etang de Biguglia. 08/04/91; Corse; 1,790 ha; 42°36'00"N 09°29'00"E; Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Important Bird Area, Natural Area of Ecological Interest for Flora and Fauna. The Site is the largest coastal lagoon in Corsica, divided into two basins connected with the sea. It comprises shrub-dominated wetlands crossed by creeks within seasonally flooded agricultural land characterized by excavations and drainage channels. It is of international importance for the maintenance of biological diversity within the Mediterranean biogeographic region: it supports outstanding numbers of breeding and wintering waterbirds including grebes, cormorants, ducks, geese and swans as well as vulnerable reptile species such as *Testudo hermanni* and mammals such as *Myotis capaccinii*. Moreover, the coastal lagoon is an important spawning and nursery ground for critically endangered fish species such as *Anguilla anguilla*. The lagoon supports diverse and rare vegetation which varies from halophytic species and submerged vegetation fringed by reedbeds to maquis communities. The Site plays an important role in flood regulation and groundwater recharge. The main threats to its ecological character are illegal hunting and sedimentation. Human activities include tourism, fishing and agriculture. A management plan has been approved for the period 2014-2018. Ramsar Site no. 520. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Etang de Palo

Site number: 1 829 | Country: France | Administrative region: Prunelli di Fiumorbu  
Area: 212 ha | Coordinates: 41°56'N 09°24'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etang de Palo. 15/09/08; Corse; 212 ha. 41°57'N 09°24'E. SPA, ZNIEFF (Zone Naturelle d'Intérêt Ecologique, Faunistique et Floristique). A very well preserved natural freshwater lagoon on the east coast of Corsica, temporarily connected with the sea through a seminatural narrow channel that gets timely opened to regulate the concentration of nutrients, thus avoiding eutrophication events. The lagoon is the fourth largest on the island; with its sandy beaches and surrounding vegetation, it constitutes an important ecosystem for its ecological, faunistic and floristic values. It hosts rare plant species such as *Kosteletkyia pentacarpos* and supports five protected bat species, including *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *Myotis capaccinii*, and *Myotis emarginatus*. The site has high hydrological value in helping the recharge of the aquifer, slowing down the water flow into the sea, and thus also reducing erosion phenomena. Agriculture and aquaculture are the main activities practiced in the surrounding area. Ramsar site no. 1829. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Etang de Salses-Leucate

Site number: 2 307 | Country: France | Administrative region: Languedoc-Roussillon (Occitanie)  
Area: 7 637 ha | Coordinates: 42°51'N 03°00'E | Designation dates: 30-06-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the Salses-Leucate coastal lagoon and its peripheral wetlands; it represents a typical Mediterranean coastal area. A wide range of habitats with different levels of salinity, depth and vegetation cover provide favourable conditions for a range of animal and plant species, most notably birds such as the locally-rare common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, turtles such as the European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis*, bats such as the vulnerable long-fingered bat *Myotis capaccinii* and a large number of fish, including the critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. The Site is also important for its fisheries, with traditional fishing techniques still practiced, and for its regulatory functions such as flood control, water purification and groundwater recharge and discharge. Special attention is paid to minimize the effect on the Site of the significant tourism and recreation. Visitor facilities include an interpretation centre and trails around the pond while various public awareness activities can be enjoyed in summer. Other potential issues include urbanisation, drainage, salinisation and invasive alien species. A management plan for the Site is being implemented and a restoration plan is being prepared.

### Etang des Salines

Site number: 1 830 | Country: France | Administrative region: Archipelago of petit Antilles  
Area: 207 ha | Coordinates: 14°25'N 60°50'W | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etang des Salines. 15/09/08; Martinique; 207 ha; 14°25'N 060°50'W. A coastal lagoon in the south of Martinique located in the Lesser Antilles archipelago at the limit of the Saint Lucia Channel. The waters getting into the lagoon from the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea create special ecological characteristics which favor diversified and rich aquatic populations. The site is the last stop for many birds coming from North America before crossing the Saint Lucia Channel. Mangroves provide feeding ground for many invertebrates and other marine species. The area used to play an important role for the local livelihood thanks to its salt production and exploitation between the 18th and 20th centuries, hence the name of the lagoon. Beyond several threats related to pesticide and pollutants run-off, the tourism-related developments are becoming a problem in the area as the site includes one of the most popular beaches in Martinique with more than two million visitors a year. Ramsar site no. 1830. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Etang d'Urbino

Site number: 1 831 | Country: France | Administrative region: commune de Ghisonaccia (Haute-Corse)  
Area: 790 ha | Coordinates: 42°02'N 09°29'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etang d'Urbino. 15/09/08; Corse; 790 ha ; 42°02'N 009°29' E. SPA, ZNIEFF (Zone Naturelle d'Intérêt Ecologique, Faunistique et Floristique). On the east coast of Corse, the second largest lagoon on Corsica with a maximum depth of 9m. The site is separated from the sea through a narrow strip of sand where *Juniperus macrocarpa*, *J. phoenicea* and *Pinus pinaster* dunes are found. The lagoon plays an important role for avifauna, it is a stop-over for many migratory birds on their route towards the south, and it is also habitat for many birds during the reproduction and breeding season. Inventories reveal the presence of 113 different bird species, of which 37 breed here. *Netta rufina* and *Tadorna tadorna* are two species no longer common on Corsica but that still find good conditions for reproduction here. *Aphanius fasciatus* is an endemic fish species typical of the northern part of the Mediterranean. Ramsar site no. 1831. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Etangs de la Champagne humide

Site number: 514 | Country: France | Administrative region: Champagne-Ardennes  
Area: 255 800 ha | Coordinates: 48°35'N 04°45'E | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etangs de la Champagne humide. 08/04/91; Champagne-Ardenne; 135,000 ha; 48°35'N 004°45'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Park, Hunting Reserve. A vast lowland complex of rivers, reservoir lakes and forests, ponds, canals, gravel pits, reedbeds, wet meadows and alluvial forests. Three major vegetation zones are present. The site is important for wintering and passage migratory waterbirds, especially geese, ducks and cranes (Anatidae and Gruidae); and for nesting birds, such as herons *Ardea purpurea* and *Botaurus stellaris*. It is the only regular French wintering site for the globally threatened sea eagle. Numerous species of plants, birds and invertebrates are rare, vulnerable, threatened or restricted. Human activities include livestock rearing, fishing, forestry, hunting and tourism. The site has experienced the conversion of hay meadows to arable land and river regulation. Ramsar site no. 514. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Etangs de la Petite Woèvre

Site number: 515 | Country: France | Administrative region: Lorraine  
Area: 5 300 ha | Coordinates: 49°02'N 05°48'E | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etangs de la Petite Woèvre. 08/04/91; Lorraine; 5,300 ha; 49°02'N 005°48'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Park. A clay depression consisting of a high density of lakes formed in the Middle Ages by draining the marsh to create fish rearing ponds. The lakes and ponds are interspersed by woodland, pasture, wet meadows, reedbeds and arable land. The complex supports a rich nesting avifauna, and is important for staging and wintering various species of migratory waterbirds. Human activities include fish farming, agriculture and hunting. Management measures include regular mowing, extensification of meadows (cutting hay late in the season), creation of mud flats, and restoration of a dry lake bed. Ramsar site no. 515. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Etangs du Lindre, forêt du Romersberg et zones voisines

Site number: 1 267 | Country: France | Administrative region: Lorraine  
Area: 5 308 ha | Coordinates: 48°47'N 06°48'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etangs du Lindre, forêt du Romersberg et zones voisines. 02/02/03; Lorraine; 5,308 ha; 48°47'N 006°48'E. Regional Nature Park (in part), proposed Special Protection Area and Site of Community Importance EC Directives. A complex of shallow lakes, marshes, reedbeds, mires, small rivers and associated forests, pastures, hedgerows, and cultivated areas that provide a variety of habitats. Small continental salt grasslands are of particular biodiversity value. The forest contains many rare plant species and an important population of wild cat *Felis silvestris*. The lakes serve as important moulting areas for shoveler *Anas clypeata* and as breeding and wintering sites for many other waterbirds. Non-intensive fish farming, hunting and nature tourism are the main human uses besides agriculture and forestry. Each year, a popular event celebrates the annual fish harvest in the lakes. Ramsar site no. 1267. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Etangs palavasiens

Site number: 1 832 | Country: France | Administrative region: Languedoc-Roussillon  
Area: 5 797 ha | Coordinates: 43°30'N 03°51'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etangs palavasiens. 15/09/08; Languedoc-Roussillon; 5,797 ha; 43°30'N 003°51'E. Natura 2000, Nature Reserve. A complex of seven main coastal brackish and saline lagoons typical of the Mediterranean biogeographic region, with dunes and sandy beaches that separate them from the sea. The site represents an important bird habitat during the migration period, in particular for the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) and the White Stork (*ciconia ciconia*), but it is also an important breeding site for Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*), with more than 80% of the French breeding population, and the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*). The high habitat diversity of the lagoons supports many Mediterranean amphibians, reptiles like *Emys orbicularis*, fishes such as *Anguilla Anguilla* and *Atherina lagunae* and the endemic and endangered insect species (*Metrioptera fedtschenkoi azami* and *Gryllotalpa septemdecimchromosomica*) In the site fishing and hunting are practiced, and it is also very popular for tourism and leisure activities. Ramsar site no. 1832. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Etosha Pan

Site number: 745 | Country: Namibia | Administrative region: Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto Regions  
Area: 600 000 ha | Coordinates: 19°15'S 15°30'E | Designation dates: 23-08-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Etosha Pan, Lake Oponono & Cuvelai drainage. 23/08/95; 600,000 ha; 19°15'S 015°30'E. National Park. A system of ephemeral rivers, feeding pans and associated lake and delta. Habitats include the pans, seasonally-flooded grasslands, palm tree savannah, woodlands, and dry bush savannah. The system supports 45% of Namibia's human population, who exist by subsistence farming and fishing on the floodplains and seasonal wetlands. Local people rely upon seasonal ponds and shallow wells for their water. The site supports populations of several rare and endangered large mammals, and in good rainy seasons it serves as a breeding ground for flamingos. Ramsar site no. 745. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Evenes wetland system

Site number: 1 949 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms, Nordland  
Area: 434 ha | Coordinates: 68°30'N 16°42'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes five nature reserves: Nautå, Sommervatnet, Kjerkvatnet, Tennvatn and Myrvatn. The wetland system is considered to be one of the few naturally rich nutrient systems in the northernmost parts of the world. It includes bogs, lakes, ponds, rivers, forests and agricultural land as well as some coastal habitats. The Site supports nationally threatened plant species such as the rugged stonewort *Chara rudis*. It is also a breeding site for the garganey *Anas querquedula*, the greater scaup *Aythya marila* and the smew *Mergus albellus*. In addition, it is an important staging, feeding and moulting site for several species of migratory birds. A dense population of the globally endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* is also found here. The Site supplies drinking water to approximately 3,000 people and the mires are an important carbon reservoir. The area is used for various outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, birdwatching, hunting and sports fishing. Potential threats to the ecosystem include eutrophication and pollution caused by runoff from the surrounding agricultural areas and the airport at Evenes.

## Everglades National Park

Site number: 374 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Florida  
Area: 610 497 ha | Coordinates: 25°33'N 80°55'W | Designation dates: 04-06-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Everglades National Park. 04/06/87; Florida; 610,497 ha; 25°00'N 080°55'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. World Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve; National Park, Wilderness Area. A vast, shallow drainage basin consisting of two very broad zones. The first consists of large areas of freshwater and wet prairies, characterized by islands of tropical hardwood trees. The second is dominated by saltmarshes, mangrove forests, beach and dune complexes and brackish water estuaries. This area is extremely important for nesting, staging and wintering birds, and supports a rich flora and several threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna. Over one thousand species of seed-bearing plants and 120 both tropical and temperate trees (60 of which are endemic) occur. The Everglades play an extremely important role in domestic, industrial and agricultural water supply, flood protection, and fishery support and is of prime importance in North America for conservation education and outdoor recreation. After years of give and take with sugar growers, serious efforts are being made to restore the natural water flow. Ramsar site no. 374. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Evros Delta

Site number: 54 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Thraki  
Area: 9 267 ha | Coordinates: 40°50'N 26°04'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Evros delta. 21/08/75; Evros; 9,267 ha; 40°50'N 026°04'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 18 May 1999. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Protected Area. Sharing the border with Turkey, the Evros River delta consists of brackish lagoons, freshwater marshes, lakes, and a coastal zone of saltmarshes and mudflats. Salt-resistant vegetation dominates, but patches of riparian forest remain. The delta is the most important wetland in Greece for wintering waterbirds, and supports various species of breeding and passage birds. Several birds, mammals and plants are rare or threatened species. The site is important for conservation education and provides a biological station, observation tower, and birdwatching center. Human activities include cattle grazing, commercial fishing, aquaculture and hunting. The surrounding area is used for intensive agriculture and livestock rearing. Because drainage works caused major hydrologic and land use changes resulting in low water levels, flooding and salt water intrusion, the site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 54. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Exe Estuary

Site number: 542 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 346 ha | Coordinates: 50°38'N 03°27'W | Designation dates: 11-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Exe Estuary. 11/03/92; England; 2,346 ha; 50°39'N 003°27'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI, Local Nature Reserve. The estuary includes shallow offshore waters, extensive mud and sand flats, saltmarsh, a complex of marshes and damp pasture, and an extensive dune system. The area is important for internationally important numbers of several species of wintering and passage waterbirds and functions as a refuge during severe weather. Ramsar site no. 542. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Fairy Water Bogs

Site number: 1 033 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 224 ha | Coordinates: 54°39'N 07°29'W | Designation dates: 28-07-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fairy Water Bogs. 28/07/00; Northern Ireland; 224 ha; 54°38'N 007°28'W. Area of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve. Considered to be the most important concentration of lowland raised bogs in Northern Ireland, much of it relatively intact. Each of the three bogs included has a classic dome structure, and hummocks and hollows are also generally well-developed on all three, with significant pool complexes at two of them. Possible threats from effects of past peat-cutting, localized grazing, and fires have been addressed and are being monitored for. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1033. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## 'Fajãs' of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons

Site number: 1 615 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores Autonomic Region  
Area: 87 ha | Coordinates: 38°38'N 27°57'W | Designation dates: 02-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

'Fajãs' of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons. 02/12/05; Azores Autonomic Region; 87 ha; 38°38'N 027°57'W. Natura 2000 site, Special Ecological Area. Comprising the Fajã do Cubres, the Fajã da Caldeira and a narrow coastal area connecting the two brackish coastal lagoons at the base of the steep sides of S. Jorge Island. The fajãs are areas created by landslide processes at the base of coastal cliffs. While the Caldeira Lagoon is connected with the ocean through a channel with tidal influence, the Cubres Lagoon, communicates only by percolation through the barrier with the sea. The site features variegated lagoon systems, unique for this region and highly uncommon on volcanic ocean islands, which provide important habitat for breeding and migrating birds such as *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Sterna dougallii* and *Calonectris diomedea*. The architecture and the testimonials of traditional agriculture form the historical and cultural value of the site, and one of the major religious celebrations of the Azores takes place in the Fajã da Caldeira. Presently the vast majority of the land is either used for pasture or completely abandoned, with the exception of some small farming and clam-catching activities. Ramsar site no. 1615. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Fala Flow

Site number: 465 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 318 ha | Coordinates: 55°49'N 02°54'W | Designation dates: 25-04-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fala Flow. 25/04/90; Scotland; 318 ha; 55°49'N 002°54'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. Fala Flow is in the Lammermuir Hills to the south-east of Edinburgh. It is a blanket mire, with some pools, developed at a lower altitude than most blanket mires in Midlothian. The vegetation comprises heather *Calluna vulgaris*/cottongrass *Eriophorum* spp., with other characteristic species including cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* and *Sphagnum* bog-mosses. Such mires are scarce and declining in Midlothian and this example is relatively undisturbed. The mire and pools support an internationally important goose roost. Ramsar site no. 465. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## False Bay Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 219 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape province of South Africa  
Area: 1 542 ha | Coordinates: 34°04'S 18°30'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The False Bay Nature Reserve is a unique area on the Cape Flats, situated between False Bay and Table Bay, consisting of about 50% permanent wetland and 49% terrestrial vegetation including the critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos and Cape Flats Dune Strandveld and some sand beaches. The False Bay Nature Reserve contains two lakes, of which Rondevlei is a protected area reserve while Zeekoevlei is a residential area and a popular yachting, canoeing and wind-surfing venue. Both lakes support large populations of waterbirds including pelicans and flamingoes.

Serving as a reservoir of biodiversity, the Site supports important populations of mammals including the hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), cape clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*), water mongoose (*Atilax paludinosus*), cape grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*), steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*), southern African vlei rat (*Otomys irroratus*), large spotted genet (*Genetta tigrina*) and small grey mongoose (*Galerella pulverulenta*). About 256 species of indigenous plants grow on the Site including two endemic plant species currently listed as extinct in the wild, namely *Erica turgida* and *Erica verticillata* (Cape Flats erica).

The False Bay Nature Reserve is home to over 60% of the bird species in the South-western Cape (228 species) with notable examples including the little stint (*Calidris minuta*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), and the great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*).

In addition to being an important conservation area containing endemic vegetation types and species, the False Bay Nature Reserve offer various recreational services, including fishing, water sports and picnics.

## Falsterbo-Foteviken

Site number: 14 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Skåne  
Area: 7 851,4 ha | Coordinates: 55°26'N 12°54'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of shallow coastal waters, sandbanks, lagoons, sand and shingle beaches, coastal meadows, moors featuring *Calluna* and *Erica* heathers, damp heaths and some limited areas of cultivated land. It is one of the most important gathering points in northern Europe for migrating shorebirds and raptors during the autumn migration, and regularly supports over 280,000 waterbirds. These internationally significant numbers include well over 1% of the corresponding biogeographic populations of the Brent goose *Branta bernicla*, the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* and the common eider *Somateria mollissima*. The Site is an important area for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds, and also an important reproduction area for the harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* and the gray seal *Halichoerus grypus*. The shallow coastal waters provide important fish spawning grounds and nursery areas, particularly for the critically endangered eel *Anguilla anguilla* and species of flatfish. The area is very attractive for outdoor recreation and many private boats visit during the summer.

## Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin

Site number: 79 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Cantons de Berne, Neuchâtel, Vaud  
Area: 1 155 ha | Coordinates: 46°59'N 07°02'E | Designation dates: 16-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the eastern shore of Lake Neuchâtel, to the west of the capital Berne. It is preserved in a natural state and is the last remaining area of a vast wetland that once existed between the lakes of Neuchâtel, Murten and Biel. The Site consists of an open water area of the lake together with sandbanks, two artificial islands (created to encourage nesting birds), low marshes (large reed beds and marshes with small and large sedges) and ponds. The various habitats host a wide range of flora and fauna with some 50 plant and 141 animal species listed in the national red lists, and 110 listed species protected at European level. The Site is important as one of the few places on the Swiss Plateau where various species of wintering and migratory waterbirds can rest and moult. The vast reed beds and sedges are nesting places, and the agricultural areas provide a habitat for many species of rare birds in rural landscapes. Human activities include nature conservation, forestry, fishing, tourism (camping and water sports) and agriculture.

## Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs

Site number: 1 177 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 43 ha | Coordinates: 54°24'N 07°44'W | Designation dates: 10-06-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs. 10/06/02; Northern Ireland; 43 ha; 54°24'N 007°43'W. ASSI. Three "turloughs" in a group, the only ones in Northern Ireland and the most northerly occurrence of this lake type in Ireland and the UK - intermittent lakes and pools in a limestone basin, wherein inflowing water rises through the limestone with changes in groundwater levels and flows out again via sinks, which can be clearly seen during dry periods. The turloughs all exhibit distinctive vegetation communities associated with the inundation zone, including some rare species. Permanently wet basins within the turloughs support vegetation typical of lakes and lake shores. The area is particularly rich in types of water beetles. Over-grazing by domestic livestock, vegetation succession, and eutrophication are perceived as potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1177. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Farewell Spit

Site number: 103 | Country: New Zealand | Administrative region: South Island  
Area: 11 388 ha | Coordinates: 40°33'S 172°55'E | Designation dates: 13-08-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Farewell Spit. 13/08/76; South Island; 11,388 ha; 40°32'S 172°50'E. Nature Reserve; Shorebird Network Site. A 30km long sand spit, and intertidal area, extending at a rate of 15m annually. Exposed to the Tasman Sea on the north and with a dune complex giving way to mudflats on the south. Particularly important as a staging area for shorebirds. Supports several notable plant species as well. Ramsar site no. 103. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Färnebofjärden

Site number: 1 116 | Country: Sweden  
| Administrative region: Four counties: Västmanland, Gävleborg, Uppsala and Dalarna  
Area: 16 866 ha | Coordinates: 60°13'N 16°49'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Färnebofjärden, previously known as Dalälven-Färnebofjärden, includes Färnebofjärden National Park and Gysinge and Ålbo Nature Reserves. The River Dalälven runs in a flat and open landscape, where it widens and forms a series of broad and shallow lakes. Short, often multi-branched rapids separate the lakes. It is a rare example in the European Boreal region of a near-natural river system with regular flooding. Its important habitats include alluvial forests, exposed river bottoms with fine-grained soils, rapids and open fens along the river. The unexploited rapids, along with the limited forestry and small human population in the immediate vicinity of the Site, give an impression of untouched wilderness. Situated at the transition between the vegetation types of northern and southern Sweden, the Site has a rich diversity of mires, riverside meadows, birch and alder fens, marsh meadows, peat bogs, and shore fens. Flooding is common, and flood control is an important function of the Site. The fauna is diverse, from the many birds and fish species, to the largest population in Sweden of the mosquito *Aedes rossicus*. Because of the wilderness character of the area, and its fauna and landscape, it is well known for birdwatching, hiking, canoeing, and fishing.

## Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkh Ruds Ab-Bandans

Site number: 1 308 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Mazandaran  
Area: 5 427 ha | Coordinates: 36°40'N 52°32'E | Designation dates: 28-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkh Ruds Ab-Bandans. 28/03/03; Mazandaran; 5,427 ha; 36°40'N, 52°33'E. Non-Shooting Area, BirdLife IBA; includes Wildlife Refuge. An artificially maintained wetland in the South Caspian lowlands. Comprises four "damgahs", i.e. shallow freshwater impoundments based on rice paddies developed as duck-trapping areas, surrounded by forest strips and reedbeds, and including a Wildlife Refuge (48ha). The area is of outstanding importance as wintering grounds for the entire western population of the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), listed as 'critically endangered' in the IUCN Red Book. Having reappeared at the site in 1978 after 60 years' absence, the number of Siberian Cranes now fluctuates between 7-14. Other endangered species using the site include Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* and occasionally Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, and wintering raptors such as Falco sp. and *Haliaeetus albicilla*. The site's agricultural lands are flooded during summer, thus supporting groundwater recharge and water supply for irrigation during the dry months. Apart from rice farming the land is used for forestry and fishery. An important traditional activity is duck trapping, originally a main source of income during the winter months but now done primarily for sport. ("During the trapping procedure, domestic ducks are thrown into the air in the direction of the pond. The heavy, poorly-flying ducks land noisily in the pond. The sight and sound of these flying and feeding ducks arouse the curiosity of wild ducks in the main flooded field. They swim up the narrow channel to the pond where they are netted by trappers. Because of the height of the brush surrounding the pond and the narrowness of the channel, the wild ducks are unable to take flight and quickly trapped.") In the past at the end of each trapping season the area was opened up for gun hunting in a massive "shoot-out", creating a potential threat for Siberian Cranes to be shot accidentally, but in 2001 the Department of Environment designated the whole site as a Non-Shooting Area. Conservation measures include annual mid-winter waterfowl censuses and an MoU on Siberian Cranes with 9 'range states' of the Convention on Migratory Species. A GEF project, implemented through UNEP and coordinated by the International Crane Foundation and CMS, aims to conserve the critical sites used by Siberian Cranes for breeding, staging during migration, and the main wintering grounds. Ramsar site no. 1308. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Fernando de Noronha Archipelago

Site number: 2 333 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Pernambuco  
Area: 10 929,2 ha | Coordinates: 03°52'S 32°24'W | Designation dates: 25-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fernando de Noronha Archipelago is an oceanic archipelago in the north-east of Brazil with an area of 10,927 ha, which has been for millennia a refuge for many endemic species because of its isolated location. Of the 28 coral species occurring in Brazil, ten are found in all phases of their lives here. There are also great concentrations of spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) and pantropical spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), and an area where humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) reproduce and rear their calves. The Site is also listed as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage property.

## Fifa Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 294 | Country: Jordan | Administrative region: Karak Governorate  
Area: 6 100 ha | Coordinates: 30°58'N 35°26'E | Designation dates: 04-12-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Fifa Nature Reserve lies in the Jordan Rift Valley to the south of the Dead Sea, in south-western Jordan. Its lowest point stands at 420 metres below sea level. The Site is fed by water from various sources, which include natural permanent springs to the south, a permanent artificial irrigation and drainage canal to the east, and seasonal water which drains from four wadis. The drained water forms large swamps and marshes which last to the end of the winter season. The Site is important for the livelihoods of people living around it, as it provides water for irrigation, drinking water for people and livestock, and habitat to many species. It supports two globally vulnerable species, Macqueen's bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) and dabb lizard (*Uromastyx aegyptia*). As the Site lies along the Rift Valley migration pathway, it also supports a large number of wintering waterfowl each year. The Site supports the hydrological balance of the Valley, controlling floods by receiving a large amount of rain water which flows onwards to the Dead Sea or recharges the aquifer, and controlling the land's salinity by receiving salts washed off the soil.

## Filso

Site number: 140 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Ribe  
Area: 4 270 ha | Coordinates: 55°42'N 08°14'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Formerly a large, shallow lake drained for agricultural land and pasture. About 1,200ha are intensively farmed and protected from flooding by dikes and water pumping. Two lakes surrounded by *Salix* scrub and reedbeds remain. The site is internationally important for wintering and staging waterbirds, including *Cygnus cygnus*, *C. columbianus bewickii*, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, *A. anser* and *Anas acuta*. The area is important botanically. Due to the implementation of a wetland restoration scheme, accomplished in 1993, and grassland management the ecological quality of the lake and adjacent waterlogged areas is currently improving. Human activities include hunting. Private access is limited.

## Firth of Forth

Site number: 1 111 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 6 314 ha | Coordinates: 56°02'N 03°15'W | Designation dates: 30-10-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Firth of Forth. 30/10/01; Scotland; 6,314 ha; 56°01'N 002°53'W. SSSI, SPA. A large coastal area comprising a complex of estuaries, mudflats, rocky shorelines, beaches and saltmarshes, including many fragmentary bits of shoreline considered to act as a single ecological unit. Several large urban areas, including Edinburgh, are adjacent to the site and include areas of heavy industry and well-used maritime shipping lanes. The site provides habitat for large numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl, many in nationally and internationally important numbers, and a number of aesthetic, archaeological, sporting and recreational interests lend added value. Coastal industrial development is seen as a source of pressure but is subject to detailed planning control, and the potential for rising sea levels are foreseen in "planned retreat" coastal realignment schemes. Ramsar site no. 1111. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary

Site number: 1 034 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 6 918 ha | Coordinates: 56°25'N 03°00'W | Designation dates: 28-07-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary. 28/07/00; Scotland; 6,918 ha; 56°24'N 003°05'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI, National Nature Reserve. A complex of estuarine and coastal habitats in eastern Scotland adjacent to the city of Dundee. The site includes extensive invertebrate-rich intertidal mudflats and sandflats created by the massive sediment load deposited by the River Tay, as well as large areas of reedbed and sand dune and a small amount of saltmarsh. At least four species of wintering waterfowl are present above the 1% threshold of international importance, and on average some 48,000 waterfowl are supported there in winter, including 14 species in nationally important numbers. Some disturbance is caused in some parts of the site by large numbers of walkers and illegal use of all-terrain bicycles, but these and other potential threats are considered manageable. Students from many nearby universities conduct research on the site. Ramsar site no. 1034. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Firth of Thames

Site number: 459 | Country: New Zealand | Administrative region: North Island  
Area: 8 927 ha | Coordinates: 37°13'S 175°23'E | Designation dates: 29-01-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Firth of Thames. 29/01/90; North Island; ~7,800 ha; 37°13'S 175°23'E. Coastal Reserve; Shorebird Network Site. A large coastal reserve bounded by peninsula and mountains. Consisting of shallow marine water, mud and grass flats, mangrove swamp, saltmarsh, and swampland. Includes a globally rare land formation of graded shell beach ridges which support grazing. Important site for roosting, wintering and staging wading birds. Ramsar site no. 459. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton

Site number: 1 963 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Somogy  
Area: 9 483 ha | Coordinates: 46°43'N 17°37'E | Designation dates: 09-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of several sub-sites south of Lake Balaton, the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe and also a Ramsar Site (Site no. 421). It mainly consists of natural or near-natural marshland, meadows and fishponds including many habitat types listed under the EU Habitats Directive. The Site supports globally and regionally threatened fish species such as the European mudminnow *Umbra krameri*, several breeding bird species such as the Eurasian bittern *Botaurus stellaris stellaris* as well as mammal species such as the otter *Lutra lutra*. The Site is also an important staging area during migration and wintering season for more than 20,000 waterbirds, including about 12,000 greater white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons* and 9,000 greylag geese *Anser anser*. The Site also hosts more than 1% of the population of the root vole *Microtus oeconomus*, which is endemic to the Carpathian Basin (Ramsar Criterion 9). Human uses of the Site includes fish farming, fishing, reed harvesting, hunting, forestry, and tourism. The Balaton Catchment Area Water Management Plan was completed in 2010 under the guidelines of the EU Water Framework Directive.

## Fiskumvannet Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 156 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Buskerud  
Area: 119 ha | Coordinates: 59°43'N 09°49'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a representative agricultural landscape lake below sea level, of which the western part along with the adjacent land areas is protected as a nature reserve. The vegetation belt and swamp areas are excellent breeding sites for a number of nationally threatened birds, such as the garganey *Anas querquedula*, the greater scaup *Aythya marila*, and the smew *Mergellus albellus*. More than 1% of the Svalbard population of the pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* rests regularly at the Site during its migration. The main hydrological values of the Site are sediment trapping and shoreline stabilization. The cessation of mowing and grazing in the 1950s and increasing ditching and fertilization from the surrounding areas have resulted in significant water eutrophication and vegetational succession. The Site is used for birdwatching and other nature-based tourism, environmental education and transport.

## Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps

Site number: 1 224 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 689 ha | Coordinates: 34°30'S 146°23'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps. 21/10/02; New South Wales; 689 ha; 34°30'S 146°23'E. Fivebough Swamp is a permanent but fluctuating, fresh-brackish, shallow wetland, and Tuckerbil is a seasonal, shallow, brackish-saline wetlands. Both are of international importance because of the presence, abundance and diversity of waterbirds that have been recorded there, including migratory shorebirds and threatened species. Both wetlands function as important waterbird habitat and refuge within an agricultural landscape and in fact gain some of their habitat values from the human uses of the area, such as grazing, flood mitigation, and sewage treatment. As such, the site is described as a good demonstration of Ramsar's wise use principle which also has considerable potential for waterbird-related ecotourism. The area has cultural and historical significance for local Aboriginal communities. Fivebough Swamp is considered to have great potential as an educational resource, as well as as a national and international tourist destination for nature-based recreation focusing on the rich birdlife. Careful planning is needed to ensure that the site is not affected by possible nearby urban and industrial developments. Ramsar site no. 1224. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River

Site number: 257 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 3 519 ha | Coordinates: 40°54'S 147°56'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Flood Plain Lower Ringarooma River is a rare site within the biogeographic region. Unusually for a large river in Tasmania, it flows through flood plains and forms a mosaic of wetlands including permanent and seasonal marshlands and a large river estuary. The Ramsar Site hosts plant communities recognized as threatened under Tasmanian legislation, such as the freshwater aquatic sedgeland and rushland, and *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest. It also supports a range of globally and nationally threatened species such as the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and the vulnerable fairy tern (*Sternula nereis*) and dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*). Hydrological services provided by the Site include the retention of flood waters and the trapping of mine-related sediment. The area has value for indigenous heritage since there is evidence that the flood plain was used by Aboriginal people. Presently, the Site is used for grazing and there is regulated hunting of waterbirds.

## Foge Islands

Site number: 1 754 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Niger State and Kebbi State  
Area: 4 229 ha | Coordinates: 10°31'N 04°34'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Foge Islands. 30/04/08; Kebbi, Niger State; 4,229 ha; 10°30'N 004°33'E. National Park. Small islands in Lake Kainji, a reservoir formed by construction of the Kainji Dam on the Niger River in 1968, part of the Kainji Lake National Park, Nigeria's oldest. The site forms part of the regional biodiversity hotspot characteristic of the wetlands in the Guinea savanna woodland of Nigeria. It supports over 180 species of birds, and there is also a remnant population of mammals such as western hartebeest, waterbuck, hippopotamus, and green monkeys trapped by the creation of the lake. Local communities fish in the pools and lake and also engage in traditional irrigated agriculture and harvesting of wild resources. The site is managed under the National Park management system in Nigeria, and further management measures include those put in place by the Kainji Lake Research Institute against overfishing, restricting fishnet mesh size and regulating the fishing season. Declining trends in rainfall are leading to long-term low water conditions. Ramsar site no. 1754. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Fokstumyra

Site number: 1 189 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Oppland  
Area: 1 799 ha | Coordinates: 62°08'N 09°16'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is Norway's first large protected area, created in 1923. It comprises vast wet mires on the flat ground and drier mires on its slopes, divided by moraine ridges with mainly open upland birch forest and some shallow nutrient-rich pools. A total of 168 bird species have been recorded at Fokstumyra, an impressive number for an upland wetland. The Site offers breeding habitat to large populations of ducks, waders and raptors. It is probably the most important breeding site in Norway for the hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. The area is also important as a staging site in spring and early summer for birds waiting for breeding sites higher in the mountains to become free of snow and ice. Several threatened plant and animal species are found. The large mire areas are important water reservoirs, especially during droughts, and play a critical role in flood protection during periods of high precipitation and snowmelt. The Site is used for leisure activities such as walking, birdwatching and fishing. Additional visitor facilities needs to be planned carefully so as not to further increase the disturbance of breeding birds. The Site was extended from 785 hectares in 2012.

## Forêt Galerie de Léra

Site number: 1 879 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Cascades  
Area: 542 ha | Coordinates: 10°36'N 05°18'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located in the Comoé river basin, consists of a seasonal river as well as a gallery forest comprising semi-deciduous and deciduous trees that form periodically flooded wildlife corridors. The Site is home to *Cola cordifolia* and *Elaeis guineensis*, and the noteworthy orchid *Nervilia umbrosa*. Nationally protected animal species include the Nile crocodile and the kob antelope. Large colonies of bats colonize the undersides of the highest leaves. As well as maintaining biological diversity, the Site is also important for groundwater replenishment, control of flooding, stabilization of the microclimate, and storm protection. Thanks to these services, the local communities are able to farm cashew nuts and other crops. They have banned hunting and grazing, but threats such as siltation due to activities being carried out upstream on the Leraba tributary, local population growth and poaching still affect the Site. The Site does not have a management plan but the local communities consider it as a forest village which is therefore subject to other conservation measures.

## Forlandsøyane

Site number: 313 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 540 ha | Coordinates: 78°20'N 11°34'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes three islands and a number of rocky islets in the western Svalbard archipelago. One of the islands is completely bare, while the others are grass-covered and feature small ponds. The shorelines are formed by cliffs and sandy beaches. The surrounding seas are shallow and nutrient-rich. The Site supports breeding colonies of all three goose species nesting in Svalbard: the pink-footed goose, the brent goose with its subspecies and the barnacle goose, along with various other species of breeding waterbirds as well as a population of the harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*. The traditional collection of eider down is permitted occasionally.

## Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes

Site number: 481 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 754 ha | Coordinates: 32°09'S 115°52'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Forrestdale & Thomsons Lakes. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 754 ha; 32°09'S 115°52'E. Nature Reserves. Two fresh to brackish, seasonal lakes set in a zone of extensive urban and agricultural development. The lakes are fringed by emergent vegetation giving way to trees tolerant of water-logged conditions (e.g., Melaleuca), with higher ground supporting woodland dominated by Eucalyptus and Banksia. More than 10,000 waterbirds are regularly supported. The site holds a diversity of fauna, including the uncommon skink *Lerista lineata*. The reserve is used principally for birdwatching and walking. Ramsar site no. 481. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Foulness

Site number: 861 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 10 933 ha | Coordinates: 51°34'N 00°55'E | Designation dates: 04-10-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5). 04/10/96; England; 10,933 ha; 51°34'N 00°55'E. Special Protection Area, SSSI. Part of an open coast estuarine system comprising grazing marsh, saltmarsh, intertidal mud and sandflats. The site supports nationally rare plants, as well as nationally and internationally important populations of various species of breeding, migratory and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include commercial fishing, agriculture, some livestock grazing, and military activities. Ramsar site no. 861. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Francis Beidler Forest

Site number: 1 773 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: South Carolina  
Area: 6 438 ha | Coordinates: 33°15'N 80°22'W | Designation dates: 30-05-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Francis Beidler Forest. 30/05/08; South Carolina; 6,438 ha; 33°15'N 80°22'W. National Natural Landmark. A protected swamp forest along a broad, flat-bottomed alluvial valley within the Four Holes Swamp, constituting the largest remaining virgin stand of bald cypress and tupelo gum trees in the world. More than 300 vertebrates and 300 plants depend upon the site for survival, and a number of threatened and/or vulnerable species are present, such as the IUCN Red Listed Flatwoods Salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*) and several bat and snake species; threatened flora include Southern Twayblade, Green-fly Orchid, and Shadow-witch Orchid. Some 140 species of birds are supported and the site has been designated a BirdLife Important Bird Area (IBA). The forest is principally owned by the National Audubon Society, with a parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy and a small parcel belonging to a private landowner, and a model management (and expansion) plan is being implemented. The site is used by bird- and nature-enthusiasts and students, as well as fishers and deer- and hog-hunters in some parts, and low-density farming and grazing occurs in the surrounding area. A principal hydrological role of the site is the improvement and maintenance of water quality of the waters flowing through it, but high levels of mercury have been found in the fish. Logging, farm run-off, and urban sprawl from Charleston are seen as potential threats from outside the site. The visitors' centre offers a full range of environmental education programmes. Ramsar site no. 1773. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Fraser River Delta

Site number: 243 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: British Columbia  
Area: 20 682 ha | Coordinates: 49°06'N 123°10'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fraser River Delta. 24/05/82; British Columbia; 20,682 ha; 49°06'00"N 123°03'00"W. IBA, WHSRN. The site is formed by six components (Burns Bog, Sturgeon Bank, South Arm Marshes, Boundary Bay, Serpentine, and the former 'Alaksen' Ramsar Site), all in the Metro Vancouver Region and part of the the most important river delta/estuary for fish and birds on the west coast of Canada. The complex provides an internationally critical migratory stopover area for the Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), one of the most common shorebirds in the western hemisphere. It provides feeding and roosting sites to about 250,000 migrating and wintering waterfowl and 1 million shorebirds, regularly supporting the threshold of 1% of a population of a species or subspecies of waterbird. A number of Provincially- and Federally-listed fish species of concern can be found within the estuarine habitats, including *Acipenser transmontanus*, *Acipenser medirostris*, and *Thaleichthys pacificus*. The complexity of ecosystems found in the site, such as estuarine marsh, mudflats, floodplains, sloughs and river channels are all critical feeding and rearing areas for anadromous salmon during their transition between river and marine stages of their life cycle. Some of the subsites are used for low-impact recreation, but the site is mostly reserved for wildlife habitat conservation. The site was renamed and vastly extended in 2012 from 586 to 20,682 hectares. Ramsar site no. 243. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Fresco

Site number: 1 582 | Country: Côte d'Ivoire | Administrative region: Sud-Bandama  
Area: 15 507 ha | Coordinates: 05°07'N 05°36'W | Designation dates: 18-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fresco.18/10/05; Sud-Bandama; 15,507 ha; 05°07'N 005°36'W. A coastal area demarcating the two different types of coastline in the country: west of Fresco the coastline is rocky, with cliffs alternating with beaches; east of the site, sandy beaches and dunes separate lagoons from the Atlantic, and the site includes both types of landscapes. It is an important nesting ground for turtle species like the loggerhead, leatherback, olive ridley and green turtles. It also hosts a number of endangered species like the manatee, forest and Nile crocodiles, the pygmy hippopotamus and several bird species. Some of these are migratory birds which have their nesting, feeding and/or resting grounds at the site; among them are *Phalacrocorax africanus*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Nycticorax nycticorax* and *Butoroides striatus*. The wetland maintains the area's hydrological balance by attenuating evaporation and recharging the groundwater level. On the social side, 15,000 people live around the wetland and local communities utilize 198 species of plants for alimentation, construction, firewood needs and other uses. Fishing, agriculture, shell collection, hunting and spiritual ceremonies also take place. Part of the site, at Port Gauthier, is a protected forest. An environmental education centre has been present since 2001. Ramsar site no. 1582. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Froan Nature Reserve and Landscape Protection Area

Site number: 809 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag  
Area: 49 097 ha | Coordinates: 64°06'N 09°13'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal nature reserve with hundreds of islands, skerries, islets and shallow marine waters, in the outermost coastal zone. It has extensive seaweed and kelp beds and is rich in marine invertebrates and fish. The outermost parts of the area have bare skerries and rocky outcrops devoid of vegetation due to the rough seas, while the larger, more protected islands have bogs and meadows. The vegetation is to a large degree characterized by traditional agriculture; for example, the large heather meadows have been burned and grazed by livestock for centuries. The Site is a very important wintering, moulting and breeding area for seabirds and for breeding coastal seals, and it supports red-listed bird species such as the long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* and the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*. Human activities include nature conservation, fishing, livestock farming and boating.

## Fujian Zhangjiangkou National Mangrove Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 726 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunxiao County  
Area: 2 358 ha | Coordinates: 23°55'N 117°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fujian Zhangjiangkou National Mangrove Nature Reserve. 02/02/08; Fujian; 2,358 ha; 23°55'N 117°25'E. National Nature Reserve. Dominated by mangrove forest in the estuary area and including intertidal mudflats and salt marshes, located in the estuary of Zhangjian River. Due to high productivity, high decomposition and restitution rate, the mangrove coastal marsh and coastal arenaceous vegetation provides habitat for more than 154 birds species, including IUCN Red-listed species like *Daimao* (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), *Lengpigui* (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), *Xigui* (*Caretta caretta*), *Taipingyangligui* (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), *Huangzuibailu* (*Egretta eulophotes*), and *Heizuiou* (*Larus saundersi*), as well as 240 other aquatic animal species and 224 vascular plants. It is also a spawning and breeding place for important fish species like *Yicheng* (*Sinonovacula constricta*), *Banji* (*Clupanodon punctatus*), and *Ziyu* (*Mugil cephalus*). The site plays an important role in typhoon resistance, coastline protection, purifying water and maintenance of regional microclimate. Aquaculture is practiced here for local economic purposes. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1726. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Fujimae-Higata

Site number: 1 200 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Aichi prefecture  
Area: 323 ha | Coordinates: 35°04'N 136°50'E | Designation dates: 18-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fujimae-Higata. 14/10/02; Aichi; 323 ha; 35°04'N 136°50'E. A tidal flat at the mouths of the Shonai, Shinkawa, and Nikko rivers as they flow into the port city of Nagoya. The site is an important staging site along the East Asia-Australia Flyway with one of the highest shorebird counts in Japan - some seven species of shorebird surpass the 1% threshold in the area, and more than 20,000 waterbirds have been counted frequently. The wetland is also visited by a number of endangered species, including the birds *Tringa guttifer*, *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*, *Tadorna tadorna*, and *Sterna albifrons sinensis*, among others, and the endangered fish *Chaenogobius macrognathos*. Once part of extensive tidal flats in the northern part of Ise Bay, the site remains relatively unaltered itself amid widespread transformation of the surrounding areas for development purposes. A popular site with bird watchers, it is said that, when plans to "reclaim" the tidal flat entirely for a dumping site were abandoned by the City Council, "the site became a symbol of the wetland conservation movement in Japan". Bird watching facilities exist and a wetland education centre is planned for 2003-4. Ramsar site no. 1200. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Furen-ko and Shunkuni-tai

Site number: 1 542 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Prefecture  
Area: 6 139 ha | Coordinates: 43°18'N 145°21'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Furen-ko and Shunkuni-tai. 08/11/05; Hokkaido; 6,139 ha; 43°18'N 145°21'E. N.W.P.A. Furen-ko is a brackish lagoon, low moor and sea grass beds that used to be a part of the sea on the base of Nemuro peninsula at the northeastern tip of Japan. Among 13 rivers flowing into Furen-ko, the estuary of the Furen River has developed into a saltmarsh forming a vast landscape. Shunkuni-tai resembles a lid on Furen-ko lagoon consisting of 3 rows of ancient sand dunes covered by Sakhalin Spruce *Picea glehnii* forest. 280 species of birds were recorded in this site including globally endangered *Grus japonensis*, *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, and rare White-tailed Sea Eagle, Steller's Eagle, Black Woodpecker and Blakiston's Fish Owl. Fishery, aquaculture, harvesting of clams and tourism are the main activities. Shunkuni-tai Wildbird Nature Center attracts 10,000 visitors annually. Various nature observation programmes are conducted by local NGOs and other organizations. Ramsar site no. 1542. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Fylleån

Site number: 1 119 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Halland  
Area: 805,6 ha | Coordinates: 56°40'N 12°58'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site encompasses the lower parts and mouth of the Fylleån river on the west coast; it is largely untouched by hydrological interventions and has good water quality. Interesting plant life is supported by old meanders, overgrowing oxbow lakes, and regularly flooded wetlands, as well as by the well-preserved sand dune landscape on the coast. The river is highly valued as it constitutes a spawning ground for the nationally red-listed Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and brown trout *Salmo trutta*. It also supports a diverse benthic fauna. A constructed wetland close to the sea provides a staging area for migratory birds and also an important breeding area for birds such as the nationally endangered Eurasian penduline tit *Remiz pendulinus* and the nationally vulnerable little tern *Sternula albifrons*. The coastal stone fields contain graves from the early Scandinavian Iron Age, and there are many archaeological and ancient cultural remains in the area. Due to its open landscape, scenic beauty and diverse nature, the area is highly valued for recreation and tourism. The main threats to the Site relate to logging and wood harvesting, fishing, river regulation and water management. Three minor hydropower stations are located within the Site; they all have fish ladders, but nonetheless they are barriers to fish and other organisms as well as sediment transport, and may affect the water flow.

## Galenbecker See

Site number: 177 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Area: 1 015 ha | Coordinates: 53°38'N 13°44'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Galenbecker See. 31/07/78; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; 1,015 ha; 53°38'N 13°44'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A lake with fringing reedbeds adjoining a partly forested peatland. The lake bed supports extensive Charophyte communities and provides habitat for several species of breeding and passage birds, a diverse invertebrate fauna and otters. Human activities have included drainage of the peatland, and intensive agriculture is currently practiced in the surrounding area. Two field stations and a nature trail with interpretive facilities are maintained. Ramsar site no. 177. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Gambie-Koulountou

Site number: 1 578 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Boké  
Area: 368 192,8 ha | Coordinates: 12°21'N 13°03'W | Designation dates: 14-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gambie-Koulountou is a semi-arid region on the norther border with Senegal, comprising the floodplain of the Koulountou River, the Gambia River's main tributary, and a number of smaller, often temporary, watercourses and ponds. The Site is located in the natural region of Middle Guinea; it overlaps with the Badiar Biosphere Reserve and the Guinean part of the cross-border Niokolo-Badiar Park. The water bodies support 80 mammal species (including lions, chimpanzees and antelopes), 330 bird species (including wild ducks, ibis, raptors and hornbill), 36 reptile species including pythons, 20 amphibian species and at least 60 species of fish, which find an important refuge in the Site during the dry season. The savannah, forest, woodland, and aquatic vegetation plays an important role in preventing erosion and siltation of the wetlands, while humus deposition increases the floodplain's fertility and supports rice cultivation. Fishing and livestock breeding are also significant, while non-timber forest products are collected for several uses; bamboos (*Oxytenanthera abyssinica*) and the African fan palm (*Borassus aethiopicum*) are the most exploited species. Only conservation activities are allowed in the core area of the Biosphere Reserve, but in the periphery a co-management system is in place to allow the varied communities to make use of the site. Bush fires, illegal fishing, pesticide use, and slash-and-burn agriculture constitute some of the main threats.

## Gambie-Oundou-Liti

Site number: 1 579 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Labé  
Area: 527 400 ha | Coordinates: 11°33'N 12°18'W | Designation dates: 14-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gambie-Oundou-Liti. 14/11/05; Labé, 527,400 ha; 11°33'N 12°18'W. Nature Reserve. A mountainous site in the Fouta massif that plays an important hydrologic role as the origin of numerous water courses which flow into surrounding countries and are regulated by three protected forests. Floodplains, savannas, gallery and mountain forests are important habitats, reproduction, resting and feeding sites for some threatened species such as lions, chimps and wild dogs, and for many more mammal, raptor and waterbird species for which there is still little information available. Agriculture (subsistence and fruit trees) and animal raising are the main land uses, while apiculture and fishing are less developed. Water is considered a public good with water courses and sources managed communally, based on the Water Code. There is a high tourist potential in the area that remains to be exploited, with several interesting cultural and natural attractions, including underground mosques, mysterious tombs, smoky caves, giant bees, waterfalls and warrior "tatas" or fortified houses. One of the main threats to the site, as well as to downstream wetlands, is the projected Sambagallo dam, which will flood part of the Kabéla forest. Ramsar site no. 1579. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Gammelstadsviken

Site number: 27 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten County  
Area: 440 ha | Coordinates: 65°38'N 22°05'E | Designation dates: 28-06-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gammelstadsviken includes a freshwater lake formed when a four-kilometre-long coastal bay was isolated from the sea by land elevation. There are also areas of floating aquatic vegetation and extensive marshes. The Site supports animal populations which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Alpine biogeographic region, including rich avian fauna with some 200 species of birds observed in the area and a number of nationally red-listed species. The lake is one of the most species-rich in Sweden, and it is an important site for staging and breeding birds including the nationally important Caspian tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, northern pintail *Anas acuta* and garganey *Anas querquedula*. About 150 species of vascular plants have been noted within the Site, notably *Glaux maritima* and *Deschampsia bottnica*. Human activities include recreation and tourism. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to air-borne pollutants from atmospheric emissions and the levels of quicksilver, sulphur and nitrogen. Cessation of mowing and grazing has also resulted in shrubs and trees overtaking the land, which may have led to the disappearance of some bird species. The quality of the lake bed has changed, negatively affecting the water vegetation. Several organizations are engaged in a project entitled "Projekt Guldkant" to enhance the conditions for birds and to increase accessibility and provide more information within the Site.

## Gandoca-Manzanillo

Site number: 783 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Limón  
Area: 9 445 ha | Coordinates: 09°37'N 82°40'W | Designation dates: 11-12-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gandoca-Manzanillo. 11/12/95; Limón; 9,445 ha; 09°37'N 82°40'W. Wildlife Refuge. A coastal lagoon consisting of coral reefs, seagrass beds, beaches and cliffs with flooded lowland areas between. The vegetation forms an unusual association of swamp forests composed of "yolillo" *Raphia taedigera* and *Camnosperma panamensis*, *Prioria coparifera*, and some mangroves. An important area for nesting sea turtles inhabiting the Caribbean. The site supports a high diversity of species, some of which are endangered or threatened, including birds, reptiles, molluscs and fish (marine, estuarine and freshwater), crustaceans, including lobster and 32 coral species. The fishery is an important source of revenue for local inhabitants. The site is part of the Talamanca-Caribe Biological Corridor and shares a border with Panama. Ramsar site no. 783. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat

Site number: 1 846 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Gilsang-myun  
Area: 1 ha | Coordinates: 37°38'N 126°31'E | Designation dates: 13-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

13/10/08; Incheon Metropolitan City; 1 ha; 37°38'N 126°32'E. A human-made rice paddy wetland near the city of Incheon that was purchased by the Korea National Trust Foundation chiefly for its importance as habitat for the herbaceous water plant *Maehwamareum* (*Ranunculus kazusensis makino*), once common throughout the country but now considered to be endangered and found in only 30 places nationally. Because of eco-friendly rice farming at the site, it also functions as a refuge for aquatic plants and insects and benthic invertebrates and fish, which become food sources for migratory birds. The site is also used for educational purposes, and an educational centre is in preparation. With a real area of 0.3015 hectares (rounded up to 1 ha.), this is the smallest Ramsar site at the time of designation. Ramsar site no. 1846. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Gangtey-Phobji

Site number: 2 264 | Country: Bhutan  
| Administrative region: Wangdue Phodrang District; within Phobji and Gangtey geogs/blocks  
Area: 970 ha | Coordinates: 27°27'N 90°11'E | Designation dates: 02-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gangtey-Phobji Ramsar Site lies in a wide glacial valley that spreads across the central highlands of Bhutan. Streams in the valley drain through open grasslands to the Nakeychhu, Khewangchhu and other small annual and perennial streams. Most of the areas along the streams are marshy, covered by grass, bamboo, and several species of shrub and herbs including thick sphagnum moss. They support rich ecosystems, and provide prime winter habitat for up to 300 globally vulnerable black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*), and other globally threatened species such as the endangered red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and tiger (*Panthera tigris*), and the vulnerable sambar (*Cervus unicolor*). The valley is an important water source for drinking and irrigated agriculture for the 44 villages in the valley as well as the villages downstream. The Gangtey-Phobji area is a popular tourism destination with the number of tourists increasing each year. A traditional festival is organized to welcome the arrival of the black-necked cranes in October, and the roosting cranes heighten the breathtaking scenery and help to promote nature-based tourism. Projects to promote community-based tourism have been implemented, aiming at building local people's capacity and developing tourism products and activities such as home-stays, local guides, cultural programmes, and campsites.

## Gansu Gahai Wetlands Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 975 | Country: China | Administrative region: Gansu Province  
Area: 247 431 ha | Coordinates: 34°17'N 102°27'E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Gansu Gahai Wetlands Nature Reserve is located within the administrative area of Luqu County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Northwest China. This site is a part of the largest alpine peat marsh area in the world and the wetland supports flora and fauna of both the Loess and Tibetan Plateaus which are rarely seen elsewhere in the world.

Alpine marshes, seasonal/intermittent herb-dominated marshes, permanent herb-dominated marshes on peatlands and inorganic soils, permanent freshwater lakes, permanent rivers and streams are different types of wetlands in this site.

There are 15 threatened species at this site including birds, amphibian and mammals such as the vulnerable Black-necked Crane, *Grus nigricollis* and the Alpine Stream Salamander, *Batrachuperus tibetanus*. It is a regional hotspot of species diversity, with many endemic species of the Tibetan biogeographic region, especially fish and amphibian species.

The wetland has significant function for water storage, carbon storage and flood control. As a result, flood disaster is very rare in this site. The local Tibetan herders and communities practice wetland conservation and wildlife protection as part of their tradition, and believe that Gahai Lake is sacred.

The Master Plan of Gansu Gahai-Zecha National Nature Reserve was approved in 2000.

## Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands

Site number: 2 347 | Country: China  
| Administrative region: Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Jiuquan City, Gansu Province, P.R. China  
Area: 29 876,2 ha | Coordinates: 39°05'N 95°50'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the upper basin of the Dang river (the primary tributary of the Shule river), where the Inner Mongolia plateau meets the West Qilian mountains on the northern edge of the Tibetan plateau. Its rivers, lakes, and marshes harbour unique wetland ecosystems amid the region's extremely arid and cold highland deserts. The Site is the only source of water for three areas: Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Aksai Kazakh Autonomous County and Dunhuang City. Lying within Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve, the Site's concentration of wetlands supports a rich biodiversity, including 278 plant species, 96 birds and 31 mammals. Among them are globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*), the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and the vulnerable goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*). The wetlands serve as important stopover, foraging and breeding grounds for highland migratory birds in western China, and they are the northernmost breeding place for black-necked crane *Grus nigricollis*. The Site plays a significant role in preserving local biodiversity and genetic diversity, and it helps to regulate the microclimate, purify water and air, maintain groundwater levels, control flooding and prevent desertification in downstream areas.

## Garaet Annk Djemel et El Merhsel

Site number: 1 420 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 18 140 ha | Coordinates: 35°47'N 06°51'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Garaet Annk Djemel et El Merhsel. 12/12/04; Oum El Bouaghi; 18,140 ha; 35°47'N 006°51'E. A saltwater lake surrounded by a belt of *Salicornia*, *Artemisia* and *Atriplex* vegetation, fed by temporary rivers and precipitation/runoff. During summer the high evaporation rates lead to the creation of salt encrustations, which are appreciated habitats by some bird species. The site hosts the vulnerable Marbled Teal, as well as over 12% of the biogeographic population of *Tadorna tadorna* and over 2% of *Phoenicopterus ruber*'s population. The site plays an important role in flood control and sediment capture. The local population harvests salt and, in the surrounding of the site, practices agriculture and raises livestock. No scientific, touristic or educational activity takes place, but there is potential for creation of environmental awareness by green clubs and school groups. Ramsar site no. 1420. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Garaet El Taref

Site number: 1 421 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 33 460 ha | Coordinates: 35°41'N 07°08'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large basin which is three-quarters dry and salt-encrusted, with a mound dividing the open water area in two. It is an important wintering area for waterbirds, hosting a large percentage of the biogeographic populations of greater flamingo, common crane and common shelduck. Several *Anas* species, tufted duck and common coot also winter at the Site. The salt lake tempers the environment, and the surrounding *chott* area hosts herbaceous plants, mainly *Artemisia herba-alba*, *Atriplex halimus*, *Juncus acutus*, *Cyperus distachyos* and *Cyperus lacustris*. Agriculture and livestock farming are the main income generating activities in the area, and overgrazing and land clearing are threatening the wetlands in the absence of regulations on land use. It is hoped that, given the Site's importance for water birds and its designation as a Ramsar Site, new conservation measures will be applied and it will proceed to be classified as a natural ornithological reserve.

## Garaet Guellif

Site number: 1 422 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 24 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°47'N 06°59'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an endorheic depression with varying water levels, with salt-encrusted shores and meadows featuring *Salicornia* and other shrubs. The Site hosts several small mammal species and high plant diversity. It is an important wintering area for waterbirds, hosting more than 1% of the biogeographic populations of greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* and common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* as well as smaller numbers of common crane and several duck species including vulnerable marbled teal. The lake plays an important role in flood control and absorption of sediments. Cereal cultivation and raising of sheep and cattle are the main economic activities, while poaching and overgrazing are the main threats. The graduate programme on wetlands of the Oum El Bouaghi University has undertaken research at the Site, while the area is also used for educational purposes and for celebrations such as World Wetlands Day.

## Garaet Sidi Mansour

Site number: 1 703 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Gafsa Governorate  
Area: 2 426 ha | Coordinates: 34°14'N 09°29'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Garaet Sidi Mansour. 07/11/07; Gafsa; 2,426 ha; 34°14'N 009°29'E. A large basin in mainland Tunisia, ecologically comparable to the Sebket Kelbia Ramsar site. This wetland, situated directly to the south of the Sebket Noual Ramsar site, collects the waters of the surrounding watersheds, but may remain dry for periods extending for several years. The eastern side is regularly cultivated, while the western end is more saline. When precipitation is high the site attracts an extremely rich avifauna, both during winter and during the nesting season. The site has remained in a quasi-natural state, without any water storage infrastructure. Ramsar site No. 1703. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Garaet Timerganine

Site number: 1 894 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 1 460 ha | Coordinates: 35°40'N 06°58'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Garaet Timerganine. 18/12/09; Oum El Bouaghi; 1,460 ha; 35°40'N 006°58'E. Characterised by a seasonal freshwater marsh, the site is surrounded by a salt crust, in turn surrounded by halophytic vegetation and cereal cultivation. It is noted as an important nesting area for the endangered *Oxyura leucocephala*, the vulnerable *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and *Aythya nyroca*. Other species dependent on the site are the Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), the Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) and the Sahara Frog (*Rana saharica*), amongst others. The local communities rely on the site for water retention, flood control and sediment retention in order to carry on their income-generating activities. This area however is facing several threats including poaching, extraction of water, and overgrazing of the land which leads to a decrease in the biomass cover. There are no site specific management measures, but the local authority has measures in place to conserve the forests of Wilaya de Oum El Bouaghi. Ramsar site no. 1894. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Garron Plateau

Site number: 969 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 4 650 ha | Coordinates: 55°00'N 06°05'W | Designation dates: 31-12-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Garron Plateau. 31/12/98; Northern Ireland; 4,650 ha; 55°00'N 006°04'W. The site is a peatland complex composed of a series of raised and flushed peat bog units, alkaline fen, and a number of water bodies. It supports at least six species listed in the Irish Red Data Book-Vascular Plants and up to five species of bird which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book. It provides habitat for *Pluvialis apricaria* and *Lagopus lagopus*. The site is used for grazing. Ramsar site no. 969. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Garry Bog

Site number: 1 042 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 155 ha | Coordinates: 55°06'N 06°32'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Garry Bog. 8/11/00; Northern Ireland; 155 ha; 55°07'N 006°32'W. One of the largest lowland raised bogs in Northern Ireland, the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat, such as bog pools and hummock complexes with extensive *Sphagnum*-rich bryophyte carpets. The lagg surrounding the bog has been cut for turf, creating a mosaic of water-logged cuttings at different levels, separated by elevated ramparts. The site, listed as wetland type "U" (peatlands), is considered to be internationally important by virtue of Criterion 1, as a large, relatively intact, and one of the best examples of lowland raised bog in the UK. Ramsar site no. 1042. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Gåsøyane

Site number: 317 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 236 ha | Coordinates: 78°27'N 16°13'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gåsøyane is located in the Svalbard archipelago in the inner part of Isfjorden and consists of two small, partially vegetated islands with a few freshwater ponds and cliffs suitable for nesting seabirds. The Site is among the most important Spitsbergen localities for the nesting common eider *Somateria mollissima* and the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, with over 1% of populations supported by the Site. In the past, and sporadically still today, the Site has been used for the collection of eider eggs and down. Polar bears regularly visit the Site. Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area, but due to its remoteness, the Site is rarely visited.

## Gavkhouni Lake and marshes of the lower Zaindeh Rud

Site number: 53 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Isfahan  
Area: 43 000 ha | Coordinates: 32°20'N 52°47'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gavkhouni Lake & marshes of the lower Zaindeh Rud. 23/06/75; Isfahan; 43,000 ha; 32°20'N 052°47'E. Gavkhouni is a brackish lake with limited reed vegetation, and both it and the marshes of the lower Zaindeh Rud River are subject to wide seasonal flood fluctuations. Much of the original marshland has been converted to agricultural use to take advantage of the rich alluvial soil. The site is important for staging and wintering for several species of migratory waterbirds. The site is impressive in its desert situation. Ramsar site no. 53. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Gbedin Wetlands

Site number: 1 628 | Country: Liberia | Administrative region: Nimba county  
Area: 25 ha | Coordinates: 07°16'N 08°48'W | Designation dates: 24-08-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gbedin Wetlands. 24/08/06; Nimba; 25 ha; 07°16'N 008°48'W. Situated in the north of Liberia, the area is largely a swamp, also including a man-made wetland with irrigation system that includes channels, ditches, dams and drainages. The paddy fields provide a good feeding ground for many bird species including Palaearctic and Nearctic migrants as well as resident breeders such as the Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Bar-Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and the Forbes' Plover *C. forbesi*. The endemic otter shrew *Micropotamogale lamottei* also occurs in the area. The suitability of the swamp for rice cultivation prompted the government in 1960 to solicit technical assistance to introduce modern agricultural methods to local rice farmers in order to discourage shifting cultivation. The project, the Gbedin Swamp Rice Project, has employed a large number of local people, especially up to the onset of the civil war in 1990. The site is currently used for subsistence farming (rice), hunting and fishing, while the surroundings are used for logging and mining, as well as multiple crop farming. The use of fertilizers and pesticides are potential threats. In November 2005 elementary students were asked by the Ramsar CEPA focal point to depict the wise use concept through arts. Ramsar site no. 1628. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Gearagh, The

Site number: 472 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Cork  
Area: 307 ha | Coordinates: 51°52'N 09°01'W | Designation dates: 30-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gearagh, The. 30/05/90; Cork; 307 ha; 51°52'N 009°01'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. The site contains the best example in Ireland of an alluvial forest ecosystem. The area is characterized by numerous wooded islands, separated by a network of stream channels. Vegetation includes rich growths of submerged aquatic plants and alluvial grasslands supporting a nationally important wintering flock of *Cygnus cygnus*. Ramsar site no. 472.

## Gediz Delta

Site number: 945 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Izmir  
Area: 14 900 ha | Coordinates: 38°31'N 26°53'E | Designation dates: 15-04-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gediz Delta. 15/04/98; Izmir Gulf; 14,900 ha; 38°30'N 026°55'E. Cultural and Natural Asset; Wildlife Protection Area. An extensive coastal wetland with bays, salt and freshwater marshes, large salt pans, and four highly saline lagoons located at the mouth of the Gediz River near Izmir. The site supports dry grasslands, arable land, and some woodlands. The globally threatened pelican *Pelecanus crispus* breeds at the site. An important area for breeding, feeding, wintering, and sheltering internationally important numbers of numerous species of waterbirds. Human activities include fishing, agriculture, cattle grazing, and the largest salt production centre in the country. A number of ancient cities, such as Leukai and Larissa, are found there. The Gediz River is of vital importance for agriculture in the region, but is becoming significantly polluted. Ramsar site no. 945. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Gemenc

Site number: 900 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Tolna and Bács Kiskun  
Area: 19 770 ha | Coordinates: 46°13'N 18°51'E | Designation dates: 30-04-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of various floodplain habitats alongside the River Danube. The undisturbed forests, tributaries and oxbow lakes support a high diversity and density of endangered species. The Site supports various threatened ecological communities and two protected mammals: the common otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*). Large numbers of migrating and wintering waterbirds regularly use the Site, and it is an important spawning and nursery ground for different fish species such as the globally threatened sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*). The groundwater regime of the floodplain depends directly on the water levels of the Danube. The Site plays an important role in sediment trapping and flood regulation. Human activities include forestry, hunting, fishing and recreation such as water sports and nature-based tourism: there are visitor centres, observation towers and nature trails within the Site. The main threats to its ecological character derive from intensive forest management, overfishing and navigation.

## Getapulien-Grönbo

Site number: 2 168 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Örebro County, in south-central Sweden  
Area: 3 229 ha | Coordinates: 59°40'N 15°29'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Getapulien-Grönbo is one of the largest mire complexes in south-central Sweden characterized by minimal anthropogenic influence. The Site contains representative examples of natural or near-natural wetland types within the European Boreal region, such as forested and non-forested peatlands, bogs and lakes. The Site supports populations of plants and animal species which are important for maintaining biodiversity within the region, particularly birds and butterflies. The coniferous forests, wet forests and mires constitute an important area for breeding birds such as Eurasian black grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*, osprey *Pandion haliaetus* and western capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. Lynx and wolf can also be observed. The mires sequester carbon and serve as water reservoirs during the summer. Land use is mainly dedicated to moose hunting, recreation, tourism and nature conservation. A wildlife research station in Grimsö carries out fauna and flora monitoring activities. The Site was formerly affected by unsustainable forestry practices, such as drainage that altered the wetlands' natural hydrological cycle. As a result of the prohibition of forestry in the protected areas, the proportion of mature forest is expected to increase significantly in the coming years. Management plans for overlapping nature reserves are being implemented, with ecotourism development as one of the objectives.

## Getterön

Site number: 19 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Halland  
Area: 449,9 ha | Coordinates: 57°08'N 12°14'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Getterön is an estuarine bay with freshwater inflow and brackish water basins, surrounded by wet coastal pastures. The area hosts a very wide range of breeding waterfowl and is also one of the most important resting places for waterfowl along the west coast of Sweden, including the garganey *Anas querquedula*, the bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* and the Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. Sediment trapping and prevention of coastal eutrophication are important qualities of the area. The Site is used for cattle grazing, recreation, birdwatching and tourism; it has a visitor centre and a number of birdwatching shelters. The main potential threats to its ecological character relate to the negative impact of native species such as fox, badger, carrion crow and raven on breeding waders and ducks. A site-specific management plan is being implemented.

## Ghadira

Site number: 410 | Country: Malta | Administrative region: Northern  
Area: 112 ha | Coordinates: 35°58'N 14°21'E | Designation dates: 30-09-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ghadira. 30/09/88; 11 ha; 35°58'N 014°21'E. Council of Europe Biogenetic Reserve; Mediterranean Protected Area, No Hunting Area. A brackish coastal pool (once used for salt production) of varying water level and salinity, bordered by dunes. Several rare plant species, salt-resistant vegetation, and a diverse invertebrate fauna, including endemic grasshoppers and wasps, are supported. The rare fish *Aphianus fasciatus*, endangered elsewhere on Malta, is present in good numbers. An important area for resting and feeding for numerous species of migratory birds. Human activities include intensive summer tourism and conservation education. The surrounding land is under intensive cultivation. Ramsar site no. 410. Most recent RIS information: 1991.

## Ghizil-Agaj

Site number: 1 076 | Country: Azerbaijan | Administrative region:  
Area: 99 060 ha | Coordinates: 39°07'N 48°59'E | Designation dates: 21-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

## Ghodaghodi Lake Area

Site number: 1 314 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Seti Zone  
Area: 2 563 ha | Coordinates: 28°41'N 80°57'E | Designation dates: 13-08-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ghodaghodi Lake Area. 13/08/03; Kailali District; 2,563 ha; 28°41'N, 80°57'E. A large and shallow oxbow lake with associated marshes and meadows surrounded by tropical deciduous forest on the lower slopes of Siwalik, the youngest mountain range of the Himalaya in Western Nepal. There are around 13 associated lakes and ponds, and some streams separated by hillocks situated on the site's periphery. The forest and wetlands serve as the wildlife corridor between the lowland and the Siwalik. They support critically endangered Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (*Kachuga kachuga*), endangered Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Three-striped Roof Turtle (*Kachuga dhongka*); vulnerable Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*), Common Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelli*), Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptotilos javanicus*) and Marsh Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), endangered Orchid (*Aerides odorata*), religiously important and threatened Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), and rare wild rice (*Hygrohiza aristata*). The lake is an important religious place with a shrine dedicated to Ghodaghodi deity where indigenous Tharu people celebrate a traditional festival, Agan Panchami, in December and take a holy bath in the lake. Due to dense population within the site (around 6,700 people of whom 50% are illegal immigrants from adjoining hilly areas), it is intensively used for traditional fishing and agriculture. The factors putting pressure on the site's ecology include highway traffic at the southern edge, construction of unplanned new temples, over grazing, poaching and hunting as well as illegal tree felling and smuggling of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and Khair (*Acacia catechu*) timber, natural eutrophication accelerated by human religious and agricultural activities. Nevertheless with the help of IUCN Nepal, the users' groups of local communities and NGOs are involved in the conservation process which has helped to reduce poaching, initiate fencing towards the highway to control grazing and encroachment, and develop a participatory community-centered management plan. Ramsar site no. 1314. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Gibraltar Point

Site number: 589 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 414 ha | Coordinates: 53°06'N 00°20'E | Designation dates: 05-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gibraltar Point. 05/03/93; England; 414 ha; 53°06'N 00°20'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The area consists of a sand dunes system, freshwater and saltmarsh, extensive intertidal flats, and open water. The vegetation includes sedges (*Carex* spp), rushes, ferns, crowfoot, reed, sea holly, and sea campion. It supports *Pluvialis squatarola* (1.2% of the population), *Limosa lapponica* (0.6% of the population), and *Branta bernicla bernicla* (0.3% of the population). The site is used for recreation and grazing. Ramsar site no. 589. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Ginini Flats Subalpine Bog Complex

Site number: 793 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Australian Capital Territory  
Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 35°31'S 148°47'E | Designation dates: 01-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, within the Namadgi National Park in the Australian Capital Territory, consists of a composite of subalpine sphagnum bogs and associated wet heath and wet grassland habitats that is listed as a nationally threatened ecological community. It is located at the northern biophysical limit of this habitat type and is of critical importance in maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a number of endemic and restricted species found in subalpine wet heaths and bogs. It is particularly important for the conservation of the northern corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*), a globally endangered endemic species found only at high altitudes with a limited distribution. The Site is in the upper reaches of the Cotter River catchment, which is the primary water source for Canberra, the capital city of Australia. Human activities are principally recreational.

### Gippsland Lakes

Site number: 269 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 60 015 ha | Coordinates: 38°00'S 147°36'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gippsland Lakes. 15/12/82; Victoria; 60,015 ha; 38°00'S 147°36'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Crown Land Reserves, Coastal Park, National Park. A group of coastal lagoons and marshes fed by river systems and subject to regular flooding. The site is separated from the sea by dunes and fringed by beach forming the largest navigable inland waterway in Australia. The aquatic vegetation is highly variable, reflecting seasonal factors, light penetration, salinity and nutrient availability. The site is an important drought refuge for waterbirds, regularly holding up to 50,000 individuals. Several birds, mammals, amphibians, fish and invertebrates supported are rare, vulnerable or endangered in Victoria. The site supports commercial and recreational fisheries, recreation, grazing, residential development and water extraction, while the surrounding area has been developed for agricultural, residential and tourism purposes. Ramsar site no. 269. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Girutiskis bog

Site number: 1 993 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region: Svencionys district  
Area: 1 402 ha | Coordinates: 55°12'N 25°51'E | Designation dates: 15-11-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Girutiskis bog (Girutiakio pelke). 15/11/11; Vilnius; 1,402 ha; 55°11'52"N 25°51'21"E. Strict Nature Reserve, Regional Park, Natura 2000. A complex of raised bogs, rich fens and transitional mires with acidic and oxygen-poor lakes and surrounding pine forests interspersed with spruce and birch trees. Numerous habitat types as well as plant and animal species (mammals, fish, insects, amphibians, and molluscs) are listed under the EU Habitats Directive and protected nationally, and a large number of breeding and non-breeding bird species protected in Europe and Lithuania occur within the site. The site is important as a source of groundwater and the swamp has a significant replenishing function. Peat accumulation in bogs also facilitates the binding of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The site is being used for research, environmental education and limited educational tourism; there is a visitor centre and an exposition at the Labanoras Regional Park directorate. Habitat overgrowth with bushes and trees, and invasive species, pose the main problems. An approved nature management plan exists. Ramsar Site number: 1993. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Giske Wetlands System

Site number: 805 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Møre og Romsdal  
Area: 553,3 ha | Coordinates: 62°33'N 06°04'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated on two islands on the outermost part of the coast, the Site consists of six subsites: Roaldsand, Rørvikvågen, Rørvikvatnet, Synesvågen, Giske and Blindheimsvik. The area's flat landscape was formed by glaciers and quarternary deposits. The system of shallow bays, extensive tidal seaweed zones, sand- and mudflats, wet meadows, fossil shorelines, marshes and mires provide rich feeding areas for birds. There is also a small area of dunes. The complex is important for large numbers of breeding, wintering and migrating waterbirds and waders, with several rare species recorded. Human activities include conservation, education, recreation (camping and hunting) and livestock farming. There is a local airport on the larger island. Several factors have had a negative impact on waterbirds in recent years, in particular forestry plantations and overgrowing after grazing ceased. The Site includes a birdwatching observatory and Norway's oldest ringing station. An information booklet is available.

### Glacial lakes in the Tatra National Park

Site number: 2 340 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Małopolskie  
Area: 571,1 ha | Coordinates: 49°13'N 20°00'E | Designation dates: 11-12-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of ten separate areas, and includes the small lakes of the High Tatra mountains and their immediate surroundings, together with the Dudowate Stawki ponds and the Sive Stawki lakes in the Western Tatra mountains. The biggest lakes are Morskie Oko, Wielki Staw and Czarny Staw pod Rysami. The majority of the lakes are situated in depressions created by erosion and in areas of glacial accumulation; however the lakes in the Gašienicowa valley are the result of karst genesis. The marshy lake banks and the adjoining peat areas provide habitats for some notable vascular plants such as the Alpine bulrush *Trichophorum alpinum* and the rush *Juncus triglumis*, which is limited in the Polish Carpathians to the Tatra mountains only. The mosaics of dwarf-pine scrub, grasslands, tall grass swards and the lakeside wetlands provide habitat for the boreal-alpine form of the bluethroat *Luscinia svecica svecica*, which is protected in the Tatra Natura 2000 site. It is exceptionally rare: its only breeding areas in the whole Carpathian mountain range are in the Tatra (on both the Polish and Czech sides of the border). The Site is entirely located within the borders of the Tatra National Park, which is popular for hiking, nature observation and other forms of recreation. It is also a long-term monitoring site.

## Glaciar Vinciguerra y Turberas Asociadas

Site number: 1 886 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Tierra del Fuego  
Area: 2 760 ha | Coordinates: 54°45'S 68°20'W | Designation dates: 16-09-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Glaciar Vinciguerra y turberas asociadas. 16/09/09; Tierra del Fuego; 2,760 ha; 54°45'S 068°20'W. The southernmost Ramsar site in the world at the time of designation, located in Tierra del Fuego Province at an altitude between 200 and 1300 m, covers glaciers; lakes; Sphagnum-, Cyperaceae-, and tree-dominated peatlands; Nothofagus (Southern beech) forests; and permanent and seasonal rivers. Among the flora, *Skottsbergia paradoxa*, an endemic and threatened moss species, stands out. The glaciers and peatlands, excellent natural water reservoirs, play an important role in the Arroyo Grande watershed regulation, a river that is the primary water source of the city of Ushuaia. The presence of the Vinciguerra glacier and the Andorra valley's peatlands contribute to the scenic beauty of the site, which attracts local and foreign tourists. The threats to this site are horse rearing (animals feed on Nothofagus sprouts), tree cutting for domestic use and, to a lesser extent, peat extraction. Additionally, climate change affects Vinciguerra glacier stability. The site acts as a buffer area between the Tierra del Fuego National Park and the suburban expansion of Ushuaia. Ramsar site no. 1886. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Gladhouse Reservoir

Site number: 404 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 186 ha | Coordinates: 55°46'N 03°07'W | Designation dates: 14-07-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gladhouse Reservoir. 14/07/88; Scotland; 186 ha; 55°47'N 003°06'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. A large freshwater reservoir with several small islands. There is limited development of aquatic vegetation, although there are marginal areas of fen. The reservoir is a roosting site for internationally important numbers (3,440) of wintering geese. Ramsar site no. 404. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 344 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Shire of Glenelg, Victoria  
Area: 22 289 ha | Coordinates: 38°05'S 141°07'E | Designation dates: 28-02-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the Glenelg Estuary, the longest in the bioregion at 75 kilometres in length, a beach and dune system, and freshwater wetlands. It includes rare intact fen peatlands and a humid dune slack system. The Site's habitats support 95 waterbird species including the globally endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) and far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). It provides food, spawning grounds and nurseries for a range of fish including 14 native species such as the globally vulnerable eastern little galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*) and Yarra pygmy perch (*Nannoperca obscura*), and a path for species which migrate between the region's salt and fresh waters. The permanent swamps and lakes provide refuge for obligate aquatic species during drought conditions. The wetlands of Long Swamp within the Site support more than 1% of the total global population, and possibly as much as 5%, of the global population of the globally endangered wetland-dependent ancient greenling (*Hemiphysalia mirabilis*). The area is popular for recreational and tourism activities, including sightseeing, walking, camping and recreational fishing. The Site is also culturally significant for Gunditjmarra indigenous people.

## Glomådeltaet

Site number: 1 954 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland county  
Area: 594 ha | Coordinates: 66°25'N 13°56'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is among the most important freshwater deltas in Norway, and features small lakes including oxbow lakes, channels, newly developing sand islands and river courses, and adjacent mires. The different areas of the Site feature diverse vegetation, from sandbanks with pioneer vegetation, to sloughs with reed vegetation, wet and flooded alder forests, and other deciduous and coniferous forests. There are also smaller areas of agricultural land. The Site is an important inland breeding area for waterbirds such as the spotted crane *Porzana porzana*, the greater scaup *Aythya marila* and the water rail *Rallus aquaticus*, which are all listed as threatened on the Norwegian Red List. It plays a key role for migrating birds, especially as a staging area during spring migration. The numerous river branches are particularly important for ducks, while the swamps and mires are most important for waders. In total 150 bird species have been recorded, while about 20 species of mammals are present, including the Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* and the lynx. The area recharges local groundwater reserves through abundant caves and underground rivers. The Site is used for recreation activities such as sport fishing, birdwatching, canoeing and hunting.

## Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats

Site number: 1 937 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Gomsu Bay  
Area: 4 550 ha | Coordinates: 35°33'N 126°35'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Ramsar Site includes two protected areas, the Buan Julpo Bay Wetland Protected Area and the Gochang Tidal Flat Wetland Protected Area. It is located in Gomsu Bay and is one of the important tidal flats for migratory waterbirds along the west coast of the Republic of Korea. The site provides roosting sites for globally threatened species such as the endangered Oriental white Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and the vulnerable Saunders's gull (*Larus saundersi*). It is also important for supporting populations of shorebirds, such as the Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). The Gochang & Buan Tidal Flats are biologically rich with sixty-eight species of macrobenthic fauna, including shellfish crustaceans and polychaetas; twenty-two species of halophytes and seventy-seven species of birds. The site is also important for fish as spawning and nursery grounds. The tidal flat is used for fishing and farming of Manila clam (*Tapes philippinarum*), and Corb shell (*Cyclina sinensis*). In the surrounding areas, there are concerns about seepage of contaminants from a landfill located close to Buan tidal flat. The Gochang-gun (county) office and Buan-gun (county) office share jurisdiction over the site.

## Göksu Delta

Site number: 657 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Mersin  
Area: 15 000 ha | Coordinates: 36°18'N 33°59'E | Designation dates: 13-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Göksu Delta. 13/07/94; Mersin; 15,000 ha; 36°18'N 033°58'E. Cultural and Natural Asset; Specially Protected Area, Wildlife Reserve. An important wetland delta located on a bird migration route. Sands and saline steppe cover large areas. The site supports reedbeds, marshes, swamps, meadows and, in the surrounding area, agricultural fields. It is a refuge for internationally important numbers of wintering ducks. Up to 327 bird species occur, including the globally endangered Phalacrocorax pygmeus and Pelecanus crispus. Two species of endangered marine turtles nest in the area. Reptiles and amphibians (34 species) form a primary link in the food chain of waterbirds. Human activities include fishing, tourism, and conservation education. Remains of cities from Neolithic times through many subsequent civilizations are found there, including nearby Silike Castle and ancient Seleucia. Non-point agricultural pollution and proposed dams present potential threats. Ramsar site no. 657. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Gokyo and associated lakes

Site number: 1 692 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Sagarmatha Zone  
Area: 7 770 ha | Coordinates: 27°57'N 86°41'E | Designation dates: 23-09-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gokyo and Associated Lakes. 23/09/07; Sagarmatha; 7,770 ha; 27°57'N 086°42'E. Within Sagarmatha National Park, UNESCO World Heritage site. A system of glacial lakes at 4,710m-4,950m altitude in the high Himalayan region at the base of Cho Oyo (the world's 6th highest mountain), not far from Mt Everest, at the headwaters of the Dudh Koshi River which is part of the Ganges river system. The alpine pasture meadow and sloping mountain terrain support a number of IUCN Redlisted rare and vulnerable species, such as the kutki plant (Neopicrorhiza scrophulariifolia), the Himalayan tahr or goat (Hemitragus jemlahicus), the Snow Leopard (Uncia uncia), Wood snipe (Gallinago nemoricola), endemic species like the flowering plant Kobresia fissigulum, and many important birds like Aythya nyroca and Grus vigor. The system is a vital source of water for downstream communities. There is a small amount of seasonal grazing, by traditional right, and eight hotels with campgrounds serve ecotourists and religious visitors. Garbage and sewage left by visitors is difficult to dispose of and such pollution pressures represent a potential threat, as does overgrazing and deforestation caused by mountaineering expeditions seeking firewood. The site is two days' walk from Namche, the nearest town. Ramsar site no. 1692. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Golfe de Boughrara

Site number: 2 008 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Djerba  
Area: 12 880 ha | Coordinates: 33°28'N 10°45'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Golfe de Boughrara. 02/02/12; Medenine; 12,880 ha; 33°28'N 010°45'E. BirdLife IBA. A broad, semi-closed lagoon with a narrow connection to the sea around both sides of the Isle of Djerba; it receives water permanently from the Mediterranean as well as tidal currents from the Ajim Channel separating the mainland from Djerba in the west. The area is an exceptional site for terrestrial and marine biodiversity. It is considered to be increasingly vulnerable and fragile as a result of insufficient fresh water, shallow depth, limited water circulation, and intense evaporation as well as anthropogenic activities through indiscriminate fishing and the use of destructive fishing machines. The Posidonia Herbarium characterizing the vegetation cover favours the settlement of fish, bivalves and other species and also serves as a source of food for plankton and a breeding ground for fish species. It harbours diverse bird species during winter. Though it has been classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA), there are further potential threats to its sustainability such as organic waste disposal from animal rearing activities, phosphorus waste disposal from surrounding industries, waste water and solid wastes from the peripheries. Ramsar Site no. 2008. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Golfe du Morbihan

Site number: 517 | Country: France | Administrative region: Département du Morbihan  
Area: 23 000 ha | Coordinates: 47°34'N 02°47'W | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Golfe du Morbihan. 08/04/91; Bretagne; 23,000 ha; 47°35'N 002°47'W. Nature Reserve, Natural area of ecological, faunistic and floristic interest (ZNIEFF), Biotope Protection Order, Hunting Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI), IBA. A large, almost enclosed, estuarine embayment and saltmarsh complex at the mouths of three rivers. Exposed at low tide, vast mudflats connect the bay with the Atlantic Ocean. Important in preventing coastal erosion, and the basis of the wetland's productivity, the intertidal flats support large areas of Zostera beds and an extremely high density of invertebrates. Up to 100,000 waterbirds winter annually at the site, and numerous species of migratory waterbirds stage and nest in the area. Many species of flora and fauna are protected under national and EU legislation. Oyster farming produces an annual harvest of more than 10,000 tonnes. Other human activities include commercial and sport fishing and tourism. Environmental education opportunities and several observatories exist. Ramsar Site no. 517. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Golfo de Montijo

Site number: 510 | Country: Panama | Administrative region: Veraguas  
Area: 80 765 ha | Coordinates: 07°45'N 81°07'W | Designation dates: 26-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Golfo de Montijo. 26/11/90; Veraguas; 80,765 ha; 07°45'N 081°07'W. An extensive complex of coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, beaches, several species of mangroves, marshes, seasonally flooded grassland, irrigated agricultural land, and rice fields. The area supports an important traditional fishery, numerous species of nesting and wintering waterbirds, various mammals and reptiles. Human activities include hunting and mangrove felling. Ramsar site no. 510. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Golubickaya Puscha

Site number: 2 266 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Glubokoe and Dokshitsy districts of Vitebsk region  
Area: 18 240 ha | Coordinates: 54°59'N 28°02'E | Designation dates: 29-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The core area of the Site consists of a large complex of raised bogs and transition mires in their near-natural state. Waterlogged meadows and the large Mezuzol and Medzozol lakes are located among the bogs and forests, and their waterlogged state and the preservation of natural habitats have helped to conserve rare and threatened plant and animal species. The Site supports 25 species of vertebrates and nine plant species registered on the Red List of the Republic of Belarus, including the nationally critically endangered golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and Ural owl *Strix uralensis*. The wetland plays a significant role in the natural functioning of the Berezina River basin and is of great hydrological importance for the adjacent areas including the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (Ramsar Site no. 1927). The processes of peat accumulation and carbon sequestration are ongoing. Human activities relate to peat extraction, timber production, hunting, fishing and the collection of berries and mushrooms. The main threats to the Site relate to drainage, peat extraction and pollution from an increasing volume of urban wastewaters.

## Gomishan Lagoon

Site number: 1 109 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Golestan Province  
Area: 17 700 ha | Coordinates: 37°12'N 53°59'E | Designation dates: 05-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gomishan Lagoon. 05/11/01; Golestan; 17,700 ha; 37°11'N 053°57'E. A coastal lagoon at the extreme southeast of the Caspian Sea, at the edge of the Turkmen steppe, separated from the sea by a narrow sandy barrier which is frequently overrun by the sea. The site supports three IUCN Red List vulnerable species of waterbirds, i.e., *Pelecanus crispus*, *Aythya nyroca*, and *Vanellus gregarius*, as well as the vulnerable mammal *Phoca (Pusa) caspica*; it is also an important staging area for the fish subspecies *Rutilus rutilus caspicus*. More than 20,000 waterbirds have been observed in the most recent 13 years of censuses, and more than 20 species of waterbirds surpass the 1% threshold (Criteria 5 and 6), and 15 fish species depend upon the site as an important source of food (Criterion 8). The government-owned area provides for fishing and hunting, and some livestock grazing, for some 40,000 inhabitants of the region, in parts of the site and its catchment. Caspian sea-level fluctuations have had some adverse effects. A Ramsar SGF-funded study has provided vital management information on species populations. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1992 and 1997. Ramsar site 1109. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Gorbita Delta

Site number: 699 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Taimyr Autonomous Okrug  
Area: 75 000 ha | Coordinates: 73°00'N 94°55'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gorbita Delta. 13/09/94; Taimyrsky/Dolgano-Nenets Autonomous Area; ~75,000 ha; 73°00'N 094°55'E. The lower valley of the lowland Gorbita River, adjacent mire complex, lakes and terrestrial tundra habitats that include meadows, *Eriophorum* sp. scrub, and polygonal mires. These habitats support breeding and molting populations of waterbirds, in particular White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, Bean goose *A. fabalis*, and Red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*. It is one of the most important breeding areas for geese on the Taimyr Peninsula. Numerous other colonial and waterbird species frequent the site. Human activities include Arctic fox *Alopex lagopus* trapping and fishing. Ramsar site no. 699. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Gornje Podunavlje

Site number: 1 737 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina  
Area: 22 480 ha | Coordinates: 45°45'N 18°57'E | Designation dates: 13-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gornje Podunavlje. 20/11/2007; Vojvodina; 22,480 ha; 45°45'N 018°57' E. Special Nature Reserve; Important Plant Area; IBA. A marsh complex along 36km of the Danube River, forming a natural unity with the Gemenc and Kopacki Rit Ramsar sites in Hungary and Croatia respectively. The site is a unique mosaic of aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystems and an important centre of ecosystem, species, and genetic diversity. A large number of rare and nationally or internationally threatened plant species and their communities are supported, as well as vulnerable habitats. This area is the habitat of rare plant species such as winter aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*, water violet *Hottonia palustris*, and mare's tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, an important spawning place and a migratory route of fishes, a nesting place of the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and the black stork *Ciconia nigra*, as well as the habitat of the largest population of the red deer *Cervus elaphus* in Serbia. Especially rich ethnic and folkloric traditions converge in the area, which is a centre for traditional festivals. Hunting and commercial and sport fishing are well developed, and controlled forestry is practiced within the site. The effects of previous drainage and irrigation works present a threat, as do eutrophication and invasive alien species. Ramsar site no. 1737. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Gosaikunda and Associated Lakes

Site number: 1 693 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Bagamti Zone  
Area: 1 030 ha | Coordinates: 28°05'N 85°26'E | Designation dates: 23-09-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gosaikunda and Associated Lakes. 23/09/07; Bagamti; 1,030 ha; 28°05'N 085°25'E. Within Langtang National Park. A treeless region with shrub land interspersed by rocky slopes and alpine pasture, with a complex of at least 15 lakes and ponds at 4,054m-4,620m altitude that provide water for the Trishuli tributary of the Narayani River system. A considerable number of IUCN Redlisted endangered and vulnerable species of fauna and flora are present. The site has religious associations for Hindus and Buddhists and is the locus of the important Gangadashahara and Janaipurnima festivals. Human uses include grazing during summers, and there are four hotels with campgrounds for trekking groups and pilgrims. Threats to the site include pollution from the huge gathering during the festivals. There is a religious ban on the killing of animals within much of the site. Ramsar site no. 1693. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Gotlands ostkust

Site number: 21 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Gotland  
Area: 4 963,8 ha | Coordinates: 57°16'N 18°39'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes six subsites along the east coast of the island of Gotland, one of the largest on the Baltic Sea. Its coastline, low-lying islands and shallow seas host a great diversity of marine and coastal wetlands. Habitats include grazed meadows of varying degrees of wetness and extensive gravel banks. Numerous waders and Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans) stage in the area, including Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, and it is of international importance as a staging area for migrating barnacle geese *Branta leucopsis*, in numbers exceeding 1% of the relevant population. The complex is also important for various species of breeding waterbirds. The continuation of traditional grazing is essential for maintaining the Site's value for breeding and staging birds. Access is restricted. The Site's boundaries were extended in 2001 and again in 2018 to better correspond to other protected areas.

## Gough Island

Site number: 1 868 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: St Helena  
Area: 229 811 ha | Coordinates: 40°19'S 09°56'W | Designation dates: 20-11-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gough Island. 20/11/08; St Helena, Tristan da Cunha; 229,811 ha; 40°19'S 009°56'W. World Heritage Site, Nature Reserve, Important Bird Area, Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. The site includes Gough Island and surrounding territorial waters. Gough Island is one of the largest relatively unmodified cool temperate island ecosystems in the southern hemisphere. Important wetland types include non-forested peatlands, permanent freshwater pools, permanent streams, marine subtidal aquatic beds and rocky marine shores. The island is a strong contender for the title of the most important seabird colony in the world a total of 22 bird species and two species of seals breed, some in very large numbers. Several bird species that breed on Gough are considered globally threatened (e.g., Sooty Albatross, Northern Rockhopper Penguin), and some are endemic to the island group (e.g., Gough Moorhen, Gough Bunting, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross). The South African meteorological station is currently run on the island; other human activities include research, commercial fishery for Tristan Rock Lobster in Gough territorial waters, and limited recreational fishing under license. Ramsar site no. 1868. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Gouliot Caves and Headland, Sark

Site number: 2 276 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Sark, Bailiwick of Guernsey  
Area: 4 ha | Coordinates: 49°26'N 02°23'W | Designation dates: 09-04-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the Gouliot Headland on the west coast of Sark, and La Moie de Gouliot, a large sea stack connected to the headland at low water. It includes Gouliot Caves, which cross the Headland three times from north to south with other openings to the west. These caves are notable for the remarkable variety of invertebrate life, especially sponges, hydroids, sea-anemones and sea squirts that can be found on their walls, which are accessible by foot at low spring tide or by diving. This wealth of species is probably a consequence of the caves having several entrances with inter-connecting passageways, leading to strong currents developing through the caves at high water and bringing plenty of food to the mainly filter-feeding organisms on the cave walls. Before the invention of the aqualung this was one of the few places where sub-marine life could be examined *in situ* and so it played an important part in the development of marine zoology.

## Govater Bay and Hur-e-Bahu

Site number: 1 006 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Sistan,Baluchestan  
Area: 75 000 ha | Coordinates: 25°10'N 61°30'E | Designation dates: 01-11-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Govater Bay and Hur-e-Bahu. 01/11/99; Baluchestan; 75,000 ha; 25°10'N 061°30'E. The riverine and estuarine wetlands of the lower Sarbaz River, including permanent freshwater pools and marshes, mangrove swamps and intertidal mudflats, and also the sandy beach of the adjacent Gulf of Oman coast in the extreme southeast of Iran (Persian Baluchestan) to the border with Pakistan. The site supports the westernmost population of South Asian species Marsh crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*, and is also important for wintering waterfowl, notably *Pelecanus crispus*, shorebirds, gulls and terns. The site is also a BirdLife International "Important Bird Area". Ramsar site no. 1006. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Graeme Hall Swamp

Site number: 1 591 | Country: Barbados | Administrative region: Christ Church  
Area: 33,2 ha | Coordinates: 13°04'N 59°35'W | Designation dates: 12-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Graeme Hall Swamp. 12/12/05; 33 ha; 13°04'N 059°35'W. A naturally created coastal wetland area with mangrove forests, a seagrass bed, and a shallow nearshore coral reef, which includes a 12-acre artificially-created lake that constitutes the largest body of inland water on the island. At least 84 bird species have been recorded, including Caribbean coot (*Fulica caribaea*) and Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), and the site's Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*) stands are the largest healthy mangrove areas left on the island. There are more than 20 fresh and brackish water fish species, among the most interesting of which are those marine species that have become isolated from the sea and become breeding residents of the lake. Fishing has been suspended pending study of the effect of the water quality for human consumption of fish and the effects on fish populations of the introduction of aggressive tilapia species. Ecotourism and environmental educational and research activities are the chief human uses of the site, which has been proposed as a National Heritage Site. Ramsar site no. 1591. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Grand Bassam

Site number: 1 583 | Country: Côte d'Ivoire | Administrative region: Sud-Comoé  
Area: 40 210 ha | Coordinates: 05°21'N 03°46'W | Designation dates: 18-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grand Bassam. 18/10/05; Sud-Comoé; 40,210 ha; 05°21'N 003°46'W. A mosaic of ecosystems near the estuary of the Comoé River providing refuge for different, often endangered species: the mangroves are an important habitat for primates such as the chimpanzee, the lesser white-nosed monkey, and the sooty mangabey, as well as a spawning and nursery site for different mollusks, fish and crustaceans. Forests, swamps and coastal savannas act as a refuge for elephants, otters, reptiles, leopards and crocodiles in an otherwise developed area. Many birds, including *Anhinga rufa*, *Tigriornis leucolopha*, *Scotopelia peli* and *Ardea goliath*, use the area as a nesting and breeding ground. Although artisanal fishing is the main activity carried out, tourism is also noteworthy, as Grand Bassam was the country's old colonial capital. The area is thus very significant from a cultural and historical point of view, with the local handicrafts the most creative and renowned in the country. The main threat includes invasive plant species like water hyacinth and *Salvinia molesta*, while outside the site sand extraction, over-exploitation of natural resources, and the discovery of oil pose growing threats. A strategy for sustainable management is being planned by the National Wetlands Committee (CONARAMS), while village commissions are responsible for natural resources management. Ramsar site no. 1583. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Grand Codroy Estuary

Site number: 364 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Newfoundland  
Area: 925 ha | Coordinates: 47°50'N 59°18'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grand Codroy Estuary. 27/05/87; Newfoundland; 925 ha; 47°50'N 059°18'W. Provincial No-Hunting Area. One of the most productive of Newfoundland's few estuarine wetland sites. The site includes of four islands, intertidal sandbars, and mudflats supporting rich growths of *Zostera*, surrounded by cultivated grassland. The *Zostera* beds are an important food source for up to 3,000 fall staging *Branta canadensis*. Other waterbirds occurring in large numbers include ducks. There is a seasonal visitors' center. Ramsar site no. 364. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin de la Guadeloupe

Site number: 642 | Country: France | Administrative region: Guadeloupe  
Area: 29 500 ha | Coordinates: 16°19'N 61°35'W | Designation dates: 08-12-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin de Guadeloupe. 08/12/93; Guadeloupe; 29,500 ha; 16°19'26"N 061°35'28"W. National Park, Biosphere Reserve. A vast lagoon, several islands and associated littoral zones along the Caribbean Sea, bounded to the north by a large coral reef. The littoral zone consists of brackish marshes, wet meadows, mudflats, freshwater swamp forests and, most importantly, mangroves. At 29°C, it is some of the warmest water to be found in the region. The site is an important area for fish, especially as nursery. Out of 600 known species of fish in the Caribbean region, 261 of them have been identified at the site. Numerous species of migratory, non-migratory and nesting birds use the site, many of them globally threatened. Human activities include small-scale fishing in mangrove areas, agriculture and tourism. The site, especially the mangrove area, is valuable in terms of sediment trapping, water purification, and storm protection. Threats to the area include mangrove and coral reef destruction, illegal waste dumping, overfishing and certain types of tourist activities. (The site was extended in 2012 from 20,000 ha.) Ramsar Site no. 642. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Grande Briere

Site number: 713 | Country: France | Administrative region: Loire-Atlantique  
Area: 19 000 ha | Coordinates: 47°22'N 02°10'W | Designation dates: 01-02-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grande Briere. 01/02/95; Pays de la Loire; 19,000 ha; 47°22'N 002°10'W. Including Marais du bassin du Brivet Natural Regional Park, Hunting Reserves. Flat peatland, vast alluvial marshes, reedbeds, floodplains, stretches of open water and canals. This is the second largest French marsh after the Camargue. The site consists of open water supporting aquatic vegetation, reedbeds, inundated forests and floodplains. The marshland complex, exploited for peat extraction and grazing, has been abandoned over time, resulting in a significant colonization by moisture-loving vegetation (reeds, willows, elms) leading to a loss of biodiversity and a reduction in open water areas. An important site for numerous species of wintering and nesting waterbirds, the site is also very important for the Otter. Human activities include extensive livestock rearing and hunting, fishing, reed cutting for thatch, conservation education, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 713. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Grands affluents

Site number: 1 742 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Plateaux, Cuvette, Sangha et Likouala  
Area: 5 908 074 ha | Coordinates: 00°28'N 17°05'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of large expanses along the Congo River, which with its tributaries forms the most important hydrological basin in Central Africa. It features lakes, ponds, marshes, flooded and swampy forests, along permanent and temporary rivers such as the Ubangi, Sangha, Likouala-Mossaka and Alima, all Congo tributaries which give the Site its name. This diverse biotope hosts a wide variety of plants, macroinvertebrates, fish, birds, reptiles and aquatic mammals. It is home to endangered mammals such as forest elephant, gorilla and hippopotamus, and offers refuge to migratory fish and bird species. The migration of hippos along the Likouala-Mossaka and the Sangha maintains the depth of the rivers, and allows fish species belonging to the families Distichodontidae, Cyprinidae, Citharinidae and Clariidae to be present even during the dry season. The Site is prominent in the socio-economic development of the sub-region: the Ubangi and Congo rivers are used to transport goods between Central African Republic and Chad and the Atlantic Ocean. It supplies fish products to Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. The surrounding region is a development zone for forestry and cash crops such as oil palm and cocoa; rainforests in the Congo Basin are being cleared at an alarming rate amid global demand for mineral, energy and wood resources, and new roads have opened up vast tracts of virgin rainforests to legal and illegal loggers, miners and others. In this context, access to some of the Site's water bodies and forests is restricted or regulated.

## Gran Humedal del Norte de Ciego de Ávila

Site number: 1 235 | Country: Cuba | Administrative region: Ciego de Avila  
Area: 226 875 ha | Coordinates: 22°19'N 78°29'W | Designation dates: 18-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gran Humedal del Norte de Ciego de Ávila. 18/11/02. Ciego de Ávila. 226,875 ha. 22°19'N, 078°29'W. Six Protected Areas within site. Occupies the northern part of the Ciego de Ávila province, spanning most of its coast, its immediate maritime zone, and adjacent islets. This wetland includes two unique coastal water reservoirs, Lagunas de la Leche and La Redonda, which feed the area's subterranean basins. The main vegetation types around the lagoons include marsh forests, marsh grasslands, and mangroves. The site is inhabited by large waterbird populations of greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) and double-crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), as well as other more rare species such as darters (*Anhinga anhinga*) and West Indian whistling ducks (*Dendrocygna arborea*). The site's rich marine platform provides abundant fishing resources, while its scenic beauty has made it the country's third largest tourism area. Ramsar site no. 1235. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Grassland Ecological Area (GEA)

Site number: 1 451 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: California  
Area: 65 000 ha | Coordinates: 37°10'N 120°50'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grassland Ecological Area. 02/02/05; California; 65,000 ha; 37°10'N 120°50'W. National Wildlife Refuge, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve. Located in the Central Valley in the San Joaquin River Basin, the site is the largest remaining contiguous block of freshwater wetlands in California. It consists of semipermanent and permanent marshes, riparian corridors, vernal pool complexes, wet meadows, native uplands and grasslands, featuring Alkali Sacaton grassland *Sporobolus airoides* and the endemic Delta button celery, *Eryngium racemosum*. The site is renowned for its wintering waterbirds which reach several hundred thousands every winter. These include Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*), 19 duck species (Northern pintail *Anas acuta*; Green-winged teal *Anas crecca*; Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata*; Canvasbacks *Aythya valisineria* and others), 6 species of geese, tens of thousands of shorebirds (most abundantly Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Long-billed dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*). The site is home to four endangered shrimps as well the threatened Giant garter snake *Thamnophis gigas*. Due to flood-control and irrigation projects the entire hydrology of the valley had been dramatically altered, but water quality and allocation issues have been successfully addressed with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act in 1992. Most of the wetlands are managed by the controlled application of water using a series of canals and control structures, mimicking historical flood patterns with pulses of high water flow during winter and spring. The largest potential threat to the site is urban development. Ramsar site no. 1451. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Great Sandy Strait

Site number: 992 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland  
Area: 93 160 ha | Coordinates: 25°28'S 152°54'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Great Sandy Strait (including Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay, and Tin Can Inlet). 14/06/99; Queensland; 93,160 ha; 25°28'S 152°54'E. Adjoins the Fraser Island World Heritage site. A sand passage estuary between the mainland and sandy Fraser Island. The largest area of tidal swamps within the Southeast Queensland bioregion of Australia, consisting of intertidal sand and mud flats, extended seagrass beds, mangrove forests, saltflats, and saltmarshes, and often contiguous with freshwater Melaleuca wetlands and coastal wallum swamps. An exceptionally important feeding ground for migratory shorebirds and important for a wide range of other waterbirds and seabirds, marine fish, crustaceans, oysters, dugong, sea turtles, and dolphins. Evidence of Aboriginal presence dates back 5500 years, and indigenous fishing is still a major activity. Ramsar site no. 992. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Greenlaw Moor

Site number: 795 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 248 ha | Coordinates: 55°44'N 02°27'W | Designation dates: 15-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Greenlaw Moor. 15/03/96; Scotland; 248 ha; 55°44'N 002°27'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. The site consists of an important heather moorland and includes raised mire and two pools. The area of raised moss is well developed and supports a typical flora, including regionally uncommon mosses. Internationally important numbers of Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* winter at the site. Human activities include livestock grazing, cutting of vegetation, recreation, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 795. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Grevelingen

Site number: 1 272 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland and Zeeland  
Area: 13 753 ha | Coordinates: 51°45'N 04°00'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grevelingen. 29/08/00. Zuid-Holland, Zeeland. 13,753 ha; 51°45'N 004°00'E; Natura 2000 (SPA). The Site is an 18km-long intertidal area which was part of the former estuary of the Rhine and Meuse rivers until it was cut off from the North Sea in 1971. It is now a stagnant saline lake, mostly bordered by dykes, with some islets, sand dunes and wet meadows. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, and recreational areas, roads and agricultural land covering 78 ha have been excluded. The Site is particularly important for waterbirds: it supports large congregations with annual peaks averaging over 67,000 birds, while more than 1% of the biogeographical populations of 13 species of breeding and wintering birds are present. The main human uses are commercial fishing, water management, boating, tourism and leisure activities. The site is potentially threatened by encroaching industrialization and urbanization (with wind turbines creating specific threats), non-industrial pollution discharge and expanding recreational activities. Ramsar site no. 1272. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Groote Peel

Site number: 192 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Brabant and Limburg  
Area: 1 348 ha | Coordinates: 51°21'N 05°49'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Groote Peel. 23/05/80. Noord-Brabant; 1,348 ha; 051°20'N 005°49'E. Added to the Montreux Record 4 July 1990, removed from the Record 16 June 1993. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), National Park. The boundary of the Ramsar Site has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 22 ha. The Site supports rich vegetation in a landscape characterized by marshland raised bog, pools, channels, heathland and pine plantations with artificially maintained water levels. It is an important breeding area for waterbirds, and particularly known as the most important resting place in the Netherlands of migrating common cranes. Groote Peel plays an important role in groundwater replenishment and carbon sequestration. As well as water management, the land is used for farming, forestry and tourism. The management measures implemented during the last ten years have restored the water levels, resulting in a substantial regeneration of peat moss species. There is a visitors' centre, and boardwalks have been constructed to make the Site more accessible. Ramsar Site no. 192. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Grotte des Emotions

Site number: 1 406 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Wallonie  
Area: 3 ha | Coordinates: 50°24'N 05°34'E | Designation dates: 24-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grotte des Émotions. 24/03/03; Région Wallone; 3 ha; 50°24'N 005°34'E. Cave of Scientific Interest. Discovered in 1995, the site is an unspoilt karst subterranean cave system, some 250m by 100m in overall extent but comprising a very complex network of chambers and passages more than 2000m long and with three main levels (45m high). It presents a great variety of karst phenomena and features that are of important scientific interest. Little is known of any flora or fauna that may be present. Access to the site is strictly regulated and only research and management activities are permitted. A special committee for the management of the cave has been established. Ramsar site no. 1406. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Grotte karstique de Ghar Boumâaza

Site number: 1 297 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Tlemcen  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 34°41'N 01°22'W | Designation dates: 06-04-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a representative example of a continental wetland including a karstic subterranean hydrological system, a wetland type which is rare and under-represented in the Ramsar List. The Ghar Boumâaza caverns, the largest known underground cave network in Algeria and Africa, follow the river Tafna under the Tlemcen Mountains; some 15.5 km have been explored so far. The caverns boast spectacular corridors, high chambers, basins, stalactites and stalagmites. The Site hosts the endangered Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus* and the peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*. The permanent presence of water has favoured the establishment of small villages and enabled irrigation and grazing despite the semi-arid climate. However, overgrazing and the uncontrolled uprooting of esparto grass *Stipa tenacissima* for plaiting into handicraft items have denuded the soil.

## Gruinart Flats, Islay

Site number: 401 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland, Inner Hebridean island of Islay  
Area: 3 261 ha | Coordinates: 55°51'N 06°20'W | Designation dates: 14-07-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gruinart Flats, Islay. 14/07/88; Scotland; 3,261 ha; 55°51'N 06°20'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. A sea loch with extensive intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarsh, blanket mire, and a well-developed dune complex. The area supports internationally important numbers of wintering and passage geese (*Branta leucopsis*) of the Greenland breeding population, and over 95% of the Greenland breeding population stages at the site in autumn. Various other breeding birds, including the globally threatened *Crex crex*, use the area. Ramsar site no. 401. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Grunnafjörður

Site number: 854 | Country: Iceland | Administrative region:  
Area: 1 470 ha | Coordinates: 64°23'N 21°56'W | Designation dates: 24-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Grunnafjörður. 24/06/96; 1,470 ha; 64°23'N 21°55'W. Nature Reserve. River mouth, estuary and seabay consisting of mudflats rich in invertebrates, supporting musselbanks and saltmarsh vegetation. The site is an important staging, wintering and breeding area for large numbers of various species of waterbirds. Human activities include recreation and collection of eider down, and farming and salmon fishing in the surrounding area. Ramsar site no. 854. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Grunnfjorden

Site number: 2 147 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Øksnes municipality in Nordland County  
Area: 1 472 ha | Coordinates: 68°56'N 15°12'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of large mires dominated by *Sphagnum* mosses with small rivers, pools and lakes, shallow beach areas with islets, skerries, large intertidal flats and a brackish lagoon system. Along the shoreline are different vegetation communities, from grass-rich slopes to mudflats. Some of the small ponds have belts of water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*. In the extensive shallow waters are large meadows of *Zostera* eelgrass. Because of its high food production combined with its location on key waterbird migration routes, the Site is an internationally important area for many species during their spring and autumn migrations, and nationally threatened species such as the Atlantic puffin *Fratecula arctica*, the greater scaup *Aythya marila* and the ruff *Philomachus pugnax* breed there. The area is particularly known as one of the northernmost overwintering locations for whooper swans. The Site is also important for shoreline stabilization. Archeological and historical features are to be found. The main human activities are agriculture, cattle grazing, fishing, hunting, tourism, and gathering of cloudberries. Most of the Site's habitats have been cultivated or damaged by drainage carried out elsewhere in the area.

## Guangdong Haifeng Wetlands

Site number: 1 727 | Country: China | Administrative region: It is in Shanwei City.  
Area: 11 590,5 ha | Coordinates: 22°56'N 115°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Guangdong Haifeng Wetlands are located along the coast of the South China Sea near Shanwei City. The Site's constituent wetlands are typical of the sub-tropical marine coastal and reservoir wetlands of southern China. They are mainly composed of tidal flats, reservoirs, ponds, estuaries, deltas, aquaculture ponds, intertidal mangroves, shallow sea waters, sand beaches, gravel/scree beaches and permanent river ponds. The Site is an important habitat for waterbirds in southern China and is considered as the "hometown of Chinese waterfowl". The Site serves as wintering ground for numerous species including the globally endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), and the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Aquila danga*) and Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Besides moderating water levels and reducing floods, the wetlands also play an important role in maintaining water quality and regulating and stabilizing the region's climate. The abundant resources of the Site serve as major economic supports to the local community: they provide water for drinking, irrigation, industrial use, hydropower generation and aquaculture, while the beautiful landscapes and unique wildlife resources encourage eco-tourism.

## Guangdong Nanpeng Archipelago Wetlands

Site number: 2 249 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shantou City of Guangdong Province  
Area: 35 679 ha | Coordinates: 23°17'N 117°15'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the northern section of the South China Sea, Guangdong Nanpeng Archipelago Wetlands cover a chain of four islands that support diverse habitats and ecosystems such as upwellings, rocky marine shores, coral reefs and algae layers. The Site is located at the interface of shallow coastal and deeper sea waters, and at the confluence of two upwelling zones. The average water depth is from 1.0 to 1.5 metres, but deeper water at the Site's periphery contributes to its ecological character. The Site hosts a wide range of rare and endangered marine species such as the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) and great seahorse (*Hippocampus kelloggi*), and birds such as the Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*), Christmas frigatebird (*Fregata andrews*) and short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*). The islands are an important spawning ground for five threatened turtle species, and play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity not only in the biogeographic region but also in East Asia as a whole. The Site is extensively used for ecological and environmental research.

## Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 728 | Country: China | Administrative region: Fangchenggang City  
Area: 3 000 ha | Coordinates: 21°34'N 108°08'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve. 02/02/08; Guangxi; 3,000 ha; 21°34'N 108°08'E. Nature Reserve. Mangrove forest as well as intertidal mudflats located on the Belium River, the boundary river between China and Viet Nam, which also lies on the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. Semi closed bays, open estuary coasts, sandy beaches with mangrove vegetation provide habitat for 187 bird species including IUCN Red-List vulnerable and endangered species like Heilianpilu (*Platalea minor*), Huangzuibailu (*Egretta eulophotes*), Qingtouqianya (*Aythya baeri*), and Heizuiou (*Larus saundersi*), and 240 species of large zoo benthos and more than 1,400 species of higher plants. The site plays a substantial role in shoreline protection, alleviating floods caused by typhoons and resisting the tide's impacts. A visitor centre has been built for education and training purposes, especially for the school students. Ramsar site no. 1728. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Guaporé Biological Reserve

Site number: 2 297 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: State of Rondônia  
Area: 600 000 ha | Coordinates: 12°31'S 62°47'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Guaporé Biological Reserve is one of the largest and most remarkable protected areas in Brazil. It comprises representative samples of forests seasonally flooded by clearwater rivers and flooded grasslands, both wetland types which are very representative of the Brazilian Amazon. The Site is of great importance for the conservation of biological diversity in the area: it hosts a rich and diverse flora and fauna, including endangered species such as the black spider monkey (*Ateles chamek*) and the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*). Among the threats to the Site are invasive non-native species, fires and harvesting of aquatic resources.

## Guaraqueçaba Ecological Station

Site number: 2 305 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Paraná state  
Area: 4 370 ha | Coordinates: 25°17'S 48°22'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Guaraqueçaba Ecological Station is located in the coastal area of Paraná State. It is part of the Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves, a World Heritage Site since 1999. The Site contains the most important habitats for *in-situ* biodiversity conservation in the region, and has a large diversity of endemic and migratory species such as the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the vulnerable Franciscana dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*). The Site is also a representative example of significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, such as forests and mangroves. These areas are important for different species including fish and invertebrates such as oysters and crabs. Invasive species and biological resource use represent threats to the Site.

## Guaratuba

Site number: 2 317 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Paraná state  
Area: 38 329,3 ha | Coordinates: 25°51'S 48°42'W | Designation dates: 21-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located on the southernmost coast of the state of Paraná, is considered the most important area for the Paraná antwren (*Stymphalornis acutirostris*), of which it hosts about 42% of the global population. It features well preserved mangroves, periodically flooded forests, marshes and over 3,000 hectares of the last remains of caixeta (*Tabebuia cassinooides*) forests. Although it can be considered a well-preserved habitat compared to other bays in Brazil, threats such as overfishing, pollution, unregulated tourism and occupation of areas of mangrove are present.

## Guðlaugstungur Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 130 | Country: Iceland | Administrative region: Húnavatnshreppur  
Area: 40 160 ha | Coordinates: 64°57'N 19°16'W | Designation dates: 18-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Guðlaugstungur Nature Reserve (Friðland í Guðlaugstungum). 18/02/2013; Austur-Húnavatnssýsla County; 40,160 ha; 64°57'00"N 019°16'00"W. Nature Reserve. One of the most extensive wetland areas in the central highlands of Iceland, comprising an extensive mosaic of sedge fens, palsa mires and drier heathland. The site is crossed by small streams and glacial rivers, and small ponds are abundant. The wetland area is surrounded by species-rich dwarf willow scrub heath land with high cover of mosses and lichens, which provide diverse habitats for plants, animals and birds. Guðlaugstungur-wetland harbours the largest breeding colony of the Pink-Footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus in the world, estimated at 13,600 pairs in 2002 or over 25% of the national and 18-21% of the world population of this species. There are no major humanmade structures within the reserve area, with the exception of a gravel road and a mountain cabin in the northwestern part. Farmers currently hold traditional grazing and fishing rights. The area is uninhabited but receives seasonal tourists during the summer. Soil erosion and overgrazing are the main factors threatening the ecological character of the site. Ramsar Site no. 2130. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Gueltas et Oasis de l'Aïr

Site number: 1 501 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Agadez  
Area: 4 924 100 ha | Coordinates: 19°11'N 09°04'E | Designation dates: 16-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of permanent and temporary streams, oases and marshes at the centre of Niger's part of the Sahara Desert, which hosts a number of endangered species such as the vulnerable cheetah, Barbary sheep and Dorcas gazelle, as well as the critically endangered addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*). 290 species of flowering plants and 150 bird species have been counted at the Site, including permanent residents and Palearctic migrants. They include grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), dark chanting goshawk (*Melierax metabates*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), spotted eagle-owl (*Bubo africanus*) and white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). The wetlands play an important role in flood control, while the vegetation acts as a sediment trap. The Site is archaeologically and culturally valuable due to the remains of old cities such as the abandoned Tuareg town of Assodé, Neolithic engravings showing animals such as giraffes, elephants which have become locally extinct, and objects such as arrows, pottery and shells which are a reminder of the camel caravans that used to pass through. Desertification, combined with anthropogenic pressures, is changing the area's ecology and consequently its ability to support both animal and human populations.

## Gueltales Afilal

Site number: 1 298 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: wilaya de Tamanrasset  
Area: 20 900 ha | Coordinates: 23°09'N 05°46'E | Designation dates: 06-04-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gueltales Afilal. 04/06/03; Tamanrasset; 20,900 ha; 23°09'N 005°46'E. Ahaggar National Park. The gueltales, unique to this region, comprise small terraces, pots and small cascades in which water runs permanently in this completely desert environment. The site contains rich vegetation more or less similar to that of the Gueltales d'Issakarassene Ramsar site, and the diverse fauna includes fish species such as the desert barbel. The Gueltales Afilal constitute the most significant stream of the Ahaggar and the Atakor massif (3,000m), and, with Issakarassene, are among the best-known gueltales due to their welcoming location as a stop-over along the tourist track to Mt Assekrem. The nomadic Touaregs of Tamanrasset use the gueltales to store water for domestic needs and as a watering site for their herds, and the area is a popular place visited by some 20,000 local and foreign tourists per year, without so far having suffered too much pressure from their presence. Ramsar site no. 1298. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Gulf of Mottama

Site number: 2 299 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Mon State  
Area: 42 500 ha | Coordinates: 17°09'N 97°00'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Gulf of Mottama is situated at the mouth of the Sittaung along the eastern shores of the larger and undisturbed Gulf of Mottama within Mon State. The Site covers an area of 42,500 hectares. The Gulf has a tidal range of between six and seven metres; the mouth, which is around 100 kilometres wide, narrows into a funnel-shaped bay to produce a powerful bore phenomenon that can reach heights of over a metre on spring tides in the upper estuary. As a result the tidal mudflats of the Gulf are among the largest in the world. The Site supports a large number of species including marine fish, invertebrates and up to 90,000 migratory waterbirds in the non-breeding season. Among these waterbirds is the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), of which the Site perhaps hosts more than half of the remaining global population. The Gulf of Mottama also supports the livelihoods of thousands of people by providing fish for local and regional consumption. The designation of the Site as a Wetland of International Importance was made possible through consultations between government and local communities.

## Gullhög-Tönningfloarna

Site number: 2 169 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jämtland  
Area: 1 881 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'N 14°08'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gullhög-Tönningfloarna is a large intact hydrological mire complex characterized by fens, bogs, lakes, peatlands, ponds and wet forests. The mires are ecologically complex and remarkably well-developed. The string-flark fens and slightly raised bogs have very well-differentiated strings and hollow structures. The Site supports populations of mire plant and animal species which are important for the maintenance of the biological diversity of the European Boreal region, where rich fens are fairly rare. These fens are important for the species inhabiting such habitat, and offer good conditions for an interesting and rich birdlife. The mire offers valuable feeding places for waders and excellent habitats for nesting species such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and the vulnerable velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca*. Nationally red-listed wetland-dependent vegetal communities such as *Carex heleonastes* and *Hamatocaulis vernicosus* have also been recorded. The Site is an important water reservoir and plays a vital role in groundwater recharge and carbon sequestration. The main human activities within the area are moose hunting, forestry, fishing, berry-picking and birdwatching. Forestry and peat mining pose potential threats to its ecological character.

## Gunbower Forest

Site number: 263 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 19 931 ha | Coordinates: 35°49'S 144°19'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gunbower Forest. 15/12/82; Victoria; 19,931 ha; 35°49'S 144°19'E. State Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary. The second largest periodically-inundated red gum forest in Victoria. Plant distribution is a result of elevation differences that determine frequency and duration of flooding. During flood periods, the forest becomes a major breeding area for waterbirds, including the egrets, *Egretta alba*, *E. intermedia* (the only known breeding site in Victoria), *E. garzetta* and *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Various species of reptiles and plants are scarce, rare or endangered and are therefore of conservation importance. Human activities include recreational fishing, camping, hunting, silviculture and grazing. An area of 230ha has been set aside for conservation education purposes. Ramsar site no. 263. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Güssing Fishponds

Site number: 2 137 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Burgenland  
Area: 148 ha | Coordinates: 47°03'N 16°19'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Güssing fishponds (Güssinger Fischteiche). 05/06/2013; Burgenland; 148 ha; 47°03'N 16°19'E. Situated in the flat valley of the Zickenbach creek, on the edge of the picturesque town of Güssing, the site is formed by one large and three small ponds separated by dams, used for non-intensive aquaculture of carp, pike, pike-perch and catfish. The ponds are surrounded by a dense belt mainly consisting of reed and bulrush which comprises an important breeding, feeding and resting site for migratory and resident waterbirds. Moreover, the site regularly supports European Otter *Lutra lutra*, dragonflies, and amphibians. A small island covered by willows and shrubs in one of the smaller ponds is used as a roosting place by herons. The surroundings show a varied landscape consisting of wet meadows with single trees, remnant copses of alluvial forest and willow bushes, small channels, and agricultural fields. The whole site plays an important role in flood retention. Potential threats to the ecological character of the wetland are drainage and afforestation of wet meadows, land abandonment, and vegetation succession. The scenery is dominated by the Güssing castle which is built on top of a prehistoric volcano right in the centre of the town. The main activities within the site are fish farming, agriculture, forestry recreation (hiking, cycling, jogging, birdwatching), and hunting. Ramsar Site No. 2137. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Gustavsmurarna-Tröskens rikkärr

Site number: 2 170 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Gävleborg  
Area: 660,2 ha | Coordinates: 60°36'N 17°20'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes four nature reserves: Gustavsmurarna, Brännan, Långhällskogen and Tröskens rikkärr. It contains wetland types which are representative of the European boreal region, including forested and non-forested peatlands, permanent freshwater lakes and springs. The Site supports many nationally red-listed species including populations of bog orchid *Microstylis monophylla* and fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*. Some rare beetles such as *Chlaenius sulcicollis* and *Chlaenius quadrisulcatus* can also be found. The Site is an important breeding area for bird species such as the crane *Grus grus*, the spotted crane *Porzana porzana*, the bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and the capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. Among the ecosystem services provided by the wetland are sediment trapping, water purification and carbon storage. The Site is mainly used for nature conservation, including research and monitoring, but hunting and outdoor activities are also permitted. Former land uses including intensive forestry, grazing and haymaking reduced the bush and tree vegetation, but since the declaration of the nature reserves and the implementation of the new regulations the reeds in the open fens have started to grow back.

## Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir Watercourses

Site number: 993 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 823 ha | Coordinates: 29°18'S 149°14'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses. 14/06/99; New South Wales; 823 ha; 29°18'S 149°14'E. Private landholdings. The Gwydir wetland is one of the largest inland wetlands in New South Wales and home to half a million nesting and breeding waterbirds. The designated area is entirely privately-owned and forms part of a much larger wetland system in the Murray-Darling drainage system. Large parts of the surrounding land are used for cotton growing and cattle grazing, with the latter continuing, and carefully regulated, as part of the wise use of the site. A Memorandum of Understanding on the designation and future management of the site was signed on World Wetlands Day 1999 by the four landowning families and officials of the State and Commonwealth governments, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the National Parks Association. Ramsar site no. 993. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Haapsalu-Noarootsi

Site number: 2 022 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Lääne County  
Area: 27 450 ha | Coordinates: 59°08'N 23°27'E | Designation dates: 08-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Haapsalu-Noarootsi. 08/02/11; Lääne County; 27,450 ha; 59°08'04"N 23°27'29"E. Limited-Conservation Area, Nature Reserve, Landscape Reserve, SPA, SCI, IBA. A wetland complex situated on the northwestern coast comprising vast shallow Baltic Sea areas, inlets and bays, coastal lagoons, coastal meadows, and reedbeds as well as mud- and sandflats. The site is important as a wintering, staging, moulting and breeding site for 225 different bird species, including Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* and globally threatened Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*. At least 20% of the water birds migrating over the Baltic Sea (up to 2 million individuals) pass through this site. It is also one of the biggest spring spawning grounds in western Estonia for freshwater fish such as Pike *Esox lucius*. Several rare and nationally protected plant species can be found as well as species protected on the European level like Fen Orchid *Liparis loeselii*. Threats to the site include the overgrowing of coastal grasslands due to abandonment, impacts of waste water from Haapsalu town, and an increase in invasive alien species. Two conservation projects have recently been carried out in the site to restore valuable habitats and enhance ecotourism facilities. A Nature Information Centre has been set up in Haapsalu and the site can be visited for hiking, bird watching, camping, and boat trips. Ramsar Site no. 2022. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Had Chao Mai Marine National Park - Ta Libong Island Non-Hunting Area - Trang River Estuaries

Site number: 1 182 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Trang Province  
Area: 66 313 ha | Coordinates: 07°22'N 99°24'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Had Chao Mai Marine National Park - Ta Libong Island Non-Hunting Area - Trang River Estuaries. 14/08/02; Trang Province; 66,313 ha; 07°22'N 099°24'E. Includes National Park. Three connected wetland ecosystems with riverine, estuarine, and coastal wetlands, including mangroves and nypa, sand beach and rocky marine shores, mud flats, coral reefs and seagrass beds. The site supports at least 212 bird species, some of them vulnerable or endangered, as well as 75 species of fish, most of them of economic importance, and dugongs. The healthiest and most richly diverse seagrass ecosystem in Thailand, the Marine Park is home to eight species of seagrass. Inshore and offshore fisheries are locally important, and both small- and large-scale tourism is encouraged by white sandy beaches, coral reefs, and other attractive features. Potential threats are considered to come from agricultural encroachment, illegal timber logging, destructive fishing practices, and discharge of waste water upstream in the Trang River. Ramsar site no. 1182. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Haff Réimech

Site number: 941 | Country: Luxembourg | Administrative region: communes Grevenmacher et Wellenstein  
Area: 313 ha | Coordinates: 49°30'N 06°22'E | Designation dates: 15-04-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Haff Réimech. 15/04/98; 313 ha; 49°30'N 006°22'E. The site is an old gravel excavation area on the left bank of the Moselle River. It consists of several small to large ponds and lakes which provide habitats for several Luxembourg Red List species. It plays an important role as resting, feeding and breeding area for migratory birds and supports mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and several species of fish. The site is used for recreation and fishing. Ramsar site no. 941. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Haleji Lake

Site number: 101 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 1 704 ha | Coordinates: 24°47'N 67°46'E | Designation dates: 23-07-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Haleji Lake. 23/07/76; Sindh; 1,704 ha; 24°47'N 067°46'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. An artificial freshwater lake with fluctuating water levels, fringed by brackish seepage lagoons and supporting abundant aquatic vegetation. One of the most important breeding, staging and wintering areas for waterbirds in southern Pakistan, supporting between 50,000 and 100,000 birds annually, including Dalmatian Pelican, European Wigeon and Black Coot. Thousands of Black-crowned Night Heron roost in the area. Ramsar site no. 101.

## Hamburgisches Wattenmeer

Site number: 501 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Hamburg  
Area: 11 700 ha | Coordinates: 53°53'N 08°17'E | Designation dates: 01-08-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hamburgisches Wattenmeer. 01/08/90; Hamburg; 11,700 ha; 53°53'N 008°17'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. An area of the Wadden Sea consisting of sand, mudflats, islands and saltmarshes, situated near the mouth of the Elbe River. The nutrient-rich waters support high biomass production and are important for spawning fish. The site is of international importance for staging and wintering numerous species of waterbirds, and one of the most important breeding areas for several species of terns. Mammals include breeding populations of *Halichoerus grypus* and *Phoca vitulina*. Ramsar site no. 501. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Hamford Water

Site number: 607 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 187 ha | Coordinates: 51°53'N 01°14'E | Designation dates: 08-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hamford Water. 08/06/93; England; 2,187 ha; 51°53'N 001°14'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI. An estuarine basin with an extensive network of tidal creeks, scattered islands, substantial intertidal sandflats, mudflats supporting *Zostera* spp. beds, and associated saltmarsh. Several rare or notable plants and a well-developed flora characteristic of the lime-rich sand are supported on the dune-topped shingle spits. The site is important for nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering and nesting waterbirds, and serves as a winter refuge for migratory waterbirds displaced by severe weather. Ramsar site no. 607. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Hammar Marsh

Site number: 2 242 | Country: Iraq | Administrative region: Al-Nasyriah Province  
Area: 180 000 ha | Coordinates: 30°48'N 47°01'E | Designation dates: 07-04-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hammar Marsh is one of the three marshes (along with Central Marshes, Ramsar Site no. 2241, and Hawizeh Marsh, Site no. 1718) that make up the once extensive and biodiverse Mesopotamian marshlands in southern Iraq. All three have now been designated as Ramsar Sites and so are under international conservation management.

Historically, Hammar Marsh extended up to 4,500 square kilometres during periods of seasonal floods. However, draining in the early 1990s and the building of several roads, canals and embankments dried and altered the natural environment. In the 2000s, re-flooding and restoration projects brought back water and some of the biodiversity.

The Site provides regionally important regulating services such as flood control, water storage and purification, and climate regulation. It supports globally threatened species such as the endangered Basra reed warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) and the marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). It also hosts the globally vulnerable *Mesopotamichthys sharpeyi* and the Euphrates softshell turtle (*Rafetus euphraticus*). The dominant fish is Redbelly tilapia (*Tilapia zillii*), an invasive non-native species.

The area is of historical and cultural value with the local Marsh Arab community relying on the marsh environment and resources for the construction of their unique floating buildings, as well as their traditional way of living. The main economic activities are agriculture, hunting and fishing. In recent decades, oil exploration has begun around the marshlands.

## Hamun-e-Puzak, south end

Site number: 44 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Seistan & Baluchistan  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 31°20'N 61°45'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hamun-e-Puzak, south end. 23/06/75; Sistan & Baluchestan; 10,000 ha; 31°20'N 061°45'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. The Iranian portion of the vast Hamun-e-Puzak wetland, the majority of which lies in Afghanistan, consists of a complex of shallow freshwater lakes with rich submergent vegetation and extensive reedbeds. An important area for wintering waterbirds. Substantial declines in bird numbers may have occurred due to widespread drought and vegetation degradation in the Sistan Basin. Human activities include livestock grazing and agricultural irrigation. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because of the possibility that water inflow could be reduced by the construction of a dam on the Helmand River in Afghanistan. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1992. Ramsar site no. 44. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Hamun-e-Saberi & Hamun-e-Helmand

Site number: 42 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Seistan & Baluchistan  
Area: 50 000 ha | Coordinates: 31°14'N 61°15'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hamun-e-Saberi & Hamun-e-Helmand. 23/06/75; Sistan & Baluchestan; 50,000 ha; 31°20'N 061°20'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Protected Area. Bordering Afghanistan and forming a single wetland complex with Hamun-e-Puzak, it is located in a closed drainage basin and consists of two shallow, predominantly freshwater lakes and associated wetlands. The area is important for wintering waterbirds. Bird populations may have declined due to drought and river control structures (dams). There is increasing pressure from urbanization and agricultural irrigation. Listed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because wetland water levels were critically affected by drought problems due to dam construction and water diversion schemes on the Helmand River in Afghanistan. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1992. Ramsar site no. 42. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Hanbando Wetland Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 226 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Gangwon-do (province)  
Area: 191,5 ha | Coordinates: 37°13'N 128°20'E | Designation dates: 13-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Hanbando Wetland is representative of natural riverine wetlands in the Republic of Korea. The Site, lying in a sand-gravel bar formed in an incised meander, consists of various types of riffles and pools that maintain a rich biodiversity and provide habitats for numerous species including a number of endemic and nationally threatened species. The Site mostly lies on limestone through which groundwater aquifers are formed and recharged. The water that flows through Hanbando Wetland is collected at a nearby water harvesting plant that supplies the majority of drinking water for locals. The wetland has also long supported local agricultural industry. The name 'Hanbando' signifies that the wetland resembles the shape of the Korean Peninsula, which increases the Site's symbolic value.

## Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands

Site number: 1 867 | Country: China | Administrative region: Western Lake District  
Area: 325 ha | Coordinates: 30°16'N 120°04'E | Designation dates: 07-07-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands. 07/07/09; Zhejiang; 325 ha; 30°16'N 120°03'E. National Wetlands Park. A complex of ca.400 permanent freshwater ponds connected by channels and rivers representative of both natural and humanmade wetlands in Eastern China. The ponds are dominated by floating plant communities (*Azolla imbricate*, *Salvinia natans* and *Lemma minor*), while herbaceous marshes connect the river and pond wetland areas. 126 species of bird have been recorded at the site, including 28 waterbirds. The site is important for nine threatened species of birds and provides breeding and feeding habitat for a large diversity of fish species, including 5 endemic species. Water within the wetland can be managed through a number of channels and sluices, for both flood control and fish habitat. The wetlands have an important function for groundwater recharge and flood mitigation for downstream Hangzhou City, and they are valued for their importance for 2000 years of cultural history. A special wetland culture has developed over the past 1000 years which combines fish ponds, silk production and mulberry trees; with its sacred Autumn-Snow Temple, the site has long been an inspiration to famous writers and poets. The site receives an average 720,000 visitors per year and is an important centre for wetland education. It is managed in accordance with ecotourism and ecological management plans. Ramsar site no. 1867. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Han River-Bamseom Islets

Site number: 2 050 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Yeoido-dong and Dangin-dong districts  
Area: 27,3 ha | Coordinates: 37°33'N 126°56'E | Designation dates: 21-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Han River-Bamseom Islets. 21/06/12; Seoul; 27 ha; 37°32'21"N 126°55'41"E. A pair of sandy islets of similar size located in the Han River in central Seoul, the only remaining naturally occurring riverine islands in the Han River ecosystem that have not been altered by human settlement. The waters around the islets provide a spawning and nursery ground for a number of Korean indigenous fish species, including the Korean striped bitterling (*Acheilognathus yamatsutae*), the Korean spined bitterling (*Acanthorhodeus gracilis*), and the Korean oily shiner (*Sarcocheilichthys nigripinnus morii*). The site is a centrally located urban wetland that provides a wintering habitat for many common waterfowls, whilst in the summer it provides a breeding ground for a number of species such as Spot-billed Ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) and the Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Invasive species such as Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), hops (*Humulus scandens*), ragweeds (*Ambrosia trifida* fo. *Integrifolia* (Muhl.) Fernald), and one-seeded bur-cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*) are seen as potential threats. The islets are protected as an 'Ecosystem and Landscape Region for Conservation' under city legislation. Ramsar Site no. 2050. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Haramous-Loyada

Site number: 1 239 | Country: Djibouti | Administrative region:  
Area: 3 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°35'N 43°09'E | Designation dates: 22-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Haramous-Loyada. 22/11/02; Djibouti; 3,000 ha; 11°35'N 043°09'E. A coastal site comprising intertidal sand and mud flats, islands, sandy shores, coral reefs, and shallow marine waters extending from just south of the capital, Djibouti city, to the Somali frontier. No fewer than seven wadis issue into the sea, favoring the creation of mini-deltas suitable for mangroves. The site meets both of the waterbird Criteria, and a number of species, both wintering and staging, can be seen; the Ile de Haramous and its satellite islets provide places for nesting, rest, and refuge for more than 70 waterbird species. The marine waters also provide habitat for Dugong dugon, and the turtles *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta* frequent Haramous. The surrounding area provides agricultural and pastoral livelihoods to a considerable human presence, and the marine parts provide fish and crustaceans to local communities. Port extensions from the nearby city, as well as over-grazing, over-collection of wood for heating, and sand extraction are viewed as potential threats, as is the progress of two alien invasive species, the common crow *Corvus splendens* and the "chilean mesquite" tree *Prosopis chilensis*. Proposals to create an ornithological reserve are in the works. Ramsar site no. 1239. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Harike Lake

Site number: 462 | Country: India | Administrative region: Punjab  
Area: 4 100 ha | Coordinates: 31°13'N 75°12'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Harike Lake. 23/03/90; Punjab; 4,100 ha; 31°13'N 075°12'E. Bird Sanctuary. A shallow water reservoir with thirteen islands, at the confluence of two rivers. Dense floating vegetation covers 70% of the lake. An important site for breeding, wintering and staging birds, supporting over 200,000 Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) during migration. The entire lake is leased on an annual basis to commercial fishery organizations. Ramsar site no. 462. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Haringvliet

Site number: 1 244 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland  
Area: 10 880 ha | Coordinates: 51°46'N 04°14'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Haringvliet. 29/08/00; Zuid-Holland; 10,880 ha; 051°46'N 004°15'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 152 ha. Formerly (together with Hollands Diep and De Biesbosch) one of the estuaries of the Rhine/Maas system, it was separated from the sea in 1970 and is now a 27-kilometre stagnant freshwater lake bordered by reedbeds, seasonally flooded agricultural land, sandbanks and mudflats. The water level is artificially regulated and varies according to the supply from the Rhine. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and nationally endangered and vulnerable species such as avocet, Eurasian spoonbill, Kentish plover and Sandwich tern. It also plays an important role as spawning, nursery and feeding ground for many fish, and supports nationally endangered molluscs such as the dun sentinel and German hairy snail. The main human activities within the site are commercial fishing, farming and agriculture, shipping, reed cutting, water management and hydro-electric power generation, recreation and tourism, research and conservation. There is a visitors' centre at Tiengemeten Island. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are industrialization, urbanization, bottom sediment pollution, wind turbines and eutrophication. Ramsar Site no. 1244. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Harøya Wetlands System

Site number: 806 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Møre and Romsdal  
Area: 190 ha | Coordinates: 62°47'N 06°28'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a wetland system consisting of four subsites: Selvikvågen, Lomstjønnå, Malesanden og Huse and Lyngholman. Habitat types include shallow bays, extensive tidal, mud and sandflats with seaweed zones, sand dune systems, mires, and freshwater and salt marshes. Large quantities of seaweed accumulate, creating rich feeding areas for large numbers of breeding, migrating and wintering bird species. The Site also offers habitat to the threatened otter *Lutra lutra*, harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*, and several nationally threatened plant species. The rocky shores are important for shoreline stabilization. Threats to the Site include changes in agricultural practices and related overgrowth of bird habitats. Human activities include nature conservation, fishing, livestock grazing, birdwatching and other recreational activities. There is a birdwatching tower and information booklets are available.

## Har Us Nuur National Park

Site number: 976 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Hovd Province  
Area: 321 360 ha | Coordinates: 47°58'N 92°50'E | Designation dates: 13-04-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Har Us Nuur National Park. 13/04/99; Hovd Province; 321,360 ha; 47°58'N 092°50'E. National Park. Three large but shallow lakes - Har Us Nuur, Har Nuur and Dorgon Nuur. Vast reedbeds and extensive aquatic plant communities provide a suitable habitat for a large number of breeding and migratory waterbirds, including the globally threatened Swan Goose, Ferruginous Duck, White-headed Duck and Relict Gull. Three species of fish endemic to Western Mongolia occur in these lakes. The lakes are of fundamental importance for the groundwater recharge of the area, and are of social and cultural significance because of the presence of a number of sacred places and archeological sites. Current land use around the lakes is semi-nomadic animal husbandry. Ramsar site no. 976. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes

Site number: 264 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 955 ha | Coordinates: 34°41'S 142°26'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes. 15/12/82; Victoria; 955 ha; 34°41'S 142°26'E. Biosphere Reserve; National Park. A lake system, set in an extensive wetland with a complex flood hydrology operating on a two to seven year cycle. When flooded, the lakes become important breeding areas for herons, egrets, cormorants and spoonbills. The area supports several bird, mammal, reptile, fish and plant species that are endangered, rare or vulnerable in the State of Victoria. Murray River water is used for irrigation purposes. Ramsar site no. 264. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Hatta Mountain Reserve

Site number: 2 368 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Area: 2 100 ha | Coordinates: 24°46'N 56°07'E | Designation dates: 09-01-2019  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Hatta Mountain Reserve is located in the Hajar mountains at the northern tip of the Arabian Highland Woodlands and Shrublands, a WWF Global 200 Ecoregion. This mountain range is part of the Oman-United Arab Emirates ophiolite, which is the largest and the best-preserved complex in the world of this geological feature. The Hajar mountains receive about 30% of the total annual rainfall in the country, and heavy rainfalls recharge the shallow aquifer, and produce large flood discharges that replenish two major reservoirs downstream at the Hatta and Al Ghabra dams. Given the scarcity of freshwater wetlands in the region, the Site represents a rare and representative mountain freshwater ecosystem which is home to a large number of species. It supports 19% of all the plant species recorded in the country, 79% of its dragonflies, 27% of its birds, 44% of its mammals and 30% of its reptiles and amphibians. Some of these are globally threatened, such as the critically endangered Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*); the endangered Arabian tahr (*Hemitragus jayakari*) and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*); and the vulnerable aoudad (*Ammotragus lervia*) and greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*). The Site is one of the very few along the mountain range with breeding habitats for waterbirds, fish and amphibians.

## Havmyran

Site number: 1 190 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Sør-Trøndelag  
Area: 3 872 ha | Coordinates: 63°30'N 08°38'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an unspoilt characteristic coastal Atlantic mire and lake system and one of the largest mire and wetland systems in Norway. The area is dotted with hundreds of ponds and lakes. The pine *Pinus sylvestris* found on the peripheries is partly of old growth character. The Site is an important breeding area for several bird species, most notably the Southern dunlin (*Calidris alpina* subsp. *schinzii*). In total 60 bird species were recorded at the Site, at least 35 of them breeding. Human uses include low-impact fishing and bird watching. A programme is monitoring the endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, and another is testing for a possible increase in nitrogen levels in precipitation, after a gas refinery was established some four kilometres away.

## Hawane Dam and Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 121 | Country: Eswatini | Administrative region: Hhohho district  
Area: 232 ha | Coordinates: 26°13'S 31°05'E | Designation dates: 12-06-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hawane Dam and Nature Reserve is a protected area along the Mbuluzi River which covers the whole Hawane reservoir (which supplies water to the city of Mbabane) and its surroundings. The surface area covered by the reservoir and the Nature Reserve is 232ha. The shoreline is typically composed of a narrow belt of sand which varies with water level, beyond which lies the montane grassland ecosystem indigenous to this area. The main swamp/marsh, called the Hawane swamp, is situated upstream of the reservoir where the Black Mbuluzi river enters the system. The reservoir is host to a variety of waterbirds, whereas the swamp supports a small but critical population of the endemic and regionally critically endangered plant *Kniphofia umbrina*. The reserve's main attraction is its wealth of birdlife, and a trail is provided for bird-watching. Bird species include the lanner falcon *Falco biarmicus*, Egyptian goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*, pied kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*, white-faced whistling duck *Dendrocygna viduata* and wattled crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*. Overgrazing by livestock and transformation of grasslands to agricultural fields is increasingly affecting the area, while the lack of proper solid waste management systems may be resulting in effluent discharge into the reservoir.

## Hawar Islands

Site number: 920 | Country: Bahrain | Administrative region: Gulf of Bahrain  
Area: 5 200 ha | Coordinates: 25°40'N 50°50'E | Designation dates: 27-10-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hawar Islands. 27/10/97; 5,200 ha; 25°40'N 050°50'E. State-owned. An archipelago of 16 small desert islands (of which the largest covers 4.1ha) and islets in the Gulf of Bahrain, surrounded by shallow seas with extensive seagrass beds. The islands are in relatively pristine condition because access is severely restricted by the coast guard and military. The islands support one of the world's largest concentrations of the Socotra Cormorant, and significant numbers of Greater Flamingo and Black-headed Gull. Notable marine species in the surrounding waters include the endangered dugong and several species of marine turtles. Ramsar site no. 920. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Hawizeh Marsh

Site number: 1 718 | Country: Iraq | Administrative region: Basra  
Area: 137 700 ha | Coordinates: 31°25'N 47°38'E | Designation dates: 17-10-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hawizeh Marsh (Haur Al-Hawizeh). 17/10/07; Basra, Amara; 137,700 ha; 31°25'29N 47°38'44E. A transboundary wetland, part of the Mesopotamian marshlands complex centered at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the marshes are ca.75-80% located in Iraq with the remaining area extending into the Islamic Republic of Iran. The only significant area to have survived drainage in the 1990s and the most intact part of the original Mesopotamian system, the site is a biodiversity reservoir of priority importance for conservation, home to threatened species such as the endangered Basrah Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*, the endangered Euphrates Softshell Turtle *Rafetus euphraticus* and the vulnerable Smooth-coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*. The site is also important for avifauna, with over 40 summer breeding species and over 90 wintering species, and is a recovery and feeding area for passage migrants on their way between Western Siberia/Central Asia and eastern and southern Africa. The effects of extensive drainage in the 1990s and warfare destruction, as well as dam-building activities upstream in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey, are seen as the chief potential threats to the site. Following the re-flooding efforts from 2003 to 2008, the water levels and the related marsh ecosystems and wildlife had improved. However, two years of drought (2008 and 2009) and the completion of a dike along the Iran-Iraq border have halted this improvement. Currently the area of the marshes is only 50% of their extent in 2008, and the site was placed on the Montreux Record in April 2010. New oil developments planned for the near future in surrounding areas also threaten to affect the natural environment and hamper the restoration of the marshes. Ramsar site no. 1718. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Hay-Zama Lakes

Site number: 242 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Alberta  
Area: 50 000 ha | Coordinates: 58°30'N 119°00'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hay-Zama Lakes. 24/05/82; Alberta; 50,000 ha; 58°30'N 119°00'W. Alberta Fish and Wildlife Crown Reservation. A vast wetland complex associated with the Peace River consisting of a series of freshwater lakes, floodplains and river deltas. The site holds large numbers of ducks (200,000 in fall) and geese (up to 177,000) during spring and fall migrations. Ramsar site no. 242. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Heden

Site number: 389 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Ittoqqortoormiit  
Area: 252 390 ha | Coordinates: 70°58'N 24°04'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Heden (Jameson Land). 27/01/88; Ittoqqortoormiit; 252,390 ha; 70°58'N 024°04'W. Part of the largest tundra area in Greenland, includes numerous shallow lakes, wet heathland, meadows, streams and rivers. It is an important staging area for geese and numerous species of breeding waterbirds, and the single most important moulting area for barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), with ca.7% of the flyway population. Seasonal harvesting of natural resources is carried out by local people and hunting is regulated. An oil exploration programme has been active since 1985. Ramsar site no. 389. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Hedmarksvidda Wetland System

Site number: 1 951 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark  
Area: 4 742 ha | Coordinates: 61°03'N 11°05'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which includes the sub-sites of Endelausmyrene, Brumundsjøen, Harasjømyrene and Lavsjømyrene-Målkjølen, is a mosaic of different kinds of fens, mires, small pools, ponds and lakes interspersed with ridges of bedrock or moraine on which pine forests dominate. Birch *Betula pubescens* is also common, especially along watercourses and at the edges of mires. The Site supports nationally threatened bird species such as the nationally endangered ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and common tern *Sterna hirundo* (EN), and the nationally vulnerable Eurasian skylark *Alauda arvensis*. The mires play an important role as water reservoirs and in flood protection during periods of snowmelt and heavy precipitation. They are also important for carbon sequestration and storage. The Site is used for hunting, sports fishing, berry picking and sheep grazing.

## Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 976 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang Province  
Area: 229 523 ha | Coordinates: 51°19'N 125°23'E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve is located in the Great Xingan Mountains Area, Songling District, in Northeast China. Being located in the transitional area between the temperate and cold zone, this Ramsar Site supports a representative mixture of plants from the Siberian, Inner Mongolian and Changbai floras. As the largest nature reserve located at the highest latitude in China for forest-marsh wetland ecosystems in the cold-temperate zone, the site holds the most concentrated marsh wetlands in the original coniferous forests of the Great Xingan Mountains.

This site consists of permanent freshwater marshes and ponds, freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands and permanent rivers and supports 442 plant species, 216 bird species and 49 mammal species, including 22 threatened species from birds, mammals and plants such as the critically endangered Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* and the vulnerable Siberian Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus*. This wetland also supports more than 1% of global population of 17 birds.

This wetland is an important water source for over 10 million populations in Nen River Basin, as well as ensuring the recharge of 350 million m<sup>3</sup> of water for Zhalong Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site) per year.

There is a Master Plan developed for this site (2006-2015) which is being implemented.

## Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 977 | Country: China | Administrative region: Central Heilongjiang Province  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°44'N 132°14'E | Designation dates: 09-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve is located in Northeast China and is representative of the inland freshwater marsh type in Northeast Asia. The site is recognized as one of the best preserved natural wetland areas in China, and supports a diversity of wetland plants and animals, including many waterbirds that also breed there.

The large-scale reed marshes in this Ramsar Site are one of the most important in the Sanjiang Plain (Northeastern China Region) and have the remarkable ability of water storage and flood control.

This site supports 29 threatened species of which 3 are mammals and 26 are birds such as Siberian Crane, Oriental Stork, Red-crowned Crane, Scaly-sided Merganser and Baer's Pochard. The diverse wetland types at this site provide important habitats for many species, including 388 plant species, 201 birds (including 80 waterbirds), 35 mammals, 10 amphibians and reptiles, and 18 fish species. More than 1% of the population of nine waterbirds species is present at the site.

The Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve is an ideal base for scientific research, education and popularization of wetland conservation. The rich biodiversity can provide germplasm resource for the development of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture in the region. The Master Plan for Qixing River Nature Reserve and Management Methods for Qixing River Nature Reserve have been developed and implemented.

## Heilongjiang Youhao Wetlands

Site number: 2 353 | Country: China  
| Administrative region: Youhao district, Yichun City, Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China.  
Area: 60 687 ha | Coordinates: 48°24'N 128°22'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site is an inland wetland ecosystem characterized by flat and open valleys, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes with large areas of herb, shrub and tree-dominated marshes. Stretched over the north- and south-facing slopes of the Lesser Khingan mountains in north-east China, it is typical of the forested wetland ecosystems of the northern mountainous region. The boundary of the Ramsar Site is the same as that of the Heilongjiang Youhao National Nature Reserve; over 70% is covered by marshes, which are preserved in a natural state. It has a large area of original red pine forests and a variety of wild plants such as *Pinus koraiensis*, *Phellodendron amurense* and *Chosenia arbutifolia*. With 836 plant species, 221 birds, 47 mammals, 19 amphibians and reptiles and 43 fish, the Site plays an important role in protecting rare wild plants and animals. The wetland is an important breeding place for waterbirds, including the critically endangered yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), the endangered Blakiston's fish owl (*Bubo blakistonii*) and the vulnerable Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*). The forest and wetland ecosystems in the area provide important services at the catchment scale in conserving water, maintaining soil and water quality, and regulating climate and surface runoff.

## Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 978 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang Province  
Area: 44 364 ha | Coordinates: 46°08'N 133°38'E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve is located in Northeast China on the border between China and Russia. It supports a diversity of freshwater wetlands types, mainly river and floodplain wetlands, as well as permanent and seasonal freshwater marshes/pools, herb marshes, shrub marshes, forest marshes, etc. This Ramsar Site is part of Xingkai Lake-Bulieya Mountains in terms of tectonic setting and has significant functions in terms of water storage and flood control, thereby playing an important role in maintaining eco-security of the catchment. This site is a typical representative wetland area in the cold temperate zone of East Asia

The site supports 13 threatened species of which 8 are birds and 5 are mammals. There are a total of 393 plant species, 171 birds, 61 fish, 16 amphibians and reptiles and 40 mammal species.

According to the surveys in different years this site supports more than 100,000 of birds and also supports more than 1% of the population of 12 waterbird species.

The wetlands in this site are now under strict protection, and are not used for agriculture, aquaculture or other production uses. However, with the beautiful landscapes of the Ussuri River and diverse wetlands, this Ramsar Site is of great potential value for ecotourism. Presently, some 10,000 people visit this site each year. A Master Plan for Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao National Nature Reserve has been compiled.

## Helge å

Site number: 16 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Skåne  
Area: 8 042 ha | Coordinates: 55°59'N 14°11'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in Scania Province, the Site consists of the lower stretch of the Helge å River to its outlet into the Baltic Sea, as well as two shallow and nutrient-rich freshwater lakes, reedbeds, scrubs, extensive wet grasslands, wet forests and alluvial forests. The Site supports biological diversity characteristic of the European Continental region as well as a number of nationally threatened species of plants, birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. Thousands of ducks and internationally important numbers of bean goose *Anser fabalis* and common crane *Grus grus* stage at the Site. The wetland provides sediment and nutrient retention and export as well as important hydrological services such as water purification and flood control. Human activities include fishing and cattle grazing as well as recreation and tourism. The disappearance of the formerly extensive common club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris* has led to changing hydrological conditions, exposure to wind, and fewer nesting opportunities for wetland birds. The common reed *Phragmites australis* has also decreased; the reasons for these changes are not clear but overgrazing by greylag goose and cattle as well as floods in 2007 have probably contributed. Investigations are ongoing to find what measures have to be taken. Various conservation measures have been taken to improve the opportunities for nesting and resting birds, fish and plants. The catfish *Silurus glanis* has been reintroduced and the population is increasing. The Site is noted for its innovative nature tourism activities; a new visitor centre was inaugurated in 2010.

## Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra

Site number: 176 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Thüringen,Sachsen-Anhalt  
Area: 1 453 ha | Coordinates: 51°26'N 11°00'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra. 31/07/78; Thüringen, Sachsen-Anhalt; 1,453 ha; 51°26'N 011°00'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Landscape Protection Areas, Nature Protection Area, Protected Area for Waterfowl. Located in the Helme River floodplain, the site consists of a flood protection reservoir, associated reedbeds and frequently flooded wet meadows. The area includes saline springs and salt meadows surrounded by pasture and agricultural fields. The site is internationally important for wintering and staging several species of waterbirds. A few species of birds breed at the site and use the area for roosting. Human activities include intensive fish-farming, recreation and nature education. A bird observatory is located at the site. Ramsar site no. 176. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Herm, Jethou and The Humps

Site number: 2 277 | Country: United Kingdom  
| Administrative region: Bailiwick of Guernsey, UK Crown Dependency of Guernsey (Channel Islands)  
Area: 1 802,9 ha | Coordinates: 49°29'N 02°27'W | Designation dates: 19-10-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of two small islands (Herm and Jethou), nine rocky islets (including Grande Fauconnière, Crevichon and Brehon Tower), six sandbanks (The Humps) and surrounding shallow tidal waters. The location of Guernsey to the west of the Site creates and supports a diverse range of habitats. The convergence of cold and warm currents and of the corresponding Boreal and Lusitanian biogeographic regions supports an array of species which include rich plankton communities flowing eastward from the Atlantic to the North Sea. The Site has an exceptionally large tidal range – at up to ten metres, it is among the largest in the world – and the intertidal zone is particularly large and biodiverse. Several important habitats are present, including eelgrass (*Zostera*) beds, maerl beds, shallow reef systems and seven sunken shipwreck reefs, which provide spawning grounds for fish such as sea bass and Black Sea bream, with significant tidal races. The Site is contiguous with benthic habitats supporting flatfish and shellfish, and pelagic habitats supporting seabirds, basking shark, sun fish, Atlantic grey seal and four species of cetacean. The coastlines provide breeding sites for nine species of seabird and Atlantic grey seal. The Site is of economic and cultural importance to the population of Guernsey, and there are significant archaeological and historical features which make it a tourist destination.

## Het Gotomeer

Site number: 202 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire  
Area: 150 ha | Coordinates: 12°14'N 68°22'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Gotomeer. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 150 ha; 12°14'N 068°22'W. Within a National Park. A shallow, permanent, saline lagoon, isolated from the sea by a beach rock bank. Brine shrimp and brine fly are abundant in the hypersaline areas, providing valuable food sources for birds, including *Phoenicopterus ruber ruber* (100-500). The site is important for several species of breeding birds and for staging shorebirds which nest in North America. Ramsar site no. 202.

## Het Lac

Site number: 199 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire  
Area: 700 ha | Coordinates: 12°06'N 68°14'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Lac. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 700 ha; 12°06'N 068°14'W. Underwater Park. A shallow bay of dense sea grass, fringed by mangroves and separated from the sea by coral debris and red algae. The mangroves provide shelter for fish and invertebrates and contribute large quantities of organic debris to the bay, creating highly productive waters. An important feeding area for waterbirds and invertebrates, supporting several species of breeding waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 199.

## Het Pekelmeer

Site number: 200 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire  
Area: 400 ha | Coordinates: 12°02'N 68°15'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Pekelmeer. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 400 ha; 12°02'N 068°19'W. A shallow seawater lagoon located between a ridge of recrystallized coral debris (beach rock) and a commercial saltworks, linked to the open sea by an artificial channel. Sparsely vegetated, the site provides a flamingo nesting sanctuary and supports one of the most important nesting colonies of *Phoenicopterus ruber ruber* in the Caribbean (1,000 pairs). It serves as an important feeding area for *Pelecanidae*, *Ardeidae* (herons, bitterns, etc.), and various migratory shorebirds which breed in North America. Ramsar site no. 200.

## Het Spaans Lagoen

Site number: 198 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Aruba  
Area: 70 ha | Coordinates: 12°30'N 70°00'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Het Spaans Lagoen. 23/05/80; Aruba; 70 ha; 12°30'N 070°00'W. Conservation Area. A narrow coastal inlet, fringed by tidal mudflats and mangrove swamps. An important feeding and breeding area for waterbirds, and nursery area for various species of fish and crustaceans. Ramsar site no. 198.

## Higashiyoka-higata

Site number: 2 234 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Saga City, Saga Prefecture, Kyushu Okinawa region  
Area: 218 ha | Coordinates: 33°10'N 130°16'E | Designation dates: 28-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Higashiyoka-higata is a tidal mudflat at the mouths of Honshoe River and Hattae River on the north shore of the innermost section of Ariake Bay. The Site is internationally important in the life cycle of migratory waterbirds, acting as a stopover and a wintering site. About 7,000 migratory shorebirds are recorded from autumn to spring, including over 1% of the flyway populations of the grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). The Site also support globally threatened waterbirds, such as the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), the endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), and the vulnerable far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and Saunders's gull (*Chroicocephalus saundersi*). More than 1% of the flyway population of Saunders's gull occur at the Site. A rich biodiversity can be found on the mudflat, including fish, benthos, and halophytes, due to the warm climate, large tidal variation, and shoals which facilitate sediment deposition. Over the years, the extensive mudflats around the Ariake Bay have been subjected to land reclamation and the construction of dykes. As a result, Higashiyoka-higata, together with the two other coastal Ramsar Sites in Ariake Bay, Arao-higata and Hizen Kashima-higata, has an increasingly important role in biodiversity conservation in the Bay. The Higashiyoka-higata mudflats are also locally important as a fishing site and for supporting local cultural practices.

## Hiiumaa Islets and Käina Bay

Site number: 908 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Hiiumaa County, Hiiumaa Island  
Area: 17 700 ha | Coordinates: 58°48'N 22°58'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hiiumaa Islets and Käina Bay. 17/06/97; Hiiumaa County, Hiiumaa Island; 17,700 ha; 58°48'N 22°58'E. Landscape Reserve, Ornithological Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, IBA. Shallow watershelf sea with small islets, mudflats and bays. Vegetation includes coastal meadow, saltmarshes, reedbeds, juniper and *Alnus glutinosa* and *Pinus sylvestris* coppices. The site supports endangered orchid-rich communities and a unique and endangered broad-leaved forest (*Quercus-Tilia-Acer* community) and is an important spawning area for several fish species. Numerous species of waterbirds breed, and internationally important numbers of migrating birds stop over at the site. Human activities include tourism, environmental education, agriculture, fishing, and extensive cattle grazing. Ramsar site no. 908. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Hinuma

Site number: 2 232 | Country: Japan  
| Administrative region: Ibaraki Town, Oarai Town and Hokota City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Kanto region  
Area: 935 ha | Coordinates: 36°17'N 140°30'E | Designation dates: 28-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

About 6,000 years ago a rise in sea level on the east coast of Honshu Island formed a cove, and subsequently the narrowing of the cove's entrance with sand from rivers made it into a brackish lake, namely Hinuma. The seawater flows ten kilometres upstream to Hinuma through Naka River and Hinuma River at high tide, and blends with freshwater. Hinuma provides habitats for many species, including nationally endangered species such as the four-spot midget damselfly (*Mortonagrion Hirosei*) and Steller's sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*) during important stages of their lives. More than 88 species of birds are observed at Hinuma. In winter, more than 10,000 ducks such as mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) migrate to Hinuma to feed and roost. The number of greater scaup wintering at Hinuma is estimated at around 5,000 individuals annually and accounts for more than 1% of its population in East Asia. Hinuma has also long been a fishing site for brackish fishes and clams such as Asian clams, gobies and pond smelts.

## Hirsholmene

Site number: 147 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: North Denmark Region  
Area: 3 714 ha | Coordinates: 57°29'N 10°35'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hirsholmene. 02/09/77; Region North Denmark; 3,714 ha; 57°28'50N 010°34'25E. Scientific Sanctuary, Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA); Nature Conservation Area, Wildlife Reserve. Following a boundary extension in 2011, the site covers not only the group of small, rocky, coastal islands and shallow waters but also the surrounding sea territory. Only the main island, Hirsholm, is inhabited. The submerged limestone formations support rich communities of algae and littoral lichens; the habitat of stony islets with northern Atlantic seabird colonies is very rare in Denmark, and the "bubbling reefs" are unique in the country. The site is internationally important for numerous species of wintering and staging waterbirds. It is also one of the most important breeding areas in Denmark for the gulls *Larus ridibundus* and *Larus canus*, the Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*, and Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. The site is important for marine biology research. Rats, which destroyed the breeding colony of Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) in 1968, have been exterminated, and sheep have been introduced to keep the vegetation low. Ramsar site no. 147. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Hizen Kashima-higata

Site number: 2 235 | Country: Japan  
| Administrative region: Kashima City, Saga Prefecture, Kyushu Okinawa Area  
Area: 57 ha | Coordinates: 33°07'N 130°08'E | Designation dates: 28-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hizen Kashima-higata is a tidal mudflat at the mouths of Shiota River and Kashima River on the western shore of the Ariake Bay. Although the Site is part of the Central Kuroshio Current biogeographical region, the water is brackish rather than marine because it is about 100 km away from the mouth of the Bay. The Site is internationally important in the life cycle of migratory waterbirds, acting as an important stopover and wintering site for globally threatened species such as the endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), and the vulnerable Saunders's gull (*Chroicocephalus saundersi*) and far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). It hosts more than 1% of the flyway populations of Saunders's gull, black-faced spoonbill and whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). The mudflat has a rich biodiversity, including fish, benthos, and halophytes, due to the warm climate, large tidal variation, and shoals which facilitate sediment deposition. Over the years, the extensive mudflats around the Ariake Bay have been subjected to land reclamation and the construction of dykes. As a result, Hizen Kashima-higata, together with the two other coastal Ramsar Sites in Ariake Bay, Arao-higata and Higashiyoka-higata, has an increasingly important role in biodiversity conservation in the Bay. Hizen Kashima-higata is also important for supporting the livelihood of the local communities and for its cultural value that stems from traditional fishing and recreational activities.

## Hjälstaviken

Site number: 25 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Uppsala  
Area: 808 ha | Coordinates: 59°40'N 17°23'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located just 60 kilometres north-west of Stockholm, Hjälstaviken is a shallow, almost completely enclosed freshwater embayment of Lake Mälaren, characterized by extremely clear water and overgrown by reedbeds. The bay comprises extensive marshland and the wetland is surrounded by damp meadows and pasture, giving way to drier grassland and arable fields with patches of deciduous and coniferous woodland. About 100 bird species nest in the area, with 40 species linked to wetlands. The Site is important for wintering raptors, including the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. It supports various species of staging waders and *Anatidae* (ducks, geese and swans). 30% of the Fennoscandia/Eastern Mediterranean population of the globally vulnerable (and critically endangered in Sweden) lesser white-fronted goose is present. Visitor facilities include a trail around the lake and a wheelchair-accessible birdwatching tower. A short boardwalk through the vegetation in the shallow parts of the lake ends with a birdwatching hide. The main threats to the Site are the presence of American mink, an invasive alien species, and pollution from agricultural and forestry effluents.

## Hochstetter Forland

Site number: 390 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region:  
Area: 184 820 ha | Coordinates: 75°28'N 19°52'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hochstetter Forland. 27/01/88; 184,820 ha; 75°28'N 019°52'W. National Park. A low-lying wetland complex of numerous small lakes, surrounded by extensive areas of tundra. An important area for staging geese and for numerous species of breeding waterbirds, particularly Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). Some seasonal harvesting of natural resources is carried out by local people and hunting is regulated. Ramsar site no. 390. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Hokera Wetland

Site number: 1 570 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jammu and Kashmir State  
Area: 1 375 ha | Coordinates: 34°05'N 74°42'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hokera Wetland. 08/11/05; Jammu & Kashmir; 1,375 ha; 34°05'N 074°42'E. Located at the northwest Himalayan biogeographic province of Kashmir, back of the snow-draped Pir Panchal (1,584m asl.), Hokera wetland is only 10 km from scenic paradise of Srinagar. A natural perennial wetland contiguous to the Jhelum basin, it is the only site with remaining reedbeds of Kashmir and pathway of 68 waterfowl species like Large Egret, Great Crested Grebe, Little Cormorant, Common Shelduck, Tufted Duck and endangered White-eyed Pochard, coming from Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Northern Europe. It is an important source of food, spawning ground and nursery for fishes, besides offering feeding and breeding ground to a variety of water birds. Typical marshy vegetation complexes inhabit like Typha, Phragmites, Eleocharis, Trapa, and Nymphoides species ranging from shallow water to open water aquatic flora. Sustainable exploitation of fish, fodder and fuel is significant, despite water withdrawals since 1999. Potential threats include recent housing facilities, littered garbage, and demand for increasing tourist facilities. Ramsar site no. 1570. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Holburn Lake & Moss

Site number: 302 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 28 ha | Coordinates: 55°37'N 01°55'W | Designation dates: 17-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Holburn Lake & Moss. 17/07/85; England; 28 ha; 55°37'N 001°55'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. An artificial lake and island supporting reedbeds and adjacent mire areas supporting various species of typical mire vegetation. The lake is a roosting site for internationally important numbers of geese. Access to the site is strictly limited. Ramsar site no. 302. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Hollands Diep

Site number: 1 273 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland  
Area: 4 139 ha | Coordinates: 51°42'N 04°30'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hollands Diep. 29/08/00; Zuid-Holland; 4,139 ha; 051°42'N 004°30'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 247 ha. The Site, a former estuary in the Meuse-Rhine delta, is now a freshwater lake after its separation from the North Sea in 1970 by the Haringvliet dam. Hollands Diep is an especially important area for breeding waterbirds such as the Eurasian spoonbill and barnacle goose, and a valuable spawning, nursery and feeding ground for threatened fish species such as barbel and other migratory fish including sea lamprey and salmon. The Site plays an important role in flood regulation and sediment trapping. The lake and the adjacent land are used for forestry, farming, commercial fishing, shipping, water management, conservation and research. Factors adversely affecting the Site's ecological character include industrialization (in particular the construction of wind turbines), urbanization, eutrophication and water pollution. A management plan for the Site is currently being prepared. Ramsar Site no. 1273. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Honghe National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 149 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang  
Area: 21 836 ha | Coordinates: 47°49'N 133°40'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Honghe National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Heilongjiang; 21,836 ha; 47°49'N 133°40'E. National Nature Reserve. A near-natural marsh ecosystem with a large variety of wetland types, providing support for six endangered and rare species of flora and three of avifauna. The Reserve is the main breeding site for the Oriental stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), with 200 individuals in autumn, as well as for Black stork, Red-crowned and White-napped cranes, Whooper swan, and Mandarin duck. State-owned farms cultivate rice in the area. Overuse of groundwater and intensive agriculture are viewed as potential threats. In 2001, scientific monitoring programs were introduced to monitor large waterfowl as well as surface water and groundwater levels. Ramsar site no. 1149. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Hopen

Site number: 1 957 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 318 567 ha | Coordinates: 76°35'N 25°12'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hopen is an arctic island, mostly covered by rocks and continuous permafrost, with a very narrow beach from which the landscape rises sharply. In the north of the island there are steep cliffs with horizontal shelves which are ideal for breeding seabird species, including the globally vulnerable Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*. The birds are important in the transfer of nutrients from the ocean to support the island's mammal, invertebrate and plant species. The Site also supports 40,000 breeding pairs of the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, over 1% of the breeding population. The island is also important for marine mammals. Polar bears use the Site for denning and migration, and the shallow waters surrounding Hopen (which make up most of the Ramsar Site area) are important for walrus, with the south of the island being a traditional resting place for the species. Five trapper huts from the 19th century are protected as cultural heritage sites and there is a meteorological station on the island. Climate change and its effects may be the most serious threat to the Arctic environment.

## Hörfeld-Moor

Site number: 864 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Steiermark, Kärnten  
Area: 137 ha | Coordinates: 47°01'N 14°31'E | Designation dates: 29-10-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hörfeld-Moor. 30/10/96; Kärnten, Steiermark; 137 ha; 47°01'N 014°31'E. Nature reserve, Natura 2000 site. Areas of raised bog, freshwater marsh and damp meadows with patches of trees, shrubs and extensive peat deposits fed by groundwater springs and streams. The site serves as a vast natural water storage system. Vegetation includes large areas of reedbeds interspersed with various species of willow (*Salix* sp). The site is an important breeding, feeding and resting habitat for a wide range of resident and migratory bird species. Numerous endangered plant and bird species are supported. Human activities include fishing, extensive hay meadows, and timber production. The site is of considerable local historical interest with traces of early settlements. A management plan was developed during the LIFE Nature Project "Hörfeld-Moor" (1997-2000) and was updated in 2003. Ramsar site no. 864. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Horicon Marsh

Site number: 511 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Wisconsin  
Area: 13 355 ha | Coordinates: 43°30'N 88°38'W | Designation dates: 12-04-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Horicon Marsh. 4/12/90; Wisconsin, 13,355 ha, 43°30'00"N 88°38'00"W. The Site is one of the largest intact freshwater wetlands in the USA and also one of the largest cattail (*Typha* spp) marshes in the world. It is an important staging area for numerous species of migratory birds, especially for Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). In the autumn, 80% of the Mississippi Flyway population of Canada geese (around 1.1 million birds) and 2% of the biogeographic population of mallards use the Site during their migration. Other species, some of them endangered, use the area as a staging, nesting or feeding site. Among these are the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the whooping crane (*Grus Americana*) and the yellow-throated warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). Apart from its importance for migratory birds, the Site is also important for maintaining the biological diversity of the region given the rapid loss of wetlands in the State. It is estimated that the extent of wetlands has decreased by almost 50% since 1850 in most of Wisconsin and by as much as 90% in south-eastern Wisconsin. The main threats are associated to human activities; agricultural runoff has resulted in increased sediment and nutrient loading while the construction of wind farms has resulted in bird mortality. Ramsar Site no. 511. Most Recent RIS Information: 2011.

## Hornborgasjön

Site number: 22 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västra Götaland  
Area: 6 197 ha | Coordinates: 58°19'N 13°32'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the most famous and largest bird lakes in Sweden; it is well known for resting and displaying cranes, 20,000 of which have been recorded on the Site. The Lake is shallow, with a mixture of open water and submerged vegetation with large areas of *Chara* algae and reed beds. The lake is surrounded by wet woodland and wet meadows. The Site supports nationally threatened species such as dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The Lake has been restored in one of the largest single nature conservation projects ever carried out in Sweden. The main goal of the project was to restore the wetland conditions for birds, and a monitoring programme was established to survey the changes in fauna and flora. The Site is of high importance for tourism, recreation and educational opportunities. There are 250,000 visitors annually, many of whom are attracted by the famous dancing of the cranes in April. Visitor facilities include two information centres with an exhibition and a cafeteria, birdwatching towers, hides and nature trails.

## Horsens Fjord and Endelave

Site number: 152 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Midtjylland Region  
Area: 42 737 ha | Coordinates: 55°49'N 10°15'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Horsens Fjord and Endelave. 02/09/77; Region Midtjylland; 42,737 ha; 55°51'N 010°10'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Nature Conservation Area, Wildlife Reserve. A shallow fjord, adjacent sea area with reefs, sand banks, saltmarshes, islets and lagoons including partly cultivated islands with scattered habitation. The site is the most important area in the vicinity for the seal *Phoca vitulina*, and it is internationally important for breeding, moulting, wintering and staging various species of waterbirds. Human activities include fish-farming, camping and rabbit hunting. An invasive plant (*Spartina alterniflora*) is colonizing the island of Endelave. Changes in the land use are triggering vegetation succession in the marshes, negatively affecting birds nesting and feeding activities. There is a field laboratory for monitoring and research. Ramsar site no. 152. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Horsvaer

Site number: 2 157 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 17 036 ha | Coordinates: 65°19'N 11°41'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a representative North European coastal archipelago formed by 360 islands and islets with shallow marine waters, which provides an important breeding location for large numbers of seabirds and waterfowl. The Site supports nationally-threatened species such as the common tern *Sterna hirundo*, the black guillemot *Cephus grylle* and the common guillemot *Uria aalge*, and there is also a considerable breeding population of the great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* and of the European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Other species that regularly use the site are the Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* and the harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*. The vegetation on the main islands has been shaped by traditional grazing and harvesting, and the ceasing of these activities is very likely to trigger vegetational succession. The islands are also used for recreation and tourism. When they were inhabited, there was a strong traditional practice of collecting seabird eggs and eider down. Common eiders were provided with homes, often made from old boats turned upside down. Even though the islands are vacated today, this is still practiced to some extent, partly in order to preserve the character of the Site.

## Horta

Site number: 2 158 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag  
Area: 3 158 ha | Coordinates: 65°13'N 11°26'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a small marine archipelago consisting of small islands, long fjords, skerries and islets. Its shallow marine waters with seaweed beds and kelp forests are rich in marine invertebrates and fish. The Site is an important breeding area for threatened birds such as the black guillemot *Cephus grylle* and the Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*. It also hosts stable populations of Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra*, harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*, Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, and common murre *Uria aalge*. The false killer whale *Pseudorca crassidens* also occasionally visits the archipelago. The landscape is dominated by remnant infield areas, narrow mires, bogs, coastal heathlands, and islets with vegetation influenced by natural seabird fertilization. The vegetation has been shaped by many years of grazing and harvesting. A total of 171 different vascular plant species have been recorded. The Site is currently used by scientists for seabird monitoring and geological research, and by private landowners as a holiday site. The surrounding seas are used for fishing.

## Hortobágy

Site number: 189 | Country: Hungary  
| Administrative region: (1) County of Hajdú-Bihar, (2) Middle Part of Kisköre Reservoir and Northern Part of Kisköre Reservoir are located in County of Jász-Na  
Area: 32 037 ha | Coordinates: 47°33'N 20°57'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed of four separate sectors of the extensive Hortobágy Steppe which include an alkaline wetland complex formed by artificial fishponds, a reconstructed swamp system, part of a dam, islands, woodland and mudflats, extensive grassland, and marshland areas. All the sectors support extensive reed and *Nymphaea* beds. The plant communities preserve remnant populations of formerly widespread species such as *Phlomis tuberosa*, a characteristic species of loess grasslands, and *Plantago schwarzenbergiana*, which is endemic to alkaline steppes in the eastern half of Carpathian Basin. The area is important for the breeding, wintering and staging of many migratory waterbird species, including the globally threatened lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. It is also an important freshwater reservoir and plays an important role in flood regulation. Human activities include large-scale intensive fish production and reed harvesting. A field research station and several observation hides are available for birdwatching, though public access is strictly controlled. The main threats to the Site are posed by the intensive fish farming and the fluctuations in the water level due to artificial water management.

## Hosnie's Spring

Site number: 512 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Christmas Island  
Area: 202 ha | Coordinates: 10°28'S 105°41'E | Designation dates: 11-12-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

An area of permanent, shallow freshwater wetland, fed by a natural spring system located approximately 30 metres above sea level and 120 metres inland of the seaward cliff. The wetland is covered by a stand of mangroves (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*) estimated to be 120,000 years old. The site includes surrounding terrestrial areas with rainforest grading to coastal scrub, and includes an area of shoreline and coral reef. It is significant for the age, location and size of the mangroves as well as for supporting large numbers of crabs including: red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*), robber crabs (*Birgus latro*) and blue crabs (*Discoplax hirtipes*). Visitor access of small interest groups such as bird watchers or scientific teams is managed by Parks Australia to conserve the ecological character of the site. The greatest threat within the site comes from the formation of multi-queen super colonies of the invasive yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*), thought to have been introduced accidentally to Christmas Island between 1915 and 1934. The site's area was extended in 2010 from 0.33 to 202 ha to conform to the National Park boundaries.

## Hotokenuma

Site number: 1 543 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Aomori  
Area: 222 ha | Coordinates: 40°40'N 141°23'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hotokenuma. 08/11/05; Aomori; 222 ha; 40°49'N 141°23'E. NHPA. Hotokenuma lies at the Pacific coast of Shimokita-Hanto peninsula, connected to the largest lake Ogawara-ko. It was part of the converted ricefields under a reclamation project in the early 1960s which was later suspended by the government, when Hotokenuma became an undisturbed reedlands owned by the Misawa city. It is a low moor dominated by common reed, *Phragmites communis*. Hotokenuma was brought to public attention for the sighting of IUCN Redlisted Japanese Marsh Warbler *Locustella pryeri*, a species found only in some parts of China and Japan with last remaining world population of 2500. It is also a breeding site for endangered Japanese Reed-bunting and Schrenck's Bittern and important staging site for migratory waterbirds. Apart from the special wildlife protection, a nature conservation programme was conducted in the past. Ramsar site no. 1543. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Hovranområdet

Site number: 437 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Dalarna  
Area: 4 858 ha | Coordinates: 60°20'N 16°03'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes a stretch of the Dalälven River and numerous nutrient-rich freshwater lakes surrounded by meadows. Large, regularly flooded *Carex* marshes run along the lake and river shores. The Site is important for staging wetland birds such as the black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*, the whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (with up to about 1,500 present in the autumn) and the crane *Grus grus*. Breeding species include the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, the corn crane *Crex crex* and the common rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Grazing and haymaking are widely practiced to support the migrating and breeding birds. The Site is surrounded by arable land which provides important foraging areas. Some of the species which it supports depend on rivers with fluctuating water levels; however the water regime of the lakes and river is subject to artificial regulation, due in part to upstream hydro-electric plants. The Site was extended in 2001.

## Hub Dam

Site number: 1 064 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh and Balochistan  
Area: 27 000 ha | Coordinates: 25°15'N 67°07'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hub (Hab) Dam. 10/05/01. Sindh, Balochistan. 27,000 ha. 25°15'N 67°07'E. A large water storage reservoir constructed in 1981 on the Hub River on the arid plains north of Karachi. The reservoir supplies water for irrigation in Lasbella District and domestic and drinking water for the city of Karachi. It is an important staging and wintering area for an appreciable number of waterbirds and contains a variety of fish species which increase in abundance during periods of high water. The Mahseer (*Tor putitora*), an indigenous riverine fish found in the Hub River, grows up to 2m in length and provides for excellent angling. Recent consecutive years of low summer rainfall have reduced the water level. WWF launched a wetland visitors' centre on World Wetlands Day 1999. Ramsar site no. 1064. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 184 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hubei Province  
Area: 11 579 ha | Coordinates: 30°20'N 113°50'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve. 16/10/2013; Hubei; 11,579 ha; 30°20'01"N 113°49'34"E. IBA, Nature Reserve. An Important Bird Area and Provincial Nature Reserve, the site is situated at the confluence of the middle reaches of the Huangsi and Tongshun River systems, regulating flood water in the Eastern Jiangnan Plain and guaranteeing the safety of Wuhan City, 45km away. Large permanent freshwater marshes and freshwater lakes support a total of 140 species of birds, of which eight occur in internationally important numbers. The vulnerable Chinese Water Deer *Hydropotes inermis* can be found here. In addition to its important role in groundwater recharge, flood storage and fish production, the site is important for environmental education and tourism, with about 20,000 visitors annually. Ramsar Site no. 2184. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Hubei Dajiu Lake Wetland

Site number: 2 186 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hubei Province  
Area: 9 320 ha | Coordinates: 31°28'N 110°03'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hubei Dajiu Lake Wetland. 16/10/2013; Hubei; 9,320 ha; 31°28'14"N 110°2'51"E. Nature Reserve. The site is a rare representative of a typical subalpine sphagnum bog wetland located in subtropical central China. It lies in the watershed of Yangtze and Han Rivers, close to the Shennongjia Forest District, one of the "WWF Global 200". The wetland represents the source of the Du River, a first level tributary of the Han, and has great value in the biogeographic region for flood control, climate regulation, groundwater recharge and water purification. Several threatened species of plants, waterbirds and mammals occur at the site, including the critically endangered Veitch's Spruce *Picea neoveitchii*, the endangered Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Forest Musk Deer *Moschus berezovskii*. Ramsar Site no. 2186. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Hubei Honghu Wetlands

Site number: 1 729 | Country: China | Administrative region: Honghu County  
Area: 43 450 ha | Coordinates: 29°50'N 113°19'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hubei Honghu Wetlands. 02/02/08; Hubei; 43,450 ha; 29°50'N 113°19'E. Nature Reserve. The seventh largest freshwater lake of China, located on the northern bank of middle Yangtze river along the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. IUCN Red Listed species like *Anser cygnoides*, *Ciconia boyciana*, *Mergus squamatus*, *Aythya baeri*, and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* are found here, and the site supports 1% threshold for *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Anser anser*, *Anser fabalis*, *Anser albifrons*, and *Platalea leucorodia*. The aquatic, polar and willow vegetation provides habitat for 139 bird species, 62 fish species, 6 amphibian species, 12 reptile species, 13 mammal species, 379 zooplanktons, 472 vascular plants species and 280 phytoplankton species. Flood regulation, fisheries, regional climate regulation, and water quality enhancement are ecosystem services provided by the site. In the past, reclamation, construction, and aquaculture were threats at the site; however, since the designation as nature reserve, these threats have been improved. Qingshui fort, at the centre of Honghu Wetland, is a relic of Wuling and the famous ancient battlefield of 208. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1729. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Hubei Wang Lake

Site number: 2 349 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yangxin County, Huangshi City, Hubei Province  
Area: 20 495 ha | Coordinates: 29°51'N 115°20'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Mufu and Dabie mountains of central China, the Site is a complex wetland ecosystem with inland shallow lakes, flooded marshes and permanent rivers where wetlands and forests develop in succession. Surrounded by mountains and hills in the catchment of the Fu river (a primary tributary of the Yangtze), the relatively isolated and near-natural Site provides habitats for a wide range of wildlife. There are 591 vascular plant species, 46 zooplankton, 30 zoobenthos, 74 fish species, 33 amphibians and reptiles, 167 birds and 25 mammals. It supports a variety of rare and threatened species such as the critically endangered Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) and Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*); the endangered Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) and Chinese forest musk deer (*Moschus berezovskii*); and the vulnerable serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) and lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*). It also provides important stopover and wintering grounds on the East Asian - Australasian Flyway for 20,000 to 50,000 birds. 80% of the inflow from the north slope of Mufu mountain and Yangxin County is discharged into the wetland and so it serves as an important flood buffer system for the Yangtze and Fu rivers.

## Huidong Harbor Sea Turtle National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 150 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guangdong  
Area: 400 ha | Coordinates: 22°33'N 114°54'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Huidong Harbor Sea Turtle National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Guangdong; 400 ha; 22°33'N 114°54'E. National Nature Reserve. At the juncture of Daya Bay and Honghai Bay in the South China Sea, presently the only sea turtle protected area in China, with seawater and gently-sloping sandy beaches still in good environmental quality and eminently suitable for sea turtles, which have traditionally been regarded as a divine species and symbol of longevity and good luck in the region. The beach, 1,000m long and 70m wide, surrounded by mountains on the three landward sides, supports as many as 400-500 Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), an IUCN Red List endangered species, during egg-laying. The area is under collective ownership, and the site has been delimited as a fishery protected area by local government - since it received Reserve status in 1992, fishery stocks have benefited. It is felt that the boundaries of the present Reserve, demarcated in 1986, are somewhat too restricted for its conservation purposes, and efforts are being made to expand it. Artificial incubation and breeding ponds have been established to assist young turtles when adverse conditions, such as bad weather, warrant. Ramsar site no. 1150. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Hula Nature Reserve

Site number: 868 | Country: Israel | Administrative region: Northern District  
Area: 300 ha | Coordinates: 33°04'N 35°35'E | Designation dates: 12-11-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hula Nature Reserve. 12/11/96; 300 ha; 33°04'N 035°35'E. Nature Reserve. A human-made wetland created as a result of an attempt to restore part of the drained Hula Lake and swamps. Located in the Jordan Rift Valley, the site consists of open water, permanent and intermittent pools with fringing reedbeds, freshwater marshes, and riparian forest and wet meadows. Human activities at the site are limited. To preserve the open meadows, buffalo grazing has been introduced. There is a visitors' center which runs a conservation education programme. Ramsar site no. 868. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Humber Estuary

Site number: 663 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 37 988 ha | Coordinates: 53°37'N 00°10'E | Designation dates: 28-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humber Estuary. 28/07/94; England; 37,988 ha; 53°33'N 000°03'E. Special Protection Area, SSSI. An estuary with a max.7.4 m. tidal range exposing vast mud and sand flats at low tide. Vegetation includes extensive reedbeds, areas of mature and developing saltmarsh, backed by grazing marsh or low sand dunes with marshy slacks and brackish pools. The area regularly supports internationally important numbers of various species of breeding and wintering waterbirds. Many passage birds, notably internationally important populations of ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, and sanderling *Calidris alba* stage in the area. The site supports Britain's most southeasterly breeding colony of gray seal *Halichoerus grypus*. Human activities include tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, livestock grazing, and hunting. Renamed and area significantly increased in 2007. Ramsar site no. 663. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Humber Marsh

Site number: 1 928 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Michigan  
Area: 188 ha | Coordinates: 42°06'N 83°11'W | Designation dates: 20-01-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humber Marsh. 20/01/10; Michigan; 188 ha; 42p06'N 083p11'W. This Ramsar Site includes a freshwater lagoon and seasonal marshes which represent the last stretch of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland connecting the lower and upper Great Lakes. Humber Marsh provides habitat for a number of species such as the Michigan Endangered Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and is considered essential for the preservation of migrating raptor species such as the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) and other migrating waterfowl and passerines that stop over in the Ramsar Site. Moreover, its lagoon serves as spawning and nursery habitat for many fish species. Humber Marsh's international importance has been recognized through its inclusion in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (IWR), North America's only IWR as well as through its designation as part of an Important Bird Area (IBA), its recognition as one of 34 Waterfowl Habitat Areas of Major Concern in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and its designation as part of an American Heritage River by U.S. Presidential Order. In 2004, the Site was protected due to developers' attempts to negatively impact the wetland. Despite this protection, factors such as invasive species like *Phragmites australis*, sedimentation, and pollutants still threaten the site. Visitors from all over southeast Michigan, northwest Ohio, and southern Ontario come to Humber Marsh for fishing, hunting, and paddling; other activities include environmental education for urban and rural schools and scientific monitoring. The management of this Ramsar Site is included in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and in an Environmental Assessment developed in 2005, which is currently being implemented. Ramsar Site No. 1928. Most recent information: 2010.

## Humedal Caribe Noreste

Site number: 811 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Limón, Heredia  
Area: 75 310 ha | Coordinates: 10°30'N 83°30'W | Designation dates: 20-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Caribe Noreste. 20/03/96; Limón y Heredia; 75,310 ha; 10°30'N 083°30'W. The wetland includes lakes, grassmarshes, wooded swamps, gullies, streams and backwaters of large rivers as well as estuarine lagoons. The wetland area is the main stopover and entrance to Costa Rica for most Neotropical migratory birds, and the eagle *Morphnus guianensis*, the second largest bird of prey, has been recorded in the area. There are also several species of salamanders thought to be endemic to the area. The area is used largely for agriculture, and cattle ranching, tourism and fishing are also important activities. Ramsar site no. 811. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Humedal de Importancia Especialmente para la Conservación de Aves Acuáticas Reserva Ría Lagartos

Site number: 332 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Yucatán  
Area: 60 348 ha | Coordinates: 21°30'N 88°00'W | Designation dates: 04-07-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal de Importancia Especialmente para la Conservación de Aves Acuáticas Ría Lagartos. 04/07/86; Yucatán; 60,348 ha; 21°30'N 088°00'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 7 August 1996. Biosphere Reserve. An extensive complex of small estuaries and hypersaline coastal lagoons separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a dune cordon. Certain parts receive fresh water from subterranean aquifers. Eight specific vegetation zones are present, providing habitat for several notable or endangered species of plants. The vegetative diversity gives rise to an abundant fauna, representing a high percentage of species known in the Yucatan, including numerous threatened or endangered species. Several villages and archaeological areas are located within the site. Human activities include, fishing, tourism, agriculture, livestock rearing, and salt extraction. Special research and educational efforts are devoted to the protection and conservation of marine turtles. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1989 and 1991. Area significantly extended in September 2002. Ramsar site no. 332. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Humedal de Importancia Internacional Damani-Guariviara

Site number: 1 907 | Country: Panama | Administrative region: Ngöbe Buglé  
Area: 24 089 ha | Coordinates: 08°56'N 81°44'W | Designation dates: 09-03-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal de Importancia Internacional Damani-Guariviara. 09/03/10; Comarca Ngöble Buglé; 24,089 ha; 08°56'N 081°44'W. National protected area. The Damani-Guariviara wetland lies within the Neotropical-Caribbean biogeographical region and includes coastal and inland wetlands such as beaches, marshes, salty and freshwater lagoons, rivers and mangroves. Because of its various habitats, the site has high biological value as it sustains an ample diversity of flora and fauna. The area is an important nesting site for turtles such as the critically endangered Carey (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and it sustains species in CITES' appendices I and II and IUCN Red List such as Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Howling monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*), Harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The area also provides livelihoods for the nomad Ngöbe y Buglé ethnic groups, among Panama's most ancient tribes, and it is considered to have high ethno- and eco-touristic potential. Among its main threats, the wetland faces deforestation, inappropriate agricultural practices, subsistence hunting, overexploitation of marine resources, mining, and pollution of its catchment. In response, a management plan has been proposed for the site. The site was designated a national protected area in 2004 under the category Wetland of International Importance. Ramsar site no. 1907. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Humedal Delta del Cauto

Site number: 1 236 | Country: Cuba | Administrative region: Granma, Las Tunas  
Area: 47 836 ha | Coordinates: 20°34'N 77°12'W | Designation dates: 18-11-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Delta del Cauto. 18/11/02. Granma, Las Tunas. 47,836 ha. 20°34'N, 077°12'W. Two Protected Areas within site. The largest delta in Cuba and one of the most important in the Caribbean, the Humedal Delta del Cauto is an intricate system of estuaries, lagoons, marshes and swamps of singular beauty. Its inaccessibility and difficulty of transit have kept anthropic effects to a minimum at the site. The local flora includes some of the best preserved mangrove populations (four species) in Cuba, as well as several species of *Copernicia*. Several vulnerable and endangered animal species inhabit the site, among them the endemic Cuban parakeet (*Aratinga euops*), Cuban tree-duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) and Birama anole (*Anolis birama*). This wetland is also considered a major contributor to the productiveness (fisheries) of the Gulf of Guacanayabo, where the Río Cauto flows out to the sea. Ramsar site no. 1236. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Humedal el Yali

Site number: 878 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Region V  
Area: 520 ha | Coordinates: 33°50'S 71°38'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal el Yali. 02/12/96; Región V; 520 ha; 33°50'S 071°38'W. National Reserve. The most important wetlands in central and northern Chile due to their richness in species and abundance of aquatic birdlife. The site provides important feeding, nesting and refuge areas for numerous species of migratory birds. A total of 115 species of birds (including threatened, vulnerable or rare species), representing approximately 25% of all birdlife found in Chile, frequent the site. The area consists of the El Yali marsh, several brackish lakes, and two artificial saltmarshes. Meadow vegetation predominates. Over-extraction of salt draws water off the marsh and the lagoon. Surrounding areas are subject to increasing urbanization. Ramsar site no. 878. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Humedales Chaco

Site number: 1 366 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Chaco  
Area: 508 000 ha | Coordinates: 27°20'S 58°50'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales Chaco. 02/02/04; Chaco; 508,000 ha.; 27°20'S 058°50'W. Covering part of the Paraná and Paraguay Rivers floodplain complex in the eastern border of Chaco province, limited to the north by the Bermejo River and surrounding the city of Resistencia. The hydrological regimes of each river give rise to different pulses of flood and drought in these wetlands, regulating floods downstream and retaining water in times of drought. The landscape is a complex of open water, aquatic vegetation, grasslands and gallery forests. Wildlife in these forests shares traits with that of the Humid Chaco and the Amazon region, and representative tree species are the "Ibira-Pitá" *Peltoporum vogelianum*, the "Lapacho negro" *Tabebuia ipe*, *Nectandra falcifolia* and *Enterolobium contortosilquum*. Several endangered species inhabit the site, including the Marsh Deer *Blastocercus dichotomus*, the Neotropical Otter *Lutra longicaudis*, the Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata*. Crocodylians (*Caiman latirostris*, *C. crocodylus*), the Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*, and the endemic South American lungfish *Lepidosiren paradoxa* are also found. Economically important fish species are the Sorubims *Pseudoplatystoma coruscans* and *P. fasciatum* and *Manguruyu Paulicea lutkeni*. Cattle raising and rice crops are important activities, followed by soybean and sorghum. Hydrological changes have been noticeable since the 1960s, with dam building in the Upper Paraná in Brazil, deforestation, and increase in precipitation. WWF and Fundación Proteger supported the site designation. Ramsar site no. 1366.

## Humedales Costeros de la Bahía Tongoy

Site number: 2 361 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Coquimbo  
Area: 259 ha | Coordinates: 30°18'S 71°33'W | Designation dates: 21-11-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bahía de Tongoy is located within the biodiversity hotspot of the Mediterranean region of central Chile. It comprises three coastal wetlands – Salinas Chica, Salinas Grande and Pachingo – as well as dune and plains ecosystems. At the regional level, the Site is part of a series of wetlands in arid areas that serve as a refuge and feeding site for more than 46 locally and internationally threatened species, including the Atacama toad (*Rhinella atacamensis*) and the endangered small tern (*Sterna lorata*), as well as numerous migratory birds from both north and south. The Site provides important ecosystem services for nearby human communities; in addition to providing water for agriculture and goat livestock, it is supporting the early development of ecological tourism.

## Humedales de Bahía Adair

Site number: 1 866 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 42 429,8 ha | Coordinates: 31°34'N 113°53'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Bahía Adair. 02/02/09; Sonora; 42,430 ha; 31° 34' N and 113° 53' W. This site is composed by three types of habitats, including estuaries, artesian wells and salt marshes and is located in the Gran Desierto de Altar, one of the most arid and extreme deserts of North America. These habitats present particular flora and fauna species. The site supports 12 fauna species found under special protection in the Mexican Normative NOM-059-ECOL-2001, such as the Desert Pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) endemic of the region and endangered, and species listed in CITES such as the marine turtles *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia agassizi*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Dermochelys coriacea* y *Lepidochelys olivacea*. Three fish species *Gillichthys seta*, *Anchoa mundeoloides* and *Leuresthes sardina* endemic of the northern Gulf of California, as well as two endemic flora species: *Distichlis palmeri* y *Suaeda puertopenascoa*. The main hydrological value of these wetlands is the presence of the Sonoyta-Puerto Peñasco Aquifer of prehistoric formation. The main land uses include tourism and real estate in the coastal zone, conservation, salt extraction, scientific research, environmental education, subsistence fishing, oyster culture and ecotourism. A portion of the site is found in the Alto Golfo y Delta del Río Colorado Biosphere Reserve and another portion adjoins El Pinacate y el Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve. This site is found under the following IUCN management categories: Ia (Strict Nature Reserve), Ib (Wilderness Area), VI (Managed Resource Protected Area).

## Humedales de Bahía San Jorge

Site number: 1 983 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 12 197,8 ha | Coordinates: 31°06'N 113°04'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Bahía de San Jorge. 02/02/10; Sonora; 12,198 ha; 31°06'00"N 113°04'11"W. Includes eight types of habitats that connect the terrestrial system with one of the most productive marine systems in the world, the Gulf of California, and are also part of an extremely arid desert ecosystem. It supports a great diversity of flora and fauna adapted to extreme conditions of the region, such as halophytic plants, four endemic species of fish (*Gillichthys seta*, *Anchoa mundeoloides*, *Colpichthys regis* and *Leuresthes sardina*) and two endemic plant species (*Distichlis palmeri* and *Suaeda puertopenascoa*). The site is part of the Pacific Flyway and serves as a nesting site for birds such as Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*), the Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*), the American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) and the Large-billed Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus*). The channels and marshes of the site serve as refuge and feeding areas for larval and juvenile stages of fish and invertebrates. The site also holds a resident population of Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). The wetlands are important for mitigation of floods and prevention of coastal erosion. Among the major land uses are aquaculture and fishing. Ramsar Site no. 1983. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Humedales de Guachochi

Site number: 2 205 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chihuahua  
Area: 57,5 ha | Coordinates: 26°50'N 107°08'W | Designation dates: 30-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Guachochi. 30/10/13; Chihuahua; 57,5 ha; 26°50'8"N 107°7'31"W. The Site is comprised of eight endorheic reservoirs and lagoons located in the Sierra Madre Occidental range in south-eastern Chihuahua. Its importance is due to its role in controlling and preventing flooding and in retaining seasonal water. It supports numerous species, including migratory birds. Threatened or endangered species include the birds *Anas platyrhynchos diazi* and *Ardea herodias*, the parrot *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhynchos*, the endemic squirrel *Sciurus aberti durangi* and the endemic hare *Lepus californicus sheldoni*. It is also important for the *Rarámuri* indigenous groups that use the Site for subsistence fishing and farming. The distribution of migratory water birds is threatened by deforestation in the surrounding area and the demand for spaces for ecotourism and for water and energy supply. Ramsar Site No.: 2205. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Humedales de Jaragua

Site number: 2 210 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Pedernales  
Area: 32 978,6 ha | Coordinates: 17°47'N 71°30'W | Designation dates: 04-07-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Jaragua. 04/07/14; Pedernales; 32,978.6 ha; 17°43'47"N 71°32'0"W. The Site is made up of three sub-sites: Laguna de Oviedo, Bucán de Base – Canal Beata, and Pedernales Bucanye – Cabo Rojo – Bahía de las Águilas. It features different types of coastal wetland including permanent and temporary lagoons, vast mangroves, extensive sea grass beds and coral reefs. It is rich in biodiversity and supports threatened or endangered species such as the coral *Acropora palmate*, the Antillean manatee *Trichechus manatus manatus*, and the birds *Dendrocygna arborea* and *Corvus leucognaphalus*. The Site also supports the only known populations of the endemic Jaragua pupfish (*Cyprinodon nichollsi*) and is of utmost importance for the four species of sea turtle that nest and forage in the area. It has one of the largest populations in the world of juvenile hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and also supports populations of *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*. The wetlands are also essential to the local economy which is based on artisan fishing, as they support species of high commercial value such as the lobster *Panulirus argus* and the queen conch *Strombus gigas*. The threats to the Site are associated with different economic activities; among these are the storage and transportation by land and sea of Bauxite, the movement and anchoring of boats and the development of tourism in the area. Ramsar Site no. 2210. Most Recent RIS information: 2014

## Humedales de la Laguna La Cruz

Site number: 2 154 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 6 665,2 ha | Coordinates: 28°47'N 111°53'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de la Laguna La Cruz. 02/02/13; Hermosillo, Sonora; 6,665.146 ha; 111°52'52.65"W 28°47'14.76" N. The importance of this Ramsar Site is based on its location, physical characteristics and on the large number of species it supports. This wetland is part of the Pacific Migratory Route and is an important rest area for migratory birds. The Site provides food and refuge to a total of 154 species of birds. 84 of these are aquatic bird species and of those, 9 have populations of over 1% of the total species population that live at this Ramsar Site. In terms of fish, 96 species have been identified at the Site which is also vital for some species during adverse climatic conditions and as a breeding area of various fish, mollusc and crustacean species. The Site is particularly important for species of the Gobiidae, Atherinidae, Gerreidae and the Engraulidae families during their larval and juvenile stages. The Site is characterized by its mangrove forests, which are unique as they are located within the northern limit of their distribution, lack fresh water inputs and are within the Sonorean Desert area. As a result, species such as the *Frankenia* spp., which are adapted to the very saline conditions, are found at the Site. This Ramsar Site also supports threatened species such as the marine turtle *Chelonia mydas* and the elegant tern *Sterna elegans* among others. Furthermore, the Site is highly significant for the local communities as it maintains the fisheries of the area. It is also an important area for tourism and research. The main threats to the Site are related to the shrimp farms located in the outskirts of the Site and their effluents. Ramsar Site No. 2154

## Humedales de la Laguna La Popotera

Site number: 1 462 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 1 975 ha | Coordinates: 18°40'N 95°31'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de la Laguna La Popotera. 05/06/05; Veracruz; 1,975 ha; 18°40'N 095°31'W. An extensive site containing at least 24 wetland types and a large number of marshes, ponds, rivers and sand dunes combined with a thick mangrove forest. The estuarine nature of the waters make the site an ideal resting and breeding ground for numerous species. A total of 78 endangered or threatened species inhabit the area, among them the manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), river otter (*Lontra longicaudis*), and an endemic lizard species that resembles a snake (*Ophisaurus ceroni*). An estimated 300 species of waterfowl inhabit the area. Sugar cane agriculture, cattle ranching and poaching constitute the main potential threats to this site. Ramsar site No.1462. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Humedales de la Sierra de Urbión

Site number: 1 672 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Logroño  
Area: 86 ha | Coordinates: 42°01'N 02°53'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de la Sierra de Urbión. 27/01/06; La Rioja; 86 ha; 42°01'N 002°53'W. EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Natural Protected Area. A complex of ten 10 small wetlands located in a typical alpine high mountain environment of glacial origin, though it is located in the Mediterranean region. Over 90% of the area is occupied by alpine and sub-alpine grasses, while the surface covered by water and rock materials occupies less than 10%. The land is mostly used for cattle ranching, and in some sectors such as the Reserva Regional de Caza Cameros-Demanda hunting is also permitted. Nevertheless, the wetlands are in an excellent state of conservation and major impacts have not been detected. Ramsar site no. 1672. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Humedales del Delta del Río Colorado

Site number: 814 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California, Sonora  
Area: 250 000 ha | Coordinates: 31°50'N 114°59'W | Designation dates: 20-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales del Delta del Río Colorado. 20/03/96; Baja California, Sonora; 250,000 ha; 31°50'N 114°59'W. Reserva de la Biosfera, Shorebird Reserve. A system of natural and artificial wetlands consisting of intertidal wetlands, brackish deltas, riverine environments, and permanent, freshwater lakes and ponds, set in one of the largest hydrographic basins in North America. Vegetation consists of diverse aquatic plants and coastal halophytic (salt tolerant) species, representing numerous endemic, rare or threatened species. Over 400 species of flora are present, with resident and migratory waterbirds representing the most important wildlife. Human activities include fishing, hunting, agriculture, scientific research, environmental education, ecotourism, and ranching. Small settlements of indigenous people are present. The delta, intensively modified due to agriculture and the lowering of the water table, represent the main threats. Ramsar site no. 814. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Humedales del Lago de Pátzcuaro

Site number: 1 447 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacán  
Area: 707 ha | Coordinates: 19°34'N 101°40'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales del Lago de Pátzcuaro. 02/02/05; Michoacán; 707 ha; 19°34'N 101°40'W. The southwestern sector of Lake Pátzcuaro, lying at 2,035 meters asl in an endorheic basin of volcanic origin, is the shallowest area of the lake, with extensive areas of marshes of American bulrush *Scirpus americanus*, Cattail *Typha latifolia*, Grassleaf arrowhead *Sagittaria graminea* and Black flatsedge *Cyperus niger*, as well as communities of Banana waterlily *Nymphaea mexicana* and Illinois pondweed *Potamogeton illinoensis*. The lake is rich in endemic fish species such as the Bulldog goodeid *Alloophorus robustus*, *Chirostoma estor*, *Algansea lacustris*, *Goodea luitpoldii* and the molluscs *Opeas patzcuarensis* and *Potamopyrgus patzcuarensis*. It also provides habitat for two globally endangered species: the Black-Polled Yellowthroat *Geothlypis speciosa* and the salamander *Ambystoma dumerilii*. Surrounding areas are densely populated and the lake has provided livelihoods for the P'urepecha indigenous people and their descendants. The lake is renowned worldwide for hosting the Day of the Dead celebrations in November in several of the villages on its shores and islands. Problems arise from eutrophication and siltation due to erosion in the basin, disposal of untreated waters from agriculture and urban areas, overfishing and invasive species. There is a permanent dredging program of silted areas and an ongoing plan to recover populations of *Chirostoma estor*. Ramsar site no. 1447. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Humedales del Macizo de Peñalara

Site number: 1 673 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Rascafría  
Area: 487 ha | Coordinates: 40°51'N 03°57'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales del Macizo de Peñalara. 27/01/06; Madrid; 487 ha; 40°51'N 03°57'W. Natural Park, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Biocynetic Reserve. The morphological traits of the Macizo de Peñalara were shaped during the last ice age, which explain the high mountain characteristics presented by its wetlands and flora; there are 242 high altitude ponds and lagoons of glacial origin, some of them temporary, as well as some permanent and temporary creeks, and peatlands dominated by Sphagnum. The site also contains 11 natural habitat types in which the vegetation follows a clear altitude-specific distribution, with pine trees in the lower zones and high altitude shrublands higher up. All these factors combine to provide a great variety of landscapes. However, factors such as air pollution and forest fires also threaten the integrity of the ecosystem, and fungus infections have eliminated over 90% of a native toad (*Alytes obstetricans*). The contribution of traditional livestock grazing to the eutrophication of the wetlands is currently being investigated. Ramsar site no. 1673. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Humedales del Sur de Isabela

Site number: 1 202 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Galápagos  
Area: 872 ha | Coordinates: 00°57'N 90°58'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales del Sur de Isabela. 17/09/02. Galápagos. 872 ha. 00°57'S 090°58'W. National Park. An area of coastal (359 ha) and marine (513 ha) wetlands, including the Poza de Los Diablos and other small ponds as well as the beaches, mangroves, and shallow marine waters of the Bahía de Puerto Villamil on Isabela, the largest of the Galápagos islands. An extremely rich area in terms of its biodiversity, the site, on islands of recent volcanic formation, has a high number of endemic species, many of which are listed as vulnerable or endangered in the IUCN Red List: the Lava gull (*Larus fuliginosus*), for example, the Galapagos penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) and Galapagos sea lion (*Zalophus californianus wollebacki*), the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Green sea urchin (*Lytechinus semituberculatus*), the marine iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) and the sea cucumber (*Stichopus fuscus*). Moreover, the site sustains more than 22.5% of the endemic subspecies Galapagos flamingo and significant proportions of a number of native fish species. Nearly all of the site falls within the Parque Nacional Galápagos, and human uses include tourism, non-commercial fishing among the local population, and the raising of such introduced mammals as goats, pigs, and cattle. The potential proliferation of introduced species, particularly of rats, cats, the African kikuyu grasses, and the invasive tree frog *Scinax quinquefasciata* since 1998 (the first amphibians in the islands), is noted as a cause for concern. Ramsar site no. 1202. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Humedales de Montaña La Kisst

Site number: 1 787 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 35,7 ha | Coordinates: 16°44'N 92°39'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Montaña La Kisst. 02/02/08; Chiapas; 36 ha, 16°44'N 92°39'W. Área Natural Protegida. A high altitude wetland (2,120m asl), important for humans as it captures, filters, stores and provides clean water; the springs found in the area are the primary supply of clean water to San Cristobal de las Casas. The site supports great populations of fish and amphibians, of which 10 have been identified as endemic or under a protection category, e.g., the endemic fish *Profundulus hildebrandi* and *Ergaticus versicolor*, both in danger of extinction. The Bearded Screech-Owl (*Otus barbarus*) is a threatened species, and subject to special protection are: the frog species *Plectrohyla pycnochila* and *Eleutherodactylus glaucus*. The site is also an important resting place for migratory birds. Among negative factors are the constant increase of the population and the unorganized spread of housing, which have caused the area to diminish in size and led to deforestation, and constant freshwater pumping has caused the depletion of water and the drying out of many parts of the wetland. Ramsar site no. 1787. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Humedales de Montaña María Eugenia

Site number: 2 045 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 86 ha | Coordinates: 16°43'N 92°37'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Montaña María Eugenia. 02/02/12; Chiapas; 86 ha, 16°43'N 92°37'W. Área Natural Protegida. A high altitude wetland (2,120m asl), important for its major role in the prevention and control of flooding. As an urban wetland, it is important for the recharge of aquifers to supply water to San Cristobal de las Casas. The site supports large populations of fish, birds, and amphibians, of which 5 have been identified as endemic or under a protection category, according to the IUCN Red list: the endemic fish *Profundulus hildebrandi* and *Ergaticus versicolor*, both in danger of extinction, and critically endangered *Plectrohyla pycnochila*, *Abronia lythrochila*, and *Carduelis atriceps*. The site is also an important resting place for migratory birds, and a refuge for local species. It is critical for the survival of populations of resident species, e.g. *Micropterus salmoides*, *Lithobates brownorum*, and *Tamnophis proximus*. Among negative factors are the constant increase of the population and the unorganized spread of housing, which have caused the area to diminish in size and led to deforestation. Since 2006, there is a recreational area designed for tourism and environmental education. A promising management programme has been approved. Ramsar Site no. 2045. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Humedales de Península Valdés

Site number: 2 070 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Chubut  
Area: 42 695 ha | Coordinates: 42°28'S 64°18'W | Designation dates: 20-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Península Valdés. 20/07/12; Chubut; 42,695 ha; 42°27'00"S 064°20'00"W. World Heritage Site; Natural Protected Area. A system comprising two coastal sub-sites along the gulfs on either side of the Valdés peninsula in Patagonia. The site is an important source of food for diverse resident and migratory marine birds; it is, for example, a regular stopover for *Calidris canutus rufa*, a critically endangered subspecies. The wetlands support more than 20,000 birds, taking into account populations of *Calidris canutus*, *C. alba*, *C. bairdii*, *C. fuscicollis*, *Haematopus palliatus* and *Charadrius falklandicus*, and other aquatic birds such as *Larus dominicanus*, *Larus maculipennis*, *Sterna hirundinacea*, *S. eurygnatha*, *S. maxima* *Phoenicopterus chilensis* and *Lophonetta specularioides*. According to the census between 1994 and 2010, the site supports more than 1% of the populations of *Calidris Canutus* and *Haematopus palliatus*, and more than 10% of *Charadrius falklandicus*. It is also important for its archeological and paleontological values. Ramsar Site no. 2070. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Humedales de Yavaros-Moroncarit

Site number: 1 984 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 13 627,2 ha | Coordinates: 26°44'N 109°31'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Yavaros-Moroncarit. 02/02/10; Sonora; 13,627 ha; 26°43'39"N 109°31'00"W. A lagoon complex considered to be a critical habitat for a variety of species, some of them under legal protection in Mexico, such as the Yellow-footed gull (*Larus livens*), the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and Black-Bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla nigricans*). There are also 66 species of birds that are on the lists of priority species for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NBCA). Each year over 50,000 individuals of shorebirds visit the marshes, mud flats and mangroves of the Moroncarit lagoon, and it is also an important wintering site for 47,000 ducks, geese and other waterfowl. Due to its high biodiversity and versatility in the use of natural resources, the southern coast of Sonora is a marine priority area of Mexico. The Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) has been breeding here since 1988, and other marine mammals recorded are the Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) and the Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*). Among the adverse factors affecting the site are the uncontrolled fishing and tourism activities. The most common land uses within the site include agriculture and ranching. Ramsar Site no. 1984. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Humedales La Libertad

Site number: 1 774 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 5 432 ha | Coordinates: 17°39'N 91°43'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales La Libertad. 02/02/08; Chiapas; 5,432 ha; 17°39'N 91°43'W. Situated in the Usumacinta River Basin, the site is composed of a complex of lagoons and temporary floodplains formed by the river La Libertad. The Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), the Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) and the Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*) are amongst the endangered species living in the area. The site presents ideal conditions for the reproduction stages of many species of importance including: the Coatimundi (*Nasua narica*), Paca (*Agouti paca*), the Banded Anteater (*Tamandua mexicana*), the Mesoamerican River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*), the Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodilus moreletii*), and fish species including *Atractosteus tropicus* and *Cichlasoma heterospilum*. It also shelters at least 99 species of resident and migratory birds. Fishing is the main productive activity. Factors negatively affecting the site include agricultural and livestock practices, deforestation, soil compaction caused by grazing, the discharge of waste waters, etc. The National History and Ecology Institute is in charge of the management of the site, and it is found under the IV IUCN Category of protected areas. Ramsar site no. 1774. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Humedales Mogote - Ensenada La Paz

Site number: 1 816 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 9 184,1 ha | Coordinates: 24°09'N 110°21'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales Mogote-Ensenada de La Paz . 02/02/08; Baja California Sur; 9,184 ha; 24°09'N 110°21'W. A coastal lagoon separated from the La Paz Bay by a sandy barrier (El Mogote), with temporal pluvial water incoming during the summer. The mangroves of Ensenada de La Paz have floodplains and internal water bodies, creating small lagoons that are important nesting areas for many bird species such as *Ardea herodias*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta rufescens*, *E. thula*, *E. tricolor*, *E. caerulea*, *Nyctanassa violacea*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Eudocimus albus*, *Butorides striatus*, *Rallus limicola* (endemic), *Charadrius wilsonia* and *Sternula antillarum*, most of them under special legal protection. 37% of the bird species are migratory more than 20,000 migratory shorebirds on their journey south stop in for a few days or weeks to eat and rest during the winter season. The most common mammal is the California Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus*), and other species like *Procyon lotor*, *Canis latrans* and *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* can also be seen. There are 390 registered fish species in the Bay, including 14 species of sharks. The main activities undertaken are agricultural, livestock, industrial, and tourism. A Site of Regional Importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN, 2006). Ramsar site no. 1816. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Humedales y Turberas de Padul

Site number: 1 674 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Granada  
Area: 327 ha | Coordinates: 37°01'N 03°37'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales y Turberas de Padul. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 327 ha; 37°00'N 003°36'W. Natural Park, EU Directive Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. Comprising the remains of a fluvial swamp system located in the Lecrín Valley, next to the mountains of Sierra Nevada in Granada. The mountains surrounding these wetlands have been transformed over centuries by human activity, modifying the hydrology to create drainage channels and springs. This site constitutes the only wetland of endorheic origin in the province and one of the largest peatlands in Mediterranean Europe. It is of high importance given the vast numbers of birds that frequent it, as well as for its cultural and socioeconomic characteristics. The wetland is an important site for reproduction, resting and hibernating seasons of many species, including *Circus aeruginosus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Porphyrion porphyrio*, *Egretta garcetta*, and *Circus cyaneus*. The main threats include peat extraction leading to a lowering of the groundwater level and the presence of abundant water vegetation. A slow eutrophication process due to fertilizer run-off is also present. Ramsar site no. 1674. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Humedal Laguna Melincué

Site number: 1 785 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Santa Fe  
Area: 92 000 ha | Coordinates: 33°43'S 61°30'W | Designation dates: 24-07-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Laguna Melincué. 24/07/08; Santa Fe; 92,000 ha; 33°43'S 61°30'W. Multiple Use Reserve. The lagoon constitutes a wetland of regional and continental relevance, and it is of great importance for resident and migratory species. It is one of the two floodplain wetlands that support one of the most important populations of the Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus andinus*) in its winter distribution. This species is considered to be the rarest of the five flamingo species found at a global level. Among the wetland's hydrological values are the recharge of aquifers and the moderation of extreme temperatures registered in the area. The threats that negatively affect this site are related to human activities, such as livestock, agriculture, and waste water disposal. Ramsar site no. 1785. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Humedal La Sierra de Guadalupe

Site number: 1 815 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 348 087 ha | Coordinates: 26°40'N 112°30'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal La Sierra de Guadalupe. 02/02/08; Baja California Sur; 348,087 ha; 26°40'N 112°30'W. This system comprises four intermittent riverine systems that form several oases, and a coastal marine wetland. It is located between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California coasts and is important as the only freshwater source available in a territory where these sources are very scarce during the year, playing a vital role for local and migratory fauna. Two endemic flora species have been registered for the site, *Washingtonia robusta* y *Prosopis articulata*, as well as eight endemic reptile species including the amphisbaenid *Bipes biporus*. The long drought season is the factor most likely to alter this wetland, followed by anthropogenic threats that derive mainly from the extraction of water for human consumption and subsistence agriculture. Ramsar site no. 1815. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Humedal Los Comondú

Site number: 1 761 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 460 959 ha | Coordinates: 26°04'N 111°47'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Los Comondú. 02/02/08; Baja California Sur; 460,959 ha; 26°05'N 111°48'W. Situated in Sierra La Giganta, the wetland is distinguished by three large oases. It supports threatened species such as *Geothlypis beldingi*, *Vireo bellii*, *Poliopitila californica*, and endemic species like the Xantus's Hummingbird (*Hylocharis xantusi*). The site is of great importance for 36 species of Neotropical migratory birds, providing them with shelter and food. The main land uses are grazing and agricultural practices, as well as water extraction for agricultural, livestock and urban purposes. The greatest threats to the integrity of the site include hurricanes (which provoke flooding), the introduction of exotic flora species like the Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), Phoenix datylifera, the Buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*), and the Palay rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) causing the displacement of native species, and introduced fish species like the Guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*) and the Redbelly tilapia (*Tilapia zilli*). Ramsar site no. 1761. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Humedal Lucre - Huacarpay

Site number: 1 627 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Cusco  
Area: 1 978,8 ha | Coordinates: 13°37'S 71°44'W | Designation dates: 23-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Lucre - Huacarpay. 23/09/06; Cusco; 1979 ha; 13°37'S 071°44'W. Situated at an altitude of 3,020 meters, this High-Andean wetland comprises four permanent and one temporary lagoons, two swamps and two rivers, and is part of the Pikillaqta Archeological Park and the National Tourist Reserve. This wetland provides considerable food and refuge to various threatened (*Falco femoralis*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Jabiru mycteria*) and endemic (*Oreonympha nobilis*, *Asthenes ottonis*, *Poospiza caesar*) avian species, making it possible to identify over 70 such species throughout the year. Among the most representative flora are various species of cacti and the "Algarrobo" tree (*Prosopis laevigata*), which at 3,100 meters AMSL probably has the highest altitude of its distribution in South America. The overexploitation of resources constitutes an important threat to the site, which is in turn facilitated by uncertainty about the ownership of the land. Ramsar Site No. 1627. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Humedal Maquenque

Site number: 1 918 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Alajuela  
Area: 59 692 ha | Coordinates: 10°40'N 84°08'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Maquenque. 22/05/10; Alajuela; 59,692 ha; 10°40'N 084°08'W; This new Ramsar Site is located in the northern part of Costa Rica and includes the total area of the National Wildlife Refuge Maquenque and the intermediate zone of the National Wildlife Refuge Biological Border Corridor Nicaragua-Costa Rica. The Ramsar Site consists of a lagoon complex and palustrine ecosystem distinctive of the very humid tropical ecoregion and characterized by its high biodiversity and support to endangered species such as the Lapa Verde (*Ara ambigua*), vulnerable species such as the Manatí (*Trichechus manatus*) and other important species such as the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and Pez Gaspars (*Atractosteus tropicus*). Furthermore, the wetland has an important hydrological value on the functioning of the surrounding basins. The main threats to this site are agricultural and forestry activities focused near the Colpachí and Manatí Lagoons. Both Protected Areas that form the Humedal Maquenque Ramsar Site have a management plan focusing on conservation activities. Ramsar Site no. 1918. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Humedal Río Máximo-Cagüey

Site number: 1 237 | Country: Cuba | Administrative region: Camagüey Province  
Area: 22 000 ha | Coordinates: 21°43'N 77°27'W | Designation dates: 18-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedal Río Máximo-Cagüey. 18/11/02. Camagüey. 22,000 ha. 21°43'N, 077°27'W. Protected Area. An extremely fragile marine-coastal ecosystem undergoing salinization, this wetland is located at the mouth of the rivers Máximo and Cagüey, and includes a number of keys located in the shallow surroundings. The area is the largest nesting site for flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*) in all the Caribbean and the Antilles, and it's also a refuge for other migratory birds from North, Central and South America. Large populations of American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) and Caribbean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*), both vulnerable species, inhabit the site. The dominant vegetation types in the area include mono-dominant and mixed mangrove forests, microphyllic and swamp evergreen forests, and *Conocarpus erectus* and *Bucida* spp. evergreen forests. Adverse factors affecting the site are related to human activities in the catchment area, including upstream deviations of the water supply and pollution from agricultural residual waters. Ramsar site no. 1237. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Hungry Bay Mangrove Swamp

Site number: 987 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bermuda Island  
Area: 2 ha | Coordinates: 32°16'N 64°45'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hungry Bay Mangrove Swamp. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 2 ha; 32°16'N 064°45'W. Nature Reserve. A tidal mangrove swamp (Bermuda's largest) in a shallow sea bay with a relatively narrow opening to the sea. It has the longest continuous sequence of mangrove peat layers in the Atlantic. The site supports important populations of endangered native crabs (*Cardisoma guanhumi*, *Cenobita clypeata*), crustacean species, and wintering birds (*Nyctanassa violacea*, *Ceryle alcyon*). Tidal channels are used for boat traffic. Ramsar site no. 987. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Hunter Estuary Wetlands

Site number: 287 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 3 388 ha | Coordinates: 32°51'S 151°46'E | Designation dates: 21-02-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hunter Estuary Wetlands. 21/02/84; New South Wales; 3,388 ha; 32°51'S 151°46'E; Nature Reserve. The Site comprises the Kooragang Nature Reserve (designated as a Ramsar Site in 1984) and the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia (added in 2002). The two are connected by a wildlife corridor consisting of Ironbark Creek, the Hunter River, and Ash Island. The Kooragang lies within the estuarine section of the Hunter River; habitats include mangrove forest, saltmarsh, saline pastures, Casuarina forest, brackish swamps, standing open water, sandflats, beaches and rock-retaining walls and ponds. The Site is of great importance for migratory waterbirds such as the Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). It also supports endangered bird species such as the Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The Nature Reserve is used primarily for ornithological, wetlands ecology and fisheries research together with bird watching, while surrounding areas are mainly for industrial, residential and transport purposes, water supply infrastructure and grazing. The site has historical significance for Aboriginal communities. Ramsar Site no. 287. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Hutovo Blato

Site number: 1 105 | Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina | Administrative region:  
Area: 7 411 ha | Coordinates: 43°03'N 17°37'E | Designation dates: 24-09-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hutovo Blato. 24/09/01; 7,411 ha; 43°03'N 17°37'E. Nature Park. Located near the estuary of the Neretva river, the site, comprising swamps, lakes, wet meadows, and riverine forest, provides favorable conditions for many wetland species, particularly of birds and fish, several of which are described as endangered. Human activities in the area include fishing and hunting; pressures from drainage, agricultural intensification, urbanization, and growing tourism are seen to pose potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1105. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Hynna

Site number: 1 191 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Oppland  
Area: 6 442 ha | Coordinates: 61°15'N 09°54'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large mire complex with a number of large and smaller pools, as well as dry ground with open upland birch woodland and Norway spruce *Picea abies*. The mire complex is characterized by a variation of string mires (shifting dry and wet strings) and dryer mires on shallow slopes. It is an important area for several threatened breeding waterbirds, such as the Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*, the ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and the Northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. The mire areas store carbon, regulate local climate, provide water during droughts, and contribute to flood control during periods of high precipitation. Human uses are limited to leisure activities including sport fishing and hunting.

## Hyo-ko

Site number: 1 842 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Niigata Prefecture  
Area: 24 ha | Coordinates: 37°50'N 139°14'E | Designation dates: 30-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hyo-ko. 30/10/08; Niigata; 24 ha; 37°50'N, 139°14'E Habitat/Species Management Area, Natural Monument. Irrigation reservoirs created artificially in the Edo Period (1603-1867) and, since 1990-2000, a bird sanctuary located in the centre of Niigata Plain in Agano City, fed by the Oodoori river. IUCN Red-listed vulnerable species like Steller's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*) and Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) are found here, as well as Tundra Swans *Cygnus columbianus* above the 1% threshold. The site includes some nationally protected flora species as well. A marshy vegetation serves as habitat for 100 bird species for wintering purposes, aquatic plants and fish species. Hunting is prohibited at the site and local residents are involved in its conservation. Eutrophication and nearby residential development are seen as potential threats. A management plan is anticipated to enter into force in October 2008. Ramsar site no. 1842. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Ibisha Island

Site number: 1 227 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Montana  
Area: 3 365 ha | Coordinates: 43°49'N 23°31'E | Designation dates: 24-09-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ibisha Island. 24/09/02. Montana; 3,365 ha; 43°49'40"N 023°31'00"E; Important Bird Area, CORINE, Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). A complex of small islands on the River Danube along the country's northern boundary with Romania, the Site has been extended by 2,993 ha to include additional islands and an area with agricultural and semi-natural lands. It is of international importance for the conservation of mammals, amphibians and threatened species of waterbirds such as the pygmy cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*, red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis* and the Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. Ibisha Island itself is covered with seasonally flooded riverine forest of *Alnus* spp., *Salix* spp. and *Populus* spp. The Site plays an important role in regulating floods and trapping sediment. Human uses include forestry, fishing, agriculture and research. Intensive forestry activities disturb the birds during the breeding season. Additionally, the use of non-native species in forestry activities has resulted in the disappearance of natural floodplain forest on the river banks. A management plan was being developed in 2014. Ramsar Site no. 1227. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Ichkeul

Site number: 213 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Bizerte  
Area: 12 600 ha | Coordinates: 37°10'N 09°40'E | Designation dates: 24-11-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ichkeul. 24/11/80; Bizerte; 12,600 ha; 37°10'N 09°40'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site; National Park. An extensive, seasonally variable lake with associated marshes and varying salinity. Vegetation consists of reedbeds, scrub, and halophytic (salt tolerant) plants. The region is one of the most important in Tunisia for fresh water and in North Africa for several species of wintering waterbirds, whose numbers reach 90,000 or more and include globally threatened species. Human activities include fishing, with production reaching 200,000 kg per year, livestock grazing, and tourism. There is an ecomuseum and information centre at the site. The restriction of the water supply to the lake has caused the drying out of the marshes, a decline in the quality of bird habitat, higher salinity, and increased grazing, which further degrades the marsh vegetation. Designated as a Montreux Record site in 1990 because of possible changes to its ecological character resulting from dam construction on the inflowing oueds (rivers), outside the Ramsar site, for the purpose of supplying water for irrigation. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988, 1989, and 2000. Ramsar site no. 213. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Ijsselmeer

Site number: 1 246 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland,Flevoland,Noord-Holland  
Area: 113 341 ha | Coordinates: 52°49'N 05°21'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ijsselmeer. 29/08/00; Friesland, Flevoland, Noord-Holland; 113,341 ha; 052°45'N 005°27'E; Natura 2000 (SPA,SAC). The boundaries of the Ramsar Site have been aligned to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 5,220 ha. Ijsselmeer was cut off from the Wadden Sea by Afsluitdijk causeway in 1932, and about 45% of the territory was reclaimed as polders. Presently it is a vast shallow freshwater lake, the largest freshwater basin in the country. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds as well as endangered bird species such as ruff, bittern, avocet and spotted crane. Ijsselmeer plays a crucial role in regulation of hydrology in the northern Netherlands – it acts as a drain for the surrounding land and water is discharged into the Wadden Sea through Afsluitdijk or into the North Sea via Markermeer and the North Sea Channel. Human activities include tourism, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic and sand extraction. The site is threatened by artificial water level management, intensive commercial fishing, industrialization, urbanization and the construction of wind farms. Ramsar Site no. 1246. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Ikkattoq and adjacent archipelago

Site number: 387 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Nuuk  
Area: 44 880 ha | Coordinates: 62°40'N 50°08'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ikkattoq and adjacent archipelago. 27/01/88; Nuuk; 44,880 ha; 62°40'N 050°08'W. A shallow, tidal fjord, extensive mudflats and numerous small islands. The area is important for the globally threatened sea eagle, which breeds at the site, staging marine ducks, and Greenland's largest known molting flock of Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* (1,000 individuals in 1985, 474 in 1999). Ramsar site no. 387. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Ile Alcatraz

Site number: 571 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Kamsar,Boke  
Area: 1 ha | Coordinates: 10°38'N 15°23'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ile Alcatraz. 18/11/92; Kamsar, Boke; 1 ha; 10°38'N 015°23'W. Shallow marine waters, sandy intertidal zones, and two small islands. The larger (Ile Alcatraz) is rocky, devoid of vegetation and covered by a thick layer of guano, providing nesting habitat for the largest colony (3,000 pairs) of *Sula leucogaster* in West Africa. Ile de Naufrage, a low sand bank, remains uncovered at high tide, providing a roost for 6 species of terns. Surrounding waters support dolphins and marine turtles. Ramsar site no. 571. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Ile Blanche

Site number: 618 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region:  
Area: 10 ha | Coordinates: 09°26'N 13°46'W | Designation dates: 23-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ile Blanche. 23/06/93; 10 ha; 09°26'N 013°46'W. A rocky sand covered islet. Unusual for the occurrence of coral and rare fish species. The last substantial refuge in Guinea for *Lepidochelys olivacea*, which reproduce here. Sea turtles are among the rare and endangered species and are hunted. Clandestine collection of coral and turtle eggs occurs. Home to shipwrecks, the area is used for water sports and traditional rituals. Ramsar site no. 618.

## Ile de Rachgoun

Site number: 1 961 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Ain Témouchent  
Area: 66 ha | Coordinates: 35°19'N 01°29'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The island of Rachgoun, off the coastline of the wilaya (province) of Ain Témouchent in western Algeria, is the main wintering site for several bird species which rest and nest in very large numbers during their migration between Eurasia and Africa. Among these are several varieties of gulls such as *Larus ridibundus* and *Larus audouinii*. *The Site is home to threatened bird species including Fratercula arctica and Numenius arquata*. It also provides refuge for large cetaceans such as sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus*. Mediterranean tapeweed (*Posidonia oceanica*), a key species for various other marine organisms, covers a large area around the island. Human interventions have degraded the ecological and physical integrity of the island and its fragile ecosystem. For example, the eastern area of the island was one of the last areas in the Western Mediterranean frequented by the globally-endangered Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), until abusive fishing resulted in the disappearance of the last individual in the early 2000s.

## Île d'Europa

Site number: 2 073 | Country: France | Administrative region: Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises  
Area: 205 800 ha | Coordinates: 22°21'S 40°21'E | Designation dates: 27-10-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ile d'Europa (Terres Australes et Antarctiques françaises). 27/10/11; Terres Australes et Antarctiques françaises; 205,800 ha; 22°21'00"S 040°21'00"E. Nature Reserve, Important Bird Area (IBA). A low-lying island of coral origin in the Mozambique Channel with a central lagoon enclosed by mangroves. The island itself is surrounded by a "fringing reef", interrupted by sandy beaches, which constitute one of the world's most important breeding and nesting sites for the globally endangered Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The site also offers habitat to the globally endangered Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idea*, Fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus* and Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna lewini*. It supports a high number of nesting sea birds including two subspecies endemic to the Indian Ocean: Audubon's Shearwater *Puffinus lhermieri* bailloni and Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata nubilosa*. Reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds are critical in protecting and stabilizing the island's coastline and supporting nesting bird and fish species. Largely undisturbed by human activities, the island is of great scientific significance, constituting an open-air laboratory for the study of the natural evolution of island ecosystems and global change. Threatening factors include introduced species such as goats and rats as well as several plant species. Ramsar Site number: 2073. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Ilene and Presterødikilen Wetland System

Site number: 308 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Vestfold  
Area: 216 ha | Coordinates: 59°16'N 10°25'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of two separate nature reserves. Ilene is a classic delta and area of shallow water in the inner part of a narrow fjord arm around the mouth of the Aulielva river. The area contains a mosaic of mudflats, saltmarsh, reedbeds, sedge belts and heather-covered areas of pinewood. Presterødikilen is a shallow coastal bay surrounded by reedbeds. The shallow waters are built up with alluvial deposits and postglacial marine clay and are rich in algae, snails, mussels and other invertebrates. Both areas are exposed at a low tide and are important feeding sites for ducks and waders. In the permanently water-covered areas, *Zostera marina* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis* grow. A total of 240 bird species and 200 plant species have been recorded at the Site. It is also important for wintering and breeding birds, including several nationally threatened species. The Site functions as a sediment trap and offers habitat to the brown trout *Salmo trutta*. Ilene is considered among the best sites for birdwatching in the county, and there is an information centre and a birdwatching tower. A footpath through the area helps to channel visitors and thereby reduce disturbance.

## Iles Barren

Site number: 2 303 | Country: Madagascar  
| Administrative region: Districts de Maintirano et d'Antsalova dans la Région Melaky  
Area: 463 200 ha | Coordinates: 18°16'S 43°47'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Barren archipelago extends between 15 and 65 kilometres south-west of the town of Maintirano in the Mozambique Channel, less than 500 km from the East African coast. It is composed of a large reef complex, extensive areas of sea grass beds, mangrove forests, estuarine marshes, coastal dunes and dense semi-humid forests. The wide range of preserved, healthy and productive habitats supports exceptionally rich ecosystems, which include 39 coral genera and 150 species of fish. The site is home to five threatened bird species such as the critically endangered *Haliaeetus vociferoides* and the endangered *Arena humbloti* and *Anas bernieri*. There are also five species of threatened sea turtles, eight threatened shark species, the critically endangered coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*, 13 species of dolphins, and the vulnerable dugong as well as several species of whales and rays. A new model of fisheries management promoting the human rights and protecting the fishing zones of a community of more than 4,000 traditional fishermen on the Site has been developed by Blue Ventures.

## Iles Ehotilé-Essouman

Site number: 1 584 | Country: Côte d'Ivoire | Administrative region: Sud-Comoé  
Area: 27 274 ha | Coordinates: 05°09'N 03°13'W | Designation dates: 18-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ehotilé-Essouman Complex includes a group of nine islands situated in a lagoon separated from the sea by a string of sand dunes. The Site provides a spawning and nursery ground for a number of fish such as daisy stingray *Dasyatis margarita* and bonefish *Albula vulpes*, for oysters such as *Crassostrea gasar*, gastropods, prawns and crabs. African manatee *Trichechus senegalensis*, spotted-necked otter *Hydrictis maculicollis* and African clawless otter *Aonyx capensis* also benefit from the aquatic environment, while the Site hosts numerous waterbird species. It also plays an important role in recharging groundwater, stabilizing the shoreline, attenuating wave action, and regulating the exchange of nutrients between the sea and the lagoon. The Site has been a national park since 1974, after local communities banned activities other than tourism on the islands, and allowed fishing as a main activity in the rest of the area. The presence of underwater ancestral cemeteries gives cultural importance to the Site, and scientific and educational projects have taken place there. However, timber exploitation, overfishing, uncontrolled tourism and hunting of birds and bats present threats. A management plan is being implemented with local communities who contribute effectively to the conservation of the Site.

## Iles Kerkennah ou L'archipel de Kerkennah

Site number: 2 012 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sfax  
Area: 15 000 ha | Coordinates: 34°47'N 11°15'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Iles Kerkennah ou l'archipel de Kerkennah. 02/02/12; Sfax; 15,000 ha; 34°47'25"N 011°14'54"E. Réserve Naturelle. A flat archipelago of several islets and permanent shallow marine water at the northeastern end of the Kerkennah Islands. It is a significant wintering ground for migrating birds including waterbirds and shoreline bird species. The tufts of Neptune Grass, *Posidonia oceanica*, covering the area play an important role in maintaining biodiversity as they supply oxygen and shelter for many vertebrate and invertebrate species, including aquatic species such as fish, bivalves and gastropods among others. Marine fauna in the area are also represented by sponges and mollusks and several types of tortoise. The site and surroundings are an important fishing and agricultural area with a moderately developed tourism sector; artisanal fishing is best represented by a famous, local traditional method, called charfias, using arrays of traps built from palm leaves. Potential threats include the presence of large phosphate producing industries, but it is expected that the management plan, legal steps, and creation of a marine protected area will ameliorate the situation. Ramsar Site no. 2012. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Iles Kneiss avec leurs zones intertidales

Site number: 1 704 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sfax  
Area: 22 027 ha | Coordinates: 34°22'N 10°20'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Iles Kneiss avec leurs zones intertidales. 07/11/07; Sfax; 22,027 ha; 34°22'N 010°20'E. Located at the center of the Gulf of Gabès and noted for its remarkably high tidal variation of about 2m amplitude, a vast depression surrounded by marine subtidal aquatic beds, intertidal mud and sand flats, intertidal marshes and sandy shores. These islands, about 3.5km from the mainland, consist of 4 subislands which emerge from the sea at high tide but are surrounded by vast mud and sand flats at low tide. The dominant marine vegetation is *Cymodocea nodosa*. This site is the most important area for migratory waders in the Mediterranean zone, and over 330,000 waterbirds have been counted on this wetland. It is a breeding ground for the little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), common Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*), Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*) and a wintering ground for the Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), etc. The shores of the islands hold a wide variety of shellfish which are exploited visiting population. The islands are not inhabited but are visited by humans for shell collection for exportation to Italy. Despite the introduction of collection licenses in 1988, overexploitation of shell remains a problem. Ramsar site No. 1704. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Iles Tristao

Site number: 572 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region:  
Area: 85 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°55'N 15°00'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Iles Tristao. 18/11/92; 85,000 ha; 10°55'N 015°00'W. Kogon River Delta, an estuarine complex of extensive mangrove forests and sandy intertidal zones. The site contains several villages where activities include traditional fishing, rice cultivation, and small-scale horticulture. The area supports nesting and wintering birds. Mammals include hippopotamus. Ramsar site no. 572. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Ilha do Bananal

Site number: 624 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Tocantins  
Area: 562 312 ha | Coordinates: 10°31'S 50°12'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ilha do Bananal. 04/10/93; Tocantins; 562,312 ha; 10°31'S 050°12'W. National park. Extensive floodplain system of the Araguaia River with navigable medium to high flow rivers, seasonal lagoons, marshes and numerous islands. Ilha do Bananal is the largest fluvial island in the world. A diverse flora and fauna representing the transition zone between humid tropical forest of the Amazon Basin and woody savannas with gallery forest are present. The site is an extremely rich area for waterbirds, with a wide variety of resident breeding species and many Nearctic shorebirds occurring on migration. Human activities include illegal grazing of domestic livestock, poaching, and some illegal settlement. Ramsar site no. 624. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Ilha Grande National Park

Site number: 2 316 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Paraná and Mato Grosso do Sul  
Area: 76 033,1 ha | Coordinates: 23°41'S 52°00'W | Designation dates: 30-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the Paraná River, on the border of the states of Paraná and Mato Grosso do Sul, near the border with Paraguay. It is composed of approximately 180 islands, as well as river banks, natural ponds and freshwater marshes. The National Park protects two types of environment that are now rare and degraded in the Brazilian Mid-South: riparian forests and floodplains. Besides the scenic beauty, these areas are important breeding and feeding places for several species of fish. It also hosts various endangered species, including the marsh deer *Blastocercus dichotomus*, symbol of the National Park, the brown howler monkey *Alouatta fusca* and the Southeastern four-eyed opossum *Philander frenata*, which is endemic to the Atlantic Forest. Fires, hunting and the introduction of alien species all present threats to the Site.

## Ilhéus das Formigas e Recife Dollabarat

Site number: 1 804 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 7 ha | Coordinates: 37°16'N 24°46'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ilhéus das Formigas e Recife Dollabarat. 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 7 ha; 37°16'N 024°46'W. The Formigas are volcanic islets emerging from an extensive submarine mount of lava deposits and fossil sediment deposits; they are located roughly between the two main islands of the eastern group of the archipelago, Santa Maria and São Miguel. These coastal habitats are found only at this site in the biogeographic region of Macaronesia and include islets, shallow waters, subtidal shores and coral reefs. The reefs are well known in the North Atlantic for their high biodiversity and rich diversity and quantity of pelagic and demersal fishes that use the site for feeding and spawning. There are also kelp grasslands of *Laminaria ochroleuca* and black corals (*Antiphatos wollastoni*) colonies under 15 metres deep which are excellent habitat for the Dusky grouper (*Ephinephelus marginatus*), the Comb grouper (*Mycteroperca fusca*), the Ornate wrasse (*Thalassoma pavo*), and *Centrolabrus caeruleus* that can reach quite uncommon large body sizes. In spite of the threats caused by illegal fisheries, both sport and professional, the site remains in a very good state of conservation. Ramsar site no. 1804. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Ili River Delta and South Lake Balkhash

Site number: 2 020 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Almaty Oblast  
Area: 976 630,3 ha | Coordinates: 45°36'N 74°44'E | Designation dates: 01-01-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The wetland is situated in Southern Kazakhstan, in the northern part of three districts: Balkhash, Karataly and Aksu. The Ili River Delta is the largest remaining natural delta on an inland lake in Central Asia. It supports 10 inland wetland types including permanent inland delta; freshwater lake; rivers, streams or creeks; and seasonal or intermittent freshwater lakes.

The wetland provides a rich variety of desert flora (427 species) and fauna (345 species) and supports a range of threatened species, including 25 bird, 1 fish and 3 mammal species. Important threatened species include the Goitered Gazelle, Marbled Polecat, White-headed Duck, Red-breasted Goose and Ship Sturgeon. More than 70,000 birds have been counted at the site, including greater than 1% of the global population of 8 bird species, such as the Dalmatian Pelican.

Balkash Lake and the Ili River Delta are important fishery water bodies and the floodplains in the area are the most productive haying lands and good pastures.

The wetland is being threatened by a 30% reduction in the water inflow due to the construction of the Kapchagai hydroelectric station and creation of the Akdaly irrigation unit.

The wetland area is managed under the authority of the Altyn-Emel State National Nature Park.

## Ilots Tinhosas

Site number: 1 632 | Country: Sao Tome and Principe | Administrative region: Tinhosa Grande / Tinhosa Pequena  
Area: 23 ha | Coordinates: 01°22'N 07°17'E | Designation dates: 21-08-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ilots Tinhosas. 21/08/06; 23 ha; 01°22'N 007°18'E. Two small rocky islands, Tinhosa Grande (20 ha) and Tinhosa Pequena (3 ha), unvegetated and uninhabited by humans, lying between Sao Tome and Principe about 22km south-southwest of the latter. The site supports an important community of seabirds and serves as a reproduction site for more than 300,000 migratory waterbirds, including Brown Gannet (*Sula fusca*), Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*), Brown and Black Noddy, and in lesser numbers, Yellow-billed tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*). Ramsar site no. 1632. Most recent RIS information: 2006 (unofficial).

### Impluvium d'Evian

Site number: 1 833 | Country: France | Administrative region: Haute- Savoie  
Area: 3 275 ha | Coordinates: 46°22'N 06°36'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Impluvium d'Evian. 15/09/08; Rhône-Alpes; 3,275 ha; 46°22'N 06°36'E. Natura 2000. Close to Lac Léman (Lake Geneva) near the border with Switzerland, the site is located in the heart of a plateau where the popular mineral waters of Evian have their origin as rainwater is absorbed in the soil. During the infiltration process it is purified and redistributed underground, feeding the aquifer. The site is composed of seasonal and permanent freshwater marshes, forested and non-forested peatlands, rivers and streams. Although the site does not support an outstanding number of species, it provides an important habitat for invertebrates, in particular for two butterfly species *Coenonympha tullia* and *Boloria aquilonaris* whose populations are in decline every where else in the region. *Liparis loeserii*, a very rare orchid, is still well represented in the site. Urban development and water abstraction are possible threats for the maintenance of the hydrological balance of the site. Ramsar site no. 1833. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Imuta-ike

Site number: 1 544 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Kagoshima Prefecture  
Area: 60 ha | Coordinates: 31°49'N 130°28'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Imuta-ike. 08/11/05; Kagoshima; 60 ha; 31°49'N 130°28'E. Natural Habitat Conservation Area, Natural Monument. In Satuma-sendai city, outflowing to the Sendai River and surrounded by a small cluster of volcanoes, the freshwater crater lake Imuta-ike of Iimori Mountain forms a crucial component of its surrounding lake-low moor ecosystem. At the northwest, the peat 'islands' are considered a national natural monument serving an ideal for *Phragmites japonica*, *Zizania latifolia* Manchurian Wild-rice, and *Nymphaea tetragona* Pygmy Water Lily. The lake is a conservation priority for many species of dragonfly including IUCN Redlisted critically endangered *Libellula Angelina*. It is also a breeding site for Spot-billed duck and habitat for various other waterfowl. Scarcity of human settlements in the area has kept its pristine environment, although water is utilized for irrigation downstream. The city government established an Ecosystem Preservation Museum to raise public awareness of the site's diversity, especially the peat plant communities, using interpretive panels, models, visual images and training sessions. Annually, about 35,000 tourists visit the site for sight-seeing, finishing and canoeing. Ramsar site no. 1544. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Inaccessible Island

Site number: 1 869 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: St Helena  
Area: 126 524 ha | Coordinates: 37°18'S 12°41'W | Designation dates: 20-11-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Inaccessible Island. 20/11/08; St Helena, Tristan da Cunha; 126,524 ha; 37°18'S 012°41'W. World Heritage Site, Nature Reserve, Important Bird Area, Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. The site includes Inaccessible Island and surrounding territorial waters. Inaccessible Island is a near-pristine cool temperate island of volcanic origin. A total of 24 species of seabirds and land birds as well as the Subantarctic Fur Seal breed there, some in very large numbers. Non-forested peatlands and rocky marine shores are critical to the survival of the breeding populations of Tristan Albatross (relict population of 2-3 pairs) and Spectacled Petrel (island endemic), and Northern Rockhopper Penguin and Sooty Albatross, respectively, all of which are globally threatened. Other important wetland types include permanent freshwater pools, permanent streams and marine subtidal aquatic beds. There is no permanent human population - from time to time small numbers of researchers and conservation management teams visit the island. Commercial fishery for Tristan Rock Lobster and limited recreational fishing under license take place in Inaccessible's territorial waters. Ramsar site no. 1869. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Inagua National Park

Site number: 892 | Country: Bahamas | Administrative region: Great Inagua Island  
Area: 32 600 ha | Coordinates: 21°05'N 73°20'W | Designation dates: 07-02-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Inagua National Park. 07/02/97; Great Inagua Island; 32,600 ha; 21°05'N 073°20'W. National Park. A permanent lake with scattered islands, a saline lagoon, extensive saltmarshes, dense mangroves, and permanent, brackish marsh. An important area for breeding, passage and wintering for numerous species of waterbirds and particularly important for its breeding colony of over 40,000 Caribbean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*). The site supports several species of endangered, rare and endemic reptiles and birds. Ramsar site no. 892. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2 256 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Kachin State  
Area: 47 884,4 ha | Coordinates: 25°10'N 96°22'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site comprises Indawgyi Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in Myanmar, and surrounding lowlands which have mostly been converted to wet rice agriculture. The Lake plays a role in flood control and provides regionally important habitats to at least 20,000 migratory and resident waterbirds. These include globally threatened birds such as the vulnerable lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) and wood snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*). The Site is home to globally threatened mammals such as the endangered hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) and Shortridge's langur (*Trachypitecus shortridgei*), and the vulnerable eastern hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock leuconedys*). It also hosts five species of globally threatened chelonians, of which three are endangered: the Asian brown tortoise (*Manouria emys*), Burmese peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonina formosa*), and the yellow tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). Indawgyi Lake has a high diversity of fish, including seven species recently discovered and endemic to the Site. The 30,000 people living in 16 villages around the lake basin depend on a mixture of rice farming and fishing for their livelihoods. The annual festival held in March at the Shwe Myint Zu Pagoda on the west side of the lake attracts tens of thousands of Buddhist pilgrims.

## Indus Delta

Site number: 1 284 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 472 800 ha | Coordinates: 24°06'N 67°42'E | Designation dates: 05-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Indus Delta. 05/11/02; Sindh; ~472,800 ha; 24°06'N 67°42'E. Includes wildlife sanctuaries. The fifth largest delta in the world, formed under largely arid climatic conditions and characterized by high river discharge, moderate tides, and evidently the highest wave energy of any river in the world. The fan-shaped delta consists of creeks, estuaries, mud, sand, salt flats, mangrove habitat, marshes, sea bays, and straits and rocky shores. Its 129,000 ha. of mangrove, mostly *Avicenna marina*, comprises 97% of the total mangrove area in the country and is said to be the 7th largest mangrove forest in the world. A large number of species are supported, of birds (including the threatened Dalmatian pelican), of fish and shrimps, and of dolphins (Plumbeous dolphin, Finless porpoise, and Bottlenose dolphin), humpback whale, and reptiles. The area is rich in archaeological and religious heritage. Some 40 settlements in the area, with about one million people, find livelihoods largely from fishing. Ramsar site no. 1284. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Indus Dolphin Reserve

Site number: 1 065 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh  
Area: 125 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°01'N 69°15'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Indus Dolphin Reserve. 10/05/01; Sindh; 125,000 ha; 28°01'N, 69°15'E. A 170 km stretch of the River Indus between the Sukkar and Guddu barrages, providing a home for the 500 remaining individuals of the formerly common Indus dolphin *Platanista minor* (or *P. indi*), a blind cetacean endemic to this river. Originally sea creatures, the Indus dolphins adapted to river life as the Indian subcontinent rose. The site is considered essential for the survival of this CITES Appendix I and IUCN Red List species endemic to Pakistan. The area is also home to the historical Sadhu bella Hindu shrine and Satnjo Astan Muslim graveyard. Ramsar site no. 1065. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Inlay Lake Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 356 | Country: Myanmar  
| Administrative region: Southern Shan State, the Shan Plateau of East Myanmar  
Area: 5 797,6 ha | Coordinates: 20°34'N 96°55'E | Designation dates: 10-08-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located on the Shan Plateau of eastern Myanmar, is the second-largest inland lake in the country. Its unique geology has created ideal conditions for a wealth of plants and animals, including many which are endemic to the Site. Elephant grass, known locally as *kaing*, is important in maintaining the structure of floating islands for agriculture. The endemic Inlay carp (*Cyprinus intha*), locally called *nga-phein*, is culturally symbolic and important for household as well as commercial consumption. Other fish species such as *Sawbwa resplendens*, *Danio erythromicron* and *Microrasbora rubescens* are also only found in the lake and so are globally endangered; nonetheless they are commercially exploited for the aquarium trade. Local inhabitants have adopted unique lifestyles and livelihoods that reflect their biophysical environment: most of them practice traditional methods of fishing and hydroponic cultivation of floating gardens. Inlay Lake was established as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1985 to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity of the wetland ecosystem. As a critical staging ground for migratory birds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the Site was listed as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in 2004. It became an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003 and was designated as Myanmar's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2015.

## Inner Clyde Estuary

Site number: 1 036 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 1 825 ha | Coordinates: 55°57'N 04°37'W | Designation dates: 05-09-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Inner Clyde Estuary. 05/09/00; Scotland; 1,825 ha; 55°57'N 004°38'W. SSSI, EC Special Protection Area. A long narrow, heavily industrialized estuary near Glasgow on the west coast of Scotland, consisting mostly of tidal mudflat with a shoreline of unmanaged semi-natural coastal vegetation; saltmarsh is also present. In winter, the site supports internationally important numbers of redshank *Tringa totanus*. Sport fishing and hunting, in addition to navigation, are practiced in the area. Dredging and pollution from domestic sewage and oil are considered to be adverse factors, but monitoring is intended and long-term improvements in water quality are expected. Ramsar site no. 1036. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Inner Galway Bay

Site number: 838 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Galway  
Area: 11 905 ha | Coordinates: 53°12'N 09°10'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Inner Galway Bay. 11/06/96; 11,905 ha; 53°12'N 009°10'W. The shallow sheltered part of a large sea bay with numerous intertidal inlets and small low islands composed of glacial deposits. The area provides important habitat for marine life along Ireland's west coast. The site supports the richest seaweed flora on the Irish Coast (500+ species) and 65% of the Irish marine algal flora occur in the area. The site supports internationally and nationally important numbers of numerous species of waterbirds. There is a large cormorant colony on Teer Island. Human activities include aquaculture. Ramsar site no. 838. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Inner Mongolia Grand Khingan Hanma Wetlands

Site number: 2 351 | Country: China  
| Administrative region: In Genhe City, Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region  
Area: 107 348 ha | Coordinates: 51°35'N 122°38'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the northern part of the western slope of the Grand Khingan mountains, the Site is one of the most well-preserved temperate coniferous forest areas in China, featuring tundra mountain bright coniferous forest. Lying along the Taliya river and its tributaries, the Site is dominated by marshes, rivers and lakes; the large *Larix gmelinii* and *Sphagnum* bogs are typical of the biogeographic region, and serve as important carbon sinks. The Site plays an important role in regional biodiversity conservation by supporting a variety of rare and threatened species. It is home to 620 species of plants (ferns, bryophytes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms), 26 fish, ten amphibians and reptiles, 203 birds and 51 mammals. It is also an important habitat and breeding ground for a number of bird species in north-east China and along the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. Hanma Wetlands (Hanma Reserve) was among the 51 China Demonstration Reserves in 2006 and became a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2015.

## Inner Moray Firth

Site number: 1 002 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 2 339 ha | Coordinates: 57°31'N 04°15'W | Designation dates: 22-07-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Inner Moray Firth. 22/07/99; Scotland; 2,339 ha; 56°50'N 004°21'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site supports important wetland habitats including intertidal flats, saltmarsh, and a sand and shingle spit. The intertidal areas are especially important for the population of wintering waterfowl, including *Limosa lapponica* (1% of the population) and *Anser anser* (3% of the population). Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, fishing, hunting, and grazing. Ramsar site no. 1002. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Innherred Freshwater System

Site number: 2 159 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag  
Area: 182 ha | Coordinates: 63°46'N 11°26'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises three rich and productive subsites, Hammervatnet, Lundselvøset and Lyngås-Lysgård; it features shallow freshwater areas, inland deltas and lakes. It is important for several nationally red-listed species such as ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, common tern *Sterna hirundo*, otter *Lutra lutra* and European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. During spring and autumn migrations more than 1,000 pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* stop at Lyngås-Lysgård, and up to 3,000 at Lundselvøset. The locations are also important breeding sites for several locally rare bird species; Lake Leksdalsvatnet is perhaps the most valuable breeding site for the horned grebe in Norway, with approximately 50 breeding pairs recorded in 2008. The complex also plays important roles in flood mitigation and water supply. The main activities within the Site are cattle grazing, fishing and birdwatching; all activities are controlled by detailed regulations specific to each protected area. The main threat to the ecological character derives from eutrophication caused by agricultural activities.

## Interlaken Lakeside Reserve

Site number: 259 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 517 ha | Coordinates: 42°09'S 147°10'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Interlaken Lakeside Reserve is a significant example of a mid-altitude wetland which supports threatened endemic species, wetland vegetation communities and an unusual phytoplankton assemblage. Endemic species include the nationally endangered golden galaxias (*Galaxias auratus*) that only occur naturally in Lakes Sorell and Crescent and associated streams and wetlands. The Site is also one of the three known localities in Tasmania for *Scirpus montivagus*, a sedge, and for *Amphibromus neesii*, the southern swamp wallaby grass. Human activities include livestock grazing, sport fishing, and duck shooting.

## Ipoly Valley

Site number: 1 093 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Nógrád county  
Area: 2 303,7 ha | Coordinates: 48°04'N 19°07'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ipoly valley is a long, flat and narrow valley featuring oxbow lakes, permanent freshwater marshes with reedbeds and peat swamp willow gallery forests. The river floodplain is a valuable habitat for migratory birds. Frequently more than 20,000 waterbirds including lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) and red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) use the marshes and wet meadows in early spring as resting and feeding ground, contributing to the biological diversity of the Pannonian biogeographic region. The floodplain plays an important role in flood regulation, sediment and nutrient retention, water purification and groundwater replenishment. The seasonally flooded meadows are partly grazed and mown. Other human activities include wine production, fishing, forestry, hunting and cattle-breeding. The ethnographic and cultural character of the Slovak-Hungarian ethnic border area is unique, as the two peoples have been living there together for centuries. Potential threats derive from sewage pollution and artificial water regulation. A management plan is being prepared.

## Iput River Floodplain

Site number: 2 262 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Dobrush district/Gomel region  
Area: 3 501,8 ha | Coordinates: 52°31'N 31°29'E | Designation dates: 30-03-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located near the border with Russia, the Site is a highly waterlogged floodplain complex composed of broad-leaf and indigenous black alder communities, oak woods, meadows and fen mires. Due to the difficult access, this section of the Iput River floodplain has remained in a natural state and is representative of middle-reach river floodplains, which used to be widespread in the Eastern Polesie region. The preserved natural floodplain communities and indigenous old forests create favourable conditions for a large number of nationally protected flora and fauna species. The wetland hosts two globally threatened species of birds, the European turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* and the common pochard *Aythya ferina*. Globally threatened species of insects include the beetles *Agabus clypealis* and *Dytiscus latissimus*. The open water bodies constitute an important place for traditional amateur fishing. As a result of the cessation of mowing and grazing, the open floodplain meadows are overgrown with shrubs. The territory of the Site is a part of the resettlement and exclusion zone of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and almost all economic activities are prohibited.

## Iron Gates Natural Park

Site number: 1 946 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Caras Severin and Mehedinti Counties  
Area: 115 666 ha | Coordinates: 44°41'N 21°56'E | Designation dates: 05-03-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Iron Gates Natural Park. 18/01/2011. Caras Severin and Mehedinti Counties; 115 666 ha; N 44°41' E 21°56'. Natural Park. The site is situated in South West Romania. It is a potential Transboundary Ramsar Site of outstanding beauty bordering the Republic of Serbia along the course of the Danube river. It is mostly covered by forest that is interspersed with streams and freshwater pools. The variety of ecosystems as well as the diversity of species is very high. Many species of flora (about 3700) and fauna (more than 5200) are protected under international, European and national regulations. Such species include birds like the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), amphibians like the European Fire-bellied Toad (*Bombina orientalis*), vulnerable fish species such as *Acipenser ruthenus*, and mammals like the Otter (*Lutra lutra*). Some plant species are endemic to the area. The large Iron Gates water reservoir serves multiple purposes, from hydropower production to fishing, navigation and leisure activities. It is especially important as a breeding, staging and wintering site for many bird species and regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds. A management plan has been developed and is awaiting approval by the Ministry for Environment and Water Management. Ramsar Site no. 1946. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Irthinghead Mires

Site number: 303 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 792 ha | Coordinates: 55°04'N 02°30'W | Designation dates: 17-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Irthinghead Mires. 17/07/85; England; 792 ha; 55°05'N 002°31'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI, Forest Park. A composite site embracing seven separate areas of mire near the Irthing River's source. The site displays internationally important examples of blanket mire, a notable variety of mosses, and typical mire vegetation. It supports breeding waders, several rare plants, and a rare spider. The mires appear to be gradually drying-out as a result of nearby afforestation. Ramsar site no. 303. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Isla de Annobón

Site number: 1 309 | Country: Equatorial Guinea | Administrative region: Annobón Province  
Area: 23 000 ha | Coordinates: 01°26'S 05°38'E | Designation dates: 02-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isla de Annobón. 02/06/03; Annobón; 23,000 ha; 01°25'S 005°36'E. Nature Reserve. A small island with touristic importance, 6.5km by 3km, some 350km off the coast, all or some of which has been designated as a Nature Reserve for its large numbers of migratory birds and important vascular plants. Coral reefs, sandy or pebbly shores, intertidal flats, and at least one permanent lake are listed as the relevant wetland types, and the site is considered internationally important because of its vulnerable species as well as under both the waterbird and fish criteria. Traditional fishing, hunting, and subsistence agriculture are the principal human uses of the site. Ramsar site no. 1309.

## Isla del Coco

Site number: 940 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Puntarenas  
Area: 99 623 ha | Coordinates: 05°33'N 86°59'W | Designation dates: 10-04-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isla del Coco. 21/04/98; 99,623 ha; 5°32'N 086°59'W. World Heritage site; National Park. The island is of volcanic origin and its highest point is 634 m above sea level with 7,000 mm of rainfall per year. There are two plant associations, one the evergreen forest with South American similarity, on the hilly areas, and a coastal one (dominated by a sedge *Hypolittum amplum*). It is considered to be one of the areas of highest endemism in the country, with five endemic vertebrate species and 16% of the plant species. Surrounding the island there are coral reefs, with 18 species and more than 300 fish species, which in some areas reach concentrations of 1,500-24,000 individuals/km<sup>2</sup>. A shelter for pirates during the 17th and 18th century. The site includes a swampy, coastal zone, a cloud forest and mountainous areas. The area is important for the reproduction of certain species, and large numbers of waterbirds nest in the area. The primary tourist activity is diving. Ramsar site no. 940. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Islands in Ob Estuary, Kara Sea

Site number: 676 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Area  
Area: 128 000 ha | Coordinates: 66°40'N 70°58'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Islands in Ob Estuary, Kara Sea. 13/09/94; Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Area; 128,000 ha; 66°40'N 070°58'E. Nature Reserve. Floodplains of the lower Ob River, consisting of a complex of islands, lakes, channels, wet meadows, and marshes. A typical island feature is temporary water bodies (sors), occupying 40% of the total area. Habitats include fens, sor swamp meadows consisting of sedge-herb associations, grasses and willows. The site, on an important bird migration route, is one of the richest waterbird breeding and molting areas in the northern hemisphere. The numbers of breeding birds fluctuate from year to year, varying from 500 to 2,000 birds per 10 sq. km, depending on water levels. The area is one of the richest whitefish habitats in the world, supporting large populations of various species. Human activities include whitefish and sturgeon production, hay harvesting, ship navigation, reindeer herding, and conservation education. Ramsar site no. 676. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Islands in Onega Bay, White Sea

Site number: 668 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Republic of Karelia  
Area: 3 600 ha | Coordinates: 64°56'N 35°10'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Islands in Onega Bay, White Sea. 13/09/94; Karelia; 3,600 ha; 64°56'N 035°10'E. State Forest Lands, Nature Reserve. Numerous rocky islands of glacial origin and surrounding marine waters. Vegetation communities are typical of regions situated further north, such as elfin woodlands and marine tundra, and include pine-birch forests and tundra-like communities dominated by crowberry *Empetrum* sp., mosses and lichens. The site supports several rare plants and vulnerable mammals. The wetlands support internationally important numbers of several species of breeding waterbirds, notably 1% of the East-Atlantic population of razorbill *Alca torda* and over 1% of the Russian population of black guillemot *Cephus grylle*. The site is also important for wintering and migrating waterbirds. There are objects of archaeological importance, including sacred places of primitive tribes. Human activities include fishing, algae collecting, recreation, and berry and mushroom harvesting. Ramsar site no. 668. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Isla Rasa

Site number: 1 603 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California  
Area: 66 ha | Coordinates: 28°49'N 112°59'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isla Rasa. 02/02/06; Baja California; 66 ha; 28°49'N 112°59'W. An island of volcanic origin with 3 coastal lagoons, located in a zone of high marine productivity. Over 80 species of terrestrial, land and marine bird species have been registered on the island and its surroundings, and according to some authors this site hosts almost the whole population of the Heermann's gull (*Larus heermanni*) and elegant tern (*Sterna elegans*), with tens of thousands of individuals in each case. The island also hosts two endemic reptile species: a gecko and a lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), but no native mammals. The exotic rodents *Rattus rattus* and *Mus musculus*, introduced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were successfully eradicated from the island in 1995. Ramsar site no. 1603. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Isla San Pedro Mártir

Site number: 1 359 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora  
Area: 30 165 ha | Coordinates: 28°23'N 112°19'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isla San Pedro Mártir. 02/02/04; Sonora; 30,165 ha; 28°23'N 112°19'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. A small island of 127 ha off the coast of Sonora, regarded as one of the best preserved islands in the Gulf of California. The island is a favourite site for marine birds, as it hosts very large colonies of Blue-footed Boobies *Sula nebouxi*, Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster*, Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* and Red-billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus*. Two endemic lizards also inhabit the islands, *Uta palmeri* and *Cnemidophorus martyris*, and there is a colony of ca.2,500 California Sea Lions *Zalophus californianus*. The island is bordered by trenches more than 900 metres deep, where the waters of the northern and southern parts of the Gulf meet and generate an upwell. Cliffs and steep slopes dominate the island, which has very little vegetation apart from a small forest of *Pachycereus pringlei* and seasonal meadows of Wild Poppy *Sphaeralcea hainesii*. Its large guano deposits were exploited until 1978, when the island was declared a protected area. Presently there are only temporary fishing camps on the island, and ecotourism is still a minor activity. Ramsar site no. 1359. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Isla Santay

Site number: 1 041 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Guayas  
Area: 4 705 ha | Coordinates: 02°13'S 79°51'W | Designation dates: 31-10-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isla Santay. 31/10/00. Guayas. 4,705 ha. 02°13'S 079°51'W. Located in the delta of the Guayas River near the urban perimeter of the city of Guayaquil. The Isla Santay site (2200ha for the island itself and about 2505ha for surrounding waters) is characterized by halophytic vegetation that is influenced by tides and seasonal changes throughout the year (Ramsar Type "I", Intertidal forested wetlands, including mangrove swamps, etc.). Despite being a highly altered area, it provides refuge for a great number of species and conserves a great biological diversity due to its location in the ecotone region, and the site qualifies for the Ramsar List under all three of the biodiversity Criteria and both of the fish Criteria. It is probably the only known nesting area for the endangered *Amazona autumnalis*. The island is inhabited by 182 residents who practice fishing, traditional agriculture, and livestock raising on a sustainable level, but threats from continuing urban development have been noted. Ramsar site no. 1041. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

### Islas Marietas

Site number: 1 345 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Nayarit  
Area: 1 357 ha | Coordinates: 20°42'N 105°34'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Islas Marietas. 02/02/04; Nayarit; 1,357 ha; 20°42'N 105°34'W. Reserva de Biosfera. Lying off the coast of Nayarit, in Bahía de Banderas, the archipelago consists of two small islands and two islets of volcanic origin. The wind, sun, rain and waves have transformed the substrate, creating various settings that produce an enormous biodiversity. The Islas Marietas are home to a large variety of resident and migratory seabirds, including brown boobies (*Sula leucogaster*) commonly known as motmots, seagulls and pelicans. The archipelago is also important for the breeding of some marine species like the Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaengliae*) and the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The main threat to the site is the "Escalera Náutica del Golfo de California" project which would imply the building of marinas and other associated infrastructures (hotels, airports, etc.), as well as the increase of the number of boats and visitors sailing around or coming to the islands. The archipelago was recently declared a Special Biosphere Reserve and a National Park. Ramsar site no. 1345. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Isles of Scilly

Site number: 1 095 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: South-West Approaches  
Area: 402 ha | Coordinates: 49°57'N 06°20'W | Designation dates: 13-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isles of Scilly. 13/08/01; England; 402 ha; 49°58'N 006°21'W. EC Special Protection Area. SSSI. The site is within the Isles of Scilly archipelago 45km southwest of Land's End, England, and mainly consists of many small uninhabited islands and parts of some inhabited islands, with habitats including coastal cliffs, boulder beaches, heathland, and some dune grassland. The economy of local communities depends heavily upon tourism, which benefits from the presence of high numbers of breeding seabirds in an attractive environment. The site qualifies for the List by virtue of Criterion 6, for during the breeding season some 2.9% of the population of Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) is supported. The sea cliffs, rocky islets, and boulder beaches are relatively devoid of plant communities except for a sparse crevice vegetation with *Crithmum maritimum* and *Armeria maritima*. An environmental trust manages most of the land within the site and controls access of visitors to the most vulnerable areas by voluntary agreement with tour boat operators; it also maintains a rat control programme to reduce their impact on ground-nesting seabirds. Ramsar site no. 1095. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Ismaninger Speichersee & Fischteichen

Site number: 92 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 955 ha | Coordinates: 48°13'N 11°41'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ismaninger Speichersee & Fischteichen. 26/02/76; Bayern; 955 ha; 48°13'N 011°41'E. Nature Reserve. A former peatbog designed for the biological treatment of waste water from Munich. The site consists of an artificial reservoir formed by the damming of the Isar River and 30 adjacent fishponds used for carp breeding and is surrounded by agricultural land. It supports breeding birds and is internationally important for wintering and staging waterbirds. The banks of the reservoir are mostly devoid of vegetation, although part of the southern shoreline is composed of a succession from reedbeds to woodland. Human activities include seasonal hunting and fishing. Ramsar site no. 92. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

### Isola Boscone

Site number: 425 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 201 ha | Coordinates: 45°02'N 11°14'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isola Boscone. 11/04/89; Lombardia; 201 ha; 45°03'N 011°14'E. Natural Reserve. A fluvial island on the Po River, connected to the shore by an artificial isthmus. The area supports a diverse aquatic vegetation. The site supports an important heronry and large numbers of several species of nesting birds. Human activities include angling and conservation education, while the surrounding area is used intensively for agriculture, *Populus* forestry, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 425. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Isøyane

Site number: 316 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 230 ha | Coordinates: 77°09'N 14°47'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes two islands off Spitsbergen – Nordre Isøya and Isøykalven – several smaller islets and the surrounding sea. Nordre Isøya, the northern island, is covered with rich, grassy vegetation and small freshwater ponds, while Isøykalven, the southern island, supports less-developed vegetation. The area is among the most important localities of Spitsbergen for the nesting barnacle geese and the common eider. Polar bears regularly visit the Site. Apart from the traditional collection of eider down and eggs, which is occasionally permitted and considered sustainable, human activities are restricted to research and monitoring. Isøyane is part of the Sør-Spitsbergen National Park, and is a bird protection area.

## Ispani Mire

Site number: 894 | Country: Georgia | Administrative region: Adjara  
Area: 770 ha | Coordinates: 41°52'N 41°50'E | Designation dates: 07-02-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ispani Mire. 07/02/97; Adjara; 770 ha; 41°52'N 41°50'E. Nature Reserve. Quaking bogs, distinguished by a unique floral composition including elements of boreal and high alpine communities. The site includes peat bogs, swamps, fens and forested peatlands set on a coastal alluvial plain. Vegetation consists of grass-Sphagnum bogs and swampy alder forests. Various species of migratory waterbirds occur in internationally important numbers, and the nesting Pandoia haliaetia are supported. Artifacts of the Bronze and Antique periods are found at the site. Human activities include small-scale cattle grazing, mowing, forestry, and peat extraction. Boundaries extended in 2007. Ramsar site no. 894. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Is-Simar

Site number: 789 | Country: Malta | Administrative region: Malta  
Area: 5 ha | Coordinates: 35°57'N 14°23'E | Designation dates: 29-01-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Is-Simar. 29/01/96; 5 ha; 35°57'N 14°23'E. Nature Reserve. A human-made coastal wetland consisting of a saltmarsh, a central pool with islets supporting dense salt-resistant vegetation, shrubs, Acacia trees and Aleppo pines. Noise pollution from a nearby road creates some disturbance. Water levels are maintained by precipitation, run-off, and saltwater seepage through the porous substratum. Human activities include picnickers and campers. There are bird observation hides available. Ramsar site no. 789. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Izembek Lagoon National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 349 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Alaska  
Area: 168 433 ha | Coordinates: 55°19'N 162°53'W | Designation dates: 18-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Izembek Lagoon National Wildlife Refuge. 18/12/86; Alaska; 168,433 ha; 55°18'55"N 162°53'08"W. The Site consists of a series of lagoons and surrounding marshes on the north coast of the Alaska Peninsula. Izembek Lagoon is the largest of its type in Alaska and contains one of the world's largest beds of eelgrass which is a primary food source for many geese and ducks. The Site provides staging habitats for waterfowl that undertake transoceanic flights and nest or winter along the Pacific Rim. It supports water bird species including the black brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*), Taverner's Canada geese (*Branta canadensis taverneri*) and emperor geese (*Chen canagica*). The site also provides feeding and resting areas for a large number of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) and Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), which are endangered and near-threatened respectively according to the IUCN Red List. 39 species of fish use the area as migratory, spawning or nursery habitat; four species of Pacific Salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) enter the freshwater streams of Izembek to spawn. The threats to the site are related to the offshore petroleum operations nearby as there is the possibility of an oil spill and also of disturbance from the construction of pipelines and support facilities. Ramsar Site No. 349. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Izu-numa and Uchi-numa

Site number: 318 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Miyagi Prefecture, Honshu  
Area: 559 ha | Coordinates: 38°43'N 141°06'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Izu-numa & Uchi-numa. 13/09/85; Miyagi, Honshu; 559 ha; 38°43'N 141°06'E. National Wildlife Protection Area; Nature Conservation Area. Two interconnected freshwater lakes supporting fringing peat swamps, reedbeds, and submerged vegetation. One of the few Japanese localities for wild rice, an important food source for wintering Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). The current research focuses on wintering bird populations and the declining growth of wild rice. Principal human activities are nature conservation and fishing. Surrounding areas support rice-growing and pastoralism. Ramsar site no. 318. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Jaaukanigás

Site number: 1 112 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Santa Fe  
Area: 492 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°45'S 59°15'W | Designation dates: 10-10-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jaaukanigás. 10/10/01; Santa Fe; 492,000 ha; 28°45'S 59°15'W. "Jaaukanigás" means "people of the water", a reference to one of the local populations who lived there in the middle of the 18th century. The Parana River is one of the largest and more diverse in the world, the second in South America after the Amazon. An extensive complex of rivers, lagoons, pools, permanent freshwater marshes and seasonally inundated grassland, interspersed with riparian woodland and gallery forest, makes this site one of paramount importance from the biodiversity and hydrological point of view in Argentina. The site provides habitat for a large number of species, some vulnerable or threatened with extinction, such as *Lontra longicaudis*, *Tamandua tetradactyla*, *Chrysocyon brachyurus*, *Caiman yacare*, *C. latirostris*, *Eunectes notaeus*, *Tupinambis merianae*, *Boiruna maculata*, and *Hydrops triangularis*. There is an important population of ducks, including *Netta peposaca*, *Dendrocygna bicolor* and *D. viduata*, and migratory birds such as *Calidris melanotos*, *C. fuscicollis*, *C. bairdii*, *Tringa melanoleuca*, *T. flavipes*, *T. solitaria* and *Limosa haemastica* are also found. There is a very rich aquatic life, with about 300 fish species, which are key for the regional economy, as 50% of the population in the area live by fishing. Sport fishing and ecotourism are important economic activities as well. Ramsar site no. 1112. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Jabal Ali Wetland Sanctuary

Site number: 2 364 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Area: 2 002 ha | Coordinates: 24°57'N 54°56'E | Designation dates: 25-10-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the Emirate of Dubai, Jabal Ali Wetland Sanctuary falls within the Jabal Ali Marine Sanctuary (JAMS), which is recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity as an Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA). This coastal and marine wetland comprises areas of coral reefs, mangroves, shallow lagoons, seagrass beds, oyster beds and sandy shorelines, which maintain a healthy and diverse wetland habitat that provides shelter for over 500 marine species. Among these are many globally threatened species such as the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); the endangered mottled eagle ray (*Aetomylaeus maculatus*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); and the vulnerable dugong (Dugong dugon) and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*). The extensive seagrass beds serve as an important fish nursery and feeding ground for the green turtles and dugong; the sandy beaches provide the only breeding grounds in the Emirate for the hawksbill turtles (with 30 nests recorded in 2017). Given the rapid development of coastal areas in the Emirates, there are very few such sites remaining that support a relatively diverse set of habitats and rich biodiversity, and conserving this ecosystem is crucial for the survival of the species it supports.

## Jaeren wetland system

Site number: 309 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Rogaland  
Area: 3 085 ha | Coordinates: 58°44'N 05°38'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site lies in an agriculture-dominated area of south-western Norway with formerly extensive wetlands. The coastal wetlands remain largely intact, but freshwater sites have been drained on a large scale. Marine areas are dominated by sand, mud, pebble and stone shores, with large areas of dune systems, and the freshwater areas by shallow water and extensive stands of *Phragmites communis*. Three smaller mire systems have also been included in the Site. The coastline of Jæren is one of the most important resting and breeding areas in Norway for migratory and wintering seabirds, waterfowl and shorebirds. Given the influence of agriculture and the high levels of nitrogen pollution in the area, the remaining wetlands are extraordinarily important as sediment traps and for water purification. The shorelines host the densest collection of archaeological sites in Norway, with grave mounds dating back a thousand years or more. Action plans to decrease agricultural runoff are showing promise, and buffer zones are being considered. Many tourists come for the walking, sunbathing and birdwatching.

## Jagdishpur Reservoir

Site number: 1 315 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Lumbini Zone  
Area: 225 ha | Coordinates: 27°35'N 83°05'E | Designation dates: 13-08-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jagdishpur Reservoir. 13/08/03; Kapilvastu; 225 ha; 27°35'N 83°05'E. A reservoir constructed in the early 1970s over the Jakhira lake and agricultural lands for irrigation purposes. The water is fed from the Banganga lake in the Churia hills catchment. The reservoir is surrounded by cultivated land and a few smaller lakes serving as a buffer zone for bird movements. The site provides shelter for an assemblage of some rare, endangered species of conservation importance species, which include plants such as endangered Serpentine (*Rauwolfia serpentina*), rare Pondweed (*Potamogeton lucens*), threatened Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), and endangered and the tallest flying bird species Indian Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone antigone*). The current use of the reservoir by local population includes fishing, grazing, fuel wood and fodder collection, domestic use and supply of water for irrigation in 6,200 ha of surrounding cultivated land. Ramsar site no. 1315. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area

Site number: 1 389 | Country: Marshall Islands | Administrative region: Jaluit Atoll  
Area: 69 000 ha | Coordinates: 06°00'N 169°34'E | Designation dates: 13-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area. 13/07/04; Jaluit Atoll district; 69,000 ha; 06°00'N 169°34'E. Conservation Area. A large coral atoll comprising 91 islets with a land area of 700 ha enclosing a large lagoon and including diverse and relatively pristine marine and terrestrial habitats, such as reefs, sandflats, seagrass beds, mangroves, and sand cays. There is a considerable range of relatively healthy marine species populations of reef fish and invertebrates, and though terrestrial species are more limited there are turtle nesting beaches and seabird roosting islands in relatively stable conditions. Fewer than 2000 people practice a subsistence lifestyle. Traditional land ownership and resource management has been effective, but as resource uses fall increasingly under local government councils there has been a decline in sustainable management awareness and practices. Potential threats include over-harvesting, especially of marine species for off-island markets, and the prospect of rising sea levels associated with global warming. A management plan is in effect. Ramsar sites no. 1389. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Jangdo Wetland

Site number: 1 458 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Chollanam-do Province  
Area: 9 ha | Coordinates: 34°40'N 125°22'E | Designation dates: 30-03-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Jangdo Wetland is a rare mountainous freshwater marsh situated on Daejangdo island; it is a relatively large wetland given the size of the island. The Site was also designated as a National Wetland Conservation Area in 2004. It is unique and of conservation value as the plant species found there are mostly tropical, even though the island is not located in the tropical climate zone. The Site and the adjacent islands are important stopover sites, mostly during spring and autumn, for 60 migratory bird species on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The wetland serves as a major source of drinking water to the population of about 120 people in the island, as well as to its plants and animals. The wetland harbours the largest number of species found in any site on the islands of the Republic of Korea: its 644 species include phytoplankton/zooplankton, benthic invertebrates, insects, amphibians/reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. On the list are the globally vulnerable Chinese egret *Egretta eulophotes* and Styan's grasshopper warbler *Locustella pleskei*, as well as nationally endangered species such as the peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* and the Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra*.

## Jeungdo Tidal Flat

Site number: 1 974 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeollanam-do Province  
Area: 3 130 ha | Coordinates: 34°58'N 126°11'E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The rich ecology and biodiversity of the tidal flats surrounding islands in the southwest of the country provide spawning ground for fish and contribute to macro benthic animal diversity. The site also provides food and resting grounds for waders and migratory birds that pass by this area for breeding and wintering, supporting five internationally endangered species including the Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*, Baikal Teal *Anas Formosa*, Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (App II CMS) and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines* (App I CITES). Jeungdo has a long history of fisheries, and fishing in the area holds great cultural, social and traditional importance for the local people. The amphibious air-breather Goggle-eyed Goby or mudskipper (*Boleophthalmus pectinirostris*) has minor commercial uses, and the amphibious Shuttles hopfish (*Periophthalmus modestus*) is also present. This region was part of the 'Marine Silk Road', a seaward passage for trade and cultural exchanges between China and other countries in ancient times. With sandy beaches and beautiful landscape, the site attracts many tourists, as well as students of the tidal environment. Construction of a barge dock and its facilities, along with "Nodoo" Road has hampered the sea flow. The site has a Five Year Management Plan which was established at the end of 2010.

## Jilin Hani Wetlands

Site number: 2 350 | Country: China | Administrative region: Liuhe County, Tonghua City, Jilin Province, China  
Area: 3 571,5 ha | Coordinates: 42°13'N 126°31'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in north-east China's Changbai mountain system, Jilin Hani Wetlands are part of the Longgang volcano group and mainly comprise forested and non-forested peatlands. Boasting the thickest peat layer (9.6 metres) in north-east China, the Site is one of the most important carbon sinks in the biogeographic region and helps maintain the carbon cycle in the Hani river basin. The peat layer developed through the Holocene period with continuous and fast deposition of diverse plant residues; a peat pillar in the Site provides a rare geological archive of the evolution of the Holocene environment. The Site is mainly fed by rainfall and surface water from bedrock fissures at the foot of the mountain. It is in the headstream region of the Hani river, which flows into the Hunjiang river (a primary tributary of the Yalu river) and is also in the Hani river water conservation area, which is the only source of drinking water for the city of Tonghua. The Site provides important habitats for a wealth of biodiversity, and plays a key role in water conservation, flood control, groundwater recharge, and regulation of the regional microclimate and the carbon cycle in north-east Asia.

## Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 188 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jilin Province  
Area: 144 000 ha | Coordinates: 45°55'N 123°46'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve (144,000 ha; 45°54'32"N 123°45'56"E) located in the transition zone between deserts and grasslands in the northwestern part of Jilin Province, supports wetland types that are representative of the biogeographic region, such as low plain wetlands, rivers, temperate meadow and shallow lakes. These habitats provide important refuge for a variety of fish and bird species. In spring 2012, 97% of the world's population of the critically endangered Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* were recorded at the site, and over 100,000 waterbirds were recorded in each year between 2010 and 2012. The site plays an important role in groundwater recharge, flood water storage, and local climate regulation. It is also important in supporting the local fisheries, livestock farming and agriculture. Ramsar Site no. 2188. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Jiu-Danube Confluence

Site number: 2 115 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Dolj County  
Area: 19 800 ha | Coordinates: 44°00'N 23°54'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jiu-Danube Confluence (Confluenta Jiu-Dunare). 02/02/2013; Dolj County; 19,800 ha; 43°59'38"N 023°53'48"E. Natura 2000 (SPA). The site covers an important part of the Jiu river, which springs in the Southern Carpathians and flows into the Danube. A small part of the Danube meadow is also included in the site. Due to its length (over 60 km north-south), the site includes a great variety of ecosystems: oak forests, poplar forests, small lakes, old branches of the river, sand islands, dunes, marshes, channels, arable lands, etc. The complexity of these ecosystems provides favourable conditions for the presence of a high biodiversity. The site is also an Important Bird Area for many migratory birds, and it was declared a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive in 2007. Some of the species which find ideal conditions for nesting are *Crex crex*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Ciconia ciconia*, and *Burhinus oedipnemus*, and during the migration period, the site is also important for the *Tringa glareola*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Platalea leucorodia* and *Plegadis falcinellus*. In terms of its hydrological value, the site plays a very important role in groundwater level regulation. Fishing is a traditional occupation within the site, and it offers recreational and touristic possibilities, along with several important archaeological sites. The management plan is in development. Ramsar Site no. 2115. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Jiwani Coastal Wetland

Site number: 1 066 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Balochistan  
Area: 4 600 ha | Coordinates: 25°05'N 61°48'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jiwani Coastal Wetland. 10/05/01; Balochistan; 4,600 ha; 25°05'N 061°48'E. Located along Gawater Bay around the delta of the Dasht River, a very significant area of mangrove forests extending westward to the Iranian frontier, contiguous with Iran's Govater Bay and Hur-e-Bahu Ramsar site. The site is a particularly important nesting ground for endangered Olive Ridley and Green turtles, especially at four moderately wide and gently sloping sandy beaches in the eastern part of the site. Fishing is the most important human activity, practiced by clans that have migrated from Iran and from farther east in Pakistan as well as descendants of traders and soldiers from North and East Africa and the Gulf. Provincial plans to grant fishing concessions to a US industrial fishing firm and offshore drilling rights to a foreign oil company are viewed with concern by conservation authorities. Ramsar site no. 1066. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Jizera Headwaters

Site number: 2 074 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Liberec Region  
Area: 2 303 ha | Coordinates: 50°51'N 15°18'E | Designation dates: 13-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jizera Headwaters (Horní Jizera). 13/02/12; Liberec; 2,303 ha; 50°50'51"N 015°19'32"E. (National) Nature Reserve, Nature Monument, Protected Landscape Area, Natura 2000 (SCI, SPA). Situated in the floodplains of the Jizera River valley in the central part of the Jizera Mountains and bordering Poland, the site constitutes one of the largest raised bog complexes in temperate Europe, as well as transition mires and unregulated meandering mountain streams. It provides habitat for many nationally threatened species of flora and internationally threatened species of fauna, including nesting bird species Black Grouse Tetrao tetrix and Common Crane Grus grus. The site is also an important refuge for a number of mountain and peat bog associated spider species and diving beetles. The site acts as a water reservoir and is important for water retention, flow and flood regulation, and carbon fixation. Human uses include forestry, research, recreation and some tourism. The site is threatened by air pollution and forestry-related drainage. An observation tower, nature trails and information booklets exist. The site is a potential transboundary Ramsar Site with Poland. Ramsar Site number: 2074. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Jocks Lagoon

Site number: 258 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 19 ha | Coordinates: 41°21'S 148°18'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jocks Lagoon. 16/11/82; Tasmania; 19 ha; 41°21'S 148°18'E. This small freshwater lagoon in a depression behind coastal dunes provides freshwater in an otherwise-dry coastal area. The Site supports rare and scientifically valuable species. It is a habitat for five nationally threatened plant species, for example the jointed twigsedge *Baumea articulata*, zigzag bogsedge *Schoenus brevifolius* and erect marshflower *Villarsia exaltata*. The Site also supports several threatened native vegetation communities, such as the swamp paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia*. Human activities include livestock grazing, land clearance, recreation and off-road vehicle use. Ramsar site no. 258. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Jubho Lagoon

Site number: 1 067 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 706 ha | Coordinates: 24°20'N 68°40'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jubho Lagoon. 10/05/01; Sindh; 706 ha; 24°20'N 68°40'E. A large shallow brackish lagoon with associated mudflats and marshes, important for wintering waterbirds (particularly Greater and Lesser Flamingos and Dalmatian Pelicans) and for commercial fisheries. The site is privately owned by local inhabitants, who practice fishing and livestock grazing. WWF launched a wetland visitors' centre on World Wetlands Day 1999. Ramsar site no. 1067. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies

Site number: 1 545 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Miyagi Prefecture  
Area: 423 ha | Coordinates: 38°38'N 141°06'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies. 08/11/05; Miyagi; 423 ha; 38°38'N 141°06'E. NWPA. One of the largest wintering sites for Anser albifrons White-fronted Goose (7.86%-18.46% East Eurasian Population), Anser fabalis middendorffii Bean Goose, Whooper Swan and, in total, 230 bird species for breeding, foraging and roosting. The lake is inhabited by typical lowland swamp vegetation of Manchurian wild rice and reeds, with willows along the shores and rare species of *Penthorum chinensis*. About 22 species of dragonflies and various freshwater fishes are found. For managing the wintering ground, measures such as water management, clean-ups, channel maintenance and water quality improvement are regularly conducted. In winter and post-harvest, the rice fields are left flooded for wildbirds to winter in the site; later the nutrient-rich soil from droppings is used as natural fertiliser for the wild rice, in addition to controlling weeds and pests. Public awareness programmes and school education are integrated with the local conservation measures. Ramsar site no. 1545. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kafue Flats

Site number: 530 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Southern Province, Central Province  
Area: 600 500 ha | Coordinates: 15°41'S 27°16'E | Designation dates: 28-08-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kafue Flats. 28/08/91; Southern & Central Provinces; 600,500 ha; 15°41'S 27°16'E. National Parks, Game Management Areas. A vast expanse of floodplains, grasslands, woodland zones and geothermal areas of high biodiversity in a complex pattern of lagoons, oxbow lakes, abandoned river channels, marshes, and levees. The site supports many endangered and endemic species such as the endemic Kafue lechwe (*Kobus lechwe kafuensis*), Wattled crane (*Grus carunculatus*), and Sitatunga, amongst others, and it hosts migratory birds such as the White pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) and the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), as well as 67 fish species. The site possesses natural filtering and storage abilities, thus providing clean and plentiful water and acting as a natural sink for nutrients and other micro-elements. The inhabitants gain a living from fishing and pastoral grazing of livestock. The site is also of traditional and religious value to the Ila people of the Central Province and is of archaeological and historical interest owing to the Gwisho hot springs and Sebanzi hills in the Lochnivar National Park. Draft management plans for the Blue Lagoon and Lochnivar National Parks have been formulated with the participation of different stakeholders. This, together with the Zambian Wildlife Authority anti-poaching law enforcement unit, should combat the threats of over-fishing, poaching, poor management and weed invasion by *Mimosa pigra*. The site was extended from 83,000 to 600,500 ha on 2 February 2007. Ramsar site no. 530. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Kainuunkylä Islands

Site number: 1 510 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 1 005 ha | Coordinates: 66°13'N 23°44'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kainuunkylä Islands. 02/02/04; Lapland; 1,005 ha; 66°12'N 023°44'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. The most extensive area of alluvial meadows in Finland and the largest pool in the River Tornionjoki, where it is situated in the middle of the river dividing it into numerous small tributaries. On the meadows on the 15 islands vegetation is very diverse but aquatic vegetation is scarce. Sedge meadows are extensive near the waterline, whereas in central areas the vegetation becomes bushy and partly forested on the largest islands. The breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna include about 160 waterfowl pairs of 11-13 species and about 140 wader pairs of 10-12 species that are breeding in the area. The pool area of the river is also an important staging place during migration and moulting periods as well as habitat for some scarce species such as Smew, Hen Harrier, Ruff and Arctic Tern. The River Tornionjoki is also the most important reproductive area of salmon for the Baltic Sea region. Because of the cessation of grazing and hay cutting, the waters are in process of overgrowing and there also occurs some natural erosion along the waterline. Ramsar site no. 1510. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kakadu National Park

Site number: 204 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Northern Territory  
Area: 1 979 766 ha | Coordinates: 12°40'S 132°45'E | Designation dates: 06-12-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

An iconic destination within Australia, renowned for its exceptional beauty and unique biodiversity, with a variety of landforms, habitats and wildlife. It encompasses expansive coastal and inland ecosystems such as terrestrial wetlands and woodlands, floodplain ecosystems, swamp forest, rivers, springs, and billabongs, as well as coastal/marine ecosystems with intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass. Wetland habitats are relatively undisturbed and support a broad range of natural values including threatened and endemic species and a remarkable abundance of waterbirds. The site contains a richness of archaeological sites and items, and an ongoing living culture is maintained by the traditional owners of Kakadu National Park today who display a fundamental connection with the wetlands of the Ramsar Site. First listed in parts in 1980 and 1989, on 28 April 2010 these two entities were combined, with an additional 600,000 hectares, to create a single Ramsar Site conforming to the boundaries of the National Park.

## Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs

Site number: 2 001 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Wisconsin  
Area: 4 355 ha | Coordinates: 46°39'N 90°41'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs. 02/02/12; Wisconsin; 4,355 ha; 46°39'N 090°41'W. National Natural Landmark. A largely undeveloped wetland complex composed of sloughs, bogs, and coastal lagoons that harbor the largest natural wild rice bed on the Great Lakes. The area is under tribal management that is protected as a Conservation Area by an Integrated Resource Management Plan under the jurisdiction of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa. The endangered Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and threatened Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) are two rare and elusive species known to inhabit the site. It provides necessary and rare feeding, resting, and nesting habitat for both migrating and local populations of birds, and one of the two remaining sites for the endangered Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is located immediately to the north at Long Island. The site also protects wild rice beds that are becoming increasingly fragmented on Lake Superior - as the only remaining extensive coastal wild rice bed in the Great Lakes region, it is critical to ensuring the genetic diversity of Lake Superior wild rice. Tribal members frequent the area primarily for subsistence trapping, hunting, fishing, and to retain historic harvesting techniques; access to the area is strictly limited to Bad River tribal members and Bad River Natural Resources staff. The largest ecological threat to the site is from invasive species and from controversial potential mining activity in the Penokee-Gogebic Range upriver. In the surrounding areas water quality also could potentially be affected by municipal wastewater, failing household septic systems, and agricultural and logging practices within the watershed. Ramsar Site no. 2001. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Kalissaye

Site number: 2 326 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: ZIGUINCHOR  
Area: 30 014 ha | Coordinates: 12°49'N 16°43'W | Designation dates: 01-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This rich coastal and marine Site consists of gallery forests, stands of mangrove (*Avicennia* and *Rhizophora*), bolongs (saltwater channels) and freshwater rivers. It is potentially the last refuge for numerous endangered species, and it hosts five of the seven sea turtle species that visit West African waters, including the leatherback, olive ridley, hawksbill and green turtle. The bird species present include little stint, black-tailed godwit, sanderling, bar-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, whimbrel, red knot and great white egret. The Site is also a feeding area for humpback dolphins and African manatees. In the area surrounding the Kalissaye wetlands, fish smoking activities have implications for the Site's resources and their dynamics, while exploitation of the Site's rich habitats threatens the biodiversity that depends on them. Specific threats include the collection of tern and sea turtle eggs.

## Kallgate-Hejnum

Site number: 1 120 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Gotland  
Area: 1 647 ha | Coordinates: 57°41'N 18°42'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large complex of wetlands, flat rock and forest on limestone bedrock on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. The wetlands consist of fens, small creeks and a number of springs. Some areas are also temporarily flooded by snow melt. The flora is particularly interesting, with a large number of rare plant species, many of them included in the Swedish Red List; the lime in the soils and the multitude of springs contribute to this wealth. The fen vegetation is mainly dominated by *Cladium mariscus*, but some parts have other vegetation types, such as rich fen and spring fen vegetation. The Site's springs and high water quality also contribute to its importance as a water reservoir. Forestry, drainage, and road construction just outside the Site are believed to be having some negative impact upon its plants and animals.

### **Kalmthoutse Heide**

Site number: 330 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Antwerp  
Area: 2 200 ha | Coordinates: 51°23'N 04°28'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kalmthoutse Heide. 04/03/86; Vlaamse Gewest; 2,200 ha; 51°23'N 004°28'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, Landscape Reserve. Bordering the Netherlands, the site consists of heathland, acidic pools, marshes and woodland, on an extensive complex of stabilized inland dunes, along the Scheldt River estuary. Vegetation includes dune stabilizing species, various orchid species, dry and wet heath. The site is important for staging waterbirds and supports over 90% of the dragonfly species (Odonata) found in Belgium. Human activity is limited. Management measures include rabbit and gull control (to limit guano deposition), and sheep grazing to limit tree cover. Ramsar site no. 330. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

### **Kaltbrunner Riet**

Site number: 509 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of St. Gall  
Area: 157 ha | Coordinates: 47°13'N 08°59'E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is the last-remaining area of marshland in the alluvial plain of the river Linth. Marshlands once characterized the floodplain between Lake Walen and Lake Zurich, but they disappeared at the beginning of the 19th century, when floods were confined by the construction of the Escher and Linth canals. Today, the Kaltbrunner Riet is partially maintained and used as litter meadows (in which the vegetation is cut for bedding) and plays a key role in maintaining this traditional land use on the Swiss Plateau. The important diversity of habitats includes reed beds, marshland with fens and ponds as well as wet meadows and transitional bogs with and without sphagnum mosses. The Site is a haven for many plant and animal species in an intensively cultivated area, and harbours an important diversity of rare and endangered species such as amphibians and dragonflies. A total of 31 plant and 90 animal species are listed on the red lists of endangered species in Switzerland and seven plant and 71 animal species are recorded in the IUCN global red list. The Site is an important breeding or stop-over area for many species of waterbirds. The Kaltbrunner Riet is managed by the NGO Pro Natura, which runs a small visitor centre.

### **Kama-Bakaldino Mires**

Site number: 670 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Nizhni Novgorod Region  
Area: 226 500 ha | Coordinates: 56°24'N 45°20'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kama-Bakaldino mires. 13/09/94; Nizhegorod Oblast; 226,500 ha; 56°24'N 045°20'E. Protected Area, Strict Nature Reserve, Nature Monument. The largest peatland complex to the south of the northern taiga zone in Europe. The site includes mires, raised bogs, fens, and many lakes surrounded by pine, birch and aspen forests. Habitats include cotton grass swamps, peat moss bogs, sedge and reed fens, and various transition mires. The wetland plays an important role in regulating the hydrologic regime of adjacent areas. The site provides important habitat for up to 50,000 breeding waterbirds and is an important stopover site for numerous species of migrating birds. Human activities include forestry, peat mining, livestock grazing, hunting, recreation, commercial and sport fishing, berry and mushroom harvesting. Ramsar site no. 670. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### **Kamanos bog**

Site number: 626 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region: Šiauliai  
Area: 6 401 ha | Coordinates: 56°17'N 22°39'E | Designation dates: 20-08-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kamanos bog. 04/10/93; Šiauliai; 6,401 ha (extended in 2010 from 5,195 ha); 56°17'N 022°39'E. Managed Nature Reserve, Strict Nature Reserve, Natura 2000. Set in a region of intense farming, the largest raised bog in Lithuania includes ridge-pool complexes, numerous small lakes, pools, transitional mires, and black alder swamps. Bogmoss pine forests and open, unforested Sphagnum communities predominate. The site is of national importance for its high species diversity and concentrations of rare and endangered animal and plant species. Human activities include conservation education, research, and limited tourism. The main threats in the catchment are caused by air pollution from a neighbouring oil refinery and two construction material factories. Forestry negatively affects the forest habitats in the buffer zone of the strict nature reserve. A management plan has been approved by the Ministry of Environment in 2006. Ramsar Site no. 626. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

### **Kandalaksha Bay**

Site number: 110 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Murmansk Oblast  
Area: 208 000 ha | Coordinates: 66°46'N 33°08'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Strict Nature Reserve, Wildlife Refuge. The inner part of a bay, consisting of 850 islands set in a glacial landscape dominated by coniferous forest. The area supports a rich, benthic invertebrate fauna providing an important food supply for various species of nesting waterbirds. Large numbers of ducks molt in the area.

## Kanibarazan Wetland

Site number: 1 940 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region:  
Area: 927 ha | Coordinates: 37°00'N 45°46'E | Designation dates: 17-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kanibarazan Wetland. 17/01/2011; West Azarbaijan Province; 927ha; 36°59'N 45°46'E.

Kanibarazan Wetland is located in the north-west region of the Islamic Republic of Iran and consists of a freshwater lake surrounded by diverse plant communities. The site is located to the south of Lake Urmia, and is surrounded by seasonal wetlands which become dry during summer and autumn.

The Kanibarazan Wetland is one of the most important habitats for waterbirds in the region, supporting more than twenty thousand birds with more than one hundred and forty four bird species recorded at this site, including a number of important species such as the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). The site provides critical staging/feeding and breeding habitat for waterbirds all year around. In addition, the Cyprinid fish, *Acanthalburnus urmianus* which is endemic to the I.R. Iran, is also found here.

Kanibarazan Wetland was initially a seasonal wetland, originally fed by water from surrounding springs and run off from agricultural land. Drainage canals now supply water to the site throughout the year, making it a permanent wetland. In future, if water is diverted from the site, this would affect plant and animal communities which have become established here.

This site is important for water purification and water storage, it also prevents salt water from intruding into upstream areas.

Locals use the area for harvesting straw, fish, and for livestock grazing.

The local Mahabad Office of Department of Environment and the Department of Environment General Office of west Azarbaijan Province is responsible for managing this site. Ramsar site no.1940. Most recent RIS information:2011.

## Kanjli

Site number: 1 160 | Country: India | Administrative region: Punjab  
Area: 183 ha | Coordinates: 31°25'N 75°22'E | Designation dates: 22-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kanjli. 22/01/02; Punjab; 183 ha; 31°25'N 075°22'E. A permanent stream, the Kali Bein, converted by construction of a small barrage in 1870 into a water storage area for irrigation purposes. The site fulfils Criteria 3 because of its importance in supporting a considerable diversity of aquatic, mesophytic, and terrestrial flora and fauna in the biogeographical region, and acts also as a key regulator of groundwater discharge and recharge with the seasons. By this means and by direct abstraction of water for irrigation by the local population, the site plays a crucial role in the agriculture which predominates on the surrounding fertile plain, with fewer pressures upon water supplies than elsewhere in the Punjab. The invasive water hyacinth is present and must be removed from time to time; increasing pollution levels, deforestation in the catchment area, and excessive grazing are seen as potential threats. The stream is considered to be the most significant in the state from the religious point of view, as it is associated with the first guru of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The stream itself and surrounding marsh is under provincial ownership and surrounding areas privately owned. The site is a center for environmental tourism and picnicking. Ramsar site no. 1160. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Kaper Estuary - Laemson Marine National Park - Kraburi Estuary

Site number: 1 183 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Ranong Province  
Area: 122 046 ha | Coordinates: 09°36'N 98°39'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kaper Estuary - Laemson Marine National Park - Kraburi Estuary. 14/08/02; Ranong Province; 122,046 ha; 09°36'N 098°39'E. Biosphere Reserve; includes National Park. The largest concentration of mangrove forest remaining in the country and said to be one of the most extensive in the Indo-Pacific region, the site also includes nypa forests, mud flats, sandy beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass beds. The fish community among Ranong mangroves, despite heavy fishing pressure, is both abundant and diverse, with more than 82 species recorded. Diverse local cultures co-exist within the site, including Buddhist, Moslem, and Chao Lae ("sea gypsy") animist communities, among quite a few others. The site itself is chiefly used for research and environmental training, with agriculture and shrimp farming practiced in the surrounding area; over-harvesting of natural forest products and an increase in shrimp ponds and other aquaculture are perceived as potential threats, whereas ecotourism provides significant activities for local communities. Ramsar site no. 1183. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Karaginski Island, Bering Sea

Site number: 694 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Kamchatsky  
Area: 193 597 ha | Coordinates: 58°47'N 163°52'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Karaginsky Island, Bering Sea. 13/09/94; Korak Autonomous Area; 193,597 ha; 58°47'N 163°52'E. Wildlife Reserve. Karaginsky Island and associated marine waters are situated on a major bird migration route. Dominant vegetation are elfin woods and low bush hummocky tundra. Over 500 species of plants occur, consisting of birch, Siberian dwarf-pine, and aspen. The site includes various types of meadows, Alpine tundra communities, over 40 species of sedges, and patches of birch forests. The site supports large breeding populations of Alcidae (diving ducks), Laridae (gulls, terns), and Phalacrocoracidae (commorants), and as many as 240,000 spring migrating and 180,000 molting waterbirds. Traditional activities include fishing, reindeer-breeding, hay harvesting, hunting for fur-bearing animals, mushroom and berry picking. Commercial fishing is also practiced. There is a meteorological station on the island. Ramsar site no. 694. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Karakul Lake

Site number: 1 082 | Country: Tajikistan | Administrative region:  
Area: 36 400 ha | Coordinates: 39°05'N 73°29'E | Designation dates: 18-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Karakul Lake. 18/07/01; 36,400 ha; ca. 39°05'N 073°29'E. Most recent RIS information: none.

### Karás Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 284 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Warmińsko-mazurskie  
Area: 815 ha | Coordinates: 53°33'N 19°29'E | Designation dates: 03-01-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Karas Lake Nature Reserve (Rezerwat przyrody "Jezioro Karas"). 03/01/84; Warmińsko-Mazurskie; 815 ha; 53°33'N 019°29'E. Nature Reserve. A large, shallow freshwater lake of glacial origin, surrounded by forest, extensive peatbogs, marshes and drainage ditches. The site exhibits a rich floral diversity. The lake is important for breeding, nesting or staging various species of wetland birds, including ducks and swans. Human activities at the site and in the surrounding area include commercial fishing, forestry, and agriculture. Ramsar site no. 284. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Karavasta Lagoon ecosystem

Site number: 781 | Country: Albania | Administrative region: Lushnja,Fier  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 41°00'N 19°30'E | Designation dates: 31-10-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Karavasta Lagoon. 29/11/95; Lushnja; 20,000 ha; 40°35'N 019°32'E. National Park. An enclosed brackish lagoon and areas of *Pinus pinea* forest, a species characteristic of the Mediterranean region. Up to 5% of the world's breeding population of *Pelecanus crispus* (1,000 individuals) and significant portions of the European breeding populations of *Sterna albifrons* and *Glareola pratincola* are supported. Human activities include recreation, hunting, timber harvesting, and fishery. Ramsar site no. 781. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Karkinitzka and Dzharlygatska Bays

Site number: 114 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic  
Area: 87 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°00'N 33°05'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Karkinitzka and Dzharlygatska Bays. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic; 87,000 ha; 46°00'N 033°05'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990; removed from the Record, 29/08/03. Chornomorskyi Biosphere Reserve; Ornithological Game Reserve, Crimean Nature Reserve, Botanical Reserve. An embayment of the Black Sea, the site includes several islands and surrounding waters. Vegetation includes steppe and coastal communities consisting of reedbeds, vast aquatic meadows, salt-tolerant plants and grasses. The site is important for nesting (up to 14,000 pairs), migrating, and wintering waterbirds, especially ducks (endemic species *Branta ruficollis*) and waders. Marine mammals include three species of dolphin, all nationally rare, as well as several nationally rare and relic fish species. Human activities include commercial and recreational fishing, hunting, livestock grazing, irrigation, rice and grape cultivation. Bird-ringing and census programmes take place at the site. The site was removed from the Montreux Record in 2003. Ramsar site no. 114. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Karlsøyvær

Site number: 1 192 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 4 936 ha | Coordinates: 67°34'N 14°39'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a marine archipelago whose shallow waters are dotted with some 220 islets, skerries and islands featuring wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks, and brackish marshes in some parts. The climate and topography provide a diverse and varied vegetation cover, which however remains low-lying apart from some deciduous forest on a few of the islands. The Site is one of several important areas along the coast for staging, breeding, moulting and wintering seabirds from large areas of the Arctic. Threatened species such as the black guillemot *Cephus grylle* and the otter *Lutra lutra* have stable breeding populations. Traditionally the Site was used for collection of down and eggs of the breeding common eider *Somateria mollissima*, but except for the sporadic collection of eggs, this practice has ceased. Other human uses include recreational activities, fishing, and sheep grazing. The archipelago is among the largest coastal conservation areas found in Norway.

### Karrebæk, Dybso and Avno Fjords

Site number: 159 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Storstrom  
Area: 18 860 ha | Coordinates: 55°07'N 11°42'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A shallow coastal area of open water with reefs, sand-banks, lagoons, saltmarshes, islands, reedbeds, cultivated land, woodland, and scattered habitation. The site is internationally important for wintering and staging waterbirds such as cormorants, swans and ducks and is an important breeding area for dabbling ducks. The fjords support a diverse marine fauna, algal flora, and are breeding and haul-out areas for seals. Parts of the common land and saltmarshes were becoming overgrown due to reduced grazing, but a management plan including grazing and other practices is being implemented. Hunting birds from motor boats is prohibited and leisure activities are popular.

### Kartal Lake

Site number: 761 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 45°18'N 28°31'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kartal Lake. 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 500 ha; 45°18'N 028°31'E. A system of small, interconnected floodplain lakes set in the lower Danube basin. Vegetation consists of emergent and submergent plant communities. Numerous species of rare and protected species of plants occur. The site is important for migrating, breeding (25,000 pairs), and molting birds, and supports internationally important numbers of nesting *Phalacrocrax pygmeus*. Of the 140 bird species occurring at the site, 32 are nationally rare. It provides important breeding and nursery areas for fish and amphibians. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, livestock grazing, haymaking, and an important fishery. Ancient burial sites are being excavated. Ramsar site no. 761. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Kasai Marine Park

Site number: 2 357 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Tokyo Metropolis  
Area: 366,9 ha | Coordinates: 35°38'N 139°52'E | Designation dates: 18-10-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, a brackish wetland in the estuaries of the Arakawa and Kyuedogawa Rivers in the Tokyo Bay, was created in 1976 to restore and conserve the natural ecosystem which was lost due to development activities such as land reclamation. It features human-made beaches known as Nishi Nagisa (west beach) and Higashi Nagisa (east beach), which were constructed by placing U-shaped training dikes to create foreshore tidal flats. Connected to Higashi Nagisa is the natural Sanmaizu tidal flat; and while Nishi Nagisa is designated for recreation, Higashi Nagisa is a National Wildlife Protection Area providing habitats for wildlife. Greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) and great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) winter there, and it is also a key habitat for little tern (*Sternula albifrons*) and some *Anatidae* species. Overall, about 126 species of birds have been observed on the Site. It has become an important wetland for biodiversity conservation in a highly developed urban context and an example of coexisting natural and urban environments. Following the expansion of Higashi Nagisa between 1986 and 2008, the number of coastal plant species in the Site has increased.

## Katano-kamoike

Site number: 616 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Ishikawa Prefecture  
Area: 10 ha | Coordinates: 36°19'N 136°17'E | Designation dates: 10-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Katano-kamoike. 10/06/93; Ishikawa, Honshu; 10 ha; 36°19'N 136°17'E. Wildlife Protection Area; National Park; Natural Monument; Anatidae Network Site. A shallow pond and marsh, important as a resting place for 190 bird species, including the nationally rare Accipiter gentilis and White-tailed Eagle. Abundant wild rice and reedbeds provide the largest wintering area for Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) in western Japan, attracting over 10,000 waterbirds. The pond functions as a seasonal agricultural reservoir. To ensure sufficient water surface for waterbirds, wetland plants are harvested. The visitors' centre attracts people for bird-watching and nature appreciation and provides educational and research opportunities. Ramsar site no. 616. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Kauhaneva - Pohjankangas National Park

Site number: 1 511 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 6 849 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'N 22°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kauhaneva - Pohjankangas National Park. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 6,849 ha; 62°11'N 22°25'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire Conservation and Esker Conservation Programmes. The mires form the largest and most representative raised bog area in the region of concentric bogs in southern Ostrobothnia, composed of several closely situated mires of which the largest is Kauhaneva, an exceptionally well-developed raised bog with large minerotrophic flark and sedge fens, small brooks and tens of ponds and pools. The esker formations beside the mires are characterized by barren pine heath forests. On the edges of eskers there are springfens, some of which include brook beds with impressive topography. More than 400 pairs of 11 wader species are breeding in the area, which is also an important staging area for, e.g., Bean Goose. Adverse effects are caused by forestry drainage and peat mining nearby, as well as a decrease in groundwater level as a result of extraction from the Numminkangas Esker. After the establishment of the National Park in 1982, the major part of the mires was included in the Mire or Esker Conservation Programmes. Ramsar site no. 1511. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex

Site number: 1 460 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Hawaii  
Area: 414 ha | Coordinates: 21°24'N 157°45'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex. 02/02/05; Hawaii; 414 ha; 21°24'N 157°45'W. State Wildlife Sanctuary. Sacred to Hawaiians, Kawainui Marsh, the largest remaining emergent wetland in Hawaii and Hawaii's largest ancient freshwater fishpond, is located in what was once the center of a caldera of the Koolau shield volcano. The marsh provides primary habitat for four of Hawaii's endemic and endangered waterbirds, including Laysan Duck and Hawaiian Goose or Nene, and contains archaeological and cultural resources, including ancient walled taro water gardens (lo'i) where fish were also cultivated. Kawainui Marsh stores surface water, providing flood protection for adjacent Kailua town, one of the largest towns on the windward side of O'ahu. Hamakua Marsh is a smaller wetland historically connected to and immediately downstream of Kawainui Marsh, which also provides significant habitat for several of Hawaii's endemic and endangered waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 1460. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kayrakum Reservoir

Site number: 1 083 | Country: Tajikistan | Administrative region:  
Area: 52 000 ha | Coordinates: 40°20'N 70°10'E | Designation dates: 18-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kayrakum Reservoir. 18/07/01; 52,000 ha; ca. 40°20'N 070°10'E. Most recent RIS information: none.

## Kejo-numa

Site number: 1 843 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Miyagi Prefecture  
Area: 34 ha | Coordinates: 38°37'N 140°57'E | Designation dates: 31-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kejo-numa. 30/10/08; Miyagi; 34 ha; 38°37'N, 140°57'E. Habitat /Species Management Area, National Protection Area. A reservoir as well as freshwater lake, located in the northeast of Osaki city, serves in flood control and irrigation of rice fields. The site provides habitat to vulnerable species like Steller's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*) and Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) as well as 13 bird species and 28 flora species in the national protected list, and it supports the 1% threshold for White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) and Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis serrirostris*). Declines of native fish due to the release of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill present a threat. A national historical site "Ruin of Miyazawa" exists within the site. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1843. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Keoladeo National Park

Site number: 230 | Country: India | Administrative region: Rajasthan  
Area: 2 873 ha | Coordinates: 27°13'N 77°32'E | Designation dates: 01-10-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Keoladeo National Park. 01/10/81; Rajasthan; 2,873 ha; 27°13'N 077°32'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. World Heritage Site; National Park; Bird Sanctuary. A complex of ten artificial, seasonal lagoons, varying in size, situated in a densely populated region. Vegetation is a mosaic of scrub and open grassland that provides habitat for breeding, wintering and staging migratory birds. Also supported are five species of ungulates, four species of cats, and two species of primates, as well as diverse plants, fish and reptiles. The canal provides water for agriculture and domestic consumption. Cattle and water buffalo graze on the site. A field research station exists. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 due to "water shortage and an unbalanced grazing regime". Additionally, the invasive growth of the grass *Paspalum distichum* has changed the ecological character of large areas of the site, reducing its suitability for certain waterbird species, notably the Siberian crane. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988 and 1990. Ramsar site no. 230.

## Keramashoto Coral Reef

Site number: 1 546 | Country: Japan  
| Administrative region: Tokashiki village and Zamami village (Keramashoto Islands), Okinawa Prefecture, Kyushu/Okinawa Region. Keramashoto Coral Reef is  
Area: 8 290 ha | Coordinates: 26°12'N 127°21'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Keramashoto Coral Reef is located in Okinawa Prefecture, southern Japan. Originally designated as a Ramsar Site in 2005 with an area of 353 hectares, its area was greatly increased in 2015 to 8,290 ha. The boundary now overlaps with that of the Marine Park Area within Keramashoto National Park. The Ramsar Site is internationally important as a representative of the coral reef ecosystem in the Ryukyu Islands biogeographic region, as well as for its biodiversity. Tabular, branching, horn-shaped, mound, and sheet reef-building corals are densely distributed in the water. The fringing reefs are especially well-developed, with 248 species, 59 genera and 14 families of reef-building corals accounting for about 62% of such species in Japan. The Site is also an important feeding, spawning and larva nursery area for some 360 species of coral reef fish such as damselfish and clownfish (*Pomacentridae*), butterflyfish (*Chaetodontidae*) and wrasse (*Labridae*). Globally threatened species include the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) that breed in summer. Keramashoto Coral Reef and the surrounding areas are among the most beautiful marine waters in Japan and are highly valued for nature observation and tourism. Two nearby villages have developed a programme to conserve the coral reefs and to promote sustainable resource use.

## Kerang Wetlands

Site number: 265 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 9 419 ha | Coordinates: 35°40'S 143°56'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kerang Wetlands. 15/12/82; Victoria; 9,419 ha. 35°40'S 143°56'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Water Supply Reserves, Salinity Disposal Reserves. A system of 22 lakes and swamps. In the lower river reaches, the wetlands have variations in permanence, depth, salinity and aquatic vegetation. The site includes freshwater lakes and marshes, and brackish or saline lakes and marshes. The most diverse vegetation is exhibited in the seasonal, freshwater marshes. The area is of great importance to waterbirds, supporting large numbers of endemic and migratory species, and serves as a drought refuge. The area supports rare or vulnerable plant species. Human activities include recreation and regulated duck hunting. The lake system provides an important source of irrigation water. Ramsar site no. 265. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site

Site number: 567 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Volta Region  
Area: 101 022,7 ha | Coordinates: 05°55'N 00°50'E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site covers part of the Volta River estuary. It comprises several small islands and a complex of lagoons with varying salinity. The dominant vegetation includes swamps, scrublands, and mangrove forests, which are heavily exploited by resident communities for fuel woods and commercial fishing. The Site provides safe nesting grounds for the threatened olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback turtle (*Dermodochelys coriacea*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and it is particularly important for the Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) and the vulnerable West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*). It is considered the most important coastal wetland for birds in Ghana, and supports over 72 resident and migratory bird species estimated to number over 100,000 individuals. The wetland supports the livelihood activities of hundreds of thousands of people. Sea erosion and pollution are the major threats.

## Ketelmeer en Vossemeer

Site number: 1 274 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Overijssel,Flevoland  
Area: 3 900 ha | Coordinates: 52°36'N 05°46'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which is formed by artificial freshwater lakes created by the construction of dikes in the reclaimed IJsselmeer polders, is aligned with the Natura 2000 site boundary. The lakes receive their water from the Rhine and IJssel rivers. The Site is of international importance for endangered bird species such as bittern, spotted crane and great reed warbler. It regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, with an average peak number of over 21,000 between 2005/2006 and 2009/2010. The Site also supports more than 1% of the individuals of the northwestern European population of Gadwall. The lakes play an important role as water reservoirs for irrigating the surrounding agricultural land, while they are also used for boating, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic, water management and sand extraction. Serious threats are posed by reed cutting, aquaculture, pollution with nutrients increasing eutrophication, and the construction of a sludge depot.

## Khao Sam Roi Yot Wetland

Site number: 2 238 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Prachuap Khiri Khan Province  
Area: 6 892 ha | Coordinates: 12°12'N 100°01'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Khao Sam Roi Yot Wetland on the Gulf of Thailand is internationally important because of its combination of freshwater marsh and coastal wetlands, which is rare in Thailand and in the Malayan Rainforest biogeographic region. In addition, the Site supports the largest area of marshland including *Phragmites karka* reedbeds in Thailand. The freshwater marsh is a biodiversity hotspot with at least 292 plants species in 233 genera, 92 families including 174 aquatic plant species. Moreover, the marsh supports at least 113 wildlife species including at least 41 freshwater fish species. Many of the species recorded are included in the IUCN Red List, with globally endangered species such as the *Azelia xylocarpa* tree, the yellow-headed tortoise *Indotestudo elongata* and the fishing cat *Prionailurus viverrinus*. The local people (about 5,000 households as of 2007) are heavily dependent on the marsh for its freshwater fisheries, seasonal wild food gathering, crop growing, grazing grounds and water for livestock. Aquaculture is becoming increasingly important, as is tourism given the wide variety of natural attractions at the Site.

## Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland

Site number: 684 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Amur Oblast  
Area: 200 000 ha | Coordinates: 49°10'N 130°00'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Khingano-Arkharinskaya Lowland. 13/09/94; Amur Oblast; ~200,000 ha; 49°10'N 130°00'E. Nature Reserve, Wildlife Refuge. Near the Chinese border, the site is a unique wet forest-steppe (prairie) ecosystem set in the Amur River Valley. The site includes vast floodplains with rain-fed rivers, islands, beaches, levee systems, oxbow lakes, and marshes. Vegetation is dominated by wet meadows with herbs and includes dry meadows, grass fens, reedbeds, and various other aquatic plants. The flora of the area is represented by 700 species of vascular plants, ten of which are nationally vulnerable. Migrating waterbirds include various species of ducks and geese, and the area is of particular importance for breeding populations of rare and threatened birds. Fifteen regionally rare bird species occur at the site. Human activities include agriculture, haymaking, and cattle grazing. Ramsar site no. 684. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Khor Virap Marsh

Site number: 1 989 | Country: Armenia | Administrative region: Ararat Marz  
Area: 50 ha | Coordinates: 39°53'N 44°34'E | Designation dates: 25-01-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Khor Virap Marsh.25/01/07; Ararat Province; 50 ha; 39°53'16"N 044°34'18"E. State Sanctuary. Located in the ancient Arax riverbed in the central part of the country, close to the capital city of Yerevan, this freshwater marsh of semi-artificial origin consists mainly of reed beds fed by an irrigation canal and surrounded by drainage channels. The site is important for over 100 species of migratory waterbirds of which 30 species are breeding here, including globally threatened Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) as well as nationally threatened species such as Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) and Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). The site also supports a number of mammal species such as Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), European otter (*Lutra lutra*), and the only non-native wild mammal Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*). Large numbers of dragonfly species occur, including nationally endangered Hemianax ephippiger. The marsh plays a significant role in flood mitigation downstream and in sediment trapping. It is used for hunting, fishing, reed harvesting and to a lesser extent for cattle grazing. The area surrounding the site is of social and cultural value, especially the Khor Virap Monastery, which was built on the site of the ruins of the ancient capital Artashat. The site itself is threatened by a decrease in water level due to unsustainable use of water for irrigation, overgrazing, fires during the winter period, and poaching. A management plan does not currently exist but is planned. Ramsar Site no. 1989. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Khotokha

Site number: 2 033 | Country: Bhutan | Administrative region: Wangdue Dzongkhag District  
Area: 113,5 ha | Coordinates: 27°26'N 90°00'E | Designation dates: 07-05-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Khotokha. 07/05/12; Wangdue Dzongkhag; 114 ha; 27°25'55"N 89°59'33"E. Located west of the Black Mountain range, Khotokha wetland is one of the sources for the tributaries of the Puna Tsang Chhu river. The water seeping out of the marshes form small gully streams that accumulate and flow south, providing drinking water and irrigation water for potato farms, the main cash crop of the area. The subalpine shrub marsh, consisting of peat bogs and fens, is one of the last remaining places in Bhutan where summer-winter migrations of farmers are practiced. The site provides one of the main wintering sites in the biogeographic region for the vulnerable Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and is also home to other endangered species such as the Himalayan Musk Deer (*Moschus leucogaster*) and the Asiatic Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus primaevus*). The cranes winter at the site due to the good roosting ground in the marshes and feeding ground in the farmlands. The local inhabitants live in harmony with the migratory birds, considering them sacred and a sign of good harvest. However, the number of cranes has been dwindling over the years. Logging activities surrounding the wetland are leading to noise pollution and increased sedimentation of the rivers. Ramsar Site no. 2033. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Khuran Straits

Site number: 50 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Bandar-e Abbas  
Area: 100 000 ha | Coordinates: 26°45'N 55°40'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Khuran Straits. 23/06/75; Bandar-e Abbas; 100,000 ha; 26°45'N 055°40'E. Biosphere Reserve; Protected Area. Located in the lower Mehrān River delta, with extensive intertidal silt flats, saltmarshes, mangrove forests, and numerous estuarine creeks and islands. Shallow saline waters support growths of red and brown algae, while the intertidal mangroves provide habitat for crustaceans - an important food source for waterbirds. Particularly valuable for large nesting colonies of Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.) as well as passage and wintering waterbirds, including the endangered Dalmatian Pelican. Ramsar site no. 50. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Kilen

Site number: 391 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region:  
Area: 51 280 ha | Coordinates: 81°10'N 13°24'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kilen. 27/01/88; 51,280 ha; 81°10'N 013°24'W. National Park. A seasonally ice-free valley located in the high arctic, comprising large flat gravel plains surrounded by glaciers and sea-ice. The site is an important staging and breeding area for waterbirds and the most important molting area for Light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*). Some seasonal natural resource harvesting is carried out by local people and hunting is regulated. Ramsar site no. 391. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Killala Bay/Moy Estuary

Site number: 843 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Mayo, Sligo  
Area: 1 061 ha | Coordinates: 54°15'N 09°10'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Killala Bay/Moy Estuary. 11/06/96; Mayo, Sligo; 1,061 ha; 54°15'N 09°10'W. An estuary and intertidal bay separated from the sea by a long sandy island. The site includes a well-developed dune system, saltmarsh, sand and shingle beaches backed by sea-cliffs, and extensive sand and mudflats exposed at low tide. The dunes support a rich and diverse flora that includes several rare or threatened plants. The intertidal flats provide important feeding sites for birds. Brent geese overwinter in the bay in internationally important numbers, and regionally or locally important numbers of several species of waterbirds use the site. Human activities include beach activities, salmon fishing and livestock grazing. There is a golf course situated on the dune complex. Ramsar site no. 843.

### Killough Bay

Site number: 2 278 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: County Down  
Area: 104 ha | Coordinates: 54°15'N 05°38'W | Designation dates: 23-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Killough Bay is located in County Down in Northern Ireland, and encompasses intertidal areas and adjoining areas of notable habitat including mudflats, sand-dominated beaches, gravel and cobble units and rocky shore. The boundary of the Ramsar Site includes Killough Harbour and Coney Island Bay. The principal interest is the wintering population of light-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, which feeds on the rich mats of the green alga *Enteromorpha* spp. which are especially present in Killough Harbour. The birds find refuge here during late winter and spring, once the main wintering flock from Strangford Lough disperses due to lack of food.

### Kilombero Valley Floodplain

Site number: 1 173 | Country: United Republic of Tanzania | Administrative region: Morogoro Region  
Area: 796 735 ha | Coordinates: 08°40'S 36°10'E | Designation dates: 25-04-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site falls in Kilombero and Ulanga districts located in Morogoro region in southern central Tanzania. The largest town in the valley is Ifakara.

### Kilsviken-Åråsviken

Site number: 434 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: County of Värmland and County of Västra Götaland  
Area: 9 046 ha | Coordinates: 59°03'N 14°03'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kilsviken-Åråsviken is situated in the north-east corner of Lake Vänern, the largest lake in Sweden. It consists of three large bays (Kilsviken, Kolstrandsviken and Åråsviken) with numerous islands, the river Gullspångsälven and the shoreline around the bays. The landscape is a mosaic of open water, reeds, and forested and grazed wetlands. More than 250 different bird species have been reported and about 60 species of waterbirds regularly visit the area, including the nationally threatened ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and the globally vulnerable common pochard *Aythya ferina*. The Site constitutes important spawning grounds for the salmon *Salmo salar* and a local subspecies of brown trout *Salmo trutta*. The Site is important for nutrient cycling as well as for the provision of drinking water. Human activities include cattle grazing, recreation, timber production and fishing. The main threats to its ecological character relate to expansion of existing infrastructure such as marinas and docks. The regulation of Lake Vänern over the last century has led to the reduction of the variation in water levels, leading trees and bushes to colonize the shallow bays and open shorelines.

### Kinjhar Lake

Site number: 99 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 13 468 ha | Coordinates: 24°56'N 68°03'E | Designation dates: 23-07-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kinjhar (Kalri) Lake. 23/07/76; Sindh; 13,468 ha; 24°56'N 68°03'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. The largest freshwater lake in Pakistan, supporting extensive reedbeds and rich submerged and floating vegetation. An internationally important area for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds, supporting as many as 140,000 birds, including European Wigeon, Black Coot and Common Pochard. The lake is a major source of drinking water for Karachi and supports an important fishery. Ramsar site no. 99.

### Kintyre Goose Roosts

Site number: 966 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 312 ha | Coordinates: 55°34'N 05°36'W | Designation dates: 28-10-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kintyre Goose Roosts. 28/10/98; Scotland; 312 ha; 55°31'N 05°37'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. This inland wetland comprises five hill lochs on the Kintyre peninsula. It supports an internationally important population of Greenland White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), 2,300 individuals representing 8% of the population. The site is used for recreation, fishing, grazing, hunting, and forestry. Ramsar site no. 966. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Kiritappu-shitsugen

Site number: 613 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido  
Area: 2 504 ha | Coordinates: 43°05'N 145°05'E | Designation dates: 10-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kiritappu-shitsugen. 10/06/93; Hokkaido; 2,504 ha; 43°05'N 145°05'E. National Wildlife Protection Area; Natural Park; Natural Monument; Crane Network Site. A Sphagnum peatbog formed on ancient dunes with a tidal river bisecting the site. Marshes connected to the sea are brackish lakes under tidal influence. The site supports several species of noteworthy plants, 13 species of birds and various mammals. Human activities include clam fishing, forestry and research. The area is a tourist destination. Ramsar site no. 613. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Kirkon-Vilkkiläntura Bay

Site number: 1 512 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 194 ha | Coordinates: 60°31'N 27°43'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kirkon-Vilkkiläntura Bay. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 194 ha; 60°31'N 027°42'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. A shallow and sheltered sea bay on the coast of the Gulf of Finland, connected to the sea through two narrow sounds. The eastern part, Vilkkiläntura, is characterized by an extensive reed zone and narrow alluvial meadows fringed with a zone of Black Alder; the western part, Kirkontura, has risen above the average sea level and is characterized by extensive sedge meadows with only a small open-water area. The bay is an exceptionally important staging area for waterfowl, as for Whooper Swans, Bewick's Swans and Smews, and waders in migration periods. The breeding waterfowl include 14 species of which 7 are listed in the EU Birds Directive Annex I. Eutrophication and overgrowing are accelerated by agriculture, nearby fish farming and earlier wastewaters. Planned conservation measures include mowing, dredging and increasing of grazing to stop overgrowing of the wetland. The area is a very popular birdwatching site especially in spring. Two birdwatching towers have been constructed and outdoor recreation has a significant value. Ramsar site no. 1512. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kis-Balaton

Site number: 185 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Zala & Somogy Counties  
Area: 14 659 ha | Coordinates: 46°38'N 17°12'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kis-Balaton consists of the former westernmost bay of Lake Balaton, which is located in the River Zala delta. The Site is an extensive marshland in two main parts: Phase I is characterized by open water surfaces with relatively narrow reedbelts along the dikes, while Phase II contains vast reedbeds and sedgy marshes. The Site supports an outstanding biodiversity within the Pannonic biogeographic region. The shallow waters are an important spawning ground for fish, and the marshy meadows and the reed-beds provide breeding and migratory refuge for many threatened species of waterbirds. The aquatic vegetation filters nutrients and plays an important role in sediment trapping. Human activities include controlled reed harvesting, forestry, fishing, and hunting. The Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate organizes guided eco-tours on the strictly protected area of the Kis-Balaton. Potential threats to the Site are posed by illegal fishing, eutrophication caused by the intensive use of artificial fertilizers on the surrounding farmland, and the expansion of the water protection system.

## Kitsissunnguit

Site number: 384 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Qasigiannqut, Aasiaat  
Area: 6 910 ha | Coordinates: 68°50'N 51°56'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kitsissunnguit (Grønne Ejland). 27/01/88; Qasigiannqut, Aasiaat; 6,910 ha; 68°50'N 051°56'W. A group of flat, rocky islands, heathland, small lakes, meadows, and adjacent shallow sea areas. The area supports large numbers of staging waterbirds and several species of breeding birds. Public access and hunting are regulated; increased collection of eggs is seen as a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 384. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Kitsissut Avalliit

Site number: 388 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Qaqortoq  
Area: 4 470 ha | Coordinates: 60°45'N 48°25'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kitsissut Avalliit (Ydre Kitsissut). 27/01/88; Qaqortoq; 4,470 ha; 60°45'N 048°25'W. A group of thinly vegetated rocky islands 10km off the southwestern coast, several of which are submerged during spring tides. The area is important for breeding various species of sea birds, including internationally important numbers of Brünnich's guillemots and common guillemots. Ramsar site no. 388. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Kizilirmak Delta

Site number: 942 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Samsun  
Area: 21 700 ha | Coordinates: 41°38'N 36°00'E | Designation dates: 15-04-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kizilirmak Delta. 15/04/98; Samsun; 21,700 ha; 41°36'N 036°05'E. Cultural and Natural Asset; Permanent Wildlife Reserve. The site includes dunes, beaches, shallow lakes, seasonal marshes, and wooded areas. Dominant vegetation includes vast reedbeds and seasonally flooded forest. Numerous species of waterbirds breed at the site, several of which are globally threatened. Over 92,000 waterbirds of various species winter at the site. Human activities include cattle grazing, reed cutting, fishing, and agriculture. Ramsar site no. 942. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Kizören Obrouk

Site number: 1 620 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Konya  
Area: 127 ha | Coordinates: 38°10'N 33°11'E | Designation dates: 02-05-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kizören Obrouk. 02/05/06; Konya; 127 ha; 38°20'N 033°20'E. Archaeological restricted area. A good example of an Anatolian "obrouk", a deep freshwater (groundwater) lake formed in a karstic depression. Situated on a huge, arid steppe plain, the site is extremely important as the region's only freshwater source. The dominant vegetation cover is formed by steppe plants, resistant to arid conditions and surviving in soil that is calcium carbonate dominant. Nine globally threatened plant species are present. The area around the lake, within the Ramsar site, is rich in archeological remains, as there is a Silk Road caravansary from Byzantine times and a mosque and several houses from the Seljuk era. Though population density is low, a prolonged dry period (eight years as of 2005) has put pressure on the groundwater level through over-use by farmers. Ramsar site no. 1620. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Klein Bonaire Island and adjacent sea

Site number: 201 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Bonaire  
Area: 600 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 68°19'W | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Klein Bonaire Island & adjacent sea. 23/05/80; Bonaire; 600 ha; 12°10'N 068°19'W. Underwater Park. A small uninhabited coral island supporting a sparse cover of shrubs and cacti. Brackish lagoons and fringing coral reefs support a rich marine fauna. The reefs experience heavy diving pressure. Ramsar site no. 201.

## Klein Curaçao

Site number: 2 355 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao  
Area: 248,5 ha | Coordinates: 11°59'N 68°39'W | Designation dates: 31-07-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the small, uninhabited island of Klein Curaçao and the surrounding sea. The eastern shore features a near-pristine, well-developed and still growing coral reef system that supports an enormous diversity of marine organisms. Such self-sustaining reef systems are increasingly rare in the Caribbean: this is one of the few remaining healthy examples and is representative of Caribbean reef communities in general. Its dense populations of branching corals protect the coastline by dissipating wave energy. The island is of global importance for its breeding population of the least tern *Sterna antillarum*, while a 600-metre stretch of sandy beach is the most important nesting area within Curaçao's jurisdiction for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and the endangered green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The main threat to the Site is uncontrolled tourism, which may negatively affect the nesting activities of the sea turtles and terns.

## Klingavälsån-Krankesjön

Site number: 15 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Skåne  
Area: 3 989 ha | Coordinates: 55°39'N 13°34'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site contains a stretch of the Klingavälsån River, the freshwater lakes Krankesjön and Sövdesjön, and part of Lake Vombsjön. It is composed of a variety of habitats including meandering streams, marshes, meadows, alder stands and willow thickets. The large areas of mown wet grasslands dominated by *Carex* sedges are rare in southern Sweden, as most wetlands of this type have been drained and cultivated. The alluvial forests also constitute a representative wetland type which was formerly predominant. The wide range of habitats supports animal species which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the European Continental region, including the critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla* and nationally threatened species including white stork *Ciconia ciconia* and black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*. The Site is an important area for breeding waterfowl, particularly waders and wetland passerines. It is also an important staging area for wintering and migrating birds, mainly birds of prey, ducks and geese. Human activities include recreational fishing and swimming, birdwatching and livestock grazing. Four bird observation platforms, three information points and a hide are open to the public. The main factors affecting the ecological character of the Site include pollution from agricultural and forestry effluents, water regulation measures such as drainage, water abstraction and canalization, and recreation and tourism. A restoration plan is being implemented, and 2,500 metres of the Klingavälsån River have been restored to a meandering water course. The second part of the restoration plan will include further remeandering of another 1,800 metres and the conversion of cultivated fields into semi-natural grasslands for grazing and hay-making.

## Klingnauer Staensee

Site number: 507 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of Aargau  
Area: 364 ha | Coordinates: 47°36'N 08°14'E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the alluvial plain of the lower valley of the River Aare, down to the confluence of the Aare with the Rhine. It consists of a reservoir on the Aare, river stretches in a natural state, and periodically flooded fens and alluvial forests. It is protected by the federal inventories of alluvial zones, fenlands and amphibian spawning grounds as well as by a cantonal decree. Despite its location in a densely populated region of the Swiss central plateau, the Site provides a high diversity of habitats such as the open water of the reservoir, watercourses and pond systems, reed beds, marshes and meadows, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities, willow (*Salix*) thickets, alluvial and ash (*Fraxinus*) woodlands. A large number of nationally rare and threatened species can be observed: 393 red-listed plants and 56 threatened bird species. Due to the constant silting of the reservoir, shallow water zones, mudflats and small islands develop which are important feeding grounds for birds, particularly for ducks. The Site is an important overwintering site for birds, and during migration periods it is one of the most important resting places for waders in Switzerland.

## Knockmoyle/Sheskin

Site number: 372 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Mayo  
Area: 1 198 ha | Coordinates: 54°12'N 09°33'W | Designation dates: 01-06-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Knockmoyle/Sheskin. 01/06/87; Mayo; 1,198 ha; 54°12'N 09°33'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. Part of an extensive area of lowland blanket bog with a remarkably dense network of pools and small acidic lakes. The valleys and flushes are floristically rich owing to an absence of burning and grazing. The peat is relatively dry between water bodies and has a well-developed cover. Unusual features include the presence of small stands of *Betula pubescens* and the rare moss *Homalothecium nitens*. Ramsar site no. 372.

## Koh Kapik and Associated Islets

Site number: 998 | Country: Cambodia | Administrative region: Koh Kong province  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°28'N 103°04'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koh Kapik and Associated Islets. 23/06/99; Koh Kong province; 12,000 ha; 11°28'00"N 103°04'00"E. Wildlife Sanctuary. Alluvial islands immediately off the mainland of Koh Kong Province. Two major rivers flowing into the area bring a freshwater influence and create sand flats in some places. The site consists of two main wetland types, estuarine waters, and intertidal mud, sand or salt flats, and the extensive mangrove stand is representative of a still-functioning mangrove habitat/ecosystem in the Gulf of Thailand and the Indochina Mangroves ecoregion. The area plays a critical role in providing a nutrient source supporting coastal fishery in the near-shore and offshore waters of Cambodia, and it is home to globally threatened bird and mammal species such as the critically endangered Giant Ibis (*Thaumatibis gigantea*) and the endangered Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and Indochinese Silvered Langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*). Much of the degraded mangrove area has been replanted through coordinated efforts of the agencies and local communities in the area. At present, restoration efforts are being done as a positive step toward sustainable use and ecological protection through local area resource management. Ramsar site no. 998. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Koibagar-Tyntyugur Lake System

Site number: 1 862 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Kostanay Region  
Area: 58 000 ha | Coordinates: 52°39'N 65°45'E | Designation dates: 07-05-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koibagar-Tyntyugur Lake System. 07/05/2009; Kostanay oblast; 58,000 ha; 52°39'N 65°45' E. Comprising five river-fed, freshwater lakes in northern Kazakhstan, characterized by a diversity of habitats including extensive shoreline reedbeds, open water and seasonal floodplain wet meadows. The lake system is of great importance for Anseriformes during all periods; up to 200,000 moulting individuals have been recorded during favourable conditions, and as many as 500,000 waterbirds during the period of autumn passage. The site supports 13 bird species on the IUCN Red List, including the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) and Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), and over 1% of the populations of 12 waterbird species. The area surrounding the lakes is used for agriculture, including grain cropping and animal husbandry. Koibagar and Tyntyugur lakes are used for commercial fishing, and associated boating activities cause disturbance to bird nesting and migration. Goose hunting, vegetation trampling, and fires also pose threats to the ecological character of the site. The site is designated in the Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes and Other Globally Endangered Wetland Bird Species in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species. RIS site information was developed with the assistance of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project. Ramsar site no. 1862. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Koitelainen Mires

Site number: 12 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 48 938 ha | Coordinates: 67°48'N 27°10'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koitelainen Mires. 28/05/74; Lapland; 48,938 ha [extended from 38,840 ha]; 67°46'N 027°10'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Old-Growth Forests Protected Area. One of the most representative aapa mire areas in Central Lapland, an important conservation area for fauna and flora species because of the untouched wilderness and the extremely watery bogs. Extremely wet flark fens and minerotrophic birch-rich aapa mires are typical of the area. Herb- and grass-rich spruce mires and growths of willows occur along the brooks. The area is important for numerous species of breeding waterbirds and waders, some of which are rare, such as Peregrine Falcon, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle and Red-throated Diver. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the area, but is in danger of overgrazing, and hunting may have negative effects on the site, which is quite untouched from visitors and without any facilities. Ore open-mining operations are planned nearby to begin in 2007. Extended from 38,840 ha in February 2004. Ramsar site no. 12. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Ko Kra Archipelago

Site number: 2 152 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province  
Area: 374 ha | Coordinates: 08°24'N 100°44'E | Designation dates: 12-08-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ko Kra Archipelago. 12/08/2013; Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province; 374 ha; 08°23'49"N 100°44'13"E. Protected Area. The site consists of three remote and relatively undisturbed small rocky islets in the southern area of the Gulf of Thailand, about 53 km east of the mainland. About 66 hectares around the archipelago are covered by an extensive coral reef, with a total of 67 species of hard coral, the highest coral diversity recorded in the Gulf of Thailand. The main island, Kra Yai (34 ha), is an important nesting ground for the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and the endangered Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The critically endangered Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* is also found at the site. The lagoons and sheltered bays of the islands have long provided storm shelter for fishing boats during the monsoon season. The reefs attract divers and snorkellers from around the world and help sustain commercial fisheries that mainly target Yellow queenfish (*Scomberoides commersonianus*), Red snapper (*Lutjanus fulvivirgatus*), and Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*). The site is monitored by the Royal Thai Navy and a national fisheries law prohibits fishing within 3 km of the islands, but illegal turtle egg harvesting and fishing, including dynamite fishing and poisoning, threaten the site. Ramsar Site no. 2152. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Kolleru Lake

Site number: 1 209 | Country: India | Administrative region: Andhra Pradesh  
Area: 90 100 ha | Coordinates: 16°37'N 81°12'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kolleru Lake. 19/08/02. Andhra Pradesh. 90,100 ha. 16°37'N 81°12'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A natural eutrophic lake, situated between the two major river basins of the Godavari and the Krishna, fed by two seasonal rivers and a number of drains and channels, which functions as a natural flood balancing reservoir between the deltas of the two rivers. It provides habitat for a number of resident and migratory birds, including declining numbers of the vulnerable Grey Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), and sustains both culture and capture fisheries, agriculture and related occupations of the people in the area. Damage and losses due to flooding in monsoon seasons and partial drying out during summers, the results of inadequate management planning and action, are seen as areas for improvement. WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. Ramsar site no. 1209. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Komosse

Site number: 1 121 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Counties of Jönköping and Västra Götaland  
Area: 4 288 ha | Coordinates: 57°41'N 13°42'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Komosse is one of the most valuable peat bog complexes in north-western Europe. It contains large and representative examples of natural boreal wetlands: raised bogs, open peatland, bog woodland, wet meadows and fens. The boundaries of the Site have been adjusted to match those of the Nature Reserves, leading to an increase of around 200 hectares. Unusually for this part of the country, a large pool system is located in the bog complex. The Site has been largely unaffected by human activities, which contributes to the maintenance of water quality downstream. Komosse is important for plant species dependent on open areas of nutrient-poor bog landscapes, as well as for migrating and nesting birds including the nationally endangered ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The wetland is one of the most researched peat bogs in Sweden. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to drainage, and habitat shifting and alteration. As part of the EU LIFE "Life to ad(d)mire" project, measures have been taken to restore 40 hectares of land affected by ditches for forestry purposes and to regenerate wet meadows and bog woodland in the south-eastern part of the Site. The project also entailed the clearance of about 40 hectares of raised bog which had been invaded by *Pinus* shrubs, in order to increase suitable nesting ground for wading birds.

## Kongsfjorden

Site number: 315 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 710 ha | Coordinates: 78°56'N 12°11'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Svalbard archipelago in western Spitsbergen, in the inner parts of Kongsfjorden. It consists of ten islands covered with rich, grassy vegetation and small freshwater ponds as well as some skerries and surrounding sea. The vegetation provides the basis for a sizable breeding colony of barnacle geese *Branta leucopsis*. The islands are also important breeding locations for common eiders *Somateria mollissima* as well as for various other species of breeding waterbirds. The Site is used as a study area, with Ny-Ålesund, an international research station, located nearby. A small visitor centre provides information about ongoing research activities.

## Konkouré

Site number: 575 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Dubréka, Conakry, Koba-Tatéma  
Area: 90 000 ha | Coordinates: 09°45'N 13°41'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Konkouré. 18/11/92; 90,000 ha; 09°45'N 013°41'W. Estuarine complex, forming part of the Konkouré River Delta, with extensive intertidal mud/sand flats, mangrove forests and adjoining marsh. Primary human activities include subsistence fishing and rice cultivation. Mangroves provide nesting sites for several rare bird species. Mudflats support large numbers of wintering Palearctic shorebirds. Ramsar site no. 575. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Koppången

Site number: 2 171 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Dalarna  
Area: 4 936 ha | Coordinates: 61°21'N 14°47'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koppången is a large mire complex with small lakes, peatlands and forests containing notable examples of wetland types in the European Boreal region, and specifically Natura 2000 habitat types such as aapa mires, transition mires and quaking bogs, bog woodland, and Western Taiga and Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with Norway spruce *Picea abies*. The Site supports long-term viable numbers of several lichens, bryophytes and macro-fungi. Nationally red-listed species include ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, wolverine *Gulo gulo* and Eurasian lynx. The extensive wetlands support important populations of many breeding bird and mammal species, which then re-colonize the surrounding semi-natural landscape. The Site stores and sequesters carbon, contributing to global climate regulation, and it serves as an important moderator of heavy rainfalls. The open mires protect the natural old-growth forest from fires. Popular seasonal activities include cross-country skiing and dogsledding in winter, cloudberry and blueberry picking in summer, and elk and capercaillie hunting in autumn. The Site is of cultural interest and it has been traditionally used for haymaking. Two management plans for the overlapping Nature 2000 sites and Nature Reserve are being implemented. As a part of the EU co-funded "Life to Ad(d)mire" LIFE project, the natural hydrology of the Site has been restored by the blocking of ditches to prevent further drainage.

## Kopuatai Peat Dome

Site number: 444 | Country: New Zealand | Administrative region: North Island  
Area: 10 201 ha | Coordinates: 37°26'S 175°33'E | Designation dates: 04-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kopuatai Peat Dome. 04/12/89; North Island; 10,201 ha; 37°26'S 175°33'E. Stewardship Area, Wildlife Management Reserve. The largest unaltered raised bog in New Zealand, surrounded by mineralized swampland and associated lagoons. Important area for threatened birds and plants and notable invertebrates. A spawning site for threatened fish. Bird hunting is the predominant human use. Ramsar site no. 444. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Ko Ra-Ko Phra Thong Archipelago

Site number: 2 153 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Phang Nga Province  
Area: 19 648 ha | Coordinates: 09°08'N 98°17'E | Designation dates: 12-08-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ko Ra-Ko Phra Thong Archipelago. 12/08/2013; Phang Nga Province; 19,648 ha; 09°08'16"N 098°16'34"E. The site consists of two islands in the Andaman Sea, 2 km off the west coast of Southern Thailand. About 1,064 people, most of them fishermen; inhabit the area, which features a rare and complex habitat mosaic including grasslands, peat swamp forests, freshwater pools, evergreen forests, mangrove forests, extensive seagrass beds and coral reefs. The site provides nesting and foraging habitat for four threatened turtle species, the Green, Olive Ridley, Hawksbill, and Leatherback Turtles. Ko Phra Thong Island is the last remaining site in Thailand known to support a significant breeding population of the vulnerable Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*. Important mammal species include the endangered Sunda pangolin *Manis javanica*, the vulnerable Sambar deer *Cervus unicolor*, and the Dugong. 700 hectares of seagrass beds represent an important nursery ground for 268 species of coastal fishes and numerous other marine species. Collection of Lesser Adjutant nestlings for food, unsustainable tourism development, land reclamation and land encroachment are the main threats within the site, with overfishing and destructive fishing occurring along the coast. Ramsar Site no. 2153. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Koshi Tappu

Site number: 380 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Sumsari  
Area: 17 500 ha | Coordinates: 26°39'N 86°59'E | Designation dates: 17-12-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koshi Tappu. 17/12/87; Kosi; 17,500 ha; 26°39'N 086°59'E. Nature Reserve. A section of the Saptakoshi River and its floodplain of extensive mudflats, reedbeds, and freshwater marshes. An important staging area for waterbirds, the site supports several species of notable birds (including the Bengal Falcon, Oriental White Ibis, and White-tailed Eagle), and notable mammals, such as the panther. Located in a densely populated area, the site is subject to livestock grazing and attempts by local people to re-establish themselves in the reserve. Land use in surrounding areas includes subsistence fishing and rice cultivation. Ramsar site no. 380. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Kosi Bay

Site number: 527 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Kwazulu Natal  
Area: 10 982 ha | Coordinates: 27°01'S 32°50'E | Designation dates: 28-06-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kosi Bay. 28/06/91; Kwazulu/Natal; 10,982 ha; 27°01'S 032°48'E. Nature Reserve. Composed of four interconnected lakes subject to tidal influence, an estuarine channel, and three extensive swamps. Fresh water is derived from three permanent rivers. Principal habitats include swamp and mangrove forest, reedbeds, dune systems with associated woodland, and coastal grassland. The site supports a diverse bottom-dwelling invertebrate fauna (30 species) and a rich fish fauna, including eight endangered species. Several birds, mammals, butterflies, and plants are endemic, threatened or endangered. Large areas of swamp forest have been subjected to non-sustainable slash and burn cultivation practices. Human activities include subsistence farming and fishing. Ramsar site no. 527. Most recent RIS information: 1988.

## Kota Kinabalu Wetland

Site number: 2 290 | Country: Malaysia  
| Administrative region: The Site is located at the West Coast of the State of Sabah, in the eastern part of Malaysia (in the Northern Region of Borneo). It is wit  
Area: 24,2 ha | Coordinates: 05°59'N 116°05'E | Designation dates: 22-10-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a mangrove swamp in the heart of Kota Kinabalu City on the northern coast of Sabah State. It supports a range of biodiversity, with 30 mangrove species and associated plants, 90 species of resident and migratory birds and five species of reptiles. The Site supports three globally threatened species, including the critically endangered mangrove *Bruguiera hainesii*, and two vulnerable water birds, the Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*) and the lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*). It is also important as a nursery ground for 21 species of fish and aquatic species including crustaceans, molluscs, horseshoe crabs and jellyfish. The Site acts as a green lung and buffer zone for the city. Due to its urban location, it has high potential value for tourism and educational and recreational activities; but the wetland is also exposed to a number of threats such as pollution, the over-exploitation of resources from fishing and harvesting of aquatic resources. Such mangrove forests used to cover the entire coastline of Kota Kinabalu City, but due to increasing urbanization, the Site now supports the last remaining example of this ecosystem, and so it is of great cultural importance.

## Kotra

Site number: 1 216 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Grodno Oblast, Shchuchyn District  
Area: 10 463,5 ha | Coordinates: 53°57'N 24°33'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated along the upper reaches of the Kotra River by the border with Lithuania, the Site is composed of waterlogged floodplain forests, raised bogs, transition and fen mires, floodplain meadows and a network of overgrown canals. It supports some 635 species of vascular plants and 156 vertebrates. The diversity of the natural habitats and the inaccessibility of the wetlands create favourable conditions for many rare plant and animal species listed in the National Red List, including the lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina* and black stork *Ciconia nigra*, which use the Site as breeding and foraging grounds. The Site provides important water protection and regulating functions for the transboundary wetland complex. Remains of settlements from the Stone and Bronze Ages have been discovered, as well as numerous medieval burial grounds, and there is an important World War II memorial. There is also an information centre, an ecological trail and two tourist routes. The Site is used for forestry, cattle grazing, hay making, cropping, hunting, and gathering of berries and mushrooms. The main threats to its ecological character relate to drainage, river embankment, forest reclamation, fires, overgrazing, poaching and changes in the hydrological regime as a result of adjacent melioration systems. A management plan was prepared in 2015 and the implementation of priority management activities is planned for 2018-2020.

## Kotychi lagoons

Site number: 63 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Dytiki Ellas  
Area: 6 302 ha | Coordinates: 38°01'N 21°17'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kotychi lagoons. 21/08/75; Ileia; 6,302 ha; 38°01'N 021°17'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. A large coastal lagoon of varying salinity, associated marshes separated from the sea by an extensive dune system, smaller lagoons and wet meadows. The system supports extensive reedbeds, salt-tolerant plants, and submerged aquatic plants. The coastal dunes are in excellent condition with well-developed vegetation. The site supports rich fish, reptile and amphibian faunas, and is also important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include traditional fishing, livestock grazing, cultivation and recreation. The surrounding areas are used for intensive agriculture. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because of agricultural chemical inputs and grazing pressure. Ramsar site no. 63. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Kourgaldzhin and Tengiz Lakes

Site number: 107 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Akmola Oblast  
Area: 260 500 ha | Coordinates: 50°25'N 69°15'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tengiz-Korgalzhyn Lake System. 11/10/76; Akmola Oblast; 353,341 ha; 50°25'N 069°15'E. Nature Reserve. Korgalzhyn and Tengiz Lakes are representative examples of a shallow lake system with a mix of fresh, salty and brackish water bodies characteristic for the north of Kazakhstan, situated in a steppe landscape with little relief and grass oceans covering the land to the horizon. Reed beds scattered on islands by the heavy ice load of the winter leave channels and lakes open. The Tengiz-Korgalzhyn lakes have been a strict nature reserve since 1968, but the adjacent lake systems of the Tengiz lake basin are not strictly protected and will be added as clusters to this nomination at a later stage. An enormous number of birds stop over in the region - on the mud islands on lake Tengiz the northernmost colony of Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*, the symbol of the Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve) reaches up to 14,000 breeding pairs. The Korgalzhyn Lakes harbor big colonies of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelicanus crispus*) with over 500 breeding pairs nesting in the vast reed beds (10% of the world population). The White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) is breeding and resting at the fresh and brackish lakes; in autumn it can be observed in numbers of up to 4,000 birds (30-40% of the world population) in the protected area. A management plan is under development under a GEF/UNDP project. There is an associated nature museum and visitors' centre which attracts groups from the new capital, Astana, but only scientific tourism and research is permitted and tourism within the Reserve itself, as opposed to in the buffer zone, is not expected to increase. Ramsar site no. 107 (originally designated by the former Soviet Union). Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski Rit

Site number: 2 028 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina  
Area: 8 292 ha | Coordinates: 45°11'N 20°04'E | Designation dates: 08-03-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski Rit.08/03/12; Vojvodina; 8,292 ha; 45°10'40"N 020°04'10"E. Special Nature Reserve, IBA. A well preserved mosaic of river arms, ridges, meanders, canals, ponds, reed beds, wet meadows, marshes, pastures and forests along both sides of the Danube. This alluvial area is shaped by regular flooding and vegetation succession, as well as by human activities, and harbours large numbers of threatened plant species such as Water Violet *Hottonia palustris* and Four-leaved Clover *Marsilea quadrifolia*. It is crucial as a spawning ground for many fish species such as Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus* and important for many birds, including Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, amphibians like Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, and diverse species of invertebrates, reptiles and mammals. It is used for forestry, hunting, traditional fishing as well as for cattle breeding to preserve native species of horses, donkeys and cows. Pristine landscapes, authentic settlements and monuments of cultural and historical significance make the site attractive as a tourist destination. Various factors threaten this site including the spread of invasive plant species, reed burning, illegal fishing and hunting, and infrastructure developments. Ramsar Site no. 2028. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Kozyansky

Site number: 2 196 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Vitebsk region  
Area: 26 060 ha | Coordinates: 55°27'N 29°19'E | Designation dates: 29-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kozyansky. 29/03/2013; Vitebsk Region; 26,060 ha; 55°25'N 29°22'E; Important Bird Area, National Landscape Reserve, Habitat/Species Management Area. The site is a complex wetland mosaic formed by large areas of transitional mires and raised bogs, forested and non-forested peatlands, permanent rivers, freshwater lakes and farmland. The wetland supports numerous populations of plant and animal species important for the conservation of the biological diversity within the Boreal biogeographic region. In addition, the site harbours numerous nationally-threatened species of birds such as *Ciconia nigra*, *Botaurus stellaris* and *Grus grus*, and mammals such as *Lynx lynx*, *Ursus arctos* and *Meles meles*. Its main hydrological values are water supply and maintenance of groundwater level and water quality. Within the site there are 15 historical and two archaeological monuments protected by the State. Human uses include forestry, hunting and fishing. Potential threats to the site's ecological character derive from peat extraction, commercial fishing, deforestation, vegetation succession, overgrazing and pollution from cattle farms and a ceramics factory located in neighbouring Obol. The management plan for the reserve is currently being prepared. Ramsar site no. 2196. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Kpatawee Wetlands

Site number: 1 629 | Country: Liberia | Administrative region: Bong county  
Area: 835 ha | Coordinates: 07°07'N 09°38'W | Designation dates: 24-08-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kpatawee Wetlands. 24/08/06; Bong; 835 ha; 07°07'N 009°38'W. Kpatawee waterfall falls within the rainforest zone of Liberia, as a branch of the St. John River, one of the six major rivers in the country. While the river erodes the valley in its upper sections, it accumulates sand and gravel downstream, leaving patches of bare land along its course, which provide wintering grounds for large numbers of common Sandpipers and Palaearctic migrant species such as Little Ringed Plover and Greenshanks. The endangered Three-cusped Pangolin and Water Chevrotain occur at the site, too. The villagers value this area as a picnic ground, for hosting meetings, workshops and retreats, but the area and its resources are also used for palm wine production, hunting, fishing, basket making, bathing and other domestic uses. Within the site, the governments of Liberia and China undertook the Kpatawee Rice Project with the objective of introducing new rice farming methods to farmers, to discourage shifting cultivation. Threats to the site include the potential development of a hydropower scheme. The site is an ideal nature reserve and tourist attraction but has not officially been recognized for this purpose. Ramsar site no. 1629. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Krabi Estuary

Site number: 1 100 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Krabi Province  
Area: 21 299 ha | Coordinates: 07°58'N 98°55'E | Designation dates: 05-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krabi Estuary. 05/07/01; Krabi Province; 21,299 ha; 07°58'N 098°55'E. National Reserve Forest. An area of sand beach, mangroves, and mudflats, with some steep wooded cliffs and intertidal mudflats extending up to 2km offshore at low tide. A complex of rivers open to the sea within the site, and extensive seagrass beds are present at Sriboya Island. Some 221 bird species are found in the mangrove areas, and the mudflats form one of the most important areas in southern Thailand for migratory birds. Water quality has suffered from nearby community enlargement and the rapid growth of tourism from nearby Krabi city, and increased aquaculture may bring cause for concern. Most mangrove areas are presently forest concession but will convert to conservation purposes by the end of 2001. Ramsar site no. 1100. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Krakower Obersee

Site number: 171 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Area: 870 ha | Coordinates: 53°37'N 12°18'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krakower Obersee. 31/07/78; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; 870 ha; 53°37'N 012°18'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A lake with fringing reedbeds, tall sedges and scrub, and several islands of natural woodland. The site supports the largest inland colony of *Sterna hirundo* (200 breeding pairs) in northeastern Germany and four other species of breeding birds. Human activities include commercial trout rearing, agriculture, and limited summer tourism. Research into the breeding success of birds is carried out annually. Ramsar site no. 171. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Krammer-Volkerak

Site number: 747 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland, Noord-Brabant, Zuid-Holland  
Area: 6 159 ha | Coordinates: 51°39'N 04°16'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krammer-Volkerak. 04/09/95; Zeeland, Noord-Brabant, Zuid-Holland; 6,159 ha; 051°39'N 04°15'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Site is a former tidal estuary of the Rhine-Maas river system, which was transformed into a permanent freshwater lake by its separation from the North Sea in 1987. The Ramsar Site boundary was adjusted to the Natura 2000 site in 2014. The Site's islands, forested peatlands, mud flats and intertidal marshes are very important resting, moulting, feeding and breeding grounds for many species of waterbirds which are threatened in Europe, such as Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and common tern (*Sterna hirundo*). The Site also supports over 50,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the population of eight bird species. Meanwhile it plays an important role in flood regulation. Human activities include commercial and recreational fishing, shipping traffic, nautical sports and water management. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are pollution, eutrophication and bird disturbance from recreational activities. Ramsar site no. 747. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Krkonošská rašeliniště

Site number: 637 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Trutnov  
Area: 230 ha | Coordinates: 50°44'N 15°42'E | Designation dates: 02-11-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krkonošská rašeliniste (Krkonoše mountains mires). 02/11/93; Trutnov; 30 ha; 50°46'N 015°38'E. Biosphere Reserve, Important Bird Area; National Park. Raised, subarctic peatbogs (1440 m above sea level.) on a granite bedrock with a combination of arctic and alpine elements. Vegetation cover consists of moss, herbaceous and dwarf-pine communities supporting endemic and relic species. The site is important for breeding birds and the mammal *Sorex alpinus*. The area is used intensively for hiking. Ramsar site no. 637. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Krunnit Islands

Site number: 7 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 4 435 ha | Coordinates: 65°23'N 24°55'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krunnit Islands. 28/05/74; Oulu; 4,435 ha; 65°23'N 024°47'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI. Four disjunct island groups with several large forested islands and 15 small morainic islands forming a unique and virgin series of island land upheaval succession. The northern part of Ulkokrunni Island is crossed by a low esker formation with heath-like vegetation. The area includes about 20 small islands or islets which are either grassy, sandy or bare and rocky skerries. Because of strong land upheaval, the shores are in a continuous stage of succession. The sites host three listed vascular plants species: *Hippuris tetraphylla*, primrose *Primula nutans*, and water-plantain *Alisma wahlenbergi*. Amongst the threatened bird species are Little Tern, Caspian Tern, Temminck's Stint and Black-headed Gull. Breeding bird populations are the most valuable in the Bothnian Bay archipelago, and the site is one of the most important summer-molting areas of Greylag Goose and Goosanders. Runaways of fur-farmed Arctic Foxes cause occasional damage to the breeding of birds. The site, where landing is prohibited in the breeding season of birds, has been a private protected area since 1936 and an important education site for the University of Oulu. Ramsar site no. 7. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Krušňohorská rašeliniště

Site number: 1 670 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Ústecký and Karlovarský  
Area: 11 224 ha | Coordinates: 50°31'N 13°10'E | Designation dates: 03-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Krusňohorská rašeliniste (Krusňohorska mountains mires). 22/12/06; Ústecký, Karlovarský; 11,224 ha; 50°31'N 013°10'E. Nature Reserves. Comprises about 30 mire islands of representative patterned mires and raised bogs, with neighbouring natural and artificial watercourses, fishponds and reservoir shores in the northwest of the country near the border with Germany. The biological diversity comprises huge mosaics of highly alkaline fens with scattered tree patches, preferred by grouse birds - Tetrao tetrix, Tetrao urogallus, Tetrastes bonasia - and of bog expanses occupied by krummholz stands of *Pinus x pseudopumilio* and Central European endemic tree *Pinus rotundata*, supporting high numbers of endangered plant species, such as *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*, *Carex chordorrhiza* and *Drosera anglica*. Ore mining had a long tradition in the mountain area, which affected the disappearance of alluvial fens since the 16th century. In subsequent centuries, as mining activities retreated, many bogs were affected by peat extraction and agricultural overexploitation. Presently the site is mainly used for game keeping and forestry - in a few localities, peat mining is being brought to an end and remains a critical conservation issue. A direct impact on the biota within mires is also caused by the high concentration of deer, which cause eutrophication of ombrotrophic sites and trampling disturbance of mire surface. The site provides various facilities for tourism, such as marked hiking and biking trails and cross-country skiing routes. Ramsar site no. 1670. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Kryva Bay and Kryva Spit

Site number: 774 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Donetsk Oblast  
Area: 1 400 ha | Coordinates: 47°03'N 38°08'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kryva Bay and Kryva Spit. 23/11/95; Donetsk Oblast; 1,400 ha; 47°03'N 038°08'E. Ornithological Game Reserve, Nature Monument. A bay of the Azov Sea made up of a sandy-shell spit, beaches, silt islands, and shallow lakes. The site supports reed thickets, saline meadows, and swamps and includes emergent and submergent plants and short grasses. Several thousand *Anseriformes* winter and up to 15,000 pairs of waterfowl nest at the site. Several endemic and nationally rare plant and fish species occur at the site. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, fishing, aquaculture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 774. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Kuan Ki Sian of the Thale Noi Non-Hunting Area Wetlands

Site number: 948 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Phatthalung, Songkhla and Nakorn Srithammarat  
Area: 494 ha | Coordinates: 07°50'N 100°08'E | Designation dates: 13-05-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kuan Ki Sian of the Thale Noi Non-Hunting Area. 13/05/98; Songkhla; 494 ha; 07°50'N 100°08'E. Non-hunting Area. Located just north of the very large Thale Luang (Lake Songkla) in the south of the country, it is one of the few surviving intact freshwater wetland ecosystems in Thailand; specific wetland types found here are lake, marsh, Melaleuca (paperbark) swamp forest, paddy fields, and swamp grass lands. "Kuans" are islands free of water for most of the year located in the Melaleuca swamp forest: Kuan Ki Sian is a knoll at 0-2 meters above mean sea level within the Thale Noi area. The Thale Noi area is home to more than 5,000 families, almost all of which rely on some extraction or land use within the area. Activities include fishing, cattle grazing, cultivation, mat-making and tourism the site is visited by more than 200,000 foreign and local visitors annually. Ramsar site no. 948. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### **Kuannersuit Kuussuat**

Site number: 383 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Qeqertarsuaq  
Area: 5 190 ha | Coordinates: 69°38'N 53°17'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kuannersuit Kuussuat. 27/01/88; Qeqertarsuaq; 5,190 ha; 69°38'N 053°17'W. A broad valley subject to recent glacial influences, consisting of moraine debris and small pools. A braided river system flows through the site, draining adjoining glaciated mountains. Several hot springs are found within the site, and the glacier at the head of the valley, as of May 2002, had surged 10km in merely four years, now covering 14% of the Ramsar site. The area is important for several species of breeding waterbirds. Some harvesting of the area's natural resources is carried out by local people. Ramsar site no. 383. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### **Kuban Delta: Akhtaro-Grivenskaya group of limans**

Site number: 675 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Krasnodarsk Krai  
Area: 84 600 ha | Coordinates: 45°50'N 38°30'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kuban Delta: Akhtaro-Grivenskaya group of limans. 13/09/94; Krasnodarsky Krai; 84,600 ha; 44°50'N 038°30'E, and Kuban Delta: Group of limans between rivers Kuban & Protoka. 13/09/94; Krasnodarsky Krai; 88,400 ha; 45°30'N 037°48'E. Federal Nature Reserve, State Nature Reserve. An extensive network of shallow reservoirs, rice fields, streams, and irrigation canals, supporting diverse aquatic vegetation. The site includes a foredelta system, saline, brackish and freshwater lakes, coastal shallows, and lagoons. The area, on a major bird migration route, supports large migrating (1.2 to two million birds), staging, breeding (46 species), and wintering (up to 500,000 birds) populations of waterbirds. The delta also supports a diversity of fish species and commercially important breeding populations of sturgeon. Human activities include mowing, grazing, commercial fishing, hunting, forestry, and recreation. Ramsar sites no. 675 and 674. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### **Kuban Delta: Group of limans between Kuban & Protoka Rivers**

Site number: 674 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Krasnodarsk Krai  
Area: 88 400 ha | Coordinates: 45°30'N 37°48'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kuban Delta: Akhtaro-Grivenskaya group of limans. 13/09/94; Krasnodarsky Krai; 84,600 ha; 44°50'N 038°30'E, and Kuban Delta: Group of limans between rivers Kuban & Protoka. 13/09/94; Krasnodarsky Krai; 88,400 ha; 45°30'N 037°48'E. Federal Nature Reserve, State Nature Reserve. An extensive network of shallow reservoirs, rice fields, streams, and irrigation canals, supporting diverse aquatic vegetation. The site includes a foredelta system, saline, brackish and freshwater lakes, coastal shallows, and lagoons. The area, on a major bird migration route, supports large migrating (1.2 to two million birds), staging, breeding (46 species), and wintering (up to 500,000 birds) populations of waterbirds. The delta also supports a diversity of fish species and commercially important breeding populations of sturgeon. Human activities include mowing, grazing, commercial fishing, hunting, forestry, and recreation. Ramsar sites no. 675 and 674. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### **Kuching Wetlands National Park**

Site number: 1 568 | Country: Malaysia | Administrative region: Sarawak  
Area: 6 610 ha | Coordinates: 01°41'N 110°14'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kuching Wetlands National Park. 08/11/05; Sarawak; 6,610 ha; 01°41'N 110°14'E. National Park. A saline mangrove system with flora comprising predominantly the genera *Rhizophora*, *Avicennia* and *Sonneratia*. The site harbours such noteworthy species as Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*, Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus* (endemic to Borneo and listed as 'Endangered', IUCN Red List), Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* ('Vulnerable'), and Griffith's Silver Leaf Monkey *Trachypitecus villosus*. The site has value as a breeding and nursery ground for fish and prawn species - 43 families of fishes and 11 species of prawns have been recorded, many of which are commercially important. Its proximity to the city of Kuching, the Damai resort complex, and two other national parks renders it of high potential value for tourism, education and recreation. The area is historically important: there was a Chinese settlement there probably as early as the 1st century AD, and early Malay, Hindu and Buddhist relics from the 9th century AD have been excavated at Santubong Village. The discovery of gold made the area an important trading and iron mining centre from the 7th to 13th centuries; some enigmatic rock carvings of human figures remain from this period. In the 15th century, Santubong was the site of the original Brunei Malay capital of Sarawak. Ramsar site no. 1568. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### **Kugurlui Lake**

Site number: 760 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 6 500 ha | Coordinates: 45°17'N 28°40'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kugurlui Lake. 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 6,500 ha; 45°17'N 028°40'E. A shallow oxbow lake with swampy shores set in the lower Danube basin. Vegetation consists mainly of emergent species. The site supports internationally important numbers of various species of migrating, breeding and molting waterbirds (up to 30,000 individuals). Nationally and internationally rare bird species occur at the site. It is also important as a breeding and nursery area for fish and amphibians. Human activities include environmental education, recreation, hunting, fish-rearing, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 760. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### **Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen**

Site number: 1 547 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Oita Prefecture  
Area: 91 ha | Coordinates: 33°06'N 131°15'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kuju Bogatsuru and Tadewara-shitsugen. 08/11/05; Oita; 91 ha; 33°06'N 131°15'E. Quasi-National Park. Near the summit of the mountain in Kirishima Volcanic Belt and below at its base, the largest intermediate moors of mixed sphagnum bogs formed in the mountainous areas in Japan. Bogatsuru is nestled in a basin between Mt. Mimata and other volcanic mountains, whereas Tadewara is located in alluvial fan. The site is the central attraction within Aso-kuju National Park drawing 5 million visitors annually to the breathtaking landscape of smoking volcanoes, meadows, forests, and hot springs. Popular activities include sight-seeing during autumn, hiking, camping, nature walking and folk events. It supports 74 fern species and 493 seed plants, including some rare plants like *Geranium sibiricum*, *Pterygopleurum neurophyllum* and *Sphagnum palustre*. To maintain the vegetation, terrestrialisation of the wetlands into forests is hindered through meadow burning in spring by the local community. Nationally Redlisted species Golden Eagle, Hodgson's Hawk-eagle and Peregrine Falcon are also found. Ramsar site no. 1547. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System

Site number: 1 863 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Kostanay Region  
Area: 8 300 ha | Coordinates: 51°23'N 61°52'E | Designation dates: 07-05-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System. 07/05/2009; Kostanay oblast; 8,300 ha; 51°23' N 061°52' E. A wetland complex in northern Kazakhstan comprising two large lakes, Kulykol and Taldykol, and several smaller lakes. The complex is highly significant for waterbirds. It is habitat for 12 bird species on the IUCN Red List, including the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), and supports tens of thousands of Anseriformes during migration and moulting, as well as over 1% of the populations of 12 species of waterbird. 45 species of wetland birds are reported to nest at the site. The lake system has a range of habitats including open water, damp meadows and shoreline reedbeds. Lake depth and salinity fluctuate seasonally. The site is surrounded by agricultural land including grain crops attractive to large numbers of geese and is used for hunting and small-scale fishing by local residents. The site is included in the Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes and Other Globally Endangered Wetland Bird Species. RIS site information was developed with the assistance of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project. Ramsar site no. 1863. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Kumana Wetland Cluster

Site number: 1 931 | Country: Sri Lanka | Administrative region:  
Area: 19 011 ha | Coordinates: 06°37'N 81°44'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Ramsar Site (19,011 ha; 6°37'N 81°44'E) falls within two existing protected areas, Kumana National Park and the Panama-Kudumbigala Sanctuary. Located South-east of Sri Lanka in the Ampara District, this site consists of a diversity of coastal wetland habitats, including lagoons, estuaries, irrigation reservoirs, mangroves, salt marshes, interspersed with sand dune, scrubland and forest vegetation

The site provides excellent feeding and resting habitats for a large number of threatened wetland species, including three turtle species such as the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and the Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Other threatened species include the globally vulnerable Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), bird species like the vulnerable Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilus javanicus*), and mammals such as the endangered Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*).

The productive coastal wetlands support a thriving near-shore fishery that includes commercially important crustaceans such as *Penaeus* spp., and *Macrobrachium* spp., and also offer refuge for their juvenile stages. Locals engage in lagoon fishing and rice cultivation, and also depend on seasonal non-timber forest products such as Woodapple fruits.

The site is famous for its historical values. Around 200 B.C, the area belonged to an ancient irrigation civilization. Caves were occupied by Buddhist monks as far back as the 1st century BC with a few caves being famous for their ancient rock inscriptions and paintings.

Threats to the site include disturbance by increasing visitor numbers, increased siltation around lagoons due to cattle grazing while surrounding areas face the problem of illegal logging, poaching and excessive use of chemicals for agriculture.

The Department of Wildlife Conservation, under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance of Sri Lanka is directly responsible for managing this diverse and culturally rich wetland.

## Kurefjorden

Site number: 306 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Østfold  
Area: 392 ha | Coordinates: 59°20'N 10°44'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a very shallow arm of a fjord, featuring extensive beds of submerged vegetation and large mudflats which are exposed at low tide. The bay is surrounded by salt marshes, wet grassland and agricultural land. The Site's wealth of mussels, snails and invertebrates supports a wide range of birds: it is one of the most important wetlands in the region for staging migratory waterbirds, particularly ducks and waders, and it is also important as a breeding, moulting, feeding and overwintering site. It supports several nationally and globally threatened species such as the horned grebe *Podiceps auritus* and the velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca*. The salt marshes also offer habitat to nationally threatened plants, and the Site is important for the critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. Commercial fishing is practised. The Site is considered as one of the very best birdwatching sites in the county and facilities include an observation tower.

## Kurgalsky Peninsula

Site number: 690 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Leningrad Oblast  
Area: 65 000 ha | Coordinates: 59°41'N 28°09'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kurgalsky Peninsula. 13/09/94; Leningrad Oblast; 65,000 ha; 59°41'N 028°09'E. Temporary Nature Reserve. The shallow waters of the Gulf of Finland, numerous islands, and the Kurgalsky Peninsula, which is covered with mires and pine forest. Habitats include patches of broad-leaved and mixed forests, coastal meadows and marshes with alder and oak, Sphagnum fens, floodplains, dry meadows, and reedbeds. The site exhibits a high species diversity of flora and fauna, supporting numerous species of regionally or globally threatened plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. The wetland supports large migrating and breeding populations of numerous species of waterbirds. The local population is engaged in the fisheries or seafood industry. The site borders Estonia. Ramsar site no. 690. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Kushimoto Coral Communities

Site number: 1 548 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Wakayama Prefecture  
Area: 574 ha | Coordinates: 33°27'N 135°47'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kushimoto Coral Communities. 08/11/05; Wakayama; 574 ha; 33°27'N 135°47'E. National Park. A unique littoral area rich in high-latitude to tropical marine life of 120 species, situated at southern tip of Kii Peninsula. Kuroshio Current, the major warm current on the earth, touches the area allowing formation of a peculiarly warm environment supporting tropical organisms on the main island of Japan. *Acropora hyacinthus*, the dominant species, is important for its high nutrition productivity and topography formation capacity, and also significant for tourism resources because of its beautiful tabular coral landscape. The highest concentration of *Catalaphyllia jardenei* population was identified only in this area, making it the largest marine colony in Japan and northernmost distribution in the world. The remarkable coral communities support rich biodiversity with nutrition and habitat sources stabilising the neritic environment. The site has special value for marine fishery, leisure fishing, scientific research and tourism, particularly coral observation and scuba diving. Typhoon, natural retreat of the warm current, Arita Bay development activities, illegal and over-fishing are considered as major threats to the coral communities. Ramsar site no. 1548. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Kushiro-shitsugen

Site number: 205 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido  
Area: 7 863 ha | Coordinates: 43°09'N 144°26'E | Designation dates: 17-06-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kushiro-shitsugen. 17/06/80; Hokkaido; 7,863 ha; 43°09'N 144°26'E. National Wildlife Protection Area; National Park; Anatidae & Crane Network Site. Extensive peatland with raised bogs, freshwater lakes, and the most extensive tracts of reedbeds in Japan. The site supports an important assemblage of flora and fauna and is important for various species of globally threatened birds such as the Japanese Crane. It is the only location in Japan for certain reptiles, dragonflies, damselflies and notable plants. Human activities include nature conservation and fishing. It is an important water source for domestic and industrial users. Research facilities support studies relating to the notable species occurring within the site, and include a Wildlife Centre and Crane Sanctuary. Adjacent to the site of Ramsar COP5, 1993. Ramsar site no. 205. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Kutcharo-ko

Site number: 439 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido  
Area: 1 607 ha | Coordinates: 45°09'N 142°20'E | Designation dates: 06-07-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kutcharo-ko. 06/07/89; Hokkaido; 1,607 ha; 45°09'N 142°20'E. National Wildlife Protection Area; Natural Park; Anatidae Network Site. Two interconnected, coastal, freshwater lake basins supporting excellent examples of typical Northern Japanese reed swamp communities and bordered by a dune system, hills and fen/peatland. An especially important staging and wintering area for up to 10,000 swans and 50,000-60,000 ducks. One of the most important Japanese sites for the globally threatened White-tailed Eagle. Principal human activities are nature conservation, fishing, and recreation, while some of the surrounding areas support pastoralism. The wetland is an important source of drinking water. Ramsar site no. 439. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Kut Ting Marshland

Site number: 1 926 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Nongkhai Province  
Area: 2 200 ha | Coordinates: 18°18'N 103°40'E | Designation dates: 19-06-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kut Ting Marshland. 19/06/09; Buengkan District, Nongkhai Province; 2,200 ha; 18°18'N 103°41'E. This Ramsar Site is located in the northeast region of Thailand and features many wetland types and habitats with a diverse array of species. Streams, lakes, marshes and flooded agricultural land are common in Kut Ting and as such, this site is a stunning example of an intact array of important wetland types in the Mekong Ecoregion. The site provides a haven for 54 species of birds of which several are endangered, for example, Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Isok barb (*Probarbus jullieni*). The forests of Kut Ting support over 150 plant species while surrounding wetlands provide nursing and spawning grounds for approximately 113 species of fish. Nine of them are endemic to the site and some typical fish species include *Clupeichthys aesarnensis* and *Boraras micros* and 80 species are commercially important. Kut Ting plays an important role in flood control while also supplying water to locals during the dry season. Sediment sourced from the Mekong River provides land for cash crops of watermelon, tomato and rice paddy cultivation. At least 22 species of waterplants are utilised by locals as vegetable, for fodder and handicrafts and about 56 fish species are harvested for both domestic and commercial use. Minor threats to the site include overfishing and pesticide/domestic waste runoff from surrounding areas. The Thai Department of Fisheries, Provincial Natural Resource and Environment Provincial has jurisdiction over the site and a Wetland Committee is responsible for the management of the site and adjacent areas. Ramsar Site n. 1926. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Kvisleflået

Site number: 1 193 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark  
Area: 5 682 ha | Coordinates: 61°48'N 12°06'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large, flat-mire landscape, with large moraine deposits which create a mosaic of dry and wet areas interspersed with ponds and lakes. It is an important breeding and staging area for numerous bird species, many of them threatened and regionally rare. The mosaic landscape is ideal habitat for the greenshank *Tringa nebularis* and the whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. The Site is important for flood control during periods of heavy precipitation and snowmelt and acts as a water reservoir during droughts. Forestry is among the main sources of income in the area, and the Site itself is used for low-impact hunting and fishing activities, with some sheep and cattle grazing. Kvisleflået would be part of a potential Transboundary Ramsar Site with Sweden, and first efforts to coordinate the area's cross-border management have been made.

## Kvismaren

Site number: 24 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Örebro County  
Area: 837 ha | Coordinates: 59°10'N 15°23'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed of two restored freshwater lakes, large wet meadows with grazing cattle, deciduous forests and reeds. The wetland is a representative example of lowland nutrient-rich lakes in the European Boreal region, and includes threatened ecological communities included in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, such as hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities and alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*. The partly restored wetland constitutes a refuge and staging area for birds (including the globally threatened lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*) and other animals in a region otherwise dominated by agriculture. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 resting waterbirds, including large numbers of bean goose *Anser fabalis* and common crane *Grus grus*. The area also serves as a centre for the dispersal of European otter *Lutra lutra* in the region and a key hibernating area for the European grass snake *Natrix natrix* and the European adder *Vipera berus*. The Site provides a model of wetland wise use through the various restoration measures which have been carried out since the 1970s. Grazing of wetlands and shore meadows is another important part of the conservation work at Kvismaren. The main threats affecting its ecological character relate to pollution from agricultural effluents due to the intensive use of fertilizers and pesticides in the surrounding areas. The ecological character of the Site has improved, due to a restoration project carried out from 2005 to 2015, and improved grazing and water regulations within the reserve. Conservation education is facilitated through the presence of a bird observatory. A management plan is being implemented in the nature reserve.

## Kyliiske Mouth

Site number: 113 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 32 800 ha | Coordinates: 45°23'N 29°36'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kyliiske Mouth (formerly Dunai Plavni). 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 32,800 ha; 45°23'N 029°36'E. Biosphere Reserve. First designated for the Ramsar List by the former Soviet Union on 11 October 1976. The site, a delta of a Danube River tributary, is situated along the Black Sea near the Romanian border. It comprises numerous channels, alluvial islands, swamp areas, floodplain forests, freshwater lakes, and sandy spits enclosing bays. Vegetation includes hydrophilic communities, reed and sedge marshes, and dune communities. The site supports numerous rare, relict and endemic plant species. The threatened waterbirds *Pelecanus crispus* and *Aythya nyroc* nest at the site, and the threatened Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* winters in the area. The site provides habitat for large numbers of many species of wintering, migrating, breeding and molting waterbirds, as well as breeding and nursery places for fish and amphibians. Human activities include hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, haymaking, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 113. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## La Alberca de los Espinos

Site number: 1 922 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacán  
Area: 33 ha | Coordinates: 19°54'N 101°46'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Alberca de los Espinos. 02/02/09; Michoacán; 33 ha; 19°54' N 101°46' W. The area is characterized by a cineritic cone with a water body in the centre. This Ramsar Site is an important attraction to both local and international tourists. Inside the crater, there is a tropical deciduous forest and a gallery forest around the lake. The site is home to various species protected by the Mexican legislation including: *Cedrela dugesii*, *Albizia plurijuga* and *Erythrina coralloides*. The most common flora species are *Salix bonplandiana*, *Fraxinus uhdei* and *Lasiacis* sp. The volcanic structure working as a catchment area for the lake, the permanence of healthy forests in the crater contributing to the retention of the sediments removed by erosion are considered as the main hydrological values of the site. In 2003, the site was declared a Natural Protected Area, and is now documented as a Zone of Ecological Preservation. Ramsar Site n°1922. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## La Brenne

Site number: 518 | Country: France | Administrative region: Centre  
Area: 140 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°43'N 01°15'E | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Brenne. 08/04/91; Centre; 140,000 ha; 46°44'N 001°15'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Park, Natural Reserve, Hunting Reserve. A plateau region with a complex of 1,500 semi-natural lakes and ponds, formed in the Middle Ages by levee construction. Vegetation includes dense belts of fringing reeds, submergent and floating vegetation. The surrounding landscape consists of forests, heathland, wet meadows, dry grassland and cultivated land. The varied flora includes 1,000 species, 23 of which are rare. The diverse fauna includes 50 dragonfly species, 10 reptiles and 14 amphibians. An important area for passerines and for breeding, nesting and staging numerous species of waterbirds. Human activities include agriculture, forestry, fish farming, hunting, quarrying, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 518. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Labudovo okno

Site number: 1 655 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina  
Area: 3 733 ha | Coordinates: 44°48'N 21°18'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Labudovo okno. 01/05/06; Vojvodina; 3,733 ha; 44°48'N 021°18'E. IBA, Special Nature Reserve. Marking the southern margin of the Pannonian Plain, the site encompasses an important stretch of the Danube and adjacent areas as well as the Nera River to the border with Romania. Following the construction of the Iron Gate reservoir, the Danube water level rose and the river flow slowed down, causing the flooding of many river islets, lower coastal parts, and lagoons along the southern areas in the Deliblatska peacara Sands and created new aquatic and wetlands habitats. Permanent rivers and freshwater marshes are the main wetlands types, comprising diverse aquatic and wetland communities as well as wet meadows and steppe pastures along the riverbanks. Shallow waters of the Danube provide an ideal spawning area for many of the 50 supported fish species, such as *Silurus glanis*, *Stizostedion lucioperca* and *Acipenser ruthenus*. The site is an important waterbird habitat, especially as a nesting and wintering site for a range of species such as pygmy cormorants *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, little egret *Egretta garzetta*, white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, and common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Besides the strict protection zone and small-scale forestry mainly on river islets, the site is mainly used for agricultural activities based on cattle and sheep grazing. Ramsar site no. 1655. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lac Bam

Site number: 1 880 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Bam  
Area: 5 300,4 ha | Coordinates: 13°24'N 01°31'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Bam is in the transition zone between the southern Sahelian and northern Sudanian phytogeographic areas. The Site hosts a rich and varied biological diversity; the wooded savannah is dominated by *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Parkia biglobosa*, *Tamarindus indica* and *Bombax costatum*. The Site also hosts birds such as *Bubulcus ibis* and *Motacilla flava*. There are several fish species in the lake such as *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Schilbe mystus*. The Lake is also home to a large population of Nile crocodiles. The Site gives livelihoods to thousands of people in Bam Province in market gardening, fishing (there are nearly 800 fishermen) and arboriculture. Its ecological character therefore depends on the degree of exploitation of the lake by local populations. The lake is also slowly drying up, putting at risk fish stocks and water supply for crops and cattle.

## Lac Boulhilet

Site number: 1 897 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 856 ha | Coordinates: 35°44'N 06°46'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is part of a complex of wetlands in the semi-arid or arid Eastern Highlands. It comprises 13 freshwater, brackish and saltwater bodies including *chotts* (salt lakes) and *sebkhas* (salt flats). The Site was once a freshwater lake which fed over 15,000 hectares of cereal crops, but it was over-exploited from the 1970s to the 1990s. Lac Boulhilet has since been restored and once again supports a variety of activities including the cultivation of cereals. It is also once again an important site for wintering waterbirds and a resting point for migrating birds. Species of note include the endangered white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the vulnerable marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). Also found within the Site are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Cape hare (*Lepus capensis*) and common fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*). The principal current threats are poaching, disturbance of vegetation, and the potential over-abstraction of water.

## Lac d'Afenourir

Site number: 208 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Ifrane  
Area: 800 ha | Coordinates: 33°17'N 05°16'W | Designation dates: 20-06-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac d'Afenourir. 20/06/80; Ifrane; 800 ha; 33°17'N 005°16'W. Permanent Hunting Reserve. A mountain lake at 1800m altitude, important for wintering regionally rare species of waterbirds and also used by breeding and migrating birds. Human activities include tourism and recreational use. Ramsar site no. 208. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lac de Grand-Lieu

Site number: 714 | Country: France | Administrative region: Pays de la Loire  
Area: 6 300 ha | Coordinates: 47°05'N 01°40'W | Designation dates: 01-02-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac de Grand-Lieu. 01/02/95; Pays de la Loire; 6,300 ha; 47°05'N 001°40'W. Nature Reserve. The site's area fluctuates depending on climatic conditions. A shallow lake, dominated by macrophytic vegetation and three large floating forests and exhibiting features of a tropical wetland. Shaped by tectonic movements some 120 million years ago, the lake was well preserved until the 1960s, when the hydrologic regime was radically altered by large-scale human intervention. Coupled with agricultural pollution and urban effluent, these disturbances caused severe nutrient-enrichment. Over 200 species of birds, including 110 nesting species, and internationally important numbers of numerous species of migrating waterbirds and wintering Anatidae use the area. The site supports 500 important plant species, including many that are threatened or protected at national or regional levels. Human activities include fishing, hunting, hay production and grazing. It is also important for its archaeological, historical and ethnographic values. Ramsar site no. 714. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Lac Dem

Site number: 1 882 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Centre Nord (Province de Sanmatenga)  
Area: 1 354 ha | Coordinates: 13°12'N 01°08'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Dem is in the sub-Saharan sector of the Sahelian phytogeographical domain, and shrub savannah dominates. The Site is made up of permanent freshwater lakes and seasonal rivers, which serve as a refuge for numerous species during periods of drought, and especially for migratory birds on the lake's shores. The Site is important for stabilization of the microclimate, groundwater replenishment, flood control, river bank stabilization, sediment and nutrient retention, and storm protection. It provides other major ecosystem services which support the livelihoods of local communities. The Site hosts threatened species such as the vulnerable African mahogany *Khaya senegalensis* and the shea butter tree *Vitellaria paradoxa*, and thousands of migratory birds (including *Anas querquedula*, *Anas acuta* and *Anas clypeata*), waders (*Actophilornis africana*, *Ciconia nigra* and *Ardea goliath*), savannah birds (*Ptilopachus pectus* and *Numida meleagris*) and reptiles (*Crocodylus niloticus* and *Varanus niloticus*). Wind and water erosion, extreme temperatures, and unsustainable water demand all constitute significant threats. The presence of the gazetted forest and protection mechanism established around the Site support its conservation. A management plan was drafted in 2014 and is being implemented.

## Lac de Télamine

Site number: 1 423 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Oran  
Area: 2 399 ha | Coordinates: 35°44'N 00°23'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a brackish lake in a group of wetlands near Oran in western Algeria that form an important wintering and passage complex for migratory birds, especially *Anas* and *Tadorna* species. Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) winter here in significant numbers, as do common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), with about 4,000 individuals found on this and neighbouring wetlands. The natural vegetation, composed of halophytes such as samphire (*Salicornia* spp.) is mixed across the different habitats. Several birds of prey are also found, which feed on rodents, birds and insects among the surrounding cultivations. Agriculture and grazing are the main land uses around the Site, which is also used for environmental celebrations such as World Wetlands Day and World Environment Day.

### Lac de Tingrela

Site number: 1 881 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: région des Cascades  
Area: 580 ha | Coordinates: 10°39'N 04°50'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a permanent freshwater lake in the west of Burkina Faso which serves as an important refuge for a variety of fauna and flora, including during the dry periods for wetland plants such as *Andropogon africanus* and *Vetiveria senegalensis*. The wooded area around the lake is characterized by *Isobertia doka*, *Burkea africana*, *Parkia biglobosa* and *Terminalia* spp. The lake is noted as a reproduction site for various species of fish, including *Clarias gariepinus*, *Lates niloticus* and *Heterotis niloticus*, and it is also home to birds such as African cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), common egret (*Egretta intermedia*) and common sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*). Hippopotamuses and crocodiles are present. The lake plays an important role in the region's hydrological cycle through groundwater replenishment, flood control, and nutrient retention. Through the stabilization of the microclimate it allows for the maintenance of the region's biodiversity and supports income-generating activities such as tourism and farming of maize, rice and fruits including guava and mango. Lake Tingrela is facing threats related to desertification, pollution from chemical fertilizers and increasing levels of siltation.

### Lac du barrage de Boughezoul

Site number: 1 960 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Médéa  
Area: 9 058 ha | Coordinates: 35°42'N 02°47'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac du barrage de Boughezoul (9,058 ha; 35°44'N 02°47'E) is the largest artificial lake (barrage) on the Hauts Plateaux, located 90km north of the town of Médéa, and on the northern edge of the Sahara Desert. This Ramsar Site provides a key stop-over area for birds migrating across the Sahara. Up to 60% of the wetland is the water storage area, which fluctuates seasonally, and the site also includes permanent as well as seasonal rivers, streams and freshwater marshes. Internationally important numbers of migrant and wintering waterbirds use the permanent and seasonal wetlands, including two globally threatened species: Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).

### Lac du Bourget - Marais de Chautagne

Site number: 1 268 | Country: France | Administrative region: Rhône-Alpes  
Area: 5 500 ha | Coordinates: 45°44'N 05°51'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac du Bourget - Marais de Chautagne. 02/02/03; Rhône-Alpes; 5,500 ha; 45°44'N 005°51'E. Proposed Special Protection Area and Site of Community Importance EC Directives. One of the largest French Alpine lakes (4,500 ha). Apart from the lakeside town Aix-les-Bains, more than half of the lake shores remain natural, either rocky or covered with reedbeds (stretching along 11 km shoreline). Tourism and leisure activities are important, but restricted to specific lake areas only. Adjoining the lake outlet are the Chautagne marshes and peatbogs. The submerged lake vegetation and animal communities are very well developed and in good condition. During winter, and especially during cold spells, the lake harbours more than 20,000 waterbirds that also use the nearby part of the Rhône river, including up to 16,000 pochard *Aythya ferina* (Criterion 6). Bourget lake provides an important spawning area for the fish *Coregonus lavaretus* (one of the two French top sites), *Salvelinus alpinus* and *Lota lota*. Ramsar site no. 1268. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Lac et tourbière de Mejen Ech Chitan

Site number: 1 705 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Bizerte Governorate  
Area: 7 ha | Coordinates: 37°09'N 09°06'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac et Tourbière de Mejen Ech Chitan. 07/11/07; Bizerte; 7 ha; 37°09'N 009°06'E; Nature Reserve. The lake and peatland of Mejen Ech Chitan are part of the "Chain of Mogods", a forested area extending along the northwest of the country near the sea. The Lake, also known as the "Lake of Water Lilies" for being the only site in Tunisia where this species is found, is an enclosed water body adjacent to the peatland. Peatlands are rare in North Africa, and their geological properties raise considerable interest, as the study of their pollen and spore traces makes it possible to reconstruct the evolution of the local vegetation, in this case providing information several thousand years into the past. The site is privately owned and in need of restoration. Ramsar site No. 1705. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Lac Fetzara

Site number: 1 299 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Annaba  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 36°47'N 07°31'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a freshwater lake of some 17 by 13 kilometres, surrounded by permanent and seasonal marshes and pools, and by irrigated and seasonally inundated agricultural land. The lake's surface area of some 5,800 hectares typically increases by an additional 4,000 ha as the land floods in the rainy winter season. The Site's great importance as a nesting and wintering place at the beginning of the 20th century was reduced by drainage works during the colonial era, and has not entirely been regained in recent years. Nonetheless, the Site hosts in the average winter more than 30,000 waterbirds. It is also a feeding area for *Anatidae* and coots, including greylag goose *Anser anser* and Eurasian wigeon *Anas penelope*. Agriculture and pasturage are practiced in the Site, and the expansion of agricultural area is seen as a potential threat.

### Lac Fitri

Site number: 486 | Country: Chad | Administrative region: Batha  
Area: 195 000 ha | Coordinates: 12°50'N 17°30'E | Designation dates: 13-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Fitri. 13/06/90; Batha; 195,000 ha; 12°50'N 017°30'E. Biosphere Reserve. Fed by a catchment of approximately 70,000km<sup>2</sup> this Sahelian lake plays a vital role in the local economy, especially during periods of low rainfall. It supports a productive fishery and extensive seasonal grazing. Habitat is of international importance for wintering Palearctic waterbirds and as drought refuge for Afrotropical species and elephants. Ramsar site no. 486.

## Lac Gabou et le réseau hydrographique du Plateau du Tagant

Site number: 1 854 | Country: Mauritania | Administrative region: Wilaya de Tagant

Area: 9 500 ha | Coordinates: 17°56'N 11°52'W | Designation dates: 13-02-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Gabou et le réseau hydrographique du Plateau du Tagant. 13/02/09; Tagant; 9,500 ha; 17°56'N 011°52'W. Composed of a network of rivers that flow from the mountainous region at the limit of the Sahel and Sahara to form Lac Gabou, with several temporary lagoons and ponds as well as freshwater springs and oases. The presence of this water resource is important as it supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, largely indigenous to the region and of global conservation concern. Of particular note are Phoenix dactylifera and Hyphaene thebaica, two species of palms that are of great economic value, and L'Adansonia digitata and l'Adenium obesum, baobabs found typically in the Sahelian savanna. During periods of adverse conditions, Crocodylus niloticus suchus find refuge at the site; they are known to bury themselves in the muddy pools and trenches until the rainy season begins. Flights of migratory white storks (Ciconia ciconia) and black storks (Ciconia nigra) have been sighted in the area, proving that it is an important flyway for various migratory waterbirds. The main threats occur as a result of limited resources leading to overexploitation and continued desertification typical of the Sahel. Ramsar site no. 1854. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Lac Higa

Site number: 1 883 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Sahel

Area: 1 514 ha | Coordinates: 13°37'N 00°43'E | Designation dates: 10-07-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated on the Yali River in the north-east of the country, Lac Higa (Higa Lake) is composed of permanent freshwater lakes, seasonal rivers and water storage areas. The Lake is one of the most important water resources in Burkina Faso's Sahel and a favourable ecosystem for many plant and animal species. Of the 121 known fish species in Burkina Faso, 27 are found in the Lake; an inventory carried out between 2012 and 2014 identified 98 species of savannah birds, including 81 African species and 17 which migrate from Europe. Some of these are waterbirds such as pelicans, ducks and cranes, which use it to nest. These species are threatened primarily by the destruction of their habitat due to human activities and climate change. The Lake provide benefits such as drinking water supply, groundwater replenishment, flood control, storm protection, sediment and nutrient retention, and stabilization of the microclimate. It represents an economic asset for local people, who use it for farming and fishing. Potential threats to the sustainability of the Lake are related to climate change and the increased pressure of crop and livestock farming, which is leading to greater erosion and siltation, and possible degradation of the ecosystem.

## Lac Kinkony

Site number: 2 048 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Mahajanga

Area: 13 800 ha | Coordinates: 17°32'S 44°06'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Kinkony. 05/06/12; Mahajanga; 13,800 ha; 16°08'S 045°49'E. Within Protected Area, Important Bird Area. A permanent freshwater lake situated in western Madagascar in the Mahavavy basin that supports the livelihoods of several local communities that depend on fishery and rice agriculture carried out along the banks. The vegetation is dominated by Phragmites mauritianus, which acts as a nesting ground and refuge for several water fauna including 45 species of waterbirds, four of which are threatened, and the endemic and endangered Sakalava Rail (Amaurornis olivieri). The site is an important source of food and a spawning ground for 18 species of fishes, including the endangered Paretroplus dambabe and the vulnerable Paretroplus kieneri as well as freshwater tortoise. The lake is threatened by overfishing and the use of unregulated fishing techniques, the conversion of marshes into rice farms, and the destruction of the drainage basins for agriculture. The Ramsar Site is part of the Mahavavy Kinkony protected area; there is a management plan, and a community-based organization has been created to regulate fishing and agricultural activities and ensure sustainable management of the lake's resources. Ramsar Site no. 2048. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Lac Magui

Site number: 2 126 | Country: Mali | Administrative region: Kayes

Area: 24 740 ha | Coordinates: 14°44'N 11°04'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Magui. 22/03/2013; Kayes; 24,740 ha; 14°38'39'N 11°01'38'W. A permanent freshwater lake, receiving run-offs from several creeks. The lake is lined with herbaceous and woody plants at the bottom and very rich in biodiversity including small mammals, reptiles, fishes and waterbirds. It is a source of food and resting ground for several migrating birds with over 95 species identified, including Garganey Anas querquedula, Northern Pintail Anas acuta, Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus and the Purple Heron Ardea purpurea. 26,000 birds were counted in 2003 and over 21,800 in 2005. It is an important source of food and spawning ground for fishes from River Senegal. Its main hydrological functions include water retention, groundwater recharge, flood control and shoreline stabilisation, and it is important in maintaining the general hydrological balance of the Senegal River basin. The main human activities carried out in and around the site include agriculture, fishing and harvesting of forest products. Ramsar site no. 2126. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Lac Saint-François

Site number: 361 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Quebec

Area: 2 310 ha | Coordinates: 45°02'N 74°29'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Saint-François. 27/05/87; Québec; 2,310 ha; 45°02'N 074°29'W. National Wildlife Area. One of the largest remaining areas of shoreline marsh not directly modified. Sharing the border with the USA, the site includes a shallow freshwater lake, rivers, streams, ponds and flooded woodland, with mature forest on elevated land. The vegetation of the area includes 40 species rare in Quebec and Canada. There is a rich fauna of mammals, reptiles and amphibians, while over 75 species of fish inhabit the waters. Breeding and staging waterbirds include several species of ducks. Ramsar site no. 361. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Lac Saint Pierre

Site number: 949 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Quebec  
Area: 11 952 ha | Coordinates: 46°08'N 72°39'W | Designation dates: 29-05-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Saint-Pierre. 27/05/98; Québec; 11,952 ha; 46°08'N 072°39'W. Lac Saint-Pierre includes an archipelago of about 100 islands, several large bays and a very large area of open water. The lake is surrounded by the largest freshwater floodplain of Quebec. Each year at least 7,000 ha of meadows, shrub areas, woods and cultivated land are flooded. The site includes a section of Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence) River between Sorel and Trois-Rivières, about 65 km east of Montreal. Many of the plant species in the site are regionally or nationally threatened. The seasonally flooded agricultural land is used each spring as a stopover by 350,000 waterbirds (ducks and geese), including more than 70,000 *Branta canadensis*. Aquatic plants cover more than 6,200 ha and are used by fishes for reproduction and feeding. In the site, the main human activities are extensive agriculture and recreation. In the surroundings, land is privately owned, and much of the area is used for agriculture. Lac Saint-Pierre, and especially the archipelago, is much used for water sports, sport fishing, hunting and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 949. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Lacs Isly-Tislite

Site number: 1 480 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Errachidia  
Area: 800 ha | Coordinates: 32°13'N 05°35'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lacs Isly-Tislite. 15/01/05; Errachidia; 800 ha; 32°13'N 005°35'W. Parc National du Haut Atlas Oriental, Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. Lakes Isly and Tislite are the second and third highest lakes in North Africa, at 2270m and 2225m respectively, situated in the Haute Atlas mountain range. They are unique because of their great depth; the fact they are two of only three Moroccan lakes that are not eutrophic; their karstic or pseudo-karstic origin; and their situation at the southern limit of the paleo-arctic region. They also host an autochthonous phenotype of brown trout *Salmo trutta macrostigma*. The vegetation in the area is steppic and snowmelt feeds the lakes. The lakes are important for recharging the groundwater table, while in their surroundings animal grazing is common, as well as sport fishing during summer. The main threats include illegal fishing, overgrazing and organic pollution by livestock and by using the lakes for washing purposes. In order to increase awareness on the ecological values of the site, a local association, ADRAR, is currently undertaking a research and information-sharing project financed by GEF, which is aimed at preserving biodiversity and the wise use of the natural resources in the area. Ramsar site no. 1480. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lac Sofia

Site number: 2 301 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Dans la région de Sofia  
Area: 1 650 ha | Coordinates: 14°36'S 49°01'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Sofia is located in Sofia Region, in the rural District of Marotolana. The Site consists of the permanent lake, cyperus swamps, and rivers and streams on the upstream and downstream sides of the Lake. The Site also contains ecosystems including introduced eucalyptus formations, dotted with guava, which are found in the vicinity of the lake. Lake Sofia supports 36 species of waterbirds including five endangered species: the endangered *Anas melleri* and *Ardeola idae*, and the vulnerable *Gallinago macrodactyla*, *Rallus madagascariensis* and *Tachybaptus pelzelni*. 1,144 individuals of swamp bird species were recorded, the three most abundant being *Rallus madagascariensis* with 225 individuals, *Acrocephalus newtoni* with 209 and *Ardeola ralloides* with 132. About 50 aquatic and shoreline plant species have been recorded, grouped in 41 genera and 28 families. Swamps around the lakes have been transformed into rice paddies as rice farming is the most important agricultural activity. Conservation efforts involve the restoration of key habitats and the maintenance of their integrity.

## Lac Tchad

Site number: 1 072 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Diffa  
Area: 338 550 ha | Coordinates: 14°01'N 13°18'E | Designation dates: 17-06-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site covers the Nigerien part of Lake Chad, which is shared with Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria. Though much reduced in recent years, the Lake is still the fourth largest in Africa after Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, and Nyassa, and apparently the third largest endorheic lake in the world (after the Aral and Caspian Seas). The shallow lake is fed principally by the rivers which flow from the different countries and to a lesser extent (10%) by rainwater. The Nigerien portion is extremely biodiverse, with many migratory birds but also 120 species of fish. The rich bird life includes the Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), garganey (*Anas querquedula*), gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), reed cormorant (*Microrcarbo africanus*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and marabou stork (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*). In this arid or semi-arid environment, the supply of water depends upon the rainfall across the wider catchment, which fluctuates and has generally not been favourable in recent years. Fish catches have declined significantly in recent decades despite very recent positive trends. Traditional nomadic livestock practices could contribute to desertification and require improved management.

## Lac Télé/Likouala-aux-herbes

Site number: 950 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Likouala  
Area: 438 960 ha | Coordinates: 01°11'N 17°14'E | Designation dates: 18-06-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an undisturbed and unique wetland ecosystem which comprises a swamp forest, flooded and wooded savannahs and floating prairies. The soil and climate provide good conditions for the herbaceous and shrub flora which support western lowland gorillas (the Site supports one of the region's densest populations) and chimpanzees, elephants, buffaloes, duikers and hippopotamuses. The water of Lac Télé is turbid, and has high organic content; in contrast the rivers support rich fish resources and particularly populations of African darter (*Anhinga rufa*) throughout the year. The Site is owned by the local communities, which depend on its various natural resources. They practice subsistence agriculture around the wetland's firmer ground, and fishing is also a major activity. Access to the lake is conditioned by a ritual organized under the authority of Boha village notables. Several villages are located in or around the Lac Télé Community Reserve, and the villagers depend heavily on the lake's natural resources for fish, agricultural crops, medicines and materials for construction and canoes. Traditional territorial limits and land tenure rights are well established and generally respected. However, in the absence of a regular conservation presence, previously-established quotas regarding the off-take of fish and wildlife have been allowed to lapse.

## Lac Wegnia

Site number: 2 127 | Country: Mali | Administrative region: Koulikoro  
Area: 3 900 ha | Coordinates: 13°17'N 08°07'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Wegnia. 22/03/2013; Koulikoro; 3,900 ha; 13°18'00"N 008°07'46"W. Managed Resource Protected Area. Permanent freshwater lakes and marshes. This is a biodiversity rich area consisting mostly of Southern Sudanese Savannah vegetation including the IUCN Red-Listed Shea Butter Tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa*), small mammals and fishes. 2,750 plant species have been identified in the area, with several endemic species. It is a home for the Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* listed on Appendix 1 of CITES and a source of food and spawning ground for fishes. It supports several waterbirds such as the Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*, Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*, and the Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Its main hydrological values include natural flood control, groundwater recharge, water retention and supply to surrounding wetlands, including the nearby Boucle du Baoulé Biosphere Reserve. The lake is of great cultural value and attracts local tourists from cities throughout the year. Main human activities include rice farming, forest exploitation, animal rearing, arboriculture and gardening. The site is threatened by poaching, overfishing, continuous deforestation, and poor agricultural techniques causing erosion and siltation. Ramsar site no. 2127. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Læsø

Site number: 149 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Nordjylland  
Area: 66 548 ha | Coordinates: 57°11'N 11°03'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Læsø. 02/09/77; Region Nordjylland; 66,548 ha; 57°12'N 11°03'E. Natura 2000 (SAC,SPA); Nature Conservation Areas, Scientific Reserve. The largest Danish tidal saltmarsh outside the Wadden Sea, with an outstanding botanical interest. The site, which includes open water, extensive mudflats, sand banks, heathland, islets, and areas of arable land, is an internationally important area for wintering, molting and staging waterbirds. Breeding mammals include seals (*Phoca vitulina*). The decline in grazing has led to vegetational succession in the saltmarsh. Invasive species are colonizing the site, especially Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*). Scrub clearance has been implemented to re-establish open heathland and pastures. Human activities include recreation, horseback riding, horse wagon, guided tours and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 149. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lafnitztal

Site number: 1 169 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Burgenland,Styria (Steiermark)  
Area: 2 180 ha | Coordinates: 47°15'N 16°05'E | Designation dates: 20-02-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lafnitztal. 01/03/02; Burgenland, Styria; 2,180 ha; 47°15'N 16°05'E. EC Directives Special Protection Area. A length of the Lafnitz river, formerly the international frontier with Hungary until the 20th century and presently the border between the states of Burgenland and Styria in the eastern part of the country, comprising numerous natural and semi-natural stretches over three-quarters of its length and an excellent example of freely meandering river. The length of the river sides and associated seasonally flooded agricultural land support a high species diversity, including otter (*Lutra lutra*), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), and White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and as much as 10% of the world population of fire-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*) and yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*), as well as a number of rare and endangered plant species. The Ramsar Centre Lafnitztal visitors' center offers school courses and field excursions. Ramsar site no. 1169. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## La Forêt Classée et Réserve Partielle de Faune Comoé-Léraba

Site number: 1 878 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région des Cascades  
Area: 124 510 ha | Coordinates: 09°50'N 04°41'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which is adjacent to the border with Côte d'Ivoire, is a transition zone between the savannah and rainforest, which is made up of permanent rivers and seasonal freshwater marshes, and also dense dry forests, shrubby savannah and grassland. The Site is part of the ecological block of Comoé-Léraba, which is composed of about ten protected areas in the Cascades region and forms, with the National Park of Comoé in Côte d'Ivoire, one larger ecological complex. The Site supports endangered species such as cheetah, elephant and lion, and various animals at critical life stages. The Site is important for groundwater replenishment, flood control, micro-climate stabilization, sediment and nutrient retention and export, and storm protection. It is used for hunting, tourism and fishing. While a management plan is available, the Site faces several challenges, including the illegal exploitation of protected areas, unsustainable harvesting and wood collection, poaching, and water pollution.

## Lagoa da Albufeira

Site number: 825 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Região Lisboa e Vale do Tejo  
Area: 1 995 ha | Coordinates: 38°31'N 09°08'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa de Albufeira. 08/05/96; Região Lisboa e Vale do Tejo; 1,995 ha; 38°30'N 09°10'W. Protected at municipal level. A coastal lagoon on sandy soils with intermittent communication to the ocean across a narrow vegetated dune system. Freshwater creeks flowing into the lagoon provide habitat for many marshland species. Habitats include reedbeds, shrub and pinewoods. An important stopover site for many migratory birds using the Eastern Atlantic flyway to Africa, with major concentrations recorded in the autumn. Terns and marshland passerines are especially noteworthy in the area. The wetland plays a major role in maintaining water tables in the area. Principal human activities include intense recreation, camping and leisure housing, shellfish production, traditional fishing, and agriculture. Ramsar site no. 825. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Lagoa de Cufada

Site number: 469 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Quinara  
Area: 39 098 ha | Coordinates: 11°43'N 15°02'W | Designation dates: 14-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa de Cufada. 14/05/90; Quinara; 39,098 ha; 11°43'N 15°02'W. Protected Area. A large, permanent, freshwater lake, with abundant aquatic vegetation and adjoining river floodplain. Includes two smaller lakes, seasonally flooded marshes, fringing mangroves, and extensive mudflats. A dozen small villages of several hundred people live within the site practicing traditional fishing and rice production. The site also supports crocodiles and hippopotamus. Surrounding areas have been cleared for banana and cashew production or exploited for wood. Large expanses of vegetation are burned annually to facilitate hunting and shifting rice cultivation. Ramsar site no. 469. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

### Lagoa de Pedra Badejo

Site number: 1 577 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Island of Santiago  
Area: 666,1 ha | Coordinates: 15°06'N 23°32'W | Designation dates: 18-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoas de Pedra Badejo (Lagoons of Pedra Badejo) is located on Santiago Island. The Ramsar Site is made up of two coastal lagoons on the adjacent estuaries of two watercourses and the entire basin of one of the watercourses as far as and including the Poilão reservoir. The lagoons are of great ecological value for birds as they contain fresh or only slightly brackish water. Since it was flooded, the reservoir has also become an exceptional area for migratory waterbirds and species endemic to Cabo Verde such as the Cape Verde heron (*Ardea purpurea bourne*) and the Cape Verde warbler (*Acrocephalus brevipennis*). Waders such as black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) and the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) breed here. The beaches provide important nesting sites for loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and feeding grounds for seabirds. Between the beach and the lagoons, characteristic vegetation can be found, including *Zygodphyllum* species, while inland the invasive mesquite *Prosopis juliflora* is predominant.

### Lagoa de Rabil

Site number: 1 576 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Island of Boa Vista  
Area: 113 ha | Coordinates: 16°09'N 22°54'W | Designation dates: 18-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa de Rabil (Rabil Lagoon) is located on Boa Vista Island. The Ramsar Site is made up of the Ribeira do Rabil permanent coastal lagoon, the dune ecosystems at the end of the watercourse and the associated tree and shrub formations. It is home to a large number of species typical of dune and arid regions, which are of great importance to the maintenance of the biological diversity of the Macaronesian ecoregion and the entire Palearctic region, including West Africa. Bird species include the greater hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*), the bar-tailed lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*), the black-crowned sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*), the sanderling (*Calidris alba*), the bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), the Spanish sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) and the endemic lagoon sparrow (*Passer lagoensis*). The Site is currently used for leisure and tourism activities, above all birdwatching, quad bike tours, and windsurfing and kitesurfing in the lagoon.

### Lagoa de St. André et Lagoa de Sancha

Site number: 828 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Regiao Alentejo  
Area: 2 638 ha | Coordinates: 38°04'N 08°48'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa de St. André et Lagoa de Sancha. 08/05/96; Regiao Alentejo; 2,638 ha; 38°03'N 008°48'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. Shallow, brackish coastal lagoons subject to widely fluctuating water and salinity levels set on the dry southwest coast of Iberia. The site includes an extensive dune system with characteristic vegetation, extensive reedbeds merging into agricultural areas, and pine forest. The lagoon is a major waterbirds refuge in Western Iberia, supporting outstanding concentrations of up to 13,000 F. atra in the post-breeding period. It is also important as a breeding and wintering site for ducks and other waterbirds. The reedbeds are crucial stopover sites for many trans-saharan passerines. Human activities include traditional fishing, recreation, agriculture, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 828. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

### Lagoa do Peixe

Site number: 603 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Rio Grande do Sul  
Area: 34 400 ha | Coordinates: 31°14'S 50°57'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa do Peixe. 24/05/93; Rio Grande do Sul; 34,400 ha; 31°14'S 050°57'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site; National Park. Extensive lowland area of saltmarshes, coastal sand dunes, lagoons, lakes and associated marshes, providing important staging sites for numerous migrant species. Lagoa do Peixe is a large brackish to saline lagoon, supporting large concentrations of invertebrates. The area is very important for a wide variety of waterfowl, and the lagoon is an important wintering and staging area for migrant species. Human activities include hunting, irrigation of rice fields, and harvesting of shrimp (uncontrolled). Ramsar site no. 603. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago de Apanás-Asturias

Site number: 1 137 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Depart. Jinotega  
Area: 5 415 ha | Coordinates: 13°10'N 85°58'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago de Apanás-Asturias. 08/11/01; Jinotega; 5,415 ha; 13°10'N 085°58'W. An artificial lake or reservoir formed by two electricity-producing barrages of the Río Tuma in the mountainous north of the country, characterized by seasonally flooded agricultural land, water storage areas, and canals for transport and drainage. The endangered Perro de Agua "water dog" (*Plata Otter, Lutra longicaudis*) is supported, and the site is also important for a number of aquatic birds and for fish, a number of which have high economic value in the area. The site has high potential for ecotourism because of its migratory birds and artisanal fishing practices, and recreational and educational potentials are high as well. Ramsar site no. 1137. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Lago de Banyoles

Site number: 1 257 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cataluña  
Area: 1 033 ha | Coordinates: 42°08'N 02°46'E | Designation dates: 20-12-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago de Banyoles. 20/12/02; Cataluña; 1,033 ha; 42°08'N 002°46'E. Protected Natural Area. The main part (999 ha) consists of the upstream freshwater lake adjacent to Banyoles town (15,000 inhabitants) and its forested water catchment basin. Within the site, the lake itself, the small marshes Lagunas del Vilar y de las Guixeres, and the inflowing rivers Castellana y de la Puda cover together 132 ha. The site includes also a separate part (34 ha) of the catchment of the Laguna de Espolla pool. It is one of the best examples of a karst catchment on the Iberian peninsula. The local sulphur, iron and carbon cycles support characteristic bacterial communities. A rich and diverse aquatic vegetation of permanent and temporary pools and the associated fauna contribute to the environmental importance of the site. The turtles *Emys orbicularis* and *Mauremys leprosa* and the fish *Barbus meridionalis* are of EC interest. Human activities include tourism and recreation in most of the wetland area, except a few inaccessible parts. Small-scale farming and livestock rearing takes place in the surroundings. Ramsar site no. 1257. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Lago de Caicedo-Yuso y Salinas de Añana

Site number: 1 258 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: País Vasco  
Area: 26 ha | Coordinates: 42°48'N 02°59'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago de Caicedo-Yuso y Salinas de Añana. 24/10/02; País Vasco; 26 ha; 42°48'N 002°59'W. Two wetlands situated in the geological Cantabrian deep with much salty resurgences. Lake Caicedo-Yuso (13 ha) receives salt groundwater, creating a particular water chemistry and inland saltmarshes *Juncetalia maritimi*, a natural habitat listed by the EC Directive. The dragonfly population of *Coenagrion mercuriale* is of international importance. The other wetland consists of the terraced brine panels of Añana (13 ha), located nearby in the geologically peculiar valley. The water terraces have been used since the 9th century, and still are today, to produce salt through solar evaporation, and they harbour an endemic variety of the brine shrimp *Artemia parthenogenetica*. Ramsar site no. 1258. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Lago de Chapala

Site number: 1 973 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco y Michoacan  
Area: 114 659 ha | Coordinates: 20°14'N 103°03'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago de Chapala. 02/02/2009; Jalisco, Michoacán; 114,659 ha; 20°14' N 103°03' W. Lake Chapala, in the western part of Mexico, is the largest lake in the country, the 3rd largest in Latin America, and the 2nd highest in the Americas, surpassed only by Lake Titicaca. It serves as an area of refuge, feeding, hibernation and breeding for birds, of which migratory waterfowl are the most important, with a population of over 20,000 birds. The site is home to endemic species, of which the most representative are fish species such as *Menidia contrerasi*, *Menidia sphyraena*, *Ictalurus dugesii*, and *Menidia promelas*. It also supports endangered bird species such as *Botaurus lentiginosus* and *Rallus limicola* and mammals like the Mexican Long-nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) and the Collared peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*), as well as the endangered Puma (*Felis concolor*). The lake is vitally important to the surrounding communities, not least because it is the largest water source in the country and the main water supply source for the metropolitan area of Guadalajara. In addition, the site has a favorable influence on the temperature and precipitation regimes in the region and is an important source of employment for locals, who benefit mainly from fishing and tourism. The lake has suffered the consequences of numerous water projects, modifications of the environment and pollution. A Conservation and Management Programme for Lake Chapala has been developed and will become effective in 2011. Ramsar Site no. 1973. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Lago dei Monaci

Site number: 128 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio  
Area: 94 ha | Coordinates: 41°22'N 12°56'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago dei Monaci. 14/12/76; Lazio; 94 ha; 41°22'N 012°55'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. The smallest of a series of brackish, coastal lagoons and associated saltmarshes and separated from the sea by a dune system. Vegetation includes fringing reedbeds, submergent plants, algae and salt-tolerant plants. The lagoon and its feeder canals support a varied fish fauna. A wide variety of waterbirds use the site during migration and in winter. Human activities include commercial fishing and mass tourism. Ramsar site no. 128. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago de San Juan de los Ahorcados

Site number: 1 920 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Zacatecas  
Area: 1 099,5 ha | Coordinates: 24°01'N 102°18'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago de San Juan de los Ahorcados. 02/02/09; Zacatecas; 1,099 ha; 24°01'N 102°18'W. This wetland is a shallow, natural retention, water body with scarce superficial currents. It has great biodiversity and a high level of endemism, including protected species such as *Ferocactus pilosus*, *Hamatacantus uncinatus*, *Echinocactus platyacanthus*, *Peniocereus greggi*, *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, *Lepophora williamsi* and *Coryphanta poselgeriana*. The *Aquila chrysaetos* and other birds of prey nest in the higher parts of the site, and are protected along with other threatened species such as *Crotalus molossus*, *C. atrox* and *C. scutulatus*. This Ramsar Site is part of the Chihuahua Desert, the biggest desert of North America. It is a refuge for migratory birds and its main land uses are agriculture and livestock. Abusive exploitation of the water resource extracted for irrigation is considered to be the main threat to this site. There is a proposal in progress to declare this area a Protected Natural Area in order to regulate the negative impacts of such activities. Ramsar Site n°1920. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Lago di Barrea

Site number: 131 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Abruzzo  
Area: 303 ha | Coordinates: 41°46'N 13°58'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Barrea. 14/12/76; Abruzzo; 303 ha; 41°46'N 013°58'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. A freshwater reservoir created for hydroelectric generation by damming the Sangro River, and thus subject to dramatic variations in water level. Although situated at relatively high altitude away from major migratory bird flyways, numerous species of waterbirds use the site for staging, wintering and nesting. The area is subject to significant recreational use in the summer months, and water quality is problematic. Ramsar site no. 131. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago di Burano

Site number: 125 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana  
Area: 410 ha | Coordinates: 42°24'N 11°23'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Burano. 14/12/76; Toscana; 410 ha; 42°24'N 011°23'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Integrated Natural Reserve. A saline lake separated from the sea (except for a narrow connecting channel) by a double line of dunes covered by dry Mediterranean scrub. The lake supports submergent and emergent vegetation. The area is important for staging and wintering up to 10,000 waterbirds of various species, and is an important refuge from hunting. Land use includes recreation, fishing and agriculture. Natural vegetational succession requires management. Ramsar site no. 125. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago di Caprolace

Site number: 129 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio  
Area: 229 ha | Coordinates: 41°21'N 12°58'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Caprolace. 14/12/76; Lazio; 229 ha; 41°20'N 012°58'E. Special Protection Area under EC Directive; National Park. A brackish, coastal lagoon and associated saltmarsh separated from the sea by a dune system. The vegetation includes reed and sedge beds and various salt-tolerant plants. A varied fish fauna is supported and numerous species of breeding, migrating and wintering waterbirds use the site. Human activities include commercial fishing, semi-intensive aquaculture, shellfish farming and tourism. Ramsar site no. 129. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago di Fogliano

Site number: 127 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio  
Area: 395 ha | Coordinates: 41°24'N 12°54'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Fogliano. 14/12/76; Lazio; 395 ha; 41°23'N 012°54'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. A brackish lagoon, separated from the sea (except for narrow openings) by dunes. Vegetation consists of fringing reedbeds, submergents, and salt-tolerant plants. Diverse species of waterbirds occur in winter and during migration. Various species nest at the site. Ramsar site no. 127. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago di Nazzano

Site number: 126 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio  
Area: 265 ha | Coordinates: 42°13'N 12°37'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Nazzano. 14/12/76; Lazio; 265 ha; 42°12'N 012°36'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve. An artificial reservoir formed by the damming of the Tevere River, fringed by reedbeds with patches of wooded swamp and woodland which pre-date the lake. Numerous species of waterbirds use the site for nesting, wintering, or passage. The reservoir is used for hydroelectric generation and recreation. Water levels vary dramatically due to regulation which adversely affects vegetation and nesting birds. Ramsar site no. 126. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Lago di Sabaudia

Site number: 130 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio  
Area: 1 474 ha | Coordinates: 41°16'N 13°03'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Sabaudia. 14/12/76; Lazio; 1,474 ha; 41°16'N 013°01'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. A chain of brackish, coastal lagoon, a lake and associated saltmarsh separated from the sea by a dune system. The vegetation includes reed and sedge beds and various salt-tolerant plants. A varied fish fauna is supported and numerous species of breeding, migrating and wintering waterbirds use the site. Human activities include commercial fishing, semi-intensive aquaculture, seasonal shell-fish harvesting, and intensive summer tourism. Ramsar site no. 130. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago di San Giuliano

Site number: 1 663 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Basilicata  
Area: 2 118 ha | Coordinates: 40°37'N 16°29'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di San Giuliano. 13/12/06; Basilicata; 2,118 ha; 40°38'N 016°29'E. Site of Community Importance EU Directive, Important Bird Area, Regional Nature Reserve. A lake and stream situated in a depression of the Bradano river basin. The wetland originated after the spontaneous return to natural conditions of an artificial basin created when a dam was built for irrigation purposes in the 1950s. The area is characterised by three different habitats: the natural lake, the riparian fringe, and a rocky ravine. A broad temporarily flooded meadow extends between the planted woodland and the lake edge. The site supports overwintering animal populations, in particular wildfowl, and provides refuge to one of the rarest mammals in the country: the otter *Lutra lutra*. The fish community of the Bradano river was profoundly altered by the building of the dam and by indiscriminate fishing practices; currently there are a number of common species and some endemic ones like the Italian bleak (*Alburnus albidus*) and rovello or South European roach (*Rutilus rubilio*). Around the lake there are old farms breeding mainly sheep and cattle; typical local products of agriculture and animal husbandry have also attracted tourism enterprises. Conservation education is part of a major WWF programme within the Reserve, and educational facilities have developed over the past ten years to address the public, school groups, and educators. Ramsar site no. 1663. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Lago di Tovel

Site number: 210 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Trentino Alto Adige  
Area: 37 ha | Coordinates: 46°16'N 10°57'E | Designation dates: 19-09-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Tovel. 19/09/80; Trentino Alto Adige; 37 ha; 46°16'N 010°57'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. An alpine, freshwater lake, surrounded by forested mountains. The lake supports an endemic species of unicellular algae, *Glenodinium sanguineum*, which reddens the water seasonally. The area supports a rich mammal fauna. Human activities include camping and hiking. Ramsar site no. 210. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Lago Enriquillo

Site number: 1 179 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Suroeste  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 18°28'N 71°39'W | Designation dates: 15-05-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago Enriquillo. 15/05/02; Suroeste; ~ 20,000 ha; 18°28'N 071°39'W. Parque Nacional. A hypersaline lake formed by an ancient channel of the sea, at 35km in length the largest lake in the Caribbean, as well as the surrounding swamps, wet meadows, and irrigated cropland, with one large and two small islands. The site is significant for the biodiversity of the region, supporting three of the largest reptiles found on the island, all of them threatened. It also provides habitat for at least 65 species of domestic and migratory birds, of which five are considered threatened. Cave decorations with pictographs and petroglyphs from pre-hispanic Taínos people can be seen, of which the best example of taíno art can be found on an ancient coral reef called Las Caritas, an archaeological site frequently visited by tourists. Diversion of inflowing water for agricultural purposes is perceived as a potential threat to the ecological character of the site. A visitors' centre on the Isla Cabritos, the original core of the present National Park, has developed numerous educational activities. Ramsar site no. 1179. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Lagon de Moorea

Site number: 1 834 | Country: France | Administrative region: Polynésie française  
Area: 5 000 ha | Coordinates: 17°30'S 149°50'W | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagon de Moorea. 15/09/08; Polynésie française; 5,000 ha; 17°30'S 149°50'W. A coral reef ecosystem developed in the tropical waters of Moorea island in the Archipel de la Société (Society Islands) west of Tahiti, also including beaches, permanent shallow marine waters, and saline lagoons. The coral reef system is one of the best known in the world it provides habitat for many marine endangered species such as corals, sponges, mollusks, crustaceans, and is also spawning ground for fishes. A number of waterbirds such as *Pseudobulweria rostrata*, *Puffinus pacificus* and *Puffinus bailloni* regularly reproduce here. Many of the human activities on the island are linked to the resources and services provided by this ecosystem for tourism, pleasure, and construction. One of the main threats is the increasing urbanization of the coastal zone. Ramsar site no. 1834. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Lagos Poopó y Uru Uru

Site number: 1 181 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Oruro  
Area: 967 607 ha | Coordinates: 18°46'S 67°07'W | Designation dates: 11-07-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagos Poopó y Uru Uru. 11/07/02; Oruro; 967,607 ha; 18°46'S 67°07'W. National Ecological Reserve. A site comprising two associated brackish lakes at over 3,600m altitude which fulfil all eight of the Ramsar Criteria and are excellent representatives of the high-altitude Andean wetlands of the Puna region. Some 76 species of birds have been reported for the site, including about 120,000 individuals of flamingos *Phoenicopeterus chilensis*, *Phoenicoparrus andinus*, and *Phoenicoparrus jamesi*. Endemic and endangered fauna and flora, such as vicuña and pumas, are supported, as well as the cactus *Opuntia* and *Trichocereus*. Two pre-Hispanic cultures, the Aymaras and Uru, the latter believed to be one of the oldest ethnic groups on the continent, dating from 2000-1500 before the common era, are present in the area and practice subsistence agriculture and fishing, with some mining and limited grazing and illegal bird hunting also in evidence. Ramsar site no. 1181. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Lago Titicaca

Site number: 881 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Puno  
Area: 460 000 ha | Coordinates: 15°50'S 69°30'W | Designation dates: 20-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago Titicaca (Peruvian sector). 20/01/97; Puno; 460,000 ha; 15°50'S 069°30'W. Lake Titicaca, in the Central Andes, is the world's highest navigable freshwater lake, at 3810 m above sea level, shared between Peru and Bolivia. The wetland is a permanent freshwater lake, with associated marshes and extensive areas of emergent aquatic vegetation. There are a number of endemic fish species present and the site is extremely important for migratory shorebirds and Andean waterbirds, including three species of flamingo. Algae and submergent and floating vegetation is abundant, and the dominant emergent species is the "totora" *Schoenoplectus tatora*, which can reach up to seven meters. When the "totora" drifts away from the shore, it forms islands which are used by some members of the Uro community to live on. Most of them are fishermen and hunters, but they also make crafts to sell. Whilst subsistence fishing is the main use of the lake by the local communities, the surrounding areas are used for agriculture. Ramsar site no. 881. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Lago Titicaca

Site number: 959 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: La Paz  
Area: 800 000 ha | Coordinates: 16°10'S 68°52'W | Designation dates: 11-09-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago Titicaca (Sector Boliviano). 26/08/98; La Paz; 800,000 ha; 16°10'S 068°52'W. Transboundary site between Bolivia and Peru. The site is characterized by a mixture of freshwater permanent lakes, rivers, associated marshes and high Andean peatlands. It harbours several rare species and threatened fish, birds and invertebrate species endemic to the high Andes. The area is used for agriculture, fishing, sheep and cattle ranching. Small-scale tourism is becoming more important. Ramsar site no. 959. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lago Ypoá

Site number: 728 | Country: Paraguay | Administrative region: Paraguari, Ñeembucú, Central  
Area: 100 000 ha | Coordinates: 26°30'S 57°33'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago Ypoá. 07/06/95; Paraguari, Ñeembucú, Central; 100,000 ha; 26°30'S 057°33'W. National Park. An area of extensive, shallow, clustered lakes (esterales) with floating mats of vegetation, some supporting small trees and fauna. Esterales are interspersed with forested islands, savannah, rocky areas, and streams. This site provides excellent wildlife habitat and is one of the most important aquatic environments in Paraguay, important for several threatened species, migrating birds, and five species of threatened plants. Timber cutting and livestock rearing occur in the site, while extensive ranching occurs in the surrounding area. Ramsar site no. 728. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Laguna Barra de Navidad

Site number: 1 817 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 794 ha | Coordinates: 19°11'N 104°40'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Barra de Navidad. 02/02/08; Jalisco; 794 ha; 19°11'N 104°40'W. An estuarine system along Mexico's western central littoral with permanent communication with the ocean. The vegetation found in the margins of the lagoon is composed mainly of the mangrove species *Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* and *Conocarpus erectus*. Sixty aquatic bird species have been identified in this site, representing 50% of the species identified for the coast of Jalisco. These include *Ardea herodias*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Mycteria americana*, *Larus heermanni*, *Sterna elegans*, *Buteogallus anthracinus* and *Nomonyx dominicus*, all but the last of which are under legal protection. The Snow goose *Chen caerulescens* has been observed in the lagoon, a new record for the coast of Jalisco. The lagoon is essential for the reproduction of migratory and resident waterfowl, and is also of great importance for fish species in different stages of their life cycles. Ramsar site no. 1817. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Laguna Blanca

Site number: 556 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Neuquén  
Area: 11 250 ha | Coordinates: 39°02'S 70°21'W | Designation dates: 04-05-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Blanca. 04/05/92; Neuquén; 11,250 ha; 39°02'S 070°21'W. National Park, National Reserve. Large, shallow, permanent, freshwater lagoon fed by small rivers and subject to seasonal fluctuations. The lagoon, situated in semi-arid Patagonian steppe dominated by bushy plants, supports submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation. The surrounding area is an important nesting site for several species of waterbirds and is used for grazing livestock. Other fauna include the endemic frog *Atelognathus patagonicus* and the mammal *Lagidium viscacia*. Ramsar site no. 556. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Laguna Chaco Lodge

Site number: 1 330 | Country: Paraguay | Administrative region: Presidente Hayes  
Area: 2 500 ha | Coordinates: 22°17'S 59°18'W | Designation dates: 20-10-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Chaco Lodge. 20/10/2003; Presidente Hayes; 2,500 ha; 22°17'S, 059°18'W. Private reserve. The largest of the water bodies in the lake system of the Central Chaco. Chaco Lodge is a saltwater lake with sharp level fluctuations surrounded by xerophytic woods and shrubs and halophytic vegetation. The site is one of the few relatively undisturbed natural areas in the Chaco, hosting an impressive biodiversity, including the endangered Chacoan Peccary *Catagonus wagneri* and the Brazilian Tapir *Tapirus terrestris*. Several wintering shorebird species are abundant, with up to 25,000 Wilson's Phalaropes *Phalaropus tricolor*, 4,000 White Rumped Sandpipers *Calidris fuscicollis*, and 3,000 Pectoral Sandpipers *Calidris melanotos*, all of them figures above 1% threshold. The same is true for the Chilean Flamingos *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, which are regular on the site. Chaco Lodge is entirely devoted to conservation and small scale ecotourism, and hunting and cattle ranching pressures from the surrounding area are very limited. The greatest threat, however, comes from the intense drought affecting the region the past few years. The site designation was carried out with support of the NGO Fundación DeSdelChaco. Ramsar Site No. 1330. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Laguna Chalacatepec

Site number: 1 818 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 1 093,4 ha | Coordinates: 19°39'N 105°13'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Chalacatepec. 02/02/2008. Jalisco. 1,093 ha. 19°40'N 105°13'W. This coastal lagoon is representative of the transition regions where biotic elements of the Nearctic and Neotropical biogeographic regions come together. Mangroves are the predominant vegetation, including the species *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Rhizophora mangle*, *Conocarpus erectus* y *Avicennia germinans*. Important populations of the American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) have been found in this site, as well as the presence of the Southern River Otter (*Lutra annectens*), a threatened species according to the Mexican normative. This lagoon is essential for the reproduction of resident waterfowl such as *Nyctanassa violacea*, *Ardea alba*, *Egretta thula*, y *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, and is used by migratory waterfowl (*Anas acuta*, *Fulica Americana* y *Dendrocygna autumnnali*) as a staging point for eating and resting on their long-distance journeys. The main activities undertaken are local fishing, agriculture and extensive livestock in the surroundings. This site lies adjacent to the Marine Turtle Sanctuary El Playuón de Mismaloya, dedicated mainly to the conservation of marine turtles, activity that is becoming more and more popular as a touristic attraction, and helping to create awareness regarding the importance of the protection of natural resources.

## Laguna Concepción

Site number: 1 175 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: San José de Chiquitos  
Area: 31 124 ha | Coordinates: 17°31'S 61°21'W | Designation dates: 06-05-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Concepción. 06/05/02; Santa Cruz; 31,124 ha; 17°31'S 61°21'W. A lake and associated wetlands that is representative of the wetlands of the Gran Chaco, characterized by a flat area of woodland and scrub marsh with poor drainage. The expanse of open water of some 6,179 ha is surrounded by palm groves of *Copernicia alba* and the southern cattail *Typha domingensis*. The lake is one of the most significant bodies of water in the east of Santa Cruz province, particularly important for wintering migratory birds from both northern and southern hemispheres, as well as for large mammals. The area was formerly inhabited by indigenous people pursuing a nomadic hunting and gathering way of life, but presently it is occupied by private cattle ranchers and by indigenous people and campesinos practicing the same occupation. Over-grazing and over-hunting are among potential threats to the ecological character of the site. WWF-Bolivia and the Living Waters Programme have been instrumental in preparing this important site for designation. Ramsar site no. 1175. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Laguna Costera El Caimán

Site number: 1 448 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacán  
Area: 1 125 ha | Coordinates: 17°58'N 102°16'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Costera El Caimán. 02/02/05; Michoacán; 1,125 ha; 17°58'N 102°16' W. A long coastal lagoon bordering the steep Pacific shoreline close to the port of Lázaro Cárdenas, the site has two mouths connecting intermittently to the sea and dividing a sand bar. The lagoon is covered by stands of button mangrove *Conocarpus erectus*, Red mangrove *Rhizophora mangle* and White mangrove *Avicennia germinans*. Several endangered species inhabit the site, such as the American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*, the Yellow-headed Parrot *Amazona oratrix*, the Jaguar *Panthera onca* and the Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. Coconut production, subsistence fishing and small-scale tourism are the main uses of the area. Adverse impacts arise from the felling of mangroves, sewage and industrial discharges, invasive alien species, dredging, filling, housing development and waste disposal. The site is expected to be declared a Protected Area soon after designation. Ramsar site no. 1448. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Laguna de Atotonilco

Site number: 1 607 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 2 850 ha | Coordinates: 20°22'N 103°39'W | Designation dates: 18-03-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Atotonilco. 18/03/06; Jalisco; 2,850 ha; 20°22'N 103°39'W. Priority Area for Conservation. Situated along the neovolcanic axis, the area around the site presents geothermal springs often used for recreational activities. Noteworthy fauna includes reptiles such as a nationally endangered toad (*Bufo marinus*), snake (*Thamnophis eques*), striped lizard (*Cnemidophorus communis*) and an endemic frog (*Rana megapoda*) also considered vulnerable by IUCN. In addition, the aquatic vegetation also provides spawning ground for several fish species. Archeological excavations have unearthed rudimentary objects (arrow heads and clay figures), as well as mammoth, rhino and bison fossil remains. Deforestation and water infrastructure works are two of the greatest threats to the integrity of the site. Ramsar site No. 1607. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Laguna de Babícora

Site number: 1 762 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chihuahua  
Area: 26 045,1 ha | Coordinates: 29°20'N 107°50'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Babícora.02/02/08; Chihuahua; 26,045 ha; 29°20'N 107°50'W. Located in the biogeographic region of the Sierra Madre Occidental, this complex is composed of a series of small lagoons that bond together as the source of the basin recharges, arising to the surface. It is of great importance for 122 species of migratory birds including the Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) and the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Threatened species like the Mexican Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*) and the Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) find shelter in this lagoon, which also holds the greatest number of geese in the Mexican Highlands, 5 endemic flora species (new for Mexico) *Desmonium* sp., *Helenium chihuahuense*, *Hydropectis estradii*, *Thynchosia macrocarpa* and *Trigon porrifolius* and two new for science: *Hydropectis estradii* and *Desmonium* sp. Agriculture and livestock are the main productive activities in the site. Among the threats the most damaging are drying of lagoons for livestock and agriculture purposes, agrochemical pollution, and urban waste waters. Babícora is part of the program Areas of Importance for the Conservation of Birds. Ramsar site no. 1762. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Laguna de Bacalar

Site number: 1 254 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Gracias a Dios  
Area: 7 394 ha | Coordinates: 15°08'N 85°10'W | Designation dates: 03-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Bacalar. 03/02/03. Gracias a Dios. 7,394 ha. 15°08'N, 85°10'W. A marine-coastal wetland on the Caribbean coast characterized by broad-leaf forest, swamps, and mangrove forest. The areas adjacent to the lagoons are dominated by mangroves, characterized by red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), white mangrove (*Languncularia racemosa*), and buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*). The site's rich fauna includes endangered species like the Caribbean manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), uncommon birds such as the jabirú (*Jabiru mycteria*) and fish characteristic to this type of ecosystem, including schoolmaster snapper (*Lutjanus apodus*) and horse-eye jack (*Caranx latus*). The site is invaluable in providing flood control, sedimentation capture, and stabilization of the reflux between the sea and the lagoon, which is fed by the Sico Tinto o Negro river. Economic activity by small populations in the area, including agriculture, deforestation and illegal fishing remain as threats. However, government and non-governmental organizations remain active in promoting sustainable fishing practices and appropriate micro-basin management. Ramsar site no. 1254. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Laguna de Chichankanab

Site number: 1 364 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 1 999 ha | Coordinates: 19°52'N 88°46'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Chichankanab. 02/02/04; Quintana Roo; 1,999 ha; 19°52'N, 88°46'W. A complex of inland freshwater lakes following a fault line. Seasonally flooded grasslands dominated by Jamaica Sawgrass *Cladium jamaicense*, partially evergreen forests of *Alseis yucateensis*, *Clusia salvini*, and others, plus and a rare enclave of *Rhizophora mangle* mangrove surround the lakes. Five endemic and threatened fish ("cachorritos") are known only in this location: *Cyprinodon beltrani*, *C. labiosus*, *C. maya*, *C. simus* and *C. verecundus*. The site has been proposed as a nationally protected area. Ramsar site no. 1364. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Laguna de Chiprana

Site number: 654 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Aragón  
Area: 162 ha | Coordinates: 41°15'N 00°12'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Chiprana. 07/06/94; Aragón; 162 ha; 41°13'N 00°12'W. The site consists of the only deep endorheic, saline lake complex in Western Europe, and a saline lake. Vegetation consists of circles of salt-resistant vegetation distributed according to salinity gradients and inundation, and includes reed and sedge beds. Numerous species of mammals and reptiles are supported. The site is important for numerous species of waders passing through on migration and for nesting and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include livestock grazing and bird hunting. Ramsar site no. 654. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Laguna de Cube

Site number: 1 143 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Provincia de Esmeraldas  
Area: 113 ha | Coordinates: 00°24'N 79°39'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Cube. 02/02/02; Esmeraldas; 113 ha; 00°24'N 079°39' W. Ecological Reserve. A permanent lake at the southeastern edge of the Mache-Chindul mountains in the Chaco biogeographical region, characterized by a lacustrine ecosystem consisting of permanent body of water and an extensive surface of marsh and flood areas. It is the country's only inland wetland in the coastal mountains, at 350m altitude, and supports a singular biotic community characteristic of both the Chaco and the Andes. The site is located in a large dale surrounded by hills of natural and seminatural landscape, with open, lightly wooded fields in the lower parts and more and less dense woodlands higher up. Small areas of subsistence pasturage and agriculture are found around the lake. Some 23 species of mammals, 40 of birds, and 11 of reptiles are found there, and three of its vertebrate species are found in the CITES Appendix II. An important group of settlements along the shores have taken the decision to manage the wetland in such a way as to ensure its conservation, and the lake is part of the Ecological Reserve Mache-Chindul. The Fundación Natura and the Ministry of Environment have compiled the technical datasheets for the site designation with the support of the WWF Living Waters Programme, as with the management plan. Ramsar site no. 1143. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Laguna de Cuyutlán vasos III y IV

Site number: 1 985 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Colima  
Area: 4 051 ha | Coordinates: 18°58'N 104°07'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Cuyutlán vasos III y IV. 02/02/11; Colima; 4,051 ha; 18°58'09"N 104°06'42"W. This lagoon represents 90% of wetlands in the state of Colima, is the fourth largest coastal wetland in the country, and is characterized by a diversity of flora and wildlife. The mangrove community, represented by White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*), Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and Black Mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), is an important habitat for a variety of species of resident wildlife, migratory birds, fish and invertebrates that use the lagoon for feeding, resting, reproduction and/or breeding. The site also supports species under special protection, as well as endemic species such as the Lilac Crowned Amazon Parrot (*Amazona finschi*), the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), the Banana Bat (*Musonycteris harrisoni*), and the Mexican Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon integrum*), among others. The main uses of the lagoon include the use of fishery resources and extraction of salt, the latter being a factor that negatively affects the site along with agriculture. Ramsar Site no. 1985. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Laguna de El Hito

Site number: 1 259 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 573 ha | Coordinates: 39°52'N 02°41'W | Designation dates: 20-12-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de El Hito. 20/12/02; Castilla-La Mancha; 573 ha; 39°52'N 02°41'W. Special Protection Area and proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directives. A temporary, endorreic, saline steppe lake on the central Iberian plain. The shallow pool may extend over most of the Ramsar site. However, as it is only rain-fed, it regularly dries out and may occasionally remain dry for prolonged periods. It is one of the best Spanish examples of a steppe pool with rich submerged aquatic vegetation and adjoining salt marsh and steppe (*Limonietalia*, *Juncetalia maritimi*) habitats. The surroundings of the receding pool provide important grazing areas for sheep and goats and serve as a refueling site for migrating cranes *Grus grus* (up to 12% of the flyway population). Ramsar site no. 1259. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Laguna de Fuente de Piedra

Site number: 276 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 1 364 ha | Coordinates: 37°07'N 04°46'W | Designation dates: 08-08-1983  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Fuente de Piedra. 08/08/83; Andalucía; 1,364 ha; 37°07'N 04°46'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve. A shallow, seasonally variable saline lagoon (the largest lagoon in Andalucía) and associated marshland set in a closed drainage basin. The wetland is fed by five small rivers, rainfall, and highly mineralized groundwater. A salt-resistant vegetation fringes the lagoon, giving way to emergent reedbeds. The site is the second most important breeding site for *Phoenicopterus ruber* (12,000 pairs) and supports several species of wintering birds. Ramsar site no. 276. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Laguna de Gallocanta

Site number: 655 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Aragón  
Area: 6 720 ha | Coordinates: 40°58'N 01°30'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Gallocanta. 07/06/94; Aragón; 6,720 ha; 40°58'N 01°33'W. European Community Special Protection Area; National Hunting Refuge. The largest endorheic saline lake on the Iberian Peninsula, subject to seasonal fluctuations in water levels and salinity. The area supports a rich and varied flora consisting of deciduous trees, rush and reedbeds, and halophytic communities. The site is internationally important for numerous species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds. In particular, the site supports 80% of the Western European population of *Grus grus* during their fall migration. Human activities include agriculture and timber harvesting. Ramsar site no. 655. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Laguna de Hueyapan

Site number: 1 933 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Morelos  
Area: 276,1 ha | Coordinates: 18°54'N 99°09'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Hueyapan (El Texcal). 02/02/10; Morelos; 276 ha; 18°54'N 99°09'W. This Ramsar Site includes a permanent freshwater spring and its surrounding area is located within "The Texcal" Ecological Conservation Area. The site is recognised for its hydrological importance for the region, including the main recharge area for the aquifers in the State of Morelos. It provides a reservoir of water for wildlife and is the habitat of endemic amphibians and birds like the Dusky Hummingbird (*Cynanthus sordidus*), and fish like the Balsas Shiner (*Notropis boucardi*). The Laguna de Hueyapan also sustains threatened species such as the Mexican leaf frog (*Pachymedusa dacnicolor*) and the Ridged Treefrog (*Hyla plicata*) listed as rare under Mexican regulation. The site is partially surrounded by the urban and industrial areas of Cuernavaca city. These areas put pressure on the site with main threats being the expansion of illegal settlements, water extraction for consumption, extraction of flora and fauna and the introduction of invasive species such as Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). A Management Programme was published in 2005. Ramsar Site no. 1933. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Laguna de la Cocha

Site number: 1 047 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Nariño  
Area: 39 000 ha | Coordinates: 01°03'N 77°12'W | Designation dates: 08-01-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de la Cocha. 08/01/01; Nariño; 39,000 hectares; 01°03'N 077°12'W. Wildlife sanctuary. Largely made up of a volcanic lake and the surrounding highland Andean peatlands and forest, the site support a diverse range of associated flora and fauna, mammals such as the endangered tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*), near-threatened Northern pudu (*Pudu mephistotels*), and the endangered spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*). Important bird species such as Grebe (*Podiceps occidentalis*), the golden peck duck (*Anas georgica spicauda*), several species of snipes (*Gallinago gallinago paraguaiæ*, *Gallinago nobilis*, *Gallinago gallinago delicata*) and the endemic ducks (*Anas cyanoptera borreroi*, *Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea*). Regarding plants there are two important endemic species of frailejón (*Espeletia cochensis*, *Espeletia schultesiana*) and Totorá (*Scirpus californicus*, *Juncus bogotensis*). Human uses include agriculture and aquaculture. The breeding of "cuyes" (*Cavia porcellus*) generates about 23% of the agricultural product in the Department. The site also has an important cultural value as the indigenous groups of the area, which consider it sacred, use it for purification and fertility. The archaeological values of the site are also considerable, as it was inhabited by Precolombian communities. Ramsar site no. 1047. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Laguna de la Nava de Fuentes

Site number: 1 260 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla y León  
Area: 326 ha | Coordinates: 42°04'N 04°45'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de la Nava de Fuentes. 24/10/2002; Castilla y León; 326 ha; 42°04'N 04°45'W; Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI). Originally a steppe lake covering more than 2,000 ha in the north of Spain, after years of draining the lake had disappeared by 1968; the current shallow wetland is the result of a successful restoration project which began in 1990. The hydrological levels are artificially regulated and during the dry periods part of the lake area is grazed by sheep. The wetland plays a very important role as resting place for ducks and shorebirds during migration, reaching concentrations of more than 20,000 individuals, and more than 200,000 greylag geese *Anser anser* as well as over 10,000 mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* winter in the site. Several endangered species such as the Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* can also be found there. Some of the threats which might affect the ecological characteristics are mainly processes of eutrophication and pollution caused by agricultural activities. In recent years several ornithological, limnological and botanical studies have been carried out, and a new management plan for the site is in preparation. Ramsar site no. 1260. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Laguna de la Restinga

Site number: 857 | Country: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Administrative region: Nueva Esparta  
Area: 5 248 ha | Coordinates: 11°02'N 64°09'W | Designation dates: 04-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de la Restinga. 04/09/96; Nueva Esparta; 5,248 ha; 11°02'N 064°09'W. National Park. A shallow lagoon separated from the sea by a barrier beach and an associated system of marine and coastal wetlands. The flora includes four species of mangroves, xerophytic and halophilic communities. Fauna includes many species of migratory birds which rest and feed at the site. Numerous endemic plants and animals, some threatened, are present. Human activities include fishing (traditional and commercial), sand extraction, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 857. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Laguna de la Vega

Site number: 450 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 34 ha | Coordinates: 39°25'N 02°56'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de la Vega (o del Pueblo). 05/12/89; Castilla-La Mancha; 34 ha; 39°25'N 002°56'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Reserve. A semi-permanent, brackish, steppe lagoon set in an enclosed drainage basin. The site supports submerged vegetation with fringing grassland and reedbeds. The surrounding area includes urban development and traditional agriculture (vineyards, olive groves, and unirrigated cereal cultivation). The area is important for several species of nesting waterbirds and is one of the most important breeding sites in the Iberian peninsula for Podiceps nigricollis. Large numbers of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and Fulica atra occur in winter. Ramsar site no. 450. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Laguna del Indio - Dique de los Españoles

Site number: 1 318 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Arequipa  
Area: 502 ha | Coordinates: 15°46'S 71°03'W | Designation dates: 28-10-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna del Indio - Dique de los Españoles. 28/10/03. Arequipa. 502 ha. 15°46' S 71°03'W. National Reserve. A natural high Andean seasonal pool at over 4440m in the Puna which became permanent with the building of a reservoir serving the water needs of the city of Arequipa and which is used for hydroelectric power generation downstream. Sharp water level fluctuations in the reservoir allow for peat bog plants such as Distichia muchooides to prosper on its shores. The Andean Goose Chloephaga melanoptera, which nests in peat bogs and grasses, and the Andean Duck Oxyura ferruginea have significant populations in the lake, while Wilson's Phalarope Phalaropus tricolor and the Crested Duck Anas specularioides are also relatively numerous. The endangered vicuña is frequent in the surroundings, where local people also raise llamas and alpacas. Other human activities are trout fishing in the reservoir and egg picking from geese and ducks. The remnants of a colonial dyke used for irrigation are found in the site. The area is part of the National Reserve of Salinas and Aguada Blanca, for which a management plan was established in 2001. Ramsar Site No. 1318. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Laguna de Llancanelo

Site number: 759 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Mendoza  
Area: 65 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°45'S 69°08'W | Designation dates: 08-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Llancanelo. 08/11/95; Mendoza; 65,000 ha; 35°45'S 069°08'W. Provincial Faunal Reserve. A high altitude, saline lake situated on a large salt crust, in a semi-desert environment. Water originating from mountain snow melt determines seasonal lake levels. Most vegetation is drought or salt tolerant. A limited mountain scrub flora and Patagonian steppe reach the area around the lake. The system supports internationally significant populations of waterbirds (74 species), 15 migratory bird species in summer, 24 regularly nesting and two endangered species. A population of 8,000 Coscoroba coscoroba take refuge while flightless during post-breeding molt. Human activities include ranching, grazing, illegal fishing, and hunting. Water provides for domestic and irrigation needs. Placed on the Montreux Record on 2 July 2001. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in November 2001. Ramsar site no. 759. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Laguna de los Pozuelos

Site number: 555 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Jujuy  
Area: 16 224 ha | Coordinates: 22°20'S 65°59'W | Designation dates: 04-05-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de los Pozuelos. 04/05/92; Jujuy; 16,224 ha; 22°20'S 066°00'W. Biosphere Reserve; Natural Monument. A permanent lagoon of fluctuating salinity, surrounded by scrubby, semi-arid steppe, extensive marsh and rich grassland. One of the most important sites for waterbirds and Nearctic-breeding shorebirds in the Northern Andean region. Up to 26,000 flamingos use the site and one species nests here. Local people graze livestock. Ramsar site no. 555. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Laguna del Prado

Site number: 596 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 52 ha | Coordinates: 38°55'N 03°50'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna del Prado. 26/03/93; Castilla-La Mancha; 52 ha; 38°55'N 003°49'W. Wildlife Refuge. A shallow, highly saline lagoon with waters rich in organic matter, occupying an enclosed (endorheic) drainage basin. The lagoon supports submerged vegetation and reedbeds, and is fringed by salt-resistant vegetation. The site is important for nesting waterbirds and small numbers of wintering ducks. Vines, olives and cereals are grown in the surrounding areas. Ramsar site no. 596. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Laguna de Manjavacas

Site number: 594 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 231 ha | Coordinates: 39°25'N 02°50'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Manjavacas. 26/03/93; Castilla-La Mancha; 231 ha; 39°25'N 002°50'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Refuge. A highly saline lagoon and associated islands lying in a large enclosed (endorheic) drainage basin fed by spring rainfall and drying out in summer. Vegetation includes submerged aquatic plants and fringing reedbeds. An important area for nesting waterbirds, spring staging of migratory ducks and shorebirds, and up to 9,000 wintering waterbirds. The surrounding area is used for traditional agriculture, including the cultivation of vines, olives, and arable crops. Ramsar site no. 594. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Laguna de Metztlán

Site number: 1 337 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Hidalgo  
Area: 2 937 ha | Coordinates: 20°41'N 98°52'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Metztlán. 02/02/04; Hidalgo; 2,937 ha; 20°41'N 098°52'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. A natural dam formed when a limestone landslide blocked the course of the Venados River. It has an average depth of 9 to 10 m, covering 700 ha, yet it may flood 5,000 ha under exceptional conditions. Vegetation types present include montane shrubs, oak-pine forest, deciduous tropical forest, "crasicaule" shrub, desert scrub, Juniperus forest and aquatic vegetation. The lake is a stopover and wintering ground for migratory birds. It feeds aquifers that are tapped for agriculture and which feed the Almolón River springs downstream. The scarce native fish life prompted the introduction of tilapias, carps and catfish, which are harvested and destined for local markets. Silting due to erosion in the hillsides and water pollution are generating problems of eutrophication. The use of small-eyed fishing nets also poses problems for sustaining fish stocks. A management plan is in place for the Biosphere Reserve. Ramsar site no. 1337. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Laguna de Olomega

Site number: 1 899 | Country: El Salvador | Administrative region: San Miguel, La Unión  
Area: 7 557 ha | Coordinates: 13°19'N 88°04'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Olomega. Designation date:02/02/10; 7,557 ha; 13°19'N 088°04'W. Located in the Central American Dry Forest ecoregion, the Olomega Lake is the largest body of freshwater in eastern El Salvador. The site also covers the surrounding vegetation, such as the herb-dominated marshes and a patch of seasonally saturated forest, known as La Chiricana and one of the last relicts of this community type in the country. Within it the mangle dulce (*Bravaisia integerrima*), a very rare species in El Salvador, is abundant. The site harbors threatened species, e.g., Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) and the treefrog (*Plectrohyla guatemalensis*), and is a feeding and staging area for several migratory bird species (e.g., Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), etc). The site plays a major role in flood control, water purification and groundwater replenishment that will be later used, by wells, by the local population (ca. 9,000 inhabitants). The main threats are water pollution, deforestation, cattle farming, overfishing and exotic invasive species, such as Water Hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*). Laguna de Olomega and the nearby El Jocotal (Ramsar site N° 970) are located within the same watershed. Ramsar site no. 1899. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Laguna de Pitillas

Site number: 871 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Navarra  
Area: 216 ha | Coordinates: 42°25'N 01°35'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Pitillas. 18/11/96; Navarra; 216 ha; 42°25'N 001°35'W. Natural Reserve, European Community Special Protection Area. The site was originally a permanent brackish lagoon, but it has been converted into an artificial impoundment. It is a nutrient-poor wetland which holds 6-11% of the Spanish wintering population of *Circus aeruginosus* and 9% of the Spanish breeding population of this species. *Botaurus stellaris* nests regularly and *Porzana porzana* occasionally. The lake, which has a dense population and great variety in species of amphibians, is surrounded by dry kermes oak forest. The only activities permitted are observation by visitors. Ramsar site no. 871. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Laguna de Rocha

Site number: 2 236 | Country: Uruguay | Administrative region: Departamento de Rocha  
Area: 10 933 ha | Coordinates: 34°38'S 54°17'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site is entirely within the Laguna de Rocha Protected Landscape. It is part of a complex of coastal wetlands on the Atlantic coast, linked to the Atlantic Ocean by a dynamic system of closing and opening sandbars, which contributes to the Site's high productivity and biodiversity. It hosts 220 bird species, 29 species of amphibians, 40 species of reptiles, 46 species of fish, and 42 species of mammals, including emblematic species such as the capybara and the coypu. The Site plays an important role as part of the migratory route of several species and is an important nesting site of resident bird species, and it holds crustacean species of important commercial value such as the pink shrimp and the blue crab. The main threats to the Site's ecological character include alterations of the hydrological regime caused by artificial opening of the sandbars in order to stop flooding in adjacent areas or to favour local fishing practices, eutrophication caused by upstream organic effluents, and lack of urban planning.

### Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex

Site number: 1 930 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: California  
Area: 1 576 ha | Coordinates: 38°24'N 122°48'W | Designation dates: 16-04-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex. 16/04/2010; California; 1576 ha; 38°24' N 122°47' W. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex is composed of seasonal and perennial freshwater wetlands such as creeks, ponds, marshes, vernal pools, swales, floodplains, riparian forest and grassland located in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed. The complex includes an array of public and privately owned units with a variety of conservation status that range from Wildlife areas to Mitigation banks. The Ramsar Site is considered a biological hotspot due to its various types of rare and unique wetlands like vernal pools and their associated rare and endemic plant like the Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) and animal species such as the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). Besides its high biological value, the site provides flood control, scenic beauty, and recreation services to the majority of Sonoma County's human population. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Complex main threats are associated to recent land use changes in the area such as wetland drainage for farming and expansion of urban areas, pollution due to excessive use of fertilizers in the Santa Rosa Plain, and hydrological changes due to the construction of drainage and flood control channels. Currently, the Ramsar Site managers are using a restoration and management plan published in 2006 to implement the conservation goals in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex. Ramsar Site no. 1930. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Laguna de Santiaguillo

Site number: 2 046 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Durango  
Area: 24 016 ha | Coordinates: 24°50'N 104°52'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Santiaguillo. 02/02/12; Durango; 24,016 ha; 24°50'15"N 104°51'35"W. Comprises two small lakes, Laguna Superior, which is permanent, and Laguna Inferior, intermittent. Located along one of the most important routes for birds that nest in Alaska and Canada, the site has become the most important site for aquatic bird hibernation in Durango, and this semi-desert region, it has a major hydrological influence of climate regulation. It provides habitat to a variety of IUCN Red-Listed mammals, such as *Choeronycteris mexicana*, *Leptonycteris curasoae*, *Leptonycteris nivalis*, and the badger *Taxidea taxus*. It also supports 31 species of endemic herpetofauna, and 292 bird species have been reported, of which 29 are considered to be endangered. The site is considered one of the 30 Most Important Wetlands in North America, and is listed as an Important Area for Bird Conservation by Mexican authorities. Together with groundwater over-extraction and water pollution, threats include management problems and drought conditions of the system. Ramsar Site no. 2046. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Laguna de Sayula

Site number: 1 338 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 16 800 ha | Coordinates: 20°02'N 103°32'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Sayula. 02/02/04; Jalisco; 16,800 ha; 20°02'N 103°32'W. Located in the Zacoalco-Sayula Valley, between the two big mountains (sierras) of Mexico (Tapalpa and Tigre), the Laguna de Sayula is a continental salt marsh sheltering 132 species of birds, 40 mammals and 14 amphibians and reptiles. Five of the 56 species of waterfowl are considered globally threatened, and the site supports about 40,000 individuals of some of these. The area is also important for its cultural and historical value, and 170 points have been identified as important for archeological values. The Laguna is the main area for the production and export of the Pitahaya de Queretaro cactus but also an important production area for nuts and coffee. Changes in land use and management and the alteration of the water flows supplying the Laguna are the main threats. The area is considered Área Prioritaria para la Conservación de la Región II (South Mexico) and also site of interest for the conservation of migratory waterfowl species. Ramsar site no. 1338. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Laguna de Tacarigua

Site number: 858 | Country: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Administrative region: Miranda  
Area: 9 200 ha | Coordinates: 10°12'N 65°56'W | Designation dates: 04-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Tacarigua. 04/09/96; Miranda; 9,200 ha; 10°12'N 65°56'W. This site is a coastal lagoon, separated from the Caribbean sea by the coastal barrier created by the lagoon. It harbors mangroves, forming dense vegetation islands, and open water spaces. There are a number of species and sub-species of rare, threatened, or vulnerable plants and animals such as sea turtles. It is also a breeding ground for fish. Traditionally fishing is the main activity in the area, but some subsistence farming does take place. The site is also a tourist destination. Ramsar site no. 858. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Laguna de Tamiahua

Site number: 1 596 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 88 000 ha | Coordinates: 20°58'N 97°19'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Tamiahua. 27/11/05; Veracruz; 88,000 ha; 20°58'N 97°19'W. The third largest coastal lagoon in Mexico, with the largest well-structured mangrove forest to the north of the Papaloapan river, acting as an industrial and urban waste water filtration and treatment system. The site is also of importance for marine turtles and fish (around 120 registered species). Among the species under protection are the turtle *Chelonia mydas* (endangered), the fish *Poecilia latipunctata* (critically endangered) and the sea horse *Hippocampus erectus* (vulnerable), as well as several waterbird species. Deforestation of the mangrove forest, overfishing and water pollution constitute the greatest threats to the integrity of the Lagoon. Ramsar site No. 1596. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Laguna de Tecocomulco

Site number: 1 322 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Hidalgo  
Area: 1 769 ha | Coordinates: 19°52'N 98°23'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Tecocomulco. 27/11/03; Hidalgo; 1,769 ha; 19°52'N 98°23'W. Lying at 2514 m in the endorrheic basin of Tecocomulco, considered to be the last remnant of the ancient freshwater wetland system that dominated the Mexico Valley Basin in the centre of the country. Underlying aquifers are recharged through the lake, whose water level fluctuations are high. The site is noteworthy for 15 duck species, with congregations of Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis* of up to 5000 individuals, and of Moorhens *Gallinula chloropus* of up to 3000. The endangered Axolotl salamander *Ambystoma mexicanum* also inhabits the site. The Asian Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) is commercially exploited by local fishermen. There are quotas for waterfowl hunting, which takes place especially during the winter. Erosion in the basin caused by agricultural activities and overgrazing provokes a high rate of sedimentation and turbidity in the lake. To address this problem, erosion control and reforestation projects have been undertaken for basin management. Different universities are engaged in research and training. Ramsar site no. 1322. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Laguna de Yuriria

Site number: 1 361 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Guanajuato  
Area: 15 020 ha | Coordinates: 20°15'N 101°08'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Yuriria. 02/02/04; Guanajuato; 15,020 ha; 20°15'N 101°08'W. National Protected Area. An artificial freshwater lake built as a consequence of the deviation of the Lerma River through a canal built in 1548, considered to be the first hydraulic engineering construction of colonial America. It is one of the most important freshwater lakes in Mexico, located in a semi-arid zone at 1740m and supporting important populations of migratory birds, including Buteo jamaicensis (Red-tailed hawk), Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon), Myadestes townsendi (Townsend's solitaire), Anas discors (Blue-winged teal), Anas americana (American wigeon), Icterus wagleri (Black-vented oriole), Icterus cucullatus (Hooded oriole), Anas diazi, and Geothlypis speciosa. Water supply is a key role played by this lake and it has an important effect in the microclimate of the area. Agricultural expansion and urban development are the main threats to the site's character. The management and restoration plans are being drafted by the National Institute of Ecology (INE) to undertake concrete actions to achieve the sustainable management of the Yuriria Basin. Ramsar site no. 1361. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Laguna de Zacapu

Site number: 1 465 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacán  
Area: 40 ha | Coordinates: 19°50'N 101°47'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Zacapu. 05/06/05; Michoacán; 40 ha; 19°50'N 101°47'W. A relatively small lagoon that hosts approximately 1.1% of the Mexican duck population (*Anas platyrhynchos* diazi), as well as at least nine indigenous fish species and the endemic *Allotoca zacapuensis*, which is only found in this lagoon. The area includes forested and non-forested peatlands as well as underground water reservoirs, among other wetland types. Pollution, increasing sedimentation and the advance of the Zacapu town's frontier all constitute potential threats to this lagoon. Ramsar site No.1465. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Laguna de Zapotlán

Site number: 1 466 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 1 496 ha | Coordinates: 19°45'N 103°29'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Zapotlán.05/06/05; Jalisco; 1,496 ha; 19°45'N 103°29'W. Located in the lowest part of the Zapotlán endorreic watershed, the lagoon stands out for hosting a considerable number of threatened and endangered species such as the Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*), the milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*), whipsnake (*Masticophis flagellum*), and Mexican pine snake (*Pituophis deppei*). It is an area of refuge for an average of 25,000 waterfowl. The site contains around 50 wells and six freshwater springs, and constitutes a key water reservoir in the region, as well as a water body receiving nearly 34,000 m<sup>3</sup> of treated urban wastewater. The Zapotlán Lagoon is currently under pressure caused by the surrounding population. Ramsar Site No. 1466. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Laguna di Marano: Foci dello Stella

Site number: 190 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Friuli-Venezia Giulia  
Area: 1 400 ha | Coordinates: 45°44'N 13°06'E | Designation dates: 14-05-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna di Marano: Foci dello Stella. 14/05/79; Friuli-Venezia Giulia; 1,400 ha; 45°44'N 013°08'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. Part of the Laguna di Marano, lying within the vast lagoon complex formed by the deltas of the Tagliamento and Isonzo rivers. The site includes a fossil dune complex and tidal waters of varying salinity with extensive intertidal mud and sand flats. The intertidal flats support beds of *Zostera* spp. and *Ruppia maritima* and submerged halophytic plants and are fringed by extensive reedbeds. The area is internationally important for several species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include hunting, tourism, and conservation education. The lagoon environment is changing due to rising sea level. Ramsar site no. 190. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Laguna di Orbetello

Site number: 124 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana  
Area: 887 ha | Coordinates: 42°29'N 11°12'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna di Orbetello. 14/12/76; Toscana; 887 ha; 42°27'N 011°13'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 31 December 1993, removed from the Record, 21 March 2000. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A large, brackish lagoon of fringing reedbeds, extensive algae beds, salt-resistant vegetation, and an abundant invertebrate fauna separated from the sea by a dune cordon. The site is significant for numerous important species of nesting and wintering waterbirds, with wintering birds exceeding 10,000 individuals. Human activities include commercial fishing, ecotourism and hunting. The site suffers from nutrient-enrichment and siltation as a result of sewage effluent from the town of Orbetello. This and other anthropogenic impacts have decreased water circulation and created some anoxic conditions. These problems led to the site's inclusion on the Montreux Record in 1993. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1998. Ramsar site no. 124. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Laguna di Venezia: Valle Averte

Site number: 423 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 45°21'N 12°09'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna di Venezia: Valle Averte. 11/04/89; Veneto; 500 ha; 45°21'N 012°09'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. The site consists of a complex of coastal lagoons, modified by the creation of fishponds. It exhibits a full range of wetland habitats, progressing from freshwater marsh and reed swamp to open saline water with intertidal sand flats. The complex supports an extremely rich fish fauna, including freshwater species. The area is internationally important for numerous species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds. Human activities within the site include extensive fish farming and conservation education. Ramsar site no. 423. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Laguna Hanson, Parque Nacional Constitución de 1857

Site number: 1 923 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California  
Area: 511 ha | Coordinates: 32°02'N 115°54'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna de Hanson, Parque Nacional Constitución de 1857. 02/02/10; Baja California; 510 ha; 32°02'N 115°54'W; This Ramsar Site comprises a freshwater lagoon and a floodplain located in the 1857 Constitución National Park. The Hanson lagoon is considered the only natural semi-permanent water body in the forested areas of the Baja California State. Consequently, the site supports important bird populations and plays a significant role in climate regulation for the Baja California Peninsula. The Ramsar Site is also designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) as it provides shelter, rest and reproduction areas for at least 29 bird species including migratory birds such as the Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and the Redhead duck (*Aythya americana*). The main threat to this site comes from the extensive livestock rearing activities undertaken by the communities surrounding the National Park, who use the site as a source of water and food during the summer. Conservation and wise use activities planned to protect this Ramsar Site are currently being revised in a National Park management plan. Ramsar Site n°1923. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Laguna Huizache-Caimanero

Site number: 1 689 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 48 282,7 ha | Coordinates: 22°50'N 105°55'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Huizache-Caimanero. 02/02/07; Sinaloa; 48,283 ha; 22°50'N 105°55'W. Located in the southeastern part of the Gulf of California, the site consists of a series of wetlands, ranging from coastal and continental to artificial. Due to its location along the Migratory Corridor of the Pacific, it is a site of high importance for migratory birds in Mexico, including the American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaia*). It is also the habitat of a wide range of fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, including species in danger of extinction or vulnerable, such as the American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), the Mexican Beaded Lizard (*Heloderma horridum*), the Boa (*Boa constrictor*), the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The riverside of the lagoon is mainly constituted by mangrove forest, including red (*Rhizophora mangle*), black (*Avicennia germinans*) and white (*Laguncularia racemosa*) mangroves. The fishing resources of the lagoon are the main protein source for the surrounding communities and shrimp fishing is the main economic activity of the area. Among the negative factors affecting the site are: the sedimentation of rivers Presidio and Baluarte, deforestation, overfishing, and wastewaters discharge into the lagoon. According to the IUCN Protected Area Categories, the site belongs to Category IV and is under the federal jurisdiction of the National Water Commission of Mexico. Ramsar site no. 1689. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Laguna La Juanota

Site number: 2 206 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chihuahua  
Area: 231,7 ha | Coordinates: 26°29'N 106°28'W | Designation dates: 30-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna La Juanota. 30/10/13; Chihuahua; 232 ha; 26°29'13"N 106°28'28"W. The Site, an endorheic lagoon, is located in the Sierra Madre Occidental range at 2,697 metres above sea level, making it the water body with the highest altitude in the State of Chihuahua. Its importance is due to its role in controlling and preventing floods and in retaining seasonal water. It supports numerous species, including migratory birds. Threatened or endangered species and subspecies include the parrot *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*, the endemic squirrel *Sciurus aberti durangi*, the endemic hare *Lepus californicus sheldoni* and the duck *Anas platyrhynchos diazi*. The lagoon has historically been considered the most important habitat for this last subspecies. Besides its importance for fauna and flora, it is vital for the economy of the neighbouring communities, which include Rarámuri indigenous groups. The lagoon captures the water they need for their agricultural livelihoods. As the only input of water is from rain, the main threat is extended drought. Overgrazing and deforestation in the surrounding area also pose threats as they result in soil erosion and increased water salinity. Ramsar Site No. 2206. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Laguna Madre

Site number: 1 362 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Tamaulipas  
Area: 307 894 ha | Coordinates: 24°44'N 97°35'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Madre. 02/02/04; Tamaulipas; 307,894 ha; 24°44'N 97°35'W. The largest water body in the country, on the Gulf of Mexico near the Texas border, it is a coastal lagoon system bordered by a sand barrier 223km long. Salinity varies greatly depending on rainfall. The site is of critical importance to resident and migratory waterbirds, especially shorebirds such as *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Calidris alba*, *Calidris minutilla* and the endangered Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*. 26 waterfowl species are found on the lake, where concentrations of over 100,000 individuals of Redheads *Aythya americana* and Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* stand out. Desert scrub of mesquite *Prosopis glandulosa*, Blackbrush *Acacia rigidula*, Castela tortuosa, amongst others, is the most representative terrestrial vegetation. Seagrass beds of *Halodule wrightii* and others cover large areas. Fishing is by far the most important human activity on the site, yet the over-exploitation of resources has diminished stocks. The Intracoastal Waterway project from Tampico to Brownsville would seriously alter the site's character. The area is regarded as the first priority wetland for migratory birds in Mexico by Ducks Unlimited, which contributed towards the site designation. Ramsar site no. 1362. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Laguna Ojo de Liebre

Site number: 1 339 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 36 600 ha | Coordinates: 27°45'N 114°05'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Ojo de Liebre. 02/02/04; Baja California Sur; 36,600 ha; 27°45'N 114°05'W. Reserva de la Biosfera, World Heritage Natural Site. A hypersaline coastal lagoon, one of the main refuges for grey whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) where they meet for pairing, breeding and raising their young. It also gives shelter to a wide variety of birds along the river and in the islands in the lagoon - a total of 94 species have been counted between 1995 and 1996. The area contains a lagoon, coastal and marine ecosystems as well as tidal channels and intertidal areas; the surroundings also contain unstable dunes, saltpeter areas, halophilous bushes and marshes. Waste disposal, a consequence of the fishing activities, and the over-exploitation of the area for fishing are the main threats. The lagoon has been declared a sheltered area for whales since 1972. Ramsar site no. 1339. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Laguna Playa Colorada-Santa María La Reforma

Site number: 1 340 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 53 140 ha | Coordinates: 25°02'N 108°09'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Playa Colorada-Santa María La Reforma. 02/02/04; Sinaloa; 53,140 ha; 25°02'N 108°09'W. The site consists of three bays with wide mouths to the sea featuring 153 islands, 25 marshes, and 18,700 ha of mangroves. The endangered Black-vented Shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas*, the Brant *Branta bernicla* and numerous waterfowl species inhabit the site. The intertidal flats host very large numbers of shorebirds, with past counts reaching over 300,000 individuals - thus the site is listed as an international site on the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network. Economically important fish species are the mullets (*Mugil cephalus* and *M. curema*), Bullseye Puffer *Sphoeroides annulatus*, Mojarrá *Diapterus peruvianus*, Spanish Mackerel *Scomberomorus sierra*, snappers *Lutjanus* spp., and snooks *Centropomus* spp. In terms of fish catch, it is one of the most significant areas on the Pacific coast of Mexico; the area has now over 2,000 small fishing boats navigating its waters. There are over 10,000 ha of shrimp farms, which have brought many environmental impacts, such as silting, pollution with pesticides, spread of viruses from farmed to wild populations, drying up of nearly 10% of the mangroves and disruption of the hydrological flows. Conservation International and the Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa are pushing forward a community management initiative of the coastal wetlands and raising environmental awareness among locals. Ramsar site no. 1340. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Laguna Respringue

Site number: 982 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Guanacaste  
Area: 75 ha | Coordinates: 10°52'N 85°51'W | Designation dates: 06-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Respringue. 06/05/99; Guanacaste; 75 ha; 10°52'N 85°51'W. The only freshwater swampy lagoon on the North Pacific coast of the country, the oldest part of Central America (said to be 88-200 million years old). The vegetation is dominated by Phragmites in most of the site. It has the driest climate in the country, and the strong winds of November-March have created very high dunes, in pristine condition. The site is relatively unaffected by human activities, largely because of the difficulty of access. Excessive agricultural and timber exploitation some 30 years ago were problematic, but the site is said to be recovering well. The site is especially important for capturing sediments. Present human uses include private farms and an environmental education programme in nearby Guanacaste. Ramsar site no. 982. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Lagunas altoandinas y puneñas de Catamarca

Site number: 1 865 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Catamarca  
Area: 1 228 175 ha | Coordinates: 26°52'S 67°56'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas Altoandinas y Puneñas de Catamarca. 02/02/09; Catamarca; 1,228,175 ha; 26°52'S 67°56'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The site consists of two subsites located in the northwest of Argentina, between 3,010m and 6,885m a.s.l., and includes a complex of high Andean endorheic river basins representative of the Central Dry Puna: shallow meso- and hypersaline lakes, shallow and deep brackish lakes, and deep hypersaline lakes. 19,000 individuals of Puna flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) and 2,100 of Andean flamingo (*P. andinus*) gather in this site, which represents 18% and 6% of the worldwide population of these species, respectively. The site also hosts several endemic species of the High Andean Puna, such as the Giant Coot (*Fulica gigantea*), Andean Avocet (*Recurvirostra andina*), Crested Duck (*Anas specularioides alticola*), Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*), Andean Fox (*Pseudalopex culpaeus*) and a frog species endemic to the Catamarca region (*Telmatobius hauthali*). In addition, IUCN Red List threatened species Andean cat (*Leopardus jacobita*) and short-tailed chinchilla (*Chinchilla brevicaudata*) occur in the area, as well as 14 migratory species (e.g. *Calidris melanotos*, *C. bairdii*, and *Tringa flavipes*). This High Andean wetland is a highly vulnerable and fragile ecosystem and is threatened by overgrazing, unregulated tourism, mining prospecting and flamingo egg collection. The area is one of the 14 priority sites of the Wetland Network of Importance for Conservation of High-Andes Flamingos in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Part of the Ramsar site is protected under the Biosphere Reserve Laguna Blanca. Ramsar site no. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Laguna San Ignacio

Site number: 1 341 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 17 500 ha | Coordinates: 26°45'N 113°07'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna San Ignacio. 02/02/04; Baja California Sur; 17,500 ha; 26°45'N 113°07'W. Part of Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. On the very arid western side of the Baja California peninsula, this coastal brackish lagoon with large intertidal flats is an important nesting site for the Grey Whale *Eschrichtius robustus*, reaching 300-400 individuals each winter. Other marine mammals are resident: Elephant Seals *Miroounga angustirostris* and California Sea Lions *Zalophus californianus*. In addition, San Ignacio is one of the main wintering areas for the Black Brant Branta bernicla nigricans, contains the northernmost mangrove forests in the continent, and is an important nursery ground for fish. The site is part of "El Vizcaino" World Heritage Site, which receives a significant number of tourists for whale-watching, adventure and ecotourism in general. Overfishing and inadequate waste disposal are regarded as the main problems. A management plan is in place since 2000. Ramsar site no. 1341. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Lagunas de Alcázar de San Juan

Site number: 595 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 240 ha | Coordinates: 39°24'N 03°15'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Alcázar de San Juan. 26/03/93; Castilla-La Mancha; 240 ha; 39°24'N 03°15'W. Wildlife Refuge. Two highly saline lagoons and associated islands located within an enclosed drainage basin. The area supports halophytic flora, reedbeds and submerged aquatic plants. An important area for various species of nesting and wintering waterbirds, especially ducks. The surrounding areas are cultivated for vines, olives and cereal. Ramsar site no. 595. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Lagunas de Cádiz

Site number: 445 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 158 ha | Coordinates: 36°37'N 06°03'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Cádiz (Laguna de Medina y Laguna Salada). 05/12/89; Andalucía; 158 ha; 36°37'N 06°03'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve. Two shallow, saline lagoons (fed primarily by rainfall), within closed drainage basins set in a semi-arid, cultivated landscape. A rich emergent and submergent aquatic vegetation occurs. The lagoons are surrounded by agricultural land and used as supply sources for irrigation. An important area for several species of wintering and nesting waterbirds, including the endangered species *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Fulica cristata* and *Porphyrio porphyrio*. Human activities include fishing and reed harvesting. Ramsar site no. 445. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Lagunas de Campotejar

Site number: 2 035 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Murcia  
Area: 61 ha | Coordinates: 38°07'N 01°13'W | Designation dates: 07-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Campotejar. 07/01/11; Murcia; 61 ha; 38°06'35"N 001°13'11"W. Comprising the catchment area of a small seasonal creek as well as five artificial ponds originally constructed for water treatment purposes which are now used to store pre-treated water for irrigation. Reed belts have developed along the edges of the ponds. The site contains different habitat types of European interest supporting characteristic salt-tolerant vegetation as well as birds associated with saline inland habitats. The site is important for wintering, staging and reproduction of several water bird species, including the internationally endangered White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and the vulnerable Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. Invasive plant species threaten the ecological character of the site, but eradication and revegetation projects are foreseen in the near future together with the construction of a bird observatory. The site is used for research and environmental education. Ramsar Site number: 2035. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lagunas de Chacahua

Site number: 1 819 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Oaxaca  
Area: 17 424 ha | Coordinates: 16°00'N 97°40'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Chacahua. 02/02/08; Oaxaca; 17,424 ha; 16°00'N 097°40'W. Natural Protected Area, turtle sanctuary. A coastal lagoon system and a sandy beach facing the Pacific Ocean. It is distributed in low lands associated with alluvial, fluvial and deltaic plains, low intertidal marshes, and highlands up to 140m asl. These water bodies are home for several species such as the Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) that are under special protection, and fish species such as *Centropomus nigriscens* and *Centropomus robalito*. The beach portion of the site is a nesting ground for three marine turtles, especially the endangered Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The site is also important for many resident and migratory bird species. The mangroves are a source of food and refuge for many birds, mammals, reptiles, among others. Fishing is the main human activity of the site, and the main potential threat is caused by the rapid population growth in its surroundings. The site has been a Natural Protected Area since 1937 and part of the Playa de la Bahía de Chacahua Sanctuary for the protection of marine turtles since 1986. Ramsar site no. 1819. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Lagunas de Guanacache, Desaguadero y del Bebedero

Site number: 1 012 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Mendoza, San Juan, San Luis  
Area: 962 370 ha | Coordinates: 33°00'S 67°36'W | Designation dates: 14-12-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Guanacache, Desaguadero y del Bebedero. 14/12/99; Mendoza, San Juan, San Luis; 962,370 ha; 33°00'S 67°36'W. A long system of linked lagoons and marshes fed by the Mendoza and San Juan Rivers in the provinces of those names. The system drains into the Desaguadero River and covers an area of some 10,000 square km. The dominant wetland type is "seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes", but the site also includes "seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks", "seasonal/intermittent/ freshwater marshes/pools", "shrub-dominated wetlands", and some other less frequent wetland types. There is a rich biodiversity associated with the system, with more than 50 species of waterbirds. The system has suffered a number of natural and anthropogenic alterations which have considerably reduced the area covered by the lagoons and marshes. A rehabilitation program is being implemented. The local communities include some 2000 people, known as the "laguneros", whose customs and traditions are based in the lagoons and their resources. The provincial governments of Mendoza and San Juan are cooperating closely in the site designation and management. In 1999, the Ramsar/US Government Wetlands for the Future Initiative financed a First Training Workshop for the Local Community and Intermediate Institutions for the Rehabilitation and Management of the Lagunas de Guanacache. The designation of the Lagunas as a Ramsar site is a further step in the efforts to rehabilitate and conserve the system. The site was significantly extended from 580,000 to 962,370 hectares in 2007. Ramsar site no.1012. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lagunas de Laguardia

Site number: 880 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: País Vasco  
Area: 45 ha | Coordinates: 42°33'N 02°34'W | Designation dates: 12-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Laguardia (Carralagroño, Carravalseca, Prao de la Paul y Musco). 09/12/96; País Vasco; 45 ha; 42°33'N 002°34'W. Protected Biotope. Proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directive. These are the northernmost meso-saline inland pools in Europe and represent the last examples of this characteristic ecosystem in the region. Of special interest is the aquatic flora, in particular the extremely rare Charophyte *Tolypella salina*. A variety of waterbirds (including nationally threatened *Plegadis falcinellus* and breeding birds *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and *Podiceps cristatus*) use the lagoons. The saline pools are not used by humans, but the lake of Prao de la Paul with some emergent vegetation is used for recreation. Area extended in October 2002. Ramsar site no. 880. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Lagunas de la Mata y Torrevieja

Site number: 456 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valenciana  
Area: 3 693 ha | Coordinates: 38°00'N 00°42'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de la Mata y Torrevieja. 05/12/89; Comunidad Valenciana; 3,693 ha; 38°00'N 000°42'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park, Hunting Reserve. Two large, saline lagoons lying below sea level and connected to the sea by an artificial channel. Vegetation consists of several endemic plants, fringing reedbeds and open areas of salt-resistant vegetation giving way to scrub. The site is of particular importance for various species of wintering and nesting waterbirds, notably *Podiceps nigricollis* (maximum may exceed 3,000), *Anas clypeata*, and *Netta rufina*. Up to 2,000 non-breeding *Phoenicopiterus ruber* may occur. The site is used as a concentration area for commercial salt works. Management difficulties include illegal refuse disposal and unregulated tourism and recreation. Ramsar site no. 456. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Lagunas de las Moreras

Site number: 2 036 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Murcia  
Area: 73 ha | Coordinates: 37°35'N 01°18'W | Designation dates: 07-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de las Moreras. 07/01/11; Murcia; 73 ha; 37°34' 47"N 001°18'00"W. Covering the final stretch of the irregular stream Las Moreras that discharges into the Mediterranean Sea. At its mouth typical halophytic vegetation of European interest can be found. The site also includes an artificial pond, a former gravel pit, used as a water storage area. The site is an important area for wintering, staging and reproduction of many species of waterfowl, including the internationally endangered White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and the vulnerable Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* which nest here. Furthermore, the site offers habitat to many different species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates, including endemic and threatened species such as the Spanish Toothcarp *Aphanius iberus*, endemic to the Iberian Peninsula. The site is of cultural and archaeological significance and is being used for small-scale sheep grazing, research, environmental education and some bird watching tourism. The construction of a bird observatory is planned. Threats to the site include erosion and siltation, agricultural pollution as well as invasive species. Ramsar Site number: 2036. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lagunas del sur de Córdoba

Site number: 446 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 86 ha | Coordinates: 37°29'N 04°41'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas del sur de Córdoba (Zóñar, Rincón y Amarga). 05/12/89; Andalucía; 86 ha; 37°29'N 004°41'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve. A group of six semi-permanent saline lagoons and two reservoirs subject to extreme seasonal fluctuations in water level and salinity, set in a cultivated steppe landscape. A distinctive flora and fauna are supported, consisting of emergent and submergent aquatic vegetation and various rare or endangered fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds. The site is one of the most important breeding areas in Europe for the endangered duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and provides habitat for several species of wintering and breeding waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 446. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Lagunas de Puebla de Beleña

Site number: 1 261 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 191 ha | Coordinates: 40°53'N 03°15'W | Designation dates: 20-12-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Puebla de Beleña. 20/12/02; Castilla-La Mancha; 191 ha; 40°53'N 003°15'W. Nature Reserve. Two temporary, endorreic, rain-fed freshwater lakes that may form into one during wet years, but dry out regularly. At the water's edge, rare plant communities with *Elatine hexandra*, *Littorella uniflora* and *Isoetes* sp. developed. The pools attract many migrating waterbirds, including cranes *Grus grus*. The site acts as a biodiversity island in the midst of the extensive cereal cultures in the surroundings of Guadalajara province. Ramsar site no. 1261. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Lagunas de Ruidera

Site number: 2 069 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 6 639 ha | Coordinates: 38°56'N 02°51'W | Designation dates: 23-09-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Ruidera. 23/09/11; Castilla-La Mancha; 6,639 ha; 38°56'23"N 002°51'35"W. Natural Park, Wildlife Refuge, Natura 2000 (SIC), UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A 25 km long chain of natural dams creating a lagoon complex interconnected by waterfalls and karst formations. It was formed through unique geological processes and comprises European priority habitat types such as petrifying springs with tufa formation and calcareous fens. Several plant communities associated with alkaline peatlands can be found, but Charophytes are dominant. The site hosts many globally threatened species including Bivalve *Unio tumidiformis* and Water Vole *Arvicola sapidus* as well as numerous fish and bird species, especially Anatidae. The site is critical for the functioning of the regional hydrological system and serves as an important water reservoir in this very dry region. The site is of archaeological and historic significance and is used for traditional agriculture, research and recreational activities. Unsustainable tourism developments involving high water consumption and pollution have threatened the site, but are now partly addressed through a water purification project. There is a visitors centre offering guided tours. Ramsar Site number: 2069. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lagunas de Santa María-Topolobampo-Ohuira

Site number: 2 025 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 22 500 ha | Coordinates: 25°37'N 109°06'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Santa María-Topolobampo-Ohuira. 02/02/09; Sinaloa; 22,500 ha; 25°36'33"N 109°06'23"W. World Heritage site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A system of three coastal lagoons, with a total of eight islands: six in Ohuira Bay, one in Topolobampo Bay and one in Santa María Bay. Mangroves include *Rhizophora* mangle, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* and *Conocarpus erectus*. The site is home to 84% of the migratory waterfowl distributed in Mexico during the winter. It is subject to flooding and storms caused by tropical cyclones that regularly occur in the area, so the system functions as a shoreline stabilizer by reducing the energy of runoff caused by rainfall. Among the potential factors that could cause degradation in water quality and landscape are the large amounts of wastewater discharges, especially agricultural runoff, to the coastal zone. Fishing is the most important use in the area. The site is located within the Area of Protection of Flora and Fauna "Islas del Golfo de California", a World Heritage natural site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Ramsar Site no. 2025. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Lagunas de Vilama

Site number: 1 040 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Jujuy  
Area: 157 000 ha | Coordinates: 22°36'S 66°55'W | Designation dates: 20-09-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Vilama. 20/09/00; Jujuy; 157,000 ha; 22°36'S 066°55'W. Part of Reserva Altoandina de la Chinchilla (provincial). Includes more than ten Andean highland lagoons that occupy endorreic depressions in the extreme northwest of the country at 4,500 meters above sea level. The lagoons have diverse characteristics, from saline and deep to hypersaline and shallow. They provide habitat for a very rich aquatic bird life, with a good number of endemic and/or endangered species (flamingos *Phoenicoparrus andinus*, *P. jamesi*, and coots *Fulica cornuta*); in addition, a diversity of Nearctic migrating species find a feeding place here. In the plains that surround the lagoons, locally called "ciénegos", other endangered species like vicuñas and "ñandú" (South American ostrich; *Pterocnemia pennata garleppi*) are present. These "ciénegos" also provide grazing resources for herds of domestic camelids (llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, etc.) and sheep of the local people who practice traditional modes of transhumance. In addition to these plains, the most prevalent vegetation are characteristic of shrub steppes and Andean highland pastures. Numerous archeological sites attest to significant human populations from 5,000 years ago, and the lagoons continue to hold ritual significance. Ramsar site no. 1040. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Lagunas de Villafáfila

Site number: 451 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-León  
Area: 2 714 ha | Coordinates: 41°50'N 05°36'W | Designation dates: 12-05-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas de Villafáfila. 05/12/89; Castilla-León; 2,714 ha; 41°49'47"N 005°36'00"W. Catalogued Wetland, Regional Hunting Reserve, Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI). A complex of saline lakes subject to marked seasonal variations inside a closed drainage basin in a rolling steppe landscape. The lakes have extensive beds of emergent vegetation with fringing saline grassland. Large numbers of ducks and geese (on average 32,000 birds between 1995 and 2010) use the site for wintering, and during the breeding season the site also sustains more than 1% of the *Sterna nilotica* population. The area holds two important aquifers. The surrounding basin is used in a non-intensive way for cereal crops and grasslands where the threatened Great Bustard *Otis tarda* can be found. In 2005 a natural resources management plan was developed with conservation objectives and guidelines. Ramsar site no. 451. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lagunas Las Arreviatadas

Site number: 1 691 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Cajamarca  
Area: 1 250 ha | Coordinates: 05°14'S 79°16'W | Designation dates: 15-05-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas Las Arreviatadas. 15/07/07; Cajamarca; 1,250 ha; 05°14'S 79°17'W. Santuario Nacional. A paramo wetland complex, located in the austral region of the Northern Andes Ecoregional Complex and Northwest Peru. It contains 4 main high Andean lagoons of glacial origin and a series of small lagoons and minor ponds, surrounded by peaks of more than 4,000 m of altitude. It is habitat for many vulnerable or endangered species, such as the Andean tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*), the little red brocket deer (*Mazama rufina*) and the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), an emblematic species of the Andes, as well as the golden-plumed parakeet (*Leptosittaca branickii*) and the red-faced parrot (*Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops*). Two endemic botanical species *Calceolaria rhododendroides* and *Halenia bella* have been found in the site, as well as 23 species of endemic birds for the country, 4 for the region, and a new bird species for the country: *Anas andinum*. The site assists in regulation of the local climate and promotes other hydrological processes, including aquifer recharge, capture and storage of pluvial water and permanent water supply for the water courses that go down to the floor of the valleys of the region. To date, there are no threats affecting this area. It is considered under category III (Natural Monument) of IUCN. Ramsar site no. 1691. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lagunas y Esteros del Iberá

Site number: 1 162 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Corrientes  
Area: 24 550 ha | Coordinates: 28°31'S 57°09'W | Designation dates: 18-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunas y Esteros del Iberá. 18/01/02; Corrientes; 24,550 ha; 28°31'S 057°09'W. Natural Reserve. Located in Corrientes province in the northeast of the country, the site is centered about the Laguna del Iberá and is part of the macrosystem of Iberá, a catchment area of some 1.3 million hectares drained by the Río Corriente into the middle reaches of the Paraná, representative of wetland types found in Corrientes and southeastern Paraguay. Iberá Lake, at 5,500 hectares, is one of the largest and most characteristic components of the system - with an average depth of 3m, it is almost always clear with variations caused by seasonal growth of plankton. The site supports high biological diversity, including an appreciable number of endemic species. Among rare, vulnerable, and endangered species covered by CITES within the site are the yacaré overo, or Broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), yacaré negro (*C. Yacare*), anaconda amarilla or curiyú (*Eunectes notaeus*), the pato crestudo (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*), the Neotropical otter "lobito de río" (*Lontra longicaudis*), and ciervo de los pantanos, or Marsh deer (*Blastoceros dichotomus*), among others. The surrounding marshlands of Esteros del Iberá support a sizable number of indigenous fish species and subspecies at key stages of their biological cycles, particularly *Salminus maxillosus*. Agriculture, particularly rice, and grazing are practiced in the area, and the development of ecotourism is foreseen. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1162. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Laguna Teniente Rojas Silva

Site number: 1 390 | Country: Paraguay | Administrative region: Chaco Paraguayo  
Area: 8 470 ha | Coordinates: 22°38'S 59°03'W | Designation dates: 14-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Teniente Rojas Silva. 14/07/04; Boquerón; 8,470 ha. 22°38'S, 059°03'W. Private reserve. Part of the watershed of the Riacho Ykararé Sur in the Paraguayan Chaco, this lake alternates between freshwater and brackish conditions. It supports colonies of Southern cattail *Typha domingensis*, Tropical duck-weed *Pistia stratiotes* and West Indian marsh grass *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*, amidst a landscape of xerophytic forest, subhumid forest, seasonally flooded shrubs and forests and savannah. The site hosts several endangered and protected species such as the greater Rhea *Rhea americana*, the Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*, the Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, the Giant Brazilian Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* and the Southern Three-Banded Armadillo *Tolypeutes matacus*. The indigenous shrub *Lophocarpinia aculeatifolia* and the Jacare Caiman *yacare* are other noteworthy species of the site. The area is part of a private estate whose owners are committed to wetland conservation. Small scaled agriculture and cattle ranching, as well as local hunting by indigenous people are the main human uses of the site, while its greatest threats are salinisation and desertification, which have already occurred in neighboring areas. The site designation was carried out with support of the NGO Fundación DeSdelChaco. Ramsar Site No. 1390. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Laguna Xola-Paramán

Site number: 1 768 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 775 ha | Coordinates: 19°44'N 105°16'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna Xola-Paramán. 02/02/08; Jalisco; 775 ha.; 19°44'N 105°16'W. Marine Turtle Sanctuary. A coastal wetland is representative of the transition between the Nearctic and Neotropical biogeographic regions. The lagoon is surrounded by low forest vegetation and characterized by small bays of sandy beaches and rocky areas that are part of small alluvial valleys. The mangrove species *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* and *Conocarpus erectus* are an important source of nutrients. The site is of great importance for the reproduction of migratory and resident waterfowl, including *Ardea herodias*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Mycteria americana*, *Larus heermanni*, *Sterna elegans* and *Sterna antillarum*, all of which are under special protection. It supports flora species such as *Bursera* spp., *Eysenhardtia polistachya*, *Acacia pennatula*, *Forestiera* spp., among others. The marine turtles *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, and *Chelonia agassizi* spawn on the beach next to the lagoon, which is under protection by the National Council of Protected Areas of Mexico as a Marine Turtle Sanctuary. Salt extraction and fishing are the main activities carried out in the site. Currently, it shows different states of deterioration, affected mainly by mangrove deforestation, agricultural practices, and pollution of water through agrochemicals. Ramsar site no. 1768. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Laguna y arenal de Valdoviño

Site number: 599 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Galicia  
Area: 485 ha | Coordinates: 43°36'N 08°10'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna y Arenal de Valdoviño. 26/03/93; Galicia; 485 ha; 43°36'N 008°10'W. Wildlife Refuge. An artificially regulated coastal lagoon fringed by reedbeds and separated from the sea by a dune barrier and beach complex. Vegetation includes dune communities, fringing reedbeds, and an important riparian *Salix* sp. and *Alnus glutinosa* wood. Human activities include tourism, fishing, rush cutting, and cultivation. The area is important for staging birds, mainly ducks and shorebirds. Ramsar site no. 599. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lagune de Ghar el Melh et Delta de la Mejerda

Site number: 1 706 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Bizerte  
Area: 10 168 ha | Coordinates: 37°06'N 10°11'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagune de Ghar el Melh et Delta de la Mejerda. 07/11/07; Bizerte, Ariana; 10,168 ha; 37°06'N 010°11'E. An ancient sea bay now almost totally laden with sediments, this complex and dynamic wetland includes the delta of the most important river in the north of the country, a lagoon rich in fish species, and several secondary lagoons and floodplains. During the past 50 years the site has seen many changes, from water diversion for human uses to the building of a series of barrages to reduce the risk of floods. Migratory fish use the site for feeding, especially during the winter period before reaching the sea. Artisanal fishing is practised by the local population. Ramsar site No. 1706. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lagune de Wendu Tcham

Site number: 2 230 | Country: Guinea-Bissau  
| Administrative region: Région de Gabú, secteur administratif de Boé  
Area: 14 970,2 ha | Coordinates: 11°52'N 14°10'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Lagune de Wendu Tcham (Lagoa de Wendu Tcham) is a unique water reservoir fed by many tributaries and surrounded by a series of hills with flat peaks and open valleys. It is the largest freshwater zone in Guinea-Bissau after the Cufada Lagoon. The impermeable rocks on which it lies allow for a large water retention making Wendu Tcham the only lake of its kind which does not dry up all year round. The main hydrological functions of the Site include ground water recharge and discharge, erosion reduction and flood control. The fauna of Wendu Tcham is abundant and very diverse, with about 34 mammal and 200 bird species. Located right inside the migration corridor of the greatest concentration of large mammals along the coast, Wendu Tcham is home to many vulnerable and protected species including the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), lion (*Panthera leo*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), red-fronted gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*), the endangered African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), and the near-threatened leopard (*Panthera pardus*). The aquatic vegetation also provides safe habitat for many species of fish, shellfish and reptiles. Subsistence agriculture developed on the slopes of some hills and banks of the lake coupled with traditional fishing are the only noticeable human activities in the Site. Because of the low human population density, the anthropogenic pressures on the Site are not high; as a result its ecological balance is relatively well maintained.

## Lagunes du Cap Bon oriental

Site number: 1 707 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nabeul  
Area: 504 ha | Coordinates: 36°33'N 10°51'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagunes du Cap Bon oriental. 07/11/07; Nabeul; 504 ha; 36°33'N 010°51'E. Characterised by the almost continuous presence of wetlands along the coast, but isolated from the sea by a thin sand strip and beaches. Small portions are also occupied by small forest patches or used for agriculture. The variety of habitats and vegetation make the site ideal for several species of fauna, especially reptiles and waterfowl, several of which are threatened. For many years the site has suffered negative impacts as a result of its proximity to the surrounding urban areas, principally Korba. Ramsar site No. 1707. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lagustelli di Percile

Site number: 1 812 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Municipality of percile  
Area: 256 ha | Coordinates: 42°06'N 12°55'E | Designation dates: 27-08-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagustelli di Percile. 27/08/08; Latium; 256 ha; 42°06'N 012°55'E. Natura 2000 SPA; Regional Natural Park. In the hills of the province of Roma, two closed Apennine lakes, Marraone (the smaller with only 40 m diameter) and the wider Marrone also called Fraturno (118 m diam, depth 14 m), and their surroundings. The two basins constitute one of the most interesting areas of karstic origin of central Italy and their circular morphology witness their origin as dolines. The main habitats are large reed beds, built up by *Phragmites australis* associated with *Scirpus* spp. and *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, riparian vegetation with *Salix* spp., *Populus* spp., typical aquatic vegetation river-side, such as *Potamogeton* spp. and *Myriophyllum* sp., and important population of orchids growing on the calcareous grasslands around the lakes. The site also supports several species protected at European level such as: *Salamandra terdigitata*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Bombina variegata*, *Euplagia quadripunctata*, *Euphydryas (aurinia) provincialis* and *Lanius collurio*. Cow grazing and tourism are the main threats in the area. Ramsar site no. 1812. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Laidaure

Site number: 31 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 4 316 ha | Coordinates: 67°08'N 18°17'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the natural delta of the River Rapa and a freshwater lake located between the mountains of Sarek National Park and a zone of coniferous forests. The unique delta represents a landscape of great scenic value composed of numerous lagoons and levees. Due to the large quantities of glacial outwash brought down by the river from the mountains, the delta is expanding into the northern end of Laidaure Lake and therefore changes character continuously. The Site features subalpine birch forest, coniferous woodland and *Salix*. The Alpine heaths and grasslands support a high diversity of species. The delta is the most important locality in the Sarek region for birds, in particular as a breeding ground for ducks and waders, including a number of species listed in the Swedish Red List such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, the Lapland longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* and the northern pintail *Anas acuta*. The Site also provides refuge from storms in the high mountains and constitutes a stop-over site for migrating birds waiting for the ice and snow to melt in higher altitudes. Human activities include reindeer husbandry, hiking and fishing. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to hunting and recreational activities. A management plan exists for the overlapping National Park and Nature Reserve and there are plans to provide national legal protection for the remaining parts of the Ramsar Site.

## Laidevahe Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 271 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Saare County, Saaremaa Island  
Area: 2 424 ha | Coordinates: 58°18'N 22°49'E | Designation dates: 24-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laidevahe Nature Reserve. 31/03/2003. Saaremaa County. 2,424 ha. 58°18'N 022°49'E. IBA, Nature Reserve, Biosphere Reserve. A mosaic wetland complex with broad diversity of lagoons, shallow coastal lakes, more than 40 islets, coastal saltmarshes, and extensive reedbeds, part of the core area of the West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (1990). Among the wetlands occur patches of boreo-nemoral broadleaved forests, alvars and dry meadows. When water levels are low, mudflats are exposed and several islets connect with each other. The site preserves representative examples of several wetland types of the Boreal biogeographic region within one complex, and it is a refuge for many rare and endangered plant and bird species. Two migratory species - the Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* and the Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* - are present with more than 1% of their biogeographic populations, and the site is an important foraging, spawning and nursery ground for a long list of fish. Among the main human uses are small-scale farming and forestry, livestock grazing, reed harvesting, subsistence fishing and hunting. Famous cultural monuments situated nearby are Püha Church and Valjala Castle. An Estonian traditional, but threatened, race of horses is bred nearby. Overgrowing of meadows due to a decrease in grazing and mowing rates is seen as a potential threat, as are intensification of commercial and recreational activities and privatization of land. A master "green" plan for local municipalities, including references to Laidevahe, has been adopted by the authorities, and a separate management plan for the reserve is to be drafted by June 2003. The Estonian Native Horse Conservation Society and the Society for the Protection of SeminatURAL Communities have initiated restoration of coastal meadows and pastures within the site. Ramsar site no. 1271. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Lake Aчит and its surrounding wetlands

Site number: 1 376 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Bayan-Ulgii and Uvs Provinces  
Area: 73 730 ha | Coordinates: 49°40'N 90°35'E | Designation dates: 22-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Aчит and its surrounding wetlands. 22/03/04; Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs Provinces; 73,730 ha; 49°40'N 090°35'E. Freshwater shallow lakes in the Khovd River basin in western Mongolia, with the Aчит Lake being the largest in the Mongolian Altai range. The site, lying in an intermountain basin at 1435m, includes Devel State Nature Reserve to the south (1,030ha). Lakes are frozen from November to May. Important breeding and resting ground for a great variety of waterbirds, many listed in the Mongolian and IUCN Red Books, Red Data Book of Threatened Birds of Asia, CITES and CMS. The site supports more than 1% of the biogeographical population of Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), thus fulfilling Criterion 5. Several endemic fishes occur in the lakes. No human settlements lie in the vicinity; the surrounding land is normally used for nomadic stock farming or recreational purposes. The high potential for ecotourism has not been developed so far due to weak infrastructure and the remote location of the area. Ramsar site no. 1376. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Lake Albacutya

Site number: 270 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 5 731 ha | Coordinates: 35°46'S 141°58'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Albacutya. 15/12/82; Victoria; 5,731 ha; 35°46'S 141°58'E. Regional Park. The lake, subject to a unique hydrologic cycle, receives water in exceptionally wet years (about every 20 years) but takes up to four years to dry out. It has been dry since 1983. Eucalyptus woodlands fringe the lake, and grasses cover the dry bed. In flood years over 20,000 waterbirds gather, including *Stictonetta naevosa*. The area supports several bird and plant species that are endangered, rare or vulnerable. When flooded, the lake is used for recreational boating, fishing and shooting and supports an important commercial fishery. Inflow is diverted to meet agricultural and domestic needs. A culturally significant area, the lake appears in Aboriginal mythology. Ramsar site no. 270. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Arpi

Site number: 621 | Country: Armenia | Administrative region: Shirak Marz Province  
Area: 3 230 ha | Coordinates: 41°04'N 43°39'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Arpi.06/07/93; Shirak Province; 3,230 ha; 41°03'N 043°37'E. National Park, IBA, State Sanctuary (Government approval pending). Lake Arpi is a freshwater lake high in the Ashotk Mountains, fed by small rivers, springs and melt-water and fringed by marshy areas giving way to meadows and meadow-steppe. The Ramsar site consists of four sub-sites including Lake Arpi, the human-made wetlands of Alvar Sanctuary as well as the ephemeral wetlands of Ardenis Sanctuary consisting of Ardenis pond and the wet meadows of Aghvorik. The area is of botanical importance, supporting several species rare in Armenia such as the Yellow water-lily (*Nuphar luteum*) for which the oxbow lakes of Alvar Sanctuary are the only habitat in the country. Numerous species of waterbirds occur and include species endangered in Armenia or globally threatened such as Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). The site also hosts the largest breeding colony of Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) with 5,000-8,000 pairs, which equals 20-30% of all breeding individuals of this population. Furthermore, the site supports a diversity of mammals and fish, although the lake is threatened by overfishing resulting in the depletion of fish populations. Artificial increase in lake levels has replaced formerly rich aquatic vegetation with reed beds. Ramsar site no. 621. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Lake Balaton

Site number: 421 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Zala,Somogy,Veszprém  
Area: 59 800 ha | Coordinates: 46°52'N 17°45'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Balaton is the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe, with marshy meadows and extensive reed beds present along the shoreline. The lake supports large populations of plant and animal species which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Pannonian biogeographic region. During migration and wintering seasons, the Site is an important staging area for over 30,000 ducks, geese and coots, among them over 1% of the European wintering populations of several species. Balaton waters support approximately 2,000 species of algae and provide important spawning and nursery grounds for fish. The Site is the only South-East European refuge for the aquatic leaf beetle *Macropilea mutica*. Traditional human activities include fishing and reed harvesting, and the lake also constitutes a popular recreation area in Central Europe. There are 12 information centres and more than 20 nature trails around the lake. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to unsustainable reed harvesting, the construction of sailing ports and fishing stages, the practice of motor sports and eutrophication caused by the use of fertilizers. The water quality of the lake has improved during the last 20 years as the rate of eutrophication has significantly declined. The Balaton Catchment Area Water Management Plan was approved in 2010.

## Lake Bardawil

Site number: 407 | Country: **Egypt** | Administrative region: **North Sinai**  
Area: 59 500 ha | Coordinates: 31°05'N 33°05'E | Designation dates: 09-09-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Bardawil. 09/09/88; 59,500 ha; 31°05'N 033°05'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Protected Area. Two interconnected hypersaline lagoons consisting of islands and peninsulas. The site provides important spawning area for fish, supports commercially important fish populations, and is an important wintering and staging area for about 500,000 birds. Considerable ecological changes have occurred due to the extension of salt extraction and the constant formation of sand bars (siltation), which close the channels connecting the lagoons with the sea. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1991. Ramsar site no. 407. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Lake Baringo

Site number: 1 159 | Country: **Kenya** | Administrative region: **Baringo district**  
Area: 31 469 ha | Coordinates: 00°32'N 36°05'E | Designation dates: 10-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Baringo. 10/01/02; Rift Valley Province; 31,469 ha; 00°32'N 036°05'E. National Reserve. Consists of one of the two important freshwater (less alkaline) lakes in the primarily arid Kenyan Rift Valley and its surrounding riparian zones; the central island Ol Kokwe embodies the remains of a small volcano. It is part of the Great Rift Valley system of faults and cliffs and is fed by several freshwater inflows from the Mau and Tugen hills. The lake provides critical habitat and refuge for nearly 500 bird species, and some of the migratory waterbird species are of regional and global conservation significance, with more than 20,000 individuals reported. The lake is an invaluable habitat for seven freshwater fish species, of which one (the tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus baringoensis*) is endemic to the lake. Local fisheries are particularly important for sustainable development of the local communities, for both economic and sport fishing. In addition, the site is a habitat for many species of animals, such as hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and a wide range of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrate communities. Four ethnic communities around the lake depend upon it for food, through fishing, and for water supply, and a diversity of traditional religious functions are served by the lake and surrounding escarpments. Longterm overgrazing and deforestation and diversion for irrigation of water from one of the inflowing rivers are seen as potential pressures, as are alien invasive species, such as *Pistia* (Nile cabbage), and the use of motor boats by water sports, but the site's rich natural and cultural attractions, if well-managed, promise sound ecotourism development. A visitors' centre is in place and a management plan in preparation; a GEF project for biodiversity conservation is under way. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1159. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Lake Bisina Wetland System

Site number: 1 633 | Country: **Uganda** | Administrative region: **Kumi, Katakwi, Soroti**  
Area: 54 229 ha | Coordinates: 01°43'N 33°54'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Bisina Wetland System. 15/09/06; Kumi, Katakwi, Soroti; 54,229 ha; 01°43'N 033°54'E. Important Bird Area. A shallow freshwater lake with a thin strip of fringing papyrus swamp, part of the Lake Kyoga Basin lakes. Water lilies, a declining habitat in much of Uganda, dominate the shallow areas, which is important for its diversity of macrophytes. It is used as a feeding ground by wading birds, including the globally vulnerable Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*). The system is also important as a refuge for fish species that have gone extinct in the main Ugandan lakes such as Lakes Victoria and Kyoga. The lake is very important for the surrounding communities in terms of fishing, transport, and supply of water for domestic use and livestock. It is especially critical during times of famine, e.g., a rhizome of the *Nymphaea* genus is used as food during droughts. The site falls outside the Karamoja Protected Area system and there are no legal protections proposed. A community-based management plan has been prepared, and a local fisheries association promotes sustainable fisheries development. Ramsar site no. 1633. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lake Bogoria

Site number: 1 097 | Country: **Kenya** | Administrative region: **Baringo and Koibatek districts**  
Area: 10 700 ha | Coordinates: 00°15'N 36°05'E | Designation dates: 27-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Bogoria. 27/08/01; Rift Valley Province; 10,700 ha; 00°15'N 036°05'E. National Reserve. An alkaline soda lake hydrologically dominated by hot springs, located in Gregory Eastern Rift Valley, the site provides critical refuge for the lesser flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*), with a population of 1 to 1.5 million, and has high biodiversity values for more than 300 waterbird species. The shoreline fringe and associated acacia woodland provide critical habitat for the endangered Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) and other mammals. The lake's stable water level makes it doubly important during periods of drought which reduce levels in other East African lakes. Regional climate is arid to semi-arid with low rainfall reliability. Tugen and Jemps pastoralists live in the area, and livestock grazing is the main land use in the site, but tourism, attracted to the wildlife, hot springs, spectacular cliffs and escarpments, and the rich indigenous culture, brings 200,000 visitors annually; in addition, the geysers are thought by some to have medicinal value. Incidents of flamingo mortality, perhaps attributable to algal toxins or heavy metal concentrations, are puzzling and a cause of concern. A new management plan is in preparation and a visitors' centre is in place. Ramsar site no. 1097. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Lake Bolon and the mouths of the Selgon and Simmi Rivers

Site number: 686 | Country: **Russian Federation** | Administrative region: **Amur Oblast**  
Area: 53 800 ha | Coordinates: 49°35'N 136°05'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wildlife Refuge, Strict Nature Reserve. A large complex consisting of a floodplain lake, small lakes, oxbows and bays in the lower reaches of the Selgon and Simmi rivers. The wetland plays an important role in the natural functioning of the lower Amur River. Habitats include sedge and reedbeds, meadows, and peatmoss bog forests with birch. Fifteen species of algae occur in the lake. The area is important for migrating, breeding and molting populations of waterbirds and regularly supports at least 20,000 waterbirds, among them various rare species. The lake has an important indigenous fish population. Human activities include commercial fishing, agriculture, and research.

## Lake Buir and its surrounding wetlands

Site number: 1 377 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Dornod Province  
Area: 104 000 ha | Coordinates: 47°48'N 117°40'E | Designation dates: 22-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Buir and its surrounding wetlands. 22/03/04; Dornod Province; 104,000 ha; 47°48'N 117°40'E. The largest freshwater lake in eastern Mongolia, part of the basin of the large Amur river, together with many associated small lakes - northeastern parts of the system outside the Ramsar Site boundary lie across the border with China. This transitional habitat between Daguur and Stipa steppes features flora and fauna characteristic of arid steppe; it regulates the Khalk gol River and the Buir lake's water regime and protects the origins of many small rivers, lakes, streams, and springs. The site is a main grazing land for the Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*), a stop-over and permanent ground for more than 236 bird species. Many fauna and flora species listed by IUCN, CITES, and CMS are present, making it very important for biogeographical biodiversity. No human settlements are found within the wetland apart from a small fishing village on the eastern coast to support the long established fishing industry on the lake. Extensive grazing has resulted in land degradation, but there is no other agricultural activity. Global warming has affected the water level, with consequent fish stock depletion. Ramsar site no. 1377. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Lake Burdur

Site number: 658 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Burdur and Isparta  
Area: 24 800 ha | Coordinates: 37°45'N 30°12'E | Designation dates: 13-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Burdur (Burdur Gölü). 13/07/94; Burdur; 24,800 ha; 37°44'N 030°11'E. Wild Life Protection Area. The site includes a coastal plain delta and salt marshes. Numerous species of waterbirds stage, winter or breed in the area. 70% of the world population of the threatened species *Oxyura leucocephala* winter at the lake. A rich reptile community, various amphibians, and several species of mammals are supported. Human activities consist of birdwatching. An archaeological important area with finds dating from Antiquity. Ramsar site no. 658. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Burullus

Site number: 408 | Country: Egypt | Administrative region: Kafer El Sheikh  
Area: 46 200 ha | Coordinates: 31°30'N 30°50'E | Designation dates: 09-09-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Burullus. 09/09/88; Kafr El Sheikh; 46,200 ha; 31°30'N 030°50'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. A shallow, saline lagoon containing numerous islands and islets connected with the sea by a narrow channel. The area provides important wintering, staging and breeding habitat for birds. The site is subject to a strong salinity gradient and suffers from the inflow of large amounts of water contaminated with fertilizers and pesticides causing nutrient-enrichment. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1991. Ramsar site no. 408. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Lake Calarasi

Site number: 2 064 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Calarasi County  
Area: 5 001 ha | Coordinates: 44°11'N 27°16'E | Designation dates: 13-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Calarasi (Iezerul Calarasi). 13/06/12; Calarasi County; 5,001 ha; 44°11'24"N 027°16'28"E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA). Originally covered entirely by Ezer Lake, the site now contains only a small part of the former lake which has been preserved following the Danube's embankment. The remainder of the site was transformed into agricultural land and fish ponds now forming a mosaic of natural and human-made ecosystems. The site is of special importance to 271 species of sedentary and migratory waterbirds as well as for several species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, including species threatened on national, European and global level. During winter large concentrations of White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* roost on the lake and Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* rests and feeds in the site. Human uses include fishing, aquaculture and agriculture and the site is important for flood control and groundwater recharge. Potential threats include uncontrolled tourism and over-fishing. Several conservation measures are foreseen, including the prevention of reed burnings, the reduction of agriculturally used chemicals, and the possible development of eco-tourism. An information centre offering educational programs exists. Ramsar Site number: 2064. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lake Chad Wetlands in Nigeria

Site number: 1 749 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Borno State  
Area: 607 353,7 ha | Coordinates: 13°05'N 13°48'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Chad Wetlands in Nigeria. 30/04/08; Borno; 607,354 ha; 13°04'N 013°48'E. In northeast Nigeria, bordered by Niger to the north, Chad to the northeast, and Cameroon to the south. The site comprises a disjointed complex of permanent freshwater marshes (formerly inundated as part of Lake Chad), some rivers and their deltas, and the remaining part of Lake Chad. The main feature, Lake Chad, is an historically large, shallow lake whose size has varied greatly over the centuries. The major vegetation types include grasses, sedges, floating macrophytes, and shrubs, which form important habitats for a great variety of Palearctic migrating waterbirds, including the vulnerable Marbled Teal. The lake supports some indigenous fish species and is economically important, providing water, fish and other resources to the surrounding populations. Agriculture is also greatly practiced around the wetlands. Threats to the site include recession of lake waters due to climatic influence and upstream dam construction, and the consequent continuing desiccation of the wetlands. The only element of management in the area is provided by the Kanuri traditional rulers, who see to the sale of fishing rights in ponds and stretches of water as well as farming rights on the receding lakebed. Ramsar site no. 1749. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Lake Chilwa

Site number: 869 | Country: Malawi | Administrative region: Zomba District  
Area: 224 800 ha | Coordinates: 15°15'S 35°45'E | Designation dates: 14-11-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Chilwa. 14/11/96; Southern Malawi; 224,800 ha; 15°15'S 035°45'E. A shallow, saline lake subject to seasonal variations in water level. Surrounded by dense swamps, neutral to acid marshes, and seasonally inundated grassland floodplains. The lake consists of numerous islands, two of which are permanently inhabited. The lake supports internationally important numbers of 153 species of resident and 30 species of palearctic (migratory) waterbirds. Apart from human settlements, activities include fishing, agriculture (rice and dimba cultivation), and livestock grazing. The fishery annually contributes 25-30% of the total fish production in Malawi. Lake Chilwa is shared with Mozambique. Ramsar site no. 869.

## Lake Chivero and Manyame

Site number: 2 105 | Country: Zimbabwe  
| Administrative region: Harare Metropolitan Province/Mashonaland West  
Area: 29 260 ha | Coordinates: 17°50'S 30°39'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Lake Chivero and Manyame Recreational Park is a typical “high vlei” environment, dominated by miombo woodlands which provide ideal habitat for several animal species including the white rhino *Ceratotherium simum*, the plains zebra *Equus quagga*, and the ground pangolin *Smutsia temminckii*. Serving as the main source of water for the city of Harare and its neighbouring towns, the wetland is of great hydrological importance to the country. It provides an ideal breeding and feeding environment for over 400 bird species including 20 species of migratory waterbirds. At the peak of the dry season, more than 20,000 waterbirds can congregate on the two lakes. The Site is an Important Bird Area and is known to host one of the highest densities of African fish eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* in Africa. Human activities in the Site include water sports, game viewing, bird watching, fishing and subsistence farming. The biggest threats includes water hyacinth invasion, pollution and siltation caused by the growth of human settlements in the catchment area.

## Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley

Site number: 2 257 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Gandaki Zone  
Area: 26 106 ha | Coordinates: 28°12'N 83°59'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley comprises nine lakes of noted beauty along the Pokhara Valley in the mid-hill region of Nepal. Each lake supports significant biodiversity, provides important ecosystem services and sustains local livelihoods. The Site hosts a wide variety of globally threatened migratory birds such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*), and mammals such as the vulnerable clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) and the endangered Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*). Pokhara is among the areas with the highest rainfall in Nepal, and the Valley and the lakes play an important role in the hydrological cycle of the region by recharging groundwater, controlling floods and trapping sediment. Thousands of people depend on the lakes for income from tourism, fishing, irrigation, electricity generation and water supply: an economic valuation has shown that Phewa Lake provides goods and services worth more than USD 279,000 per year; and the Rupa Lake Restoration and Fishery Cooperative, organized by over 600 households, earns more than USD 56,000 per year from fishing. Meanwhile, religious temples in Pokhara Valley are important to local communities and are commonly visited during festivals.

## Lake Dengizkul

Site number: 1 108 | Country: Uzbekistan | Administrative region: Bukhara Region  
Area: 31 300 ha | Coordinates: 39°07'N 64°10'E | Designation dates: 08-10-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Dengizkul. 08/10/01; Bukhara; 31,300ha; 39°07'N 64°10'E. The largest saline wastewater closed water body in the SW part of the Kysylkum desert, with typical ecological conditions of natural lakes situated in the deserts of Central Asia. The lake, dried up by the mid-1950s because of overuse for irrigation, has been refilled since 1966 and is very important for maintaining a biodiversity of wetland-dependent species in a largely arid region. It is of crucial importance for migrating and wintering waterfowl, as it is situated on the route of bird migrations from Western Siberia and Kazakhstan to Indo-Pakistani wintering grounds. Lake Dengizkul is also the habitat of many vulnerable and endangered species, especially as it supports more than 1% population of the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala* Scop.). Commercial mining of gas in the vicinity of and on Lake Dengizkul is the main human activity, and this enabled the provision of the population with fuel and thus preserved trees and shrubs, which are important components of the desert ecosystem. However, excessive inflow of drainage water significantly influenced the water level in the lake and the floods have destroyed some habitats recently. Ramsar Site No. 1108. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Lake Dziani Boundouni

Site number: 717 | Country: Comoros | Administrative region: Djando  
Area: 30 ha | Coordinates: 12°21'S 43°45'E | Designation dates: 09-02-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Dziani Boudouni. 09/02/95; 30 ha; 12°21'S 043°45'E. A crater lake and one of the few freshwater lakes in the Comoros. Limnological characteristics of the site and upwellings suggest subterranean volcanic phenomena. The ancient lake may have some connection with the ocean. No large animal species are found, but a diverse bird population is supported. Ramsar site no. 717.

## Lake Elmenteita

Site number: 1 498 | Country: Kenya | Administrative region: Nakuru District  
Area: 10 880 ha | Coordinates: 00°46'N 36°23'E | Designation dates: 05-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Elmenteita. 05/09/05; Rift Valley Province; 10,880 ha; 00°46'S 036°23'E. A shallow saline, alkaline lake which provides a favorable environment for diatoms and the blue-green alga *Spirulina platensis*, which lie at the basis of the food chain of several bird species. An average of over 610,000 birds of more than 450 species (of which 80 are waterfowl) have been counted in the area, and the lake hosts an average of 28.5% of the world population of Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*). During the dry season, black lava islands provide the only suitable nesting and breeding grounds for Great White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) in the Rift Valley region. Local inhabitants depend on the hot springs around Chamka for domestic freshwater supply, subsistence irrigation, and water for livestock, and the nomadic Maasai use the area as a grazing and salt-licking site for their livestock. Salt, sand and diatomite are mined from the site, but most of the land around the site is reserved for biodiversity conservation. Tourism and recreational facilities are an important foreign exchange earner and employer, and the local community has formed various conservation committees. Ramsar site no. 1498. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Engure

Site number: 738 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Talsi, Tukums  
Area: 19 700 ha | Coordinates: 57°16'N 23°09'E | Designation dates: 25-07-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Engure. 25/07/95; Talsi, Tukums; 19,700 ha; 57°17'N 023°07'E. Nature Park. The site is a permanent shallow coastal freshwater lake with fens, pines and mixed forests (often wet) and brackish marshes. The site has some threatened bird species present, such as the eagle and corncrake; it is also a nesting site for several bird species and has well over 800 vascular plant species. This area is used for commercial fishing, angling and hunting, though limited harvesting of reeds takes place during winter. Recreation and tourism are present to a limited extent. 2007 reports show progress in restoration of the coastal meadows. Ramsar site no. 738. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Lake Fehér at Kardoskút

Site number: 184 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Békés County  
Area: 492 ha | Coordinates: 46°28'N 20°37'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an alkaline steppe lake in south-east Hungary, and a former branch of the River Maros. The lake dries out completely during the summer and a gradual salt accumulation has resulted in fauna and flora associations typical of the Pannonian steppe, including grasslands and reedbeds. The wetland is one of the most fragile and valuable nature reserves in Hungary, and also hosts several archaeological sites. Lake Fehér is of international importance for thousands of migratory birds in eastern Hungary, and supports several endemic plants important for maintaining the biological diversity in the Pannonic biogeographic region. The wetland area is important for groundwater recharge. Human activities include reed harvesting. The draining of the former extensive wetland system has had a negative impact on the Site, but restoration measures have been implemented. An ornithological field station, a museum and birdwatching towers can be found at the Site.

### Lake Fertő

Site number: 420 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Győr-Moson-Sopron county  
Area: 8 432 ha | Coordinates: 47°41'N 16°44'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises a portion of the Lake Fertő alkaline steppe and the Herlakni and Oberlakni lake areas. Both sectors support extensive reedbeds, saline grassland, marshland and open waters. The area is important for the breeding, wintering and staging of several species of internationally endangered waterbirds such as lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) and red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*). The Site also supports endemic plant and invertebrate species which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Pannonic biogeographic region. The lake plays an important role in sediment trapping and climate modification but is in a state of advanced eutrophication. Human activities include traditional fishing, reed harvesting and recreation. There are two visitor centers, nature trails and bird watching towers. In the surrounding area outstanding castles and classical Roman era sites such as a temple to Mithras give a particular cultural value to the Site.

### Lake Ganga and its surrounding wetlands

Site number: 1 378 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Sukhbaatar Province  
Area: 3 280 ha | Coordinates: 45°15'N 114°00'E | Designation dates: 22-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Ganga and its surrounding wetlands. 22/03/04; Sukhbaatar Province; 3,280 ha; 45°15'N 114°00'E. Natural Monument Area. A small brackish lake (220ha) and associated lakes in eastern Mongolia within a unique landscape combining wetlands, steppe and sand dunes, located in the strip between the south steppe and Gobi zones. This lake district is based in the wind-scoured lowlands of extinct volcanoes and known as Dariganga. It is of great importance for breeding and stop-over waterbirds, e.g., White-naped Crane (*Grus vipio*), Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), and Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), all vulnerable or endangered in the IUCN Red Book. Local people involved in nomadic and animal husbandry. A management plan for the Ganga Lake Monument Area is being elaborated with the objective of developing ecotourism in view of the great cultural (stone monuments) and natural ('swan assembly' in autumn) potential of the area. Ramsar site no. 1378. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Lake George

Site number: 394 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Kasese District  
Area: 15 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°07'N 30°02'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake George. 04/03/88; Bushenyi, Kasese, Kamwenge; 15,000 ha; 00°07'N 030°02'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Biosphere Reserve; National Park. A complex of river systems emanating from the Rwenzori Mountains supplying a system of permanent swamps located on Lake George, in the Rift Valley. Vegetation consists of grassland, woodland, and three major swamp types. The site supports large mammals, including elephants, hippopotamus, and antelope, and is important for numerous species of wintering Palearctic waterbirds and various notable resident birds. Mine water seepage, agricultural runoff, and effluent inputs are impacting the site. A research station is located on the site. Chemical seepage from Kilembe mines and inflow of agricultural chemicals into the wetland resulting from the Mubuku Irrigation Scheme have led to listing on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 394.

### Lake Gore

Site number: 1 049 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 4 017 ha | Coordinates: 33°47'S 121°29'E | Designation dates: 05-01-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Gore. 05/01/01; Western Australia; 4,017 ha; 33°47'S 121°29'E. Nature Reserves. A near-permanent saline lake and part of a downstream system of inter-connected lakes and swamps of various sizes which are intermittently inundated. Lake Gore itself supports the largest known populations of Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* (up to one third of the global population) is important for moulting by thousands of Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* and for drought refuge by thousands of ducks and shorebirds, and it supports thousands of Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* (up to 10% of the global population). Uses consist of nature conservation and low-level recreational pursuits. Salinity and water quality are monitored regularly by high school students from Esperance as part of the "Ribbons of Blue" programme. Ramsar site no. 1049. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

### Lake Gori

Site number: 48 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: East Azarbaijan  
Area: 120 ha | Coordinates: 37°55'N 46°42'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Gori. 23/06/75; Azarbaijan-e Sharqi; 120 ha; 37°55'N 046°42'E. A freshwater lake fringed by extensive reedbeds of various species, and lying in a closed, high altitude basin. The lake is fed by rainfall, runoff, springs and small streams, with inflow from spring snow-melt being the greatest contributor. The surrounding area is semi-arid steppe and includes a small settlement and associated cultivation. Breeding waterbirds include Black-necked Grebe, White-headed Duck and other Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). Ramsar site no. 48. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Lake Kanieris

Site number: 739 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Tukums  
Area: 1 995 ha | Coordinates: 57°00'N 23°27'E | Designation dates: 25-07-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kanieris. 25/07/95; Tukums; 1,995 ha; 57°00'N 023°26'E. National Park. Following a boundary extension in 2006, the site covers not only the shallow lagoon, but also the unique Slocene River delta swamps with several islands, large reed beds and surrounding floodplain forests at the adjacent areas to the west of the lake. Besides the floating vegetation of the lake, there is a broad mosaic of large reed beds of *Phragmitetum*, *Typhetum angustifoliae* and *Claditum marisci* as well as different habitats at the surrounding meadows, fens and floodplain forests. The site supports several rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plants, such as the orchid *Liparis loeselii*, and belongs to one of the richest bird sites in Latvia. The site is used for recreational and commercial fishing, while the surrounding area is mainly used for forestry and extensive agriculture. Small-scale recreational and tourist activities include primarily fishing, but also boat tours and birdwatching. Potential threats include phosphorus pollution and increasing eutrophication, overgrowing of the island, the disturbance of privacy by fisherman and other boats after the breeding season as well as through hunting, but also the spreading presence of the American Mink. Ramsar site no. 739. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lake Khanka

Site number: 112 | Country: Russian Federation  
| Administrative region: Primorski Krai (Khankaisky, Khorolsky, Chernigovsky, Spassky and Kirovsky regions)  
Area: 310 000 ha | Coordinates: 44°53'N 132°30'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nature Reserve, Buffer Zone. The Russian portion of an extensive coastline, a transborder freshwater lake (with China), and adjacent floodplains, subject to periodic fluctuations. A diverse aquatic and marsh vegetation is supported, as are several relict plant species surviving since the Tertiary era. An important area for breeding, feeding and staging birds, including globally threatened and endemic species. Large numbers of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) occur during migration periods. Rice is the principal crop in the surrounding area. Human activities include hay production, livestock grazing, and hunting of birds and fur-bearing mammals.

## Lake Kirkkojärvi and Lupinlahti Bay

Site number: 1 513 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 649 ha | Coordinates: 60°33'N 27°14'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kirkkojärvi and Lupinlahti Bay. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 649 ha; 60°33'N 027°13'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Kirkkojärvi is composed of several overgrown gloe lakes, and open-water areas cover only 20 percent of the wetland. Gloe lakes are a special type of freshwater lake which have become naturally separated from the sea in recent times; another type, before the separation when it still has some contact to sea, is called flad. These two forms are typical for Finnish coasts because of land upheaval but uncommon elsewhere. Lupinlahti is a long and narrow sea bay with several islands, connected to the sea through four narrow sounds. The site forms a valuable breeding and staging area for a wide variety of wetland birds during migration periods. The main threats are vegetation overgrowing, building pressure on the shores, and plans for constructing a new motorway on the northern side of the bay. The existing causeway with electric lines causes risk especially for large birds; boating activities have increased and cause disturbance to the breeding and migrating birds. Recreational importance of the site is notable in terms of birdwatching and educational activities. Ramsar site no. 1513. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Kirkkojärvi Area

Site number: 1 514 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 305 ha | Coordinates: 61°27'N 24°04'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kirkkojärvi Area. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 305 ha; 61°27'N 024°03'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. Five separate lakes in the Kirkkojärvi area, connected to one another by small brooks in a close group. With its diverse aquatic and extensive vegetation zones, it forms the most valuable wetland complex in the Pirkanmaa region, especially for migrating and molting waterfowl. Common reed and bulrushes are abundant and the lakes are for the most part bordered by deciduous shore forests further surrounded by agricultural land. The discharge of wastewater into the lake and downstream waters until the 1980s, as well as the dissolving of nutrients from nearby fields, led to a strong eutrophication in the past. Lowering of the water level of the Taivallampi lake and the dredging of the outlet of Kirkkojärvi have had negative impacts. Presently, negative effects are mainly caused by off-site pressure such as increased building and noise emission of the motorway around the area. In 1991 a management and land use plan was established, and present management includes a range of educational offers as well as birdwatching facilities. Ramsar site no. 1514. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Kobi

Site number: 43 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: East Azarbaijan  
Area: 1 200 ha | Coordinates: 36°57'N 45°30'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kobi. 23/06/75; Azarbaijan-e Gharbi; 1,200 ha; 36°57'N 045°30'E. A freshwater lake with associated areas of seasonally flooded marshland, lying in a closed, high altitude basin and fed by rainfall and runoff. Supports abundant aquatic vegetation, including reedbeds and grassland. The lake is important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds; and supports several nesting species. The wetland is surrounded by rolling steppe hills, with scattered human settlements and cultivation. Ramsar site no. 43. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Lake Kolon at Izsák

Site number: 902 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Bács-Kiskun county  
Area: 3 059 ha | Coordinates: 46°45'N 19°21'E | Designation dates: 30-04-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an artificially regulated lake supporting an extensive area of freshwater fen and marsh characterized by reedbeds, wet meadows, patches of willow, and small open water bodies in a former river branch of the Danube floodplain. It hosts a regionally large population of a vulnerable indigenous fish species, the European mudminnow (*Umbra krameri*). Moreover, it is an important wintering and breeding ground for large numbers of herons and waterfowl such as the ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and moustached warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*). The Site plays an important role in water retention, groundwater recharge and discharge, and climate modification at local level. Human activities include reed harvesting, mowing, forestry and agriculture. A habitat restoration project implemented from 2010 to 2013 excavated a section in the middle of the lake to create a new 48 ha open water body for birds and fish. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are overfishing, vegetation succession and overgrowth caused by drainage, decrease of groundwater level, expansion of exotic species and eutrophication.

## Lake Kus

Site number: 660 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Balikesir  
Area: 20 400 ha | Coordinates: 40°12'N 27°58'E | Designation dates: 13-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kus (Manyas), 13/07/94; Bahkesir; 20,400 ha; 40°10'N 028°00'E. Cultural and Natural Asset; National Park, Permanent Wildlife Reserve. A turbid nutrient-rich lake fed by streams and groundwater, subject to seasonal fluctuations in level. The site includes small deltas, extensive marshes supporting reeds and rushes, and tree-lined river banks. The lake, on a migratory waterbird route, supports a rich plant community and provides important feeding grounds for birds. The site holds significant breeding populations of various species of waterbirds, several of which are threatened, and is important for wintering, migrating, and roosting birds. The lake supports 23 fish species and various species of reptiles and amphibians. Human activities include an important commercial fishery and scientific and educational programmes. The lake is an important water source for agriculture and industry. Ramsar site no. 660. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Kutajärvi Area

Site number: 1 515 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 1 051 ha | Coordinates: 61°04'N 25°27'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kutajärvi Area. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 1,051 ha; 61°03'N 025°27'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Nationally Important Landscape Area. Comprising six separate areas including some bays of Vesijärvi Lake and the Lake of Kutajärvi, the complex presents a total of 980 ha of water with valuable aquatic vegetation in the form of helophytes, submerged vegetation as well as sedge meadows and bush zones. The site is an important area for breeding for about 1000 pairs of 16-18 species, and both lakes are notable as staging areas during migration and molting periods, with peak numbers including several thousand ducks. Threatened birds include for example Moorhen, Slavonian Grebe, Spotted Crake and Crane. Most of the area is surrounded by agricultural land. Water quality has improved after a sewage treatment plant began operation in 1976, but the waters still contain excessive nutrients. In some areas, disturbances are caused by increasing boating and fishing and hunting of waterfowl in autumn. Other adverse factors are overgrown meadows, increase of holiday cottage building, and unauthorized dredging. An ecological management programme concerning fish-management and nutrients of agriculture has been in operation at Vesijärvi since 1987. Ramsar site no. 1515. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Kutubu

Site number: 961 | Country: Papua New Guinea | Administrative region: Southern Highlands Province  
Area: 4 924 ha | Coordinates: 06°26'S 143°20'E | Designation dates: 25-09-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kutubu. 22/09/98; Southern Highlands; 4,924 ha; 06°25'S 143°20'E. Wildlife Management Area. The second largest lake in PNG. A freshwater lake in limestone karst country in PNG's remote and isolated Southern Highlands at 800m above sea level, the site includes approximately 1,000 hectares of swamp forest. The lake's extraordinary level of endemism (10 of the 14 fish species found there are endemic to the lake itself) exceeds that of any other lake in the entire New Guinea-Australian region. The development of oil and gas in the region has increased access with the development of road links and regular flights. The villages around the lake rely principally upon sago subsistence agriculture. Probably the first Ramsar site to be listed in the Wetland Type added to the Ramsar Classification System by Resolution VI.5 (1996) on subterranean karst wetlands. Ramsar site no. 961. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Lake Kuyucuk

Site number: 1 890 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Kars  
Area: 416 ha | Coordinates: 40°45'N 43°27'E | Designation dates: 28-08-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Kuyucuk (Kuyucuk Gölü). 28/08/09; Kars; 416 ha; 40°45'N 043°27'E. Wildlife Reserve. One of the most important wetlands of Kars province in northeastern Turkey, the freshwater stream- and spring-fed lake is surrounded by treeless steppe and sparse Phragmites reed patches. This area may be typical of what much of the Anatolian Steppe grassland-wetland community used to consist of before widespread degradation of its water bodies over the past several hundred years. Located along the African-Eurasian migration flyways, the lake is a crucial stop-over and breeding site for many bird species, including nine globally threatened. Every fall the site hosts up to 30,000 Ruddy Shelducks. The lake is currently the only source of water for the three surrounding villages. Human activities around the lake include cereal production and livestock grazing. The area is attractive for birdwatching and nature tourism; in 2009 it received the European Destination of Excellence award. Threats are seen from over-grazing (especially in reed beds that provide important habitats for birds), disturbance for birds caused by cattle, and pollution from surrounding villages and livestock farming. Ramsar site no. 1890. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Lake Lanoto'o

Site number: 1 412 | Country: Samoa | Administrative region: Apia  
Area: 470 ha | Coordinates: 13°54'S 171°50'W | Designation dates: 10-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Lanoto'o. 07/10/04; Tuamasaga; 470 ha; 13°54'18 S, 171°50'02 W. National Park. The Ramsar Site lies in the central highlands of the main island of Upolu and consists of three small crater lakes, Lake Lanotoo, Lanoataata and Lanoanea. The Lakes are among the few remaining near-pristine crater lakes in the Samoas biogeographic region. The Site is part of the larger catchment above the capital city, Apia, and covers an area of 8,500 hectares which includes its two sub-catchments, Vaisigano and Fuluasou. Lake Lanotoo feeds the headwaters of the Fuluasou river system which is a very important source of water for Apia. The Lake also supplies water for the south-west side of Upolu. The Site supports endemic bird species such as the endangered Tooth-billed Pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*), and the endangered Mao (*Gymnomyza samoensis*), as well as the Samoan Starling (*Aplonis atrifusca*), Samoan Whistler (*Pachycephala flavifrons*), Samoan Broadbill (*Myiagra Albiventris*) and Samoan Triller (*Lalage Sharpei*). The endangered Samoan Bush Palm (*Clinostigma samoense*) is also found at the Site. Land uses in the surrounding areas consist of cattle farms and small-scale plantations. Ramsar site no. 1412. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lake Lämpträsket

Site number: 1 516 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 199 ha | Coordinates: 60°03'N 23°40'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Lämpträsket. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 199 ha; 60°02'N 023°39'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Nationally Important Landscape Area. A natural eutrophic lake with valuable flora and both breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna. More than 122 vascular plant species occur in the wetland area. Submerged vegetation is exceptionally rich with about 20 vascular plant species, including several species characteristic of brackish water. The lake is the westernmost known site in the world where the endangered naiad species *Najas tenuissima* exists. The site is an important staging area for waterfowl during migration periods; in autumn, the highest daily counts reach more than 200 Smews, representing the peak numbers in Finland. Negative effects on the ecological character of the site were caused by the lowering of the water level in the 1930s and the discharge of wastewater from Karjaa city until the 1970s, as well as from eutrophication by nutrients dissolving from clayfields. Despite disturbances from recreation fishing to the breeding of some waterfowl species, Lämpträsket is a popular birdwatching site provided with two observation towers and a nature trail. Ramsar site no. 1516. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Manych-Gudilo

Site number: 673 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Republic of Kalmykia  
Area: 112 600 ha | Coordinates: 44°36'N 42°50'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Manych-Gudilo. 13/09/94; Kalmykia-Khalmg Tangch Republic & Rostov Oblast; 112,600 ha; 44°36'N 042°50'E. Nature Reserve, Federal Nature Reserve, State Nature Reserve. A chain of saline lakes with numerous islands located in a deep depression. Vegetation consists of grass and herb associations, extensive beds of submerged vegetation, reedbeds, semi-desert and steppe communities. The site is an important staging area for migrating populations of waterbirds, in particular geese (*Anser albifrons*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Anser erythropus*, and *Anser anser*). It is also an important breeding area for various colonial shore birds. The wetland supports populations of rare and threatened species of flora and fauna. Approximately 1.5 million ducks and 400,000 geese, including 8,000 *B. ruficollis*, pass through the area in spring, and approximately three million ducks and 500,000 geese, including 8,000-20,000 *B. ruficollis*, pass through in autumn. Presently, almost the entire world population of *Branta ruficollis* and a substantial proportion of *Oxyura leucocephala* migrate through the valley. Human activities include agriculture, livestock grazing, and small-scale fisheries. Ramsar site no. 673. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Lake Mburo-Nakivali Wetland System

Site number: 1 634 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Mbarara district  
Area: 26 834 ha | Coordinates: 00°40'N 30°57'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Mburo-Nakivali Wetland System. 15/09/06; Mbarara; 26,834 ha; 00°40'S 030°57'E. National Park (partly). A system of open and wooded savanna, seasonal and permanent wetlands, and five lakes, of which Lake Mburo is by far the largest. The system is a unique habitat, lying at the convergence of two biological zones, giving it very high biodiversity. It supports globally threatened species of birds such as the Papyrus Yellow Warbler and Shoebill, and provides refuge to 22 species of Palaearctic and Afro-tropical migrant birds during adverse conditions. It supports two of the endangered cichlid fish species which have gone extinct in the main lakes, and it is the only area in Uganda in which the Impala is found. The site is also of immense socio-economic value as a source of water for domestic use, livestock and wildlife; pasture for the local herds during droughts; fish; and materials for crafts and thatching. The park is also used for tourism and scientific research. Hunting, habitat destruction and over-fishing are the main threats to the area. The Wetland Inspection Division in collaboration with Uganda Wildlife Authority is to develop a management plan for the site. Ramsar site no. 1634. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lake Mikri Prespa

Site number: 60 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Dytiki Makedonia  
Area: 5 078 ha | Coordinates: 40°46'N 21°05'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Mikri Prespa. 21/08/75; Florina; 5,078 ha; 40°46'N 021°05'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 18 May 1999. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park, Site of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Two freshwater lakes, shared by Greece, Albania and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, occupying an enclosed mountain basin fed by seasonal streams. Vegetation consists of a rich aquatic flora of extensive reedbeds and wet meadows. Numerous fish species are present, including endemic species. A particularly important area for breeding, staging and wintering birds. Nesting species include pelicans, *Pelecanus crispus* (200 pairs); *P. onocrotalus* (70 pairs); and *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (100 pairs), all globally threatened. Human activities include fishing, irrigation, tourism, livestock grazing, and conservation education. A field station and an information center are available. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 due to changes in ecological character caused by past drainage works, recent overgrazing, and loss of fish production. The Society for the Protection of Prespa was one of the winners of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award in 1999. Ramsar site no. 60. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Nabugabo wetland system

Site number: 1 373 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Masaka District  
Area: 22 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°24'N 31°54'E | Designation dates: 11-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Nabugabo wetland system. 11/02/04; Masaka; 22,000 ha; 00°24'S 031°54'E. A shallow freshwater lake 8.2km long by 5km wide, with three smaller lakes, separated from Lake Victoria by a sand bar ca.2km wide; there are no surface outflows from the lakes, only seepage through the sand bank. The lakes, separated from Victoria for the past 3,700 years, are very interesting for the fish and their evolutionary history: several endemic fish remain that have become depleted or extinct in Victoria by the introduction of Nile perch. The lakes are an important migratory stopover-destination for migratory bird species - at times during the year, the site (listed as an Important Bird Area) holds more than 15% of the world's population of the Blue Swallow and support five globally threatened and near-threatened birds: Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea*, Shoe Bill *Balaeniceps rex*, Great Snipe *Gallinago media*, Pallied Harrier *Circus macrourus*, and the Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbi*. The system supports a high diversity of plant species, including insectivores of the family Droseraceae. The lakes have long served local communities for subsistence and commercial fish, sources of water, and handicraft materials; under population pressures, crop cultivation and dairy farming are increasing. There are a number of holiday and conference centres, and boating and swimming are especially popular as the lake has a reputation for being free of schistosomiasis (bilharzia). Under the national constitution (1995), all wetlands are held in trust for the people, though some farms and resorts have long-term leases. Ramsar site no. 1373. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Lake Naivasha

Site number: 724 | Country: Kenya | Administrative region: Nakuru District  
Area: 30 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°46'N 36°22'E | Designation dates: 10-04-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Naivasha. 10/04/95; Rift Valley Province; 30,000 ha; 00°46'S 036°22'E. Located in a high altitude trough of the Rift Valley, one of the few freshwater lakes in eastern Africa. The site comprises a crater lake, river delta, and a separate lake dominated by blue-green algae and soda-tolerant plants. It supports a complex vegetation of terrestrial (Acacia xanthophloea), riparian and littoral plants such as papyrus and Potamogeton, providing foraging and breeding ground for many resident and migrant bird species, including more than 350 species of waterbirds, with 1% of the world population of Fulica cristata. Hundreds of hippopotamus and several species of large mammals including buffalo and waterbuck live in the riparian area. People depend on the lake for their water supply, and human activities include wildlife and livestock ranching, agriculture, tourism, pastoralism and fishing - the most significant activity, however, is intensive greenhouse floriculture and horticulture: Kenya is the leading exporter of cut flowers and Naivasha supplies about 75% of these. Although the sector employs thousands of Kenyans and significantly contributes to the GDP, it also poses a threat due to pesticide and fertilizer use, removal of fringing swamps, and over-abstraction of water. The Lake Naivasha Riparian Association (LNRA), one of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award winners in 1999, has been at the forefront in finding solutions to land use conflicts in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and other relevant government departments. Ramsar site no. 724. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Nakuru

Site number: 476 | Country: Kenya | Administrative region: Nakuru District  
Area: 18 800 ha | Coordinates: 00°24'N 36°05'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Nakuru. 05/06/90; Rift Valley Province; 18,800 ha; 00°24'S 036°05'E. National Park. A very shallow, strongly alkaline lake, with surrounding woodland and grassland, fed by four seasonal rivers and the permanent Ngosur River. A number of ecosystems including sedge marshes, seasonally flooded and dry grasslands, swampland riparian forests, and various types of scrubland support some globally endangered mammal species such as the black rhino and the hippo, as well as regionally endangered bird species like the African Darter (Anhinga rufa), Great Egret, the range-restricted Grey-crested Helmet-shrike, the Lesser kestrel and the Madagascar pond heron. Tourism is the only activity within the national park, with over 300,000 local and foreign holiday-makers annually. Archeological caves used by early man are found in the area. Small to large-scale agriculture is the largest land use activity nearby, mostly wheat, barley, maize, coffee and potato crops; beef and dairy farming is also practiced in the area, some of which is for commercial production. The main threats within the site include invasive plant species and fencing, which prevents animal migrations - within the catchment, however, threats include the expansion of Nakuru township, forestry, and agricultural activities which worsen water quality and increase erosion and sedimentation. Ramsar site no. 476. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Nakuwa Wetland System

Site number: 1 635 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Kamuli, Pallisa, Soroti districts  
Area: 91 150 ha | Coordinates: 01°15'N 33°31'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Nakuwa Wetland System. 15/09/06; Kamuli, Pallisa, Soroti; 91,150 ha; 01°15'N 033°31'E. Important Bird Area. A permanent wetland associated with a number of satellite lakes and a swamp system dominated by dense papyrus, broken in parts by pools of water-forming sudds (clumps of floating papyrus). In addition to supporting the Sitatunga and the Nile Crocodile, the system and its satellite lakes contain the most diverse cichlid species assemblage and are a haven for a number of non-cichlid species no longer found in the large lakes of Kyoga and Victoria. The system provides refuge to fish taxa that have been reported extinct in the main lakes, thanks to the protection accorded by the aquatic vegetation around the lakes, which prevented the Nile perch from spreading there. The wetland also plays an important role in flood prevention, water purification and groundwater recharge. It is probably one of the remaining pristine wetland areas in Uganda due to its remoteness and sparse population in the immediate catchment, and it offers employment to a number of fishermen. The papyrus is used for making mats, thatching, and crafts. The potential threats to fish species diversity include human exploitation, collection of ornamental fish for export, degradation of the fish habitat, spread of the Nile Perch, and water hyacinth. Papyrus over-harvesting and land reclamation for agriculture also constitute a threat. Ramsar site no. 1635. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lake Natron Basin

Site number: 1 080 | Country: United Republic of Tanzania | Administrative region: Arusha  
Area: 224 781 ha | Coordinates: 02°21'S 36°00'E | Designation dates: 04-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Natron basin is situated in Ngorongoro and Monduli districts within the Arusha region, in northern Tanzania contiguous with the Kenyan border.

## Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 232 | Country: Palau | Administrative region: Melekeok State  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 07°31'N 134°34'E | Designation dates: 18-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Ngardok. 18/10/02. Melekeok. 500 ha. 07°31'N 134°36'E. Nature Reserve. A small, natural, freshwater lake on Babeldaob island with some swamp vegetation and is the largest permanent freshwater body in Palau and the largest natural freshwater lake in the bioregional context. The site includes the entire protected Nature Reserve and catchment of the lake and thus also includes several streams and small areas of riverine marsh and freshwater swamp forest as well. It supports indigenous fishes representative of Palauan fish fauna and has a small breeding population of the CITES-Appendix I listed estuarine crocodile (Crocodylus porosus). The site includes bird species of conservation value such as the endemic Palau Fruit Dove (Ptilinopus pelewensis), Palau Fantail (Rhipidura lepida), Palau Flycatcher (Myiagra erythroptus), and Palau Ground Dove (Gallicolumba canifrons). The lake is particularly important to the small population of Melekeok State for control of floods and maintenance of water quality. It is the only important source of water supply for Melekeok State and the National Capitol of Palau. The site is strictly utilized for educational awareness and scientific research and there are no other forms of landuse in the surrounding areas, all being part of the Reserve. Ramsar site no. 1232. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lake Niassa and its Coastal Zone

Site number: 1 964 | Country: Mozambique | Administrative region: District of Lichinga and of Lago  
Area: 1 363 700 ha | Coordinates: 12°30'S 34°51'E | Designation dates: 26-04-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Niassa and its Coastal Zone (Lago Niassa e Zona Costeira). 26/04/11; Niassa Province; 1,363,700 ha; 12°30'S 034°51'E. Mozambique's Lake Niassa is an important resource, part of Africa's third largest lake - the other two parts being in Malawi (where the lake is referred to as Lake Malawi) and in Tanzania (where it is known as Lake Nyasa). As one of the African Rift Valley great lakes, it is also part of the Miombo Woodlands ecoregion. This site has numerous unique features, from its boundaries that range from extensive plains in the South and steep sided mountains in the North, to the high levels of fish species that are endemic to the lake (90%) with more species continually being discovered. This site is also recognised for its support of threatened populations of leopard, sable antelope, and elephants amongst others. The Lake also lies within flyways of migratory birds that use the lake margins as staging areas between Africa and Europe. While the site is facing severe threats due to the overexploitation of the lake's resources, it is important in the sustenance of the surrounding populations' livelihoods through activities such as fishing, agriculture, animal rearing, hunting, trade and handicrafts. Lake Niassa has been officially declared a reserve by the Government of Mozambique, protecting the species and natural habitats of one of the largest and most bio-diverse, freshwater ecosystems in the world. This designation has been supported by WWF International Freshwater Programme, the Swiss Grant for Africa, and WWF-Mozambique. Ramsar Site no. 1964. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Lake of Seven Islands Nature Reserve

Site number: 285 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship  
Area: 1 618 ha | Coordinates: 54°18'N 21°35'E | Designation dates: 03-01-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake of Seven Islands Nature Reserve (Rezerwat przyrody "Jezioro Siedmiu Wysp"). 03/01/84; Warmińsko-Mazurskie; 1,618 ha; 54°18'N 021°35'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000, BirdLife IBA. The site, located on the border with the Kaliningrad region of Russia, includes a freshwater lake colonized by submerged vegetation and overgrown by reedbeds, associated marshland, meadows, woodland and moraine islands. An important inland staging site for migratory waterbirds, including geese and ducks, the site supports several species of breeding birds and rare mammals. Two northern tree species reach the southern limit of their distribution here. Human activities include forestry, as well as intensive agriculture in the surrounding areas. Threats to the site include urban and domestic effluent, nutrient-rich agricultural inflow, and vegetation encroachment into the marsh. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1989. Significantly extended in 2007. Removed from Montreux Record, 5 November 2007. Ramsar site no. 285. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lake Opeta Wetland System

Site number: 1 636 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Nakapiripirit, Sironko, Katakwi, Kumi districts  
Area: 68 912 ha | Coordinates: 01°42'N 34°14'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Opeta Wetland System. 15/09/06; Nakapiripirit, Sironko, Katakwi, Kumi; 68,912 ha; 01°42'N 034°14'E. Important Bird Area. One of the remaining intact and probably most important wetland marshes in Uganda. It is predominantly an extensive swamp of *Vossia cuspidata* to the east and south graduating into dry *Hyparrhenia* grassland savannas. The wetland is of great importance for the conservation of birds, and Fox's weaver, Uganda's only endemic bird, has been recorded in the swamp breeding. The site is also important as a refuge for fish species that have gone extinct in the main lakes, including Lakes Victoria and Kyoga. During the dry season the site provides the only refuge for animals from the Pian-Upe wildlife reserve. The area is mainly used by the Karimojong and the Pokot people for grazing their animals in the dry season. It serves as a source of fish protein at both subsistence and commercial level, and cultivation (maize, millet and plantain) is carried out in the catchment. Pian-Upe Wildlife Reserve has potential for big game viewing and birdwatching, but because of the insecurity, tourism development has been minimal and the reserve does not generate any revenue. A community-based wetland management plan will be ready by January 2007. Ramsar site no. 1636. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lake Parishan and Dasht-e-Arjan

Site number: 37 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Fars  
Area: 6 200 ha | Coordinates: 29°30'N 52°00'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Parishan & Dasht-e-Arjan. 23/06/75; Fars; 6,200 ha; 29°30'N 052°00'E. Biosphere Reserve; Protected Area. Two widely separated wetlands located at high altitude in a closed drainage basin. Both are permanent freshwater lakes subject to seasonal fluctuations in level, fed by springs and seasonal streams. Parishan is subject to fluctuating salinity depending on precipitation. Both lakes are fringed by marshes dominated by reeds, and are important staging and wintering areas for numerous species of migratory waterbirds. The area also supports a variety of nesting waterbirds including pelicans, Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.), and ibises. Ramsar site no. 37. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Lake Pinaroo

Site number: 799 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 719 ha | Coordinates: 29°06'S 141°13'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A large terminal basin consisting of an open lake with muddy margins, when full, and very little associated vegetation. It is an episodic lake which is dry most of the time with rare and irregular wet phases, but its large size and its capacity to retain water for extended periods when filled provides valuable habitat in the region, particularly for endangered bird species, and it supports a substantial number of waterbirds when full. Numerous species of small mammals and reptiles also occur. Human activities include tourism and nature conservation. There is an exceptionally high density and variety of aboriginal sites including hearths, middens, ceremonial sites, quarries and abundant stone artifacts, suggesting that a large aboriginal population once occupied the area. Potentially reduced rainfall and higher temperatures associated with climate change are feared as general threats in future but not yet well understood for local conditions.

## Lake Piso

Site number: 1 306 | Country: Liberia | Administrative region: Gawulu-Tombe district  
Area: 76 091 ha | Coordinates: 06°45'N 11°13'W | Designation dates: 02-07-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Piso. 02/07/03; Singe, Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount; 76,091 ha; 06°45'N 011°13'W. Nature Conservation Unit. An open coastal lagoon near Robertsport to the west of Monrovia, the largest such inlet on the Liberian coast, surrounded by forested hillsides (including one of the rarest tropical rainforests in the region) and fed by a number of creeks and rivers; these latter drain a series of swamps above the lagoon, the lower ones of which are tidal and support mangroves. Other mangrove swamps occur behind the dune ridge on the west side of the lake mouth and at other creek mouths. A series of small lakes with swampy margins occurs on the sandy forested spit that separates the lake from the sea. Some 38 communities, totaling about 7000 people, depend upon Piso for transportation, commercial and non-commercial fishing, and sand for construction, and farm-to-market infrastructure was well-developed prior to the civil crisis of the past decade. The site is important both as a nursery and spawning ground for fish and sea turtles and as feeding and roosting places for large numbers of shore and sea birds. Mammals such as antelopes, duikers, monkeys, bushbucks, and a few crocodiles are also found in the area. Ramsar site no. 1306. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lake Prespa

Site number: 726 | Country: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Administrative region: Resen  
Area: 18 920 ha | Coordinates: 40°56'N 21°01'E | Designation dates: 04-04-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Prespa. 03/05/95; 18,920 ha; 40°56'N 021°01'E. Strictly Protected Nature Reserve; Ornithological Reserve. A Pliocene Lake (2-3 million years old), providing important feeding areas for large numbers of the Pelicans that breed nearby in Greece. The site includes cultivated land, meadows, pastures, reedbeds, and forests. Commercial and recreational fishing and conservation education are the only human activities. There is a visitors' center at the site. Ramsar site no. 726. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Qarun Protected Area

Site number: 2 040 | Country: Egypt | Administrative region: Fayoum  
Area: 134 042 ha | Coordinates: 29°34'N 30°36'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Qarun Protected Area. 04/06/12; Fayoum; 134,042 ha; 29°34'22"N 030°35'23"E. Protected Area, Nature Reserve. A permanent saline inland lake (one of the oldest lakes in Egypt, with Neolithic settlements along the ancient shoreline) with a small island, considered to be one of the most attractive sites for nesting birds in Egypt, and surrounding arid land. About 88 species of birds have been spotted there (in 2010, the waterbird population was estimated to be over 26,000 individuals), as well as more than 12 species of fish. The site supports threatened species like the endangered slender horned gazelle *Gazella leptoceros* and vulnerable *Gazella dorcas* and offers shelter to mammals like the Egyptian hyena, red fox, beaver, kudu and gnu as well as several species of reptiles. The southern shore of the lake is heavily used for traditional agriculture and more recently for fish farms, and fishermen are active using rowing boats and nets. A commercial plant for extracting lake salts has the added benefit of helping to reduce the lake's salinity. Ecotourism activities include desert safaris, boat trips, bicycling and walking through the countryside, horse and donkey rides, guided tours to the famous fossil areas and antiquities, camping in the desert, and working with local craftsmen. The site is threatened by water pollution from domestic and industrial waste disposal practices, in addition to agrochemical contamination and lack of sustainable wastewater management. Ramsar Site no. 2040. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Lakes Aittojärvi and Kongasjärvi

Site number: 1 518 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 703 ha | Coordinates: 65°17'N 26°54'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Aittojärvi and Kongasjärvi. 02/02/04; Oulu, 703 ha; 65°16'N 026°54'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. Very shallow lakes with extensive vegetation zones with growths of water horsetail and sedge meadows and swampy shores, constituted on peat, glacial ground moraine, and glacial gravel and sand ground. Both lakes are important areas for waterfowl and waders in the periods of breeding, molting and migration. Between 13 and 17 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, as well as EU Habitats Directive Annex II mammals such as the otter (*Lutra lutra*). The mires of Aittojärvi have been drained to some extent, and the water level of Kongasjärvi has been lowered earlier and bushes have conquered the alluvial meadows. Overgrowing of both lakes and hunting of waterfowl in autumn is negatively affecting the site. Furthermore the populations of American Mink and Raccoon Dog may cause damage to the breeding of birds. Ramsar site no. 1518. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lakes Argyle and Kununurra

Site number: 478 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 150 000 ha | Coordinates: 16°20'S 128°39'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Argyle & Kununurra. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 150,000 ha; 16°19'S 128°44'E. A large system of human-made freshwater reservoirs and associated permanent wetlands formed by damming the Ord River. Vegetation consists of aquatic plants fringed by grassland, typha and savannah woodland. The lakes are an important dry season refuge for waterbirds, with numbers regularly exceeding 20,000 individuals. The area is notable for numerous endemic plants and a rich fauna. The site is increasingly important for recreation and tourism, with controlled diamond exploration and mining constituting the principal human activities. Ramsar site no. 478. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lakes by Tata

Site number: 419 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Komárom-Esztergom county

Area: 1 897 ha | Coordinates: 47°41'N 18°18'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1989

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located near the Duna River by the border with Slovakia, the Site is composed of a mosaic of habitats including meadows, pastures, spring bogs, remnants of former extensive fen and bog areas, reedbeds, agricultural land, fishponds, streams and a lake. Öreg-tó ("old lake"), an artificial lake created in the centre of the town of Tata during the middle ages, collects water from the Által-ér stream and is important for maintaining the biological diversity of the region. The Site is an important habitat for migratory birds, supporting up to 80,000 waterfowl, especially geese, and supports the globally threatened lesser white fronted goose *Anser erythropus* and red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*. It is wedged between urban and industrial regions as well as the agglomeration of Tata. Human activities are concentrated around agriculture and fishing. A number of educational activities and excursions are organized on the Site, and an annual wild geese festival takes place in the town. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site are organic and oil pollution of the streams and creeks that flow into the lake, and the expansion of private land ownership and building activities in the surrounding area. Marshland restoration projects have been carried out. Local restrictions on hunting help to preserve the natural values of the Site. The Site was significantly extended in 2006 and renamed "Lakes by Tata", from "Tata, Öreg-tó (Old Lake)".

## Lake Sevan

Site number: 620 | Country: Armenia | Administrative region: Gegharqunik Marz Province

Area: 490 231 ha | Coordinates: 40°16'N 45°21'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1993

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Sevan.06/07/93; Gegharquniq Province; 490,231 ha; 40°24'N 045°17'E. National Park, Ornithological Preserve, State Sanctuary. One of the largest freshwater, alpine wetlands in the world, Sevan lies at 1,900m asl and is surrounded by mountains. The Ramsar Site incorporates the entire hydrological system of the lake including its watershed, tributaries and outflow. About 1,600 plant species have been recorded, including rare and endemic species. The site is important for numerous species of nesting and staging waterbirds, several of which are endangered in Armenia. About 16% (about 4000 pairs) of the global population of Armenian Gull (*Larus armenicus*) uses the site for breeding. Other fauna present include 39 mammal, four amphibian, 18 reptile and six fish species. The lake is of paramount importance as a drinking water supply for Yerevan and is used for energy production, agriculture, industry, and recreation. Water loss is the most important threat to the site, and a project has been implemented since 2001 through which the water level has been artificially increased by 3m. However, large forested areas are waterlogged and submerged wood increases organic pollution of water. Fish stocks have decreased so that further commercial fishery (except for Crucian Carp and Crayfish) is questionable. Due to the lake's importance for the socio-economic growth of the country, the restoration of its ecological balance, its water quality and its biological resources is one of Armenia's priority goals. A management plan is being implemented for the period of 2007-2011. Ramsar site no. 620. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Lake Seyfe

Site number: 659 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Kirsehir

Area: 10 700 ha | Coordinates: 39°12'N 34°25'E | Designation dates: 13-07-1994

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Seyfe Gölü. 13/07/94; Kirsehir; 10,700 ha; 39°12'N 034°25'E. Cultural and Natural Asset; Nature Protection Area. A saline average-nutrient lake, fed by a stream and springs. The site includes reedbeds and areas of saline steppe. The lake is an important staging area for internationally important numbers of waterbirds, and provides crucial feeding habitat for breeding birds. Only scientific and educational activities are allowed. Ramsar site no. 659. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Lake Shabla

Site number: 801 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Dobrich

Area: 404 ha | Coordinates: 43°35'N 28°33'E | Designation dates: 19-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Shabla. 19/03/96; 404 ha; 43°35'N 028°33'E. Shablensko ezero (Shabla Lake), Protected Area. Two brackish, coastal lakes connected by an artificial canal. The lakes overlie an horizon of sand 4-5m thick deposited on top of a rich peat layer; evidence of a long marsh period. Limestone forms huge karst fields in parts of the wetland. An internationally important area for the endangered Redbreasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), providing wintering habitat for over 75% of the world population and up to 180,000 wintering White-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*). The site supports various species of breeding birds and endemic birds and the endangered plants *Cladium mariscus*, *Nuphar lutea*, *Nymphaea alba*. The wetlands serve as water supply for domestic and industrial use, agriculture irrigation, fishing, angling and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 801. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Lakes Heinä-Suvanto and Hetejärvi

Site number: 1 519 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern and Western Finland

Area: 1 224 ha | Coordinates: 63°09'N 26°10'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Heinä-Suvanto and Hetejärvi. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland, Western Finland; 1,224 ha; 63°09'N 026°08'E; Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. Two lakes dominated by water horsetail, sedge meadows and a mire zone of various types, comprising the most valuable area for both breeding and migrating wetland birds in Central Finland. Amongst the bird population are about 21 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breeding in the area, e.g. Wood Sandpiper, Slavonian Grebe and Black Grouse and some more scarce species such as Hen Harrier and Osprey. In total the breeding waterfowl include about 130 pairs of 14 species and during migration the highest daily counts in spring may reach, e.g., more than 150 individuals of Whooper Swans and more than 100 of Bean Geese with smaller numbers of other species. A restoration plan for Heinä-Suvanto was renewed in the 1990s, new areas of open water have been dredged, management and land use plans are in elaboration, and it is planned to raise the water level by 0.5 m. It is a site with few visitors, but still has some facilities such as two birdwatching towers and one nature trail. Ramsar site no. 1519. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Shkodra and River Buna

Site number: 1 598 | Country: Albania | Administrative region: Malesia e Madhe / Shkodra  
Area: 49 562 ha | Coordinates: 42°03'N 19°29'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Shkodra and River Buna. 02/02/06; Malesia e Madhe, Shkodra; 49,562 ha; 42°03'N 019°29'E. National protected area. The eastern side of the largest lake in the Balkan Peninsula, shared with Montenegro (Skadarsko Jezero Ramsar site), and the River Buna with its near natural delta on the East Adriatic coast. The area comprises a variety of habitats: freshwater, brackish water, woodland, freshwater marshes, wet pastures, sandy shore and rocky habitats supporting about 900-1000 plant species. Connection with the River Drin ensures the migration of mainly fish species from the Adriatic via Shkodra Lake to and from Ohrid and Prespa Lakes, such as the endangered *Acipenser stellatus* and *Salmothymus obtusirostris* as well as the critically endangered species *Acipenser studio* and *Chondrostoma scodrensis*. The site hosts about 25,000 wintering waterbirds, amongst them the endangered *Oxyura leucocephala* and the critically endangered *Numenius tenuirostris*. Threats arise from past and present practices of drainage for agriculture, uncontrolled development, changes in water regime, deforestation, illegal hunting and fishing, and introduced species. Shkodra (Skadar, Scutari) is known for its cultural heritage of more than 2000 years, e.g. the Illyrian walls and the ruins of a 600-year-old catholic church. Today the main activities are agriculture, stock raising, fishing and tourism. Ramsar site no. 1598.

## Lake Sibaya

Site number: 528 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Kwazulu Natal  
Area: 7 750 ha | Coordinates: 27°21'S 32°40'E | Designation dates: 28-06-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Sibaya. 28/06/91; Kwazulu/Natal; 7,750 ha; 27°20'S 032°38'E. The largest natural freshwater lake in South Africa, separated from the ocean by forested dunes; includes areas of swamp forest and wet grassland. A large variety of endangered or endemic species of reptiles, fish, birds, mammals and plants occur. The site is important for numerous species of breeding birds and supports the second largest population of hippopotamus in Kwa Zulu. The lake supports a diverse zooplankton fauna, 15 species of aquatic and 43 species of terrestrial molluscs, as well as flora and fauna unique to South Africa. A research station is located within the site. The lake provides water for Mbazwane and Vasi. Human activities consist of livestock grazing and cultivation. Ramsar site no. 528. Most recent RIS information: 1988.

## Lakes in the Khurkh-Khuiten river valley

Site number: 1 380 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Khentii Province  
Area: 42 940 ha | Coordinates: 48°18'N 110°34'E | Designation dates: 22-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes in the Khurkh-Khuiten river valley. 22/03/04; Khentii Province; 42,940 ha; 48°18'N 110°34'E. Permanent lakes located in the transition zone between Mongolian forest and steppe zones in the basin of the Khurkh-Khuiten river, a tributary to the great Onon River. The site is the habitat of many threatened and endangered species from the southern taiga, Central Asian steppe, and forest steppe of Daguur-Manjuria. In terms of Criterion 6, it supports 11% of the biogeographical population of White-naped Crane (*Grus vipio*), 3% Eurasian Crane (*Grus Grus*), 1% Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), 15% Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*). The main land use is for animal husbandry. Global warming has had implications for the reduction of the lakes' size. There is a potential for ecotourism, but currently no conservation measures have been taken. Ramsar site no. 1380. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Lakes of the lower Turgay and Irgiz

Site number: 108 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Aktyubinsk district  
Area: 348 000 ha | Coordinates: 48°42'N 62°11'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The lakes are situated in the Aktyubinsk district, northeast of the Aral Sea near the town of Kouilis in the north of Kazakhstan.

## Lakes Volvi & Koronia

Site number: 57 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Kentriki Makedonia  
Area: 16 388 ha | Coordinates: 40°41'N 23°20'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lakes Volvi & Koronia. 21/08/75; Thessaloniki; 16,388 ha; 40°41'N 023°20'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive, No Hunting Zone. Two freshwater lakes connected by a narrow channel, fringed by reedbeds, patches of woodland, and surrounded by arable land. The area supports endemic fish, nesting waterbirds, and large numbers of wintering birds including Anatidae (geese, ducks, swans, etc.). Several nationally rare or endangered aquatic plants occur. There are many settlements around the lakes and human activities include irrigation, agriculture, livestock grazing, fishing and hunting. 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 and led to the site's listing on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 57. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Synevyr

Site number: 1 400 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zakarpatska Oblast  
Area: 29 ha | Coordinates: 48°37'N 23°41'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Synevyr. 29/07/04; Zakarpatska Oblast; 29 ha; 48°37'N 023°41'E. National Park. Located among spruce forests, Lake Synevyr, though small, is the largest natural water body in the Ukrainian Carpathians. Three permanent mountain streams flow into the lake, causing accelerated silting in those places and transforming into eutrophic mires overgrown by *Glyceria fluitans* and *Equisetum palustre*. The Noble Crayfish *Astacus astacus* and flora species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine are registered within the site. Floating vegetation communities of the lake are represented by different species of Potamogeton and littoral-water communities by stands of *Glyceria fluitans*, *Equisetum palustre*, *Mentha piperita*. The lake, associated with legends and widely popular among local people, is a symbol of the Ukrainian Carpathians and represents a great environmental and educational value. Human activities include regulated recreation, scientific research and nature conservation. Ramsar site no. 1400. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Lake Sysmäjärvi

Site number: 1 517 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland  
Area: 734 ha | Coordinates: 62°41'N 29°04'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Sysmäjärvi. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland; 734 ha; 62°41'N 029°03'E. Natura 2000 SPA, WHCP. The most valuable of the North Karelian bird-lakes and among the ten most important wetlands in Finland. It is characterized by extensive growths of common reed and water horsetail, including about 690 ha of water and 22 small islands, as well as alluvial meadows and bush zones on shores, surrounded by a narrow forest zone and agricultural land. The high conservational value is due to the high diversity of breeding and migrating wetland bird species. The regulation of the water level disturbs the populations of breeding waterfowl and due to further overgrowing of the lake the breeding species declined by 40 percent in 1983-99. Other strong impacts are caused by heavy metals and increase of salt as well as discharges from sewage plants, mining industries and agricultural land. An ongoing EU Life project includes the restoration of meadows, removing aquatic plants and intensifying the removal of predatory mammals such as Raccoon Dog and American Mink. Ramsar site no. 1517. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lake Techirghiol

Site number: 1 610 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Constanta  
Area: 1 462 ha | Coordinates: 44°03'N 28°38'E | Designation dates: 23-03-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Techirghiol. 23/03//06; Constanta; 1,462 ha; 44°03'N 028°38'E. Protected Area. A lake situated near the Black Sea coast, divided into three parts by two dams constructed in the 1980s: the eastern part remained salty, between the dams the water became brackish, and the western end of the lake contains fresh water. In such diverse conditions the population of plants, such as *Suaeda maritima* and *Puccinellia distans*, as well as animals, e.g. the Danube Crested Newt *Triturus dobrogicus* and the Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina* and several threatened bat species such as *Miniopterus schreibersi*, have developed continuously, and the coastal habitats and wetlands provide good conditions for a high variety of species. The site provides a very important roosting place for waterfowl, especially geese and ducks, and at the same time the reed beds offer ideal breeding grounds for many bird species. The marine salt characteristics of the lake support *Artemia salina*, a small crustacean which produces the biogenic silt sapropel which is used for medical therapeutic activities. Potential threats are perceived from disturbances by tourists and local people accessing the area with motor vehicles, as well as a garbage dump near Techirghiol village. A management plan is expected to be completed in 2006. Ramsar site no. 1610. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lake Udyl and the mouths of the Bichi, Bitki and Pilda Rivers

Site number: 687 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Khabarovsk Krai  
Area: 57 600 ha | Coordinates: 52°09'N 139°51'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A large freshwater lake subject to fluctuations in water level. The site includes wet meadows, floodplains, bogs and mires. Vegetation consists of various emergent aquatic plants and "mari" complexes of low peatmoss bog forests. These include "yerniks", brushes of birches, willow, ledum and sedges, and sparse larch *Larix gmelinii* forests with Siberian dwarf-pine. The site is very important for large numbers of breeding, molting and migrating waterbirds. The wetland supports populations of rare species, in particular the largest populations of swan goose *Anser cygnoides* and Steller's sea eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus* in the Amur region. The site supports various regionally rare forest plants and provides feeding grounds for several fish species. The major human activity is commercial fishing.

## Lake Uluabat

Site number: 944 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Bursa  
Area: 19 900 ha | Coordinates: 40°10'N 28°35'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Uluabat. 15/04/98; Bursa; 19,900 ha; 40°10'N 028°35'E. A large nutrient-rich lake that includes four islands. Vast reedbeds with clusters of trees occur. Over 400,000 waterbirds, including the globally-threatened *Pelecanus crispus* winter at the site, and internationally important numbers of several species of waterbirds occur regularly. Uluabat is one of Turkey's richest wetlands in terms of aquatic plants. Human activities include fishing and agriculture. The area is of archaeological importance. Ramsar site no. 944. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Urmia [or Orumiyeh]

Site number: 38 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: West Azarbaijan  
Area: 483 000 ha | Coordinates: 37°30'N 45°30'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Urmia [or Orumiyeh]. 23/06/75; Azarbaijan-e Gharbi; 483,000 ha; 37°30'N 045°30'E. Biosphere Reserve; National Park. A vast hypersaline lake with many islands, surrounded by extensive brackish marshes. The lake is fed by rainfall, springs and streams and subject to seasonal variation in level and salinity. The brackish marshes support reeds and large breeding colonies of various waterbirds with large numbers of flamingos (40,000-80,000 pairs), and are an important staging area for migratory waterbirds. A number of human settlements are scattered around the lake shore. Ramsar site no. 38. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Lake Uvs and its surrounding wetlands

Site number: 1 379 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Uvs Province  
Area: 585 000 ha | Coordinates: 50°20'N 92°45'E | Designation dates: 22-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Uvs and its surrounding wetlands. 22/03/04; Uvs Province; 585,000 ha; 50°20'N E 092°45'E. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The largest saline lake in Mongolia with a small part lying in Russia, a unique wetland in desert-steppe landscape fringed by high mountain ranges; it has a maximum depth of 20m and freezes over from November to May. With reedbeds and river deltas it provides significant nesting and resting areas for 215 migratory waterbird species such as White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), both 'endangered' in the Red List of IUCN, and many other nationally and globally threatened flora and fauna species including endemic fish *Oreoleuciscus potanini*, *Oreoleuciscus pewzowi*, *Oreoleuciscus humilis*, are supported. Some nomadic families live along the shorelines using wetlands as pasture and watering points. A joint transboundary protected area is planned in cooperation with Russian authorities. The potential exists for recreation and birdwatching and a management plan is in preparation. Ramsar site no. 1379. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Lake Vistonis, Porto Lagos, Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons

Site number: 55 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Thraki  
Area: 24 396 ha | Coordinates: 41°03'N 25°11'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Vistonis, Porto Lagos, Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons. 21/08/75; Rodopi, Xanthi; 24,396 ha; 41°03'N 025°11'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive; No Hunting Zone. Prior to December 1996, there were two separate Ramsar sites, Lake Vistonis and Lake Mitrou, which were merged to form the current site. The site includes a wetland complex, encompassing a coastal lake (Vistonis), the Porto Lagos saline lagoon, six shallow saltwater adjoining lagoons separated from the sea by a sandy beach, and a freshwater shallow lake (Ismaris). The coastal lagoons are fringed by saltmarsh, extensive mudflats, reedbeds and scrub, and freshwater marsh. The area is important for breeding birds, and large numbers of various species of waterbirds occur in winter, such as *Pelecanus crispus* and *P. onocrotalus*. Human activities include commercial fishing, livestock grazing, groundwater exploitation, recreation and hunting. High demand for irrigation water, associated changes in salinity, and agricultural, domestic and industrial run-off led to the sites listing on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 55. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Warden system

Site number: 485 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 2 300 ha | Coordinates: 33°48'S 121°56'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Warden system. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 2,300 ha; 33°48'S 121°56'E. Nature Reserve. A system of lakes and marshes of variable salinity set behind coastal dunes. The water regime varies from ephemeral to almost permanent with springs giving rise to shallow, brackish wetlands. An important area for waterbirds: swans, ducks and waders occur in large numbers. Plant communities consist of Sampire marsh with *Halosarcia* and *Sarcocornia* vegetation, with stabilized sand dunes supporting woodland. The site is popular for recreational activities -- water skiing, sailing, and horse riding. Ramsar site no. 485. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## La Mancha y El Llano

Site number: 1 336 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: State of Veracruz  
Area: 1 414 ha | Coordinates: 19°36'N 96°23'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Mancha y El Llano. 02/02/04; Veracruz; 1,414 ha; 19°36'N 096°23'W. Two coastal lagoons in the Gulf of Mexico surrounded by mangroves and two humid dune slacks. The latter are shallow freshwater lakes supplied by groundwater and surrounded with deciduous seasonally flooded forest of *Crysobalanus icaco* and *Enterolobium cyclocarpum* and communities of *Cyperus articulatus* and *Phyla nodiflora*. These are threatened and unique ecosystems in the whole coast of Veracruz where coastal dunes can reach 80 m in height but are being filled in for urban growth. Mangroves host populations of Belize Crocodiles *Crocodylus moreletii*, Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* and Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*. Oysters, clams and shrimp are fished regularly. The lagoons are being silted due to mangrove and upper basin deforestation, and impacts of infrastructure such as oil pipelines, road and railway building present threats. The Instituto de Ecología A.C. is located on the site, maintaining ongoing research activities and elaborating a community management plan. Ramsar site no. 1336. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## La Mare aux hippopotames

Site number: 491 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région des Hauts-Bassins  
Area: 19 200 ha | Coordinates: 11°36'N 04°09'W | Designation dates: 27-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the province of Houet some 60 kilometres north of the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. The reserve benefits from a great diversity of landscapes and habitats. The Site is famous for its hippos that live permanently in the pond which gives the Site its name; there are also other mammals such as elephant, warthog, *kével* (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) and roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*). The local residents use the Site to gather edible fruits and leaves as well as mushrooms, dead wood, barks and roots of various plant species for medicinal purposes. The reserve also hosts bee-forage plants which favour revenue-generating beekeeping. The Site is regarded as a sacred source of protection and abundance by its local communities, who practice rites to protect them from all misfortune and also to ensure peace, health, and good rainfall. They also avoid any action that could compromise the integrity of the Site.

## La Mare de Dan Doutchi

Site number: 1 492 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Tahoua  
Area: 38 250 ha | Coordinates: 14°20'N 04°41'E | Designation dates: 16-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A permanent pond that, with its surrounding vegetation, is characteristic of the climatic transition zone between the Sahel and the Sahara. Plant diversity is relatively high for both grass and woody species; the area is also an important wintering site for Afrotropical and Palearctic migratory birds, of which 40 species have been counted. The main human activity is fishing, which provides both an important protein source and substantial revenue to the local people. Unsustainable agricultural and fishing methods and overgrazing threaten the ecological balance. The vegetation on the basin is very scarce. The soils are fragile, not very fertile and extremely sensitive to erosion. A management plan is being developed which will consider the needs of the local people and seek their participation.

## La Mare de Lassouri

Site number: 1 493 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Zinder  
Area: 34 000 ha | Coordinates: 14°04'N 09°35'E | Designation dates: 16-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A semi-permanent wetland, part of Lake Chad's catchment, which during the dry season separates into a string of shallow ponds with good water quality. The area has dense woody vegetation which is rarely found in the Sahel, characterized by *Acacia nilotica*, *Acacia albida* and *Mitragyna inermis*. It is an important refuge for waterbirds and regularly hosts an average of 23,000 birds, with especially significant proportions of white-faced whistling duck *Dendrocygna viduata* and comb duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* in addition to egrets, terns, ducks, herons, sandpipers and harriers. The Site supports small-scale cultivation of vegetables and cereals as well as fishing (mainly of *Clarias anguillaria* and *Protopterus annectens*), and provides pasture for both local livestock and that of nomadic pastoralists. The area is threatened by overgrazing, illegal logging and sand deposition caused by water and wind erosion. The main scientific activity is related to bird counts under OMPO's (*Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental* - Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic) Western Africa programme.

## La Mare de Tabalak

Site number: 1 494 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Tahoua  
Area: 107 100 ha | Coordinates: 15°02'N 05°49'E | Designation dates: 16-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

One of the most significant ponds in Niger, with a rich diversity of plants and animals, the Site is a refuge for migratory and sedentary waterbirds, particularly ducks and waders. It hosts an average of 14% of the biogeographic population of the Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*). Some nationally-rare species such as the crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*) are regularly observed. The wetland also helps in flood control and in recharging groundwater. It is relatively new as a permanent water body – its creation followed the rupture of the upstream Kori d'Ibaga dam in the 1970s. The village of Tabalak was settled by people who moved in to work on the construction of the “uranium route”. No special conservation measures are in place, but small projects have been undertaken to increase the social benefits arising from the Site, such as the introduction of fish and the construction of dykes to hold more water for agriculture.

## La Mare d'Oursi

Site number: 490 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Sahel  
Area: 35 000 ha | Coordinates: 14°39'N 00°27'E | Designation dates: 27-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes an endorheic freshwater lake surrounded by a hilly Sahelian woodland and scrub to the south and west, and by dune plains to the north and east. It is a perennial lake in years of normal rainfall. The Site supports reed beds and is internationally important for waterbirds, supporting trans-Saharan migrants which breed in the Palearctic region. The Site constitutes an important wildlife reserve and hosts a wide range of plant species. Mammal species such as the hare *Lepus capensis aegyptius*, the red-tailed gazelle (*Gazella rufifrons*), the ratel (*Mellivora capensis*) and the side-striped jackal (*Canis adustus*) are also reported. The Site is home to about 150 bird species including about 50 species of Palaeartic migrants. There are several species of (endemic and migratory) geese and ducks specific to the Sahel, various raptors and vultures. In addition to natural factors, unsustainable levels of extensive farming in the region have had a negative impact on the environment. The Site has also faced an increase in high temperatures and high winds, and a decline in rainfall.

## La Mintzita

Site number: 1 919 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacán  
Area: 56,8 ha | Coordinates: 19°38'N 101°16'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Mintzita. 02/02/09; Michoacán; 57 ha; 19°38'N 101°16'W. La Mintzita is a reservoir formed by a series of springs. The site is home to species that are protected under Mexican legislation, some of which are threatened, such as the Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis and Skiffia lermæ (fish species). The site counts more than a hundred bird species such as the threatened *Anas platyrhynchos diazi* and *Bubo virginianus*, and endangered *Buteo jamaicensis* and *Regulus calendula*. This wetland plays an important role in the retention of sediments that come from higher altitudes of the catchment area, as well as to filter nutrients produced in the Cointzio Resort. Threats to this Ramsar Site, such as the overuse of water resources, illegal domestic drainage, the deforestation of the gallery forests and human encroachment are activities that should be regulated once the Management Programme for the State Protected Area is finalized. The area is already designated as a Zone Subject to Ecological Preservation and a management plan is currently being prepared to regulate, limit and sanction illegal activities. The plan is expected to be finalized by the end of 2010. Ramsar Site n°1919. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Langebaan

Site number: 398 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape  
Area: 6 000 ha | Coordinates: 33°09'S 18°04'E | Designation dates: 25-04-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Langebaan. 25/04/88; Western Cape; 6,000 ha; 33°06'S 018°01'E. National Park. A large, shallow marine lagoon, includes islands, reedbeds, sand flats, saltmarshes and dwarf shrubland. The lagoon is an important nursery area for a number of fish species and supports a diverse and ecologically important algal and shoreline biota. Important for wintering and staging wading birds, and the numerous breeding birds include the largest colony of gulls in South Africa. Human activities include farming, sheep/cattle rearing, and a small commercial fishery. There are an environmental education centre, bird observation hides, and several nature trails. Plans to construct an industrial facility reached agreement with Ramsar input; a case study is available. Ramsar site no. 398.

## Lang Sen Wetland Reserve

Site number: 2 227 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Long An Province  
Area: 4 802 ha | Coordinates: 10°47'N 105°44'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lang Sen Wetland Reserve is a wetland complex in the “Plain of Reeds” of the Mekong Delta, which comprises a mosaic of seasonally flooded grassland, open swamp, and riverine Melaleuca and mixed forests. The Site supports the best sample of natural riverine forests in the Mekong Delta, and provides habitat for a wide diversity of waterbirds and fish species. It regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbird individuals in the dry season, including globally threatened species such as the endangered greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) and the vulnerable sarus crane (*Grus antigone*). The Site also hosts globally vulnerable reptiles such as the Indochinese spitting cobra (*Naja siamensis*) and Southeast Asian softshell turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*). 27 of 87 fish species recorded in Lang Sen live only in the lower Mekong Basin; these include the critically endangered Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*) and giant barb (*Catlocarpio siamensis*). According to a 1969 map, Lang Sen Wetland Reserve then covered around 10,000 hectares. With its current area of 4,802 hectares, the Site is the second largest remaining area of the Plain of Reeds. Local communities have long exploited Lang Sen Wetland Reserve; most of it is divided into small agro-forestry production patches, some managed by local households, and others by state bodies.

## La Petite Camargue

Site number: 786 | Country: France | Administrative region: Languedoc-Roussillon  
Area: 37 000 ha | Coordinates: 43°30'N 04°15'E | Designation dates: 08-01-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Petite Camargue. 08/01/96; Languedoc-Roussillon; 37,000 ha; 43°30'N 004°15'E. State Maritime Zone. Coastal ponds, brackish lagoons, and marshes fed by coastal watercourses. The site includes agricultural areas, sedge meadows, reedbeds, sansouires (Salicornia steppes), salt-resistant vegetation, coastal forest, and salt pans. The shallow lagoons provide priority habitat for spawning and hatching sea fish. Human activities include a small-scale fishery, cattle ranching, peat extraction, fruit production, salt extraction, and reforestation. The site has Roman and mediaeval ruins. The Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat research centre provides important opportunities for research and environmental conservation. Ramsar site no. 786. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## La Réserve Naturelle du Lac des Oiseaux

Site number: 975 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'El Tarf  
Area: 120 ha | Coordinates: 36°48'N 08°01'E | Designation dates: 22-03-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Réserve Naturelle du Lac des Oiseaux. 22/03/99; El Kala; 120 ha; 36°42'N 008°07'E. Natural Reserve. A shallow permanent freshwater lake in the northeast of the country that shrinks to about half its size in the dry season. The site supports a surprising diversity of vegetation (some 200 species), birds, and insects. Two globally threatened species, the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) nest at the site, and the former has been counted at 164 individuals in January 1998, more than 2% of the world population. Approximately 8,000 people live nearby, and grazing of small numbers of livestock is practiced around the lake. Effects of population growth are seen as a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 975. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Larnaca Salt Lake

Site number: 1 081 | Country: Cyprus | Administrative region: Larnaca  
Area: 1 107 ha | Coordinates: 34°54'N 33°37'E | Designation dates: 11-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Larnaca Salt Lake. 11/07/01; 1,107 hectares; 34°53'N 033°36'E. Protected area. A highly saline seasonal lake which supports significant numbers of overwintering and stopover waterbirds. The basis of its productivity is the unicellular alga *Dunaliella salina*, which supports "fairy shrimps" *Artemia salina* and *Branchianella spinosa* (especially in the "airport lake" southern arm of the main lake, adjacent to Larnaca International Airport), which forms the main food for flamingos, chiefly *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Water levels do not exceed one meter, and salt flat halophytic communities fringe much of the lakeside. An important Muslim shrine, Hala Sultan Tekke, as well as a late Bronze Age archaeological site and an impressive 18th century aqueduct, add interest to the site. Private land, both Greek and Turkish Cypriot, fringe part of the lake, but the lagoons are state-owned and further acquisitions are planned, except for areas owned by Moslem and Christian Orthodox religious organizations, which are constitutionally protected from acquisition. The site was made a protected area in 1997 and a management plan is in place; an information centre and hides are planned. Urban development in the north and east of the lake and airport traffic in the south are seen as potential problems, but a shooting club facility is being relocated outside the reserve in order to reduce the threat from lead shot. Ramsar site no. 1081. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Larne Lough

Site number: 895 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 396 ha | Coordinates: 54°48'N 05°45'W | Designation dates: 04-03-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Larne Lough. 04/03/97; Northern Ireland; 396 ha; 54°49'N 005°45'W. SSSI, National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area. A shallow estuary partially enclosed by a peninsula and including intertidal flats and areas of saltmarsh. Vegetation is dominated by halophytic communities and includes reedbeds and saltmarsh pans. The site regularly supports nationally important numbers of breeding terns and internationally important numbers of wintering Light-bellied Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla hrota*. Human activities include recreation and some shellfish and bait gathering. Dredging is regularly carried out to maintain the shipping channel. Ramsar site no. 895. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## La Segua

Site number: 1 028 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region:  
Area: 1 836 ha | Coordinates: 00°42'N 80°12'W | Designation dates: 07-06-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Segua. 07/06/00; Manabí; 1,836 ha; 00°42'S 080°12'W. A freshwater wetland located in the confluence of the rivers Carrizal and Chone, consisting of a central marsh that is flooded most of the time and an extensive plain that is inundated in the rainy season. Its soils are loam sandy, silt and/or clay-silt, deep with recent fine fluvial sediment deposits. The water is of medium quality, with presence of fecal coliforms and total solids, with a low percentage of dissolved oxygen. The wetland has a low diversity of organisms, but a high density of 12 species of fish, two species of river shrimp, turtles of the genus *Chelydra* and 164 species of birds (22 migratory species and 63 aquatic ones). 27 families and 39 species of wild vegetation represent the flora. During the rainy season, the aquatic plants are dominant, especially "the lechuguines" (*Eichhornia crassipes*, water hyacinth); the depth of the marsh can reach an average of 1.27 m. During the dry season, the flooded plain is full of grasses and sedges and the water body is reduced to approximately 525 hectares, with an average depth of 67 cm. Four towns are located around the marsh with an estimated population of 1700 people, and the main land uses within the wetland are fishing, ranching and agriculture. The site has a management plan developed with the support of the IUCN Oficina Regional para América del Sur, UNEP, and the Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID). Ramsar site no. 1028. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Lashihai Wetland

Site number: 1 437 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan Province  
Area: 3 560 ha | Coordinates: 26°54'N 100°08'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lashihai Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 3560 ha; 26°53'52" N 100°08'6" E. Provincial Nature Reserve. A unique plateau freshwater lake with marsh meadows, located between 2,440 and 3,100 meters above sea level at the headwaters of the Yangtze River in the Hengduan Mountains. The critically endangered White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* and Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* can be found at the site. It is an important migration passage, breeding ground and wintering habitat of nearly 76 species of wild geese and ducks and in total more than 100,000 waterbirds visit the site each year. The water outlet of the lake is connected to the Jinsha River with major hydrological functions of flood control, storage and water balance in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. It also supplies drinking water to Lijian City, a famous World Heritage cultural property. As a biodiversity 'hotspot', Lashihai attracts 5000 tourists daily particularly for birdwatching; major protection measures include a ban on fishing, poaching and hunting. With the support of The Nature Conservancy, research on aquatic plants, amphibian and reptiles was carried out between 2005 and 2006. Ramsar Site No. 1437. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA)

Site number: 2 124 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Manila  
Area: 175 ha | Coordinates: 14°30'N 120°59'E | Designation dates: 15-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA). 15/03/2013; Manila; 175 ha; 14°29'35N 120°58'50E. A coastal wetland in Manila Bay situated within the metropolis of Manila, comprising two interconnected, mangrove-covered islands, shallow lagoons and coastline. A Presidential Proclamation in 2007 designated the site as a Critical Habitat for the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory species. At least 5,000 individuals of migratory and resident birds have been recorded at the site, including about 47 migratory species such as the vulnerable Chinese Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*). The most important of the resident bird species is the vulnerable Philippine Duck (*Anas luzonica*) which breeds at the site. Records from 2007-2011 show that the site supports at least 1% of the estimated population of Black-Winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) using the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The site faces threats associated with being located near densely populated areas. Waste from nearby cities accumulates along the coast and heavy metals and other organic contents coming from residential and industrial effluents affect surrounding areas. Other threats include ongoing land reclamation projects and mangrove cutting. Efforts to ensure the long-term conservation of this site are ongoing. Ramsar Site. No. 2124. Most recent RIS information: 2013

## Las Salinas de Huentelauquén (LSH)

Site number: 2 237 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Coquimbo  
Area: 2 772 ha | Coordinates: 31°35' S 71°33' W | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Ramsar Site includes the last section of the Choapa River and its extensive estuarine lagoon. Its diverse coastal ecosystems such as beaches, flats, sand dunes, and streams support a great biodiversity. Among the species that use the Site are 148 species of birds, 10 of reptiles, 14 of mammals, 4 of amphibians, and 133 plant species. Some of these are threatened or endangered such as the marine otter (*Lontra felina*), the Chilean toad (*Calyptocephalella gayi*) and *Eriosyce chilensis*. The Site also receives 28 species of migratory birds that use it for feeding, resting or wintering. Resident bird species also use it as an area for post-reproductive aggregation. Fish and crustaceans which support the local economy, such as *Mugil cephalus* and the endemic river shrimp *Cryphiops caementarius*, reproduce at the Site. The threats to the Site include the introduction of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), an invasive species, and the use of increasingly technical agricultural processes that include the unregulated use of pesticides. Other threats include mining and climate change.

## Las Tablas de Daimiel

Site number: 235 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Castilla-La Mancha  
Area: 1 928 ha | Coordinates: 39°09'N 03°40'W | Designation dates: 04-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Las Tablas de Daimiel. 04/05/82; Castilla-La Mancha; 1,928 ha; 39°09'N 003°40'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. A complex of shallow pools and associated marshland lying in the great plain of La Mancha. The site receives fresh and brackish flood water inflows and supports a rich aquatic vegetation of emergent and submergent species. The area supports a diverse fauna, including 13 reptile species. It is particularly important for numerous species of nesting waterbirds and up to 10,000 wintering birds, mainly ducks *Anas strepera* and *Netta rufina*. Due to over-exploitation of the regional aquifer for intensive agriculture, groundwater levels have fallen dramatically. As a result the site has begun to dry up and the Guadiana River ceased flowing in the National Park. The site was added to the Montreux Record in 1990. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1988. Ramsar site no. 235. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Last Mountain Lake

Site number: 239 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Saskatchewan  
Area: 15 602 ha | Coordinates: 51°20'N 105°15'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Last Mountain Lake. 24/05/82; Saskatchewan; 15,602 ha; 51°20'N 105°15'W. International Biological Programme Site; National Wildlife Area, Migratory Bird Sanctuary; National Historic Site. A network of shallow, marshy bays and inlets, separated by points and islands, including potholes and saline wetlands supporting fringing reedbeds. During the fall migration, up to 75,000 *Grus canadensis* cranes and 400,000 Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) rest and feed here. The islands support nesting colonies of numerous species of water and prairie birds. The site serves as a drought refuge for birds and as wintering habitat for deer, supports various prairie mammals, and provides some of the richest spawning and nursery grounds in Saskatchewan for numerous fish species, including the vulnerable fish *Ictiobus cyprinellus*, rare over most of its range. A self-guided information programme is available for visitors, and recreational use is increasing. Ramsar site no. 239. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Lätäseno-Hietajoki Mires

Site number: 1 520 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 43 367 ha | Coordinates: 68°40'N 22°20'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lätäseno - Hietajoki Mires. 02/02/04; Lapland; 43,367 ha; 68°40'N 022°20'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Wilderness Area, Mire Protection Area. An important conservation area of *palsa* mires and the northernmost occurrence of several mire and aquatic plants. The unbroken area is situated in the northwestern part of the province of Lapland bordered by Norway to the north and by Sweden to the south. The site represents the mire vegetation regions of *palsa* mires in Fjeld Lapland and of northern *aapa* mires, presented through *palsa* mires, where wet flark and sedge fens occur. The northern limit of pine crosses the area and mountain birch is the only common tree species. The breeding waterfowl and waders are the most abundant and diverse in the whole province, supporting at least 21 threatened bird species in Europe. Among the mammals are wolf, wolverine and Arctic Fox, including the Brown Bear as a rare visitor, and both lynx and otter as sparse inhabitants. It is also one of the few areas where salmon of the Baltic Sea, but also Brown Trout and Arctic Char, still spawn. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the area with up to 7,000 reindeer kept by the owners. Acid deposition, caused by a long-distance fallout mainly from Kola Peninsula (Russia) industries, weakens the buffering capacity of lakes and ponds. A management and land use plan for the site is in preparation. Ramsar site no. 1520. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## La Tembladera

Site number: 1 991 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: El Oro  
Area: 1 471 ha | Coordinates: 03°30'S 78°00'W | Designation dates: 06-12-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Tembladera. 06/12/11; El Oro; 1,471 ha; 03°30'14"S 079°59'46"W. Comprising a permanent lagoon and its surrounding inundated areas located in the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area, the site sustains at least 24 endemic bird species such as the Ecuadorian ground-dove (*Columbina buckleyi*) and the Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*), as well as IUCN Red-Listed Endangered and Vulnerable species such as the Grey-Cheeked parakeet (*Brotogeris pyrrhoptera*) and the Rufous-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis erythroptera*). The lagoon provides water to irrigation systems for agriculture and livestock in the surrounding area, and supports small-scale fishing. The threats to the site include pollution and habitat destruction by the expansion of agricultural and livestock activities operating within the wetland, which will be addressed through the implementation of the management plan. Ramsar Site no. 1991. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Latorica

Site number: 606 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Kosice  
Area: 4 405 ha | Coordinates: 48°29'N 22°01'E | Designation dates: 26-05-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Latorica. 26/05/93; Trebisov; 4,405 ha; 48°29'N 022°04'E. Landscape Protection Area, Nature Reserve. The widest part of the Latorica River, including a well-developed network of oxbow lakes, tributaries, seasonal pools, reedbeds, marshes, wet meadows, pasture and floodplain forest. The site borders Ukraine. The area supports a rich wetland fauna of dragonflies (Odonata), amphibians, and nesting waterbirds. Human activities include fishing, hunting, forestry, livestock grazing, and haymaking. Area extended in 2003. Ramsar site no. 606. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## La Tovara

Site number: 1 776 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Nayarit  
Area: 5 733 ha | Coordinates: 21°35'N 105°15'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Tovara. 02/02/08; Nayarit; 5,733 ha; 21°35'N 105°15' W. A transition area of continental and oceanic waters, caused by the mixed tide phenomenon. The mangrove area consists of four species: *Rhizophora* mangle, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* and *Conocarpus erectus*, all of which are found under special protection according to the Mexican legislation. *Mastichodendron capiri* and *Chamaedorea pochutensis* are threatened species also found in the site, the latter also endemic to the country. Many bird species under special protection are also found in the site, such as *Amazona finschi*, *Ara militaris*, *Ardea herodias*, *Cyanocorax beecheii*, *Forpus cyanopygius*, *Icterus spurius*, *Melanotis caerulescens*, *Tigrisoma mexicanum* and *Vireo atricapillus*. It is home to six feline species found under special protection. Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing, aquaculture and tourism are the main economic activities. Ramsar site no. 1776. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Laubersmad-Salwidili

Site number: 1 444 | Country: Switzerland  
| Administrative region: Region: Central Switzerland / District: Entlebuch / Commune: Fluehli  
Area: 1 376 ha | Coordinates: 46°48'N 07°59'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on the northern slope of the Brienzler Rothorn mountain range, between 1,060 and 1,900 metres above sea level. The Site of almost 14 square kilometres is characterized by a mosaic of fens, several types of mountain swamp with low, transitional and raised bogs of national importance, as well as wet spruce forests and meadows. It is notable as the contiguous mire landscape with the highest number of bogs under protection in Switzerland. Laubersmad-Salwidili is home to 24 plant and 33 animal species listed on the Swiss red lists of endangered species, while three plant and 24 animal species are listed on the IUCN global red list. The presence of the three-toed woodpecker, the capercaillie, the black grouse and the lynx underlines the important role of the Site as a habitat for wild mammals and birds. In terms of ecosystem services, the Site plays an important role in water retention. Important bog restoration measures have been implemented since 2004. Human activities affecting the Site include cattle grazing and mountain recreational pursuits such as skiing, hiking, and mushroom and berry picking.

## Laukvikøyene

Site number: 2 160 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 1 084 ha | Coordinates: 68°22'N 14°25'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a diverse wetland area on the west coast of Lofoten, the south-western part of which contains large areas of permanent shallow marine waters with eelgrass *Zostera marina*, intertidal flats, islands and islets. The north-eastern part of the Site belongs to the main island Austvågøya and contains extensive mires and freshwater ponds. The Site is internationally important for conservation of both flora and fauna. Many seabirds and waterfowl such as black guillemot *Cephus grylle*, ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* and northern pintail *Anas acuta* breed in Laukvikøyene, and use the Site for resting during migration. There are large areas of submerged vegetation with different types of representative flora. The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers and traditionally used by local residents for collecting seabird eggs. Potential factors adversely affecting the Site are overgrazing and bird disturbance caused by a nearby quarry.

## Lauwersmeer

Site number: 1 247 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Groningen and Friesland  
Area: 5 754 ha | Coordinates: 53°22'N 06°12'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lauwersmeer. 29/08/00; Groningen, Friesland; 5,754 ha; 053°22'N 006°13'E; Natura 2000 (SPA), National Park. The Site is a dammed estuary, which was part of the Waddenzee until it was closed off in 1969. It includes a shallow freshwater lake, marshes, wet grasslands and arable lands. The Ramsar Site boundary was aligned with the Natura 2000 Site in 2014, with a road and parking areas on the north side excluded. It hosts more than 20,000 wintering birds and over 1% of the biogeographic populations of 13 species of waterbirds. The Site also supports threatened mammals such as the otter (*Lutra lutra*) and pine marten (*Martes martes*), and endangered breeding birds such as the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*). It also plays an important role in water supply and the maintenance of the hydrological balance of the region. Human activities include tourism, commercial fishing, shipping, boating and farming. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are the disturbance of birds by military training and tourism, and the impacts of mining and gas exploration, reed cutting, non-industrial pollution and eutrophication. Significant research and monitoring is carried out within the Site. Ramsar Site no. 1247. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## La Vallée d'Iherir

Site number: 1 057 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Tassili n'Ajjer  
Area: 6 500 ha | Coordinates: 25°24'N 08°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Vallée d'Iherir. 02/02/01; Illizi; 6,500 ha; 25°24'N 08°25'E. Parc National du Tassili; UNESCO World Heritage site. A high valley (1100m-1400m) in the center of a limestone Saharan plateau characterized by intermittent streams, lakes, and marshes, freshwater springs, and subterranean karst hydrological systems. The isolated nature of the site has led to remarkable evolutionary phenomena, described as "at the same time, a laboratory and a museum of the process of evolution", particularly for species which have been best able to resist the desertification of the area, such as lizards, serpents, and four species of fish. Basic palm and fig culture is practiced near the site by the Tuareg community on terraces above the valley floor, and some raising of vegetables takes place in areas shaded by trees. The rocky mountain walls bear rich pictorial evidence of some of the first human inhabitants of the Sahara; this has encouraged fairly significant tourism, which, however, was drastically diminished between 1992 and 2000 and is only recently beginning to recover. Ramsar site no. 1057. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## La Vallée du Sourou

Site number: 1 885 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Boucle du Mouhoun  
Area: 21 157 ha | Coordinates: 13°01'N 03°28'W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sourou is a tributary of the largest river in Burkina Faso, the Black Volta, and is found in the Sudano-Guinean region where water is often scarce. As a result, it is important for its support of threatened species such as the hippopotamus and the African mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*. A total of 39,669 birds have been counted on the Site, including 60 bird species belonging to 18 families. These included the goose and duck species *Plectropterus gambensis*, *Sarkidiornis melanotos*, *Alopochen aegyptiacus*, *Nettapus auritus*, *Dendrocygna bicolor* and *Dendrocygna viduata*. As the only large water body in the region, the Sourou replenishes groundwater and stabilizes the temperature, allowing for cultivation. Cotton production was originally planned for the valley, but the riverside land has been turned over to vegetable crops, notably green beans as well as maize, rice and onions. With continual growth in the human population, the pressure on its resources is increasing, leading to excessive cutting of wood, water pollution due to overuse of fertilizers, and over-irrigation. The current agricultural practices are threatening the Site's provision of ecological services including flood control, biodiversity conservation and climate regulation; however economic valuation of the goods and services provided by the Sourou valley's ecosystem has revealed that crop production is not the major economic asset, despite the important investments since 1970.

## La Vasière des Badamiers

Site number: 2 002 | Country: France | Administrative region: Mayotte  
Area: 115 ha | Coordinates: 12°47'S 45°16'E | Designation dates: 27-10-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

La Vasière des Badamiers (Île de Mayotte - océan indien). 27/10/11; Île de Mayotte; 115 ha; 12°47'S 045°16'E. The site consists of a mud flat area partially covered by mangroves. Sea grass beds and different species of algae play a key role in maintaining the ecological character of this highly productive and diverse ecosystem, which is used as a refuge as well as a breeding, feeding and wintering site by many bird species, especially waders, but also by fish and turtles such as the Green Sea Turtle. The site is internationally important for the migration of the Lesser Crested Tern, as well as for the presence of several species endemic to the Comores Islands and Madagascar like the globally endangered Madagascar Heron and the spider *Idioctis intertidalis* living in the intertidal zone. The site acts as an important filter upstream of the connected lagoon especially in terms of urban discharge. Siltation, coastal erosion and urban development threaten the site. An educational path to experience the mangrove ecosystem and natural environment of Mayotte is under development. Ramsar Site no. 2002. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Lavinia Nature Reserve

Site number: 253 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 7 034 ha | Coordinates: 39°45'S 144°05'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lavinia Nature Reserve is one of the few largely unaltered areas of native vegetation remaining on King Island, which lies between Tasmania and the mainland state of Victoria. It includes wetland types that are representative and/or rare to the bioregion, including *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest, freshwater aquatic wetlands, herbfields and grasslands marginal to wetland, and sedge/rush wetland. The Site's estuary and associated sapphire mud flats, coastal swamps and lagoons provide important habitats for a range of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) and the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*). The Site is also a regional biodiversity hotspot because the ecological communities on King Island represent a transitional zone between the Australian mainland and north-west Tasmania, supporting species from both the north and south. The largely unspoiled nature of the Reserve and its variety of interesting features make it an important area for scientific study and education. There are also oyster farms operating at the Site.

## Le Cesine

Site number: 168 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Puglia  
Area: 620 ha | Coordinates: 40°21'N 18°20'E | Designation dates: 06-12-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Le Cesine. 06/12/77; Puglia; 620 ha; 40°20'N 018°21'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal, wetland complex, separated from the sea by a dune system. Habitats include open brackish pools, reedbeds and associated saltmarsh, bordered by Mediterranean scrub and woodland. The site is important for the nesting, staging and wintering of numerous species of waterbirds. Several rare plant species occur. The site is important for conservation education and cultivation. Ramsar site no. 168. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lech-Donau-Winkel

Site number: 91 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 4 014 ha | Coordinates: 48°44'N 11°00'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lech-Donau-Winkel. 26/02/76; Bayern; 4,014 ha; 48°44'N 011°00'E. Nature Reserves, EC Birds Directive SPA. Two separate reservoirs with sandbanks and mudflats, created by the damming of the Danube and Lech rivers to provide electricity and a water supply, including expanded floodplains and extensive alluvial forests, marsh areas, fens, storage lakes, quarry ponds, backwaters and extensively used greenlands. Artificial banks are devoid of vegetation. The site is an important wintering area for waterbirds, but, it now appears, not to the standard of the Ramsar Criteria. Surrounding areas consist of agricultural land and wooded meadows. There is a regulated fishing season. The site was expanded in 2007 239 ha to 4,014 ha by addition of significant floodplain areas, and the waterbird Criteria (5 and 6) were removed from the site description. Ramsar site no. 91. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Le Cirque de Aïn Ouarka

Site number: 1 300 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Nâama  
Area: 2 350 ha | Coordinates: 32°44'N 00°10'E | Designation dates: 06-04-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Le Cirque de Aïn Ouarka. 04/06/03; Nâama; 2,350 ha; 32°44'N 00°10'E. Known by geologists as a "cirque" or amphitheatre-like bowl, this geothermal wetland in the Ksour mountains of the Sahara Atlas is a basin circumscribed by abrupt mountains 1,672m high with two small ponds with saline, clear and deep water. The water from thermal sources is used as a curative spa, whereas the cold sources provide drinking water for the local population -- as a geothermal wetland, the site is extremely rare in the Mediterranean area. The site is famous for ancient practices of hydrotherapy and traditional salt exploitation, and it is an excellent biotope for at least two nationally protected, seriously threatened plant species, *Pistacia atlantica* desf and *Helianthemum lippi*. Most remarkable is the presence of the dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*) and mountain gazelle (*Gazella gazella*), classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. Rock paintings and engravings date back more than 10,000 years and testify to the rich fauna of the region at that time (lions, elephants, wild sheep, bustards and ostriches). Ramsar site no. 1300. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Lednické rybníky

Site number: 497 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Breclav  
Area: 650 ha | Coordinates: 48°46'N 16°47'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Three separate wetlands located in the Dyje River floodplain, consisting of reedbeds, wet meadows, scrub and salt marsh. An important area for low numbers of various species of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. The site provides habitat for notable butterflies and nationally rare halophytic plants. The area is experiencing increasing recreation and tourism, and the ponds are subject to intensive fish production. Only the actual water bodies are protected and there are no buffer zones around them. Two research stations are available.

## Leekstermeergebied

Site number: 1 248 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Drenthe and Groningen  
Area: 1 543 ha | Coordinates: 53°11'N 06°27'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Leekstermeergebied. 29/08/00; Groningen, Drenthe; 1,543 ha; 053°11'N 006°26'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Habitat/Species Management Area. The Site is a freshwater lake, part of the river Rhine catchment area, surrounded by reedbeds, peatbogs and pastures with small marshes and wet grasslands within seasonally flooded agricultural land. The Ramsar Site boundary was adjusted to the Natura 2000 site in 2014, with some residential and recreation areas excluded. The Site supports vulnerable species of breeding bird such as the corn crake (*Crex crex*) and spotted crake (*Porzana porzana*), and is of international importance for ducks and geese during migration and wintering periods. It also supports more than 1% of the individuals of the northwestern Siberian / northwestern-northeastern European population of white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*). The lake serves as a drain for the surrounding polders and provides water for irrigation. The main human uses include commercial fishing, boating, tourism and water management. The Site is threatened by drainage, unnatural water level management and eutrophication. Ramsar site no. 1248. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Lee Valley

Site number: 1 037 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 448 ha | Coordinates: 51°40'N 00°02'E | Designation dates: 09-10-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lee Valley. 09/10/00. England. 448 ha. 51°35'N 000°03'E. SSSI, SPA. A series of embanked water supply reservoirs, sewage treatment lagoons, and former gravel pits extending along about 24km of the valley from near Ware southward to Finsbury Park in London. These water bodies support internationally important numbers of wintering Gadwall and Shoveler (Criterion 6) and nationally important numbers of several other bird species. The site also contains a range of wetland and valley bottom habitats, both humanmade and semi-natural, which support a diverse array of wetland fauna and flora. Four SSSIs are included within the site. Virtually all parts of the site are subject to management plans in which nature conservation is a high or sole priority. Potential threats from eutrophic condition of the water, over-abstraction of surface water for public supply in periods of drought, and urban development pressures are felt to be addressed by several directives and regulations. Non-consumptive recreational activities are important and mostly well regulated. Ramsar site no. 1037. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Leidissoo

Site number: 1 998 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Lääne  
Area: 8 178 ha | Coordinates: 59°06'N 23°44'E | Designation dates: 27-01-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Leidissoo. 27/01/10; Lääne County; 8,178 ha; 59°06'N 023°44'E. Nature Reserve, part of Natura 2000 (SCI and SPA), and IBA. Part of an extensive wilderness area in northwestern Estonia, it consists of a variety of mire types and habitats of European interest and supports many bird species listed under the European Birds Directive annex I, including the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* and Short-toed Eagle *Circus gallicus*. Most typical are poor fens with Sweet Gale *Myrica gale* and transitional mire plant communities. A relatively large (ca. 100 ha) Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* fen occurs, as well as small patches of endangered rich fen communities supporting endemic Alpine Saw-wort *Saussurea alpina* subsp. *esthonica*. The site acts as a refuge for animals with large habitat requirements such as Wolf *Canis lupus* and Lynx *Lynx lynx*, for which it is also a breeding site, and Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* which hibernates in the site. Leidissoo plays a significant role in maintaining the hydrological balance and water quality of the region, and traditional berry and mushroom picking as well as small-scale hunting are practiced within the site. Threats include the intensification of forestry and the drainage of surrounding areas. Ramsar Site no. 1998. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Leighton Moss

Site number: 323 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 129 ha | Coordinates: 54°10'N 02°48'W | Designation dates: 28-11-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Leighton Moss. 28/11/85; England; 129 ha; 54°10'N 002°48'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. Originally wet peatland, the area was drained and cultivated in the 19th century before being re-flooded in 1917. The base-rich water has produced a rich vegetation consisting of large areas of sedge and reedbeds, fen communities, wet *Salix* scrub, and woodland. A diverse invertebrate fauna includes nationally or regionally rare beetles, moths, hoverflies, caddisflies, and water fleas. The site supports nationally important populations of breeding and wintering waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 323. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Le Karthala

Site number: 1 649 | Country: Comoros | Administrative region: Grande Comore (Ngazidja)  
Area: 13 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°46'S 43°21'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Le Karthala. 12/11/06; Ngazidja; 13,000 ha; 11°46'S 043°21'E. Located in the southern part of Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Mount Karthala is a well-known active volcano with its 3km-wide caldera. Its western and southern slopes are covered by a dense, humid forest which harbours several endemic species and contributes to global biodiversity conservation. On the other slopes, different vegetation types occur according to exposure and altitude: evergreen moist forest, dry forest, montane bushland and thicket (characterized by *Philippia* heaths), and highland grasslands. The site harbours the entire bird community of the island, with five endemic endangered species including the Comoro White-eye *Zosterops mouroniensis*, the Comoro Scops-Owl *Otus pauliani*, the Grand Comoro Flycatcher *Humboldtia flavirostris*, the Comoro Drongo *Dicrurus fuscipennis* and the Mayotte Drongo *Dicrurus waldenii*. Two threatened butterfly species are also present. Certain species are used for medicinal purposes and some areas are considered sacred sites. The forests also play an essential role in preventing erosion; with increased land conversion for agricultural purposes, the risk of land degradation and sedimentation in the coastal areas greatly increases. Introduced species and deforestation for firewood and construction materials also threaten the site. There are plans to create a national park, which can further increase the tourism potential of the area. Ramsar site no. 1649. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Leketi-Mbama

Site number: 2 222 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Departement de la Cuvette-Ouest  
Area: 774 965 ha | Coordinates: 01°00'N 14°47'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Leketi-Mbama is a unique inland wetland with a mixture of varied habitats including lakes, marshes and floodplains. It supports a wide range of animals including the critically endangered western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), the endangered chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), the vulnerable hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*). Its flora, characterized by floating meadows, savannah and swamp forests, also provides a safe haven for migratory bird species including the African darter (*Anhinga rufa*) and the woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*). It also hosts a diverse wealth of fish species, with more than 15 species recorded. The main hydrological function of the site is groundwater recharge: it retains about 35% of the direct precipitation occurring in the area. Traditional agriculture, fishing, hunting and collection of non-timber forest products are some of the activities in the Site. The major threats are illegal hunting and uncontrolled tree-cutting. The Site has no management plan at present although the critical status of the gorilla population underlines the urgency of such planning. However it benefits from the provisions of the Congolese Land and Forest Code and the resident customary laws.

## Le Lac Alaotra : Les Zones Humides et Bassins Versants

Site number: 1 312 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région Alaotra Mangoro  
Area: 722 500 ha | Coordinates: 17°35'S 48°20'E | Designation dates: 09-09-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site includes the four surrounding watercourses (the Sahabe, Sasomanga, Sahamaloto and Anony) and their catchment areas. The wetlands are linked to the Indian Ocean by the Maningory River. The Site is an excellent representative example of the natural wetlands of the eastern Madagascar biogeographical region and includes nine of the twenty inland wetland types identified in the Ramsar system of classification, as well as seven of the ten human-made wetland types. The Site is the only natural habitat of the critically endangered Lac Alaotra bamboo lemur (*Haplemur alaotrensis*, known locally as bandro) which is the only primate species in the world that lives exclusively in reed beds. The wetlands surrounding the lake have local cultural significance.

## Le Marais audomarois

Site number: 1 835 | Country: France | Administrative region: Hauts-de-France  
Area: 3 726 ha | Coordinates: 50°47'N 02°16'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cultural and natural heritage have mixed for the past 13 centuries in this unique human-made Site, which supports high biodiversity within a very urbanized and densely populated area. People have been able to cultivate and live in the Site by building 700 kilometres of canals, drainage channels and hydraulic systems to control water levels. The Site hosts one third of the aquatic plant species found in France, and it also supports different life history stages of 26 fish species including the critically endangered globally European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. Among 13 bat species, *Myotis dasycneme*, the rarest bat in France, is regularly found here during the reproduction period. The Site is an important staging area for the globally vulnerable aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* and threatened breeding birds such as the western marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. The ecological character is influenced by the prevailing cultural traditions, with the rich biodiversity closely linked to the regular maintenance of the canals. The Site is important for flood control and fresh water supply as well for recreation and nature observation.

## Lemmenjoki National Park

Site number: 1 521 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 285 990 ha | Coordinates: 68°36'N 25°37'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lemmenjoki National Park. 02/02/04; Lapland; 285,990 ha; 68°35'N 025°36'. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, National Park. Finland's largest national park and one of Europe's most extensive roadless and uninhabited wilderness areas, one in which all the mire types of northern forest Lapland can be found. The central part is dominated by more than 70 km along River Lemmenjoki, but the largest mires are in the southern part; Repokaira is composed of uplands characterized by mountain birch, and the mires have a special character with barren heaths and numerous small waterbodies. Extensive open mires spread out between forest ridges on both sides of River Ivalojoiki, where grassy flarks are well developed, characterized by extensive growths of the cotton-grass species. Blanket mires occur everywhere on the hill-slopes of river valleys, and the springs are accompanied by rich fen-like mires. Threatened mammals such as wolverine, Arctic Fox, Brown Bear, lynx and otter find their habitat in these pristine landscapes, and about 29 European-threatened bird species are breeding in the area. Significant values of the site include environmental education, scientific research, reindeer husbandry, outdoor recreation, recreation fishing and gold washing, but increasing tourism and hiking may cause disturbance. Ramsar site no. 1521. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Le Mont Ntringui

Site number: 1 650 | Country: Comoros | Administrative region: Anjouan  
Area: 3 000 ha | Coordinates: 12°11'S 44°25'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Le Mont Ntringui. 12/11/06; Anjouan; 3,000 ha; 12°11'S 044°25'E. Located on Anjouan, Comoros' second biggest island, the site comprises Mt. Ntringui, the island's highest point, and the crater lake Dzialandzé, which is the largest freshwater body on the island. The site provides a habitat for the endemic, critically endangered Livingstone's Flying Fox, one of the world's largest fruit bats; the Mongoose Lemur *Eulemur mongoz*, also vulnerable; and endemic bird and plant species, which depend on each other for their reproduction, dispersal and survival. Permanent rivers along the slopes of Mt. Ntringui are providential for water supply, irrigation and as a source of water for livestock. The site is also important in its provision of building materials, medicines, fuel wood, honey, for spiritual reasons and as a tourist attraction. It is however threatened by population growth, unsustainable resource use, encroachment, erosion and introduced species. The risk of the degradation and disappearance of the island's freshwater supply is worrying. Although there is no management plan at the site, the NGO Action Comores Anjouan is carrying out some conservation activities with the local communities and a conservation plan for *Pteropus livingstonii* has been elaborated. There are also plans to transform the site into a national park. Ramsar site no. 1650. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Le Rhône genevois - Vallons de l'Allondon et de la Laire

Site number: 506 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton de Genève  
Area: 1 929,4 ha | Coordinates: 46°12'N 06°02'E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site contains a section of the Rhône River in Geneva and downstream, extending from the lake south-westward to the French frontier. It includes the shores of Lake Geneva and riverbanks within the city, riverside areas of the Rhône and natural valleys of the Allondon and the Laire, the Rhône's two main tributaries in the area. The Site forms a green corridor with a varied vegetation cover and habitats such as reedbeds, grasslands subject to seasonal inundation, scrub and alluvial woodland. The Site includes some of the last remaining relatively unmodified stretches of the Rhône in Switzerland, and it is one of the most important wintering sites for waterbirds in the country. There are 113 European protected and over 430 Swiss red-listed species including the globally vulnerable common pochard *Aythya ferina* and the globally endangered thick shelled river mussel *Unio crassus*. Given the proximity to the city, the Site is of a high educational and recreational value, but also under many pressures due to recreational and economic activities such as hydropower generation and the presence of two chemical plants. Popular recreational activities include walking, cycling, canoeing, rafting and camping.

## Les Écrehous & Les Dirouilles, Jersey

Site number: 1 455 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Jersey  
Area: 5 459 ha | Coordinates: 49°18'N 01°58'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Écrehous & Les Dirouilles, Jersey. 02/02/05; Bailiwick of Jersey; 5,459 ha; 49°18'N 001°58'W. The site consists of two reefs which form an extensive shoal area on the east of the Channel Island of Jersey. At high tide only a group of rocky heads and an islet, Le Maître Isle, are uncovered -- at low tide various habitats are exposed, including reefs, boulder fields, sandy shores and shingle banks. The tidal range can exceed 12 meters. The area is fed clean well-oxygenated water, and this factor, together with the range of habitats and the site's biogeographical position, supports a wide range of rich and diverse biotopes and some unusual species assemblages. The flora and fauna is characterised by limit-of-range species at the northern and southern margins of their distributions. These areas are important nursery zones for shore and shallow sublittoral fish communities. A small population of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* and one of the largest breeding populations of bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* in the British Isles are recorded in the area. Fishing within the site is of great cultural, social and traditional importance to the population of Jersey. Ramsar site no. 1455. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Les étangs de Villepey

Site number: 1 836 | Country: France | Administrative region: Provence - Alpes Cote d'Azur  
Area: 255 ha | Coordinates: 43°24'N 06°43'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les étangs de Villepey. 15/09/08; Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; 255 ha; 43°24'N 006°43' E. Natura 2000 SPA, ZNIEFF (Zone Naturelle d'Intérêt Ecologique, Faunistique et Floristique). On the Côte d'Azur between the Camargue region and Italy, in a very urbanized area, one of the last remaining Mediterranean lagoons and its intertidal sand flats, shores, estuarine waters and dune systems. The site supports a number of rare, vulnerable and endangered flora and fauna species. Amongst the protected species are *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Anguilla Anguilla* and *Alosa fallax*, populations of which are declining everywhere else. Potential factors that could impact the ecological character of the site adversely are extractive activities, run-off of pollutants from industrial activities, and urban development. Ramsar site no. 1836. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Les Etangs littoraux de la Narbonnaise

Site number: 1 593 | Country: France | Administrative region: Languedoc-Roussillon  
Area: 12 334 ha | Coordinates: 43°09'N 03°03'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les étangs littoraux de la Narbonnaise. 02/02/06; Languedoc-Roussillon; 12,334 ha; 43°03'N 003°03'E; Site du Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres, Regional Nature Park. Five Mediterranean lagoons which, though fed by freshwater, are still connected to the sea, the last natural connections to the sea that are still functioning on the French Mediterranean coast. Large areas of lacustrine vegetation and the salt gradient characterize the ponds and create an ample diversity of habitats such as reedbeds, rush, salt marshes, salt steppes and fixed dunes. The proximity of wet and very dry habitats, especially on the calcareous islets, is a great particularity of the site. Since ancient times salt production has formed the site and maintained its outstanding biodiversity. The plant species and their habitats have high value as a wintering and breeding place for birds as well as staging and feeding site for migrating species. Threats are perceived from degradation of the water quality and of water circulation in the lagoons, acceleration of human pressures, and recession of reedbeds. Tourist development and especially water sport activities threaten the highly sensitive ecosystems such as dunes and salt steppes. Land uses include vineyards, rice paddies and pastures, as well as urban utilization, besides the salines and natural habitats. Ramsar site no. 1593. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Les Gorges de Thelja

Site number: 2 009 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Gafsa  
Area: 675 ha | Coordinates: 34°09'N 08°17'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Gorges de Thelja. 02/02/12; Gafsa; 675 ha; 34°23'37"N 008°20'36"E. Réserve Naturelle. A natural valley with deep ravine areas through which Thelja Wadi runs, mountainous and arid in the chain of the djebels of the Saharan Atlas (altitude 210-450 m). The valley extends through several kilometers along the very sinuous Thelja and is a landscape of unique tourist attraction in Tunisia, with its famous Red Lizard train journey from al-Mitlawi (Metlaoui) with renovated train cars from the phosphate mining. The site includes Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* as well as the lizard *Uromastix acanthinura*, which has a high capacity to live in desert conditions. The site is potentially threatened by pollution as a result of the mining activities carried out upstream and constructions related to tourism, but it is part of a presidential programme created in 2009 to preserve the mountain, wadi, and gallery biotopes to reinforce the biological diversity, encourage ecological tourism, and support scientific research and tourism. Ramsar Site no. 2009. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Les Grangettes

Site number: 504 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Valais, Vaud  
Area: 6 342,2 ha | Coordinates: 46°25'N 06°52'E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the eastern part of Lake Geneva and the natural part of the Rhône river delta, and features open water, reedbeds, marshes, and riparian woodland. Despite the loss of its natural dynamics since the containment of the Rhône, the Site remains an exceptional landscape. The Site is the most evocative remnant of the immense alluvial and marshy zone that occupied a large part of the Rhone plain, and with a surface area of 6,300 hectares, it remains one of the largest natural wetland plain areas in Switzerland. The Site is remarkable for the diversity of its environments, its flora and fauna, as well as its landscape value. It is also of fundamental conservation importance as it shelters a large number of rare and endangered species. It is a prime site for migrating, nesting and wintering birds. Human activities include conservation, agriculture, fishing, limited forestry, gravel extraction, and outdoor recreation. There is a birdwatching tower. The Site is adjacent to the small lakeside city of Montreux, which hosted Ramsar COP4 in 1990. The Site was extended in 2011 from its original area of 330 hectares.

## Les Guelates d'Issakarassene

Site number: 1 058 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: d'Ideles  
Area: 35 100 ha | Coordinates: 22°25'N 05°45'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Guelates d'Issakarassene. 02/02/01; Tamanrasset; 35,100 ha; 22°25'N 005°45'E. Parc National de L'Ahaggar. A "guelta" is a wetland type specific to the mountains of Hagggar and Tassili, a kind of rocky basin or "crater-hole" hollowed out of the riverbed. Either permanent or intermittent, guelates are often found between 1,000 and 2,000 meters' altitude, and their depth may vary between 4 and 15 meters. Permanent guelates play a very important role in the lives of Tuareg nomads of the region and their livestock, as well as serving as stopover for migratory birds crossing the Sahara. Issakarassene, in the Hagggar mountains, is a permanent wetland of a type that does not yet figure in the Ramsar classification system, fed both by permanent underground sources and sometimes by torrential rainstorms. The site supports a concentration of the last remaining examples of formerly thriving flora and fauna, of which several wetland-dependent species have been able to develop various forms of adaptation that have permitted them thus far to survive the gradual process of aridification of the Sahara, including fish species endemic to the desert the cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* and the gazelle *Gazella dorcas* are both classed as vulnerable by IUCN. The rocky, "lunar" landscape supports few human uses except as a source of water for nomads and their animals, and no significant threats are foreseen, except eventually a possible increase in tourism. Ramsar site no. 1058. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Les Hautes Fagnes

Site number: 1 405 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Wallonie, Province de Liège.  
Area: 9 974 ha | Coordinates: 50°32'N 06°08'E | Designation dates: 24-03-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Hautes Fagnes Ramsar Site is the largest peatland in Belgium and includes around 125 hectares of active raised sphagnum bogs of great ecological interest. The diverse peat habitats host particularly rare species of flora and fauna. The Site is the last refuge for the black grouse *Tetrao tetrix* in Belgium and plays an important role in the conservation of protected species of insects and birds; a significant number of threatened birds use the site for nesting (including the northern shrike *Lanius excubitor* and the ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus*) or as a wintering ground during migration (including the common crane *Grus grus* and the Western marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*). Threats to the ecological character of the Site include industrial atmospheric pollution, groundwater contamination by the salt spread on the roads during winter and drainage for the plantation of resinous trees. The "Haute Fagnes" LIFE-Nature project has led to important restoration measures on 2,800 ha of peatlands, and consequently an increase in the number of nesting couples of diverse species including the Eurasian hobby and the little ringed plover. A large network of educational activities and scientific research was established around the Site. The Management Plan is currently being revised.

## Les Lacs du Grand Sud Neo-Caledonien

Site number: 2 194 | Country: France | Administrative region: Province Sud  
Area: 43 970 ha | Coordinates: 22°09'S 166°46'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Lacs du Grand Sud néo-calédonien. 02/02/2014; Province Sud, Nouvelle-Calédonie; 43,970 ha; 22°08'23"S 166°47'50"E; Provincial Park, Nature Reserve, Habitat/Species Management Area, Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources. The largest freshwater reserve of New Caledonia, situated in the Great Lakes Region (Region des Grands Lacs) in South Province of Grande Terre, the main island. The site consists of tree-dominated wetlands, shrub-dominated marshes, and permanent and seasonal rivers, streams, creeks and lakes, including a reservoir. It is internationally important for the conservation of outstanding endemic species of flora and fauna; it supports vulnerable and endangered species which are important for the maintenance of biological diversity within the New Caledonian Moist Forests biogeographic region. The site, which includes an extensive underground karst system, plays an important role in flood regulation, water supply, maintenance of water quality and groundwater recharge. The artificial Yaté Lake, located at the centre of the site, provides 20% of the country's energy needs. The area is also used for research and outdoor recreational tourism including camping, hiking and kayaking. The main threats to its ecological character derive from fires, forestry, invasive species and mining in surrounding areas. Ramsar site no. 2194. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Les Minquiers, Jersey

Site number: 1 456 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Jersey  
Area: 9 575 ha | Coordinates: 48°58'N 02°07'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Minquiers, Jersey. 02/02/05; Bailiwick of Jersey; 9,575 ha; 48°58'N 002°07'W. An extensive shoal area lying 34 km due south from the Channel Island of Jersey. At high tide only rocky heads and a small supralittoral area are exposed. At low tide various habitats are uncovered exposed, including reefs, boulder fields, sandy shores and shingle banks. The areas of shallow water and the large number of intertidal channels and pools within the site provide habitat for many species of fish, sponge and ascidian communities. Likewise the rich infaunal communities of the mud and sand flats are important for their range of mollusc and worm species. The combination of biogeographic location, the strong tidal streams, a wide variety of wave energy conditions and physical features provide ideal conditions for the support of a wide diversity of organisms and enhance biodiversity. Different locations within the site support a number of species of wintering and passage waders and wildfowl with feeding and roosting locations. Fishing within the site is of great cultural, social and traditional importance to the population of Jersey. Ramsar site no. 1456. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Les Pierres de Lecq

Site number: 1 457 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Jersey  
Area: 512 ha | Coordinates: 49°18'N 02°12'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Pierres de Lecq (the Paternosters), Jersey. 02/02/05; Bailiwick of Jersey; 512 ha; 49°18'N 002°12'W. An extensive reef uncovered at low tide, lying off the northwest coast of Jersey - with one of the largest tidal ranges in the world, sometimes exceeding 12 metres, only four heads are exposed at high tide. Due to the wide range of substrata and wave exposure, the site has a diverse range of habitats, communities, and species. The topographical diversity of biogeographic location, oceanographic circulation, and physical features of the site provide conditions favouring recruitment of planktonic larvae, and the large number of intertidal rocky platforms and diverse algal assemblages are important to many invertebrate and vertebrate organisms, providing shelter, protection and food for both larval and adult stages. These areas are important nursery zones for shore and shallow sublittoral fish communities. The overlap between the cold and warm temperate marine biogeographical regions promotes increased species richness. Among the most important fish species are *Acipenser sturgo*, *Hippocampus hippocampus*, and *Salmo salar*. The Jersey Island Plan 2003 includes a presumption against most kinds of development and ensures the sustainable use of the marine environment. Ramsar site no. 1457. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Les Rapides du Congo-Djoué

Site number: 1 857 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Brazzaville  
Area: 2 500 ha | Coordinates: 04°19'S 15°11'E | Designation dates: 03-04-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Rapides du Congo-Djoué. 03/04/09; Brazzaville; 2,500 ha; 04°19'S 015°11'E. A complex comprising two of the principal tributaries of the River Congo, the Djoué and the Loua, permanent and temporary rivers, marshes, forested islands and aquaculture ponds. It is one of the rare zone of rapids on the Congolese side of the Congo River basin. The Île du Diable, one of three forested islands found within the site, provides refuge for a high concentration of birds that have escaped the ever-increasing human pressures that have led to the disappearance of several species. The waterways of the site support important populations of fish and other invertebrates as they serve as spawning grounds and part of the migration path along the River Congo. While the site is poor in endemic flora, it is known to sustain over 163 species of flora in 60 families. The site is a magnet for tourists due to its unique features, which create a spiritual and cultural attraction to the area the main economic activities within the site, however, are market gardening, fishing, harvesting of wine palm oil, transport, and presence of a hydroelectric dam. While there is currently no management in place, there are national laws enforced for its protection. Ramsar site no. 1857. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Les Rivières de Mbaéré-Bodingué

Site number: 1 590 | Country: Central African Republic | Administrative region: Sangha-Mbaéré / Lobaye  
Area: 101 300 ha | Coordinates: 03°50'N 17°50'E | Designation dates: 05-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les rivières de Mbaéré-Bodingué. 05/12/05; Sangha-Mbaéré, Lobaye préfectures; 101,300 ha; 03°50'N 017°50'E. Ramsar site no. 1590.

### Les Salines d'Arzew

Site number: 1 425 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Oran, Wilaya de Mascara  
Area: 5 778 ha | Coordinates: 35°40'N 00°18'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Salines d'Arzew. 12/12/04; Oran, Mascara; 5,778 ha; 35°40'N 000°18'E. A saline wetland forming part of western Algeria's wetland complex, which includes marshes, salt-lakes and brackish lakes and together play an important role as a stopover for migratory birds and wintering site for the Common and Ruddy Shelducks, the Greater Flamingo and the Greylag Goose. The birds take advantage of the open water, reeds and sandy habitats, stopping by both ways. The site plays a role in groundwater recharge and sediment retention. 80,000 tonnes of salt are produced yearly at the site, while agriculture and livestock raising are also practiced. No particular threat has been identified, nor are any special conservation measures in place. The area is used for awareness creation on celebrations like World Wetlands Days. Ramsar site no. 1425. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Lesser Aral Sea and Delta of the Syrdarya River

Site number: 2 083 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Aral district  
Area: 330 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°21'N 61°00'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lesser Aral Sea and Delta of the Syrdarya River. 02/02/2012; Kyzylorda Oblast; 330,000 ha; 46°20'50"N 061°00'09"E. Includes important Bird Areas (IBAs). The site covers the eastern part of the Lesser Aral Sea, including Saryshyanak Bay and the mouth of the Syrdarya River, with a number of lakes at the northeastern end of the Aral Depression. In spite of the ecological catastrophe of the shrinking of the Aral Sea in the 1960s, the area remains an important habitat for birds and other animals of the water-marsh complex. It is a feeding, breeding ground, and migration path for fish such as the critically endangered Fringebarbel Sturgeon and the Syrdarian Shovelnose Sturgeon, and there is a high level of fish endemism in the Syrdarya River Basin and Aral Sea. Mass nesting of birds such as the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) and the Black Winged-silt (*Himantopus himantopus*) occur, and more than 200,000 waterbirds migrate through the site in autumn. This large wetland feeds the subsoil waters of the large arid region and is critically important for local people as it is one of their only sources of subsistence. Thanks to ongoing government efforts, the water level in the Lesser Aral has been rising with a relative revival of fisheries and agricultural activities. Ramsar Site no. 2083. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Les Tourbières de Dar Fatma

Site number: 1 708 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Jendouba  
Area: 13 ha | Coordinates: 36°48'N 08°46'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Les Tourbières de Dar Fatma. 07/11/07; Jendouba; 13 ha; 36°48'N 08°46'E. Located in the mountainous region of Kroumirie, these peatlands have a significant presence of oak trees of various species. The peatlands are located in the open areas and have sizes that vary between 2m and 8m in diameter and are among the best examples in North Africa. The site is of primary importance for hosting species of flora needed to maintain the local biodiversity and for understanding its evolution in the region. Overgrazing and agriculture have had a negative impact on the site. Ramsar site No. 1708. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lets'eng-la-Letsie

Site number: 1 388 | Country: Lesotho | Administrative region: Quthing District  
Area: 434 ha | Coordinates: 30°20'S 28°12'E | Designation dates: 01-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lets'eng-la-Letsie. 01/07/04; Quthing; 434 ha; 30°20'S 028°12'E. A highland wetland about 200 km southeast of the capital city Maseru, part of the Lets'eng-la-Letsie (not yet gazetted) protected area, which was designated in 2001 as a component of the Conserving Mountain Biodiversity in Southern Lesotho (CMBSL) project. It consists of a human-made lake with a mean depth of about 1 m and its associated catchment area. The main vegetation types are Afroalpine and Afroalpine formations that are dominated by grasses and show high biodiversity and endemism levels. A number of vulnerable species occur among the 110 bird species recorded at this site, including the Wattled and Blue Cranes, the Lesser Kestrel and the Bald Ibis. The site is currently used as grazing land and is important for provision of grass for thatching, as a source of water, medicinal plants and wood, and for fishing. Given the free access/open property nature of the site it suffers from overstocking, overgrazing and erosion, as well as overexploitation of its natural resources. No management plan exists as yet for the Ramsar site, although there are plans, which have raised controversy, to fence off the area for the re-introduction of large mammals and development of tourism facilities. Ramsar site no. 1388. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Levaneva Mires

Site number: 1 522 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 3 343 ha | Coordinates: 62°47'N 22°06'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Levaneva Mires. 02/02/04; Western Finland, 3,343 ha; 62°46'N 022°05'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. One of the largest, nearly virgin mire complexes of concentric bogs in southern Ostrobothnia, part of the biogeographic region of the middle boreal forest vegetation zone. The area includes about 3,000 ha of mires and about 240 ha of water surrounded by forests and mires. Levaneva consists of three vast, more or less separated concentric raised bogs with plenty of hollows and ponds and a mosaic of forested islands. It is an important breeding and staging area for numerous threatened bird species in migration periods, and the site provides habitats for threatened mammals in Europe such as lynx, wolf, and Russian Flying Squirrel. In the past impacts were mainly caused by drainage ditching and eutrophication, but water level regulation of the reservoir westwards may still negatively affect mire edges. The first protection statute was achieved in 1993 followed by measures for national and international conservation programmes and regulations. Ramsar site no. 1522. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Levera Wetland

Site number: 2 034 | Country: Grenada | Administrative region: St. Patrick  
Area: 518 ha | Coordinates: 12°13'N 61°37'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Levera Wetland. 22/05/12; Saint Patrick; 518.22 ha, 12°13'28.85"N 61°36'36.80"W. National Protected Area. A unique representation of an almost pristine ecosystem, including a mangrove swamp, sandy beaches, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and an offshore island. The site hosts the critically endangered species leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*), and the endemic Grenada Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus mirus*), which depends on forest habitats, including wooded freshwater swamps, and mangrove swamps. It is of particular significance as a nesting of *Dermochelys coriacea*, receiving from 200 to 900 nesting activities annually, supporting at least 1% of the individuals of this species. The major human-induced pressures on the ecological values of the LPPA include: Fishing activities which impact populations of fish and non-target species; Improper solid waste disposal; Predation or competition from introduced species; and Alteration of marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Ramsar Site no. 2034. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lewis Peatlands

Site number: 1 046 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Western isles  
Area: 58 984 ha | Coordinates: 58°16'N 06°30'W | Designation dates: 22-12-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lewis Peatlands. 22/12/00; Scotland; 58,984 ha; 58°15'N 006°35'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. Largely made up of a near-continuous mantle of blanket bog (a significant proportion of the total world resource), liberally dotted with small pools and lochans. In the southern part, the peatland is more broken with outcrops of rocks of Lewisian gneiss and lochans, forming a distinctive "knock and lochan" landscape and including the largest freshwater nutrient-poor lochs of south central Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles. The vast expanse of this relatively undisturbed peatland supports a diverse range of associated flora and fauna, including 31% of the world population of dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*). The hyper-oceanic, extremely humid upper boreal bioclimatic zone predominates to an extent found nowhere else in Scotland. Human uses include low-density sheep and red deer grazing, sport shooting and angling, and low-level recreational use of "quad bikes" and other all-terrain vehicles. Ramsar site no. 1046. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Liběchovka and Pšovka Brooks

Site number: 922 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Bohemia  
Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 50°25'N 14°30'E | Designation dates: 13-11-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A system of small, shallow calcareous wetlands consisting of alder carrs, reed swamps and flooded and wet meadows along two brooks. The calcareous fens support numerous rare, endemic and endangered species of flora and fauna. The site is most important as a refuge for extensive populations of relict invertebrate species whose declining populations are a result of climate change, hydro-engineering, forest management practices, agriculture and drainage. The area is an important groundwater reservoir for Central Bohemia. The wetlands are used for scientific research and the surrounding areas for tourism and recreation.

## Libenga

Site number: 1 743 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Likouala  
Area: 59 409 ha | Coordinates: 02°51'N 18°00'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Libenga. 13/12/07; Likouala; 59,409 ha; 02°51'N 018°00'E. Located in the north and extending to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the level of River Oubangui, the site consists of River Libenga (325 km long), marshes on both sides of the river, small streams, floodplains, and swamp forests. It plays an important role in biodiversity maintenance, hydrological regulation, and socio-economy of the zone. The river is an important refuge for the hippopotamus population coming from River Oubangui where they face some threats. A wide variety of endemic and migrant fish species inhabit these waters, and the prairies around the river serve as a refuge for some migratory birds (Marabou Stork and Pelicans) and migratory buffalos. The river is important for local transportation. Fishing and palm wine exploitation constitute the main economical activities. The site has no management plan at present but benefits from national and local resource management measures such as restrictive hunting seasons and limitation of exploitation of certain zones to clan residents. River Libenga continues to benefit from the program of control of aquatic invasive species that was initiated by the government in 1998. Ramsar site no. 1743. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Lihou Island and l'Erée Headland, Guernsey

Site number: 1 608 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bailiwick of Guernsey  
Area: 427 ha | Coordinates: 49°28'N 02°40'W | Designation dates: 01-03-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lihou Island and L'Erée Headland, Guernsey. 01/03/06; Bailiwick of Guernsey; 427 ha; 49°28'N 002°40'W. Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). Comprising several coastal areas on the west coast of the island of Guernsey, including the shingle bank Les Anguillieres and the western end of L'Erée Headland as well as the small northwestern Lihou Island and surrounding marine coastal areas. Within a relatively small area there is an amazing variety of interesting habitat types including rocky, gravelly and sandy shoreline, the sublittoral zone, coastal grassland, saltmarsh, reedbed and saline lagoon, as well as vegetated shingle banks, seagrass *Zostera* beds, and wet grassland, altogether supporting a rich diversity of animals and plants such as 214 different species of seaweed on the tiny shore around Lihou Island. The area also has a rich cultural heritage, with many important archaeological and historical remains. In summer the site offers very popular beaches for sunbathing and bathing at high tide as well as surfing and rockpooling at some places. Birdwatching is another well-liked activity which is supported by two bird hides at La Claire Mare. Integrated management plans are under development for different areas of the site. Ramsar site no. 1608. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lihula

Site number: 1 997 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Lääne and Pärnu County  
Area: 6 620 ha | Coordinates: 58°39'N 23°56'E | Designation dates: 27-01-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lihula. 27/01/10; Lääne & Pärnu Counties; 6,620 ha; 58°39'N 023°56'E. Landscape Reserve, Natura 2000 (SCI and partly SPA), Pan European Ecological Network, part of IBA. A large intact mire complex, characteristic for the EU Boreal biogeographic region, consisting of open plateau bog surrounded by open and wooded fens as well as peatland forests. The site plays a significant role in maintaining the hydrological balance and water quality of the region and provides important wetland habitats for specific flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species. It acts as a feeding and resting site for migrating cranes, geese (*Anser fabalis*, *A. albifrons*), and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, and many bird species occurring and breeding in the site are of European interest, such as Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. Furthermore, the site supports populations of large mammals including Wolf *Canis lupus*, Lynx *Lynx lynx*, Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*, and Elk *Alces alces*. Traditional berry and mushroom picking as well as small-scale hunting are practiced within the site. Threats to the site include the intensification of forestry, the drainage of surrounding areas, and the abandonment of semi-natural meadows. A management plan is awaiting approval, and a bog nature trail is planned on the northern edge of the mire. Ramsar Site no. 1997. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lillebælt

Site number: 154 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Fyn and Sønderjylland Regions  
Area: 35 189 ha | Coordinates: 55°21'N 09°44'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lillebælt. 02/09/77; Region Syddanmark; 35,189 ha; 55°21'N 009°43'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Wildlife Reserves, Nature Conservation Area. A narrow strait of shallow, coastal water, islands, peninsulas, coves, lagoons, saltmarshes, reedbeds and farmland. The site is an internationally important area for breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds, including cormorants, ducks, and geese. Human activities include hunting and commercial fish-farming. As of 2002, intervention and sanctions by environmental authorities have diminished industrial pollution (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) and discharge of oxygen-consuming materials, but pollution, eutrophication, and hunting are still perceived as potential threats. Management plans have been developed in 2011 prioritizing specific goals to improve the water quality and the ecological status of the wetland and its catchment and coastal areas. Ramsar site no. 154. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Lille Vildmose

Site number: 2 166 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Himmerland  
Area: 7 393 ha | Coordinates: 56°53'N 10°12'E | Designation dates: 18-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lille Vildmose. 18/05/2013; Region Nordjylland; 7,393 ha; 56°54'N 010°12'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Habitat/Species Management Area. The site comprises a blend of bogs, forests, lakes and meadows and holds an important flora and fauna characteristic of large bogs, including important species such as Sphagnum mosses. A large part of the raised bog has been drained, cultivated and used for a turf industry. Peat extraction ceased in 2011, however, and restoration plans supported by the EU LIFE+ funds have been implemented. The restored lakes contain high levels of phosphorus but they are rich in European-protected bird species such as Common Crane, Curlew, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Eagle Owl, Avocet and Wood Sandpiper. Moreover, populations of Red Deer, Otter, Badger and Wild Boar also breed within the site. Lille Vildmose is also very important for carbon storage, groundwater recharge and climate regulation. One of the primary threats derives from fragmentation of the bog habitat due to former excavation and drainage causing vegetation overgrowth. Today the main use of the area is for nature conservation. There are many visitor facilities such as a visitor centre, exhibitions, information activities and guided tours, boardwalks and several towers for birdwatching. Ramsar Site no. 2166. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Liminganlahti Bay Area

Site number: 1 523 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 12 275 ha | Coordinates: 64°54'N 25°15'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Liminganlahti Bay Area. 02/02/04; Oulu; 12,275 ha; 64°56'N 025°21'E. Natura 2000 Network, SPA, SCI, WHCP, HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Area. Basic elements typical of the coast of the Bothnian Bay, such as lagoons, muddy shores, coastal meadows, natural forests of primary succession stages and small islets, form together a wide and varied wholeness. As the shores are low-lying and the water level varies, the vegetation zones are exceptionally extensive. Wrinkling flads and gloe ponds are typical of the area. The flora contains two very special groups, the endemic species of the Gulf of Bothnia and a group of Arctic species in isolation from the main distribution areas of the Arctic Ocean. The breeding and migrating wetland bird fauna is among the richest in Finland. As a result of eutrophication, and decrease of grazing and hay cutting, reeds have increased and the area of coastal meadows has diminished. Intensive hunting prevents the staging of waterfowl during autumn, and there are nearly 50 small boat harbours around the bay. Increased building of holiday cottages, fishing lodges, hunting cabins and roads are causing disturbance. Ramsar site no. 1523. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Lindisfarne

Site number: 70 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 3 679 ha | Coordinates: 55°40'N 01°50'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lindisfarne. 05/01/76; England; 3,679 ha; 55°40'N 001°50'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast. Extensive intertidal flats, with a large area of saltmarsh, a major sand dune system with well-developed dune slacks supporting beds of *Zostera*. The slacks provide food for an internationally important flock of wintering geese, *Branta bernicla hrota* (2,428), of the Spitzbergen breeding population. Various species of ducks and geese winter in internationally important numbers regularly exceeding 20,000 individuals. The site is of national importance for breeding terns. The dune systems support a rich flora and diverse invertebrate fauna. Tourism attracts up to 750,000 visitors annually. Ramsar site no. 70. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Lista Wetlands System

Site number: 804 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Aust-og Vest-Agder  
Area: 1 173 ha | Coordinates: 58°05'N 06°41'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a wetland system of shallow bays, sand, shingle and rocky beaches, dune systems and lakes. Large quantities of seaweed accumulate, creating rich feeding areas for waterbirds. The Site is of great importance to wintering and staging waterfowl, seabirds and waders, owing to its great diversity and its strategic location on the southern tip of Norway. Inland shallow lakes are important feeding areas for divers, grebes, cormorants and many species of diving ducks during winter and migration periods. Numerous nationally rare plant species occur. Human activities include nature conservation, recreation, fishing and hunting. The area is noted for numerous archaeological finds of national importance. There is a birdwatching observatory at the Site.

## Litovelské Pomoraví

Site number: 638 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Olomouc  
Area: 5 122 ha | Coordinates: 49°42'N 17°05'E | Designation dates: 26-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Litovelské Pomoraví. 02/11/93; Olomouc, Sumpark; 5,122 ha; 49°42'N 017°05'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 26 February 1997. Protected Landscape Area, National Nature Reserve, Nature Reserve. A complex of riverine wetlands and floodplain forests along the Morava River. Habitats include wet meadows, oxbow lakes and fishponds subject to seasonal flooding which determines the vegetation communities present. The site supports numerous species of notable plants, provides habitat for various breeding amphibians, birds and fish. The site was added to the Montreux Record in 1997, because water abstraction for domestic supply "exceeds the recovery capacity of the natural ecosystem", causing adverse ecological impacts. Human activities include intensive agriculture, forestry, and recreation (tourism, hunting). Ramsar site no. 638. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve

Site number: 798 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 257,6 ha | Coordinates: 30°05'S 151°47'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Summary description: Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve. 17/03/96; New South Wales; 258 ha; 30°05'S 151°46'E. Nature Reserve, Crown Land Wildlife Management Area. One of the few high altitude, freshwater lagoons in New South Wales. An unusual system, as lagoons are not usually found in fluvial landscapes at the extreme upper limit of streams. The site is rare due to its near-natural condition and is particularly important as a drought refuge for waterbirds. It also regularly supports significant numbers of various species of waterbirds such as the blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*) and the Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*). Several birds, plants and amphibians found at the site are rare, threatened or endemic such as the globally endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) which breeds at the site and the critically endangered Yellow-spotted bell frog (*Litoria castanea*). Vegetation includes submerged and emergent aquatic plants, sedge-meadows, and terrestrial communities. Archaeological surveys show Aboriginal activity dating back to at least 5,000 years before present. Human activities consist of livestock grazing, some cropping, nature conservation with limited recreational use and scientific research. Public access is restricted to researchers, birdwatchers, and educational institutions. Ramsar site no. 798. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Little Waterhouse Lake

Site number: 260 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 56 ha | Coordinates: 40°52'S 147°37'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Little Waterhouse Lake. 16/11/82; Tasmania; 57 ha; 40°52'S 147°36'E. Crown Land, Recreation Area. A coastal freshwater lagoon situated in the Waterhouse Conservation Area (north-east coast of Tasmania), receiving its water from local catchment runoff and also from a small drain (formerly a creek) known as Tobacco Creek. The lake is an excellent example of a small freshwater lake impounded behind coastal dunes. Its high floristic diversity, high biological productivity and near-natural condition contribute to it being considered a representative example of these types of wetland in the biogeographic context. The lake has well developed macrophyte flora and contains over 40 species of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants. The site supports globally threatened species such as the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*). The Lake is also the site of early European settlement in the district and is used for recreational purposes including nature observation, fishing, boating, recreational vehicle use and hunting, research and monitoring. The surrounding area contains important Aboriginal sites and is used for recreational camping and livestock grazing, with water use for agricultural purposes. Ramsar site no. 260. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Livanjsko Polje

Site number: 1 786 | Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina | Administrative region: Hercegbosanska Zupanija  
Area: 45 868 ha | Coordinates: 43°52'N 16°49'E | Designation dates: 11-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Livanjsko Polje (Livno karst field). 11/04/08; Hercegbosanska canton; 45,868 ha; 43°53'N 016°47'E. The largest karst depression in the Dinaric karst and perhaps the largest periodically flooded karst field in the world. The site comprises seasonally flooded agricultural land and alluvial forest, seasonal marshes and pools, permanent streams, karst springs and sinkholes, and the largest peatland in the Balkans. Together with the Sava wetlands, it is the most important wintering, migration, and breeding site for waterbirds and raptors in the country and a key site of the Central European Flyway. The polje is important for the identity of the local community of Livno, well-known for its traditional cheeses, and for a wide range of recreational pursuits. Threats include water extraction for energy production, a planned coal-fired thermoelectric plant, and unsustainable peat excavation. Ramsar site no. 1786. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Llyn Idwal

Site number: 534 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 14 ha | Coordinates: 53°07'N 04°02'W | Designation dates: 07-11-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Llyn Idwal. 07/11/91; Wales; 14 ha; 53°07'N 004°01'W. National Park, Nature Reserve, SSSI. A small nutrient-poor mountain valley lake with an unusually species-rich plant community, including almost all of the species typical of nutrient-poor waters in Britain. Numerous species are nationally scarce or vulnerable at a European level. The semi-circular rock basin (cwm) containing the lake is one of the finest examples in the area. Ramsar site no. 534. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Llyn Tegid

Site number: 535 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Wales  
Area: 482 ha | Coordinates: 52°53'N 03°37'W | Designation dates: 07-11-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Llyn Tegid. 07/11/91; Wales; 482 ha; 52°53'N 003°37'W. National Park, SSSI. The largest natural lake in Wales, set in a deep formerly-glaciated trough. Its aquatic vegetation is sparse, but the range of species, several of which are scarce in Britain, is indicative of generally average nutrient conditions. Llyn Tegid is one of only six sites in Britain for the fish *Coregonus lavaretus* and is an unusual habitat for the normally riverine fish *Thymallus thymallus*. Ramsar site no. 535. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Loch an Duin

Site number: 468 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: North Uist / Outer Hebrides  
Area: 2 621 ha | Coordinates: 57°39'N 07°09'W | Designation dates: 25-04-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch an Duin. 25/04/90; Scotland; 2,621 ha; 57°38'N 007°09'W. SSSI, Scenic Area. This site is important in the British Isles for its complex system of freshwater, brackish and sea lochs, and tidal channels. It includes part of the northeast coastland of North Uist and some of the adjacent islands and skerries. The comprehensive range of salinities, from freshwater to brackish and saltwater, is reflected in the associated plant and animal communities, which include the northern forms of some seaweeds. The habitat types of the coastland and islands range from moorland to maritime grassland. The site is also important for its geomorphology, as it is one of the best fjardic loch systems in Great Britain. Ramsar site no. 468. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Eye

Site number: 340 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 205 ha | Coordinates: 57°48'N 03°58'W | Designation dates: 01-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Eye. 01/10/86; Scotland; 205 ha; 57°47'N 003°58'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI, Statutory Bird Sanctuary. A shallow freshwater loch with a rich growth of submerged vegetation. The loch is fringed by a narrow band of trees and an area of *Salix carr*. The terrestrial flora and invertebrate fauna includes nationally rare species. The lake is a roosting site for internationally important numbers of swans and geese. The catchment is dominated by arable agriculture and commercial forestry. Ramsar site no. 340. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Ken & River Dee Marshes

Site number: 568 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 769 ha | Coordinates: 55°00'N 04°02'W | Designation dates: 31-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Ken & River Dee Marshes. 31/08/92; Scotland; 769 ha; 54°59'N 004°01'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. The site comprises a long linear loch and river system which is the southernmost of its type in Scotland. It contains areas of swamp, fen, grassland and carr woodland and is a good example of a semi-natural freshwater system in north-west Europe. The site supports internationally important roosting numbers of Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and Icelandic greylag geese *Anser anser*. There are four nationally important aquatic plants and three nationally important aquatic invertebrates found within the wetland complex. The site is a diverse and complex water system with opportunities for environmental education and research. Ramsar site no. 568. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Leven

Site number: 72 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 1 612 ha | Coordinates: 56°12'N 03°22'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Leven. 05/01/76; Scotland; 1,612 ha; 56°12'N 003°23'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI. The site, the largest nutrient-rich lake in Britain, is an excellent example of a wetland with multiple uses in balance with its natural heritage interest. Consisting of several islands surrounded by damp pasture, the site is of national entomological importance and includes several nationally rare species of aquatic flora. The loch provides feeding, roosting and wintering sites for internationally important numbers (averaging 18,463 individuals in winter) of swans, geese and ducks. Human activities include intensive trout fishing, bird hunting, and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 72. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Lomond

Site number: 73 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 237 ha | Coordinates: 56°04'N 04°32'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Lomond. 05/01/76; Scotland; 237 ha; 56°04'N 004°30'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Scenic Area. A large freshwater lake, with waters varying from nutrient-poor to nutrient-rich. The site includes river floodplains and five wooded islands. The floodplain is a mosaic of open water, average nutrient-load fen, wet woodland, meadows, and grazing areas supporting rich communities of plants, invertebrates, fish, and birds, including rare species, and internationally important numbers of wintering geese. Human activities include tourism, recreation, and water sports. Ramsar site no. 73. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Maree

Site number: 700 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 3 174 ha | Coordinates: 57°41'N 05°28'W | Designation dates: 19-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Maree. 19/09/94; Scotland; 3,174 ha; 57°41'N 005°28'W. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, SSSI. A large nutrient-poor loch supporting outstanding assemblages of flora and fauna, including five nationally scarce aquatic plants, a nationally outstanding assemblage of dragonflies, and a genetically distinct population of char (*Salvelinus alpinus*). The single most important breeding population of Black-throated Diver, *Gavia arctica*, in Britain occurs at the site. Human activities include tourism, fishing, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 700. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch of Inch & Torrs Warren

Site number: 972 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 2 111 ha | Coordinates: 54°51'N 04°53'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch of Inch & Torrs Warren. 02/02/99; Scotland; 2,111 ha; 54°50'N 004°52'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. The area is composed of two separate sites: a large nutrient-rich freshwater loch including well-developed fen communities, and an area of foreshore and sand dunes. In winter, both components of the site support internationally important numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*). The area is used for nature conservation, military activities, pastoral agriculture, tourism, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 972. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch of Kinnordy

Site number: 652 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 85 ha | Coordinates: 56°41'N 03°03'W | Designation dates: 29-03-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch of Kinnordy. 29/03/94; Scotland; 85 ha; 56°40'N 003°03'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. A nutrient-rich loch and associated wetland communities consisting of basin mire, swamp, and fen. The loch was formerly much larger in extent, but a series of drainage attempts were made, initially to facilitate marl removal. However, it has been increasing in extent in recent years due to the silting of the loch's current outflow stream. Vegetation includes various types of grasslands, willow, alder and birch woodlands, fen communities supporting reedbeds, and various scarce plant species. Internationally important numbers of geese winter at the site. Human activities include recreation, hunting, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 652. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch of Lintrathen

Site number: 217 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 217 ha | Coordinates: 56°41'N 03°11'W | Designation dates: 24-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch of Lintrathen. 24/07/81; Scotland; 217 ha; 56°41'N 003°11'W. SSSI. A large, deep nutrient-rich loch, occupying a mid-altitude basin of glacial origin and used as a water supply reservoir. There is no emergent vegetation within the site, but occasional falls in water level due to water extraction from the reservoir can create large expanses of dwarf inundation vegetation; *Peplis portula* and *Eleocharis acicularis* characterize this vegetation. The site includes a viewing hide overlooking the area frequented by internationally important numbers of roosting and wintering *Anser anser*. Small numbers of other wintering geese, ducks, and swans also occur. Ramsar site no. 217. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch of Skene

Site number: 339 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 121 ha | Coordinates: 57°09'N 02°21'W | Designation dates: 01-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch of Skene. 01/10/86; Scotland; 121 ha; 57°09'N 002°21'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. A shallow, nutrient-rich, freshwater lake fringed by reedbeds and *Betula-Salix* carr. The macrophyte flora has been somewhat depleted by a growth of algae but the deeper water still retains a dense and diverse macrophyte community. Wintering waterbirds include internationally important numbers of roosting swans and geese and nationally important numbers of *Bucephala clangula* and *Mergus merganser*. Ramsar site no. 339. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch of Strathbeg

Site number: 778 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 616 ha | Coordinates: 57°37'N 01°53'W | Designation dates: 27-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch of Strathbeg. 27/11/95; Scotland; 616 ha; 57°37'N 001°53'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. A shallow nutrient-rich loch constituting the largest dune slack pool in Britain. Vegetation consists of reedbeds, freshwater marshes, and alder-willow carr. Calcareous dunes and dune slacks are relatively undisturbed and provide habitat for a rich flora and fauna. This site provides wintering habitat for numerous important wetland bird species, notably internationally important numbers of geese and the Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus*, and is an important staging area for migratory waterbirds. Human activities include tourism, fishing, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 778. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Ruthven

Site number: 855 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 201 ha | Coordinates: 57°19'N 04°18'W | Designation dates: 16-08-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Ruthven. 16/08/96; Scotland; 201 ha; 57°20'N 004°17'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. A loch with rocky margins fringed by bottle sedge. The site includes a marshy zone, areas of open water, swamp, fen, and acidic grassland, and is surrounded by birchwood. Two nationally scarce orchid species are present. The site forms a core part of the breeding range, and supports one of the most productive breeding populations in Britain, of Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. Human activities include recreation, fishing, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 855. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Loch Spynie

Site number: 569 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 94 ha | Coordinates: 57°41'N 03°17'W | Designation dates: 31-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loch Spynie. 31/08/92; Scotland; 94 ha; 57°41'N 003°17'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. The loch developed in the 16th century from the closure of a tidal inlet by a shingle spit, giving rise to a shallow, nutrient-rich lagoon. The area exhibits typical succession of wetland plant communities, supporting several nationally rare species. The diversity of vegetation types supports a correspondingly interesting flora and fauna. The site is important for wintering and staging waterbirds, including internationally important numbers of geese returning to Icelandic breeding grounds. Human activities include management of vegetational succession and tourism. Ramsar site no. 569. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Logan Lagoon

Site number: 252 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 2 257 ha | Coordinates: 40°10'S 148°17'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Logan Lagoon Ramsar Site is one of the three estuarine lagoon systems along the eastern coast of Flinders Island, in the Bass Strait north of Tasmania. It is an excellent, regionally representative example of a coastal estuarine wetland system. It comprises a diverse range of seasonal and permanent marshlands, forests, heathlands and woodlands. It also supports globally threatened species such as the endangered forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) and the vulnerable dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*) as well as the little tern (*Sternula albifrons*). Logan Lagoon has important hydrological values, such as in groundwater recharge from the surrounding impermeable granite catchments; flood control and erosion protection; retention, recovery and removal of excess nutrients and pollutants; and the maintenance of natural ecosystems in the lagoon. Although the local community regularly uses the Site, it is still a relatively undisturbed wetland and has the potential to become an important educational resource for natural science.

### Loktak Lake

Site number: 463 | Country: India | Administrative region: Manipur  
Area: 26 600 ha | Coordinates: 24°26'N 93°49'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Loktak Lake. 23/03/90; Manipur; 26,600 ha; 24°26'N 093°49'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. A large, but shrinking freshwater lake and associated swamplands supplied by several streams. Thick, floating mats of weeds covered with soil (phumids) are a characteristic feature. The lake is used extensively by local people as a source of water for irrigation and domestic use and is an important wintering and staging area for waterbirds, particularly ducks. It also plays an important role in flood control. Included on the Montreux Record in 1993 as a result of ecological problems such as deforestation in the catchment area, infestation of water hyacinth, and pollution. The construction of a dam for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation purposes has caused the local extinction of several native fish species. Ramsar site no. 463. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

### Long Point

Site number: 237 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 13 730 ha | Coordinates: 42°35'N 80°15'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Long Point. 24/05/82; Ontario; 13,730 ha; 42°35'N 080°15'W. Biosphere Reserve; National Wildlife Area. A sandy spit, of marshes, wet meadows, wooded swamps, beaches and dunes. The microclimate has led to the development of unusual plant associations. Many plant species occur at the extreme northern limit of their range and include 3 endemic and 42 species rare in Ontario. A major resting and feeding area for migratory waterbirds. Up to 30,000 *Cygnus c. columbianus* pass through in spring, and more than 10% of the world populations of *Aythya valisineria* and *A. americana* congregate in spring and fall. An important stop-over point for migratory land birds, bats and the butterfly *Danaus plexippus*. 26 species of reptiles and amphibians occur in the area, including several threatened species. A research facility exists and there is managed duck hunting. Ramsar site no. 237. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Lonjsko Polje Nature Park

Site number: 584 | Country: Croatia | Administrative region: Sisačko-moslavačka & Brodsko-posavska Counties  
Area: 51 218 ha | Coordinates: 45°22'N 16°49'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lonjsko polje Nature Park. 18/01/93; Sisak-Moslavina, Brod-Posavina Counties; 51,218 ha; 45°21'43N 16°50'02E. Nature Park, Ornithological Reserve, Protected Landscape, Wilderness Area. A vast floodplain along the Sava River, covered by oak alluvial forest, alder swamp forests, wet meadows and pastures. The area supports more than two thirds of Croatian bird species (250 species), 138 of which breed in Lonjsko Polje Nature Park. The area also supports stable populations of species that depend on the forest integrity, such as the White-Tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and the Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomaria*. The site is also one of the biggest spawning areas for fish in the Danube basin. Ecological processes and inundation dynamics set the pattern for the traditional land use, creating a unique mosaic of anthropogenic and natural habitats important for the preservation of biological and landscape diversity. Land use activities are, among others, grazing, hunting, fishing and water management. The natural floodplain areas are used for floodwater retention. Ramsar Site no. 584. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Los Guatuzos

Site number: 915 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Río San Juan  
Area: 43 750 ha | Coordinates: 11°00'N 84°52'W | Designation dates: 30-07-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Los Guatuzos. 30/07/97; 43,750 ha; 11°00'N 84°52'W. Lakes and ponds subject to seasonal flooding, set in alluvial depressions with surrounding woodlands. There are also areas that are normally dry where the water table is several centimetres below the surface. The interaction of unique environmental factors has given rise to rich populations of flora and fauna both indigenous and migratory. 326 bird species, of which 77 species are migratory, 32 mammal and 10 reptile species are supported. There are several species of birdlife threatened with extinction. Ramsar site no. 915. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Los Lípez

Site number: 489 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Provincias Sud y Nor Lípez  
Area: 1 427 717 ha | Coordinates: 22°10'S 67°24'W | Designation dates: 27-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Los Lípez. 27/06/90; Potosí; 1,427,717 ha; 22°10'S 67°24'W. Reserva de Fauna Andina. The site, first designated in 1990 as Laguna Colorada, is located in the Bolivian Altiplano between 4,200 and 6,000m altitude the area covered was significantly extended as of 13 July 2009 from 51,318 to 1,427,717 hectares and now includes a complex of high Andean endorheic permanent saline, hypersaline and brackish lakes, as well as bofedales and geothermal wetlands. These wetlands sustain such migratory birds as Phalaropus tricolor and Calidris bairdii, who use the wetlands as staging sites for roosting and feeding. The Horned Coot (*Fulica corneta*) and Darwin's Rhea (*Rhea pennata garleppi*), a very threatened subspecies, are also present. In addition, ca. 25% and 50% of the global population of the Andean flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*) and James's Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*), respectively, concentrate in this area. There are also threatened non-avian species such as the endemic frog *Telmatobius huayra*, the Andean Mountain Cat *Leopardus jacobita*, and the colocolo *Leopardus colocolo*. Due to its landscape beauty and natural attractions the site is the most visited protected area in Bolivia (ca. 70.000 tourist/year), which has caused negative impacts on the lakes. Mining represents another important threat. The Ramsar site covers two of the 14 priority sites of the Wetland Network of Importance for Conservation of High-Andes Flamingos in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Half of the Ramsar site is protected under the National Andean Wildlife Reserve Eduardo Avaroa. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993, removed from the Record, 7 August 1996. Ramsar site no. 489. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Loubetsi-Nyanga

Site number: 2 221 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Niari  
Area: 251 151,1 ha | Coordinates: 02°55'S 12°01'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Characterized by a range of habitats including dryland gallery forests, swamp forests and river bodies, the Loubetsi-Nyanga is an important biological reserve which supports varied flora, macroinvertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds and terrestrial mammals, and provides refuge for several notable species including the forest elephant, gorilla, chimpanzee, hippopotamus, hyena, leopard, lycaon and the giant ground pangolin. The Site is also home to the Nile crocodile (*Crocodilus niloticus*), African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*) and the critically endangered slender-snouted crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*). The hydrological functions of the Site include sediment retention, flood control and groundwater recharge. The local communities, estimated at 12,500 inhabitants, are highly dependent on the numerous resources of the Site for food, medicine, transportation and goods for trading with nearby towns. Slash-and-burn agricultural practices, poaching, and illegal logging are the major threats to the Site.

## Lough Barra Bog

Site number: 373 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Donegal  
Area: 176 ha | Coordinates: 54°57'N 08°07'W | Designation dates: 01-06-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Barra Bog. 01/06/87; Donegal; 176 ha; 54°57'N 08°07'W. Nature Reserve. The site, adjacent to the Meenachullion Bog site, is part of the most extensive and intact area of lowland blanket bog in northwest Ireland. The site includes numerous small pool complexes and flushes and remnants of native deciduous woodland dominated by *Quercus petraea*. Breeding birds include *Falco columbarius* and *Pluvialis apricaria*, and a wintering flock of the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Ramsar site no. 373.

## Lough Corrib

Site number: 846 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Galway  
Area: 17 728 ha | Coordinates: 53°30'N 09°15'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Corrib. 11/06/96; 17,728 ha; 53°30'N 09°15'W. The second largest lake in Ireland supports one of the largest areas of wetland vegetation consisting of reed, sedge and rush communities in the country. Other habitats include Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) woodland, calcareous fen, callows grassland, marsh and raised bog with a soak system. The site provides important feeding grounds for waterbirds and supports internationally important numbers of several breeding and wintering waterbirds and nationally important numbers of numerous other waterbird species. The site supports the otter and numerous rare and threatened plant and fish species. Human activities include fishing and hunting. Ramsar site no. 846.

### Lough Derravaragh

Site number: 847 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Westmeath  
Area: 1 120 ha | Coordinates: 53°40'N 07°20'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Derravaragh. 11/06/96; West Meath; 1,120 ha; 53°40'N 007°20'W. A raised or cutaway bog with a shallow, alkaline lake and extensive reedbeds and swamps. Vegetation includes various aquatic plants dominated by reeds and sedges, several of which have a restricted distribution in Ireland, and deciduous woodland composed of native species. The site supports nationally important numbers of several species of waterbirds and provides valuable habitat for otter. Human activities include fishing, hunting, canoeing and water sports. Ramsar site no. 847.

### Lough Ennell

Site number: 848 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Westmeath  
Area: 1 404 ha | Coordinates: 53°27'N 07°23'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Ennell. 11/06/96; West Meath; 1,404 ha; 53°27'N 007°23'W. A large, steep-sided lake fringed by calcareous grassland, wet marshy areas, reedbeds and mixed woodland. The site is of significance as a highly productive lake rich in its range of lower plants and invertebrate species. Its lakeshore habitats provide important refuges for waterbirds, as well as supporting rare or endemic flora. Ramsar site no. 848.

### Lough Foyle

Site number: 974 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 2 204 ha | Coordinates: 55°06'N 07°02'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Foyle. 02/02/99; Northern Ireland; 2,204 ha; 55°05'N 007°02'W. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive. The site is composed of a large shallow lough including estuaries, extensive intertidal areas of mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and associated brackish ditches. It supports a diverse assemblage of waterfowl (Limosa lapponica, 1.6% of the population, and Branta bernicla hrota, 11% of the population) and internationally important (more than 29,000 birds) waterfowl. The site is used for nature conservation, gathering shellfish, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 974. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Lough Gara

Site number: 852 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Sligo, Roscommon  
Area: 1 742 ha | Coordinates: 53°56'N 08°25'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Gara. 11/06/96; Sligo, Roscommon; 1,742 ha; 53°56'N 008°25'W. The site includes a shallow limestone lake fed by two rivers, low-lying islands, peatland and raised bog. Vegetation consists of extensive reed and sedge swamps, scrub, and small stands of birch (Betula pubescens) woodland. Internationally important numbers of Greenland White-fronted geese overwinter at the site and several other species of waterbirds can be found. Ramsar site no. 852.

### Lough Glen

Site number: 849 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Westmeath  
Area: 81 ha | Coordinates: 53°25'N 07°23'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Glen. 11/06/96; West Meath; 81 ha; 53°25'N 007°23'W. A lake dominated by freshwater marsh and including reedswamp, wet and dry grassland vegetation, cutaway bog colonized by heath vegetation, scrub, wet willow woodland, exposed rock and fen. The site supports large numbers of Dabbling ducks and internationally significant numbers of Whooper swan. Ramsar site no. 849.

### Lough Iron

Site number: 850 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Westmeath  
Area: 182 ha | Coordinates: 53°37'N 07°17'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Iron. 11/06/96; West Meath; 182 ha; 53°37'N 007°17'W. The site, a long narrow lake with fringing marsh and woodlands surrounded by intensively farmed agricultural land, is one of the most important waterbird sites in the midlands. In addition to supporting large numbers of snipe and duck, there are internationally important numbers of Greenland White-fronted geese and Whooper swans wintering at the site that feed on the surrounding farmland. The marsh areas support numerous rare plant species. Ramsar site no. 850.

### Lough Neagh & Lough Beg

Site number: 74 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 50 166 ha | Coordinates: 54°36'N 06°26'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Neagh and Lough Beg. 05/01/76; Northern Ireland; 50,166 ha; 54°34'N 006°25'W. Nature Reserve, Area of Special Scientific Interest, Wildfowl Refuge. The largest freshwater lake in the British Isles, with a catchment nearly 40% of the surface of Northern Ireland and fed by major rivers. The site includes floodplains and marshes. Land adjoining the lake is used for grazing. Numerous species of waterbirds occur in nationally and internationally important numbers and include swans and ducks. Eutrophication from agricultural run-off and sewage is seen as a threat. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1989. Ramsar site no. 74. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Lough Oughter

Site number: 853 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Cavan  
Area: 1 464 ha | Coordinates: 54°02'N 07°25'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Oughter. 11/06/96; 1,464 ha; 54°02'N 007°25'W. Set in a lowland drumlin, the site is a complicated system including 70 interdrumlin lakes and numerous basins along the Erne River. The site includes open water, adjacent floodplain and drumlin slopes on islands, and isolated headlands. Vegetation includes well-developed swamp and marsh communities and deciduous woodland. Regularly flooded areas support various rare and specialist plant species. Substantial populations of waterbirds, including internationally important numbers of Whooper swan and nationally important numbers of tufted duck and cormorant, are supported. The wintering Whooper swan population represents 3% of the total European population. Ramsar site no. 853.

## Lough Owel

Site number: 851 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Westmeath  
Area: 1 032 ha | Coordinates: 53°35'N 07°23'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lough Owel. 11/06/96; West Meath; 1,032 ha; 53°35'N 007°23'W. One of the best examples of a large, spring-fed calcareous lake in Ireland. The lake and fringing wetlands support an outstanding array of rare plant species as well as bird and fish populations of considerable interest. Adjacent farmland are feeding grounds for internationally important numbers of the Greenland White-fronted goose. Human activities include intense fishing pressure and boating. Ramsar site no. 851.

## Lover's Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 989 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: St. Georges Island  
Area: 2 ha | Coordinates: 32°21'N 64°42'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lover's Lake Nature Reserve. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 2 ha; 32°21' N 064°42'W. A 2m-deep lake fringed with predominantly black mangroves. The water level is tidal and rises and falls via subterranean channels. The site is important for an endemic killifish (*Fundulus relictus*) and both wintering and passage waterfowls, especially *Podilymbus podiceps* and *Ceryle alcyon*. Ramsar site no. 989. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Lovund/Lundeura

Site number: 2 161 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 153 ha | Coordinates: 66°22'N 12°19'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of shallow marine waters, rocky shores and marine subtidal aquatic beds covering approximately a quarter of Lovund Island and the much smaller *Alkøya* Island. Lundeura is a scree mountain with unique large boulders close to seabird feeding grounds – its steepness provides the protection they need to nest. The Site is internationally important for seabird populations across the North Atlantic Ocean: large colonies of nationally endangered and vulnerable bird species such as the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, the common tern *Sterna hirundo* and the black guillemot *Cephus grylle* breed here. The birds foraging in the ocean spread guano across the nesting cliffs and surrounding area, which provides nutrient-rich growing conditions for the diverse vegetation of the island. The harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* and the European otter *Lutra lutra* are occasionally observed. The fishing village of Lovund has a few hundred inhabitants; they use the ocean outside the nature reserve for fishing and aquaculture, and the land within the Site for grazing sheep.

## Lower Derwent Valley

Site number: 301 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 915 ha | Coordinates: 53°52'N 00°55'E | Designation dates: 17-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Derwent Valley. 17/07/85; England; 915 ha; 53°53'N 000°56'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Statutory Bird Sanctuary. A seasonally inundated river floodplain between two villages. Dominant vegetation is grassland that is determined by the extent of winter flooding. The site includes one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. The site is of particular importance for several species of breeding waders, and nationally important numbers of ducks and swans breed or winter at the site. Human activities have included flood control measures, as well as recreation, fishing, grazing, and hunting, and deep coal mining is occurring under the site. Extended on 08/06/93 from the former Ramsar Site known as Derwent Ings. Ramsar site no. 301. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Lower Dniester

Site number: 1 316 | Country: Republic of Moldova | Administrative region: Tighina & Transdniestria  
Area: 60 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°34'N 29°49'E | Designation dates: 20-08-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Dniester (Nistru de Jos). 20/08/03; Tighina, Slodozia; 60,000 ha; 46 34'N 29 49'E; Nature Reserves; Landscape Reserve; Nature Monuments (paleontological). The designation of this part of the Dniester River in southeastern Moldova helps to complete the conservation of transboundary wetland the Dniester delta, with two Ramsar sites downstream in Ukraine. This complex of relict and transformed habitats of the Dniester floodplain includes meandering zones with almost closed river loops typical for the northwest of the Black Sea basin, lakes and oxbows formed by river roaming, specific ash communities and unique old stand floodland poplar forest, Fraxineto-Populeta (albae). The site supports many globally endangered and vulnerable bird species among which 2 are nesting (Crex crex, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), 4 are present on migration (*Branta ruficollis*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Circus macrourus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*), 1 regular visitor (*Pelicanus crispus*), and fish such as the Danube Salmon (Hucho hucho), the European Mud-minnow (*Umbra krameri*) and various species of sturgeons. The wetland is an important site for freshwater migratory fish as it supports more than 90% of the species of the region and offers a high diversity of biotopes: riverbed spawning ground, areas of pelagic spawning and nursery. However, the construction of dams in the Dniester valley has affected the terrestrial, aquatic and intermediate ecosystems and large areas of important meadow spawning grounds were lost. Grazing is also considered as an important disturbance. The site has recognized paleontological and archaeological value since the discovery of fossils and places such as tumuli, Cimmerian, Ghetic, Sarmatic and Slavic memorials. The RIS and the management plans of this site were prepared in 2001 during a Ramsar Small Grant Funds project. The creation of a Lower Dniester National Park is under discussion. Ramsar site no. 1316. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Lower Dvubojje

Site number: 677 | Country: Russian Federation  
| Administrative region: Khanty-Mansi and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Areas  
Area: 540 000 ha | Coordinates: 64°32'N 65°46'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A unique valley network of river floodplains, islands, lakes and temporary water bodies (or "sors"), and an extended pseudodelta. Habitats include sedge-willow fens, associations of "sor" vegetation, swamp and peat meadows, shrubs and willows. The site, one of the richest waterbird habitat and nesting areas in the world, supports up to 500,000 waterbirds during migration. The site supports internationally important numbers of breeding and molting waterbirds, especially ducks and swans, and several threatened species. The wetlands provide important feeding areas for sturgeon and whitefish and support a rich mammal population. Human activities include cattle-grazing and haymaking, commercial fishing, fur trapping, timber harvesting, and conservation education.

### Lower Inn Reservoirs

Site number: 274 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Upper Austria  
Area: 870 ha | Coordinates: 48°18'N 13°14'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Inn Reservoirs (Stauseen am Unteren Inn). 16/12/82; Upper Austria; 870 ha; 48°17'47"N 013°16'20"E. Nature Conservation Area, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI). Contiguous with the German Ramsar Site Unterer Inn, Haiming-Neuhaus. A stretch of the Inn River comprising reservoirs, sediments banks, riverine forests, muddy banks with Bidetion vegetation, successional vegetation of various ages, and reed beds. The site supports a wide variety of bird species, many of them protected in Europe. Nesting species include the Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*; wintering and passage species include important numbers of various duck species and ruffs among others. The site provides habitat for nationally rare plants, the reintroduced European beaver *Castor fiber* and, recently, the re-immigrating European Otter *Lutra lutra*. Dammed 50 years ago for hydroelectric generation, it is a popular place for fishing, hunting and recreation. A steering committee with representatives of Austria and Bavaria (Germany) is working to provide legal entities for settling conflicts and ensuring the long-term quality of the area. Ramsar Site no. 274. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Lower Kaduna-Middle Niger Floodplain

Site number: 1 755 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Niger State and Kwara State  
Area: 229 054 ha | Coordinates: 08°52'N 05°46'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Kaduna-Middle Niger Floodplain. 30/04/08; Kwara, Niger State; 229,054 ha; 08°51'N 005°45'E. An extensive alluvial wetland on the floodplain of the mid-section of River Niger and the lower course of River Kaduna, a main tributary of the Niger. The site consists of pools, lakes, shifting river courses, and sand banks and is inundated annually by floodwaters. The wetlands constitute an important breeding area for the Rosy bee-eater and supports a significant number of bird species that are restricted to the Sudan-Guinea Savanna biome. Local people depend on the site for fishing, collection of wild resources, and agriculture, but their activities require better regulation to be sustainable. Extensive cultivation of rice and sugarcane on the floodplains for commercial purposes encourages degradation of the swamp forest, and declining trends in rainfall have promoted desiccation. Ramsar site no. 1755. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands

Site number: 1 849 | Country: Malaysia | Administrative region: Sabah  
Area: 78 803 ha | Coordinates: 05°38'N 118°35'E | Designation dates: 08-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands. 28/10/08; Sabah; 78,803 ha; 05°38'N 118°35'E. Forest Reserves. A natural coastal mangrove, brackish and peat swamp forest systems on the east coast of Sabah, fed by two large rivers, the Kinabatangan and Segama rivers, as well as other small rivers ones. The wide mangrove belts are the largest contiguous mangrove area in the Southern Sulu sea. The site harbours rich biodiversity with critically endangered, vulnerable, rare and endangered species, including the world's smallest elephant, as well as species endemic to Borneo such as Sumatran Rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrisoni*, Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*, Tembadau (Banteng) *Bos javanicus*, Orang utan *Pongo abelli*, Borneo Pygmy Elephant *Elephas maximus borneensis*, among many others. Tropical swamp forests in Kulamba Wildlife Reserve play an important role in carbon sequestration and in settling the sediment and organic loads of the rivers. The Sabah Shoreline Management Plan (2005) includes an effective management strategy for the site. A management plan is in development. Ramsar site no. 1849. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Lower Maruyama River and the Surrounding Rice Paddies

Site number: 2 055 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hyogo Prefecture  
Area: 1 094 ha | Coordinates: 35°37'N 134°50'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of various types of wetland including the estuary of the Maruyama River, which stretches more than 16 kilometres inland, the surrounding rice paddies, the constructed Toshima Wetland, and the Kaya Wetland which was constructed as part of a natural area restoration project. It is famous for the successful reintroduction since 1955 of the endangered oriental white stork (*Ciconia boyciana*), after the species had become extinct in the biogeographic region. The stork population in and around the Site has been increasing, with the storks using the surrounding area as foraging and nesting grounds. Accordingly, the Site has been extended from 560 to 1,094 hectares to ensure better protection of the species. The diverse wetlands provide an ideal spawning and nursery habitat for a variety of fish, including threatened species such as the globally endangered Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*), the nationally vulnerable northern medaka (*Oryzias sakaizumii*) and the fourspine sculpin (*Cottus kazika*). The Site is also a suitable habitat for the black-spotted pond frog (*Pelophylax nigromaculatus*) and the Japanese weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*), which the storks eat. The people in Toyooka City rely on the lower Maruyama River for water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use and as a source of food through its fisheries.

### Lower part of Pyandj River

Site number: 1 084 | Country: Tajikistan | Administrative region:  
Area: 0 ha | Coordinates: 37°10'N 68°30'E | Designation dates: 18-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower part of Pyandj River. 18/07/01; ca. 37°10'N 068°30'E. Most recent RIS information: none.

### Lower Prut Lakes

Site number: 1 029 | Country: Republic of Moldova | Administrative region: Cahul Judet  
Area: 19 152 ha | Coordinates: 45°42'N 28°11'E | Designation dates: 20-06-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Prut Lakes. 20/06/00. Judet Cahul. 19,152 ha. 45°42'N 028°11'E. The River Prut forms the western border of the site as well as the state border with Romania, and the site extends to the river's confluence with the Danube. Consisting of Ramsar Wetland Types O (permanent freshwater lakes), M (permanent river), and 1 (fish ponds), the site is considered to fulfil Criteria 2 on vulnerable species and especially 3 on biodiversity. Lakes Beleu and Manta are unique ecosystems, described as the last natural floodplains in the lower Danube region. The system is important for groundwater recharge, flood control, and sediment trapping, and it supports an imposing list of rare and threatened species of flora and fauna. A number of heritage sites can be seen in the area, including some of Roman Emperor Trajan's wall (ca.100 A.D.). Fish harvests have been decreasing markedly in recent years, forests are generally seen to be deteriorating, and quite a few adverse conservation factors have been listed as requiring attention. A management plan is in preparation, particularly in hopes of creating a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve over more or less the same site. Ramsar site no. 1029. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Lower Smotrych River

Site number: 1 401 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khmelnytska Oblast  
Area: 1 480 ha | Coordinates: 48°35'N 26°36'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lower Smotrych River. 29/07/04; Khmelnytska Oblast; 1,480 ha; 48°35'N 026°36'E. National Park. Canyon and delta areas of the Smotrych River upstream from its confluence with the Dniester River. Thanks to this combination of habitats, the site provides good conditions of reproduction for bats, birds of prey, waterbirds and fish species under international protection such as the Pond Bat, the Corncrake and the Black Sea Roach and presents rare and representative flora communities. Nature conservation activities and scientific research are carried out; leisure, fishing, hunting are regulated by the Podilski Tovtry National Park. National Park website: [www.tovtry.km.ua](http://www.tovtry.km.ua). Ramsar site no. 1401. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Luangwa Flood Plains

Site number: 1 660 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Eastern Province  
Area: 250 000 ha | Coordinates: 12°40'S 32°02'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Luangwa Flood Plains. 02/02/07; Eastern Province; 250,000 ha; 12°40'S 032°02'E. National Parks, Game Management Areas. Representative of the major wetland types of Southern Africa, the site is dominated by rivers that recharge many springs, freshwater lakes, lagoons, marshes and streams. There are also hot springs and brackish cold springs. The main habitats include evergreen miombo woodlands (with wild mango, African ebony, fig, and Natal mahogany) and the alluvial zone which sustains riverine vegetation. The plains host over 50 mammal species, including the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and the critically endangered Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). It is an important breeding ground for birds like *Merops nubicoides*, *Merops bullockoides*, and *Hirundo paludicola*. The GMAs are a source of income and protein for inhabitants who work for hunting concessions and fish. A general management plan for the South Luangwa NP and surrounding GMAs was devised by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) for protecting and maintaining the physical and ecological conditions and promoting research. Community environmental education programmes exist for educating local communities, for example, the South Luangwa Management Unit and the Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre. Ramsar site no. 1660. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lubana wetland complex

Site number: 1 384 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Madona, Rezekne, Balvi, Gulbene  
Area: 48 020 ha | Coordinates: 56°49'N 26°55'E | Designation dates: 31-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lubana Wetland Complex. 31/10/02; Madona, Rezekne, Balvi, Gulbene; 48,020 ha; 56°49'N 026°54'E. Nature reserve. The largest wetland in Latvia, with a shallow freshwater lake, 7 raised and transitional bogs and fens, inundated grasslands, fishponds and wet forests - in total, 15 protected habitats of European importance are represented. The site is important for maintaining bog-specific and rare bird species and wetland characteristic plant species and communities. More than 26,000 waterfowl birds rest in the area during spring migrations, especially large flocks of Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan, and Pintail, and the site supports some particularly protected bird species like *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila clanga*, *Gallinago media*, *Crex crex* and protected mammals such as Castor fiber, *Lutra lutra*, *Canis lupus*, *Ursus arctos*, *Lynx lynx*. The main human activities are forestry, marginal non-intensive agriculture, and fishery. Drainage and dam constructions have damaged the wetland structure and threaten the fish population. A LIFE-Nature project approved in 2003 is intended to implement an environmental management plan to achieve sustainable development by 2010. Ramsar site no. 1384. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Ludasko Lake

Site number: 137 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina  
Area: 593 ha | Coordinates: 46°04'N 19°48'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ludaako Lake. 28/03/77; Vojvodina; 593 ha; 46°04'N 019°48'E. Regional Park; Nature Reserve. One of the few remaining natural lakes of the Panonian Plain. The shallow lake is fringed by extensive reedbeds and surrounded by marshland. The area is important for numerous species of breeding waterbirds, and an ornithological research station is located at the site. Principal human activities include fishing, hunting, reed cutting, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 137.

## Luitemaa

Site number: 1 962 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Pärnu County  
Area: 11 240 ha | Coordinates: 58°10'N 24°35'E | Designation dates: 27-01-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Luitemaa. 27/01/10; Pärnu County, 11,240 ha; 58°10'N 024°35'E. Nature Reserve, IBA, Natura 2000. A mosaic wetland complex located on the southwestern coast of Estonia with a diversity of coastal and inland habitats including shallow sea, capes and islands, coastal meadows and reed-beds. Dunes, mires, dry and wet forest stands are characteristic of the site and many of its habitat types are listed under the EU Habitats Directive. The site supports a diverse number of internationally and nationally threatened species of birds as well as a number of threatened mammals, amphibians, reptiles and plants. Luitemaa ("land of dunes") is also a refuge for animals with large habitat requirements and as such is important as a breeding site for Wolf *Canis lupus* and *Lynx lynx*, as well as a hibernation site for Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*. It regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds, including Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis* (>15000), Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (>10000) and Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* (>10000). The site is furthermore an important spawning ground for internationally threatened fish species like Sea Trout *Salmo trutta* and River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*. Peat excavation was stopped at the site; however, the abandoned area is in need of restoration. The Nature Reserve is important for ecotourism, especially for bird-watching. A management plan is in preparation. Ramsar Site number: 1962. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Lukanga Swamps

Site number: 1 580 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Central Province  
Area: 260 000 ha | Coordinates: 14°24'S 27°38'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lukanga Swamps. 08/11/05; Central Province; 260,000 ha; 14°24'S 027°38'E. The largest permanent water body in the Kafue basin, comprising generally shallow swamps that allow light penetration to the bottom, permitting high photosynthetic activity. They are a suitable habitat for birds and wildlife, hosting a number of threatened species such as the Wattled Crane, the Red Lechwe, African python, and the sitatunga, an antelope adapted to walking and swimming in marshy environments. The area is also an important breeding ground for fish, the most abundant of which is Tilapia, with *T. rendalli* and *T. sparmani* the predominant species. Fishing is the major economic activity, with the site supplying fish to three provinces (Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt) with a population of 6.1 million. The swamps are an important source of reed material for basketry, and act as a sediment trap and a trap for metals from the copperbelt of Zambia. Overfishing, deforestation, and use of agro-chemicals pose potential threats. It is proposed to develop a local strategic management plan with full participation of the local communities. Ramsar site no. 1580. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Luknajno Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 166 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship  
Area: 1 189 ha | Coordinates: 53°49'N 21°38'E | Designation dates: 22-11-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Luknajno Lake Nature Reserve (Rezerwat przyrody "Jeziro Luknajno"). 22/11/77; Warminsko-Mazurskie; 1,189 ha; 53°49'N 021°38'E. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; Natura 2000; BirdLife IBA. A freshwater lake of glacial origin, fed by numerous channels, surrounded by marshes and meadows and fringed by reedbeds. Important numbers of non-breeding swans *Cygnus olor* feed on submerged flora; up to 2,300 occur during migration periods and use the site during molt. An important site for various species of breeding waterbirds and large numbers of passage birds, and a feeding area for several raptor species. Several nationally rare plants occur. Human activities include extensive commercial fishing and regulated tourism. Boundaries extended in 2007. Ramsar site no. 166. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Lundåkrabukten

Site number: 1 122 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Skåne  
Area: 2 148 ha | Coordinates: 55°49'N 12°54'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a shallow bay and its adjacent shoreline, with wet shore meadows and a small river mouth. The shoreland consists mostly of a large flat seashore meadow area, which is often flooded by the sea and partly waterlogged. The meadows are home to a number of protected species, mainly birds and vascular plants. The Site offers a good breeding habitat for waders, and some nationally red-listed species such as little tern *Sternula albifrons*. The Site constitutes an important spawning ground for fish species such as the globally endangered eel *Anguilla anguilla* and Atlantic cod *Gadus morhua*. The overlapping nature reserve has value for recreation and tourism, especially sport fishing, and it has been classified as an area of national interest for commercial fishing. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to garbage and solid waste, and a motorway running along the entire coastline which may cause a disturbance. In addition, the inadequate grazing of the sea meadows has probably resulted in the reduction in the number of breeding waders and ducks. Increased disturbances from human activities have had a severe effect on terns.

## Lund Warming

Site number: 2 306 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Minas Gerais state  
Area: 23 865,4 ha | Coordinates: 19°30'S 42°00'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lund Warming is in central-southern Minas Gerais at the intersection between two biodiversity hotspots, the Cerrado (Brazilian savannah) and the Mata Atlântica (Atlantic Forest). It presents multiple surface water catchments that seasonally flood, forming a system of temporary lakes which confer to the Site its high biodiversity value and scenic beauty. Hundreds of caves, shelters and important archaeological and palaeontological sites are found, containing a large number of fossils, artefacts and drawings of the first human settlements. The Site also hosts threatened species such as the vulnerable masked titi (*Callicebus personatus*). Mining activities in the surrounding area have caused the loss of native vegetation and changes in the quality of the surface water and groundwater.

## Lutembe Bay Wetland System

Site number: 1 637 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Wakiso district  
Area: 98 ha | Coordinates: 00°10'N 32°34'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lutembe Bay Wetland System. 15/09/06; Wakiso; 98 ha; 00°10'N 032°34'E. Important Bird Area. Situated at the mouth of Lake Victoria's Murchison Bay, this shallow area is almost completely cut-off from the main body of Lake Victoria by a *C. papyrus* island. The site supports globally threatened species of birds, endangered Cichlid fish, and over 100 butterfly species, including three rare ones. It is a breeding ground for Clarias and lungfish, and regularly supports more than 52% of the White-winged Black Terns (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) population. The system plays an important hydrological role, with the swamps surrounding the Murchison Bay acting as natural filters for silt, sediments and excess nutrients in surface run-off, wastewaters from industries, and sewage from Kampala City. Lutembe Bay is being reclaimed and decimated for horticultural activities and the surrounding highly populated areas have been strongly affected by commercial and industrial development, urban wastewater, and conversion to agricultural land. A number of NGOs have been conducting conservation education activities in and around Lutembe, with the Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC) only about 5 km from the bay. Ramsar site no. 1637. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Mabamba Bay Wetland System

Site number: 1 638 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Wakiso district  
Area: 2 424 ha | Coordinates: 00°07'N 32°21'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mabamba Bay Wetland System. 15/09/06; Wakiso, Mpigi; 2,424 ha; 00°07'N 032°21'E. Important Bird Area. An extensive marsh stretching through a narrow and long bay fringed with papyrus towards the main body of Lake Victoria - the only swamp close to Kampala where one can easily find the globally-threatened Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*). The site supports an average of close to 190,000 birds and is part of the wetland system which hosts approximately 38% of the global population of the Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*), as well as the globally-threatened Papyrus Yellow Warbler and other birds of global conservation concern. The site supports a lucrative fisheries activity and is a source of fish for home consumption and commercial use, as well as of raw material for local crafts, building materials, water for domestic and livestock use, and non-wood products. Factors needing attention are the dry season incursion into the swamp by fishermen; hunting of the Sitatunga by local people; the proliferation of the Water Hyacinth; and the poaching of Shoebill. The proliferation of flower farms along the shores of Lake Victoria and the use of agrochemicals is likely to have an impact. NatureUganda spearheaded the development of a National Important Bird Areas Conservation Strategy (NIBACS) that highlights measures and strategies for the conservation of the Bay. Ramsar site no. 1638. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Macquarie Marshes

Site number: 337 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 19 850 ha | Coordinates: 30°45'S 147°33'E | Designation dates: 01-08-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Macquarie Marshes. 01/08/86; New South Wales; 19,850 ha; 30°45'S 147°33'E. Nature Reserve. Part of the larger Macquarie Marshes wetland, an area exceeding 250,000ha during major flooding and containing the largest area of reedbeds in southeastern Australia, and one of the largest red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) woodlands. The marshes are the most biologically diverse wetland systems in Australia's Murray Darling Basin and are important for waterbirds, including large numbers of herons, ducks, egrets, ibises, spoonbills, terns and migratory waders. The site also supports globally threatened species such as the Critically Endangered Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peeli*) and the Endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*). The main human uses of the site are for agricultural purposes, especially grazing beef cattle through sustainable grazing management practices. Ramsar site no. 337. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Maduganga

Site number: 1 372 | Country: Sri Lanka | Administrative region: Southern Province  
Area: 915 ha | Coordinates: 06°18'N 80°03'E | Designation dates: 11-12-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Maduganga. 11/12/03; Southern Province; 915 ha; 06 18'N 080 03'E. A mangrove lagoon joined to the sea by a narrow canal and containing 15 islands of varying size, some of which are inhabited. It is formed of two shallow waterbodies, Maduganga and smaller Randombe Lake, connected by two narrow channels. On the islands and shores relatively undisturbed mangrove vegetation contains a rich biodiversity qualifying the wetland for 7 Criteria of International Importance. Many globally/nationally endangered, endemic and rare species - e.g. Shorea affinis, an endemic and endangered plant, Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) vulnerable (IUCN Red Book) and CITES-listed Purple-faced Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus vetulus*), endangered, Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), Flapshell Turtle (*Lissemys punctata*), Indian Python (*Python molurus*) find shelter here. The lagoon provides the breeding, spawning and fattening ground for many fish species and supports 1.2 % of the Little Green Heron biogeographical population. The cultural heritage is very prominent, with numerous ancient temples in the area and on the islands. Maduganga helps in flood control by storing water during monsoon rains and retains nutrient run-off from nearby cinnamon plantations. The major occupation of the local people is fishing and agriculture (cinnamon and coconut). Poaching of wild animals and waterfowl is unfortunately increasing, and extensive use of fertilisers and consequent abundant growth of invasive species, e.g. *Najas marinas* or *Annona glabra*, are factors of concern. Part of a Coastal Resources Management Project funded by the Dutch Government - ADB, with a management plan expected in 2006. Ramsar site no. 1372. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Magheraveely Marl Loughs

Site number: 1 717 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region:  
Area: 59 ha | Coordinates: 54°11'N 07°16'W | Designation dates: 03-07-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Magheraveely Marl Loughs. 07/02/07; Northern Ireland; 59 ha; 54°11'N 007°16'W; SSSI/ASSI, SAC. The site is composed of six loughs of which three are intersected by the border with the Republic of Ireland - they represent the best remaining examples of a relatively rare lake type in Northern Ireland characterised by the presence of calcium carbonate deposits, or marl, which, precipitated out of the calcium-rich water, produces marl loughs. Biological interest is related to the presence of vegetation which reflects these calcareous conditions, including rich and extensive stonewort (charophyte) communities. The loughs are surrounded by an inundation zone containing significant stands of alkaline fen vegetation. The clean unpolluted waters of the loughs support populations of White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, a species which is becoming increasingly rare throughout its geographical range. Ramsar site no. 1717. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Maidika

Site number: 1 438 | Country: China | Administrative region: Tibet Autonomous Region  
Area: 43 496 ha | Coordinates: 31°12'N 92°41'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Maidika. 07/12/04; Tibet Autonomous Region; 43,496 ha; 31°11'55"N 092°40'51"E. A vast swamp meadow above 4,900 meters, with permanent and seasonal pools and lakes in the headwater region of the Maidicangbu, a tributary stream of the Lhasa River. The site, one of the "highest altitude wetlands with the coexistence of man and nature", performs major hydrological functions such as control of soil erosion, prevention of seasonal floods, interception of sediment from the upper stream and formation of a productive wetland with meadows and swamps. Maidika plays a critical role as a staging and breeding habitat for migratory waterfowl, including the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*. The endangered Snow Leopard *Panthera uncia* and the endangered Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* can be found at the site. This large wetland has an important role in providing water for residents as well as regulating the regional climate of the Lhasa River basin. The lands are mostly state-owned and partly contracted to local Tibetans as pastures for increasing numbers of livestock each year. Ramsar site No.1438. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Mai Pokhari

Site number: 1 850 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region:  
Area: 90 ha | Coordinates: 27°00'N 87°55'E | Designation dates: 20-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mai Pokhari. 28/10/08; Ilam; 90 ha; 27°00'N 087°56'E. A permanent freshwater pond to the south of Mt Kanchenjunga (3rd highest peak of world), recharged from natural springs and rainwater which provides a major source of fresh water for local communities. It lies in the eco-tone of Schima-Casanopsis and Oak-laurel vegetation providing habitat for significant epiphytic orchids as well as for protected species such as White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) and Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*), and endemic species like Hariya cheparo (*Japalura variegata*). The site has highly significant religious-cultural value as the convergence point of Buddhism, Hinduism and Mundhum (animism) traditions as Mai-Religio-Culture; the site name means mother pond. Introduction of exotic plant and fish species are noted among many potential threats to the site. Ramsar site no. 1850. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay

Site number: 750 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hong Kong  
Area: 1 540 ha | Coordinates: 22°29'N 114°03'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay. 04/09/95; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; 1,540 ha; 22°29'20' N 114°01'44' E. Restricted Area; Site of Special Scientific Interest; Water Quality Control Zone; East Asia-Australasian Flyway Network Site. First designated as a Ramsar site by the United Kingdom, transferred to China in 1997. A shallow coastal bay with extensive intertidal mudflats backed by dwarf mangroves, shrimp and fishponds. The aquaculture activities carried out in Mai Po provide a good example of how artificial or semi-artificial habitats can support a high diversity of wildlife under proper management. Built in the 1930s, the tidal shrimp ponds, known as Gei wais, are drained in rotation throughout the winter and kept drained for a long period of time to attract waterbirds to feed on the remaining small fish or invertebrates. Most of the Gei wais in the site are now managed as roosting and foraging habitats for migratory birds or as freshwater habitats for dragonflies. Thirteen globally threatened species of birds and 17 species of invertebrates new to science are present. The site regularly held over 20% of the global population of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* between 2007-2012. Another 26 species of waterbirds are found in numbers amounting to more than 1% of their regional population. Research, conservation education, fish farming and recreation are the main activities. Over 40,000 people, of whom 11,000 are students, visit the reserve annually for birdwatching or informal education visits. Ramsar site no. 750. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Makuleke Wetlands

Site number: 1 687 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Limpopo  
Area: 7 757 ha | Coordinates: 22°23'S 31°12'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Makuleke Wetlands. 22/05/07; Limpopo; 7,757 hectares; 22°23'S 031°11'E. National Park. An excellent example of a floodplain vlei type, most of which lies within the Kruger National Park, bordered by Zimbabwe and Mozambique to the north and east. Prominent features include riverine forests, riparian floodplain forests, floodplain grasslands, river channels and flood pans. Flood pans are depressions in the floodplains which are intermittently filled from floods and rains - they are of great importance in this ecosystem as they hold water right into the dry season, thus acting as a refuge point for wildlife and waterbirds during both winter and summer months, and there are 31 of them found on these floodplains, where herds of Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) are found. The floodplains attenuate floods, resulting in reduced flood damage in downstream areas of Mozambique, are important for groundwater recharge, and maintain riparian and floodplain vegetation. In the Makuleke Region of the National Park there is an attempt to harmonize biodiversity protection with the interests of rural dwellers through cooperation between the Community Property Association of Makuleke community, South African National Parks Board, and many government departments. The proclamation of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) in 2002 through an international treaty between South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe aims at jointly managing the bordering National Parks and conservation areas, and the Ramsar site will benefit from that protection status. Ramsar site no. 1687. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Maladumba Lake

Site number: 1 756 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Bauchi State  
Area: 1 860 ha | Coordinates: 10°24'N 09°51'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Maladumba Lake. 30/04/08; Bauchi; 1,860 ha; 10°24'N 009°51'E. Forest Reserve. A natural, shallow lake and the surrounding forest reserve in Central Northern Nigeria. It is representative of the natural wetlands of the Sudan savanna in Nigeria. The wetland has a unique assemblage of plant and animal species that are important for the maintenance of biological diversity. It supports a large number of migrant bird species such as the Grey Heron, white-necked stork, Green Fruit Pigeon, etc. The lake has a high diversity of fish species and thus plays an important role as a source of protein for the local population and enhances the local economy. Agriculture, grazing, hunting, and recreation are also practiced by the surrounding population. Rapid siltation is a growing threat. Ramsar site no. 1756. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Malagarasi-Muyovozi Wetlands

Site number: 1 024 | Country: United Republic of Tanzania | Administrative region: Kigoma, Shinyanga, Tabora  
Area: 3 250 000 ha | Coordinates: 05°00'S 31°00'E | Designation dates: 13-04-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The wetland is located in the administrative regions of Kigoma, Shinyanga and Tabora, in northwest Tanzania.

## Malham Tarn

Site number: 634 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 286 ha | Coordinates: 54°06'N 02°10'W | Designation dates: 28-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Malham Tarn. 28/10/93; England; 286 ha; 54°06'N 002°10'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The site comprises areas of open water, calcareous fen, soligenous mire, and raised bog. It supports the nationally rare *Bartsia alpina* and *Calamagrostis stricta*. It also provides habitat for five listed British Red Data Book invertebrates, including *Agrypnia crassicornis*. Human activities include tourism, recreation, grazing and permanent pastoral agriculture. Ramsar site no. 634. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Malpais/Sint Michiel

Site number: 2 117 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao  
Area: 1 100 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 67°00'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Malpais/Sint Michiel. 05/02/2013; Curaçao; 1,100 ha; 12°10'N 67°00'W. Important Bird Area. Malpais is a former plantation just to the north of Sint Michiel. There are two freshwater lakes and the hyper-saline St. Michiel lagoon connected to a bay in which coral reefs are found, surrounded by dry deciduous vegetation and a well-developed woodland habitat. The area provides refuge for many birds, such as the IUCN Red Listed Caribbean coot (*Fulica caribaea*). The lagoon also supports a significant fraction of the global population of the Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and is part of a regional network of foraging sites for the Caribbean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), protected under the Convention of Migratory Species. Freshwater is scarce in Curaçao and therefore of great ecological, social and economic value. The dam of Malpais is located downstream. Freshwater infiltrates into the soil, recharging groundwater reservoirs which allow woodlands to grow in the area. Some of the current threats which may affect the ecological character of the site are the landfill and runoff from a pig farm situated only 1 km away. Ramsar Site no. 2117. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Malpeque Bay

Site number: 399 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Prince Edward Island  
Area: 24 440 ha | Coordinates: 46°32'N 63°48'W | Designation dates: 28-04-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Malpeque Bay. 28/04/88; Prince Edward Island; 24,440 ha; 46°32'N 63°48'W. Provincial Wildlife Management Area. An estuarine embayment of extensive shallow open water, intertidal flats, and islands, fringed in places by saltmarsh and protected from the sea by a sandspit and dune formation with a number of saline ponds. The intertidal flats support beds of *Zostera*, an abundant food source for large numbers of migratory waterbirds. Up to 20,000 *Branta canadensis* stage here in spring and fall. Migratory shorebirds, including two species of duck, are abundant in the fall. The area is important for supporting large nesting colonies of Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.), and Phalacrocoracidae. Ramsar site no. 399. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Målselvtløpet

Site number: 1 956 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms County  
Area: 1 287,5 ha | Coordinates: 69°16'N 18°31'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Målselvtløpet is an active delta with sandy substrate, shore vegetation and small forested islands, some of which contain inundated birch and willow forest habitats. The delta, one of the largest in Troms county, lies at the outlet of the River Måselva into the Malangen fjord. The stages of plant succession vary from pioneer communities to stable plant communities. The Site is important for migrating and resident waterbird species. Måselva is the largest salmon river in Troms, and is ranked as a national salmon watercourse. An important stock of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, Arctic char *Salvelinus alpinus* and brown trout *Salmo trutta* migrate through the Site. The area is used for sports fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation.

## Mamirauá

Site number: 623 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Amazonas  
Area: 1 124 000 ha | Coordinates: 02°18'S 66°02'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mamirauá. 04/10/93; Amazonas; 1,124,000 ha; 02°18'S 66°02'W. Biological Station. "Varzea" forest with several lakes seasonally connected by natural drainage canals. The area has a high degree of endemism. Human activities include forestry, rotating agriculture, controlled commercial fishing, and collection of aquarium fish. Ramsar site no. 623. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Manantiales Geotermales de Julimes

Site number: 2 201 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chihuahua  
Area: 367,6 ha | Coordinates: 28°25'N 105°26'W | Designation dates: 30-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manantiales Geotermales de Julimes. 30/10/2013; Chihuahua; 368 ha; 28°24'46"N 105°25'48"W. The site is made up of a group of geothermal springs in the Chihuahuan desert. Its topography and hydrology determine how the hydrothermal aquifer system is recharged and also the characteristics of these unique ecosystems and the organisms which have adapted to the extreme conditions which they present. Some of these organisms are endemic to the area such as the pupfish *Cyprinodon julimes*, the isopod *Thermosphaeroma macrura* and the gastropod *Tryonia julimensis*. These species are all endangered and their whole life cycle takes place within these wetlands. The entire known habitat of the pupfish has been reduced to a small canal. The site is also a Grassland Priority Conservation Area, as it acts as a resting and feeding area for migratory birds travelling over the desert areas of Chihuahua State, which have very few water bodies especially during the dry season. The threats to the Site are associated with local activities, including the extraction of water via a system of canals, for agricultural, recreational and therapeutic uses. The search for new springs and the subsequent construction of canals to transport the water also threaten the site, as does pollution from urban and agricultural discharge. Ramsar Site No. 2201. Most Recent RIS Information: 2013.

## Mana Pools National Park

Site number: 2 106 | Country: Zimbabwe | Administrative region: Mashonaland West Province  
Area: 220 034 ha | Coordinates: 15°58'S 29°28'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mana Pools National Park is characterized by four large permanent pools formed by the meanderings of the middle Zambezi River, and shaped by a unique vegetation of large mahogany, wild fig, acacia and baobab trees which provide undisturbed nesting habitats for many birds of prey in the area. The concentration of large mammals such as hippopotamus, elephants, buffalo, zebra and giraffe with associated predators such as Nile crocodile, leopards, hyena, cheetah and lions reveals the robust ecological health of the Mana ecosystem. The cliffs and banks support hundreds of migrant breeding southern carmine bee-eaters (*Merops nubicoides*) which feed on insects found near the water pools. Over 450 residents and migratory bird species breeds in the Mana wetlands. With its rich and varied biodiversity, extensive wetlands and splendid landscape, the Site attracts over 7,000 visitors each year for recreational activities including camping, fishing, canoeing and game-viewing safaris. The potential threats include poaching and mining.

## Manawatu river mouth and estuary

Site number: 1 491 | Country: New Zealand | Administrative region: North Island  
Area: 200 ha | Coordinates: 40°29'S 175°14'E | Designation dates: 25-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manawatu river mouth and estuary. 25/07/05; North Island; ~200 ha; 40°29'S 175°14'E. A moderate-size estuary retaining a high degree of naturalness and diversity, important as a feeding ground for migratory birds - a diverse range of bird species can easily be seen, especially at high tide, including Wrybill *Anarhynchus frontalis*, Australasian bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*, Caspian tern *Sterna caspia*, Banded Dotterel *Charadrius bicinctus*, White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*, and Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae*. The salt marsh-ribbonwood community is the largest in the ecological district and contains its southernmost and biggest population of fernbirds (*Bowdleria punctata*). A high diversity of fish are supported, including some that are threatened, and the site has high fisheries values. Archaeological signs of the semi-nomadic Mōa hunter culture date from A.D. 1400-1650, and present Iwi groups in the area, chiefly the Rangitane, Muaupoko, and Ngāti Raukawa, support Ramsar designation. Main land uses include recreational activities such as sailing, boating, fishing, and seasonal duck shooting. Invasive plants (especially *Spartina anglica*) and off-road sport vehicles pose potential threats, but measures to address both in cooperation with stakeholders are progressing. Ramsar site no. 1491. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Manchón-Guamuchal

Site number: 725 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: San Marcos  
Area: 13 500 ha | Coordinates: 14°28'N 92°05'W | Designation dates: 25-04-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manchón-Guamuchal. 25/04/95; San Marcos; 13,500 ha; 14°28'N 92°05'W. Characterized by a combination of different plant communities including coastal dune flora, dry forest, mangrove forest, palm forest, and freshwater marsh. The wetland may be the only remaining site in Guatemala for migrating birds using the western flyway corridor. Fourteen species of ducks, 12 that are migratory, and 20 species of Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.) and wading birds use the site. An important nursery area for marine invertebrates and fish, many of which have commercial value. Human activities include shrimp farming, ranching, and cattle grazing. A small field station is maintained. Ramsar site no. 725. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Manglar de Potrero Grande

Site number: 981 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Guanacaste  
Area: 139 ha | Coordinates: 10°51'N 85°47'W | Designation dates: 06-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglar de Potrero Grande. 06/05/99; Guanacaste; 139 ha; 10°50'N 086°46'W. An area of near-pristine dry mangrove forest of uncommon alluvial origin along the mostly undeveloped north Pacific coast, adjacent to an important area of primary forest. Several types of threatened mangroves are present. The site is recovering successfully from exploitative practices that ended some 30 years ago; because of the establishment of forest reserves in 1977, there are few human uses, though some sporadic tourism occurs despite the difficulty of access. Ramsar site no. 981. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Manglares Churute

Site number: 502 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Guayas  
Area: 35 042 ha | Coordinates: 02°28'S 79°42'W | Designation dates: 07-09-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglares Churute. 07/09/90; Guayas; 35,042 ha; 02°28'S 079°42'W. Ecological Reserve. The site consists of mangrove forest along river estuaries, bordered by scrub bushlands of salt tolerant species, and includes a lagoon with rich aquatic vegetation and associated marsh. A rich fauna is supported, including notable species of mammals, reptiles and birds. Human activities include environmental education, recreation, low-intensity grazing, subsistence farming, and intensive shrimp farming. The area has great potential for the development of ecotourism. Ramsar site no. 502. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Manglares del Estuario Interior del Golfo de Guayaquil "Don Goyo"

Site number: 2 098 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Guayas  
Area: 15 338 ha | Coordinates: 02°24'S 79°56'W | Designation dates: 15-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

02/02/2013; Guayas; 15,337 ha; 02°24'17"S 079°55'50"W. Mainly constituted by mangrove forests, the site is important for the control and prevention of flooding and climate regulation. According to the National Red List, it supports several endangered species, like the Rufous-necked Wood Rail *Aramides axillaris* and the Red-lored Amazon *Amazona autumnalis*. There are recent records of *Crocodylus acutus* presence, which according to the National Red List of Reptiles is Critically Endangered. A great number of endemic species can be found, like the Ecuadorian Ground Dove (*Columbina buckleyi*), the Pacific Parrotlet (*Forpus coelestis*), the Red-masked Parakeet (*Aratinga erythrogenys*), and the Pacific Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium peruanum*). Waterbird species like the killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), the Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), and the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) are present, and the site has been identified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Ramsar Site no. 2098. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Manglares de Nichupté

Site number: 1 777 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 4 257 ha | Coordinates: 21°04'N 86°48'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglares de Nichupté. 02/02/08; Quintana Roo; 4,257 ha; 21°04'N 086°48'W. This vegetation type is only found in the Caribbean coast, where its distribution is particularly discontinuous. There are dense strips of mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicennia germinans*, *Conocarpus erectus*, *Laguncularia racemosa*) which protect inland areas against hurricanes and storms. It is home to fauna species under special protection such as *Crocodylus moreletii* and *Rana berlandieri*, *Ctenosaura similis* (threatened) and *Chelonia mydas* (endangered). The threatened palm species *Thrinax radiata* is also present in the site. Low impact tourism is carried out as one of the main economic activities. Archaeological remains of the Mayan culture have been recently found in the area. Ramsar site no. 1777. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Manglares de San Pedro de Vice

Site number: 1 811 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Piura  
Area: 3 399 ha | Coordinates: 05°31'S 80°53'W | Designation dates: 12-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglares de San Pedro de Vice. 12/06/2008. Sechura. 3,399 ha. 5°30'S 80°53'W. Located in the northern part of Peru, this wetland is the last mangrove relict of the southern Pacific of South America and is composed by two mangrove species *Avicennia germinans* and *Laguncularia racemosa*, as well as 43 species of Phanerogamous plants. This site is part of the coastal wetland corridor for migratory birds, registering 98 species of resident and migratory waterfowl. The mangrove is habitat to many fish species, reptiles, invertebrates and micro fauna, and some mammal species such as *Pseudalopex sechurae*, *Didelphys marsupialis* and *Conepatus semistriatus* can also be spotted in the site. It is also of great social and economic importance for the inhabitants of the area, undertaking activities such as subsistence fishing and extraction of crustaceans and mollusks. Sadly, this wetland is currently threatened due to an inadequate management and lack of planning. Every year thousands of tourists visit the site, leaving their trash behind, which accumulates and creates not only a visual impact but affects the wildlife living in it. There is a strong relation between the dry forest, the mangroves and the coastal desert, which are important for mammals and birds.

## Manglares y humedales de la Laguna de Sontecomapan

Site number: 1 342 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 8 921 ha | Coordinates: 18°32'N 95°02'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglares y humedales de la Laguna de Sontecomapan. 02/02/04; Veracruz; 8,921 ha; 18°32'N, 95°02'W. Part of a Biosphere Reserve. A coastal lagoon featuring an important mangrove forest on the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as a low seasonally flooded forest, reedbeds and coastal dunes. The site is an important stopover site for migratory birds using the coastal route from North to Central and South America, and it is part of the Tuxtla Biosphere Reserve. Nationally threatened species inhabit the site, such as the howling monkey *Alouatta palliata*, otter *Lutra longicaudis*, royal duck *Cairina moschata*, and Unicolored Rail *Amaurolimnas concolor*. The mangroves are vital spawning and nursery grounds for marine fish, while the freshwater wetlands harbor endemic species such as *Atherinella ammophila*, *Priapella olmecae* and *Cychlasoma fenestratum*. Fishing in the lagoon is an important economic activity, as well as cattle ranching and small-scale agriculture. Though deforestation has diminished since the site was declared a protected area, it remains the main problem of the reserve. The paving of a road poses problems if tourism increases in an unregulated manner. A management plan is being drafted for the Biosphere Reserve. Ramsar site no. 1342. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Manglares y Humedales del Norte de Isla Cozumel

Site number: 1 921 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 32 786 ha | Coordinates: 20°35'N 86°48'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglares y humedales del Norte de Isla Cozumel. 02/02/09; Quintana Roo; 32,786 ha; 20°35'N 86°48'W. This Ramsar Site is located in the northern part of Cozumel Island. It is a natural habitat to many endemic but also threatened or endangered species, such as *Caretta caretta*, *Ctenosaura similis*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, among others. The Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* and the White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*) use this area as their seasonal habitat. It includes mangrove species that are under special protection, such as *Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicennia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erecta*, that represent a natural barrier for the coastline and protect the island from various climate phenomena, reducing the damage caused inland. The main land uses in the site are related to tourism and commerce. Some of the main factors that negatively affect the site include tourism, biodiversity loss, overfishing, water pollution, extraction of material for construction. There is a federal proposal to protect a land portion of the northern part of the island by designating it as an Area for Protection of Flora and Fauna in Cozumel Island (APFFC). Once this area is designated as an APFFC, a Programme of Conservation and Management will be put in place to regulate the activities that negatively affect this site. Ramsar Site n°1921. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Manglares y Humedales de Tuxpan

Site number: 1 602 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 6 870 ha | Coordinates: 21°00'N 97°21'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Manglares y humedales de Tuxpan. 02/02/06; Veracruz; 6,870 ha; 21°00'N 97°21'W. The Tuxpan river separates the mangroves and wetlands of Tuxpan into the northern mangroves of the Tampamachoco lagoon and the southern mangroves associated with the Tumulco and Jácome estuaries. The importance of this site lies in its vast and well-preserved mangrove area, one of the largest in the Gulf of Mexico, with approximately 3,500 ha of mangroves reaching 8-15m in height. Some 179 fish species make this wetland one of the richest in fish diversity in the Atlantic coast of Mexico. Threatened species include the cantil snake (*Agkistrodon bilineatus*), the pale-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*), the spiny-tailed or black iguana (*Ctenosaura acanthura*) and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Ramsar site No. 1602. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Mangrove and Alhafeya Protected Area in Khor Kalba

Site number: 2 125 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Sharjah Emirate  
Area: 1 494 ha | Coordinates: 25°00'N 56°22'E | Designation dates: 10-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mangrove and Alhafeya Protected Area in Khor Kalba. 10/03/2013; Sharjah; 1,494 ha; 24°59'54"N 56°21'45"E. National Protected Area. Located in the far east of the country near the border with Oman, the site comprises coastal subtidal, intertidal (sand beach, mangroves, mud and tidal channels), supratidal sand, salt marsh and saline flats, as well as encompassing a narrow alluvial plain dominated by *Acacia* woodland. The *Avicennia marina* mangrove trees found in Kalba are the tallest and comprise the most extensive mature woodland in the biogeographic region; they provide breeding, nursery and feeding grounds for several fish and invertebrate species, besides protecting the coastline from storm damage and erosion while trapping sediments washed off the land. The critically endangered Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and endangered Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) can be observed near the mouth of the mangrove's inlet, entering the creeks at high tide to feed on sea grasses and algae. The area is of great ornithological interest, and an endemic subspecies, the White-collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris kalbaensis*, breeds almost exclusively at this site, which is also one of just two breeding localities in the region for Sykes's Warbler *Hippolais rama*. The management and monitoring of this site is carried out with the involvement of the local residents, and an educational visitor centre is planned. Ramsar Site no. 2125. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Mangroves de Tsiribihina

Site number: 2 302 | Country: Madagascar  
| Administrative region: District de Belo sur Tsiribihina, Région de Menabe  
Area: 47 218 ha | Coordinates: 19°44'S 44°28'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Menabe Region, along the coast on both sides of the mouth of the Tsiribihina River. It includes lagoons, sandbanks, salt and mud flats, marshes and dry land, and about 20,000 hectares of mangrove forest (8.5% of the mangrove area of Madagascar). The Site is home to several species of rare and threatened fauna. The 44 listed waterbird species make up over 40,000 individuals. Several species live in large groups in mangroves, including *Sterna bengalensis* (9,505 individuals), *Phoeniconaias minor* (7,768 individuals), *Phoenicopterus roseus* (5,080 individuals), *Dromas ardeola* (2,560 individuals), *Calidris ferruginea* (4,500 individuals) and *Calidris alba* (1,985 individuals). The six species of threatened birds including the critically endangered *Haliaeetus vociferoides*, the endangered *Anas bernieri*, *Threskiornis bernieri* and *Ardea humbloti*, and the vulnerable *Charadrius thoracicus* and *Glareola ocularis*. The Site is also home to the lemur *Propithecus verreauxi* and the flying fox *Pteropus rufus*, as well as the critically endangered hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Upstream deforestation, combined with significant landslides of alluvial land threaten to cause siltation of the estuaries and out to the coral reefs. The Site is managed by WWF Madagascar, which provides development support to local communities to ensure the sustainable management of resources.

## Manko

Site number: 996 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Naha City and Tomigusuku City, Okinawa Prefecture  
Area: 58 ha | Coordinates: 26°12'N 127°41'E | Designation dates: 15-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an estuary tidal flat formed at the meeting point of the Kokuba River flowing through Naha City and the Noha River flowing through Tomigusuku City, in the southern part of Okinawa Island. It is located three kilometres inland and is affected by tidal fluctuations, with a maximum of 47 hectares of mudflat appearing at low tide. The Site is an important stop-over place for migratory waterbirds because there are abundant juvenile fish and benthos such as lugworms, which are specific to brackish tidal flat. Many shorebirds are observed and these include Pacific golden plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) and Saunders's gull (*Larus saundersi*).

## Mankòtè Mangrove

Site number: 1 170 | Country: Saint Lucia | Administrative region: Vieux Fort  
Area: 60 ha | Coordinates: 13°43'N 60°55'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mankòtè Mangrove. 19/02/02; Vieux Fort; 60 ha; 13°43'N 060°55'W. Marine Reserve. The largest contiguous wetland area in St. Lucia, and a vital nursery for the local fishery. Subsistence activities, mainly fishing and charcoal production, are carried out by local communities. The threat from uncontrolled harvesting of mangrove wood has abated with present management practices. The site is managed collaboratively by the Departments of Fisheries and Forestry, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), and the Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group, and birdwatching is being promoted. The site has been proposed for National Park status. Ramsar site no. 1170. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Mannavuoma

Site number: 2 172 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 704 ha | Coordinates: 68°28'N 22°19'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is characterized by tundra wetlands and palsa mires, forested and non-forested peatlands, permanent rivers, marshes and pools, all representative examples of natural wetland types in the northern part of the European Boreal region. The northern parts of the Site, especially the shores of the river Muonio, feature biodiversity-rich deciduous wet forests. Mannavuoma's diversity of wetland types make for a rich animal and plant life; for example its flark pools are excellent habitats for birds, especially waders. The Site supports bird species included in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, such as the red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* and the Eurasian golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. The well-developed bog areas contribute to carbon sequestration. The Site is situated in an almost inaccessible part of the country, with large areas naturally protected by surrounding water; the main land use is reindeer grazing. Mannavuoma is one of seven palsa mires included in an environmental monitoring programme. Initial surveys show that the area covered by palsas has decreased since the 1960s or that they have completely vanished. The Site is adjacent to the Lätäseno-Hietajoki Mires Ramsar Site which lies across the border river in Finland.

## Mapangyong Cuo

Site number: 1 439 | Country: China | Administrative region: Tibet Autonomous Region  
Area: 73 782 ha | Coordinates: 30°42'N 81°23'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mapangyong Cuo. 07/12/04; Tibet Autonomous Region; 73,782 hectares; 30°44'29"N 081°19'42"E. A high-altitude wetland of the Tibetan plateau (4,500-6,500m asl) covering Mapangyong and Laang Lakes with surrounding swamps and rivers, "one of the highest elevation freshwater wetlands in the world" and a source of the Yalu Tsangpo/Brahmaputra River. It is a spawning and survival habitat for Tibetan plateau endemic fish species *Schizopygopsis microcephalus* and *Triplophysa stewarti* and supports large populations of the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* and the endangered Chiru or Tibetan antelope *Pantholops hodgsoni*, and Snow leopard *Uncia uncia*. Records between 2008 and 2010 show that the area supports about 80,000 waterbirds annually. Vegetation is dominated by subalpine desert grasslands such as *Stipa glareosa* with alpine meadow composed of *Stipa purpurea*, *Carex moorcroftii*, *Poa annua* and *Caragana versicolor* distributed between 4,700-5,000m asl. The lake, situated beside the holy mountain Kang Rinpoche, is a holy place in Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and "Black Buddhism" and attracts hundreds of devotees and tourists every year. Local herdsmen use the surrounding wetlands for grazing. Since the area was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2004, several conservation and restoration projects were carried out to improve the protection and signage at the Site, for a total investment of 4.7 million USD. Each year, around 10,000 people visit the site. Ramsar site No. 1439. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Marais Breton, Baie de Bourgneuf, Ile de Noirmoutier et Forêt de Monts

Site number: 2 283 | Country: France | Administrative region: Pays de la Loire  
Area: 55 826 ha | Coordinates: 46°55'N 02°03'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site covers one of the main areas of coastal marshes and tidal bays on the French Atlantic coast. Behind the muddy, sandy or rocky foreshore lie extensive salt meadows, brackish flooded grasslands, dune wetlands and ponds. The area is part of a chain of coastal wetlands that are essential for the conservation of salt-tolerant (halophytic) habitats and species, and include 16 habitats of community interest listed in Annex I of the European Union Habitats Directive. The duration of flooding and the degree of salinity play major roles in the composition of the different plant communities. The Site is a biodiversity hotspot, as it supports over 60,000 waterbirds and is an important nesting site for several bird species. It supports critical stages in the life cycle of a number of fish species, including the critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. The Site is essential for the livelihoods of the local fishermen and salt producers. It is also a popular tourist destination and has appropriate regulations to limit their environmental impact. The area also provides important fresh water resources and plays a major role in flood control and mitigation, coastal stabilization and water purification.

## Marais d'eau douce Garaet Douza

Site number: 2 007 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Gafsa  
Area: 1 400 ha | Coordinates: 34°28'N 08°29'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais d'eau douce Garaet Douza. 02/02/12; Gafsa; 1,400 ha; 34 28'N 08 29'E. A seasonal freshwater marsh surrounded by a circle of mountains which give it a wonderful landscape. It is a good site for the promotion of Saharan ecotourism in the country, as it is a natural wetland that has not been adversely affected by agriculture and harbours a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. The site is home to species dependent on pre-desert ecosystems, such as Cream-colored Coursier *Cursorius cursor* or Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*. It is also a habitat of several species typical of the Mediterranean biome/North Africa, including the Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes* and the Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*. Rainwater is retained at the site in autumn and winter attracts waterbirds and provides the necessary conditions for wintering and nesting. Potentially adverse factors are mainly overgrazing and poaching. Ramsar Site no. 2007. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Marais de Bourdim

Site number: 1 895 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: El Tarf  
Area: 59 ha | Coordinates: 36°48'N 08°15'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, found within the National Park of El Kala in north-eastern Algeria, is one of the Mediterranean region's few freshwater swamps. It is a marsh surrounded by a more-or-less dense ring of trees, mainly narrow-leaved ash and common alder. It hosts the largest heron colony in the region; different species including cattle egret, common egret and squacco heron breed on islets of vegetation, and rest in the Site outside the breeding period. Even with insufficient studies, it is apparent that the Site is also significant for the golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), the Egyptian mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*), the common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), which is noted to be rare in the region. The Site is used to irrigate the surrounding agricultural land and so it is of great value to the local communities. As the Site is within the National Park, it is protected by legislation and has a management plan in place. However, logging activities, the over-extraction of water for irrigation, and an invasion of Eucalyptus threaten its ecological character.

## Marais De Kaw

Site number: 644 | Country: France | Administrative region: Guyane Française  
Area: 137 000 ha | Coordinates: 04°40'N 52°06'W | Designation dates: 08-12-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais de Kaw. 08/12/93; Guyane Française; 137,000 ha; 04°38'N 052°06'W. Nature Reserve, Regional Nature Park. A vast grassland swamp, wide mudflats colonized by mangroves, and swamp forests bisected by small tidal rivers and dotted with ponds. The diverse wetland habitats and their continuity with the Amazon basin provide for a high diversity of flora and fauna exhibiting high levels of endemism and supporting various endangered species. The site includes internationally important habitat for numerous species of waterbirds using the site for feeding, breeding, and wintering. An important area for nature tourism, hunting, fishing, and scientific research. Ramsar site no. 644. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Marais de la Macta

Site number: 1 059 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Mascara, Oran et Mostaganem  
Area: 44 500 ha | Coordinates: 35°39'N 00°06'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a triangular depression separated from the Gulf of Arzew near Oran by a dune cordon, a complex of open water, marsh and more or less humid steppe some nine miles inland, supplied by three permanent wadis. The Site is rare in North Africa in the diversity of habitats it contains, most notably *sansouires* or salt marshes which recall the Camargue in France. A rich biodiversity is found there, including a great variety of halophilic vegetation as well as numerous invertebrates and fish. The Site is also a nesting ground for waterbirds such as the marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). The dunes are home to several rare plant species that deserve special protection, such as sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and sea grape (*Ephedra distachya*). The wetland is important for both local residents and nomads, particular during dry seasons, as pasturage for their cattle and their sheep respectively. The classification of the Site as Natural Reserve would allow the human activities to be regulated and help to maintain its rich ecological zones.

## Marais de la Mekhada

Site number: 1 301 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: El Tarf  
Area: 8 900 ha | Coordinates: 36°48'N 08°00'E | Designation dates: 06-04-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais de la Mekhada. 04/06/03; El Tarf; 8,900 ha; 36°48'N 008°00'E. A mostly freshwater marsh in an alluvial basin of the Mafragh plain, brackish in the downstream part where it meets the Mediterranean Sea through a narrow opening. With a depth of 0.5 to 1 m, the site is vegetated primarily by rushes *Scirpus* sp. covering more than 80% of the surface. The area is important as a nesting and wintering site for ducks and coots and serves as a nesting site for the IUCN Red-listed White-headed duck *Oxyura leucocelphala*, as well as the Ferruginous Duck *Fuligule nyroca*. Four species are considered to surpass the 1% threshold: *Oxyura leucocelphala*, Anser anser, *Anas penelope*, and *Anas strepera*. In summer, cattle pass through the marsh; the edges of its banks are partially used for agriculture, and the site is used for traditional fishing of eel and various fish species. Overgrazing is seen as a potential threat, especially in times of drought. Ramsar site no. 1301. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Marais de Sacy

Site number: 2 312 | Country: France | Administrative region: Hauts-de-France  
Area: 1 073 ha | Coordinates: 49°20'N 02°33'E | Designation dates: 09-10-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais de Sacy includes a vast wetland and alkaline peatland of great ecological and cultural value, which is also important for research and education. The presence of typical, well-preserved habitats of European importance which have unfavourable status nationally lends the Site great conservation significance for the Atlantic biogeographical region. It is home to globally vulnerable species such as the southern water vole *Arvicola sapidus*, the great raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius* and the narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*. It is also an important stage for migratory birds. Non-intensive grazing and traditional hunting practices carried out in cooperation with landowners help maintain the Site's ecological character. Water cress *Nasturtium officinale* was once produced here for the Paris market and many of the ponds remain. The Site has an interesting hydrology; some parts are supplied from the north by calcium carbonate-rich groundwater and others from the south by sulphate-rich rainfall. It provides water for agriculture and drinking water for more than 25,000 people. The peatland traps and stores carbon while the accumulation of organic matter enables soil formation.

## Marais de Torotorofotsy avec leurs bassins versants

Site number: 1 453 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région Alaotra Mangoro  
Area: 9 993 ha | Coordinates: 18°52'S 48°22'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Torotorofotsy Marshes with their watersheds (of the Mokaranana, Ankahelava, and Ambasimbavy rivers) are located in the east of Madagascar. The Ramsar Site includes a permanent marsh, temporary wetlands and primary forests fragmented by farming areas (mainly rice paddies) and secondary forests. A zone of sclerophyll forest lies to the west. The marshes and their surroundings are immensely rich in biodiversity, and the critically-endangered golden mantella frog (*Mantella aurantiaca*) is endemic to the locality. The Site supports 100 bird species, including in particular threatened aquatic and wetland species such as the endangered slender-billed flufftail (*Sarothrura watersi*), Madagascar pond heron (*Ardeola idae*) and Meller's duck (*Anas melleri*), and the vulnerable Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*), Madagascar snipe (*Gallinago macrodactyla*), as well as others from different zoological classes. The Site lies within the Ankeniheny-Mantadia-Zahamena forest corridor, a high-priority area for conservation in east-central Madagascar. The marshes play an important role in flood control in the area of Andasibe Commune and feed the valleys with their abundant rice fields. They also provide domestic water for the villagers of Maromahatsinjo.

## Marais d'Harchies

Site number: 331 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Région wallonne, province du Hainaut  
Area: 557,1 ha | Coordinates: 50°28'N 03°41'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of wet grasslands, ponds and marshes fringed by reedbeds and fed by rainfall and groundwater. It supports a varied flora including several notable species, as well as a diversity of breeding and regionally endangered birds such as the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and the common little bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*. Wintering and passage waterbirds include cormorants, swans, geese, ducks, shorebirds and terns. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site are posed by intensive agriculture, recreation activities such as moto-cross and hunting, and colonization by invasive species.

## Marais d'Orx et zones humides associées

Site number: 1 995 | Country: France | Administrative region: Région Aquitaine  
Area: 962 ha | Coordinates: 43°36'N 01°24'W | Designation dates: 27-10-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais d'Orx et zones humides associées. 27.10.11; Aquitaine; 962 ha; 43°35'52"N 001°23'50"W. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA,SCI). Mainly consisting of lakes, ponds, marshlands, wet meadows and surrounded by a network of canals, this site has been restored after extensive drainage for agricultural purposes in the past. It now acts as an important stop-over and wintering site for numerous species of waterbirds and is one of the few nesting sites for Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*. The site is also important for a large number of insect, amphibian, reptile, fish and mammal species, including threatened species such as the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* and the European Mink *Mustela lutreola*, both listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List. The site plays a major role in flood control. Human activities include recreation, agriculture and research. Educational activities are undertaken regularly and an exhibition explains the history and restoration of the site. Ramsar Site no. 1995. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, Baie des Veys

Site number: 516 | Country: France | Administrative region: Basse Normandie  
Area: 32 500 ha | Coordinates: 49°23'N 01°10'W | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, Baie des Veys. 08/04/91; Basse-Normandie; 32,500 ha; 49°23'N 001°10'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Reserve, Natural Reserve, Reserves du domaine public fluvial, Arrête de protection de biotope. An extensive complex of marshes and associated floodplains converging at a coastal embayment. Vegetation consists of converted and unconverted wet grassland and the largest peatlands in France. The area is extremely important for breeding, staging and wintering numerous species of waterbirds, and provides habitat for a variety of passerines and various species of notable plants. Human activities include pastoralism, hunting and fishing. As agriculture declines, natural succession will occur, ultimately replacing flora and fauna presently of great conservation significance with woodland species. The principal aim of the park is to maintain extensive agricultural practices to preserve the marsh habitat. Ramsar site no. 516. [photos] Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Marais du Fier d'Ars

Site number: 1 269 | Country: France | Administrative region: Poitou-Charentes  
Area: 4 452 ha | Coordinates: 46°13'N 01°28'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais du Fier d'Ars. 02/02/03; Poitou-Charentes; 4,452 ha; 46°13'N 001°28'W. Nature Reserve (119 ha), Special Protection Area and proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directives. A complex of tidal sands and mudflats and diked marshes on the island of Ré off the Atlantic coast, including active and abandoned salt pans, freshwater marshes, reedbeds, oyster basins, extensive salt pastures, active dunes, dune forests, sandy and rocky coasts, and important seagrass beds (*Zostera noltii*). The site harbours a number of plant and animal species of conservation concern, including two regional endemics, the dune plant *Omphalodes littoralis* and the subspecies of the bluethroat *Luscinia svecica namnetum*. More than 31,000 waterbirds use the site in winter. Four populations of them occur regularly above the 1% threshold: Branta bernicla bernicla, Recurvirostra avoseta, Calidris alpina, Limosa limosa islandica. Human uses include oyster farming and numerous leisure and tourist activities (cycling, walking, fishing, canoeing, angling, sailing, swimming). Two visitor centres provide education facilities. Ramsar site no. 1269. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Marais et côte du Plateau de Rmel

Site number: 1 481 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Kénitra, Larache  
Area: 1 300 ha | Coordinates: 35°02'N 06°14'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais et côte du Plateau de Rmel. 15/01/05; Kénitra, Larache, 1,300 ha; 35°02'N 006°14'W. Zones d'importance pour la Conservation des Oiseaux, Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. A complex of three freshwater coastal lakes, the adjacent sandy beach and coastline, inter-dunal marshes, and irrigated areas. It hosts a number of endangered species such as the Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*), the Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and the Common Otter (*Lutra lutra*), in addition to three endemic reptiles and an endemic amphibian. It is also an important wintering site for the Lesser Black-backed Gull, hosting on average more than 1% of its biogeographical population. The site has a high agricultural potential, due to the soil's fertility and availability of irrigation facilities, and fishing potential, especially of eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) and elvers. Birdwatching trips and hunting take place in the area as well. The main problems and threats are related to agriculture, ranging from lowering of the groundwater table to reduction in river flows, eutrophication, and pollution due to pesticide and fertilizer use. Ramsar site no. 1481. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Marais et tourbières des vallées de la Somme et de l'Avre

Site number: 2 322 | Country: France | Administrative region: Hauts de France  
Area: 13 100 ha | Coordinates: 49°56'N 02°20'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes lower stretches of the Somme River and its main tributary, the Avre, together with adjacent marshes and peatlands. At its northern (downstream) end it meets another Ramsar Site, Baie de Somme ([Ramsar Site no. 925](#)), which stretches to the river's estuary. The Site is part of one of the largest alkaline peat complexes in north-west Europe. The excellent conservation of the Site's peatland habitats, which is exceptional in the Atlantic biogeographical region, together with their different developmental stages, make the Site very important for animal and plant biodiversity. Notable species include the globally threatened purple small-reed *Calamagrostis canescens* and the European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. The Site is important as a wintering location for species such as the Eurasian bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and the Savi's warbler *Locustella lusinioides*, as well as for the breeding little bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, the Eurasian teal *Anas crecca* and the western marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. The Site is being actively managed as a Natura 2000 site and is also protected under other designations. 70% of the population of the Somme department live close to the Site, and it is central to local farming and the leisure economy. It is of wider cultural and historic importance; the Site's ancient fluvial terraces hold the earliest traces of human occupation in north-west Europe.

## Marais salants de Guérande et du Més

Site number: 746 | Country: France | Administrative region: Pays de la Loire  
Area: 5 200 ha | Coordinates: 47°20'N 02°30'W | Designation dates: 01-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marais salants de Guérande et du Més. 01/09/95; Pays de la Loire; 5,200 ha; 47°20'N 002°30'W. Game Reserve. The site consists of saltmarshes, traicts (mud flats) and dune belts formed around 7,000 BC. The marsh area is protected by an important dyke network, requiring constant maintenance to avoid submersion at high tides. The marshes are divided into a mosaic of pans separated by clay mudwalls fed with water by channels. The salt works date back to Roman times. The site exhibits an exceptional assemblage of great floristic wealth supporting numerous rare or protected plants. The very high level of primary production, the highly diversified aquatic environments, combined with greatly differing salinity levels, gives rise to rich algae and invertebrate communities which in turn support the numerous birds species present. The site is important for numerous species of nesting, feeding, resting and wintering migratory birds and waders. The area has a remarkable ethnological and sociological history. Human activities include salt production, hunting, fish farming, shellfish hatcheries. Ramsar site no. 746. [info] Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Marais Vernier et Vallée de la Risle maritime

Site number: 2 247 | Country: France  
| Administrative region: Région Haute-Normandie, département de l'Eure (27), France  
Area: 9 564,5 ha | Coordinates: 49°26'N 00°29'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large estuarine complex of alluvial marshes, mudflats, estuarine waters, rivers, peatlands, and a network of ditches and open water bodies which converge into the Grand'Mare natural pond. Marais Vernier, a former meander of the Seine River, holds the largest peat deposit in France. The Risle coastal river is a transition zone between saline and fresh water, which supports intertidal habitats of great importance for fish. The Site as a whole regroups 43 species of fish, of which 32 are indigenous, and provides important migratory paths or reproductive grounds for a number of species including the globally endangered European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), the northern pike (*Esox lucius*) and the lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*). The wetland provides wintering grounds for several species of waterbirds including large numbers of European golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). Human activities are focused on agriculture, hunting and fishing. The Site holds important social and cultural values associated with a history of wetland-related traditional practices which maintain this mosaic of habitats and the associated biodiversity. Cottages on the Site showcase the traditional use of reeds for thatching. The main threats to the Site relate to drainage in Marais Vernier, and the poplar tree plantations, roads, and utility and service lines crossing the Site. A management plan is in place for the Natura 2000 Site, which covers the whole Ramsar Site area.

### Mare Aux Cochons High altitude freshwater wetlands

Site number: 1 905 | Country: Seychelles | Administrative region:  
Area: 1 ha | Coordinates: 04°38'S 55°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mare Aux Cochons. 02/02/10; Mahé Island; 0.315 ha; 4°38'24"S, 55°25'00"E. National Park. As the only wetland area on the largest Seychellois Island and one of three inland wetland areas in the archipelago, this site plays a role in maintaining the biodiversity of the Western Indian Ocean Ecoregion. Several species of global conservation concern are found within this site, including the endangered Seychelles Scops Owl, the critically endangered *Vateriopsis seychellarum* plant as well as the vulnerable Seychelles frog (*Soglossus sechellensis*) and Seychelles tree frog (*Tachycnemis seychellensis*). There has been relatively little study on the site; however it has been recognised as a breeding ground for the tree frogs noted above. As this site is found within the Morne Seychellois National Park there is little commercial activity being carried out. The main sources of income from the site are from conservation, restoration and ecotourism activities. Invasive plants and animals pose the greatest threat to native invertebrate and smaller vertebrate species as well as to the native plants propagation in these areas. Under the state's jurisdiction, Mare aux Cochons is covered by the protective State legislation, however there is currently no site specific management plan. Ramsar site no.1905. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Mares temporaires de Tre Padule de Suartone

Site number: 1 651 | Country: France | Administrative region: Corse  
Area: 218 ha | Coordinates: 41°28'N 09°14'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mares temporaires de Tre Padule de Suartone. 02/02/07; Corse; 218 ha; 41°28'N 09°14'E. Réserve naturelle. Comprising four temporary pools and their catchments and two temporary streams in the southeast of Corsica, dominated by several types of scrub, rock rose, and spring grasses. The existence of the pools in an almost semi-arid granitic landscape, rich in species adapted to extreme conditions, is a rare geomorphological phenomenon in the region. The pools support a great diversity of species of which most are rare and closely associated with this type of environment, including four amphibian species that are protected at national level. They are naturally formed wetlands representative of the Mediterranean as their hydrological functioning is intimately bound to the climate of the region, enjoying shallow water at 25 to 50 cm depth from late autumn to late spring and drying out from evaporation during the month of May. The principal land use is the grazing of cattle and, to a lesser extent, goats, though these seem to have declined since 2000. The site is the only site of temporary pools in France that has been classed as a nature reserve and benefits from effective management and awareness-raising efforts. The threat from four-wheel sport vehicles has diminished since the arrival of a site manager. Ramsar site no. 1651. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Maribo Lakes

Site number: 163 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Lolland Municipality  
Area: 3 823 ha | Coordinates: 54°45'N 11°33'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Maribo Lakes. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 3,823 ha; 54°45'N 11°33'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC); Nature Conservation Area. Freshwater lakes supporting wooded islands and peninsulas, reedbeds, adjoining meadows with scattered shoreline habitation. There are several calcareous fens with orchid populations along the shores of the lakes. An internationally important area for wintering and staging geese and sea ducks and a nesting site for various waterbirds, supporting more than 1% of the individuals (2002-2009) of Greylag Goose, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Smew. The main factors threatening the sites ecological character are eutrophication from nutrients from adjacent farmland, afforestation, reedbed cutting, disturbance, and invasive alien species. Restoration of Hejrede Lake was initiated in 1993. A management plan has implemented hunting and sailing restrictions since 2000. Ramsar site no. 163. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Marismas del Odiel

Site number: 447 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 7 185 ha | Coordinates: 37°17'N 06°55'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marismas del Odiel. 05/12/89; Andalucía; 7,185 ha; 37°17'N 06°55'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park, Natural Reserve. An extensive wetland of several distinct saltmarsh habitats, where vegetation is determined by frequency of inundation and salinity levels, and a series of dune spits. An extremely important area for several species of wintering ducks and nesting waterbirds, being one of two Spanish nesting sites for 400 pairs of *Platalea leucorodia*. Large numbers of shorebirds use the site for staging. Land use within the site includes salt extraction, forestry, agriculture, fishing, and shellfish harvesting. Ramsar site no. 447. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Marismas de Santoña

Site number: 707 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cantabria  
Area: 6 907 ha | Coordinates: 43°25'N 03°26'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marismas de Santoña. 04/10/94; Cantabria; 6,907 ha; 43°25'N 03°26'W. European Union Special Protection Area; Natural Reserve. The most important coastal wetland for northern Iberian Peninsula waterbirds, consisting of an estuary supporting extensive salt marshes. Other habitats include meadows, beaches, dunes, cliffs, and stands of oak forest. The site supports a diverse flora representing halophytic and freshwater communities. Internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds use the site for nesting, staging and wintering. Human activities include fisheries, marine aquaculture, and beach recreation. Ramsar site no. 707. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Marismas Nacionales

Site number: 732 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa, Nayarit  
Area: 200 000 ha | Coordinates: 22°08'N 105°32'W | Designation dates: 22-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marismas Nacionales. 22/06/95; Sinaloa, Nayarit; 200,000 ha; 22°08'N 105°32'W. Large network of brackish coastal lagoons, mangroves, swamps, and saltmarshes fed by several rivers. The site includes estuaries, the most extensive mangroves of the Mexican Pacific (20% of all the mangroves in the country), timber-grade forests, and pastures. At least 60 species of nationally or internationally endangered vertebrates occur here, including 51 endemic ones, 36 of which are endemic birds. The *Orbygnia* palm forests on sand bars constitute a threatened community. Numerous creeks have been transformed into large prawn farms, and pressure continues. This could become an economically important activity in the area. Other human activities include traditional fishing and cattle ranching; limited numbers of pigs, fowl and bees are also kept. Fruit and seeds are exploited by industry and leaves are gathered for handicrafts and roof thatch. Ramsar site no. 732. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Marjal de Almenara

Site number: 2 338 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valenciana  
Area: 1 473,9 ha | Coordinates: 39°45'N 00°11'E | Designation dates: 17-11-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a typical example of the marshes along the coast of the Gulf of Valencia, which formed as old lagoons gradually filled with sediments due to longshore drift; it is fed by fresh water from the nearby mountains. The Site is made up of three small *estanyos* (lagoons) ranging from 0.6 hectares to 6.2 ha and up to ten metres deep, which collect fresh water upwelling from nearby springs. It also includes freshwater marsh areas (some of which are almost permanently flooded), dunes, reed beds and salt marshes, as well as multiple canals and ditches. Some horticultural and citrus cultivation areas are included within the Site. At least 40 taxa which are threatened or of special interest are present, including 26 bird species such as the globally threatened marbled duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. Six endangered and four endemic species of fish are recorded, including the critically endangered Valencia toothcarp *Valencia hispanica*. Three priority habitats of European importance are also present. Despite being affected by human settlements, the Site has been little transformed and near-permanent flooding continues, while the coastal strip of the marsh is in a remarkably good state of conservation. The information centre *La Casa Penya* conducts educational activities.

## Marjal de Pego-Oliva

Site number: 708 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valencia  
Area: 1 290 ha | Coordinates: 38°52'N 00°04'E | Designation dates: 04-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marjal de Pego-Oliva. 04/10/94; Comunidad Valenciana; 1,290 ha; 38°52'N 00°04'W. Natural Park. The site, an extensive coastal basin marsh separated from the shoreline by a sand bar, includes cultivated areas and a network of channels. The site is subject to varying salinity levels and supports floating, submergent and emergent vegetation. The marsh supports an important range of nesting waterbirds, some of which are globally threatened. Human activities include agriculture, hunting, fishing, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 708. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Markermeer & IJmeer

Site number: 1 245 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Provinces of Flevoland and Noord-Holland  
Area: 68 463,4 ha | Coordinates: 52°25'N 05°07'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Markermeer and IJmeer is a stagnant freshwater lake with submerged vegetation in the catchment of the river Rhine, which was separated from IJsselmeer by the closing of Houtribdijk in 1976. The two separate Ramsar Sites IJmeer and Markermeer (former Site no. 1249) have been merged into a single Site following the Natura 2000 boundary. The Site is of international importance for a large number of breeding and non-breeding birds, supporting regularly more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, with an average peak number of almost 105,000 for the period from 2005/2006 to 2009/2010. Large resting groups of common pochard, tufted duck and common coot gather in relatively small areas. The lake is also an important spawning, nursery and feeding ground for fish and molluscs, and plays an important role as a freshwater reservoir for irrigation. Human activities include boating, tourism, extractive operations, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic, water management, conservation and research. The main threats potentially affecting the Site's ecological character relate to aquaculture and fisheries activities, plans to increase the capacity of recreational harbours, and eutrophication. Long-term monitoring has, however, shown a decrease in eutrophication and chemical water contamination and an increase in submerged vegetation. New habitat for birds such as gulls and terns have been created, which require intense nature management.

## Markiezaat

Site number: 2 211 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland  
Area: 1 831,9 ha | Coordinates: 51°28'N 04°17'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of former tidal channels and creeks, mud flats, salt marshes and higher ground with young shifting dunes. The former Ramsar Site Oosterschelde & Markiezaat has been designated as two separate Sites Markiezaat and Oosterschelde (which retains Site no. 354), following Natura 2000 boundaries. The Sites are not connected and their ecology is very different. The adjustment of the Markiezaat Site boundary has resulted in an increase of 10 ha. It is an internationally important area for European threatened breeding birds such as Eurasian spoonbill, avocet and Kentish plover. Moreover, the Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering birds and more than 1% of the individuals of the populations of five species of waterbirds. Land use is dedicated to dairy farming, forestry and outdoor recreation activities. The Site includes a visitor centre, hiking trails and observation hides. The main threats are posed by agriculture intensification, industrialization, urbanization, waste water discharge and construction of infrastructure such as power lines.

## Mar Menor

Site number: 706 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Murcia  
Area: 14 933 ha | Coordinates: 37°43'N 00°48'E | Designation dates: 04-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mar Menor. 04/10/94; Murcia; 14,933 ha; 37°43'N 00°48'W. Regional Park. The Mar Menor is the largest lagoon on the Spanish Mediterranean coast. Habitats include islands, beaches, salt pans, saltmarshes, and dune systems. The site is of special botanical importance for its well-developed halophytic and dune communities. Numerous species of nesting, passage and wintering waterbirds frequent the site, including the globally threatened duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. Human activities include tourism, recreation, agriculture, salt production, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 706. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Marshall Wetlands

Site number: 1 630 | Country: Liberia | Administrative region: Margibi county  
Area: 12 168 ha | Coordinates: 06°08'N 10°22'W | Designation dates: 24-08-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Marshall Wetlands. 24/08/06; Margibi; 12,168 ha; 06°08'N 010°22'W. Comprising three small rivers, the area has sandy and rocky shores, and further inland is a population of secondary forests and savannah woodland. The wetland is chiefly a mangrove type with mature trees reaching up to 30m. In addition to the Red Colobus monkey, a number of bird species listed by the CMS appear in the area, such as the Glossy Ibis, Lesser Kestrel and Common Pratincole. The site provides control against flooding and underground water recharge and is a sediment trap. The very large stands of mangroves, fish population and wildlife are valuable resources for inhabitants in the area. The three rivers are navigable and are used for transport from one village to another. The uncontrolled harvesting of the mangrove forest and dynamiting of fish by local people are serious threats to the ecological character of the site, as is pollution from a rubber company upstream. In addition, the presence of *Chromolaena odorata*, an invasive alien species which provides host to harmful agricultural insects such as the variegated grasshopper *Zonocerus variegatus*, is a serious problem for farmers. Research on chimpanzees for human vaccines against hepatitis A, B and C is also being carried out at the site, with the animals released on islets in the mangroves afterwards. Ramsar site no. 1630. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Mártély

Site number: 186 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Csongrád county  
Area: 2 324 ha | Coordinates: 46°26'N 20°13'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site covers a section of the River Tisza floodplain featuring oxbow lakes, wet meadows, arable land, scrub and woodland. It supports a large population of otter *Lutra lutra*, and is an important breeding area for various species of threatened waterbirds such as the Eurasian bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*. The Site is also an important spawning and nursery ground for many fish species such as the critically endangered sturgeon *Acipenser nudiiventris*. The floodplain plays an important role in flood control, sediment trapping and nutrient retention. Human activities include agriculture, forestry, commercial fisheries and recreation. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site are posed by the colonization of invasive tree species. A habitat restoration project was carried out in 2009 to restore wet meadows and eliminate exotic species. A National Biodiversity Monitoring System for habitats and birds is in place.

## Martimoaapa - Lumiaapa - Penikat Mires

Site number: 11 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 14 086 ha | Coordinates: 65°50'N 25°08'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Martimoaapa - Lumiaapa - Penikat Mires. 28/05/74; Lapland; 14,086 ha; 65°50'N 025°08'E; Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. An extensive fenland complex with active raised bogs and various types of mires interspersed with small lakes, pools, streams and old forest, characterized by six extensive and well developed aapa mires close to one another. Within these there are also active raised bogs, of which Martimoaapa is among the best developed in Northern Finland. Mires are rich with flarks and ponds and also include two lakes. On lower slopes of the hills Kivalo are various types of alkaline fens and rich wooded meadows with old-growth forests. The eccentric bog of Martimoaapa is one of the most valuable bird-mires in Finland. The location near the coast of the Bothnian Bay increases the importance of the area as a staging place for waterfowl and waders during migration periods as well as an important area for numerous species of breeding water-birds and raptors. Significant values of the mires include scientific research, outdoor recreation, and reindeer husbandry. The site is also used for training by the Finnish Defence Forces, which probably causes some effects on the site, just as the increasing recreational use might have impacts. Ramsar site no. 11. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Martin Mere

Site number: 324 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 120 ha | Coordinates: 53°37'N 02°53'W | Designation dates: 28-11-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Martin Mere. 28/11/85; England; 120 ha; 53°37'N 002°53'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. A low-lying complex of open water, marsh and grassland habitats overlying deep peat. Numbers of wintering waterbirds regularly exceed 20,000 individuals and include internationally important numbers of swans, ducks and geese. Wintering and passage *Philomachus pugnax* (passage flock of 50), and scarce or rare plant and invertebrate species, are also features of national importance. There are a visitors' centre, trails and hides available at the site. Ramsar site no. 324. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Mary's Point

Site number: 236 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: New Brunswick  
Area: 1 200 ha | Coordinates: 45°44'N 64°45'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mary's Point. 24/05/82; New Brunswick; 1,200 ha; 45°44'N 064°45'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve, National Wildlife Area. A peninsula of various terrestrial habitats bordered by gravel beaches and extensive intertidal mudflats, supporting the world's highest known density of the crustaceans *Corophium volutator*, the principle food source for millions of migratory shorebirds staging here during the fall migration. 200,000 *Calidris pusilla* may be present at one time in late summer and more than two million pass through in August. Numerous species of other shorebirds occur in large numbers. A trail, viewing deck, and interpretation center are available. Ramsar site no. 236. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Mason River Protected Area

Site number: 1 990 | Country: Jamaica | Administrative region: Clarendon and St. Ann  
Area: 82 ha | Coordinates: 18°12'N 77°16'W | Designation dates: 12-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mason River Protected Area, Bird Sanctuary and Ramsar Site. 06/12/11; Clarendon, St. Ann; 82 ha; 18°11'38"N 077°15'46"W. Protected Area, Natural Heritage Site. A flattish area with several surface depressions, ponds, and sinkholes that seasonally store surface water, located in the hilly countryside of central Jamaica. All of its wetland types have an important ecological function in preventing downstream flooding by absorbing precipitation. The site is a representative and rare example of an upland peat bog and scrub savannah. There are approximately 430 plant species found there, with 11% of endemism, some of which are listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List, such as *Bactris jamaicana*, *Calyptanthus nodosa*, *Cordia troyana* and *Hyeronima jamaicensis*. The site also contains several species of the moss *Sphagnum* spp. which are essential for the existence of the bog. Likewise, it is also important for the endemic *Mellisuga minima*, the migratory species *Oporomis agilis*, and such carnivorous plants as the native *Drosera capillaries*, *Urticularia* spp., and *Dionaea muscipula*. It currently acts as an educational resource for students within the area and throughout Jamaica. Threats include invasive species, illegal bird shooting, fires, illegal removal of trees, and encroachment. Ramsar Site no. 1990. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Massaciuccoli lake and marsh

Site number: 2 311 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Tuscany Region  
Area: 11 135 ha | Coordinates: 43°46'N 10°18'E | Designation dates: 22-06-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large ecologically diverse wetland on the coast of northern Tuscany. It is a flat, mixed forest ecosystem, with soils formed by both sedimentation and erosion increased by wind and the hydrological interactions of the Arno and Serchio rivers and the sea. The Site includes the lower stretches of the two rivers, the wetlands of the old Arno delta, the lake of Massaciuccoli, and peatland floating on root mat islands. Wetlands of this size are extremely rare in coastal plains of the Mediterranean area. The Site hosts a great variability of communities and a wealth of species, including endemic subspecies such as *Artemisia caerulescens cretacea*, which is found only in central Italy, and *Centauraea aplolepa subciliata*, which is unique to the Tyrrhenian coast. The Site is an important migratory and wintering area for hundreds of bird species. It also contributes to carbon retention and is important for sediment retention, fresh water supply, and also recreation and nature-based tourism.

## Måstadjellet

Site number: 2 162 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 802 ha | Coordinates: 67°39'N 12°36'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated on the southern part of Værøy Island between the Lofotodden peninsula and Røst Island, the Site is an important breeding area for pelagic seabirds. It supports large colonies of nationally red-listed species such as the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* and the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. The western part of the Site is a steep area rising from the sea up to a mountain plateau at 400m; it is covered by rich vegetation due to the nutrients brought by the large colonies of seabirds. The Site also contains a characteristic system of sand dunes with unique botanical values. Vital populations of herring gull *Larus argentatus*, great black-backed gull *Larus marinus*, common gull *Larus canus*, northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* and Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* are found, while harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* and otter *Lutra lutra* occasionally visit. Collection of eggs and down from some species is permitted within the protected landscape area comprising the eastern part of the Site, but forbidden within the nature reserve in the western part.

## Matchedash Bay

Site number: 866 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 1 840 ha | Coordinates: 44°44'N 79°40'W | Designation dates: 31-10-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area. 31/10/96; Ontario; 1,840 ha; 44°44'N 079°40'W. Provincial Wildlife Area. A wetland characterized by various habitats including swamps, fens, cattail marshes, beaver ponds; permanent freshwater lakes; upland hardwood forest, agricultural lands, native grass meadows and a unique, coniferous wetland forest. In total, over 170 species of birds are present, some provincially rare. The area is provincially important for various species of breeding waterfowl, and for spring and fall staging. 568 species of vascular plants are present. The site also supports 17 species of herpetiles. Various recreational activities are popular. Development of cottages, marinas, and urban growth in the surroundings will affect the site. Water quality is serious public concern. Ramsar site no. 866. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Matsalu Nature Reserve

Site number: 104 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Lääne County  
Area: 48 610 ha | Coordinates: 58°45'N 23°40'E | Designation dates: 29-03-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Matsalu Nature Reserve. 29/03/94; 48,610 ha; 58°45'N 023°40'E. A wetland consisting of Kasari delta, Matsalu Bay, coastal and alluvial flooded meadows, reedbeds, forests and the shallow Moonsund waters with islets. An important waterbird nesting and migration site for species such as *Grus grus* (15,000 counted one evening), *Branta leucopsis*, *Cygnus cygnus* and *Anser anser* (400 nesting pairs, about 5,000 migrating). The site is also important for raptors and carnivores. Rich in flora, there are 700 species of vascular plants with six species under protection, including *Malus sylvestris*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Oxytropis pilosa*. The Reserve is used primarily for fishing, traditional grazing, haymaking practices, and on a lower scale, for forestry and hunting. Originally designated by the former Soviet Union, 11 October 1976. Ramsar site no. 104. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## McConnell River

Site number: 248 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Northwest Territories  
Area: 32 800 ha | Coordinates: 60°50'N 94°20'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

McConnell River. 24/05/82; Northwest Territories; 32,800 ha; 60°50'N 094°20'W. Migratory Bird Sanctuary. A complex of coastal marshes and inland wet meadows around the mouth of the McConnell River. The plains consist of shallow ponds and lakes. Internationally important for breeding up to 200,000 pairs of *Anser c. caerulescens*, as well as *Branta canadensis* and large numbers of nesting Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) (mostly ducks) and shorebirds. Ramsar site no. 248. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Medway Estuary & Marshes

Site number: 645 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 4 697 ha | Coordinates: 51°24'N 00°39'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Medway Estuary & Marshes. 15/12/93; England; 4,697 ha; 51°24'N 00°41'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site is a complex of rain-fed, brackish, floodplain grazing marsh with ditches and intertidal marsh and mudflat. It is of international importance for its diverse assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates (12 British Red Data Book species). Over the winter it provides habitat for *Tringa totanus* (2.1% of the population), *Pluvialis squatarola* (2% of the population), and *Calidris alpina alpina* (1.9% of the population). The area is used for recreation, fishing, grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 645. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Meenachullion Bog

Site number: 475 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Donegal  
Area: 194 ha | Coordinates: 54°54'N 08°07'W | Designation dates: 30-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Meenachullion Bog. 30/05/90; Donegal; 194 ha; 54°54'N 008°07'W. Nature Reserve. An area of lowland blanket bog and part of the headwaters of a major tributary of the Gweebarra River. The blanket bog grades into wet grassy heath and includes fenland and several small pool and lake complexes. Various breeding birds use the site and a small flock of the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* occurs in winter. Ramsar site no. 475.

## Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2 280 | Country: Myanmar  
| Administrative region: The Ramsar site lies within Bogalay Township, Ayeyarwady Region, in the eastern Ayeyarwady delta region of Myanmar, about 140 km  
Area: 50 000 ha | Coordinates: 15°51'N 95°16'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal wetland in the southern part of the Irrawaddy Delta, which is also an ASEAN Heritage Park. It supports one of the largest remaining mangrove areas of in the Delta, where mangrove ecosystems have declined due to activities including logging, fishing and development of shipping lanes. Now the mangrove species are being replaced by mangrove date palm (*Phoenix paludosa*). The Ramsar Site is of international importance for a number of reasons. It has a substantial carbon sequestration capacity, and so is important in mitigating global climate change. It also supports globally threatened species such as the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and mangrove terrapin (*Batagur baska*). The latter is particularly significant for the Site because it is listed under the IUCN Red List as regionally extinct in Myanmar. Other threatened species include the endangered great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), Nordmann's greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and dhole (*Cuon alpinus*). Vulnerable species include the Pacific ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and the Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*). The Site is also the last estuarine habitat in Myanmar for the salt water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). It holds significant cultural and historic value for the people of Myanmar, based on myths and pilgrimages which closely connect them to their environment.

## Meke Maar

Site number: 1 618 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Konya  
Area: 202 ha | Coordinates: 37°41'N 33°39'E | Designation dates: 21-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Meke Maar. 21/07/05; Konya; 202 ha; 37°41'N 033°38'E; Natural Monument. A caldera and crater lake in a volcanic mass with typically acidic water that permits no aquatic life in or near it - when precipitation is high, however, and the water somewhat neutralized, some waterfowl visitors can be seen. In the surrounding area, however, are found nine globally threatened plant species. The lake is known as "Anatolia's eye" as from the air it resembles the ceramic blue beads, called "eyes", that are thought to bring good luck; this, along with supposed curative properties of the caldera lake water, bring a number of visitors and suggest a significant potential for ecotourism. Over-extraction of groundwater during the current dry period presents a threat. Ramsar site no. 1618. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Mellandsvågen

Site number: 808 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: More og Romsdal  
Area: 96 ha | Coordinates: 63°21'N 08°30'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes a system of intertidal shallow waters including a sheltered bay (Mellandsvågen) and mussel and seaweed beds; extensive mudflats; salt marshes, wet meadows and mires; and rocky outcrops bordering a 1,000-hectare wildlife protection area. More than 140 different plant species have been recorded. The Site's location makes it important for migrating birds, in particular geese, ducks and waders that feed, rest, moult or winter there. Various nationally threatened species are present, such as the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, the velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca*, the common tern *Sterna hirundo* and the otter *Lutra lutra*. Human activities include recreation, birdwatching and fishing.

## Mellanljusnan

Site number: 2 173 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Gävleborg  
Area: 1 711,4 ha | Coordinates: 61°51'N 15°56'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of an unexploited 50-kilometre stretch of the Ljusnan river, in which rapids and streams mix with slow meandering waters. In the lower part of the Site, the river flows through a broad valley with farmland areas surrounded by forests and hills. The middle and upper parts of the Site are dominated by dry pine forests on sandy glacial deposits. The landscape has been shaped by the river which has eroded a 40-metre-deep bedrock of glacial delta sediments. Several good examples of glacial landforms can be observed along the river, such as an esker, a long and narrow ridge formed by streams under the glacial ice. The vegetation is of great interest since it includes several alpine plants otherwise absent from this region. The Site is an important spawning ground for several fish species such as the brown trout *Salmo trutta* and the grayling *Thymallus thymallus*, which are very good bioindicators of the high water quality, and it also supports a breeding population of endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*. There are no hydroelectric power stations, but the water regime is slightly affected by nearby dams. The Site is of high importance for water purification, storage and delivery, as well as for tourism. Several archaeological and historical features are found.

## Mellerstön

Site number: 2 174 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 290 ha | Coordinates: 65°12'N 21°51'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mellerstön is one of the biggest islands in the Piteå archipelago; the Site consists of part of this island and of the neighbouring Lill-Räbben island, and the shallow marine water between them. This representative example of a natural wetland complex archipelago in the Baltic Sea within the European Boreal region is characterized by rocky shores, coastal saline lagoons, intertidal marshes and a mosaic of mires and deciduous forests. The shallow marine areas, mud flats and sand banks are very important feeding, staging and breeding grounds for waterbirds. The site supports nationally-threatened species including ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and northern pintail *Anas acuta*. Endemic flora subspecies of *Artemisia campestris* are also present. The Site is part of a nature reserve and has local importance for various tourism and recreational activities. The main land use is nature conservation; there are no major threats to the ecological character of the Site.

## Mer Bleue Conservation Area

Site number: 755 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 3 443 ha | Coordinates: 45°18'N 75°45'W | Designation dates: 26-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mer Bleue Conservation Area. 26/09/95; Ontario; 3,447 ha; 45°18'N 075°45'W. Provincial Wetland, Area of Scientific Interest. Fifty per cent of Mer Bleue is a raised boreal peat dome - Sphagnum bog, a system typically occurring further north. Hydrological features are unusual with saline groundwater sources and six meter thick peat deposits. The borders of the bog form a typical environment, much of which has been transformed into pond and marsh by *Castor canadensis*. Three vegetation types are present: black spruce forest, low-lying bog vegetation (includes numerous species of orchids) and heath type. Due to the undisturbed and unique habitat numerous significant or rare fauna are found here, including 22 species of mammal. A small area inside the site is occupied by the Geomagnetic Laboratory. Land uses include recreation, research and agriculture. The site's area was extended by 243 ha in May 2001. Ramsar site no. 755. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Merja de Fouwarate

Site number: 2 324 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Région Rabat-Salé-Kénitra  
Area: 502 ha | Coordinates: 34°15'N 06°32'W | Designation dates: 12-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a shallow swamp, which is believed to be a remnant of a large wetland complex that once covered the Gharb plain of northwestern Morocco. It provides nesting, staging and wintering habitat for about 60 species of waterbird, whose numbers may exceed 20,000 during wintering and passage periods. Its hydrology has greatly improved since the beginning of the 21st century, leading to the expansion of aquatic plants which now occupy up to 30% of the Site area and provide shelter for many waterbirds to nest. Tamarix, acacia and eucalyptus trees also attract breeders. Among the birds are several rare species including the endangered white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, the vulnerable marbled teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and the near-threatened ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*. The peri-urban location of the Site, and the associated drainage, backfilling and urbanization, and urban and agricultural pollution, have caused long-term losses in its area.

## Merja Sidi Boughaba

Site number: 207 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Kénitra  
Area: 650 ha | Coordinates: 34°15'N 06°40'W | Designation dates: 20-06-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Merja Sidi Boughaba. 20/06/80; Kénitra; 650 ha; 34°15'N 006°40'W. Biological Reserve. A permanent, brackish/freshwater coastal lagoon, fringed by emergent vegetation, fed by groundwater, and separated from the sea by a stabilized dune system covered by Mediterranean scrub. The lagoon supports a rich phytoplankton, algal flora and traditional fishing. An important area for breeding waterbirds, both globally threatened and regionally rare, and for staging migrant birds. An ecomuseum plays an important role in conservation education. Ramsar site no. 207. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Merja Zerga

Site number: 206 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Kénitra  
Area: 7 300 ha | Coordinates: 34°51'N 06°16'W | Designation dates: 20-06-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Merja Zerga. 20/06/80; Kénitra; 7,300 ha; 34°51'N 006°16'W. Biological Reserve, Permanent Hunting Reserve. A large, coastal lagoon of variable salinity with extensive intertidal mudflats, fringing marshes and reedbeds separated from the sea by a stabilized dune system. Important numbers and regionally rare or globally threatened species of staging, wintering and nesting waterbirds are supported, as are various fish, reptiles and invertebrates. Human activities include intensive summer tourism, fishing, grazing, and rush harvesting. Ramsar site no. 206. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Mersey Estuary

Site number: 785 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 5 033 ha | Coordinates: 53°19'N 02°51'W | Designation dates: 20-12-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mersey Estuary. 20/12/95; England; 5,033 ha; 53°20'N 002°54'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. A large, sheltered estuary comprising large areas of saltmarsh and intertidal sand and mudflats. The site includes brackish marsh, rocky shoreline, and cliffs set in a rural and industrial environment. Internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds feed and roost at the site in winter, or stage at the site in spring and fall, notably *Charadrius hiaticula*. Human activities include livestock grazing, hunting, industrial activities. Ramsar site no. 785. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Messolonghi lagoons

Site number: 62 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Aitolokarnania  
Area: 33 687 ha | Coordinates: 38°20'N 21°15'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Messolonghi lagoons. 21/08/75; Aitolokarnania; 33,687 ha; 38°20'N 21°15'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive; No Hunting Zone. An extensive complex of brackish coastal lagoons, mudflats, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, reedbeds, dune systems and patches of riparian forest formed within the double delta of two rivers. The site is important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds and exhibits a considerable degree of endemism in plant and fish species. Wintering birds include large numbers of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), and the globally threatened *Pelecanus crispus*. Human activities include commercial salt extraction (80% of national production), fishing, fish farming, livestock grazing, agriculture, and illegal construction of resort housing. Various construction works led to soil deposition that changed the hydrology and geomorphology of the area. Intensive fishing techniques, cattle grazing, and illegal hunting cause problems. These issues led to the site's designation on the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 62. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Mesurado Wetlands

Site number: 1 631 | Country: Liberia | Administrative region: Montserrado county  
Area: 6 760 ha | Coordinates: 06°18'N 10°45'W | Designation dates: 24-08-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mesurado Wetlands. 24/08/06; Montserrado; 6,760 ha; 06°18'N 10°45'W. Located in the capital city Monrovia and Montserrado County (the largest administrative region of the country with 1 million people), the site is important for the protection of three mangrove species (*Rhizophora harrisonii*, *R. mangle* and *Avicennia africana*), which are threatened by intense charcoal burning and fuel wood collection. It provides a favourable habitat and feeding ground for several species of birds including the African spoonbill *Platalea alba*, Common Pratincole *Glaucous nuchalis* and Curlew *Numenius arquata*. It also hosts the vulnerable African dwarf crocodile, the Nile crocodile and the African sharp-nosed crocodile and plays an important role in shoreline stabilization and sediment trapping. The site is currently used for fuel wood collection, as a dumping site, for car washing, and fishing, with fish and crustaceans sold to the population of Monrovia. An additional threat comes from unregulated fishing, as well as from pollution from the industries around the site, including an oil refinery and paint factories. No management plan currently exists, but there are plans to put it under a protected area management network once it has been successfully designated as a Ramsar site. Ramsar site no. 1631. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Miani Hor

Site number: 1 068 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Balochistan Province  
Area: 55 000 ha | Coordinates: 25°24'N 66°06'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Miani Hor. 10/05/01. Balochistan. 55,000 ha. 25°24'N 66°06'E. A large shallow sea bay and estuarine system with several low-lying islands and extensive mangrove swamps and intertidal mud flats, separated from the adjacent Sonmiani Bay in the Arabian Sea by a broad peninsula of sand dunes. The site is the only area of Pakistan's coast where three species of mangroves (*Avicennia marina*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, and *Ceriops tagal*) occur naturally. The Hor receives freshwater input from a number of seasonal streams rising in the hills of eastern Balochistan to the north. The site is important for large concentrations of waterbirds. Smaller fish, shrimp, and crabs are abundant and are both consumed locally and brought to market. The area is archaeologically interesting: Balakot, 16 km to the northeast, was once home to a thriving civilization which flourished around 2000 BC. Domestic waste disposal and accumulated solid waste debris (plastic bags and bottles, etc.) are growing problems. Both IUCN-Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan are very active in the region, in collaboration with local communities, and WWF launched a wetland visitors' centre on World Wetlands Day 1999. Ramsar site no. 1068. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Miankaleh Peninsula, Gorgan Bay and Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandan

Site number: 36 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Mazandaran  
Area: 100 000 ha | Coordinates: 36°50'N 53°42'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Miankaleh Peninsula, Gorgan Bay & Lapoo-Zaghmarz Ab-bandan. 23/06/75; Mazandaran; 100,000 ha; 36°50'N 53°42'E. Biosphere Reserve; Wildlife Refuge. A brackish bay almost completely cut off from the sea, which supports freshwater marshes and seasonally flooded woodland, and a freshwater lagoon supporting extensive reedbeds. An extremely important area for breeding, and passage, nesting and wintering waterbirds including pelicans, cormorants, egrets, flamingos and geese. Rising sea levels have permanently inundated former flats and marshes, reducing bird habitat. Principal crops in the surrounding area are cotton and wheat. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1997. Ramsar site no. 36. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Middle Stretches of Mekong River North of Stoeng Treng

Site number: 999 | Country: Cambodia | Administrative region: Stung Treng Province  
Area: 14 600 ha | Coordinates: 13°44'N 106°00'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Middle Stretches of the Mekong River north of Stoeng Treng. 23/06/99; Stoeng Treng; 14,600 ha; 13°44'N 106°00'E. National Protected Area. A 40km stretch of the Mekong River in the north of Cambodia characterized by strong turbulent flow with numerous channels between rocky and sandy islands that are completely inundated during high water, with higher alluvial islands that remain dry. It lies about 5km from the town of Stoeng Treng where the Se Kong river joins the Mekong river and 4 km south from the border with Laos. The site is home to a breeding population of the critically endangered White-shouldered Ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*). The extensive and largely undisturbed channel islands provide important refuge and a food source for fish species during times of high flows, while the areas deep pools allow refuge for aquatic species, including the critically endangered Giant Mekong Catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*) and the vulnerable Irrawaddy Dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*). The site faces a number of significant threats such as an expanding infrastructure network, a market-driven agricultural increase of cash crop and logging activities that are reducing the forest, and the omnipresent threat of dams, particularly those upstream, but seven dams have also been proposed for the mainstream of the Mekong within Cambodia. Ramsar site no. 999. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2

Site number: 891 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England,Wales  
Area: 1 588 ha | Coordinates: 52°55'N 02°41'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Midland Meres & Mosses (Phase 2). 02/02/97; England, Wales; 1,588 ha; 52°55'N 002°46'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. A series of 18 sites made up of nutrient-rich open water bodies (meres) with fringing habitats of reed swamp, fen, carr and damp pasture, and peatlands. The landscape features developed in depressions in the glacial drift left by receding ice sheets. The wide range of habitats supports nationally important flora and fauna. Human activities include hunting, fishing, and research activities. Ramsar site no. 891. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Midland Meres & Mosses

Site number: 653 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 511 ha | Coordinates: 53°00'N 02°27'W | Designation dates: 09-05-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Midland Meres & Mosses (Phase 1). 09/05/94; England; 511 ha; 52°54'N 002°50'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. A series of lowland open water and peatland sites set in depressions in glacial drift left by receding ice sheets. The 16 component sites include nutrient-rich water bodies (meres), associated fringing habitats of reed swamps, fen, carr and damp pasture, and floating quaking bog (schwingmoor). The wide range of resulting habitats supports numerous rare species of plants and invertebrates. Human activities include recreation, fishing, livestock grazing, and haymaking. Ramsar site no. 653. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Mid-Pripyat State Landscape Zakaznik

Site number: 1 090 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Oblast  
Area: 93 062,2 ha | Coordinates: 52°08'N 27°06'E | Designation dates: 10-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is on the Pripyat River, between the mouths of the Yaselda and Stviga rivers. It is one the largest complexes of floodplain meadows and alluvial floodplain forests in Europe. Among 750 plant species and 155 nesting bird species, the Site also supports many rare and vulnerable species of plants and animals including the globally threatened aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* and lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The floodplain supports over 200,000 waterbirds, including over 1% of the biogeographic populations of several species such as the nationally threatened black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. It also provides important spawning grounds for many fish species, such as the globally threatened European eel *Anguilla Anguilla* and sterile *Acipenser ruthenus*. The Site plays a substantial hydrological role in the river basin through groundwater regulation and flood control. Human activities include fishing, forestry, grazing, haymaking, wild bee-keeping and hunting. In addition there are several ecological-educational centres and an ecological path. The main threats relate to unsustainable hunting and the disruption of the natural water regime through river embankment and amelioration works, while overgrowing of the open floodplain meadows and fen mires has led to a decline in rare bird populations. A restoration plan is in place to address these issues.

## Mikata-goko

Site number: 1 549 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Fukui Prefecture  
Area: 1 110 ha | Coordinates: 35°35'N 135°53'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mikata-goko. 08/11/05; Fukui; 1,110 ha; 35°35'N 135°53'E. Quasi-National Park. A cluster of 5 brackish-semi-freshwater lakes (locally referred to 'the lakes with five colors') along the Rias Coast of Wakasa bay, surrounded by gradual hills and Mt.Baijo. Though the lakes are connected, each has different salinity, size and depth, which harbours variety of fish species, including different endemic fish species in natural and aquaculture areas, such as Gnatopogon elongates, Stripped bitterling *Acheilognathus cyanostigma*, Big-eye sardine *Etrumeus teres* and rare Piscivorous chub *Opsariichthys uncirostris*. The coastline thrives on fishery, tourism and gourmet seafood all year round. The freshwater vegetations are mainly reed, wild rice and water-chestnut. These lakes, except Hiruga-ko, are wintering site for more than 10,000 waterbirds and *Pandion haliaetus* (Osprey). Eutrophication is seen as a major threat to two of the lakes. Even though the site is developed for commercial fishery and aquaculture, fish catches in the recent years have been decreasing. The Seaside Nature Center of Fukui operates 'Mikata-goko Nature School' with local organisations for observing life forms in rice fields around the lakes, fishes and migratory waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 1549. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Milicz Fishponds Nature Reserve

Site number: 758 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Dolnośląskie  
Area: 5 298,2 ha | Coordinates: 51°32'N 17°14'E | Designation dates: 24-10-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site includes five separate sub-sites featuring fishpond complexes that have been in place for several centuries; it also features marshlands, meadows and forests, while most of the ponds are surrounded by a wide belt of rushes. The ponds are fed by the waters of the Barycz river; the water quality is high because of the lack of industry and low population density of the river's catchment area. The Reserve hosts 137 breeding bird species, of which many are rare, and over 50 further migrant species pass through. Large flocks of ducks, geese and other waterbirds gather during their spring and autumn migrations. There are also numerous species of rare plants found in the reserve, mainly aquatic species. Nature trails have been established, as well as two sightseeing spots with observation towers. The ornithological station of the University of Wrocław, located in Ruda Milicka at the edge of the Reserve, plays a significant educational and information role. Human intrusions and disturbance and invasive species are among the most important threats to the area; a management plan has been in place since 2013.

## Minesing Swamp

Site number: 865 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 6 000 ha | Coordinates: 44°23'N 80°52'W | Designation dates: 31-10-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Minesing Swamp. 31/10/96; Ontario; 6,000 ha; 44°23'N 080°52'W. Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, Provincially Significant Wetland. Southern Ontario's largest and most diverse wetland, consisting of boreal wetland and deciduous bottomland vegetation complexes. The swamp's hydrology provides for an interconnected network of swamps, fens, bogs and marshes. A diverse flora and fauna are present, consisting of species rare or near the limits of their geographical range. The site is important for staging thousands of migratory waterfowl. One of Ontario's largest white-tailed deer populations winter in the swamp, which includes the largest pure stand of silver maple in the province. An important area for recreation and tourism. The swamp plays an important role in moderating floods. Ramsar site no. 865. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Minsmere - Walberswick

Site number: 75 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 019 ha | Coordinates: 52°17'N 01°37'E | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Minsmere-Walberswick. 05/01/76; England; 2,019 ha; 52°19'N 001°38'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast. A mosaic of coastal habitats consisting of shingle beaches, dunes, estuarine mudflats, grazing marshes, lagoons, reedbeds, and heathland. The marshes support the largest continuous stand of reedbed in England and Wales. The site supports an outstanding diversity of breeding birds, including a number of nationally rare species which winter at the site, as well as rare species of marshland flora and insect fauna. A flagship reserve, in which a well-developed system of trails and hides are maintained. Human activities include groundwater abstraction and increasing numbers of visitors. Ramsar site no. 75. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Mira Minde Polje and related Springs

Site number: 1 616 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Região Lisboa e Vale do Tejo  
Area: 662 ha | Coordinates: 39°31'N 08°41'W | Designation dates: 02-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mira Minde Polje and related Springs. 02/12/05; Região Lisboa e Vale do Tejo; 662 ha; 39°29'N 008°38'W. Natura 2000 site, Natural Park. A subterranean hydrological system based on the polje, or flat, closed depression draining underground, situated in the country's most important limestone karstic region and part of the recharge area of the two most important karstic aquifers and karstic springs in Portugal. The flooding episodes with very high fluctuations of groundwater level are a rare example in the West Mediterranean biogeographic region. The Alviela spring is one of the deepest in the world and is locally connected to a cave complex that represents the most significant fluvio-karstic phenomena in Portugal, one which supports several bat colonies with more than 5,000 bats in total. The Almonda spring is related with the most extensive Portuguese cave, an important Paleolithic site. The area features important habitat types under which temporary ponds, natural eutrophic lakes, and tall humid grasslands are the most abundant. Adverse effects are mainly caused in some places by water pollution, urban and industrial developments, and increasing tourism. There are educational activities at the underground interpretation centres in the Pena and Almonda Caves as well as the interpretation centre and Cave Bats Observatory at the Alviela Springs, which welcome up to 100,000 visitors per year. Ramsar site no. 1616. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Mires of Pass Thurn

Site number: 1 367 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: State: Salzburg (District: Zell am See)  
Area: 190 ha | Coordinates: 47°19'N 12°26'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mires of Pass Thurn. 02/02/04; Salzburg; 190 ha; 47°19'N 012°26'E; Nature monument. A complex of 13 peatlands (40 ha) on the southeastern slopes of the Pass Thurn mountain (between 1160-1600m), showing all typical features of mires of the Central Alps. The changing steepness of the slopes results in a very diverse pattern of different hydrological conditions - fens with mesotrophic calcareous water on the upper slopes turn into subneutral transitional mires or even acid bogs. The plant communities of the mires and marginal forests are endangered, and *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*, a rare orchid, has one of the biggest populations in these mires. Noteworthy for the biogeographical region of the Alps is the occurrence of the boreal species *Betula nana* (Dwarf Birch). The mires of Pass Thurn are near-natural except for one site, the Wasenmoos, from which peat was cut chiefly for use as litter for stock-breeding in the valley; restoration work was undertaken there in autumn 2002. Ramsar site no. 1367. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Mires of the Sauerfelder Wald

Site number: 1 368 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Salzburg  
Area: 119 ha | Coordinates: 47°07'N 13°54'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mires of the Sauerfelder Wald. 02/02/04; Salzburg; 119 ha; 47°07'N 013°54'E. A mountain range south of the Überling, with mires that are less numerous than in the Überling, but very different, thus adding importantly to the wetland diversity of the region. The subalpine continental climate is similar to boreal conditions. The hydrogenetic mire types are percolating mires, flush fens, spring fens and bogs. In most cases, the vegetation indicates acid conditions. Outstanding is the prevailing spruce-peatmoss community (*Pino mugo*-*Sphagnetum magellanicum*, *facies* of *Picea abies*) of the bog, rare in the Alps and only known from very few other places. Remarkable for the biogeographical region of the Alps is the occurrence of the boreal species *Betula nana* (Dwarf Birch), *Vaccinium microcarpum* (a cranberry species), as well as the *Empetro hermaphroditum*-*Sphagnetum fuscum* (Crowberry-Brown peatmoss community). The mires of the Sauerfelder Wald are all natural, not even affected by grazing; their only use is for hunting. The Ramsar Site should be extended over the whole mountain range in the next few years. Ramsar site no. 1368. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Mires of the Schwarzenberg

Site number: 1 369 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Salzburg  
Area: 267 ha | Coordinates: 47°05'N 13°47'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mires of the Schwarzenberg. 02/02/04; Salzburg; 267 ha; 47°05'N 013°47'E. In the subalpine continental climate similar to the boreal, the plateau summit of the Schwarzenberg (1730m) has offered ideal conditions for the development of a natural mire complex of about 80 ha showing typical features of both boreal and alpine peatlands. Paludification mires, spring fens, percolation mires, Aapa mires and bogs present a high biodiversity of plant communities. Boreal vegetation such as the Dwarf Birch (*Betula nana*), bog cranberry species (*Vaccinium microcarpum*, *Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and the Crowberry-Brown Peatmoss (*Empetro hermaphroditum*-*Sphagnetum fuscum*) are frequent occurrences, as is typical peatland vegetation like *Carex pauciflora*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Menyanthes trifoliata* and numerous *Sphagnum* species. The management authority (Austrian Federal Forestry) intends that there will be no peat extraction, no drainage of mires, no building of forestry roads affecting them, but a non-intensive forestry in the marginal forests and the preclusion of grazing and trampling of the mires. Ramsar site no. 1369. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Mires of the Überling

Site number: 1 370 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Salzburg  
Area: 265 ha | Coordinates: 47°10'N 13°53'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mires of the Überling. 02/02/04; Salzburg; 265 ha; 47°10'N 013°53'E; Natura 2000. The largest peatland concentration in the Alps, with 117ha of mires which present all typical features of mire types representative of the boreal zone. Many of these peatlands belong to the boreal Aapa mire type, unique in the Alps, but also spring fens and terrestrialisation mires. One lake, Gstreikel Moos, remains almost covered by the biggest floating mat in the Alps. A large number of plant communities associated with boreal conditions add an important value to the biodiversity of the region, including Dwarf Birch (*Betula nana*), cranberry species (*Vaccinium microcarpum*, *Vaccinium oxycoccos*), Chickweed Wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*) and Crowberry-Brown Peatmoss (*Empetrum hermaphroditum-Sphagnetum fuscum*). The mires are all natural or near-natural except for one bog-site, the "Moor SE Überlinghütte", which was drained in the 19th century for pasture. In a joint project of the landowners and NGOs, a rehabilitation project financed by the Austrian Federal Forestry was begun in 2000. In the next few years the Ramsar Site should be extended over the whole mountain range of the Überling and cattle grazing should be completely removed from the mires. Ramsar Site no. 1370. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Missisquoi Delta and Bay Wetlands

Site number: 2 200 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Vermont  
Area: 3 102 ha | Coordinates: 44°57'N 73°10'W | Designation dates: 20-11-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Missisquoi Delta and Bay Wetlands. 20/11/2013; Vermont, 3,102 ha, 44°57'19"N, 73°10'9"W. The site is the largest wetland complex in the Lake Champlain Basin, which is considered a resource of national significance. It contains the largest contiguous floodplain forest in Vermont and unique habitat types such as the Maquam Bog. It is important for rare and threatened or endangered species such as the eastern spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*), seven species of mussel and the lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*). The site supports over 200 species of birds and is a breeding area for numerous species of waterfowl, passerines, raptors and wading birds. It is also the only known breeding site for black terns in Vermont. As the site is located along the Atlantic Flyway, populations of waterfowl often reach 20,000 birds in the autumn. The Missisquoi Delta and Bay Wetlands are also essential for numerous fish species that use the site as feeding, spawning and nursery grounds. The site is one of the few remaining spawning grounds of the state endangered lake sturgeon. The main threats are associated with activities in the greater watershed area such as the construction of dams, mercury contamination from atmospheric deposition and pollution from runoff and discharge from wastewater treatment plants. This has led to increased nutrient loading, sedimentation, algal blooms and loss of spawning sites for the lake sturgeon. Ramsar Site no. 2200. Most recent RIS information: 2013

## Miyajima

Site number: 2 056 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hiroshima Prefecture  
Area: 142 ha | Coordinates: 34°15'N 132°16'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Miyajima. 03/07/12; Hiroshima; 142 ha; 34°14'34"N 132°16'09"E. National Park, UNESCO World Heritage site. A natural coastal wetland consisting of sandy shores and intertidal marshes on Miyajima Island within the Seto Inland Sea National Park in the northwestern part of Hiroshima Bay. The site is well conserved compared to other parts of the coast along the Seto inland sea that have already been lost due to bank protection work. Spring water from Mount Misen mixes with the inflow of seawater to form brackish tidal marshes that provide an ideal habitat for the vulnerable *Orthetrum poecilops miyajimaensis*, a subspecies of the IUCN red-listed Mangrove skimmer *Orthetrum poecilops*. Miyajima is the only site in the world where this subspecies has been recorded. The wetland lies within the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine World Heritage site. Ramsar Site no. 2056. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Miyajima-numa

Site number: 1 201 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Prefecture  
Area: 41 ha | Coordinates: 43°20'N 141°43'E | Designation dates: 18-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Miyajima-numa. 14/10/02; Hokkaido; 41 ha; 43°20'N 141°43'E. A small, open, shallow freshwater lake left by the nearby Ishikari river, surrounded chiefly by rice paddy. The lake is one of the most important staging sites for migratory Anatidae species, especially large ones, that winter in Japan, and more than 50,000 Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* stop over in the spring. The government-owned site is used as an agricultural reservoir for surrounding farmlands and is popular with bird watchers. Ramsar site no. 1201. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 1 431 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Bago Region  
Area: 10 359 ha | Coordinates: 17°33'N 96°37'E | Designation dates: 17-11-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary. 17/11/04; Bago Region; 10,359 ha; 17°32'57"N 096°36'58"E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A state-owned area comprising floodplain and a storage reservoir that is important for flood control. Originally constructed as a reservoir to provide water to the Bago-Sittaung canal (linking the Bago and Sittaung rivers) for transport of timber by boat, the site now functions as a source of fresh water for downstream areas where rice cultivation takes place. It floods in the wet season (May-October), and from October to March hosts over 20,000 migratory waterbirds. These include the globally threatened Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*, Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* and Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, as well as >1% of the regional population of the Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. The site is also important for supporting the vulnerable Burmese Eyed Turtle *Morenia ocellata*. The local communities use the site for fishing, grazing, duck-rearing and some rice-growing; and there is a small tourist facility to accommodate birdwatchers. Ramsar sites no. 1431. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Mokřady dolního Podýjí

Site number: 635 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Breclav  
Area: 11 525 ha | Coordinates: 48°50'N 16°45'E | Designation dates: 26-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mokřady dolního Podýjí (floodplain of lower Dyje River). 02/11/93; Breclav; 11,525 ha; 48°50'N 016°45'E. Biosphere Reserve, Important Bird Area; National Nature Reserves, National Nature Monument, Nature Reserves, Protected Landscape Area. Added to the Montreux Record, 6 June 2005. Mature floodplain forests representing the largest, remaining fragments of hardwood floodplain forest (of the Ulmenion alliance) in Central Europe. The site includes meadows, pools, backwaters, and a system of small fishponds. Originally a continuous complex of floodplain habitats along four rivers, today it is segmented by artificial reservoirs and altered by channelization and conversion to agriculture. A biocorridor of international importance, numerous important biocentres are present (a protected gene pool site of invertebrate species associated with old solitary oak trees). The site supports numerous rare plant species, and it is an important gathering, wintering and breeding area for numerous species of migratory birds. Human activities include timber extraction, hunting, water reservoirs, use of water for irrigation, recreation, and angling. Ramsar site no. 635. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Molochnyi Liman

Site number: 770 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizka Oblast  
Area: 22 400 ha | Coordinates: 46°32'N 35°22'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Molochnyi Liman. 23/11/95; Zaporizka Oblast; 22,400 ha; 46°32'N 035°22'E. Hydrological Reserve, Ornithological Game Reserves. A saline liman (lagoon) near the Azov Sea, the site includes sandy-shell islands and peninsulas. Vegetation includes reedbeds, saline meadows, and marshes. Up to 15,000 pairs of waterbirds nest (10 pairs of *Egretta alba*), and over 20,000 individuals winter at the site. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, aquaculture, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 770. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Monavale Wetland

Site number: 2 107 | Country: Zimbabwe | Administrative region: Harare Metropolitan Province  
Area: 507 ha | Coordinates: 17°48'S 31°00'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Monavale Wetland, also known as the Monavale vlei, is an urban wetland characterized by miombo woodlands. It plays an important role in the fragile ecosystem of the Manyame catchment basin, the main supplier of water for the city of Harare and its suburbs. It supports a variety of birds, mammals, rodents, amphibians and reptiles including the near-threatened Cape clawless otter *Aonyx capensis* and many other wetland-dependant animals which maintain the biological diversity of the Site. The other hydrological functions of Monavale include water storage, groundwater recharge and water purification. There is an active local community-based organization, which spearheads the management of the wetland and offers training in wetland rehabilitation and restoration. Other human activities include agriculture and crop farming.

## Mondego Estuary

Site number: 1 617 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Região Centro  
Area: 1 518 ha | Coordinates: 40°08'N 08°49'W | Designation dates: 02-12-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mondego Estuary. 02/12/05; Região Centro; 1,518 ha; 40°08'N 008°50'W; National Ecological Reserve, Important Bird Area. Comprises the estuary of the Mondego River as it passes around the Murraceira island, including intertidal areas, salt marshes, salt pans, reedbeds, rice fields and fish farms. This site is one of the main stopover and refuge areas for migrating birds along the northwestern coast of Portugal and is particularly important for waders, especially *Recurvirostra avosetta* and *Phoenicopterus ruber*. During the breeding season the site is regionally important for species such as Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*. Aquaculture and fishing are the chief economic activities, which is focused on three migratory species of high economic value, the Sea lamprey, Allis shad, and Twaité shad. Traditional salt production has been decreasing or been transformed for aquaculture, which has led to a loss of suitable habitats for waders and other waterbirds. Potential threats come from increasing eutrophication due to intensive use of fertilisers and herbicides and the subsequent occurrence of macro-algae blooms. The neighbouring expanding harbour and the adjacent industrial region put further pressure on the site. Ramsar site no. 1617. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Mongan Bog

Site number: 416 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Offaly  
Area: 127 ha | Coordinates: 53°19'N 07°58'W | Designation dates: 06-12-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mongan Bog. 06/12/88; Offaly; 127 ha; 53°19'N 007°58'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. An excellent example of a Midland raised bog with several special features. The central part is unusually wet and has a particularly pronounced pattern of hummocks, pools and lawns, suggesting that this area is still growing. The bog supports various rare plants or plants with a limited distribution in Ireland. The site is internationally important for wintering the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Ramsar site no. 416.

## Mongol Daguur

Site number: 924 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Dornod Province  
Area: 210 000 ha | Coordinates: 49°42'N 115°06'E | Designation dates: 08-12-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mongol Daguur (Mongolian Dauria). 08/12/97. Dornod Province; 210,000 ha; 49°42'N 115°06'E. International Protected Area; Strictly Protected Area; Nature Reserve; Crane Network Site. Set in a basin formed by tectonic and volcanic activity, the site includes vast steppes, marshy wetlands, rivers and lakes. Supports a high species diversity with many endemic or rare plants. 260 bird species use the site for staging, breeding or wintering, including six species of cranes of which two are threatened. Semi-nomadic, animal husbandry is the principal livelihood of the local population. Crop production is also practiced. Ramsar site no. 924. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Montág-puszta

Site number: 1 746 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Békés, Csongrád Counties  
Area: 2 203 ha | Coordinates: 46°21'N 20°39'E | Designation dates: 20-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a low-lying, basin-like area located on the Hungarian Great Plain, which consists of Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes. The steppe of the Pannonian Region is characterized by a rich micro-relief landscape with salt berms, former riverbeds and pits. The diverse habitat types ensure ideal conditions for rare species of flora and fauna, supporting threatened species of mammals such as the stoat *Mustela erminea* and birds including the red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*. Due to its closeness to the migration flyway along the River Tisza, the Site constitutes an important nesting ground for birds as well as a roosting and feeding place during their migration. The Site also ensures excellent conditions for the reproduction of important amphibian species such as the European fire-bellied toad *Bombina orientalis* and crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. The water bodies play an important role in groundwater replenishment and water retention. Land use is dedicated to farming, grazing and mowing activities. Invasive plant species including the Virginia silkweed *Asclepias syriaca* could threaten the ecological character of the Site. Due to restoration works (closing of canals, building of dykes) carried out since 1997, water conditions are once again closer to their natural state.

## Montrose Basin

Site number: 716 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 985 ha | Coordinates: 56°43'N 02°31'W | Designation dates: 03-02-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Montrose Basin. 03/02/95; Scotland; 985 ha; 56°43'N 02°30'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. The site, relatively unimpacted by development, consists of an enclosed estuary, mudflats, marsh, and a small nutrient-rich loch. Due to its unusual hydrology, there is a high species diversity in the intertidal zone. Internationally important numbers of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greylag Geese *Anser anser*, and Redshank *Tringa totanus* winter at the site. Human activities include recreation, agriculture, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 716. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Moojechineup

Site number: 1 725 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Joil-ri  
Area: 4 ha | Coordinates: 35°27'N 129°08'E | Designation dates: 20-12-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moojechineup. 20/12/07; Ulsan; 4 ha; 35°27'N 129°08'E. Wetland Conservation Area. A 10,000-year-old high moor, the oldest in Korea, with well-developed peat layers and slightly acidic surface water. Various rare flora and fauna, including locally and nationally endangered species, have been identified, including a high diversity of insects with some 197 species. The name of the site comes from a ritual praying for rain in the Ulsan area. Ramsar site no. 1725. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Moore am Nassköhr

Site number: 1 404 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Styria  
Area: 211 ha | Coordinates: 47°43'N 15°33'E | Designation dates: 11-10-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moore am Nassköhr. 15/10/04; Styria; 211 ha; 47°43'N 15°33'E; Nature Reserve. A karst depression of the northern limestone Alps which presents bogs, transitional mires, and fens. The site supports a high biodiversity of the associated mire vegetation; typical species include the Few-flowered Sedge (*Carex pauciflora*), the Sundews *Drosera anglica*, *D. intermedia*, and *D. rotundifolia*, Bogbean, Bog Swertia, and numerous moss species. The limestone bedrock is covered with a layer of impermeable shale at the origin of the formation of the peatlands, springs and streams. The streams flow into a meandering brook that vanishes into a "swallow hole", the Durchfall. The wetland has an important role in groundwater recharge and water retention, especially after heavy rainfall. 19th century peat extraction, long discontinued, still negatively affects the hydrology by lowering the water table and initiating erosion channels, and trampling by cattle has caused disturbance of the vegetation cover - under a joint project of the landowners, the Austrian Federal Forests, WWF- Austria, and the Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology of Vienna University, begun in 2002, peat extraction and drainage are prohibited in the mires and a fence to prevent grazing has been set up. Outside the mires, sustainable forest management, hunting and pasturing are continuing. Ramsar site no. 1404. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Moor- und Seenlandschaft Keutschach-Schiefling

Site number: 1 490 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Carinthia  
Area: 543 ha | Coordinates: 46°35'N 14°08'E | Designation dates: 11-05-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moor- und Seenlandschaft Keutschach-Schiefling. 13/12/2004; Kärnten; 543 ha; 46°35'N 014°08'E. Carinthian conservation area. Ten areas along the 12.5 km long valley, comprising four greater lakes (Keutschacher See, Hafnersee, Rauschelesee, Bassgeigensee), some ponds, and a mosaic of various wetland types, such as tall sedge and herb communities, wet grassland, elements of raised bog, damp meadows, tree-dominated swamps, black elder swamp forests, birch tree and willow tree swamp forests. This high variety supports many animal species, such as butterflies, insects and birds which are associated with these wetland plant communities, as well as snails, amphibians and dragonflies which need the ponds and other open water areas for reproduction, and two amphibian migration routes. Until ca.1970 most of the moist meadows were cultivated regularly for horse-hay and litter, but with the abandonment of these land uses perennial herbs, reeds, bushes, followed by black elders, birches, willow-trees and pines have spread over the area. A site management plan has been elaborated as part of the Ramsar designation process, and it includes education facilities such as guiding for visitors and a biking trail. Ramsar site no. 1490. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Moravské luhy

Site number: 604 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Brodské  
Area: 5 380 ha | Coordinates: 48°26'N 16°55'E | Designation dates: 26-05-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moravské luhy (Morava flood plains). 26/05/93; 5,380 ha; 48°25'N 016°54'E. Protected Area Landscape. A section of the Morava River that forms the border with Austria and the Czech Republic. The site, the most important section of the river's floodplain, includes tributary channels, oxbow lakes, sand and gravel banks, abandoned sand and gravel pits, reedbeds, freshwater marshes, seasonal pools, wet meadows, pastures, and seasonally inundated forests. A centre of biodiversity, with 600 species of cyanophytes and algae, 880 of vascular plants, 200 species of spiders and 300 of beetles; also an important habitat for migratory bird species and a spawning ground and nursery for many natives species of fish. Part of the 'Trilateral Ramsar Platform' collaboration with Austria and the Czech and Slovak Republics and four NGOs, an initiative which won the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award in 2002. Area extended in 2003. Ramsar site no. 604. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Moray and Nairn Coast

Site number: 890 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 2 412 ha | Coordinates: 57°38'N 03°37'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moray & Nairn Coast. 02/02/97; Scotland; 2,412 ha; 57°39'N 003°44'W. Special Area for Conservation, Special Protection Area, SSSI. The site, of outstanding conservation and scientific importance for coastal and riverine habitats, includes intertidal flats, saltmarsh, dunes, and associated floodplain alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland. Several nationally scarce aquatic plants, invertebrates, and mammals are present. The site regularly supports migrating waterbirds and various species of wintering waders, as well as internationally important numbers of wintering geese. Human activities include recreation, timber harvesting, shellfish collecting, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 890. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Morecambe Bay

Site number: 863 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 37 405 ha | Coordinates: 54°05'N 02°58'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Morecambe Bay. 04/10/96; England; 37,405 ha; 54°07'N 002°57'W. Special Area for Conservation, Special Protection Area, SSSI. Representing the largest continuous intertidal area in Britain, the site comprises the estuaries of five rivers, intertidal mud and sandflats, associated saltmarshes, shingle beaches, and other coastal habitats. It is part of a series of west coast estuaries of outstanding importance for numerous species of passage, breeding and wintering waterbirds. The site supports the third largest number of wintering wildfowl in Britain. Breeding birds include gulls and terns. Human activities include recreation, hunting, fishing, and livestock grazing. Site extended from 35,372 to 36,913 hectares in 1999. Ramsar site no. 863. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Moreton Bay

Site number: 631 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Queensland  
Area: 113 314 ha | Coordinates: 27°20'S 153°10'E | Designation dates: 22-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moreton Bay. 22/10/93; Queensland; 113,314 ha; 27°20'S 153°10'E. National Park, Environmental Park, Fauna Sanctuary, Fish Habitat Reserve, Marine Park; Shorebird Network Site. Near the southern limit of reef-building corals, an estuarine basin, semi-enclosed by two of the world's largest sand islands. As one of three extensive intertidal areas of seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh on the eastern coast, it supports an extremely high species diversity. Supported in significant numbers, several reptiles, amphibians, and mammals are rare, vulnerable or endangered. Over 50,000 migratory waterbirds are present during wintering and staging. Numerous canal estates have access to the bay, which supports an important fishery. The site is popular for water-based recreation and tourism. Annually, up to one million tonnes of sub-fossil coral and 150,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand are extracted. Adjacent to the site of Ramsar COP6 in Brisbane, 1996. Ramsar site no. 631. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Morochno

Site number: 2 139 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest  
Area: 6 444,4 ha | Coordinates: 51°51'N 26°38'E | Designation dates: 07-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex mire system, located near the major floodplain of the River Horyn, with Belarusian Polesie ridge-hollow sphagnum bogs predominating. It is one of the few mires in the region to survive a large-scale reclamation process, and is of national and international importance for the conservation of plant and landscape diversity. According to the EU Habitats Directive, 66.4% of the wetland's total areas are rare and unique ecosystems. The Site is an important ecological corridor for many nationally threatened and endangered species such as the short-toed snake eagle *Circaetus gallicus* and the Eurasian lynx. The wetland plays an important role in the maintenance of water quality in the region: during the dry season it stores water and sustains the underground hydrological systems. Land uses within the Site include forestry, logging, hunting and picking of berries, mushrooms, herbs and medicinal plants. The main factors affecting its ecological character are land reclamation and drainage, fires, poaching and peat extraction. Measures implemented to prevent disturbance of the hydrological regime have led to a gradual recovery of water levels and of the mire ecosystems on the natural part of the mire adjacent to peat extraction plots. The Site has been extended by over 10% to match the boundaries of the Wetland Reserve of Republican Importance established in 2015.

## Moroshechnaya River

Site number: 695 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Koryakski Autonomous Okrug  
Area: 219 000 ha | Coordinates: 56°21'N 156°15'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moroshechnaya River. 13/09/94; Korak Autonomous Area; 219,000 ha; 56°21'N 156°15'E. Wildlife Refuge; Shorebird Network Site. A steppe-like valley of the Moroshechnaya River, with numerous oxbow lakes and a saline lagoon. Principal habitats are non-forested raised bogs with pools and ridges, supporting Sphagnum, *Empetrum nigrum*, and *Salix middendorfi*. Vegetation is dominated by floodplain tundra, mire and meadow communities, with patches of mixed *Betula ermanii*, *Pinus pumila*, and *Salix* sp. forests. The area provides important habitat for migrating, feeding, breeding and molting populations of waterbirds. Breeding species include various geese, ducks and colonial sea birds. The wetland supports the largest population of *Anser fabalis* in the region, large numbers of which molt and stage at the site. Migrating waterbirds include up to 500,000 ducks and several thousand waders. Human activities include traditional reindeer grazing, fishing, hunting, and foraging. Ramsar site no. 695. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Mörrumsån-Pukavik

Site number: 1 123 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: County of Blekinge  
Area: 2 557 ha | Coordinates: 56°09'N 14°43'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a 30-kilometre stretch of the lower River Mörrumsån and the shore surrounding the bay at the river mouth. The Site includes areas of high national interest for nature conservation, cultural heritage, and geology. The range of fungi close to the river is unique: 15 rare species of fungi have been found, including the endemic *Hygroaster lacteus* present on small islands on the river. The Site holds one of the foremost areas in Sweden for populations of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and brown trout *Salmo trutta*, and constitutes an internationally important spawning and recruitment area for fish. It is an important breeding site for birds of European and national importance such as common kingfisher, Caspian tern and little tern. Sport and commercial fishing, mainly for salmon and trout, are of great importance. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to hydroelectric power plants which prevent fish from migrating; however measures have been taken to address the problem. Three dams within the Site and several others further upstream affect the water regime.

## Mossaträsk-Stormyran

Site number: 1 124 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västernorrland county  
Area: 914 ha | Coordinates: 63°50'N 17°18'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mossaträsk-Stormyran is one of the largest forest-mire complexes in north-eastern Sweden. The Site consists of well-developed string fens and forested fens with old-growth forests and swamp forests. It is important for carbon storage and it contributes to hazard reduction through flood control. Because the Site is largely unaffected by human activities, water quality and ornithological values are high. The Site is important for breeding birds such as the nationally red-listed ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*. The inland location makes the Site valuable for migratory birds on their way to the mountains. As a nature reserve since 1998, a management plan is in place and the Site is included in the National Mire Protection Plan. Visitor facilities include a birdwatching tower, footpath, footbridges and outdoor information boards on the protected area.

## Møsvasstangen

Site number: 803 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Telemark County  
Area: 1 440,9 ha | Coordinates: 59°49'N 08°11'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest string mires in southern Norway. It contains areas of transition between open water, bogs, and dry areas with mountainous birch forest. The central part of the Site is dominated by a small watercourse and Kulingstjern, the largest lake. There are also distinct glacial landforms such as drumlins, eskers and kames, formed by movements of ice and melted water during glaciation. 103 bird species have been recorded; for many northern and alpine bird species this is their southernmost breeding site. The Site is also important for reindeer during their calving season. In addition, it is valuable for carbon storage and sequestration. Human activities include nature conservation, fishing, livestock grazing, recreation, and tourism. More than 100 archaeological sites relate to iron works from the Viking Age and Middle Ages.

## Mouling Lagoon

Site number: 251 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 4 507 ha | Coordinates: 42°02'S 148°11'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mouling Lagoon Nature Reserve. 16/11/82; Tasmania; 4,507 ha; 42°02'S 148°10'E. Crown Land, Game Reserve. A large estuary at the mouths of the Swan and Apsley Rivers adjacent to, and contiguous with, the Apsley Marshes Ramsar site. The lagoon, plus several sections of coastal reserve surrounding it, and an additional area of dry land 1 km north, comprises the Mouling Lagoon Game Reserve. Mouling Lagoon is an excellent example of a large estuary formed behind a bayhead sandspit and is one of only two such areas in the Tasmanian Drainage Division, furthermore, the estuary is recognised as one of high conservation significance for Tasmania. The site provides an important resting and breeding ground and an important drought refuge for about one hundred resident and migratory birds species such as the Australian shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*) and the Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*). The site is used for recreational shooting, fishing and boating, aquaculture and off-road driving. The surrounding area is used for grazing, residential development, mining, aquaculture and recreation. Both the site and the surrounding area have Aboriginal and European cultural significance. Ramsar site no. 251. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Moyenne Dr'a

Site number: 1 482 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Ouarzazate  
Area: 45 000 ha | Coordinates: 30°29'N 06°21'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moyenne Dr'a. 15/01/05; Ouarzazate, Zagora; 45,000 ha, 30°29'N 06°21'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest, Permanent Hunting Reserve. The site is composed of six units within two artificial habitats: the reservoir of the Al Mansour Ad-Dahbi dam, situated just downstream of the confluence of two rivers, and six oases with irrigated palm plantations along the course of the Dr'a River. More than 20 bird species winter or nest in the area of the dam, while about 100 other bird species rely on the oases' palm plantations. The site is an important refuge for migratory species, especially sparrows on the Trans-Saharan route, which utilize this site for resting before and after crossing the desert. Common mammals in the area, some of which are rare in Morocco, include the Fennec Fox, the North African striped weasel, African wildcat, the Common Genet and Common Otter. Several reptile species increase the area's biodiversity, together with the genetic resources associated with the date palms and other cultures in the area. The main services of the site fishing in the reservoir, hydropower, provision of drinking water supply, and water extraction for agriculture (palm and fruit trees, henna, cereals). The area has been deeply affected by the agricultural developments in the area and excessive water extraction, which have caused a fall in riparian biodiversity. Ramsar site no. 1482. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Mshinskaye wetland system

Site number: 692 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Leningrad Oblast  
Area: 75 100 ha | Coordinates: 59°03'N 30°14'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mshinskaya wetland system. 13/09/94; Leningrad Oblast; 75,100 ha; 59°03'N 030°14'E. Nature Reserve. A large peatland system composed of extensive patterned bogs, nine large lakes, over 100 small lakes, and numerous rivers and streams supporting Canada rice *Zizania aquatica*, reeds and sedges. Terrestrial vegetation is characterized by southern taiga-type forest communities. Native forests were largely cut and replaced with birch, aspen and mixed forests. The site is important for migrating, breeding and molting populations of various species of geese, swans, dabbling and diving ducks. The area provides important habitat for 33 regionally threatened bird species. Human activities include forest cutting, agriculture, recreation, and berry picking. Ramsar site no. 692. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Muan Tidal Flat

Site number: 1 732 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Haeje-myeon  
Area: 3 589 ha | Coordinates: 35°06'N 126°23'E | Designation dates: 14-01-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muan Tidal Flat. 14/01/08; Joellanam-do; 3,589 ha; 35°06'N 126°23'E. Wetland Protected Area. An intertidal sand- and mudflat ecosystem, free of human disturbance, on the coastline of the Yellow Sea, located in the mouth of semi-enclosed inner bay. Some 49 species of winter waterbirds have been observed, and the site provides habitat to various endangered and rare species such as Saunders's Gull (*Larus saundersi*), Black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) and Chinese Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*). It is a notable spawning ground for marine organisms, with some 357 species recorded, providing valuable food resources for the migratory birds. A reclamation with small-scale sea dyke constructions was carried out for the development of Woldoo village fishing port, but detrimental effects have not appeared so far. A comprehensive management plan has been in effect since 2002, implemented by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF), and a number of monitoring programmes are continuing. Ramsar site no. 1732. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve

Site number: 2 239 | Country: Kuwait | Administrative region:  
Area: 50 948 ha | Coordinates: 29°53'N 48°07'E | Designation dates: 05-09-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve is located on Boubyan Island on the western side of the Shatt Al-Arab in the north-western Gulf. The Site is flat and low, featuring shallow salt marshes and small lagoons. It is important as a staging post for migrating birds, as well as for hosting populations of breeding waterbirds. These include the world's largest breeding colony of crab plover (*Dromas ardeola*) and colonies of swift terns (*Thalasseus bergii*), slender-billed gulls (*Larus genei*), herons, egrets and spoonbills. Cetaceans frequent the murky waters around the Site, including Indo-pacific humpback dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) and finless porpoises (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*). The island is a major nursery area for many commercial fish species such as silver pomfret (*Pampus argenteus*), nagoor (*Pomadasys kaakan*) and croakers (*Sciaenidae*). The water channels are nursery grounds for shrimps and sea snakes such as the blue-banded sea snake (*Hydrophis cyanocinctus*), which visit in summer and feed on mudskippers.

## Mühlenberger Loch

Site number: 561 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Hamburg  
Area: 675 ha | Coordinates: 53°32'N 09°48'E | Designation dates: 09-06-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mühlenberger Loch. 09/06/92; Hamburg; 675 ha; 53°32'N 09°48'E. Nature Reserve. An embayment of a tidal section of the Elbe River and extensive mudflats exposed at low tide. An internationally important area for wintering and staging several species of waterbirds and the most important staging area in Northern Europe for Anas clypeata. The site supports plants endemic to the freshwater tidal areas and is an important breeding area for many native fish species. Human activities include water sports, which are controlled. Ramsar site no. 561. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Mui Ca Mau National Park

Site number: 2 088 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Ca Mau Province  
Area: 41 862 ha | Coordinates: 08°41'N 104°48'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mui Ca Mau National Park. 13/12/12; Ca Mau; 41,862 ha; 08°41'00"N 104°47'32"E. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, National Park, BirdLife IBAs. Situated at the southernmost tip of Viet Nam, Mui Ca Mau supports the largest remaining area of mangrove forests (13,400 ha) and intertidal mudflats (26,000 ha) in the Ca Mau Peninsula as well as the Indochina Mangroves biogeographic region. Originally, the site held some 1.6 million hectares of natural wetlands but the vast majority of the mangrove was destroyed during the Vietnam War and, later, by conversion to aquacultural ponds and agricultural land. Rehabilitation efforts began in the late 1990s as a result of the decline in shrimp production and the later establishment of Mui Ca Mau National Park. Most of the aquacultural ponds inside the park have been abandoned and now support extensive areas of re-colonising mangrove forest. It is the only place in the country where two different tidal regimes interact, which contributes to the aggradation that is building new mud-flats and creating favourable habitats for many species, such as the critically endangered Four-toed Terrapin Batagur baska, the endangered Hairy Nosed Otter Lutra sumatrana and the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill Platalea minor. The site also provides important stopover and wintering habitats for a large number of waterbirds. Ramsar Site no. 2088. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Muir-Byenup System

Site number: 1 050 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 10 631 ha | Coordinates: 34°29'S 116°43'E | Designation dates: 05-01-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muir-Byenup System. 05/01/01; Western Australia; 10,631 ha; 34°29'S 116°43'E. Nature Reserve. A suite of partly inter-connected lakes and swamps of varied size, salinity (saline to fresh), permanence (permanent to seasonal) and substrate (peat and inorganic), in an internally-draining catchment. The open lakes are used for moulting by thousands of Australian Shelduck Tadorna tadornoides and for drought refuge by tens of thousands of other ducks, while the sedge/shrub-dominated swamps support an important population of Australasian Bittern Botaurus poiciloptilus and three types of nationally vulnerable orchids. Vegetation communities of the site's wet flats are among the few remaining in non-coastal parts of southwestern Australia and the site has some of the largest natural sedgeland in Western Australia. The site is used for nature conservation, but agriculture, notably grazing of domestic sheep and cattle and tree plantations, occurs in adjoining lands. Illegally released feral pigs cause considerable damage to vegetation and soil. Ramsar site no. 1050. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Muir of Dinnet

Site number: 1 003 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 158 ha | Coordinates: 57°05'N 02°55'W | Designation dates: 22-07-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muir of Dinnet. 22/07/99; Scotland; 158 ha; 57°05'N 02°55'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, National Nature Reserve, SSSI. A large mosaic of heath woodland and mire, including peat bogs, swamps, fens, with open water in two sizable lochs (Davan and Kinord) and vegetation succession and transitions developing between the major habitat types. Around the open water areas, a mosaic of vegetation communities has established on soils derived from glacial material overlying granite. In winter, it regularly supports internationally important numbers of Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), averaging about 30,000 at winter peak (29% of the world population). Human activities include nature conservation and recreation. Ramsar site no. 1003. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Muizenberg

Site number: 2 118 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao  
Area: 65 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'N 68°55'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muizenberg. 05/02/2013; Curaçao; 65 ha; 12°09'29"N 068°55'07"W. Important Bird Area; Natural Park. Muizenberg comprises an intermittent shallow lake created by the damming of a stream that drains the surrounding low hills. Periodically inundated grassland and shrubland surround the wetland. A separate small pond, Kaya Fortuna, is situated 200m to the west. This area is internationally significant for its population of the Caribbean coot (*Fulica caribaea*), near-threatened under the IUCN Red List, and the Caribbean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) conserved under the Convention of Migratory Species, but it also supports many other waterbirds, both residents and migrants. The Muizenberg dam was built by Shell Curaçao in 1915 to collect freshwater for industrial cooling purposes; with a capacity of 650,000 m<sup>3</sup>, it represents the largest freshwater reservoir on the island. The area was designated as a Natural Park for the improvement of the urban living conditions of the nearby population and is mainly used by hikers for recreational purposes. Illegal dumping of garbage, pollution, drainage of surrounding wetlands, and recreational disturbance are seen as the main potential threats. A general environmental education programme is being implemented. Ramsar Site no. 2118. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Mu Koh Ang Thong Marine National Park

Site number: 1 184 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Surathani Province  
Area: 10 200 ha | Coordinates: 09°37'N 99°41'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mu Koh Ang Thong Marine National Park. 14/08/02; Surathani Province; 10,200 ha; 09°37'N 99°41'E. National Park. A complex of 42 small islands in the Gulf of Thailand, including sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, coral reefs, and young mangrove forests. The Ang Thong Lady Slipper (*Paphiopedilum niveum*) is said to be endemic to a limestone mountain on Ang Thong Island. The shallow sea bed, sediments discharged from the Tapi River, and strong currents among islands contribute to lack of water transparency, which obstructs coral growth to some extent and limits diving tourism, but with its other attractions the area draws more than 50,000 Thai and international visitors per year for recreation and ecotourism. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1184. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Muljangori-oreum wetland

Site number: 1 847 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeju-si City  
Area: 63 ha | Coordinates: 33°24'N 126°38'E | Designation dates: 13-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

13/10/08; Jeju-do (Island); 63 ha; 33°24'N 126°36'E. Within National Park and UNESCO World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve. A volcanic crater lake at above 900m altitude on Jeju Island, with a forest of broad-leaved deciduous trees. On the water-scarce island, the crater lakes on such parasitic cones around Mt Hallasan provide an important store of rain water, and this site retains some water even through the dry season. A number of endangered fauna and flora species are present, including Peregrine falcon, Fairy pitta, Black kites, and Black paradise flycatchers, as well as Japanese forest peony (*paeonia obovata*). It is considered to be one of three holy mountains on the island and is associated with legends of the giant goddess Seolmundae. Only limited human access is permitted to the area. Ramsar site no. 1847. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Mullet Pond

Site number: 2 270 | Country: Netherlands  
| Administrative region: Mullet Bay Pond is situated in the Simpson Bay Lagoon, in the Simpson Bay Area on the Dutch Side of Sint Maarten  
Area: 26,4 ha | Coordinates: 18°03'N 63°07'W | Designation dates: 23-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mullet Pond is a semi-enclosed area of permanent shallow marine waters within the Simpson Bay Lagoon. The Site holds some of the few intact sea-grass beds in the wider Lagoon as well as 70% of the mangrove forest remaining on Sint Maarten, the Dutch part of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin. The mangroves and sea-grass beds act as a major nursery area and important habitat for juvenile fish species which develop in the lagoon before moving to local coral reef ecosystems including in the Man of War Shoal Marine Park. The nationally critically endangered buttonwood *Conocarpus erectus* is found on Mullet Pond. The Site is also the last remaining habitat in the wider Simpson Bay area for *Anolis pogus*, a species endemic to the island, and the last intact foraging grounds in the Lagoon for the globally endangered green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The mangroves provide coastal protection during hurricanes and tropical storms, and help to cycle nutrients in the larger Simpson Bay area. As well as supporting the fish stocks which local fisheries depend on, the Site is also used for eco-tourism activities such as kayaking tours. The area is under continuing pressure from development, while other threats relate to dredging, recreational and tourism activities, storms and flooding and invasive alien species including the red lionfish *Pterois volitans*.

## Mulyeongari-oreum Ramsar Site

Site number: 1 648 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeju Special Self-Governing Province  
Area: 31 ha | Coordinates: 33°22'N 126°42'E | Designation dates: 18-11-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mulyeongari-oreum is a freshwater crater lake on top of an "oreum" (parasitic cone) around Halla Mountain on Jeju Island. The island has a total of 368 parasitic cones, of which 91% are scoria cones which are mostly composed of water-permeable basalt. Unlike other scoria cones, the Site retains a plentiful amount of water as weathering of the slopes has led to the accretion of less-permeable, fine-textured soils at the bottom of the crater. Although it is an isolated environment, the Site plays an important role in maintaining biodiversity, as it provides habitats for over 760 species of plants and animals. Among them are the globally vulnerable fairy pitta *Pitta nympha* and some nationally threatened species such as the nationally endangered golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*; and the nationally vulnerable cinereous vulture *Aegypius monachus* and boreal digging frog *Kaloula borealis*. It also provides habitat to the Jeju striped field mouse *Apodemus chejuensis*, which is found only on Jeju Island. The Site is also known as "Su-ryeong-ak" or "Suyeongak" which means a hill with holy water.

## Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve

Site number: 2 342 | Country: Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Administrative region:  
Area: 3 715 ha | Coordinates: 39°34'N 125°24'E | Designation dates: 16-05-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve is one of two Sites designated as a Wetland of International Importance on the accession of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on Wetlands.

### Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site

Site number: 563 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Central Region  
Area: 9 461,1 ha | Coordinates: 05°22'N 00°40'E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site is a coastal lagoon characterized by sand dunes, degraded forest, scrub, farmland and marsh areas subject to tidal and seasonal inundation. Marine turtles nest on the sandy shores, and an estimated population of about 23,000 water birds, including terns, waders, herons, and egrets, feed and breed in the wetland. It also contains a rich and diverse butterfly fauna, with about 75 species recorded. The eastern borders of the lagoon are covered by thick mangrove forests, which are exploited by local communities for commercial fishing and fuel wood. The narrow strip of sand dune which separates the lagoon from the sea is mainly covered by coconut plantations which attract birdwatchers and tourists. Other human activities include grazing, farming and hunting. The main threats to the Site include rapid urbanization and encroachment.

### Muraka

Site number: 909 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Ida-Viru County  
Area: 13 980 ha | Coordinates: 59°08'N 27°06'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Muraka. 17/06/97; Ida-Viru County; 13,980 ha; 59°08'N 027°06'E. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA and SCI), IBA. The site, one of the few extensive wilderness areas surviving in northeastern Estonia, consists of an integral complex of various bog types, fens, primeval forests, peat areas, bog-pools and temporary streams. The species diversity of fauna is one of the highest for mires in Estonia. Bog communities include continental as well as maritime vegetation types. The area is one of the few places in Estonia where Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* is regularly seen and where Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus* breeds. The site plays an important role in groundwater hydrology and maintenance of water quality. Human activities include berry-picking and hiking. (The site has been extended in 2012 from originally 12,400 ha.) Ramsar Site no. 909. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Murchison Falls-Albert Delta Wetland System

Site number: 1 640 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Masindi, Gulu districts  
Area: 17 293 ha | Coordinates: 01°57'N 31°42'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Murchison Falls-Albert Delta Wetland System. 15/09/06; Masindi, Gulu; 17,293 ha; 01°57'N 031°42'E. National Park (partly), Important Bird Area. The site stretches from the top of Murchison Falls, where the River Nile flows through a rock cleft some 6m wide, to the delta at its confluence with Lake Albert. The convergence between Lake Albert and the delta forms a shallow area that is important for waterbirds, especially the Shoebill, Pelicans, Darters and various heron species. The delta is an important spawning and breeding ground for Lake Albert fisheries, containing indigenous fish species; the rest of the site is dominated by rolling savannas and tall grass with increasingly thick bush, woodlands and forest patches in the higher and wetter areas to the south and east. It forms a feeding and watering refuge for wildlife in the National Park during dry seasons. Murchison Falls are one of the main tourist attractions and recreation areas in Uganda, and the site is of social and cultural importance to the people of the area: livestock grazing; fishing, with fish exported to DR Congo and also used to feed the refugees in camps in northern Uganda; illegal hunting for game, etc. Conflicts between fishermen and crocodiles are common. The site has been proposed for UNESCO World Heritage status. Ramsar site no. 1640. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Mures Floodplain

Site number: 1 606 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Arad and Timis counties  
Area: 17 166 ha | Coordinates: 46°13'N 21°09'E | Designation dates: 19-01-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mures Floodplain. 02/02/06; Arad, Timis; 17,166 ha; 46°13'N 021°09'E. Natural Park, IBA. Includes the length of the River Mures downstream from Arad to the Hungarian border. It consists of a high variety of ecosystems, a mixture of meadows, periodically flooded areas mainly covered with soft and hard wood forests, arable land and pastures, and about 40 isles on the river. The forest and old riverbed ecosystems, permanently or temporarily linked with the Mures, are among few examples of this type of habitat remaining in Europe. The present landscape results from the damming of the valley and the consequent agricultural transformation; as the lower floodplain is bordered by dams and high terraces, it is subjected to all the benefits and damage caused by floods, such as drying out of habitats in years of low flow and water-logging in high floods. Disturbance is caused by overgrazing as well as poaching of fish and game resources and introduced exotic tree species, especially *Acer negundo*. The main human activities are oil and timber harvesting, together with agriculture as well as sheep and cattle grazing. Amongst the many archaeological sites is the fortified settlement "Santul Mare" dating from the Bronze Age. The Hodos-Bodrog and Bezdin monasteries are also culturally important and the objective for ecumenical tourism. Ramsar site no. 1606. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Musquodoboit Harbour

Site number: 369 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Nova Scotia  
Area: 1 925 ha | Coordinates: 44°42'N 63°06'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Musquodoboit Harbour. 27/05/87; Nova Scotia; 1,925 ha; 44°42'N 063°06'W. Provincial Park, Game Sanctuary. A complex of intertidal sand and mudflats with scattered islands protected from the sea by a sand spit (Martinique Beach) and fringed by saltmarsh. Strong tidal flow allows the estuary to remain ice-free during the winter. The mudflats support extensive beds of *Zostera* and abundant invertebrates, providing food for large numbers of staging and wintering waterbirds. One of the most important coastal staging and wintering sites for *Branta canadensis* (up to 6,000 and 3,000 respectively). Erosion may eventually destroy the protective spit. Ramsar site no. 369. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Mweru wa Ntipa

Site number: 1 661 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Northern Province

Area: 490 000 ha | Coordinates: 08°52'S 29°47'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mweru wa Ntipa. 02/02/07; Northern Province; 490,000 ha; 08°52'S 29°47'E. Includes National Park, Game Management Areas. The main features are rivers, swamps, and the Lake Mweru wa Ntipa basin, which is surrounded by flat wetland plains with itigi thickets and miombo woodlands. Riverine evergreen forests (with *Ficus bussei*, *Ficus sycamoros*, *Trichilia emetica* and *Acacia adenocalyx*) are found on the river and lake shores. This diversity of habitats makes the site a home to more than 390 bird species such as the Wattled crane, Shoebill, Black stork, and Goliath's Heron. Mammal species found here include the slender-snouted crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractus*), wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*). The Mweru wa Ntipa lake records a number of indigenous fish species like the Green-Headed Bream (*Oreochromis macrochir*), Cat Fish (*Auchenoglanis occidentalis*), Mweru sardine (*Poecilothrissa moeruensis*) and Sharp Toothed Barbel (*Clarias mossambicus*). Fishing and cultivation of sorghum, millet, cassava, and rice in the swampy areas are major activities of local inhabitants. The problem of unsustainable fishing persists within the site and hopefully the implementation of the management plan for the the Mweru wa Ntipa National Park, as well as better enforcement of the fish bans during spawning periods, may help curb this. Ramsar site no. 1661. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Myall Lakes

Site number: 994 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 44 612 ha | Coordinates: 32°30'S 152°17'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Myall Lakes. 14/06/99; New South Wales; 44,612 ha; 32°30'S 152°17'E. Lies within the Myall Lakes National Park and includes the Corrie Island and Little Broughton Island Nature Reserves. One of the few coastal brackish lake systems in New South Wales which has not been greatly modified by human activities. The area is renowned for its floristic diversity (over 600 species of plants) and complex variety of habitats, which is largely due to differences in substrate. It is home to a number of threatened species, such as the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and the endangered Green thighed frog (*Litoria brevipalmata*), as well as the vulnerable Freycinet's frog (*Litoria freycineti*) and Stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*). The Dark Point dune sheet, comprised of sand dunes up to 50 metres high and covering about 250 hectares of the Ramsar site, is estimated to have moved between 38 and 54 metres since 1999 through a natural process. Ramsar site no. 994. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Mykines

Site number: 2 051 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sørvágur

Area: 2 300 ha | Coordinates: 62°06'N 07°36'W | Designation dates: 31-05-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mykines. 31/05/12; Faroe Islands; 2,300 ha; 62°06'17"N 007°35'55"W. Important Bird Area. Grassy slopes, sea cliffs and the surrounding sea provide breeding and feeding habitat for an estimated 250,000 pairs of seabirds of 15 species, many of them of European importance. Half of the bird population is made up of the Faroe Island's largest colony of Atlantic Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) with 125,000 pairs. Common Guillemot, Black Guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake and Northern Fulmar breed here as well as the only colony of Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* and Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* in the Faroe Islands. The skerries around the rocky marine shores provide habitat for colonies of European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, but also for Grey Seals *Halichoerus grypus*. The site is used for hay making, agriculture, sheep pastures and fishing. The island is also one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Faroes, offering guided tours and overnight stays. Traditional seabird hunting is practiced, as is the collection of young Gannets once a year. Threats to the site and its bird population include climate-related ecological changes which may already have disrupted the food web of marine birds in the North Atlantic and reduced breeding success in the site. Further threats include the possible introduction of rats to the island and possible tourism-related disturbances. Ramsar Site no. 2051. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Myvatn-Laxá region

Site number: 167 | Country: Iceland | Administrative region: Sudur Thingeyjar Sysla

Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 65°31'N 17°04'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1977

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Myvatn-Laxá region (part). 02/12/77; 20,000 ha; 65°40'N 017°00'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 16 June 1993. Protected Area. Part of a vast lake, river and marsh complex fed by both cold and thermal springs. The site supports freshwater marshes, a rich submerged flora, algal communities, *Betula* woodland, bog and moorland. The abundant invertebrate fauna provide food for large numbers of waterbirds. The site is especially important for two duck species that, in Europe, nest only in Iceland. Virtually the entire European population of *Bucephala islandica* breeds in the area (2,000 pairs). The site is important for various other species of nesting waterbirds and large numbers of molting Anatidae. Human activities include farming, fishing, mining for diatomite, hydro- and geothermal electricity generation, and tourism. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1992. Ramsar site no. 167. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Naardermeer

Site number: 194 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Holland

Area: 1 151 ha | Coordinates: 52°18'N 05°07'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Naardermeer. 23/05/80; Noord Holland; 1151 ha; 052°18'N 005°07'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of +452 ha. A complex of shallow freshwater lakes, pools and canals, fens, reedbeds and swamp-forests surrounded by wet meadows and marshland. The area is important for endangered waterbirds such as Purple Heron and Black Tern. In addition, the site supports vulnerable populations of fish, molluscs and dragonflies. The surroundings area is densely populated and dedicated to agriculture. The main threats to the ecological character are related to drainage, groundwater extraction, pollution and disturbance caused by tourism pressure and a railway. Land use is dedicated to water management and recreation. Around the lake there is a 17 km path which leads to bird watching shelters and a visitor centre. Ramsar site no. 194. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Nabajuzi Wetland system

Site number: 1 639 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Masaka, Sembabule, Mpigi districts  
Area: 1 753 ha | Coordinates: 00°46'N 31°41'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nabajuzi Wetland System. 15/09/06; Masaka, Sembabule, Mpigi; 1,753 ha; 00°46'S 031°41'E. Important Bird Area. A long narrow stretch of swamp from the periphery of Masaka to the major Katonga River system. It provides a spawning ground for mudfish and lungfish, and supports globally threatened bird species and the endangered Sitatunga. The site lies in traditional Buddu county of Buganda Kingdom, and some of the flora and fauna are closely associated with cultural norms and traditions, especially the totems. There is thus considerable cultural attachment of the surrounding areas to the wetland, which also plays an important role in stabilizing the banks of River Nabajuzi, groundwater recharge, flood control and as a natural filter for silt and sediments in the runoff. The wetland is the source of water supply for nearby townships and provides fish, clay, papyrus, medicine and game meat (Sitatunga). Over the past 20 years there has been increased commercialisation of the resource products and some of the surrounding areas have been built up into trading centres and small towns, causing increased demand for resources. Water pollution from a tannery adjacent to the wetland is a big threat. The Wetlands Inspection Division and NGOs such as NatureUganda are implementing conservation and ecotourism activities. Ramsar site no. 1639. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Nærå Coast and Æbelø area

Site number: 155 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Fyn Region  
Area: 13 161 ha | Coordinates: 55°36'N 10°10'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nærå Coast and Æbelø area. 02/09/77; Region Syddanmark; 13,161 ha; 55°36'N 010°13'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA), Nature Conservation Areas, Wildlife Reserves. Shallow coastal waters with saltmarshes, farmland, forested areas, and islands of which Aebelø is the only inhabited one. The site is an internationally important area for wintering and staging waterbirds, including cormorants and geese, and includes Gyldensteen's meadows, one of the few staging areas in Denmark for the Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. Several Stone Age settlements and burial mounds are found within the site. The major threats to the ecological character of the wetland are eutrophication of coastal waters with regular blooms of filamentous algae and Sea Lettuce *Ulva lactuca* and meadow succession, posing a threat to goose populations. A management plan was developed in 2011 setting up site-specific nature goals and priorities. Parallel to this initiative, River Basin Management Plans have also been developed in order to improve water quality and the ecological status of wetland catchments and coastal areas. Ramsar site no. 155. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nagura Amparu

Site number: 1 550 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Ishigaki City  
Area: 157 ha | Coordinates: 24°24'N 124°09'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a tidal flat with mangrove forests located at the mouth of Nagura River in the western part of Ishigaki Island. It falls within the Wildlife Protection Area and is also known as Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park. The tidal flats and mangrove forests host a typical subtropical ecosystem which is composed of diverse organisms including juvenile fish, shellfish and benthos. Therefore, the Site serves as a stop-over habitat and/or wintering habitat for migratory shorebirds, and also provides habitats for forest bird species and the Ryukyu serpent eagle *Spilornis cheela perplexus*, which is a crested serpent eagle subspecies endemic to the Yaeyama Islands.

## Nakaikemi-shicchi

Site number: 2 057 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Fukui Prefecture  
Area: 87 ha | Coordinates: 35°40'N 136°05'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nakaikemi-shicchi. 03/07/12; Fukui; 87 ha; 35°39'40"N 136°05'20"E. Quasi-National Park. Within the Japanese Mixed Forest biogeographic region, this type of low moor wetland is rare and not widely distributed. The peat sediment at the central part of the site is approximately 40 meters deep, representing a valuable record of changes in climate and vegetation during the past one hundred thousand years. It is also considered a biodiversity hot spot with more than 2,000 species of animals and plants inhabiting the area. It was initially developed for rice cultivation during the Edo period (1603-1868) and has since been used as unprepared wet paddies without improvement. Currently, cultivation has been abandoned for the entire field except for the wet paddies for conservation of the wetland. The Japanese Yellow Bunting, *Emberiza sulphurata*, listed as vulnerable by IUCN, occurs in the wetland. The visitor centre is managed by Tsuruga city and used for environmental education and communication; boardwalks, paths, and information boards have been built for the 15,000 visitors that visit the area each year. Incursion of alien species such as *Procambarus clarkia* (Red swamp crawfish) and *Solidago altissima* (Canada goldenrod) is seen as a potential threat. Ramsar Site no. 2057. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nakaumi

Site number: 1 551 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Shimane and Tottori Prefecture  
Area: 8 043 ha | Coordinates: 35°28'N 133°14'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nakaumi. 08/11/05; Shimane, Tottori; 8,043 ha; 35°28'N 133°14'E. NWWPA. A brackish lagoon located at the estuary of the Hii River system, linked to the Sea of Japan by a narrow waterway in the northern shore. The site is home to 80 species of brackish and sea fishes and is one of the largest wintering and staging spots of more than 75,000 birds and 260 species. Nakaumi supports more than 1% of the East Asian population of Tundra Swan, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck and Scaup. The site has a high value for fishery resources with average annual catch more than 500 metric tons. A strong environmental movement against a reclamation project for converting the lands to farmlands with freshwater flow has subsequently led to Ramsar designation. Main conservation measures include Anatidae census, regular national survey of the environment, and a Sanctuary established for Yonago Waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 1551. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Nakskov Fjord and Inner Fjord

Site number: 162 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sjælland Region

Area: 8 561 ha | Coordinates: 54°50'N 11°00'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nakskov Fjord & Inner Fjord. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 8,561 ha; 54°50'N 11°02'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Wildlife Reserve. Shallow fjord area of open water with sand banks, inhabited and uninhabited islands, saltmarshes, reedbeds, freshwater ponds and sand beaches. Internationally important for wintering and staging various species of waterbirds, the site supports more than 1% of the biogeographical population of Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* and Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. The main factors adversely affecting the sites ecological character at the present are eutrophication of marine waters, especially in the Inner Fjord, and disturbances from recreational activities. A management plan is currently under development. Ramsar site no. 162. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Nalsarovar

Site number: 2 078 | Country: India | Administrative region: Gujarat State

Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 22°47'N 72°02'E | Designation dates: 24-09-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary. 24/09/12; Gujarat; 12,000 ha; 22°46'33"N 72°02'21"E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A natural freshwater lake (a relict sea) that is the largest natural wetland in the Thar Desert Biogeographic Province and represents a dynamic environment with salinity and depth varying depending on rainfall. The area is home to 210 species of birds, with an average 174,128 individuals recorded there during the winter and 50,000 in the summer. It is an important stopover site within the Central Asia Flyway, with globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and the vulnerable Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) stopping over at the site during migration, while the vulnerable Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) takes refuge there during summer when other water bodies are dry. The wetland is also a lifeline for a satellite population of the endangered Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*) which uses this area in the dry season. Local communities heavily rely on the lake as it provides them with a source of drinking water and water for irrigation, as well as an important source of income from fishing for Catla fish (*Catla catla*) and Rohu (*Labeo rohita*). An average of 75,000 tourists visit the wetland annually. Ramsar Site no. 2078. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Namdrik Atoll

Site number: 2 072 | Country: Marshall Islands | Administrative region: Ralik Chain

Area: 1 119 ha | Coordinates: 05°37'N 168°06'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Namdrik Atoll. 02/02/12; Ralik Chain; 1,119 ha; 05°37'00"N 168°06'30"E. An atoll 390km southwest of the capital city Majuro, consisting of two wooded islands with an extensive reef flat lying between them. A subterranean Ghyben-Herzberg water lens lies underneath the islands, replenished by rainfall, which provides a precious supply of freshwater. The site is unique because of its large size and also because, unlike many other coral atolls in the region, there are no navigable passes into the central lagoon. The atoll is also unusual because it supports a rich mangrove forest that is home to some 150 species of fish, including the endangered Napoleon or Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*). It also supports breeding populations of the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The wetland provides many resources for local people including canoe-building supplies, ornaments, beauty aids, medicines, ceremonial supplies, and material for maintaining attractive homesteads. The intertidal ponds are used for curing wood and other plant material to make traditional handicrafts and clothing. Being relatively isolated, the atoll is in a near pristine condition and has supported traditional, sustainable human development for the past 3,000 years. However, current unsustainable harvesting practices are placing considerable pressure on the atoll's unique biodiversity. An integrated conservation management plan has been developed with the community. Ramsar Site no. 2072. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nan Dongting Wetland and Waterfowl Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 151 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hunan

Area: 168 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°50'N 112°40'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nan Dongting Wetland and Waterfowl Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Hunan; 168,000 ha; 28°50'N 112°40'E. Nature Reserve. Located in the southern part of Dongting Lake, the largest lake on the plains of the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, the site supports important numbers of endangered Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), as well as Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), and produces rich fauna and flora of high economic value. It also plays an important role in the regulation and storage of flood water from the Yangtze. Some 14,000 people live within the site, chiefly practicing fishing and aquaculture in human-made ponds and growing economic crops in the mudflat areas, including some 120,000 tons of reeds annually. Deforestation in the upper reaches of the Yangtze is leading to increased flow of mud and sand into the lake bed, and pesticide runoff and industrial pollution are also seen as potential threats; in addition, the water level of the lake has descended due to the damming of the Three Gorges Project. A restoration project was approved in 2005 to strengthen the protection of diverse habitats for rare and endangered waterfowl. Ramsar site no. 1151. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Napahai Wetland

Site number: 1 440 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan Province

Area: 2 083 ha | Coordinates: 27°51'N 99°39'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Napahai Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 2,083 ha; 27°51'16" N 99°38'44"E. Provincial Nature Reserve. A seasonal karst marsh composed of meadow, open water, peatlands, and surrounding forests situated at about 3,260m above sea level, with lake outflow through karst caves draining underground into the Jinsha River in the upper reaches of the Yangtze. It is an important wintering site and staging post for numerous wintering birds, supporting over 70,000 birds annually and over 1% of the population of the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*. The region is economically very poor, but in recent years sightseeing and birdwatching have brought significant economic and social benefits, and it is felt that conservation-based ecotourism will benefit the protection of the ecosystem. Overgrazing and logging in the surrounding area are seen as potential threats. Since 2008, 674 ha of vegetation in the meadows and shallow water areas were restored by stabilizing water levels. The management of the reserve have engaged the local community in the conservation of the site by teaching the villagers how to observe birds and identify rare plants. Ramsar site no. 1440. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Narew River National Park

Site number: 1 564 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Podlasie  
Area: 6 810 ha | Coordinates: 53°03'N 22°53'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site covers a 35-kilometre section of a natural valley within the borders of the Narew River National Park in north-eastern Poland. The lowland river follows a sinuous path through the moraine hills of the wide valley with a well-developed system of meanders and oxbows. It is fringed with fens and reed and sedge beds interspersed with willow, alder and birch woods. Most of the swampy Site is inaccessible to people and provides excellent refuge for a rich flora and fauna, especially local and migrating waterbirds. It is one of the most important breeding sites in Poland for the aquatic warbler *Acocephalus paludicola*, and regularly hosts significant numbers of black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*. The main threats to the Site are the reduction in water input because of the upstream Siemianowka dam at the border with Belarus, and the water pollution caused by towns upstream. The water quality is however steadily improving because of progress in its treatment.

## Nariva Swamp

Site number: 577 | Country: Trinidad and Tobago | Administrative region: Trinidad  
Area: 6 234 ha | Coordinates: 10°23'N 61°04'W | Designation dates: 21-12-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nariva Swamp. 21/12/92; Trinidad; 6,234 ha; 10°23'N 061°04'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993; removed from the Record, 7 January 2002. Forest Reserve. Extensive complex of freshwater swamp forest, permanent herbaceous swamp, seasonally flooded marshes, and mangrove forest. The area supports a rich fauna: at least 13 species of birds, notably *Ara ararauna* (at least highly endangered; probably extinct); various mammals, including *Trichechus manatus* (endangered), and reptiles. The fishery provides a livelihood for local people. Human activities include rice, watermelon and marijuana production, felling of mangroves to supply bark to the tanning industry. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1995. Ramsar site no. 577. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Narran Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 995 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 8 447 ha | Coordinates: 29°43'S 147°26'E | Designation dates: 14-06-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is unique within the Murray-Darling Drainage Division bioregion for its juxtaposition of highly channelised floodplain with open water wetland habitat. As part of a large terminal wetland system it plays an important hydrological role in the natural functioning of the Narran River. The vast floodplain is dominated by lignum (*Muehlenbeckia florulenta*) and represents one of the largest expanses of relatively intact lignum in New South Wales. The Site provides critical habitat for large colonial waterbird breeding events for nine colonial species such as straw-necked ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*), Australian pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and royal spoonbill (*Platalea regia*), and is listed as an Important Bird Area by Birds Australia. The Site also supports the globally endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The fish population has a high proportion of native species. The Site is part of an area that holds great significance for local Aboriginal people. Continued upstream water extraction since the Site's Ramsar designation, combined with a prolonged drought, has changed the hydrological regime of the Site, but ecological responses of key biota have not yet changed significantly since the Site was listed.

## Natal Drakensberg Park

Site number: 886 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Kwazulu Natal  
Area: 242 813 ha | Coordinates: 29°24'S 29°24'E | Designation dates: 21-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Natal Drakensberg Park. 21/01/97; Kwazulu/Natal; 242,813 ha; 29°30'S 029°45'E. Wilderness Area, Nature Reserve, Game Reserve, Provincial Park, State Forest. Set in an extremely rugged area that includes three altitudinal zones along the border between South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho. The Drakensberg is regarded as the most important mountain catchment in South Africa due to its high yield and water quality, supplying rural, agricultural, urban and industrial users downstream. Conserved since the turn of the century, the entire wetland system is in near-pristine state. The three largest rivers in Kwa Zulu-Natal originate here, supporting extensive wetlands of various types within the Afro-alpine and Afromontane belts. The area supports numerous endemic and endangered plant and animal species. Human activities include nature conservation and a variety of outdoor recreation activities. There are a research station and a conservation education center available. The site is renowned for the quantity, quality and variety of prehistoric rock art. Many parts are declared wilderness areas. Ramsar site no. 886. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Naternaq

Site number: 385 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Qasigiannqut, Kangaatsiaq  
Area: 184 010 ha | Coordinates: 68°24'N 51°46'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Naternaq (Lersletten). 27/01/88; Qasigiannqut, Kangaatsiaq; 184,010 ha; 68°24'N 051°46'W. One of the most important wetland complexes in western Greenland, comprising an extensive marshy plain, numerous shallow lakes, and meandering streams. The site is of particular botanical significance, supporting diverse communities from dense moss mats to dwarf scrub heath. The area supports the highest densities of the summering goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (some 9-20% of world population, with 2588 birds in 1992 and about 6,000 in 1998) to be found in Greenland, as well as various species of breeding birds. There are no permanent human settlements, although there is some winter hunting and a summer camp on the site's periphery. As of 2002, the musk ox (*Ovibos moschatus*) has been introduced, because of the abundance of its winter food in lowland areas, and small numbers are frequently recorded within the site. Ramsar site no. 385. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Nationalpark Kalkalpen

Site number: 1 371 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Upper Austria  
Area: 18 532 ha | Coordinates: 47°35'N 14°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nationalpark Kalkalpen. 02/02/04; Oberösterreich; 18,532 ha; 47°35'N 014°25'E; Important Bird Area; Natura 2000 site; National Park. Part of the northern limestone alps, the greatest part of the site is karstified and has a tight network of gorges and canyons, a total of 470 km of natural, pure brooks and some 800 springs which represent hotspots of biodiversity. More than 300 different species of fauna have been described in these springs and among them, new ones such as the molluscs *Belgrandiella aulaei* and *Bythiospeun nocki* (family Hydrobiidae). The area, the largest forested reserve in Austria, presents the rare forest associations *Alnion glutinoso-incanae*, *Tilio-Acerion* and *Cephalanthero-Fagion*, hosts the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the lynx (*Lynx lynx*), and is an important place for birds (23 listed in the European Birds Directive), autochthonous stocks of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), amphibians and insects. Although forestry activities have influenced the area, since 1997 it is under a strict management plan which prohibits any economic use. The National Park administration runs a water analysis laboratory and has developed a karst research programme including the monitoring of springs and meteorology. Ramsar site no. 1371. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Nature Park Kopacki rit

Site number: 583 | Country: Croatia | Administrative region: Osječko-baranjska  
Area: 23 894 ha | Coordinates: 45°40'N 18°54'E | Designation dates: 02-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nature Park Kopacki rit (Kopacki rit). 03/02/93; 23,894 ha; 45°40'N 018°54'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. Zoological Reserve, Nature Park. Located within the floodplain at the confluence of the Danube and Drava rivers, and subject to spring flooding, the site supports extensive reedbeds and woodland and includes numerous channels, oxbow lakes, and a complex of fishponds. The site is of considerable importance for breeding various *Ardeidae*, as well as cormorants, storks and sea eagles; wintering and staging birds also frequent the site. Principal human activities include tourism, hunting and fish farming. 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. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2005. Area significantly extended in October 2007. Ramsar site no. 583. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Naujan Lake National Park

Site number: 1 008 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Oriental Mindoro  
Area: 14 568 ha | Coordinates: 13°10'N 121°11'E | Designation dates: 12-11-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Naujan Lake National Park. 12/11/99; Oriental Mindoro; 14,568 ha; 13°10'N 121°11'E. The 5th largest lake in the Philippines (14km by 7km), volcanic in origin, receives water from local run-off with no major effluents. The lake has 14 species of fish, 5 of them migratory, and is an important feeding or wintering area for large numbers of ducks and other waterbirds such as herons, egrets, rails, and bitterns. The rare Plain swampphen (*Amaurornis olivaceus*) is also found, as well as an endemic species of freshwater crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*). Naujan Lake enjoys a humid tropical climate with evenly distributed annual rainfall. Most of the people in the area depend upon the lake for their livelihood, particularly through fishing; the population is composed of the Mangyans, indigenous people of Mindoro including the Tadyawan tribe in the area of the lake, and the "damuong" or non-Mangyans. Fishing is the principle occupation and source of income, but the lake also provides water for drinking, laundry, bathing, and irrigation; moreover, the lake possesses great beauty and has potential for tourism. Ramsar site no. 1008. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Naurzum Lake System

Site number: 1 872 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Kostanay Region  
Area: 139 714 ha | Coordinates: 51°29'N 64°18'E | Designation dates: 12-07-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Naurzum Lake System. 12/07/09; Kostanay Oblast; 139,714 ha; 51°32'N 064°26'E. World Heritage Site (as part of the Saryarka - Steppe and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan). A system of approximately 26 lakes in northern Kazakhstan and a near natural example of an Asian steppes-region wetland with outstanding importance for birds. The Lakes' cyclic hydrologic regime provides seasonal and annual diversity of fresh to saline habitats, including for the Critically Endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) and 23 other threatened species, notably significant percentages of Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) and Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) populations. It is a site of mass moulting for ducks and swans, nesting for 158 species, and an important stop for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. It regularly supports more than 1% of 20 species of waterbirds. Flooding on average every 12-15 years, the Lake System is important for sustaining groundwater levels in the region. There is a management plan for the site, and it lies within a protected zone with limited access except for scientific research. Naurzum Reserve is included in the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes and other waterbirds, under the Bonn Convention. Ramsar site no. 1872. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Ndumo Game Reserve

Site number: 887 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Kwazulu Natal  
Area: 10 117 ha | Coordinates: 26°53'S 32°16'E | Designation dates: 21-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ndumo Game Reserve. 21/01/97; Kwazulu/Natal; 10,117 ha; 26°53'S 032°16'E. Nature Reserve. Situated at the junction of the Usuthu and Pongolo floodplain systems, the site forms the largest floodplain system in South Africa, consisting of five wetland types, from fresh to brackish, permanent to ephemeral lakes, marshes and pools, as well as riparian and gallery forest. Well known for its abundant bird life and diversity of species, internationally important numbers of several species are supported, including many that are rare or vulnerable. Human activities include controlled harvesting of reeds and sedges, low-density tourism, an important fishery, illegal black and white rhinoceros hunting, and collecting river water for sale in nearby communities. A large agricultural irrigation scheme is operating erratically south of the reserve in the catchment area. Ramsar site no. 887. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA)

Site number: 2 271 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Negros Occidental, Negros Island Region  
Area: 89 607,8 ha | Coordinates: 10°16'N 122°46'E | Designation dates: 20-10-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site lies along 110 kilometres of coastline of the island of Negros, covering 52 coastal districts (barangays) and seven municipalities, namely Pulpandan, Valladolid, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Hinigaran, Binalbagan and Ilog. It hosts three globally threatened marine turtles, the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the vulnerable olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The vulnerable Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) also inhabits the coastal areas. In 2014, 72 waterbird species were recorded in the NOCWCA, including the globally endangered great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and spotted greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*). There are three other vulnerable species: the Philippine duck (*Anas luzonica*) which is endemic to the Philippines, Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*) and Java sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*). It is also known for its rich and diverse coastal resources, particularly mangroves and shellfish including economically important species such as oysters, green mussels (*Perna viridis*), nylon shell (*Paphia undulata*), angel wing shell (*Pholas orientalis*), shrimps and crabs. The Site faces potential threats including the conversion of mangrove forests and other wetlands to commercial or residential uses or for aquaculture, and also pollution by industrial waste and coliform contamination. Overfishing in some areas also threatens the biodiversity and the sustainability of local livelihoods.

## Neiriz Lakes & Kamjan Marshes

Site number: 39 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Fars  
Area: 108 000 ha | Coordinates: 29°40'N 53°30'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Neiriz Lakes & Kamjan Marshes. 23/06/75; Fars; 108,000 ha; 29°40'N 053°30'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Wildlife Refuge. Two very large saline lakes in a closed, high altitude drainage basin; contiguous during very wet winters but may become completely dry in exceptionally dry years. The site embraces the extensive, permanent freshwater Kamjan marshes and supports a wide variety of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. Up to 50,000 flamingos may occur in winter, whilst other species include Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and cranes. The surrounding areas are arid steppe hills and plains, with some cultivated land in the valley. Drainage of the wetland for rice cultivation over the past few decades has greatly reduced the wetland size, resulting in its inclusion in the Montreux Record in 1990. Ramsar site no. 39. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Nemrut Caldera

Site number: 2 145 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Bitlis Province  
Area: 4 589 ha | Coordinates: 38°37'N 42°15'E | Designation dates: 17-04-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nemrut Caldera (Nemrut Kalderasi). 17/04/2013; Bitlis; 4,589 ha; 38°37'10N 042°13'54E. Nature Monument. The caldera of the Nemrut volcano, located on the western shore of Lake Van in the eastern part of Turkey (Eastern Anatolia), is one of the most important wetlands of Bitlis province and is part of an active stratovolcano which has a unique structural morphology in Turkey. The eastern half of the caldera is filled by pyroclastic deposits related to maar-like explosion craters, lava domes and flows. The western half is filled by a freshwater lake and a small lake with hot springs, in addition to a number of small temporal lakes. The largest lake, Lake Nemrut, has a half-moon shape, an average depth of 100 meters, and colorless, odorless and drinkable water. There are rich plant communities in the caldera and Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* used to breed in Nemrut in 1989. The site is government-owned, but some livestock grazing takes place. The main activities are recreation and tourism, and there is a winter sports and ski centre in the surrounding area. The main ecological threat to the site is overgrazing. Ramsar Site no. 2145. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Nemunas Delta

Site number: 629 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region: Šilute district  
Area: 28 952 ha | Coordinates: 55°19'N 21°22'E | Designation dates: 20-08-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nemunas delta (Nemuno delta). 04/10/93; Klaipeda; 28,952 ha (was extended by 5,002 ha in 2010); 55°18'N 021°20'E. Managed Nature Reserve, Regional Park, Natura 2000. A river delta of marshes, raised bogs, ridge-pool complexes, flooded forests and meadows. The site supports a rich plant community with numerous endangered species. Located on the East Atlantic flyway, it is an internationally important breeding, wintering and passage site for thousands of waterbirds and migratory birds, many of which are threatened species. Over 60 thousand migratory birds are ringed annually at the site. The park is divided into zones with different priorities such as conservation, ecological protection, recreational, economic and residential. Human activities include conservation education, hay production, dairy farming, fishing, hunting, peat production, recreation, and tourism. An information centre is located on Rusne island. The site is visited by some 100,000 visitors per year. A management plan is being implemented. Ramsar Site no. 629. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Nene Washes

Site number: 587 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 517 ha | Coordinates: 52°35'N 00°04'E | Designation dates: 05-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nene Washes. 05/03/93; England; 1,517 ha; 52°35'N 000°05'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. An extensive area of seasonally flooded wet grassland along channelized river reaches. Several nationally scarce plants and vulnerable, rare or relict fenland invertebrates are represented. The site is important for various species of breeding and wintering waterbirds, notably internationally important numbers of wintering *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (1,300). A refuge for birds displaced by excessive floodwaters, the site's international importance will only be retained by the preservation of winter flooding and high summer water tables. Ramsar site no. 587. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Neretva River Delta

Site number: 585 | Country: Croatia | Administrative region: Dubrovnik-Neretva County  
Area: 12 742 ha | Coordinates: 43°02'N 17°34'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Neretva River Delta. 18/01/93; Dubrovnik-Neretva County; 12,742 ha; 43°01'40"N 017°34'25"E. Important Bird Area, Protected Ornithological Reserve, Wilderness Area, Protected Landscape. The Neretva is the largest river of the eastern Adriatic watershed, and its final section stretches through Croatian territory, forming an extensive delta with large reedbeds, lakes, wet meadows, lagoons, sandbanks, sandflats and saltmarshes. The area is important stopover place during migrations of birds from middle and northeast Europe to Africa, situated on the route of the Central European (Black Sea/Mediterranean) Flyway. The river mouth is of greatest importance for migration of waders, the Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, terns and gulls, as well as for breeding of the Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* and the Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. Reedbeds and water bodies shelter migrating and wintering ducks, coots and grebes, and the Neretva and its tributaries are exceptionally rich in fish species. The delta plays a very important role in flood control and sediment trapping. Besides the traditional agriculture landscape, there are large complexes of intensively managed agricultural land with plantations of tangerines and greenhouses with vegetables. The delta is also rich in cultural and historical heritage. The largest threats to the are connected to issues of water management and agriculture sectors (eutrophication, fertilizer pollution, land reclamation, and habitat fragmentation). Ramsar Site no. 585. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons

Site number: 56 | Country: Greece | Administrative region: Anatoliki Makedonia,Thraki  
Area: 21 930 ha | Coordinates: 40°54'N 24°47'E | Designation dates: 21-08-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons. 21/08/75; Xanthi; 21,930 ha; 40°54'N 024°47'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive; No Hunting Zone. An extensive delta complex, including saltmarshes, freshwater lakes supporting nationally rare plant species, coastal lagoons, a dune system, and the largest remaining area of riparian forest in Greece. The delta is the most important breeding site in Europe for about 40 pairs of plover and supports various species of nesting and up to 50,000 wintering birds, including four pairs of the globally threatened sea eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Land use within the site includes forestry, seasonal cultivation of the river bed, grazing, commercial fishing, and groundwater exploitation. Decreasing groundwater levels resulting from increasing irrigation demands and dam construction led to the 1990 designation of the site on the Montreux Record. Ramsar site no. 56. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Neusiedlersee, Seewinkel & Hanság

Site number: 271 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Burgenland  
Area: 44 229 ha | Coordinates: 47°49'N 16°53'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Neusiedlersee, Seewinkel & Hanság. 16/12/82; Burgenland; 44,229 ha; 47°49'N 016°53'E. Biosphere Reserve, Council of Europe Biogenetic Reserve; National Park, Protected Area, Protected Landscape Area. A typical steppe lake with alkaline waters, extensive reedbeds and marshes, one of the largest wetlands in Central Europe and shared with Hungary. It includes a complex of 80 small lakes and remnant salt meadows in an intensively farmed landscape. Numerous bird species, including egrets, avocets and plover breed, and important numbers of geese and ducks, stage at the site during their migrations. Human activities include reed harvesting, bird hunting, fishing, tourism and recreation. In ceremonies held on 24 April 1994, a single transboundary national park, called Neusiedl-Fertő, was created in co-management with Hungary. Ramsar site no. 271. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## N'Ganda N'Ganda

Site number: 1 585 | Country: Côte d'Ivoire | Administrative region: Sud-Comoé  
Area: 14 402 ha | Coordinates: 05°10'N 03°24'W | Designation dates: 18-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

N'Ganda N'Ganda. 18/10/05; Sud-Comoé; 14,402 ha; 05°10'N 003°24'W. A complex of relatively well-conserved forests, coastal savanna, mangroves and temporary and permanent pools. Numerous of the plant species present, such as *Uapaca paludosa*, *Raphia hookeri*, *Rhizophora racemosa* and *Mitragyna ciliata*, form important habitats for both terrestrial and aquatic species. Many birds like the Naked-faced and Hairy-breasted Barbets, the African grey parrot and the narrow-tailed starling, are granivorous or frugivorous and contribute to the dispersal and maintenance of several euphorb and other plant species in the area. The site plays an important role in the hydrological balance of the area, controlling floods, attenuating evaporation and recharging groundwater levels. The site is also significant from a cultural point of view as its inhabitants, the Ehotilé, believe that they are the children of the lagoon and that they originally lived at the bottom of the water and emerged out of curiosity about the terrestrial world. Local people collect many plants for medicinal and building purposes, hunt game meat, and fish in the site. The large-scale pineapple, oil-palm, rubber tree and coconut palm plantations outside the site pose one of the main threats due to pollution and habitat destruction. The National Wetlands Committee, together with the site managers, is working on the formulation of a management plan and conservation programme for the site. Ramsar site no. 1585. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe

Site number: 1 784 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo  
| Administrative region: Le site est à cheval entre quatre provinces de la RDC notamment Equateur, Maindombe, Sud-Ubangi et Mongala  
Area: 6 569 624 ha | Coordinates: 00°39'N 18°01'E | Designation dates: 24-07-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located around Lake Tumba in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The transboundary area containing the Site and the adjacent Lake Télé in Republic of Congo contains the largest continental freshwater body in Africa, making it one of the most important wetlands in Africa and one of the largest freshwater bodies in the world. Situated at the heart of the Congo basin system, the Site contains several rivers and nine lakes that support a diverse range of biodiversity and resources which in turn support the wider populations of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the neighbouring Congo. The Site hosts one of the huge African carbon sinks through its peatland soils. It is home to the endemic bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) and other primate species, and it provides natural habitat of forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*). The Ngiri area – Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) CD003 – is known to regularly hold at least 1% of waterbird species such as purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) with more than 1,000 pairs of spawning individuals making up over 2% of the biogeographic population. Diversified agriculture and artisanal fishing are the main activities of the local populations and generate the majority of their income. The Site also provides communities with vital non-timber forest products for housing, food and health care.

## Nguru Lake (and Marma Channel) complex

Site number: 1 039 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Jigawa,Yobe  
Area: 58 100 ha | Coordinates: 10°22'N 12°46'E | Designation dates: 02-10-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nguru Lake (and Marma Channel) complex. 02/10/00; Jigawa, Yobe; 58,100 ha; 10°22'N 012°46'E. A sahelian floodplain and lake which qualifies under the representative Criterion (embodying all of the diverse flora and fauna of both the Sahel and Sudan), the 20,000 waterfowl Criterion for at least three species (*Philomachus pugnax*, *Anas querquedula*, and *Dendrocygna viduata*), and the fish Criteria (with some 20% of the fish variety of the Lake Chad Basin and about 1% of all fish caught in inland freshwater bodies in Nigeria; the "disc *Tilapia*" is thought to be endemic). Floods in the wet season play a critical role in recharging groundwater, upon which Nguru town and the string of settlements along the channel and lake are dependent. Some 200,000 people depend for their livelihoods upon the site, particularly for water supply. Educational research and ecotourism are practiced sustainably, but grazing, cultivation, and fishing are increasingly causing pressure. The spread of invasive *Typha* grass, taking over flood rice and cassava fields, blocking river channels, and undermining fisheries, is seen as a major problem. The IUCN-Hadejia Nguru Wetlands Conservation Project maintains research facilities and an information center and encourages ecotourism with boat rides. HNWCP's wise use guidelines for the site have been accepted by government as a working document. Ramsar site no. 1039. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Niaodao

Site number: 552 | Country: China | Administrative region: Qinghai  
Area: 53 600 ha | Coordinates: 36°50'N 100°10'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niaodao ("Bird Island"). 31/03/92; Qinghai; 53,600 ha; 36°50'N 100°10'E. Nature Reserve. The lake, centered on an island, is fed by two rivers and numerous smaller rivers originating from mountain snow melt. Marshes are both brackish and fresh, along which a rich alpine meadow community thrives. The site is extremely important for numerous species of breeding birds, wintering Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), and for staging waterbirds in spring and autumn. Human activities include livestock grazing, fishing, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 552. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Niederelbe, Barnkrug-Otterndorf

Site number: 83 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 11 760 ha | Coordinates: 53°47'N 09°07'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niederelbe, Barnkrug-Otterndorf. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 11,760 ha; 53°47'N 009°07'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, Game Protection Area. A section of the Elbe River, featuring riverine marshes, saltmarsh, sandbanks, islands and mudflats interspersed with extensive sedge and reedbeds. The site is internationally important for passage, wintering and breeding waterbirds. Bird hunting regulations are in force. A nature education center has been established and scientific research is carried out by various organizations. Threats include industrialization, pollution, heavy boat traffic, dredging, dyke construction, and cultivation of the riverine marshes. Ramsar site no. 83.

## Niederried Stausee

Site number: 508 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton of Berne  
Area: 297 ha | Coordinates: 46°59'N 07°15'E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Niederried artificial lake dates back to the construction of a river dam in 1913. The Site includes the lake on the River Aare, and natural stretches of the Aare and the River Sarine. The right shore of the lake features sandstone cliffs, while the left shore is dominated by flat water zones, alluvial forests and periodically flooded alluvial fens. Although the lake is of anthropogenic origin, the Site has evolved into one of the richest alluvial landscapes of the Swiss Plateau. The vegetation includes reedbeds, tall sedge marshland, meadowsweet fen meadows, small sedge reed, alluvial forest of silver willow, grey alder and ash, and beech forest. A particularity of the Site is the remarkable thermophilous flora on the sandbanks and sandstone cliffs. The Site is home to eight plant and 77 animal species figuring on the Swiss red lists of endangered species. It is an important wintering and stop-over site for waterbirds and other migratory bird species; however, silting up of the artificial lake and substantial changes in nutrient loads seem to be driving changes in the waterbird community. The other main factors affecting the Site are the artificial regulation of water levels and the warming of the water due to the nuclear power station in Mühleberg. Human activities such as recreation, agriculture and hydroelectricity production also impact the Site.

## Niederung der Unteren Havel/Gölper See/Schollener See

Site number: 173 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Brandenburg,Sachsen-Anhalt  
Area: 8 920 ha | Coordinates: 52°45'N 12°13'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niederung der Untere Havel / Gölper See / Schollener See. 31/07/78; Brandenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt; 8,920 ha; 52°45'N 012°13'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Landscape Protection Area, Nature Reserves. A section of the Havel River floodplain, two adjacent shallow lakes, seasonally flooded pasture, and small agricultural areas. The site is an important breeding, staging and wintering area for numerous species of waterbirds, and both the river and lakes support fisheries. There are guidelines for water management and for use of the pastures, but tourism and leisure activities are not controlled. A field station is located at the site. Ramsar site no. 173. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Niger-Mafou

Site number: 1 163 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Kouroussa, Préf. de Faranah  
Area: 1 015 450 ha | Coordinates: 09°53'N 10°37'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niger-Mafou. 17/01/02; Kankan, Faranah; 1,015,450 ha; 09°53'N 010°37'W. Réserve naturelle gérée. A very large area of permanent and seasonal rivers and freshwater marshes, with irrigated and seasonally flooded agricultural land, located between and around the rivers Niger and Mafou. Large areas of primary dry forest support a high level of unusual biodiversity, and the area has been little altered by human intervention. The threatened endemic fish *Arius gigas* is supported, and a number of waterbirds visit the site annually. Moreover, the site is situated in a migratory corridor for large mammals between Guinea and neighboring states, with abundant water resources for them throughout the year. Water quality is good, but increases in cotton-growing and the use of pesticides may offer a threat - moreover, the mahogany tree *Azifela africana*, highly prized in woodworking, is now menaced with extinction. Traditional fishing is economically important, as is agriculture and grazing, but losses due to clearing and deforestation are not negligible, and the use of explosives in fishing is diminishing fish stocks. The numerous ponds figure prominently in cultural life, with family and village festivals and rituals said to bring moral and material happiness. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1163. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Niger-Niandan-Milo

Site number: 1 164 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Gouvernorat de la Région Admin. de Kankan  
Area: 1 399 046,2 ha | Coordinates: 10°25'N 09°27'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niger-Niandan-Milo is a very large flat expanse of permanent and seasonal rivers and freshwater ponds and marshes, which makes up a critical section of the Niger Basin. Part of the Site lies within the Upper Niger National Park. It is extremely important for its hydrological functions and for its fish biodiversity, with more than 200 species noted. The Site is also host to a large number of waterbirds such as the spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), the white-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), the cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and the African jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*). The Site has important cultural value: the forest of Mafou and the pond of Baro are particularly rich in folklore. The construction of a hydroelectric barrage is being planned, but this is not expected to adversely affect the ecology of the Site. Extensive farming with excessive deforestation and burning have led to soil denudation, acceleration of erosion, the destruction of vegetation and scarcity of wildlife resources. Irresponsible fishing practices, such as the use of dynamite and chemicals to cause massive fish mortality, are being countered and steadily reduced.

## Niger Source

Site number: 1 165 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Faranah  
Area: 180 400 ha | Coordinates: 09°20'N 10°40'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niger Source. 17/01/02; Faranah; 180,400 ha; 09°20'N 10°40'W. Réserve naturelle gérée. Covering the headwaters of the river Niger from its source near the frontier with Sierra Leone northward to Bandéya, the site is marked by savannah and forest vegetation with marked dry and rainy flood seasons. An extraordinarily important site, since the enormous basin of 4,660km river depends upon the quality and quantity of its flow, it also supports an impressive biodiversity, including the threatened endemic freshwater catfish *Arius gigas* and a number of migratory waterbirds. Subterranean circulation of water in parts of the site aids in groundwater recharge and merits further study. Traditional fishing, grazing, and agriculture are practiced within the site. Ramsar site no. 1165. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Niger-Tinkisso

Site number: 1 166 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Siguiri, Préf. de Kankan, Préf. de Mandia  
Area: 400 600 ha | Coordinates: 11°20'N 09°15'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niger-Tinkisso. 17/01/02; Kankan; 400,600 ha; 11°20'N 09°15'W. Réserve naturelle gérée. An extensive area of river and freshwater ponds and marshes between and around the Tinkisso river and the Niger as far as the frontier with Mali, centering upon Siguiri, particularly representative of the most important wetland types of West Africa. The Western Giant (or Derby) Eland, thought to be extinct in Guinea, has been rediscovered within the site but remains threatened, and appreciable number of both waterbirds and molluscs are reported. Water quality is generally good, but the effects of mining (particularly gold mining) and pesticide runoff from cotton culture will bear close watching. Ramsar site no. 1166. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Nigula Nature Reserve

Site number: 910 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Pärnu  
Area: 6 398 ha | Coordinates: 58°00'N 24°40'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nigula Nature Reserve. 17/06/97; Pärnu County; 6,398 ha; 58°00'N 24°40'E. Nature Reserve, Protected Area, IBA. Extensive bog complex of various types, fringed by deciduous forest. The site includes a relict lake, many pools and hollows. Ancient bog areas (9,000 years old) consist of a peat layer up to 8 m deep. The wetlands play an important role in groundwater hydrology and maintenance of water quality in southwestern Estonia. The site supports numerous species of summering waterbirds and acts as a stopover place for fall migrating birds, regularly supporting up to 40,000 Anser albifrons and Anser fabalis. The mammals *Ursus arctos*, *Canis lupus*, *Alces alces*, *Lutra lutra*, and *Lynx lynx* live in marginal parts of the mire. Principal human activities include research and small tourist excursions. Area significantly extended in 2007. Ramsar site no. 910. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Nissum Bredning with Harboøre and Agger Tange

Site number: 144 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Lemvig and Thisted  
Area: 12 786 ha | Coordinates: 56°40'N 08°16'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nissum Bredning with Harboøre and Agger Tange. 02/09/77; Regions Midtjylland and Nordjylland; 12,786 ha; 056°38'N 008°15'E. Natura 2000 (SCA, SPA); Nature Conservation Areas, Wildlife Reserve. A shallow fjord area, open water, saltmarsh, sand flats, meadows, agricultural land, brackish lagoons and reedbeds, it is an internationally important area for breeding, wintering and staging various species of waterbirds such as Baltic Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) and Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). Moreover, the site supports more than 1% of the individuals of the goose species *Anser brachyrhynchus*, *Anser anser*, and *Branta bernicla hrota*. A breeding colony of the seal *Phoca vitulina* is also supported. Public access is regulated during breeding season of waterbirds. Declining grazing has resulted in marsh and meadow degradation, and invasive species such as mink and raccoon dog are new threats in Agger Tange. In 2011 management plans were issued by the Ministry of the Environment setting up specific nature goals and priorities. A monitoring programme (NOVANA) has been implemented since 2003 to assess water quality. Ramsar site no. 144. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nissum Fjord

Site number: 143 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Midtjylland  
Area: 10 952 ha | Coordinates: 56°22'N 08°12'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nissum Fjord. 02/09/77; Region Midtjylland; 10,952 ha; 56°21'N 08°14'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA); Nature Conservation Area; Wildlife Reserve. A shallow, very eutropic, brackish fjord connected to the North Sea through a lock system. There are areas of saltmarshes, uninhabited islands supporting heathland vegetation, brackish meadows, and extensive reedbeds. The site is an internationally important area for breeding, wintering and staging of various species of endangered waterbirds such as Baltic Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The site regularly supports over 20,000 staging waterbirds during spring and autumn. Human activities include reed harvesting and cattle grazing. Eutrophication and loss of underwater vegetation have reduced the numbers of birds of passage. Bird observation platforms and public foot and bicycle paths have been established. Guided tours are organized to raise public awareness about the value of the site for migratory birds. Ramsar Site no.143. Most Recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nittälven

Site number: 2 175 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Örebro, Dalarna  
Area: 1 940 ha | Coordinates: 59°54'N 14°49'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coherent river system which is representative of the European Boreal region. It features large streams, small creeks mixed with tree-dominated freshwater areas, and small ponds. River Nittälven and its delta make up one of the most natural catchment areas in Örebro County. Situated in a transition zone between northern and southern mire types, the Site is an important area for breeding birds, fish and mammal species included in the national red list. The Site supports endangered bryophytes and lichens such as *Ramalina thrausta*, which are important for the maintenance of the biological diversity of the region. The Site supports nurseries and migratory routes for several fish species, including the brown trout *Salmo trutta* which reproduces in the upper part of the river and its tributaries. The mires are an important carbon sink. Nittälven is very popular among outdoor and wilderness enthusiasts, and the main human activities are moose-hunting, canoeing, hiking and angling. Potential threats to the ecological character of the Site are unsustainable forestry practices, such as clear-cutting, drainage and excessive use of fertilizers. Management plans for overlapping nature reserves are being implemented. Monitoring of water quality and inventories covering forest habitats, birds, flora and wood fungi have also been carried out.

## Niuni National Park

Site number: 1 840 | Country: Gambia | Administrative region: Lower Niuni District, North Bank Region  
Area: 4 940 ha | Coordinates: 13°34'N 16°31'W | Designation dates: 13-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A complex of wetland types along the coastal strip of the northern section of the River Gambia, ranging from coastal to inland wetlands which hold important hydrological values, i.e. flood control, groundwater replenishment, shoreline stabilization and sediment and nutrient retention and export. The flora and fauna are of particular note due to their abundance and adaptations to the range of habitat types found within the site. The noteworthy flora include *Rhizophora* mangrove forest, *Nymphaea lotus*, *Parkia biglobosa* etc. - noteworthy fauna include 303 species of resident and migratory birds, the West African manatee, leopards, and Red Colobus monkeys. Human uses within the site are noted as rice cultivation, livestock rearing, and fishing activities. In the surrounding areas some small industries are in operation. Potential threats are due to unsuitable fishing practices, illegal hunting, land clearance, expansion of agricultural activity, and sand mining. The management plan is being updated and a management committee is to be established following completion of the endangered species survey. The site adjoins Senegal's Delta du Saloum Ramsar site and collaborative management arrangements are being formalized.

## Nolsoy

Site number: 2 052 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Tórshavn Municipality  
Area: 2 197 ha | Coordinates: 61°59'N 06°39'W | Designation dates: 31-05-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nolsoy (Nólsoy). 31/05/12; Faroe Islands; 2,197 ha; 62°00'33"N 006°40'07"W. Important Bird Area. Grassy and stony slopes as well as the surrounding sea area provide breeding and feeding habitat for one of the world's largest concentrations of European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, with 50,000 pairs. The extensive sea cliffs also host important breeding populations of Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*, with 30,000 pairs, Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* and Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*. The Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* also breeds here. The breeding success of several seabird species is highly variable and declines in bird numbers have been observed recently. Human uses include agriculture, sheep pastures, ornithological research and fishing. Traditional hunting of Northern Fulmar and Atlantic Puffin is still practiced in the site. The island is easily reachable by ferry and guided tourist tours are offered. Potential factors of threat include the possible introduction of rats to the island; bird hunting, tourism-related disturbance of bird colonies as well as climate related ecological changes. The non-native European frog *Rana temporaria* has recently been introduced to the island. Ramsar Site no. 2052. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nong Bong Kai Non-Hunting Area

Site number: 1 101 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Chiang Rai Province  
Area: 434 ha | Coordinates: 20°14'N 100°02'E | Designation dates: 05-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nong Bong Kai Non-Hunting Area. 05/07/01; Chiang Rai Province; 434 ha; 20°14'N 100°02'E. Non-hunting area. A beautiful small lake (also known as Chiang Saen), surrounded by mountains and low hills, in the extreme north of the country adjacent to the Lao and Burmese frontiers, the site is of major importance for both local and migratory birds, particularly waterbirds, including globally vulnerable species such as Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*); some 15 species nest in the site during October to March. Local communities are permitted to practice fishing and harvest lotus flowers and fruit within the non-hunting area, and orchards and tourist resorts in the surrounding area provide job opportunities; residential and resort development are beginning to impact wildlife, however. Birdwatching is actively pursued in the area. Ramsar site no. 1101. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Nooto-North Tarawa

Site number: 2 143 | Country: Kiribati | Administrative region: North Tarawa  
Area: 1 033 ha | Coordinates: 01°31'N 173°00'E | Designation dates: 04-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nooto-North Tarawa.03/04/13; Tarawa; 1,033 ha; 001°31'09"N 173°00'08"E. A complex of relatively pristine and healthy representative coastal wetland ecosystems which are significant for the bioregion, including a wide range of coastal habitats such as lagoons, coral reefs, intertidal mudflats, and mangroves that support a high biodiversity and are resource rich, with a wide variety of finfish, turtles, crustaceans, seaweed and other plants. It is one of the few areas where mangroves are found in the whole of Kiribati, with stands of mangrove dominated by a single species, *Rhizophora stylosa*. The site is an important breeding area for marine species of conservation value such as the globally endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) which nests and forages at the site, the vulnerable giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*), and the near threatened bonefish (*Albula vulpes*). Human activities consist of small-scale agricultural gardens, domesticated livestock breeding (pigs and chickens), small-scale coconut plantations, fishing and reef gleaning for both commercial and subsistence. Ramsar Site no. 2143. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Nordenskiöldkysten

Site number: 1 968 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard  
Area: 42 992 ha | Coordinates: 77°50'N 13°56'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a coastal plain with many freshwater pools and, in its south-eastern part, Ingeborgfjellet, a mountain with steep cliffs harbouring breeding seabird colonies. During the breeding season some 55,000 little auks *Alle alle*, 21,600 thick-billed murres *Uria lomvia* and 6,000 black-legged kittiwakes *Rissa tridactyla* nest there. The Site is also an important staging, moulting, feeding and resting area during the migration seasons. Species listed on the Norwegian Red List include the nationally endangered red knot *Calidris canutus* and the vulnerable sanderling *Calidris alba*. The Site also supports more than 13% (4,000 mature individuals) of the Svalbard population of barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*. It is important for mammals such as the Svalbard reindeer *Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus* and the Arctic fox *Vulpes lagopus*, and is visited by polar bears, harbour seals and walrus. The Site plays an important role in carbon and methane storage due to its permafrost which is between ten and 40 metres deep. There is traditional trapping activity in the area, and a trapping station is situated on Akseløya, south-east of the Site.

## Nordre älvs estuarium

Site number: 1 125 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västra Götaland  
Area: 7 226 ha | Coordinates: 57°47'N 11°44'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed of a shallow marine bay located around the mouth of the Nordre älv River; it includes about five kilometres of the river, several small sheltered bays and a large number of islands and isles. The riverside includes a multitude of nature and vegetation types, such as meadows, fens, reed-swamp, rush, sedges, deciduous forests and rocky areas. The shallow marine areas include highly productive waters and eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds, an important habitat included in the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats. This large area offers shelter, nursery areas for flatfish and feeding grounds for waterfowl. Large numbers of waterbirds are supported, especially waders and ducks, and fish production is very high and commercially important. The Site holds important spawning ground, nursery and feeding area for several fish species including the (globally) critically endangered eel *Anguilla Anguilla*. The beautiful landscape and cultural history make the area extremely attractive for tourism and recreation, especially boating. Potential threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to pollutant discharges, changes in sea currents, landfilling and construction of dikes to increase areas of dry land, and anchoring of buoys and bridges and other construction in the water.

## Nordre Øyeren

Site number: 307 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Akershus  
Area: 6 440,7 ha | Coordinates: 59°52'N 11°10'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nordre Øyeren is northern Europe's largest inland delta; it is formed by three rivers, Glomma, Nitelva and Leira. The Site includes low-lying islands and land adjacent to Lake Øyeren. Large variations in water level and the influence of the rivers create varying natural conditions which boost species diversity: with 260 species recorded, Øyeren is Norway's most species-rich lake. Large populations of birds, fish, benthic organisms and plants are present. Water levels are lowest in early spring when large areas of mud banks are exposed, providing excellent access to food for abundant birdlife staging and feeding on the Site during spring and autumn migration. This makes the lake one of the most important areas in southern Norway for resting migratory waterbirds. The Site is also an important wintering site and has Norway's largest numbers of whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*. It is used for fishing, agriculture and recreation: there are two birdwatching towers and a nature information centre.

## Nordre Rønner

Site number: 148 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Nordjylland  
Area: 2 993 ha | Coordinates: 57°22'N 10°55'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nordre Rønner. 02/09/77; Region Nordjylland; 2,993 ha; 57°22'N 10°56'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). Sea area with stony banks and inhabited islands which support a diverse algal flora and submarine landscapes of carbonate-cemented rocks (bubbling reefs). The site is important for wintering and staging various species of waterbirds. It is also a nationally important breeding area for the Artic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), and the Pipit Anthus spinoletta has its second largest breeding concentration in Denmark within the site. Breeding mammals include seal *Phoca vitulina*. Human activities include boat trips, seal watching tours, and local eel fishery. The island is gradually overgrown with bushes and grasses which are changing the conditions for breeding birds. Potential threats are illegal landings and disturbance of breeding waterbirds and seals, and the anchoring of boats and eutrophication are causing negative impacts on the reefs. Ramsar site no. 148. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Nordre Tyrifjord Wetlands System

Site number: 802 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Buskerud  
Area: 322 ha | Coordinates: 60°07'N 10°12'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a system of oxbow lakes, bays dotted with islets, small dams and mires, across five sub-sites: Juveren, Synneren, Karlsrudtangen, Averøya and Lamyra. Wetland types include flooded marshland, seasonally flooded deciduous forests, mud and sand flats. A number of rare fungi and plants including mosses are present. Several thousand wildfowl gather in the spring, and the area is important as an inland locality for migrating and wintering waterbirds and waders in southern Norway, and in particular as a staging site for the Svalbard population of the pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and for the whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Several species of waterbirds feed, and numerous nationally rare species breed at the Site, including Eurasian coot *Fulica atra*. The Site is also an important spawning ground for numerous species of fish including the brown trout *Salmo trutta*. It is valuable in terms of flood reduction, sediment trapping and fixing of nutrients. Human activities include nature conservation, recreation, fishing, bird-watching, irrigation and livestock farming. Watercourse regulation and the spread of Canadian pondweed threaten the Site.

## North Bull Island

Site number: 406 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Dublin  
Area: 1 436 ha | Coordinates: 53°22'N 06°08'W | Designation dates: 06-09-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

North Bull Island. 06/09/88; Dublin; 1,436 ha; 53°22'N 06°08'W. Biosphere Reserve; Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A small island built up over 200 years against a harbour wall and the adjoining foreshore of sandy beaches, saltmarshes and mudflats. The site is unique in Ireland because it supports well-developed saltmarsh and dune systems displaying all stages of development from the earliest phase of colonization to full maturity. The site supports five protected or threatened plant species and nationally important populations of three insect species. The area is important for nesting *Sterna albifrons* (80 pairs, or about 30% of the Irish population) and for numerous species of wintering waterbirds. Human activities include bait digging. Ramsar site no. 406.

## Northern Bogs

Site number: 1 385 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Limbazi, Valmiera  
Area: 5 318 ha | Coordinates: 57°58'N 24°51'E | Designation dates: 31-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Northern Bogs (Ziemeļu purvi). 31/10/02; Limbazi, Valmiera; 5,318 ha; 57°58'N 024°50'E. Protected nature area, Biosphere Reserve. The site comprises two large raised bogs which are divided by the border with Estonia. Together with Nigula Nature Reserve in Estonia (Ramsar site no. 910) located 1 km westwards from the Kapzemes bog, the area comprises one of the largest untouched wetland complexes in the Baltic Republics. It supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable and endangered species of birds and plants, some of them occurring in great numbers or densities especially during migration. In autumn, at least 10,000 *Anser fabalis* and *A. albifrons* are roosting. Breeding species include *Circus pygargus*, *Falco columbianus*, *Grus grus*, *Philomachus pugnax*. The wetland complex plays an important role as a water storage in stabilising runoff. Land use is essentially berry picking and local fishing. Diminution of agricultural lands outside the wetlands has a negative impact on food availability for some birds and mammals. Various state monitoring programmes are carried out within the complex. Ramsar site no. 1385. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Northern Part of the Dniester Liman

Site number: 765 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°22'N 30°12'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Northern Part of the Dniester Liman. 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 20,000 ha; 46°22'N 030°12'E. Game Reserve. This site includes the Dniester River delta, streams, floodplain lakes, and part of the Dniester Liman. Vegetation consists of floating vegetation, reed thickets, and floodplain forest supporting various nationally threatened plant species. An important area for wintering Anseriformes, Gruiformes and Pelecaniformes and for breeding, wintering and migrating birds Anseriformes, Charadriiformes and Ciconiiformes. The site supplies water for domestic use and agricultural irrigation and serves as an important water transport artery. Human activities include environmental education, recreation, hunting, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 765. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## North, Middle & East Caicos Islands

Site number: 493 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Turks and Caicos Islands  
Area: 58 617 ha | Coordinates: 21°45'N 71°45'W | Designation dates: 27-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

North, Middle & East Caicos Islands. 27/06/90; Turks & Caicos Islands; 58,617 ha; 21°45'N 071°45'W. Nature Reserve. Extensive coastal site including prime examples of the main wetland habitats found on the Islands. Consists of intertidal algal flats and submerged banks, salt ponds, mangrove swamps, lagoons, sinkholes, and marshland. The site provides important feeding areas for waterbirds, habitat for the endangered sea turtle, and nursery grounds for fish. Flamingos feed and breed in the salt ponds and offshore limestone islands act as refuges for iguanas. The area is important for *Dendrocygna arborea*, probably numbering fewer than 1,000 pairs in the Caribbean. Tourism is an important industry in the islands. As of 2002, a management plan is in development with community support under a Darwin Initiative project. Ramsar site no. 493.

## North Norfolk Coast

Site number: 76 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 7 887 ha | Coordinates: 52°58'N 00°49'E | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

North Norfolk Coast. 05/01/76; England; 7,887 ha; 52°58'N 000°36'E. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast. A stretch of coastline consisting of shingle beaches, dunes, saltmarsh, intertidal mud and sand flats, brackish lagoons, reedbeds, and grazing marshes. The site supports nationally and internationally important numbers of various species of breeding or wintering waterbirds. It also includes several important botanical areas and is a centre for tourism and general recreation; a visitors' centre, trails and hides are available. Ramsar site no. 76. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## North Sea Coastal Area

Site number: 1 252 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Noord-Holland,Friesland,Groningen  
Area: 144 474,8 ha | Coordinates: 53°21'N 05°23'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The North Sea Coastal Area Site (Noordzeekustzone in Dutch) is an extensive area of coastal shallow waters with sandbanks, mudflats, salt meadows and embryonic shifting dunes. It was formerly part of the Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart Ramsar Site, which was divided in 2014 into six smaller Sites which follow Natura 2000 boundaries. The high food productivity of the Site supports healthy populations of endangered mammals such as harbour porpoise and grey seal, as well as more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the individuals of the biogeographic populations of six waterbird species. In addition, the site is an important spawning and nursery ground for fish such as sea lamprey and twaite shad. The main human activities include angling, boating, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic and military training. Potential threats to the site's ecological character derive from aquaculture and shellfish industry, gas exploration, pollution and bird disturbance caused by air force military training, recreation activities and tourism.

## North Uist Machair and Islands

Site number: 1 004 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 4 705 ha | Coordinates: 57°38'N 07°20'W | Designation dates: 22-07-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

North Uist Machair and Islands. 22/07/99, significantly extended 03/11/00; Scotland; 4705 ha; 57°32'N 007°23'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site comprises a "machair" areas (grassland upon sand, commonly behind coastal sand dunes in northwestern Scotland) which show a range of habitats from intertidal sand and rock through sand dunes and dune slacks to a calcareous coastal plain and acid grassland. The site contains freshwater wetlands, including nutrient-rich and average nutrient machair loch, important freshwater marshes and fens, wet and dry machair and saltmarsh. The area supports a rich and diverse range of plant communities, including some nationally scarce plants and mosses, and qualifies under Criterion 6 by supporting internationally important numbers of Dunlin and Ringed Plover during the breeding season and Barnacle Goose, Ringed Plover, and Turnstone during the winter. The extended designation now includes four sites on the west and north coasts of North Uist and all or part of three islands in the Sound of Harris south of Lewis and Harris. The RSPB maintains a small visitors' centre and guided walks at the Balranald Bog part of the site. The spread of the invasive American mink is considered to be a potential threat and measures are being taken. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, and permanent pastoral agriculture. Ramsar site no. 1004. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Northumbria Coast

Site number: 1 019 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 108 ha | Coordinates: 55°19'N 01°32'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Northumbria Coast. 02/02/00; England; 1108 ha; 55°27'N' 001°35'W. EC Habitats Directive SPA; SSSI. Comprises several discrete sections of rocky foreshore between Spittal, in the north of Northumberland, and an area just south of Blackhall Rocks in County Durham. These stretches of coast regularly support internationally important numbers of purple sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) and turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*, 1739 individuals, 2.6 % of the Eastern Atlantic Flyway population). The Ramsar site also includes an area of sandy beach which supports a nationally important breeding colony of little tern and parts of three artificial piers which form important roost sites for purple sandpiper. The 96% of the site composed of Wetland Type D (rocky marine shore) includes cliffs, crags/ledges, intertidal rock, open coast (including bay), and pools and assists in shoreline stabilization, dissipation of erosive forces, and sediment trapping. Little terns are vulnerable to disturbance by tourists in the summer causing reduced breeding success, and the National Trust employs wardens in summer to protect the little tern colony. A range of recreational activities takes place along the coast, including walking, camping, sea angling, birdwatching, and water sports (water skiing, sailing, windsurfing and canoeing). Birdwatching is particularly popular at Druridge Bay. In addition to many day trippers who come to the site, a sizeable population of summer visitors stay in caravan parks and other accommodation along the coast. Ramsar site no. 1019. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Northwest Curaçao

Site number: 2 119 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao Government  
Area: 2 441 ha | Coordinates: 12°20'N 69°05'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Northwest Curaçao. 05/02/2013; Curaçao; 2,441 ha; 12°21'11"N 069°05'00"W. Important Bird Area, Natural Parks. The area comprises a great variety of ecosystems such as coral reefs, coastal lagoons with sea grass beds and mangroves, coastal limestone terraces, inland hills supporting evergreen woodland, freshwater dams, natural springs and dry deciduous shrublands. The Ramsar site includes parts of Shete Boka and Christoffel Natural Parks. The wetland covers approximately 20 km of the rocky, wave-exposed north coast of Curaçao, including 10 pocket beaches (bokas) and 3 inland bays that are used as nesting and foraging sites for threatened sea turtle species as *Dermodochelys coriacea* and *Eretmodochelys imbricata*. There is also a breeding colony of more than 500 individuals of Least Tern. Moreover, the northwestern coast of Curaçao locally harbours a fringing coral reef, characterized by more than 50% coral cover and the presence of such critically endangered coral species as *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis* as well as endangered fish species like the *Epinephelus itajara*. Some of the caves in the area were used for spiritual rituals in the past, and Indian drawings can be found estimated to be more than 5,000 years old. Numerous manmade dams in the area retain freshwater for several months after the wet season has passed. Subterranean groundwater reservoirs in turn sustain local vegetation types year-round which are used by several bird species, pollinating bats and mammals to survive during Curaçao's dry season. Ramsar Site no. 2119. Most Recent RIS information: 2013.

## Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan

Site number: 1 552 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Prefecture  
Area: 6 053 ha | Coordinates: 43°35'N 145°16'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan. 08/11/05; Hokkaido; 6,053ha; 43°35'N 145°16'E. NWPAs. Notsuke-hanto is the largest sand spit in Japan, a fish hook-shaped peninsula jutting into Nemuro Strait on the eastern edge of Hokkaido. Notsuke-wan is a bay formed between the sand spit and the mainland with average depth of 4m, widespread tidal flats and full of *Zostera* seagrass bed. The site is one of the largest staging and breeding habitat for migratory waterbirds with 66,935 annual migratory population of 211 species, particularly IUCN Redlisted *Grus japonensis*, and regularly supporting more than 1% population of *Cygnus cygnus*, *Branta bernicula*, *Anas penelope*, *Aythya marila*, and *Bucephala clangula*. Seaside vegetation on salt marshes consist of *Elymus mollis* community among other species, and sand dunes are covered with Japanese Rose and White clovers. It also functions as an important spawning and nursing ground for local fish. In Notsuke-wan, the major catch in the seagrass bed is Hokkai shrimp *Pandalus kessleri*, protected by a fisherman cooperative to regulate its open season and catch, managing limited marine resource as one of the best practice wise use wetland fisheries in Japan. Ramsar site no. 1552. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Novozámecký a Brehyňský rybník

Site number: 496 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Česká Lipa  
Area: 923 ha | Coordinates: 50°37'N 14°34'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Semi-natural fishponds created by the damming of valley streams, and subject to a moderately intensive management regime. Habitat includes extensive reedbeds, wet meadows, peat bogs and wet, coniferous woodland. An important area for small numbers of breeding and staging birds, including the White-tailed sea eagle and Osprey. The site provides habitat for several notable plant species. The elimination of the submerged vegetation and input of sediment-laden runoff triggered hyper-nutrient-enrichment. For these reasons the site was added to the Montreux Record in 1994. Removed from the Montreux Record 2002.

## NSW Central Murray State Forests

Site number: 1 291 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales

Area: 83 992 ha | Coordinates: 35°39'S 144°39'E | Designation dates: 20-05-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

NSW Central Murray State Forests. 20/05/03; New South Wales; 83,992 ha.; 35°49'S 144°58'E. Composed of discrete but interrelated forest units (Millewa, Werai, and Koondrook) that together with the Barmah and Gunbower Forests Ramsar sites in Victoria form the largest complex of tree-dominated floodplain wetlands in southern Australia. The site contains rare wetland types within the Riverina bioregion, particularly floodplain lake and floodplain meadows and reed swamps. Linked through an unbroken riparian corridor along the Murray and Edward Rivers, the forests are in high ecological condition and contribute significantly to the conservation of globally and nationally threatened species - the site provides a habitat for globally threatened species listed in the IUCN Red List: the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater (*Xanthomyza phrygia*), endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), endangered Murray Hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*), and endangered Trout Cod (*Maccullochella macquariensis*). Migratory birds found at the site include the Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Caspian Tern (*Hydropogone caspia*), White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and are registered in the Migratory Species Agreement between Australia, Japan, and China. The site contains significant social, cultural and economic resources. It has been managed under multiple use principles including forestry for almost 150 years, making it one of the longest continuously managed natural resources in Australia. Currently the site is used for timber harvesting, apiculture, fishing, bird watching and scientific study. Ramsar site no. 1291. Most recent RIS information: 2013

## Ntsikeni Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 904 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Province

Area: 9 200 ha | Coordinates: 30°08'S 29°28'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ntsikeni Nature Reserve. 02/02/10; KwaZulu/Natal; 9,200 ha; 30°08'S 29°28'E. Nature Reserve. Located in an area rich in wetlands, the site is one of the largest high altitude wetlands in South Africa and has undergone the least ecological change due to the protective measures in place as a Nature Reserve. It is recognised as the second most important breeding site for the Wattled Crane in South Africa and also as significant to the endangered Long-toed Tree Frog (*Leptopelis xenodactylus*), Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*), and other wetland dependent mammals. Because it is a Nature Reserve there are no commercial activities carried out within the site. However the maintenance of its character is under threat from commercial afforestation activities occurring outside of its borders that are a major source of alien invasive species. While there is no management plan in place, there are measures under the Protected Areas Act to ensure that the site continues to play its various roles including provision of clean water to the communities downstream where there is no formally organised supply. Ramsar site no. 1904. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Nurri Lagoon

Site number: 1 069 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province

Area: 2 540 ha | Coordinates: 24°30'N 68°47'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nurri Lagoon. 10/05/01. Sindh. 2,540 ha. 24°30'N 68°47'E. A very shallow brackish lagoon with barren mudflats on the northern side. The site has consistently recorded very large concentrations of migratory waterbirds on a seasonal basis. Salinity and sedimentation are increasing due to the intrusion of the sea in this area. The privately owned land provides livelihood to about 3,000-4,000 people in surrounding villages, chiefly through fisheries. Invasive species, such as *Typha* and occasionally *Tamarix*, are seen to be hindering the growth and diversity of native flora, and population pressures, including accelerating agricultural and industrial pollution, offer challenges. Ramsar site no. 1069. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Nyirkai-Hany

Site number: 1 644 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Győr-Moson-Sopron county

Area: 419 ha | Coordinates: 47°42'N 17°11'E | Designation dates: 06-10-2006

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is in the Hanság peat lowland, which was a vast wetland complex regularly flooded by tributaries of the Danube and Rába until it was drained for agricultural purposes in the 19th century. In 2001, a wetland restoration project was started with Dutch support to create open water surfaces, reedbeds and tall grass-dominated plant communities in the agricultural polders. Within a short time the area gained great importance as a habitat for raptors such as the globally threatened greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* and saker falcon *Falco cherrug*, as well as a nesting and feeding place for waterbirds such as the Eurasian coot *Fulica atra* and ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca*. The Site is also an important wintering site for many migratory birds: it supports over 20,000 waterbirds including over 1% of the biogeographic population of the greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* and greylag goose *Anser anser*. The shallow waters constitute an important spawning ground for fish. The European otter *Lutra lutra* and the Eurasian beaver *Castor fiber* have bred in the area since its restoration. The Site plays an important role in groundwater recharge and flood control. In the surrounding areas, intensive agricultural and recreational activities as well as peat extraction have adverse effects on its ecological character. The Fertő-Hanság National Park carries out ecological monitoring to ensure long-term conservation management.

## Nylsvley Nature Reserve

Site number: 952 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Northern Province

Area: 3 970 ha | Coordinates: 24°39'S 28°42'E | Designation dates: 07-07-1998

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nylsvley Nature Reserve. 07/07/98; Northern Province; 3,970 ha; 24°39'S 28°42'E. Nature reserve. The nature reserve has riverine floodplains, flooded river basins, and seasonally flooded grassland, with the dominant wetland type being a seasonal river associated with a grassland floodplain. The wetland has the endangered roan antelope *Hippotragus equis*, and the area serves as a breeding ground for eight South African red-listed waterbirds and is the only site in South Africa which is a recorded locality for wild rice, *Oryza longistaminata*. The area is open to tourists, who usually come for birdwatching, and volunteers work in the area to help clear alien invasive plant species and build bird hides. Ramsar site no. 952. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### Oak Hammock Marsh

Site number: 366 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Manitoba  
Area: 3 600 ha | Coordinates: 50°10'N 97°06'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oak Hammock Marsh. 27/05/87; Manitoba; 3,600 ha; 50°10'N 097°06'W. A restored complex of freshwater marshland and marginal agricultural land under intensive management to encourage nesting and staging waterbirds. Regulated water levels provide optimum conditions for nesting ducks and "lure" crops promote flock retention and prevent damage to commercial crops. Numbers of migratory geese may reach 100,000 in both spring and fall, while spring concentrations of migratory shorebirds have reached 30,000 individuals. Being close to the urban area of Winnipeg, the site is important for conservation-based education and recreation. Ramsar site no. 366. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Oasi del Sele-Serre Persano

Site number: 1 665 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Campania  
Area: 174 ha | Coordinates: 40°36'N 15°08'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oasi del Sele-Serre Persano. 13/12/06; Campania; 174 ha, 40°37'N 015°08'E. Site of Community Importance EU Directive, Important Bird Area, Regional Nature Reserve. A reservoir that was created by the damming of the Sele River in the first half of the 20th century; the Oasis of Persano, the main portion of the wetlands, originated in 1981 following an agreement between WWF and the local water authorities. The surrounding landscape consists of inundated meadows, riparian woodland, flooded forest, fens and swamps. The dominant vegetation comprises magnopotamion and hydrocharition habitat types, typical of the Mediterranean Region. The most noteworthy protected species residing within the wetland is undoubtedly the otter (*Lutra lutra*) which is the most threatened mammal in the country. The area represents an interesting bird resting and nesting site for aquatic, riparian, macchia, and woodland species; it is also characterised by a rich herpetofauna. Small-scale agriculture is practiced by local residents, and there is a visitor's centre with nature trails and facilities for school visits. Ramsar site no. 1665. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Oasi di Castelvolturno o Variconi

Site number: 1 664 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Campania Region  
Area: 195 ha | Coordinates: 41°01'N 13°56'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oasi di Castelvolturno o Variconi. 13/12/06; Campania; 195 ha; 41°01'N 015°56'E. Site of Community Importance EU Directive, Important Bird Area, Regional Nature Reserve. A good example of a morphologically pristine site, belonging to the last remaining portion of a far more extensive complex of swamps drained between the 17th and 18th centuries. The site lies within the left bank of the Volturno delta in southern Italy and includes a freshwater pond and a saline lagoon separated by an artificial levee which connects the riparian strip with the mainland. The site, which hosts remarkable examples of arborescent halophilous vegetation, is part of the larger "Volturno Costa Licola Delta" Nature Reserve, which represents one of the areas endowed with the largest number of aquatic bird species within the whole Thyrrenian coastal area. Hundreds of species and thousands of specimens transit and/or spend winter by the ponds situated within the delta, among which *Podiceps* sp.pl., *Larus* sp.pl., *Sterna* sp.pl. and *Phalacrocorax carbo* are the most common. Upstream irrigation works are seen as a potential threat. The site is provided with a bird observation hut and a nature trail, and there are educational activities for schoolchildren in the region. Ramsar site no. 1664. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Oasis de la Sierra El Pilar

Site number: 1 794 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 180 802,6 ha | Coordinates: 24°43'N 110°54'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oasis de la Sierra El Pilar. 02/02/2008; Baja California Sur; 180,803 ha; 24° 43' N 110° 54' W. Located in the western slope of Sierra del Mechudo, this site is composed by numerous oasis which are of great hydrological and biological importance, supporting unique fauna species such as the Peninsular clingfish (*Gobiesox juniperoserri*) and the Killifish (*Fundulus lima*), both considered endangered. This oasis represent very fragile ecosystems, mainly affected by natural causes such as extreme draughts, and human activities including unsustainable agriculture and livestock. Among the main threats that negatively affect this site are: the presence of invasive fish species (*Tilapia* cf. *zilli*, *Poecilia reticulata*, *Xiphophorus helleri* and *X. maculatus*) and plants (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*); the construction of hydroelectric power stations to use water from the springs; and the use of biotic resources without a management plan and control, such as illegal hunting and extensive livestock of ungulates.

### Oasis de Moghrrar et de Tiout

Site number: 1 302 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Nâama  
Area: 195 500 ha | Coordinates: 32°42'N 00°24'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises the two oases of Moghrrar (Foukani and Tahtani) and the oasis of Tiout, which are connected by the upper reaches of the Oued Namous. It lies at about 1,000m altitude, and is ringed by the southern flank of the Ksour mountains at about 1700m. With the Site's typically dry saharan climate, the oases support family agriculture, mainly the cultivation of date palms and vegetables; the "feggous" and "aghrass" date palms are of excellent quality and conservation interest. Moghrrar is significant for birds including woodchat shrike (*Lanius senator*), western Orphean warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*), western Bonelli's warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*), Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) and Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*). The neighbouring region and the watershed are subject to overgrazing and consequently to widespread erosion. The area is known for its ancient rock art, a small prehistory museum, and its *Ksar* (fortress), which was formerly the stronghold of Cheikh Bouamama, a key figure in the country's fight against colonialism in the 19th century.

### Oasis de Ouled Saïd

Site number: 1 060 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Adrar  
Area: 25 400 ha | Coordinates: 29°27'N 00°18'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a rare human-made wetland created on the remains of a "fossil" wadi; over time, the diminution of the water in the wadi required the construction of a "fouggara" system for the capture and distribution of groundwater. The water, distributed in small open-air channels within the tradition of an ancestral social organization, is shared out equitably to individual gardens for the cultivation of date palms, cereals and other fruits. The Site also includes important remains of *ksars* (fortresses) from the 14th century. The Site attracts large numbers of migratory birds, and abundant gazelles. The fouggara method in use at Ouled Saïd is said to be an outstanding illustration of the Ramsar wise use principle, but because the oasis requires constant human maintenance and is slowly but surely being overtaken by the sand, Algerian authorities requested at the time of designation that the Site be placed on the Montreux Record.

### Oasis de Tamantit et Sid Ahmed Timmi

Site number: 1 061 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Adrar  
Area: 95 700 ha | Coordinates: 27°45'N 00°15'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oasis de Tamantit et Sid Ahmed Timmi. 02/02/01; Adrar; 95,700 ha; 27°45'N 00°15'E. National Heritage Monument. A succession of several oases, each overlooked by an ancient Ksar (fortress) and associated village, with palm cultivation below. Residents practice the traditional method of distribution of water for irrigation by means of "fouggara", a human-made hydraulic system said to have originated in Persia and been introduced to the Maghreb during the Arab conquest of the 7th century. The site is classed as, among others, wetland type Zk(c), probably the first human-made subterranean hydrological system' in the Ramsar List. The isolation of the site and the hostile environmental conditions have favored the evolution of a very interesting biological diversity. Depletion of groundwater reserves, caused in part by increasing use of modern agricultural pump-irrigation and monoculture, is seen as a potential threat, as is continuous advance of the "ergs" or wind-driven sand dunes. There is some tourism, with pedestrian and camel-back tours of the Ksars and fouggara, and local crafts are in considerable demand. Ramsar site no. 1061. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Oasis du Kawar

Site number: 1 495 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Agadez  
Area: 339 220 ha | Coordinates: 19°22'N 12°52'E | Designation dates: 16-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, a complex of oases between two deserts – the Erg du Ténéré to the west and the Erg de Bilma to the south and east – lies along the ancient trans-Saharan desert route linking Algeria and Libya with Lake Chad. It is one of the last remaining areas in Niger where different varieties of productive and prized date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) can be found. It is a refuge for a range of mammals including the Cape hare *Lepus Capensis*, the golden jackal *Canis aureus*, the vulnerable Dorcas gazelle *Gazella dorcas* and the Barbary sheep *Ammotragus lervia*. This biological diversity is potentially threatened by oil exploration and the phenomenon of climate change. The oasis is essential for the local population, which practices subsistence agriculture in small fields around the oases, growing vegetables and fruit which contribute to families' income. They also harvest dates, which are exchanged for cereals, and salt from small salt pans found in the area. Sand deposition and soil salinization are the main threats: windbreaks are seen as the solution to reduce sand deposition, and there are plans to restore degraded palm plantations and improve agricultural techniques to reduce damage to the environment. Local NGOs and technicians have worked to raise awareness of these threats.

### Oasis du Tafilalet

Site number: 1 483 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Errachidia, Goulmima  
Area: 65 000 ha | Coordinates: 31°17'N 04°15'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oasis du Tafilalet. 15/01/05; Errachidia, Goulmima; 65,000 ha; 31°17'N 004°15'W. Part of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. This site comprises a series of oases, the reservoir of one of the oldest dams in Morocco (Hassan Ad-Dakhil), small rivers, irrigation channels, and lacustrine and marsh areas. It is an important wintering site for migratory birds, especially sparrows and two endangered waterbird species, Tadorna ferruginea and Marmaronetta angustirostris. It also hosts remarkable populations of Ruppell's Bat (Pipistrellus rueppelli) and of the Sand Cat (Felis margarita), in addition to an endemic fish (Barbus figuiguensis). Agriculture is a common activity, with the main cultivation being alfalfa, cereals, henna, date palms and fruit trees. Sheep raising is also common, with the D'man race showing the best productivity rates. The dam's control of downstream water releases has meant that many river channels downstream only have water during certain times of the year, a phenomenon which is worsened by excessive water abstraction for agriculture and human consumption and the droughts that have become more common during the past two decades. Soil salinisation has also become a problem in many areas, due to the high rates of evaporation. Ramsar site no. 1483. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Oasis Sierra de La Giganta

Site number: 1 793 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 41 181,4 ha | Coordinates: 25°51'N 111°23'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oasis Sierra de La Giganta. 02/02/2008. Baja California Sur. 41,181 ha. 25° 51'N 111° 23'W. This site is characterized by sheer slopes in the oriental side of Sierra de la Giganta, with small coastal alluvial plains. In the coast, small clusters of mangroves *Avicennia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Rhizophora mangle* are registered. The pools support a population of the species *Ovis canadensis*, which is found under special protection. There are endemic flora species including the *Prosopis palmeri* and fauna species such as *Gambelia copeii*, endemic of the Peninsula. The coastal area of this site belongs to the zone of marine restricted use Protected Natural Area Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto. Tourism, forestry, agriculture and water extraction for urban consumption are amongst the main land uses of this site.

### Obedska Bara

Site number: 136 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina  
Area: 17 501 ha | Coordinates: 44°44'N 20°00'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Obedska Bara. 28/03/77; Vojvodina; 17,501 ha; 44°44'N 020°00'E. Nature Reserve. A seasonally inundated area of the Sava River floodplain, with marshes, ponds, wet meadows, and an oxbow lake. Vegetation includes reedbeds and *Salix-Populus* and *Quercus* woodland. The area is important for various species of breeding waterbirds. River regulation has adversely affected fish stocks at the site. The lake is subject to rapid siltation and nutrient-enrichment, resulting in the expansion of reedbeds and *Salix* scrub, to the exclusion of open water areas. Ramsar site no. 136.

## Oberrhein / Rhin Supérieur

Site number: 1 809 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bade-Wurtemberg  
Area: 25 117 ha | Coordinates: 48°25'N 07°45'E | Designation dates: 28-08-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oberrhein / Rhin supérieur. 28/08/08; Baden-Württemberg; 25,117 ha; TRS centre 48°25N 007°45E. IBA, Natura 2000, Nature Reserve. The site includes 190km of the eastern bank of the river Rhine, with a variety of different natural and humanmade habitats and including at least ten zones of protection for birds. This alluvial area is very important for recharging one of the biggest aquifer in Europe. The site supports an outstanding number of relict, endangered and rare flora and fauna species, of which some cannot be observed anywhere else in Germany. An average of 92000 migratory birds stop here every year, and 46 fish species are supported. The site is also the last refuge for some sub-Mediterranean species, such as wild bees (*Andrena chrysopeus*, *Andrena marginata* and *Tetralonia salicariae*), dragonflies (*Aeshna affinis*), and butterflies (*Chamaesphex aerifrons*, *Cucullia caninae*, *Luperina dumerilii*, *Meganola togatalis* et *Synsphaeria affini*.) Navigation, water sports, agriculture, fishing and hunting are only few of the main land uses. Pesticides, fertilizers and mismanagement of the water resources could lead to very negative effects. Ramsar site no. 1809. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay

Site number: 771 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizka Oblast  
Area: 2 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°35'N 36°12'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay. 23/11/95; Zaporizka Oblast; 2,000 ha; 46°35'N 036°12'E. Game Reserve. An Azov Sea bay and associated spit supporting reed-swamp vegetation and saline meadows fringed by steppe vegetation. The site supports internationally important numbers of nesting *Egretta alba* and wintering *Aythya marila*, among various other species of waterbirds. Various relic fish and endemic plant species occur at the site. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, fishing, aquaculture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 771. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Ócsai Turjános

Site number: 418 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Pest County  
Area: 1 145,8 ha | Coordinates: 47°16'N 19°14'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ócsai Turjános Ramsar Site is an area of peatland located in the Great Hungarian Plain. It supports reed and *Scirpus* beds, bogs, pools, grassland, arable land, and woodland. The area is important for several rare and protected species of plants and animal species including a number of breeding waterbirds. The internationally protected great bustard (*Otis tarda*) appears in winter and spring. The Site supports several endemic species of Lepidoptera, the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), the otter (*Lutra lutra*) and several notable plant species. During the spring, Ócsai Turjános also provides refuge for the European mudminnow (*Umbra krameri*) and several amphibian species. The Site helps to maintain the hydrological balance of the region and plays an important role in groundwater recharge. The surrounding villages are rich in architectural and other cultural values. Land use is mainly dedicated to agriculture. An ornithological field station is located at the site. The main threats are posed by lowering of water levels due to artificial water management and over-exploitation of the aquifers, communal sewage pollution and colonization by invasive fish and plant species. A wetland restoration project was carried out in 2012.

## Odaesan National Park Wetlands

Site number: 1 848 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Gwangwon Province  
Area: 2 ha | Coordinates: 37°46'N 128°40'E | Designation dates: 13-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

13/10/08; Gwangwon-do; 2 ha; 37°48'N 128°38'E. National Park. A complex of three small fens at about 1000m altitude on Odaesan mountain, including some of the best conserved peatlands in the country. They are home to a large number of species of flora that are considered to be endangered or at risk, as well as fauna such as Musk deer, Long-tailed goral, and Water deer, all classed by Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List. The site is owned by the state and public access is not permitted. Ramsar site no. 1848. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Ogii Nuur

Site number: 955 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Arvayheer  
Area: 2 510 ha | Coordinates: 47°46'N 102°46'E | Designation dates: 06-07-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ogii Nuur. 06/07/98; 2,510 ha; 47°46'N 102°46'E. Anatidae Network Site. A freshwater lake located in the valley of the Orkhon River, comprising extensive alluvial areas of grassland, river channels, pools and marshes surrounded by grassy steppe. The maximum depth of the lake is 16 meters, but about 40% of the lake is less than 3m deep. The lake supports an intensive fishery and livestock grazing. It is a very important breeding and staging area for a wide variety of waterfowl, particularly Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). Ramsar site no. 955. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Oglat Ed Daïra

Site number: 1 426 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Nâama  
Area: 23 430 ha | Coordinates: 33°18'N 00°54'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a seasonal brackish lake fed by temporary rivers and located in the arid steppe zone which features limited and irregular rainfall. It features large tamarisk trees which allow European greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* and goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* to nest. The lake's most widely represented species are the Eurasian coot *Fulica atra* with 150 individuals, and the ruddy shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* with 50 apparently sedentary individuals. In spring and autumn the Site also hosts migratory wader species which winter in Sahelian Africa. Of the 52 species inventoried, 14 are migrants, 19 breeders and 20 wintering birds. The lake plays an important role in groundwater recharge and sediment trapping. It also has an important educational role, as many school groups as well as the general public visit the Site to learn about the importance and protection of wetlands in the steppe environment. Farming of livestock, especially of sheep, is the main occupation of the local population, but this is causing erosion, over-abstraction of water, and deforestation. Some conservation projects have been initiated, such as dune fixation on 1,080 hectares, a forest green band on 60 hectares, fruit plantation on 105 hectares and windbreaks for the benefit of the local population.

## Oguta Lake

Site number: 1 757 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Imo State  
Area: 572 ha | Coordinates: 05°42'N 06°48'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oguta Lake. 30/04/08; Imo; 572 ha; 05Oguta Lake. 30/04/08; Imo; 572 ha; 05°42'N 006°47'E. The largest natural, freshwater lake in southeastern Nigeria, located in a natural depression within the floodplain of River Niger. Its water surface area varies from 180 to 300 ha depending on the season, and its average depth is 5.5m. It receives perennial drainage from Rivers Njaba, Utu and Awbuna and the lake drains into River Orashi. The lake contains 258 species of phytoplankton in 107 genera and 40 fish species. Small scattered populations of the endangered Sclater's guenon (*Cercopithecus sclateri*) occur in some relict forests south of the lake. The lake is an important source of municipal and domestic water to the people of Oguta, but is also the recipient of urban sewage. It is also of cultural and spiritual importance to many community members. Fishing and tourism are important socioeconomic activities in the area. Overfishing is stressing the lake and sewage and sedimentation aided by deforestation are seen as threats, mitigated by the fact that the lake is annually flushed by floodwaters through an active outlet. The Oguta Lake Watershed Protection Project is involving local communities in revitalizing the lake and promoting sustainability. Ramsar site no. 1757. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Oka & Pra River Floodplains

Site number: 671 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Ryazan Oblast  
Area: 161 542 ha | Coordinates: 55°31'N 40°33'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oka & Pra River Floodplains. 13/09/94; Ryazan Oblast; 161,542 ha; 55°01'N 040°23'E. Biosphere Nature Reserve; Strict Nature Reserve, National Park. The extensive floodplains of two lowland rivers, including oxbow lakes, bogs, fens, forested peatlands, and lakes. Vegetation includes natural and artificial forests of various types and extensive floodplain meadows. Plant and animal diversity is high, with over 800 species of vascular plants and 58 species of mammals in the area. The area is important for migrating and breeding for various species of waterbirds. An important staging area for numerous species of migrating ducks and geese, including 50% of the migrating population of the White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*. Human activity includes hay harvesting, waterbird hunting, fishing, forestry, agriculture, livestock grazing, conservation education, and recreation. Thousands of birds are ringed each year. A crane breeding center has been established. Ramsar site no. 671. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Okavango Delta System

Site number: 879 | Country: Botswana | Administrative region: Northwest District  
Area: 5 537 400 ha | Coordinates: 19°17'S 22°54'E | Designation dates: 12-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Okavango Delta System. 09/12/96; Ngamiland; 5,537,400 ha; 19°17'S 022°54'E. Controlled Hunting Area, Game Reserve, Wildlife Management Areas. The site borders Namibia and is the only inland delta in sub-Saharan Africa. Set in a semi-arid region and subject to large fluctuations in flooded area, the site includes permanent and seasonal swamp, riverine floodplains and a seasonal freshwater lake. The floodplains form critical habitat for many species of birds and wildlife at their southern limits of distribution in the region. The diverse flora and fauna includes 1060 different plant species, 32 large mammal species, over 650 species of birds, 68 species of fish, and a highly diverse insect population, all of which include rare, endangered and endemic species. Human activities include recreation, tourism, subsistence farming, fishing, and livestock grazing. The present area figure has been recalculated downward in 2006, with no change of site boundaries. Ramsar site no. 879. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 350 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Georgia, Florida  
Area: 162 635 ha | Coordinates: 30°48'N 82°20'W | Designation dates: 18-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. 18/12/86; Georgia, Florida; 162,635 ha; 30°48'N 082°20'W. National Wildlife Refuge, Wilderness Area. The site, the second largest wetland complex in the USA, is an extensive drainage basin on the divide between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, characterized by swamp forest. Okefenokee supports one of the largest populations of Alligator *mississippiensis* in the USA and a wide diversity of breeding and non-breeding birds. Nesting birds include a rare woodpecker, while mammals include *Euarctos americanus* and *Odocoileus virginianus*. Small areas of old-growth cypress and slash pine have escaped logging in the early 1900s. Human activities include nature conservation, hunting, fishing, and general recreation. Issues involving nearby titanium mining seem to be reaching a solution. Ramsar site no. 350. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Oku-Nikko-shitsugen

Site number: 1 553 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Tochigi Prefecture  
Area: 260 ha | Coordinates: 36°47'N 139°26'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oku-Nikko-shitsugen. 08/11/05; Tochigi; 260 ha; 36°47'N 139°26'E. National Park. The site is composed of Senjogahara, Odashirogahara and Yunoko at 1400m asl. in altitude surrounded by mountains. Senjogahara is one of the largest high moors in Honshu Island with more than 100 species of swamp plants like cotton grass and Japanese azalea. The vegetation of Odashirogahara shows characteristics of moor and grassland succession; whereas Yunoko is a freshwater lake with hot springs in the same watershed, almost in pristine condition and an attractive tourist spot. The area is an important breeding site for summer birds, mostly Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* and Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. During winter, the site is visited by many migratory waterfowls including Mallard, Wigeon, Tufted Duck and Smew. Colour change of deciduous trees in autumn, traditionally called 'Koyo', is cherished by the Japanese for its landscape beauty. Potential threats to Senjogahara are sediment inflow, reduction of inflow, constructions of facilities disconnecting inflow from upstream, inappropriate drainage and intake facilities, tourist influx, alien invasive species, and overgrazing. Conservation measures regularly conducted by local organisations are nature walks, control of alien species, control foraging by deer, and capacity building training for youth. Ramsar site no. 1553. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Ölands ostkust

Site number: 18 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Kalmar  
Area: 10 718 ha | Coordinates: 56°46'N 16°48'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is comprised of three sub-sites: Södviken, Egby – Kapelludden and Stora Ören – Gammalsbyören. The Site is a unique example of a large and continuous area of coastal habitats. It includes shallow coastal waters, bays, sandbanks, beaches, wet calcareous meadows, and steppe-like dry meadows on moraine islands. The great natural value of the Site depends on a continued adequate level of grazing, which has been practised together with haymaking since the Middle Ages. The Site is important for nesting waterbirds and a variety of migrating birds, notably waders and raptors. Many habitats of European importance as well as nationally red-listed bird and plant species are present. The Site hosts the nationally red-listed Baltic population of harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* and grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*, both listed in the EU Habitats Directive. All three sub-sites contain shallow brackish waters with abundant seaweed, which are of great importance for spawning fish and have a high biodiversity. Stora Ören – Gammalsbyören, the southernmost sub-site, is included in the World Heritage Site "The agricultural landscape of Southern Öland".

## Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 656 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Cebu Province  
Area: 5 800 ha | Coordinates: 10°16'N 124°03'E | Designation dates: 01-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary. 01/07/94; Cebu; 5,800 ha; 10°16'N 124°03'E. Wildlife Sanctuary; Shorebird Network Site. A low-lying island surrounded by extensive intertidal sandflats, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs and islets. One of the most important areas in the country for significant numbers of migratory waterbirds, providing habitat for staging, wintering, roosting and feeding birds. Over 10,000 shorebirds have been recorded at one time, with total numbers approaching 50,000. The most important site in the Philippines for the rare waterbird species Asiatic Dowitcher. Inhabitants are dependent on coastal resources: harvesting sea urchins, fish and commercial shells, for their livelihood. Other economic activities include farming corn, cassava and coconut, and raising livestock. Ramsar site no. 656. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Old Crow Flats

Site number: 244 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Yukon Territory  
Area: 617 000 ha | Coordinates: 67°34'N 139°50'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Old Crow Flats. 24/05/82; Yukon Territory; 617,000 ha; 67°34'N 139°50'W. Protected under the Yukon Wildlife Ordinance and Migratory Birds Convention Act. A vast plain (in fact, an ancient lake bottom) of meandering tributaries and perched wetlands with more than 2,000 freshwater lakes formed in depressions left by melting ice-blocks. Habitats include peatlands, sedge marshes, scattered trees, and forest stands. An extremely important area for breeding waterbirds. Up to 300,000 birds nest, with numbers increasing in the post-breeding period as birds gather to molt, feed and rest prior to migration. Indigenous people take an economically important harvest of muskrats. The area includes some of the richest archaeological sites of early human habitation in North America. Some oil exploration has occurred. Ramsar site no. 244. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Old Danube - Macin Arm

Site number: 2 116 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Braila, Tulcea and Constanta counties  
Area: 26 792 ha | Coordinates: 44°59'N 28°09'E | Designation dates: 21-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Old Danube-Macin Arm (Dunarea Veche-Bratul Macin). 02/20/2013; Braila, Tulcea, Constanta Counties; 26,792 ha; 44°59'01"N 028°09'14"E. Nature Reserve; SAC; SCI. The site is part of the Danube meadow and is situated in an important migration corridor, providing breeding, resting and feeding shelter for many IUCN Red Listed bird species. The landscape is characterized by lakes between sand dunes, marshes, shrub wetlands, fishponds, islands, canals and drainage channels all very rich in biodiversity. The site is also important for conservation of tree galleries of *Populus alba* and *Salix alba*. Some of the factors adversely affecting its ecological status are drainages, wind turbines, urbanization, grazing, hunting and poaching. In terms of ecosystem services, the site plays a very important hydrological regulatory role in reducing the effects of the Danube floods. Within the site the most important human activities are agriculture, forestry and fishing. Ramsar Site no. 2116. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Oldflån-Flån

Site number: 1 126 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jämtland  
Area: 10 590 ha | Coordinates: 63°48'N 13°48'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oldflån-Flån is a large, unexploited area in north-western Sweden near the Norwegian border, holding very high ornithological values and a valuable mosaic of wetlands and forests, with wetland types representative of the EU Alpine biogeographic region including string fens, string mixed mires, topogenous fens, sloping fens and swamp forest. The Site has been extended by over 400 hectares, with the inclusion of large mire areas in the nature reserve in the east and realignment of the boundary in the south-west in line with the Swedish Mire Protection Plan. On the plateau, the Oldflån area is composed of a variety of mire complexes, including soligenous fens, marsh forests and a highly valued string mixed mire which is rich in cloudberry *Rubus chamaemorus*. In the valley, the Flån area contains small lakes and solid ground "islets", as well as a complex of topogenous soft ground fens, mixed mosaic mires, string flark fens with flark pools and marsh forests. The wet mires and the virgin forests support rich fauna, especially a large number of waders including nationally threatened species such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and the European herring gull *Larus argentatus*. Like many parts of northern Sweden, the area is used for reindeer husbandry by the local Sami population. The main factors affecting its ecological character relate to logging and wood harvesting.

## O Le Pupū Puē National Park

Site number: 2 313 | Country: Samoa | Administrative region: Tuamasaga and Atua Districts on Upolu Island  
Area: 5 019 ha | Coordinates: 13°59'S 171°44'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

O Le Pupū Puē National Park was established in 1978 as the first National Park in the South Pacific region. It extends from the highest points of Upolu Island down to the rugged Le Pupū lava cliffs on the island's south coast. The Site is home to two montane herbaceous marshes as well as parts of Mataloa River and Vaalega River, all good representatives of such ecosystems in Samoa. The Park includes large tracts of forest dominated by native plants, and is considered as the island's best-preserved remaining tropical forest. It includes parts of the Togitogiga water catchment, the main water source for four villages, and also boasts waterfalls that are a prime tourist attraction. The Site is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area as well as one of the eight terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas of Samoa. Its diverse habitats support four of the eight globally threatened bird species of Samoa including the critically endangered tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) and the endangered mao (*Gymnomys samoensis*), whose populations have severely declined in recent years. Very little is known about the freshwater biodiversity of Samoa; it is likely that the freshwater ecosystems in the Park support significant biodiversity. Several management actions are being undertaken to address the vigorous spread of invasive plants after the cyclones of 1990 and 1991 caused extensive damage to the lowland forests.

## Olmany Mires Zakaznik

Site number: 1 091 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Region/Stolin District  
Area: 94 219 ha | Coordinates: 51°48'N 27°21'E | Designation dates: 10-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Olmany Mires Zakaznik is one of Europe's largest natural complexes of bogs and transitional mires and is the largest natural swamp of its type in the Pripjat Polesie region. It borders Ukraine in the South and is located between the Lva and Stviga rivers. The Site is particularly important for nesting and migrating waterbirds, and supports more than 1% of the European population of the globally threatened greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga*. The mires play a crucial role in the hydrological regime of the Pripjat River; their sparse population and limited accessibility have contributed to the Site's functional integrity and the rich flora and fauna. The Site is in a military aviation training area; the military activities have reportedly not caused any degradation of natural communities but have helped to preserve the Site's natural characteristics by limiting other activities. Nonetheless, the Site has been used as the reference area for a study of the consequences of man-induced transformation of natural environments. People use the Site for gathering berries and mushrooms and for recreational fishing. The main threats to its ecological character relate to the burning of vegetation on mires, logging, the unlimited collection of cranberries and the unlimited hunting of wild animals. A site-specific management plan is in place and the implementation of priority management activities is planned for 2018-2020.

## Olt - Danube Confluence

Site number: 2 065 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Olt County, Teleorman County  
Area: 46 623 ha | Coordinates: 43°46'N 24°44'E | Designation dates: 13-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Olt-Danube Confluence (Confluenta Olt-Dunare). 13/06/12; Olt, Teleorman Counties; 46,623 ha; 43°45'43"N 024°43'53"E. Avian Protection Site, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI), IBA. Containing natural stretches of rivers Olt and Danube, alluvial meadows and forests, riparian mixed forests, sand islands, oxbow and temporary lakes, the site offers an ideal habitat for many species of waterbirds. Vulnerable Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* can be found as well as 33 bird species of European importance which rest, feed and breed in the site, such as Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*. It is also important for different species of fish, amphibians and mammals. The site is used for agriculture, forestry, fishing, and recreational activities as well as hydropower production. Not having been much transformed by human use, many of the site's ecological functions are still intact and play an important role in flood protection and sediment trapping. The construction of hydropower plants, solid waste disposal, and poaching are some of the factors threatening the site. A transboundary Ramsar Site designation with Bulgaria is planned. Ramsar Site number: 2065. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Olvassuo Mires

Site number: 1 524 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 27 073 ha | Coordinates: 65°07'N 27°12'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Olvassuo Mires. 02/02/04; Oulu; 27,073 ha; 65°07'N 27°15'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Finnish Mire and Esker Conservation Programmes, Strict Nature Reserve and Mire Protection Area. The site represents the mire vegetation region of southern aapa mires as a coherent and extensive area. Sedge fens with flarks and *Sphagnum papillosum* sedge fens are the most common mire types with nutrient levels varying from raised bogs to rich fens. Alluvial river shores are characterized by meadowy poor fens and spruce mires. Thirteen lakes with several ponds are situated beside the mires, and representative esker formations, wooded dunes and ancient shore banks give variety to the landscape. Most of the coniferous forests are old-growth and dominated by pine. The flora hosts some strongly threatened vascular plants such as Early Marsh-orchid, Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid and Marsh Saxifrage. About 25 bird species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area. Restoration of mire areas was carried out under the EU Life project in 1996-99 by filling ditches and cutting trees. In the Strict Nature Reserve visiting is prohibited except for local residents and for purposes of scientific research and education. Ramsar site no. 1524. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Onuma

Site number: 2 058 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido  
Area: 1 236 ha | Coordinates: 42°00'N 140°41'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Onuma. 03/07/12; Hokkaido; 1,236 ha; 41°59'16"N 140°40'28"E. Quasi National Park. The site includes the Onuma, Konuma, Junsainuma freshwater lakes at the centre of the Oshima Peninsula, connected by waterways called "sebatto" (literally: 'narrow doors'). The lake system formed as a result of the damming of rivers following the great eruption of Mt. Komagatake in 1640. More than 120 islands called "Nagareyama" (small lava cones) were formed within the ponds, creating a unique landscape. After the volcanic eruption, vegetation slowly colonized the site and the forest is now dominated by *Fagus crenata*, of which the site is the northernmost limit. The site is also known for the diversity of shellfish species from the boreal regions and from Honshu (mainland Japan). The wetland provides flood control and acts as a reservoir used for agriculture, power generation, ecotourism and fisheries. Around 2 million visitors visit the site annually. It is currently threatened by eutrophication caused by agriculture and stockbreeding effluent and by the invasion of the alien plant species *Rudbeckia laciniata*. Ramsar Site no. 2058. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Oostelijke Vechtplassen

Site number: 1 275 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Utrecht and Noord-Holland  
Area: 6 474,8 ha | Coordinates: 52°12'N 05°06'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of an extensive area of permanent freshwater shallow lakes, marshes and canals characterized by fenland, reedbeds and wet meadows surrounded by swamp forests. The boundaries of the Site have been adjusted to those of the Natura 2000 site, with some residential areas and the Trekragen recreational area excluded. The high turbidity of the water bodies prevents the development of submerged vegetation; however, water management measures have considerably improved the water quality. The Site is of international importance for providing refuge to large number of rare and endangered species of mushrooms, mosses, plants, molluscs, insects, fish, birds and mammals. It regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the individuals of the North-West and Central European populations of Northern shoveler and purple heron. Since 2010 otters have again been breeding on the Site. The main human activities include boating, commercial fisheries, water management, tourism and farming. The Site is threatened by drainage and nutrient pollution from the surrounding farmland, by reed harvesting activities, and by recreational navigation.

## Oosterschelde

Site number: 354 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland  
Area: 36 978 ha | Coordinates: 51°37'N 03°56'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oosterschelde. 03/04/87; Zeeland; 36,978 ha; 051°33'N 004°00'E. Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC), National Park. The former Oosterschelde en Markiezzaat Ramsar Site was in 2014 divided into two Ramsar Sites, the larger Oosterschelde and the smaller Markiezzaat, following Natura 2000 boundaries. This led to an increase in their combined area of 810 ha. Oosterschelde, a large area of intertidal waters with mudflats, is an important component of the West Palearctic Flyway, with international importance due to the wintering, staging and breeding of a large number of waterbirds there. The Site also supports threatened birds such as the Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), and is also an important spawning ground for many fish species including garpike (*Belone belone*), sole (*Solea solea*) and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*). In addition, European critically endangered aquatic mammals such as the harbour porpoise and harbour seal regularly use the Site. The marshland plays an important role in flood mitigation. Human activities are related to tourism and the fishing and shellfish industries. Potential threats to the ecological character of this wetland include the disturbance of birds by recreational activities and a reduction in the tidal volume and flow speed caused by the construction of dykes, dams and barriers. Ramsar site no. 354. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Oostvaardersplassen

Site number: 427 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Flevoland  
Area: 5 477 ha | Coordinates: 52°27'N 05°21'E | Designation dates: 02-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oostvaardersplassen. 02/06/89; Flevoland; 5,477 ha; 52°26'N 05°21'E. Natura 2000 (SPA). The Site is an extensive area of shallow lakes, pools, marshes, reedbeds, Salix woodland and grassland within seasonally flooded agricultural land on the shore of the Markermeer. The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned with the Natura 2000 site boundary, and dikes with roads have been excluded, resulting in a reduction of 28 ha in the area covered. The Site is of international importance for the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. It supports threatened species of breeding birds such as spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*) and little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). It also regularly supports more than 30,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the individuals of the north-west european population of gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*). Otters have also been observed. The Site plays an important role in flood regulation. Land use is dedicated to water management and tourism. There are a visitors' centre and observation hides. The main threat to the Site is bird disturbance from recreation activities. Ramsar Site no. 427. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Øra

Site number: 305 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Østfold  
Area: 1 676 ha | Coordinates: 59°10'N 10°59'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive estuarine area at the mouth of Norway's largest river, Glomma, characterized by shallow areas of brackish water with numerous small islands and skerries surrounded by sediments deposited by the river. The Site also includes meadows, grassland and forest areas. It is an important area for nesting, passage, moulting and wintering waterbirds, including swans and large numbers of ducks in autumn. In total, around 250 bird species have been recorded in the area, with 90 known to have bred. Øra supports nationally threatened bird and plant species and a high diversity of freshwater and sea fish, with 41 species recorded. The rare tentacled lagoon worm *Alkmaria romijni* has not been recorded elsewhere in Norway. The Site is used for livestock grazing and recreation; there is a birdwatching tower. Regulations prevent construction, hunting, drainage, and access to resting areas during sensitive periods.

## Orange River Mouth

Site number: 744 | Country: Namibia | Administrative region: Karas Region  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 28°40'S 16°30'E | Designation dates: 23-08-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Orange River Mouth. 23/08/95; 500 ha; 28°40'S 016°30'E. Transborder site with South Africa. The sole perennial river in the region, it forms a linear oasis (floodplain) of islands and sand bars through an arid region. The site provides habitat for a variety of endemic plants and during the summer is the sixth richest wetland in southern Africa, in terms of bird numbers supported. The abundance of three species exceed 1% of their respective global populations. Restricted recreation takes place within the park. In surrounding areas, activities include diamond mining, irrigation, and large-scale water abstraction. Ramsar site no. 744. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Orange River Mouth

Site number: 526 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Northern Cape  
Area: 2 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°36'S 16°28'E | Designation dates: 28-06-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Orange River Mouth. 28/06/91; Northern Cape; 2,000 ha; 28°40'S 016°30'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 26 September 1995. Transboundary area of extensive saltmarshes, freshwater lagoons and marshes, sand banks, and reedbeds shared by South Africa and Namibia. Important for resident birds and for staging locally migrant waterbirds. The upper Orange River serves as a domestic water source and is experiencing increasing demand. This could severely restrict the amount of water reaching the site. Following the collapse of the saltmarsh component of the estuary, the site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1995. The rapid degradation was the result of adjacent diamond mining activities and flow regulation of the Orange River as a result of dam construction. Ramsar site no. 526. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Orava River and its Tributaries

Site number: 929 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Zilina  
Area: 865 ha | Coordinates: 49°15'N 19°22'E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Orava River and its Tributaries. 17/02/98; Zilina; 865 ha; 48°14'N 019°28'E. The site represents the major part of the system of submontane streams within the catchment of the Orava River. The riparian vegetation belt is nearly continuous and mostly of edge character, but there are several patches of submontane or montane floodplain forest and well-developed shrub and herb layers. There are over 50 species of vulnerable, rare or endangered vertebrate and invertebrate species. Amongst them are mammals *Lutra lutra*, *Sicista betulina*, birds *Ardea purpurea*, *Milvus milvus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, and invertebrates, including *Oligoneuriella rhenana* and *Ephemerella notata*. The stream system contains more than 35% of the entire fish fauna in Slovakia. The area is mainly used for recreation and, on a small scale, for industrial water consumption and gravel extraction. Ramsar site no. 929. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Ord River Floodplain

Site number: 477 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 140 766 ha | Coordinates: 15°31'S 128°20'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive system of river, seasonal creek, tidal mudflat and floodplain wetlands, and is the best example in the Tanami-Timor Sea Coast bioregion of wetlands associated with a tropical river system's floodplain and estuary. The area known as the False Mouths of the Ord is the most extensive mudflat and tidal waterway complex in Western Australia, while the wetland grass/herblands at Parry Lagoons are the most extensive vegetation community of this type in the State. 15 of the 19 species of mangrove found in Western Australia have been recorded within the Site. It is a nursery, feeding and breeding ground for a variety of migratory birds and local waterbirds, fish, crabs, prawns and crocodiles. The Site regularly supports 1% of the population of plumed whistling duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*) and little curlew (*Numenius minutus*); and it supports threatened species including the critically endangered freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*) and green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*), and the endangered Australian painted snipe (*Rostratula australis*); it is also one of only two known habitats in Western Australia of the critically endangered Northern river shark (*Glyphis garricki*). A flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) rookery is located at Cape Domett, immediately north of the Ramsar Site.

## Ørland Wetland System

Site number: 310 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Sør-Trøndelag  
Area: 3 168 ha | Coordinates: 63°41'N 09°29'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of four separate areas – Grandefjæra, Hovsfjæra, Innstrandfjæra and Kråkvågsvaet – which form part of a large system of shallow marine waters, intertidal zones and mudflats. The intertidal area features salt-tolerant vegetation, with some nationally endangered species such as the Northern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella* present. Due to its location on the flyway for birds migrating along the Norwegian coast to and from their breeding locations in Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland and Siberia, the Site is the most important wetland system in central Norway for resting and feeding migratory waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. The nationally threatened harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* also regularly visits. Human activities have included drainage for agricultural purposes, but strict regulations now prevent construction, hunting and drainage. The Site is used for fishing, birdwatching, sheep grazing and small-scale seaweed cutting, and also has some value in shoreline stabilization. Visitor facilities include a wetland information centre in Brekstad, as well as observation towers and hides.

## Ormara Turtle Beaches

Site number: 1 070 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Balochistan Province  
Area: 2 400 ha | Coordinates: 25°13'N 64°28'E | Designation dates: 10-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ormara Turtle Beaches. 10/05/01. Balochistan. 2,400 ha. 25°13'N 064°28'E. A sandy beach extending about 10 km along the shores of the Arabian Sea. The site supports a considerable number of marine turtles, particularly the endangered Olive Ridley and Green turtles and possibly the Hawksbill turtle as well. Because the area falls in the subduction zone of the Indian Ocean tectonic plate moving northward, clusters of mud volcanoes have developed along the shore, where gas-charged water escapes to the surface. The vegetation is composed of salt-tolerant and arid area plants which grow in very harsh, freshwater-scarce conditions. Migratory waterbirds visit the site but not in significant numbers. Subsistence and commercial fishing is the primary economic, social, and cultural activity of the local communities, and drying of fish is an important source of employment. Accumulations of plastic debris along the coast cause significant problems, as does the capture of turtles for export. Ramsar site no. 1070. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Ørsted Dal, Pingel Dal and Enhjørningen Dal

Site number: 2 021 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Greenland  
Area: 218 000 ha | Coordinates: 71°40'N 23°24'W | Designation dates: 08-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ørsted Dal, Pingel Dal and Enhjørningen Dal.08/06/11; Scoresbysund; 218,000 ha; 71°40'N 023°24'W. Three wide valleys with extensive freshwater wetlands, including large rivers and extensive marshes, in an otherwise alpine area (from sea level up to 1,300m) along the eastern coast of Greenland, some 110km north of the settlement of Ittoqqortoormiit (pop. 450). One of the valleys, Ørsted/Colorado Dal, has a number of lakes and ponds as well and becomes snowfree earlier than others in the region, thus providing breeding habitat for 18-20 species of shorebirds and waterbirds. The area is especially significant for its high numbers of Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis* and Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*, but the higher ground is also an important site for the Muskox *Ovibos moschatus*. The Lemming *Dicrostonyx collaris* and Arctic Fox *Alopex lagopus* are commonly found, and the vulnerable mammals the Arctic Wolf *Canis lupus* and Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus* are present in smaller numbers. In addition, there are some 150 species of vascular plants and an endemic species, *Saxifraga nathorstii*, as well as an endemic variety of *Potentilla stipularis* var. *groenlandica*. In most of the site all activities related to mineral exploration are regulated, and designation as a national protected area, prohibiting mineral exploitation, is under consideration. Ramsar site no. 2021. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Ortazzo e Ortazzino

Site number: 227 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 440 ha | Coordinates: 44°21'N 12°19'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ortazzo e Ortazzino. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 440 ha; 44°20'N 012°19'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary, State Natural Reserve. A large, partly flooded depression, once used for rice cultivation, consisting of numerous large, well-vegetated, brackish pools lying behind a system of coastal dunes. Water levels are artificially regulated. The area supports salt-resistant vegetation, dune communities, woods, and Mediterranean scrub. The variety of habitats in the area gives rise to a rich avifauna which includes large numbers of breeding and staging waterbirds. Human activities include intensive tourism and fishing. Ramsar site no. 227. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Oset-Rynningeviken

Site number: 2 265 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Örebro County  
Area: 646 ha | Coordinates: 59°17'N 15°16'E | Designation dates: 29-01-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oset-Rynningeviken, located where the river Svartån flows into Lake Hjälmaren, is a mosaic of shallow open waters, ponds, reedbeds, tree- and herb-dominated marshes, wet and dry meadows, pastures, and deciduous and conifer forests. The Site is an important stopover for migrating birds and a breeding area for around 100 species including the globally threatened common pochard *Aythya ferina*. The Site regularly supports over 20,000 waterbirds, with populations also visiting the nearby Kvismaren Ramsar Site (Site no. 24) and Lake Tysslingen. The nutrient-rich waters offer crucial spawning grounds, nursery and foraging areas for fish species such as the asp *Aspius aspius* and the zander *Sander lucioperca* (which is commercially fished in the Lake). River Svartån is also a migration path for the critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla*. The wetland plays an important role in water purification and forms a buffer between the city of Örebro and Lake Hjälmaren. After a long period of restoration measures, Oset-Rynningeviken is now one of the city's most important leisure areas, with around 500,000 visits annually. A network of cycling and walking paths, picnic tables, information boards and shelters are provided. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to pollution from intensive agricultural production in the surrounding areas leading to algae problems in Lake Hjälmaren during warm periods. A management plan for the nature reserve and a conservation plan for the Natura 2000 Site are implemented on the Ramsar Site.

## Östen

Site number: 433 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västra Götaland  
Area: 1 486 ha | Coordinates: 58°34'N 13°55'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Östen is a shallow, eutrophic freshwater lake supporting a rich submerged flora and fringed by reedbeds giving way to grassland. The lake level is subject to considerable natural fluctuations with extensive spring flooding, which helps to free the lake from ice early in the year and creates a relatively large area of wet meadows. Östen has been extended by nearly 50%, to fit the boundaries of protected areas and to include dry, mostly arable land important for staging birds. The Site is an important staging area for birds, notably the globally threatened lesser white fronted goose *Anser erythropus*, the whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* and the bean goose *Anser fabalis* which occur in internationally significant numbers. About half of the wet meadows are grazed by cattle, and provide important breeding grounds for ducks and waders. In addition to cattle grazing, human activities include recreational fishing and tourism. The area is also an important archaeological site, with grave fields from the Stone Age situated in Askeberga. Reed vegetation such as *phragmites* and *scirpus* species has decreased during recent years, possibly as a result of the increasing number of grazing geese and in particular the greylag goose *Anser anser*. A project was carried out during 2014 and 2015 to support the management of the wet meadows around Lake Östen. An association runs an information centre in Logården which hosts a small exhibition and cafeteria, and arranges guided tours around the lake.

## Ostseeboddegäwasser Westrügen-Hiddensee-Zingst

Site number: 170 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Area: 25 800 ha | Coordinates: 54°30'N 12°45'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ostseeboddegewässer Westrügen-Hiddensee-Zingst. 31/07/78; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; 25,800 ha; 54°30'N 012°45'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park, Nature Reserve. A complex of islands, peninsulas, sand-banks, peat swamps, saline pasture and lagoons with shorelines varying from high cliffs to sandy beaches. The offshore waters support extensive mussel beds. The site is an important staging area for waders, a wintering area for Nordic geese and ducks and supports four species of breeding birds. Various rare coastal invertebrates and a halophytic flora are present. Observation hides and interpretive material are available. Human activities include water sports and agriculture. Ramsar site no. 170. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Ostufer Müritz

Site number: 172 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Area: 4 830 ha | Coordinates: 53°27'N 12°49'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ostufer Müritz. 31/07/78; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; 4,830 ha; 53°27'N 012°49'E. National Park, Landscape Protection Area, Nature Reserve. A complex of lakes, some artificially regulated; marshes, reedbeds, peatland, pasture, woods, thickets and forest. Much of the area is intensive pastureland. The site is an important breeding area for various waterbirds and supports a rich marsh flora and a diverse invertebrate fauna. Human activities include peat extraction and drainage. Observation hides and interpretive materials are available. Ramsar site no. 172. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Osveiski

Site number: 1 217 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Vitebsk Oblast, Verchnedvinsk district  
Area: 30 567,4 ha | Coordinates: 56°04'N 28°09'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Osveiski is a large complex of lakes, forests, and transition and bog mires on the border with Latvia and the Russian Federation. The boundaries of the Site were realigned in 2016 with those of the Landscape Reserve, leading to an increase of nearly 8,000 hectares. The core of the site is Lake Osveiskoe, the biggest eutrophic lake in Belarus, which is rapidly overgrowing with aquatic vegetation but still plays an important role in the hydrological and climatic regime of northern Belarus. The Site regularly hosts more than 10,000 migrating waterbirds and provides important breeding grounds for the willow grouse *Lagopus lagopus*, the Eurasian bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*. It regularly supports over 1% of the biogeographic population of the common crane *Grus grus* and the bean goose *Anser fabalis rossicus*. Human uses include logging, cattle grazing, the collection of berries, mushrooms and medicinal plants, fishing, and hunting. Four tourist routes are located within the Site. The main threats relate to drainage, dams and water management, as well as fishing and the harvesting of aquatic resources. After degradation of the lake's ecosystem caused the number of migrating waterbirds to fall, a management plan and a restoration plan were put in place. Work to restore the hydrological regime of mires and repeated waterlogging of degraded peatlands have stabilized the water levels of the mires and the lake.

## Otoch Ma'ax Yetel Kooh

Site number: 1 763 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 5 367,4 ha | Coordinates: 20°38'N 87°37'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Otoch Ma'ax Yetel Kooh. 02/02/08; Yucatán; 5,367 ha; 20°38'N 087°37'W. Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna. Complex of lagoons, wide flooding depressions, and cenotes (a type of sinkholes containing groundwater), functioning for water retention and recharge of groundwater. The site is important for climate regulation at a regional level and supports a rich composition of flora and fauna species. It is known as one of the five potential focal points of action for the conservation of primates of the Yucatan Peninsula, in particular the black-handed spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*). This complex of wetlands shelters a number of endangered species, including the King Vulture (*Sarcorampus papa*), the Banded Anteater (*Tamandua mexicana*), the Black-handed spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), black howler monkey (*Alouatta pigra*), the Margay (*Leopardus wiedii*), and the Tayra (*Eira Barbara*). The most common land uses in the site include coal production, apiculture, subsistence hunting, ecotourism, and corn crops. The National Commission of Protected Natural Areas is in charge of the administration of this site. Ramsar site no. 1763. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Ottenby

Site number: 17 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Kalmar  
Area: 1 856 ha | Coordinates: 56°13'N 16°25'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an island peninsula which comprises wet grasslands, sand and shingle beaches, sandbanks and small bays. It includes extensive pastures, which have probably been used for haymaking since the Iron Age, among them the largest remaining unfertilized hay meadow in Sweden. The grasslands cover around 340 hectares, forming one of the largest coherent coastal grasslands in Sweden. The area is important for large numbers of migrating and breeding birds. The peninsula is surrounded by shallow brackish water that provides important feeding resources for waders and waterfowl, while the abundant seaweed is of crucial importance for fish. The sandbanks are also important for fish and bivalves. The Site was extended in 2017 to match the boundaries of the existing nature reserve and Natura 2000 site. Quite large water areas and shore meadows were added and small areas of open water and non-wetland habitats were excluded. The Site is a popular visitor destination, and there is an ornithological station, birdwatching towers and several walking trails.

## Oudegaasterbrekken, Fluessen en omgeving

Site number: 1 243 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Friesland  
Area: 3 053,9 ha | Coordinates: 52°57'N 05°33'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Sites Oudegaasterbrekken en omgeving (Site number 1276) and Fluessen / Vogelhoeck / Morra (Site number 1243) have been combined in one Ramsar Site following Natura 2000 boundaries. This combination has resulted in an increase of 170 ha. The Site is a complex of freshwater lakes, surrounded by seasonally flooded agricultural land, reed beds, pastures and peat polders located in the River Rhine catchment area, south-west of the city of Sneek. The Site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals of the population of barnacle goose, as well as more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The Site is also a very important feeding and resting area for European threatened species such as spotted crane, smew and ruff. The lakes act as water storage reservoirs providing water for irrigation during summer. The polders are intensively used for agriculture. Other human activities include commercial fisheries, recreation and boating, water management, conservation and research. Main threats to the ecological character of the Site are nutrient pollution and pressures from tourism. A management plan for the site is currently under preparation.

## Oued Dekouk

Site number: 2 011 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Tataouine  
Area: 5 750 ha | Coordinates: 32°21'N 10°37'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oued Dekouk. 02/02/12; Tataouine; 5,750 hectares; 32°09'N 010°32'E. Réserve Naturelle. A rare permanent freshwater source in the Mediterranean biome favoring the presence of animal and plant species and sheltering the IUCN red-listed vulnerable Barbary Sheep *Ammotragus lervia*. The site hosts several other species of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals at critical stages of their life cycles including reproduction; juvenile and lactation in mammals. The site is managed as a nature reserve by the state; it has important potential for ecotourism with its remarkable landscapes (wadis, scenic cliffs, and large dunes) and extensive, typical flora and fauna. Potential threats to the wetland include pollution (polluting industries located at close proximities) and the negative impacts of human activities on the site. Ramsar Site no. 2011. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Oulanka National Park

Site number: 1 525 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu and Lapland  
Area: 29 390 ha | Coordinates: 66°24'N 29°23'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oulanka National Park. 02/02/04; Oulu, Lapland; 29,390 ha; 66°27'N 029°20'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire and Esker Conservation Programmes. Representative of the mire vegetation region of main aapa mires of sloping type, which is characterized by deep canyons formed by River Oulankajoki with its tributaries, mires and gently-featured coniferous and herb-rich forests. The Park is rich in small lakes and ponds, extensive sandy areas and rich alluvial meadows. Because of calcareous soil the flora includes more than 23 national threatened and rare vascular plant species such as *Crepis tectorum* subsp. *nigrescens* or Arctic Campion species *Silene furcata* subsp. *angustiflora*. Altogether more than 40,000 pairs of about 100 bird species breed in the Park, which also supports wolf, wolverine, brown bear, lynx and otter populations. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the area and some of the alluvial meadows of rivers were mowed to produce food for wintering. Significant values also include tourism and outdoor recreation with about 150,000 visitors per year. Fish farming operations have changed the abundance ratios of the original fish fauna. Ramsar site no. 1525. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Oum Lâagareb

Site number: 1 959 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: El Tarf  
Area: 729 ha | Coordinates: 36°49'N 08°12'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest remaining floodplain peatlands in the region, and supports plant communities which are particularly rare in Algeria, notably the narrow-leaved ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) and common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The wetland's moderate acidity, richness of organic matter and water flows support a rich vegetation; about one third of the 120 plant species found are rare. The Site also hosts cattle egret, little egret, squacco heron and various forest passerines. It is an important area for research in ornithology, herpetology and botany. The Site is threatened by excessive water extraction for irrigation by the local community.

## Ouse Washes

Site number: 77 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 469 ha | Coordinates: 52°28'N 00°12'E | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ouse Washes. 05/01/76; England; 2,469 ha; 52°29'N 000°12'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. Added to the Montreux Record, 31/10/00. A long, narrow area of seasonally flooded grassland providing flood storage, set between two channelized rivers. Wintering waterbirds regularly exceed 20,000 individuals, including nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering swans and various duck species. The site is of national importance for breeding ducks and waders. Human activities include traditional livestock grazing and hay production. Declining numbers of breeding waterfowl, changes in vegetation communities, and declining water quality, apparently caused by an increase in summer flooding, among other things, led the government to add Ouse Washes to the Montreux Record in October 2000. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 2001. Ramsar site no. 77. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Outer Ards

Site number: 2 279 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: County Down, Northern Ireland  
Area: 1 154 ha | Coordinates: 54°32'N 05°31'W | Designation dates: 06-04-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which contains about 8% of the Northern Irish coastline and has a very high proportion of offshore reefs and islands, mainly encompasses intertidal areas with some other notable habitats. It includes sand- and mud-dominated shores, cobble and boulder beaches together with rocky shores. Adjoining habitats include areas of dune and maritime grassland, maritime heath and cliff ledge vegetation, saltmarsh, tidal and non-tidal fens and wet flushes. Some areas still display the natural transition from maritime to terrestrial vegetation and host a number of notable communities. At least 17 rare or local plant species have been recorded across the range of habitats within the area. The Outer Ards is especially important for the breeding colony of Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, together with the wintering populations of light-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Nationally important populations of 11 other species of bird have also been recorded within the Site.

## Øvre Forra

Site number: 1 194 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag  
Area: 10 254 ha | Coordinates: 63°36'N 11°36'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a huge intact peat mire system at high elevation. It is partly forested (notably with Norway spruce *Picea abies*), and interspersed with several smaller lakes and a meandering river. The landscape is undulating and there are also mires on sloping terrain due to the high precipitation, amid some drier areas and peaks. The river is protected against hydropower developments. The Site supports 130 different bird species, of which 70 are regular breeders. More than 331 species of vascular plants and 370 species of fungi have been found in the area, some of them nationally threatened. The globally endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* and the European otter *Lutra lutra* are present. The area is valuable in terms of flood control and is used for grazing, hunting, fishing, recreational activities and berry picking. Over 1,000 years ago, the Site was used to produce steel from bog iron, and there are still several "bloomeries" (simple furnaces) across the Site. The use of charcoal as fuel and the related deforestation probably resulted in waterlogging, contributing to the formation of the many mires in the area today.

## Övre Sulån

Site number: 1 130 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västernorrland county  
Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 62°36'N 16°50'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of an oligotrophic lake (Sulsjön) and the upper part of a narrow, winding stream (Sulån). Peatlands, marshes and fresh water forests are also present; they cover smaller areas and are scattered, as is typical in this part of Sweden. The forests surrounding the upper parts of the river are about 100 years old. They have remained unaffected by modern forestry and are thought to be the result of natural growth after small-scale logging. The River Sulån is one of the most valuable sites in Sweden for the endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*: the population is very dense and large, with a large proportion of mussels being smaller than 50 mm, indicating that the population is viable. The mussels depend on the natural population of trout *Salmo trutta* in the lake and the river (which host the mussel larvae) to maintain a viable population. The Site has been known previously as Sulsjön-Sulån and its boundaries have changed to include the important wetland habitats and to exclude areas of no international conservation value.

## Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site

Site number: 393 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Ashanti Region  
Area: 7 260 ha | Coordinates: 06°44'N 01°41'W | Designation dates: 22-02-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site is a unique nature reserve comprising a bird sanctuary and a lake formed after the construction of a dam across the Owabi River to supply potable water to the hundreds of thousands of people living in the Kumasi metropolis. It is centred on the reservoir and includes an important plantation of exotic species – mostly *Senna siamea* – and riverine forests and aquatic plants. The wetland serves as a habitat and a food base for a variety of wildlife including monkeys, bushbuck, antelopes, black duikers and hundreds of indigenous and migratory birds including the hornbill, pygmy goose, purple heron, jacanas and herons. The important diversity of butterflies in the Site also makes it significant for conservation. A water treatment plant is on-site to train water company technicians. The Site has a significant appeal for visitors but is also under severe pressure from growing human settlements and intensive farming.

## Owenboy

Site number: 371 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Mayo  
Area: 397 ha | Coordinates: 54°06'N 09°28'W | Designation dates: 01-06-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Owenboy. 01/06/87; Mayo; 397 ha; 54°06'N 09°28'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. Part of an extensive area of undulating lowland blanket bog consisting of domes, pool complexes, flushes, spring-fed fens, swallowholes and subterranean and surface streams. Vegetation includes Sphagnum species and many species of sedges and mosses. The wetter domes and flushes are a feeding site for the wintering globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Ramsar site no. 371.

## Owenduff catchment

Site number: 336 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Mayo  
Area: 1 382 ha | Coordinates: 54°03'N 09°40'W | Designation dates: 31-07-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Owenduff catchment. 31/07/86; Mayo; 1,382 ha; 54°03'N 09°40'W. Part of the most extensive remaining blanket bog complex in Ireland, the site includes lowland and mountain blanket bog, wet heath and cliffs in the surrounding lowlands. There are several mountain valley lakes and rock basin lakes with many pool complexes. Unimproved grassland and numerous wetland vegetation types occur along watercourses. The site supports a small wintering flock of the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and a nesting population of *Pluvialis apricaria*. Ramsar site no. 336.

## Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike

Site number: 1 844 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Yamagata Prefecture  
Area: 39 ha | Coordinates: 38°44'N 139°45'E | Designation dates: 30-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike. 30/10/08; Yamagata; 39 ha; 38°45'N 139°45'E. Habitat /Species Management Area, National Wildlife Protection Area. A freshwater lake as well as irrigation reservoir for the past 400 years, which supplies water to the agricultural fields. The site is important for vulnerable species under the IUCN Red List like Steller's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*) and Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*), and it supports Anatidae species, exceeding 20,000 individuals and 1% threshold of species of mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*). It also supports 18 fish species. Kami-ike is used for cultivating lotus commercially. A management plan is anticipated to enter into force in October 2008. Ramsar site no. 1844. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Oze

Site number: 1 554 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Fukushima, Niigata, Gunma Prefecture  
Area: 8 711 ha | Coordinates: 36°56'N 139°14'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Oze. 08/11/05; Fukushima, Gunma, Niigata; 8,711 ha; 36°56'N 139°14'E. National Park. Oze consists of Ozegahara moor, Ozenuma Lake and surrounding mountains, forests and small moors. Ozegahara is the largest high moors in Japan, 760 ha spreading across Niigata, Gunma and Fukushima, a flat basin (at 1400m asl.) with high water retention capacity. The site possesses rich wetland biodiversity including endangered aquatic *Chara globularis* var *globularis*, dragonflies and coleopterous, and many migratory birds. The site includes around 6,277 ha of private lands area (72% of the total designated area) now brought under conservation measures. To appreciate one of Japan's most beautiful landscapes, ecotourism has been developed in Ozegahara and Oze-numa with nature trails, boardwalks, visitor's center, and local restoration programmes and about 3-6 million visits annually. Ramsar site no. 1554. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Pacsmag Fishponds Nature Conservation Area

Site number: 904 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Tolna  
Area: 439,4 ha | Coordinates: 46°37'N 18°22'E | Designation dates: 30-04-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated in the valley of the Koppány stream, the Site consists of fishponds established by damming the watercourse. The large waterbodies, marshlands, meadows and reedbeds support thousands of migrating waterbirds and are considered one of the most significant waterfowl resting and feeding Sites in western Hungary. The area provides excellent nesting habitat for several protected and endangered bird species such as black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and Eurasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), as well as breeding areas for the strictly protected otter (*Lutra lutra*). The fishponds are important for trapping sediment, regulating water quality and recharging groundwater. Human activities include intensive fishing, cattle grazing, mowing and farming. There is a permanent bird ringing station for research on migratory species at the Site. The increasing population of mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) has negatively affected other species.

## Paget Marsh

Site number: 990 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bermuda Island  
Area: 11 ha | Coordinates: 32°16'N 64°46'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paget Marsh. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 11 ha; 32°16'N 064°46'W. The largest surviving remnant of Bermuda's pre-colonial swamp forest inclusive of mangrove swamp (with *Rhizophora mangle*) and peat marsh forest (*Juniperus bermudana* and *Sabal bermudana*). The area is of limited importance for waterfowl, however *Butoroides virescens* and *Gallinula chloropus* occur on passage and in winter. Ramsar site no. 990. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Pagham Harbour

Site number: 396 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 637 ha | Coordinates: 50°46'N 00°46'E | Designation dates: 30-03-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pagham Harbour. 30/03/88; England; 637 ha; 50°46'N 000°46'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI, Local Nature Reserve. An estuarine harbour with shingle beaches, intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh, giving way to brackish marsh supporting reedbeds and damp pasture. The site includes a nationally important vegetation community and small amounts of ancient woodland. Nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering or breeding waterbirds or waders use the site. Ramsar site no. 396. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Päivävuoma

Site number: 2 176 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 2 759 ha | Coordinates: 66°39'N 21°12'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Päivävuoma consists of two well-developed large mixed mires with patterns of strings (ridges) and large wet flarks (depressions) between them. The Site is characterized by forested and non-forested peatlands, shrub-dominated wetlands, permanent freshwater lakes, marshes, pools, rivers and streams. The Site supports a rich birdlife which is important for maintaining the biological diversity of the European Boreal region. A bird census performed by the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten observed 55 species, some of them nationally red-listed or included in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Siberian tit *Poecile cinctus* and rustic bunting *Emberiza rustica*. The peatlands within the Site are important for carbon storage and sequestration. The mires of Päivävuoma are of great cultural and historical value due to the tradition of mowing and haymaking which is still practised on a small area. Reindeer still graze on the wetlands and old fences and campfire sites bear witness of the presence of the Saami people and the importance of the area for reindeer husbandry in the past. Forestry activities and water drainage in the adjacent areas could be potential threats to the Site's ecological character.

## Palisadoes - Port Royal

Site number: 1 454 | Country: Jamaica | Administrative region: Kingston  
Area: 7 523 ha | Coordinates: 17°55'N 76°49'W | Designation dates: 22-04-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palisadoes - Port Royal. 22/04/05; Kingston; 7,523 ha; 17°55'N 076°49'W. Protected area. Located on the southeastern coast just offshore from the capital Kingston, the site contains cays, shoals, mangrove lagoons, mangrove islands, coral reefs, seagrass beds and shallow water, thus hosting a variety of underrepresented wetland types. Endangered and vulnerable species occurring in the area include American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). To date 26 endemic new species have been discovered in the area. Historic and cultural values are very high, as the site includes forts on the dunes and part of the city of Port Royal, said to have been the largest city in the Americas, which sank in an earthquake in 1692 and is now a unique archaeological treasure. A management plan is in place, and the University of the West Indies operates research facilities. Ramsar site no. 1454. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Palmar de las Islas y las Salinas de San José

Site number: 1 088 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Santa Cruz  
Area: 856 754 ha | Coordinates: 19°15'S 61°00'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palmar de las Islas y las Salinas de San José. 17/09/01; Santa Cruz; 856,754 ha; 19°15'S 061°00'W. Includes National Park and Integrated Management Natural Area. A very large area of practically pristine saline and non-saline palm forests (*Copernicia alba*) and a system of small lagoons and channels supplying water to considerable numbers of animal species. As these are the only wetlands in a large area of dry forest, they provide essential support for many species during critical stages in their life cycles, as in the reproduction of several amphibian and reptile species. The water bodies also have great seasonal importance for larger mammals, such as peccary and tapir, which congregate around them during the dry season. The area has traditionally been used almost exclusively by the Ayoréode people, who practice a nomadic system of resource exploitation, with hunting, gathering, and subsistence agriculture. Parts of the site lie within a national park and an integrated management natural area of the Gran Chaco. Ramsar site no. 1088. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Palmar Yatay

Site number: 1 969 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Entre Ríos  
Area: 21 450 ha | Coordinates: 31°52'S 58°19'W | Designation dates: 06-05-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palmar Yatay. 05/06/11. Entre Ríos; 21,450 ha; 31°52'S 58°19'W. This Ramsar Site is mainly composed of permanent and seasonal rivers, streams and creeks, permanent and seasonal freshwater marshes and pools and their surrounding lands. Located in the border area between the Pampa and Espinal ecoregions, this site contains characteristic communities and habitats of both areas. Palmar Yatay provides support to animal species such as Falco Peregrinus (Appendix I of CITES), as well as species of 4 endemic fish families and 10 endemic plant species. It also sustains a significant proportion of native fish species like Dorado (*Salminus brasiliensis*) and wolf fish (*Hoplias malabaricus*). The site includes the National Park El Palmar, which protects a large area of Yatay Palm trees (*Syagrus yatai*) and the Private Reserve La Aurora del Palmar. Both areas promote education, research and tourism activities. Main adverse factors to the wetland include invasive plant and animal species, the advancement of the agricultural frontier as well as direct threats to wildlife due to poaching and habitat loss. The area has a preliminary Management Plan for the National Park and a management committee with local representatives is currently being created. Ramsar Site no. 1969. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Palm Islands Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 079 | Country: Lebanon | Administrative region: Tripoli  
Area: 415 ha | Coordinates: 34°30'N 35°46'E | Designation dates: 03-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palm Islands Nature Reserve. 03/08/01; Tripoli; 415 ha; 34°30'N 035°46'E. Nature Reserve. The Reserve consists of a group of three flat rocky islands of eroded limestone, with associated outcrops and surrounding waters, rising from 1 to 12 meters above the sea about 5.5km northwest of Tripoli. The islands' beaches support the endangered Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* during nesting and breeding, and the critically endangered Green turtle *Chelonia mydas* occurs infrequently but regularly in surrounding seas. The endangered Mediterranean Monk Seal *Monachus monachus* was seen regularly until recent years but only very rarely since. The many caves and sheltered coastal rocks provide an important spawning ground for fish, and some 42 species of migratory birds (include 6 IUCN Red List species) feed and rest on the islands before moving on to the Lebanese mainland for breeding. During winter, freshwater is found in inland pools; a single well, built at the time of the Crusades and associated with archaeological remains of a Crusader church from AD 1224, yields potable water but is overextracted, increasing groundwater salinity. Alteration of the vegetation cover by a proliferation of rabbits (14 of which were introduced "by a misguided environmentalist in 1984") is seen as a threat to the biodiversity. Declared a Nature Reserve in 1992, visitors have been permitted for guided tours and swimming between July and September since 1998. Ramsar site no. 1079. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 1 971 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Pacific Region  
Area: 204 127,2 ha | Coordinates: 05°52'N 162°06'W | Designation dates: 01-04-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. 1/04/11; 204,127 ha; 05°52'N 162°06'W. Coral reefs, permanent shallow marine waters, and intertidal forested wetlands of the atoll and submerged lands and associated waters out to 12 nautical miles from it, in the equatorial Pacific 960 miles south of Honolulu. A National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) since 2001, the site supports a variety of species with different conservation status under the National Endangered Species Act and IUCN Red List, such as the Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). It is also an important feeding and nesting ground for seabirds like the Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*), with the third largest colony in the world, and it sustains approximately 5% of the total population of the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*). As a National Wildlife Refuge, the site is closed to public use without a permit issued by the manager, but scientific research and CEPA activities are coordinated between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy along with the Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium. Threats include the presence of invasive species like the scale (*Pulvinaria urbicola*), which is responsible for the recent decline in the *Pisonia grandis* forest coverage. A conservation plan is under development and expected to be completed in 2012. Ramsar Site no. 1971. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Palo Verde

Site number: 540 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Guanacaste  
Area: 24 519 ha | Coordinates: 10°20'N 85°20'W | Designation dates: 27-12-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palo Verde. 27/12/91; Guanacaste; 24,519 ha; 10°20'N 085°20'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. National Park. Extensive estuarine complex of permanent, shallow, freshwater lagoons, associated marshes and seasonally flooded woodland and mangroves of the lower Tempisque River. An extremely important area for various species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds, Nearctic-breeding species, the stork Jabiru mycteria and in the dry season up to 20,000 *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Other fauna include iguana and two species of crocodiles. Human activities in the surrounding area include rice and sugar-cane cultivation. Added to the Montreux Record in 1993 because of a major fire. Subject of ain 1998. Boundaries extended in September 2002. Ramsar site no. 540. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Palude Brabbia

Site number: 296 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 459 ha | Coordinates: 45°47'N 08°43'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude Brabbia. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 459 ha; 45°44'N 008°40'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. The site is situated in a valley of glacial origins and includes areas of marsh, open water, and wet meadows dissected by channels. It is fed by the Brabbia canal and surrounded by heavily built-up hills. The marsh vegetation consists of various species of aquatic plants that include a number of rare species. The area is important for diverse species of breeding wetland birds. Birdwatching and conservation education facilities are available. The wetland depends on an elaborate system of water management. Ramsar site no. 296. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Palude del Brusà - Le Vallette

Site number: 1 929 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto  
Area: 171 ha | Coordinates: 45°10'N 11°13'E | Designation dates: 27-09-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude del Brusà Le Vallette. 27/09/10. Veneto Region, Verona, Cerea. 171 ha; 45°10'N 11°13'E. Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Strict Nature Reserve. Located in the municipality of Cerea in the southern part of the Verona Province and one of the largest wetlands remaining after drainage and reclamation of most of the surrounding area. The Menago River runs for 42 km from north to south through the region and flows into the Tartaro-Canal Bianco River. This site is an alluvial area originating from the accumulation of sediments transported by Quaternary glaciers and rivers that have filled the existing lagoon over the years. The habitat mainly consists of freshwater marshes and pools and constitutes one of the best preserved examples of its kind in the Padano-Veneta plain. The site supports three species of amphibians and reptiles named in the EU Habitat Directive, the *Triturus carnifex*, *Rana latastei* and *Emys orbicularis*. Moreover, the site has an important role as a resting, breeding and wintering area for many rare species of the Pianura Padana wetland system and several birds are mentioned in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, including *Aythya nyroca*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ardea purpurea* and *Circus aeruginosus*. Approximately 150 species of birds are seen in the site throughout the year. Human activities in the wetland include harvesting of marsh plants (reeds and sedges), although this activity is gradually declining, and tourist activities which are slowly developing. Ramsar Site no. 1929. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

### Palude della Diaccia Botrona

Site number: 522 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana  
Area: 2 500 ha | Coordinates: 42°46'N 10°55'E | Designation dates: 22-05-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude della Diaccia Botrona. 22/05/91; Toscana; 2,500 ha; 42°48'N 10°57'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 31 December 1993, removed from the Record, 21 March 2000. Communal Protected Area, Natural Reserve. A brackish coastal marsh connected with the sea by canals from the Bruna River but separated from the sea by a dune system. The vegetation is dominated by *Juncus* spp. and *Salicornia* spp., and includes Mediterranean scrub and woodland. The area is important for feeding, nesting and staging up to 300 species of migratory waterbirds. A small observatory is maintained. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to serious degradation resulting from intensive fish-farming, salinization, and poor water circulation. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1998. Ramsar site no. 522. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Palude di Bolgheri

Site number: 123 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana  
Area: 518 ha | Coordinates: 43°13'N 10°33'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude di Bolgheri. 14/12/76; Toscana; 518 ha; 43°13'N 10°33'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. Partly wooded marshland separated from the beach and sea by a double cordon of dunes covered with dry Mediterranean scrub. The dunes give way to a series of freshwater pools surrounded by typical marsh vegetation and areas of wet woodland. Surrounding areas consist of cultivated fields divided by hedgerows and trees. The site is important as a staging and nesting area for a wide range of migratory waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 123. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Palude di Colfiorito

Site number: 122 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Umbria  
Area: 157 ha | Coordinates: 43°01'N 12°52'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude di Colfiorito. 14/12/76; Umbria; 157 ha; 43°01'N 12°53'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary, Hunting Reserve. An area of spring-fed freshwater marsh exhibiting considerable seasonal variation set in the Apennines. Aquatic vegetation consists of submergent and floating vegetation, reedbeds and various notable plants. The site is an important staging area for several species of migratory waterbirds. Human activities include commercial fishing, agriculture, hunting, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 122. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Palude di Ostiglia

Site number: 297 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 123 ha | Coordinates: 45°06'N 11°06'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude di Ostiglia. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 123 ha; 45°04'N 11°06'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. A marshy area lying between the Po and Tione rivers, forming an artificial, raised basin dependent entirely on the inflow of agricultural runoff. Most of the site is covered by reedbeds that are harvested on a commercial basis. Several species use the site for breeding. Facilities for birdwatching and conservation education are available. Ramsar site no. 297. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Pandam and Wase Lakes

Site number: 1 758 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Nasarawa State  
Area: 19 742 ha | Coordinates: 08°43'N 08°59'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pandam and Wase Lakes. 30/04/08; Nasarawa; 19,742 ha; 08°42'N 08°58'E. Wildlife Park. Two tributaries drain into each of the lake's arms, and the lake is separated from River Dep by a swamp which extends along both of them. The lake supports large numbers of resident and migrant birds, with about 217 birds species recorded in the area. It supports large flocks of White-faced Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) during the dry season and provides a breeding ground for the Long-toed Lapwing. The lake and the adjoining Wildlife Park support endangered species such as the West African manatee. The site supports fishing and forestry, as well as tourism and an annual fishing festival. Livestock grazing, bush burning, farming and harvesting of wild resources support community livelihoods but need to be better regulated. There is also significant pressure from poaching. A management plan has been developed for the wetland and the adjoining Wildlife Park but is yet to be implemented. Ramsar site no. 1758. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Pang Nga Bay Marine National Park

Site number: 1 185 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Pang Nga Province  
Area: 40 000 ha | Coordinates: 08°17'N 98°36'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pang Nga Bay Marine National Park. 14/08/02; Pang Nga Province; 40,000 ha; 08°17'N 098°36'E. National Park. A shallow bay with 42 islands, comprising shallow marine waters and intertidal forested wetlands, with at least 28 species of mangrove; seagrass beds and coral reefs are also present. At least 88 bird species, including the globally threatened Malaysian Plover (*Charadrius peronii*) and Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), can be found within the site, as well as 82 fish species, 18 reptiles, three amphibians, and 17 mammal species, including endangered Dugong, White-hand Gibbon (*Hylobates lar*), Serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*), and Black Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*). A number of diverse cultures co-exist in local communities, practicing fishing, harvesting *Nypa* palm fronds for thatch, and catering to an extensive international tourist presence drawn both by the natural beauties and by archaeological sites, including paintings more than a thousand years old. Ramsar site no. 1185. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Pantanal Matogrossense

Site number: 602 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Mato Grosso  
Area: 135 000 ha | Coordinates: 17°39'S 57°25'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pantanal Matogrossense. 24/05/93; Mato Grosso; 135,000 ha; 17°39'S 057°25'W. National Park. Part of the largest, permanent freshwater wetland in the Western Hemisphere. It is situated in a large depression functioning as an inland delta. The area consists of a vast region of seasonally flooded savannas, islands of xerophytic scrub, and humid deciduous forest. The site includes some of the largest and most spectacular concentrations of wildlife in the Neotropics and is probably the most important wetland in South America for waterfowl. There are huge resident breeding populations of a wide variety of species, and Nearctic shorebirds use the area for staging. An ecological station is located on the site. Ramsar site no. 602. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Pantano de El Hondo

Site number: 455 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valenciana  
Area: 2 387 ha | Coordinates: 38°10'N 00°42'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pantano de El Hondo. 05/12/89; Comunidad Valenciana; 2,387 ha; 38°10'N 00°42'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. Two large reservoirs and associated wetlands in the floodplain of two rivers. The site includes brackish and saline pools, halophytic and submerged vegetation, and emergent reedbeds. An extremely area important for various species of breeding waterbirds, notably the endangered duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (13-21 pairs). Large numbers of ducks occur in winter and various species nest in the area. The site is used for irrigation, and inflow and outflow are controlled as necessary. Other human activities include hunting and fishing, with intensive agriculture occurring in the surrounding areas. Ramsar site no. 455. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Pantano di Pignola

Site number: 1 666 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Basilicata  
Area: 172 ha | Coordinates: 40°35'N 15°44'E | Designation dates: 13-12-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pantano di Pignola. 13/12/06; Basilicata; 172 ha; 40°36'N 015°45'E. Site of Community Importance EU Directive, Important Bird Area, Regional Nature Reserve. The wetland originated as a muddy pool collecting the contribution of a few springs. During the 1930s and '40s, under the fascist regime, the area was drained for farming development and to reduce the incidence of malaria. Towards the 1960s nearby fields were partially converted into a storage reservoir and now the site is currently undergoing a gradual return to natural conditions. This semi-natural basin of 2.5m depth is characterised by a varied and well-structured botanical community; fringe vegetation includes *Phragmites* communis, *Typhetum angustifoliae* and *Scirpetum lacustris*. Well represented are perennial grasses and sedge formations typical of the alluvial banks of large Mediterranean rivers. The lake also represents an important transit and nesting site for a number of residential and migratory bird species. Several farm tourism centres are developing in response to a growing demand for cultural tourism, as the area is renowned for its typical products like cheeses, wines and beans. WWF operates an active programme of conservation education. Ramsar site no. 1666. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Pape Wetland Complex

Site number: 1 386 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Liepaja  
Area: 51 725 ha | Coordinates: 56°10'N 20°55'E | Designation dates: 31-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pape Wetland Complex. 31/10/02; Liepaja; 51,725 ha; 56°10'N 020°55'E. Important Bird Areas, nature park. Bordered by Lithuania at the south, the Lake Pape area is unique in the diversity of ecosystems concentrated in relatively small territory, including coastal lagoon, oligo-mesotrophic waters, natural eutrophic lakes, coastal dunes and raised bogs. The area is an internationally significant breeding, migrating and wintering site for birds and includes BirdLife Important Bird Areas. The narrow strip of land between Lake Pape and the sea is a major "bottleneck" for migratory birds such as the goose *Anser fabalis* and supports thousands of bats, notably the *Myotis dasycneme*. The site is an important place for other species considered as vulnerable or endangered within international frameworks like *Lynx lynx*, *Castor fiber*, *Lutra lutra*, *Lampetra fluviatilis* and shows also 6 habitats of EU importance, from which 5 are identified as priority. Human activities are berry picking (in mires), recreation, fishing and reed cutting. Surrounding areas are used for extensive grazing by Konik horses. Factors adversely affecting the site are the overgrowing of reeds, eutrophication of the lake, and unregulated tourist use of the area. A Nature Centre was established in 2002. A management plan for Lake Pape was prepared in 1997 and should be updated in 2004. Ramsar site no. 1386. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Paracas

Site number: 545 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Ica  
Area: 335 000 ha | Coordinates: 13°55'S 76°15'W | Designation dates: 30-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paracas. 30/03/92; Ica; 335,000 ha; 13°55'S 076°15'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve; National Reserve. Extensive coastal region of bays, promontories, shallow marine waters, rocky shores, sandy beaches, and islands set in an arid landscape. The marine waters are highly productive due to the Peruana (Humboldt) current and offshore upwelling, supporting 300 species of fish and various species of seaweed. More than 20 species of Nearctic-breeding shorebirds stage and winter here. Other notable fauna include two species of marine turtles. The area is archaeologically important. Human activities include traditional fishing and shellfish harvesting. Ramsar site no. 545. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Paraje Natural Brazo del Este

Site number: 1 675 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Sevilla  
Area: 1 362 ha | Coordinates: 37°08'N 06°03'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paraje Natural Brazo del Este. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 1,362 ha; 37°08'N 06°02'W. Natural Landscape, EU Directive Special Protection Area. The site comprises a stretch of the old Guadalquivir river bed that was channeled during the 20th century and displays a mosaic of cultivated fields with some remaining marshes and other wetlands. The importance of the site increases during the autumn season, when bird communities find a very attractive range of fish populations in the wetland, which promotes its use for feeding, resting and breeding. The fisheries of Brazo de Este have also been an important resource for non-commercial consumption, previous to its protection for conservation purposes. The past creation of rice fields has led to disruption of the hydrological functions of the wetland, leading to sedimentation. Ramsar site no. 1675. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Paraje Natural Laguna Grande

Site number: 1 912 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 200 ha | Coordinates: 37°56'N 03°34'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paraje Natural Laguna Grande. 17/09/09; Andalucía; 200 ha; 37°56'N 03°34'W. The Natural Area (paraje natural) was designated in 1989. It includes two seasonally flooded water bodies: Laguna Grande (with a mean inundated area of 21.6 ha) and Laguna Chica (5.2 ha) and the surrounding buffer zone. Historic sources show that a water compound exists at this place since at least the 17th century. Laguna Grande has structures to facilitate the irrigation of the surrounding olive plantations that provide it with an artificial water level regulation. It is a semi-permanent freshwater reservoir with a maximum depth of 4 meters and marked seasonal water level variations. Laguna Chica however kept the original water regime of a surface freshwater wetland (0.5 meter depth) with seasonal inundations depending on rainfall. Both are situated in a part of the Guadalquivir basin that is covered with large-scale, irrigated olive plantations that dominate the landscape and left only little remaining original Mediterranean matorral. The site is a functional part of the network of wetlands in the upper Guadalquivir basin ("Lagunas del Alto Guadalquivir"), connecting the wetland ecosystems of Doñana, the "La Mancha" plain and the Mediterranean coast, providing a large habitat for species as they are moving from one to the other. Ramsar site no. 1912. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Paraje Natural Lagunas de Palos y las Madres

Site number: 1 676 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Huelva  
Area: 635 ha | Coordinates: 37°10'N 06°52'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paraje Natural Lagunas de Palos y Las Madres. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 635 ha; 37°09'N 06°52'W, EU Directive Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. The lagoons of Primera de Palos, La Jara, La Mujer and Las Madres constitute an important support area for the Odiel Marshes and the Doñana National Park. Among the most important species present are the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), the Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) and the Red-knobbed Coot (*Fulica cristata*), although many other species like *Netta rufina*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Circus aeruginosus* and *Pandion haliaetus* also use the site as a breeding and wintering site. A project is currently underway to restore the original hydrological and peat characteristics of the site. Ramsar site no. 1676. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Paraje Natural Punta Entinas-Sabinar

Site number: 1 677 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Almería  
Area: 1 948 ha | Coordinates: 36°42'N 02°42'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paraje Natural Punta Entinas-Sabinar. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 1,948 ha; 36°42'N 02°42'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Protocol for Especially Protected Zones in the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention. Located in the Almería Province, the site is part of a permanent endorheic catchment that also contains coastal sand shores and dunes, as well as traditional salt extraction sites (now abandoned). This site is of great importance for waterfowl migrating between western Africa and northern Eurasia. The predominant land uses include intensive agriculture, the extraction of land substrates as building materials (now forbidden), and some sheep herding. The threats to the site include infrastructure works, agricultural run-off, and exotic vegetation. Ramsar site no. 1677. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Parapolsky Dol

Site number: 693 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Koryakski Autonomous Okrug  
Area: 1 200 000 ha | Coordinates: 61°37'N 165°47'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parapolsky Dol. 13/09/94; Korak Autonomous Area; 1,200,000 ha; 61°37'N 165°47'E. Temporary Wildlife Refuge, Nature Reserve. A representative example of an "alass" plain with large widely meandering rivers. The site includes numerous lakes, oxbows, rivers, streams, Sphagnum and cotton-grass mires, and floating bogs set in tundra vegetation. Plant communities of the "alass" depressions are important as relicts of the Late Pleistocene tundra-steppe. The various habitats include dense floating vegetation, grass meadows, Siberian dwarf-pine and alder elfin woods. The area is very important as a passage, breeding and molting area for large numbers of various waterbird species, and it supports several rare species of breeding raptors. The lakes provide spawning areas for valuable fish species. Human activities are traditional reindeer breeding, small-scale timber felling, and hay harvesting. Ramsar site no. 693. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Parc de Tsarasaotra

Site number: 1 464 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Antananarivo  
Area: 10,4 ha | Coordinates: 18°52'S 47°31'E | Designation dates: 09-05-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a lake of around ten hectares, with an islet, flood zones and wooded edge, within the capital city Antananarivo. The lake is surrounded by eucalyptus and camphor trees, as well as *Juncus* and *Cyperus* reeds. It plays an extremely important role in providing a refuge and nesting site amid the urban environment to waterbirds such as herons and ducks. Particularly during the hunting season, the Site is key to the survival of 14 threatened waterbird species and subspecies endemic to Madagascar. It is the only known site on the Malagasy highlands to host the endangered Madagascar pond heron (*Ardeola idae*), and it is also home to the endangered Meller's duck (*Anas melleri*) and the vulnerable Madagascar grebe (*Tachybaptus pelzelni*). The Site also hosts historical relicts. The lake is privately owned, and a management plan is not yet available to address the eutrophication and erosion problems that are reducing the lake's surface area and degrading its water quality. Regular bird-counting and birdwatching trips take place at the Site.

## Parc National Akanda

Site number: 1 652 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Province de l'Estuaire  
Area: 54 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°35'N 09°33'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National Akanda is located a few kilometres from Libreville, the capital city. This low-altitude zone is dominated by 35,000 hectares of relatively undisturbed marine mangroves, swampy forests and grassy savannas that provide a nesting zone for migratory birds, among them between 35,000 and 40,000 Palearctic waders. It is an important feeding area for endangered marine turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Dermochelys coriacea*), provides refuge for birds such as little stint (*Calidris minuta*), grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), the endemic yellow-breasted apalis (*Apalis flavida*) and swamp boubou (*Laniarius bicolor*), and is a major habitat and breeding ground for crustaceans and fish including bonga shad (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*) and flathead mullet (*Mugil cephalus*). Inputs from the Corisco and Mondah bays and significant annual rainfall of up to 3,300 millimetres leave the region constantly submerged and the resulting vegetation regulates the flow of rivers, ensuring the stability of the site. The local Fang, Benga and Sekiani communities benefit from fishing, agriculture, hunting, tourism and other recreational activities. Chief threats come from over-exploitation of mangroves (especially for wood), over-fishing, uncontrolled tourism within the site, and increasing urbanization in the area. The ongoing preparation of a management plan for the National Park may provide solutions. Its proximity to Libreville enables the Park to play a leading role in environmental education and recreation.

## Parc National d'Arly

Site number: 1 884 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région de l'Est  
Area: 795 289 ha | Coordinates: 11°34'N 01°03'E | Designation dates: 07-10-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on Burkina Faso's eastern border with Benin, adjacent to Benin's Pendjari National Park to the south and Burkina Faso's Singou Reserve to the west. It is part of the most important wilderness of Burkina Faso and covers a wide variety of habitats, ranging from the gallery forests of the Arly and Pendjari rivers to savannah woodland and the sandstone hills of the Gobnangou chain. Its seasonal rivers and flood plains host the largest concentration of wildlife in the country. Parc National d'Arly is home to elephant, lion, buffalo, warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*), and various antelope species. The seasonal pools which are dotted around the plains are frequented by a wide variety of birds, including great herons, storks and ducks. Along the Pendjari river, Borassus palm trees break the plains and form groves that provide a habitat for birds such as speckled pigeon (*Columba guinea*). The hills, rocks and lateritic cuirass land formations provide important habitat for cheetah and raptors. The hills also add to the landscape values of the Site.

## Parc National d'Azagny

Site number: 790 | Country: Côte d'Ivoire | Administrative region: Région des Grands Ponts  
Area: 19 400 ha | Coordinates: 05°13'N 04°52'W | Designation dates: 27-02-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Azagny National Park is a peninsula located one hundred kilometers west of Abidjan. It includes various habitats, with a low plateau consisting of coastal and lagoon forest ecosystems, savannah, swamp and mangroves. The Site has had protected status since 1960, to the benefit of several endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic species including forest elephant *Loxodonta cyclotis*, dwarf crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis*, four turtle species and several primates, which occupy the park's islands. The diverse waterbirds include numerous migratory species and several heron species in large concentrations. The swampy depressions and mangroves are important spawning and nursery sites for fish, and play a role in flood control and sediment trapping. Within the Site, only tourism, research, education (there is a conservation education programme) and cultural and spiritual activities are allowed, while outside the Site subsistence and commercial farming (of coffee, cacao, rubber, oil palm and coconut palm), fishing, exploitation of wood for construction and energy are the main activities. Poaching, bush fires, and invasive species are the main threats. There is a management plan, which includes measures to monitor key bird and plant species.

## Parc national de la Keran

Site number: 735 | Country: Togo | Administrative region: Kara, Savanes  
Area: 163 400 ha | Coordinates: 10°15'N 01°00'E | Designation dates: 04-07-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc national de la Keran. 04/07/95; Kara, Savanes; 163,400 ha; 10°15'N 001°00'E. National Park. Savannah, clearings, gallery forest, and wetland habitats of varying sizes. The park has numerous rare species and is noteworthy for its animal and plant communities, as well as for the balance and stability of its ecosystems. Its wetlands consist of small ponds and marshes which support populations of local and migratory birds. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2001. Ramsar site no. 735.

## Parc National de la Rusizi

Site number: 1 180 | Country: Burundi | Administrative region: Bujumbura Rural  
Area: 10 673 ha | Coordinates: 03°15'S 29°15'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National de la Rusizi. 05/06/02; Bujumbura Rural; 10,673 ha; 03°14'46"S 029°15'06"E. National Park. A complex of permanent inland delta, freshwater lakes, rivers and marshes. It includes the western part of the Great Rift Valley, lying north of Lake Tanganyika, and comprises the Rusizi delta and part of the lower Rusizi plain shared with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The site is considered an "ornithological paradise" for its stopover and nesting places for migratory waterbirds, with over 120 breeding bird species and 90 migratory species identified. It supports 193 plant species, 90 fish species, and over 12 reptile species including the Nile Crocodile *Crocodilus niloticus*. It is a source of food and nesting ground for fishes and hosts several indigenous species. Six species of large mammals have been identified, including the IUCN Red-Listed Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* and several small mammals including the Sitatunga *Tragelaphus spekii* - increasingly rare in Africa. Its hydrological functions include sediment trapping and general hydrological balance. The main human activities include fishing, livestock, rice, sugar cane and cotton farming, and collection of non-timber forest products. The site is threatened by erosion, over-exploitation of natural resources, and the use of fertilizers and pesticides for agriculture. Ramsar site no. 1180. Most recent RIS information 2013.

## Parc National de la Ruvubu

Site number: 2 148 | Country: Burundi | Administrative region: Karuzi, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Cankuzo  
Area: 50 800 ha | Coordinates: 03°10'S 30°20'E | Designation dates: 14-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National de la Ruvubu. 14/03/13; Karuzi, Muyinga, Ruyigi and Cankuzo; 50,800 ha; 03°10'00"S 030°20'00"E. National Park. A permanent freshwater river surrounded by marshes, shrubs and tree dominated wetlands. It is a biodiversity-rich site with 44 mammal species, 412 waterbird species, 13 reptile and 14 fish species. The site is known to be a very important habitat for the IUCN Red-Listed Hippopotamus Hippopotamus amphibius (from which the site name was derived) and Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* listed on Appendix 1 of CITES. Its main vegetation is wooded savannah with surrounding gallery forests bordering the Ruvubu River. Hydrological functions include flood control and sediment trapping. Human activities include harvesting of medicinal plants and other non-timber forest products. Ramsar Site no. 2148. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Parc national des Mangroves

Site number: 788 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo | Administrative region: Bas-Zaïre  
Area: 66 000 ha | Coordinates: 05°45'S 12°45'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc national des Mangroves. 18/01/96; Bas-Zaïre; 66,000 ha; 05°45'S 012°45'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 11 April 2000. Two plateaus bordered by swamplands along the Zaire River, including coastal and riverine waters, inland ponds, and swamps. Vegetation consists of wet grassland interspersed with forest savanna, grassland savanna, swamp and mangroves. The site supports important fish and crustacean reserves for local fisheries. Nine species of rare or endangered mammals occur, including the manatee; six bird and eight reptile species, including marine turtles, are at risk from habitat destruction. Human activities include fishing, the gathering of medicinal plants, and subsistence cropping. Threats include extensive fuelwood cutting, refinery pollution, and uncontrolled urban development. Ramsar site no. 788.

## Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj

Site number: 138 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint-Louis  
Area: 16 000 ha | Coordinates: 16°24'N 16°14'W | Designation dates: 11-07-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an inland delta in the Senegal River floodplain consisting of an extensive complex of seasonally inundated brackish lakes and pools linked by a network of channels. The savannah vegetation features Sahelian *Tamarix* species with a ground layer of herbs and grasses in dry areas and various types of reed beds in inundated areas. It is one of the first shelters after the Sahara for Afro-tropical birds and Palaearctic migrants. The Site represents an exceptional genetic reserve for many plant and animal species: it forms a fragile sanctuary for birds such as the white pelican, the purple heron, the African spoonbill, the great egret and the cormorant. Internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds use the Site for breeding, staging and wintering, with up to 3,000,000 individuals (over 360 species) at the peak of the season in December. Principal human activities are nature conservation and ecotourism, while surrounding areas are used for rice cultivation, livestock rearing and hunting. Low rainfall is the most serious potential threat: the Site has been confronted with water scarcity issues, which led to listing on the Montreux Record, but resolution of this problem through dams on the Senegal River led to its removal from the Record. It was returned to the Record in 1993, however, due to infestations of *Pistia stratiotes* and *Paspalum vaginatum*. The Site was the subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988 and 2000. A management plan exists with various monitoring and control activities, but the Site is facing additional threats of overgrazing of certain areas, illegal fishing activities reducing feed resources for birds, use of destructive fishing gear (monofilaments), encroachment on the protected area and noise pollution from rice paddies around the Site.

## Parc national des Virunga

Site number: 787 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo | Administrative region: Nord-Kivu  
Area: 800 000 ha | Coordinates: 01°15'S 29°30'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc national des Virunga. 18/01/96; Nord-Kivu; 800,000 ha; 01°15'S 029°30'E. World Heritage site. Lying astride the equator and situated in the African Rift Valley, the site contains most tropical biotopes and boasts some of the most substantial concentrations of wild mammals in Africa, or indeed in the world. The Park fringes several biogeographical regions, includes volcanoes recent in origin and still active, and two large lakes. The area is important feeding and wintering ground for migratory birds and is one of the few places where mountain gorilla can be studied in their natural environment. The large mammals include endangered and endemic species. Archaeologically important, the oldest stone tools in the world have been discovered along the lake shores. Human activities include tourism, conservation education, fishing, hunting, subsistence farming and agroforestry (fuelwood). There is a research center in the park. Ramsar site no. 787.

## Parc National du Banc d'Arguin

Site number: 250 | Country: Mauritania | Administrative region: Wilaya de Dakhlet Nouadhibou  
Area: 1 200 000 ha | Coordinates: 20°50'N 16°45'W | Designation dates: 22-10-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Banc d'Arguin. 22/10/82; 1,200,000 ha; 20°50'N 016°45'W. World Heritage Site; National Park. On the western fringe of the Sahara, the Banc d'Arguin accounts for more than one third of the country's entire coastline and as one of the richest fishing grounds in the world, owing to the upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich waters. The wetlands are composed of extensive, shallow marine areas, scattered islands, intertidal sand banks, mudflats, channels, creeks and relict mangrove forest. Mudflats support vast beds of seagrass housing a rich invertebrate fauna (especially molluscs and crustaceans) and are important high-tide feeding or nursery areas for commercially-important deep sea fish. Large flocks of shorebirds forage at low tide and over two million winter here. Other notable fauna include a variety of marine mammals, marine turtles, and an endangered seal species. Ramsar site no. 250. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Parc national du Delta du Saloum

Site number: 288 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Kaolack, Fatick  
Area: 73 000 ha | Coordinates: 13°37'N 16°42'W | Designation dates: 03-04-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delta du Saloum. 03/04/84; Kaolack, Fatwick; 73,000 ha; 13°37'N 016°42'W. Biosphere Reserve. Delta of the Sine and Saloum Rivers consisting of extensive mangrove forests dissected by saline channels, lagoons, islands, and islets. The site includes dune areas with dry, open forest. The site supports a varied fauna, including numerous species of notable mammals, four species of breeding turtles, and numerous species of nesting waterbirds and wintering Palearctic migrants. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, and pastoralism. Management issues include illegal gathering of mollusc, bird, and turtle eggs and unsustainable exploitation of plant products. Surrounding areas are used for agriculture, livestock rearing, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 288. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Parc National du Diawling

Site number: 666 | Country: Mauritania | Administrative region: Willaya du Trarza  
Area: 15 600 ha | Coordinates: 16°22'N 16°23'W | Designation dates: 23-08-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National du Diawling. 23/08/94; Nouakchott; 15,600 ha; 16°22'N 016°23'W. National Park. Added to the Montreux Record, 28/02/02. A saline floodplain in the lower delta of the Senegal River dotted with marsh-pools and sand dunes. The site includes three coastal lagoons and an estuarine zone of mangroves providing feeding grounds for fish, shrimp, and prawns. Numerous bird species have been recorded: cormorants, storks, spoonbills, egrets, Ardeidae (herons, bitterns, etc.), and African and European Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and waders. Mammals include warthogs, jackals and patas monkeys. The last gazelles have disappeared recently. Human activities include controlled traditional exploitation (gathering, harvesting, fishing, grazing). Infestations of *Salvinia molesta* and *Typha australis* led to a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 2001 and listing in the Montreux Record in 2002. Ramsar site no. 666. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

## Parc national du W

Site number: 355 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Tillabéri  
Area: 385 000 ha | Coordinates: 12°40'N 02°35'E | Designation dates: 30-04-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The "W" National Park is located on the River Niger in the Sudanian savanna biogeographical region; its vegetation also includes annual grasses and gallery forest. It makes up a part of the transboundary Biosphere Reserve shared with Benin and Burkina Faso, and is adjacent to the Ramsar Site of the same name in Burkina Faso. There is a rich bird life, including numerous species of wintering migratory *Anatidae* (ducks, geese and swans), storks and *Ardeidae* (herons and bitterns). More than 360 bird species have been recorded, including the Arabian bustard (*Ardeotis arabs*), the spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), the African fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*), the bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*), the Abyssinian ground hornbill (*Bucorvus abyssinicus*), the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and the hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*). An important number of elephants, buffaloes, lions and antelope are supported as well as an economically valuable fishery. The River Niger is also a critically important source of water for domestic consumption and irrigation.

## Parc National du W

Site number: 492 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: La Région de l'Est  
Area: 311 471 ha | Coordinates: 11°52'N 02°07'E | Designation dates: 27-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National du W is Burkina Faso's part of the W Regional Park, a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve which is also in Niger and Benin. The Regional Park, one of the major National Parks in West Africa, takes its name from the W-shaped meanders of the River Niger on the Nigerien side. The Ramsar Site is part of the River's vast floodplain, and is composed of shrubby and wooded savannah supporting various bird species, ungulates, carnivores and a gallery forest along the River. The floodplain in the Park is home to the largest concentration of wildlife in Burkina Faso. The Park is among the last refuges in West Africa of four of the big five mammals, specifically the African elephant, African buffalo, lion and leopard. As well as supporting this rich biological diversity, the Ramsar Site provides important wetland services including the promotion of nutrient retention and protection against storms and soil erosion.

## Parc National Pongara

Site number: 1 653 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Province de l'Estuaire  
Area: 96 302 ha | Coordinates: 00°07'N 09°38'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National Pongara is located to the east of the Congo Basin forest, on the southern shores of the Gabon estuary. The Site includes a wide range of mangroves and riverine, swampy, littoral and flooded forest types, grassy savannas. There are several rivers, notably the Remboué, Igominé and Gomgoué. It is an important breeding ground for the critically endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and provides shelter for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), as well as gorillas, elephants, an important population of migratory birds and up to 10,000 hibernating Palearctic waders. Plant species such as the mangrove trees (*Avicennia* and *Rhizophora* species) and the herbaceous *Acrostichum aureum* help to regulate and stabilize the water flow. The Site has been inhabited since the neolithic era and now hosts Fang, Benga and Sekiani communities. The inhabitants exploit forest wood, and practice hunting, cultivation of banana, cassava and pepper, and especially fishing - the Site is considered a source of food for the whole region. However, non-selective fishing, hunting and forest exploitation within and around the Site pose a threat to the equilibrium of the ecosystem. The National Commission for National Parks has carried out awareness-raising activities, and a management plan has been implemented since 2007.

## Parc national Tsimanampetotse

Site number: 962 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Province de Toliara  
Area: 203 740 ha | Coordinates: 24°23'S 43°59'E | Designation dates: 25-09-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in south-west Madagascar, Tsimanampetotse is a unique natural reserve characterized by a shallow alkaline salty lake with open waters and mudflats surrounded by halophytic plants which support large breeding colonies of the vulnerable Madagascar grebe (*Tachybaptus pelzelni*). About 90% of the Site's flora and fauna are endemic. Huge baobabs and banyan trees and dense xerophilous thickets cover the calcareous plateau inside the park and offer ideal habitat for sizeable populations of migratory shorebirds, notably the greater and lesser flamingos which are the main attractions in the area. Aside from birds, globally threatened mammals such as the ring-tailed lemur, Verreaux's sifaka, and white-footed sportive lemur also inhabit the Site. Bats, birds, snakes and the emblematic blind fish (*Typhleotris madagascariensis*) are all supported by its underground networks of streams and limestone cave systems. The spiritual and historical ties between the park and its communities testify to its strong cultural importance as well as its natural beauty.

## Parc naturel de la vallée de Sorteny

Site number: 2 071 | Country: Andorra | Administrative region: Ordino  
Area: 1 080 ha | Coordinates: 42°37'N 01°35'E | Designation dates: 23-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc naturel de la vallée de Sorteny (Parc naturel de la vall de Sorteny). 23/07/12; Ordino; 1,080 ha; 42°37'08"N 001°34'48"E. Natural Park, National Hunting Reserve. A high mountainous site in the Pyrenees (up to 2,915m altitude), consisting of humid meadows, alkaline fens, bog woodland, several pools and a small alpine lake. The site offers habitat to several rare species of flora and fauna including Common Saw-wort *Saussurea alpina* and several species of amphibians and reptiles. It is also the most Eastern site known for Aurelio's rock lizard *Iberolacerta aurelioi* which has a very restricted distribution range and is endemic to the Pyrenees. The site is used by several invertebrates, especially by butterflies such as *Parnassius apollo*. It is important for the provision and purification of water as well as for the general hydrological balance of the area. In terms of cultural heritage the site contains remains of constructions related to traditional activities of iron mining and livestock breeding, the latter still practiced today. The site is also increasingly used for tourism and recreation as well as for research. The park contains a visitor's centre, a botanic garden and interpretational trails, and has a very illustrative website. Ramsar Site number: 2071. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Parc Naturel des Mangroves du Fleuve Cacheu (PNTC)

Site number: 2 229 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Région administrative de Cacheu  
Area: 88 615 ha | Coordinates: 12°18'N 16°12'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Parc Naturel des Mangroves du Fleuve Cacheu (PNTC) is an outstanding representative intertidal forested wetland considered as the largest area of mangrove forest in West Africa. Surrounding the tidal Rio Cacheu which gave its name to the park, PNTC is a safe haven for over 248 bird species including the black crowned-crane (*Balearica pavonina*), greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), pink-backed pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*), royal tern (*Sterna maxima*) and the African fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*). Aside from its very rich and varied avifauna, PNTC has a remarkable landscape characterized by a mosaic of forests, palm groves and savannah, which provide food and refuge for many protected or rare species such as the hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), West African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), common bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and humpback dolphins (*Sousa teuszii*), African clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*), Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and the dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*). Six of the world's 50 mangrove species have been recorded in PNTC, namely *Avicennia germinans*, *Rhizophora racemosa*, *Rhizophora mangle*, *Rhizophora harrisonii*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erectus*. Their density offers an ideal spawning and nursery habitat for a significant population of fish and shellfish. Aside from its natural beauty and rich biodiversity, PNTC has a significant cultural value for the numerous ethnic groups living within its borders which have practiced agriculture and artisanal fishing for generations.

## Par.Est.Mar. do Parcel Manoel Luís incl. the Baixios do Mestre Álvaro and Tarol

Site number: 1 021 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Maranhao  
Area: 34 556 ha | Coordinates: 00°30'N 44°45'W | Designation dates: 28-02-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Estadual Marinho do Parcel Manoel Luís including the Baixios do Mestre Álvaro and Tarol. 29/02/00; Maranhão; 34,556 ha; ca.00°30'S 044°45'W. State Marine Park. Three coral banks off the northern coast of Maranhão, at the northern distribution limit of several fish species endemic to the Brazilian coast. The area is very important for fishery production and of extremely high scientific value. Numerous shipwrecks have been found in the area and await further study. Though the area is attractive to amateur and professional divers, tourism is limited, and because of difficult local currents and distance from the coast, only experienced divers are encouraged. Threats include coral bleaching associated with climate change, the possibility of environmentally harmful shipwrecks where navigation is still hazardous, and pollution from hull washing by ships near São Marcos Bay. Owned by the federal government under the administration of Maranhão. Ramsar site no. 1021. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Parížské mociare

Site number: 499 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Západoslovenský  
Area: 184 ha | Coordinates: 47°52'N 18°30'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parížské mociare (Pariz marshes). 02/07/90; Západoslovenský; 184 ha; 47°52'N 018°30'E. Protected Site. An extensive area of swampland supporting extensive reedbeds on the Danube River floodplain. Water levels are artificially regulated. The area includes the only breeding locality for *Acrocephalus melanopogon* (10 pairs) in the Slovak Republic. Several other species of breeding waterbirds use the site. Under the tenure of a cooperative farm, public access is allowed during the winter months for reed cutting. Ramsar site no. 499. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Paroo River Wetlands

Site number: 1 716 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 138 304 ha | Coordinates: 30°20'S 143°51'E | Designation dates: 13-09-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paroo River Wetlands. 13/09/07; New South Wales; 138,304 ha; 30°20'S 143°51'E. National Park. The last remaining free-flowing river in the Murray-Darling Basin, with wetland types including large overflow lakes, tree-lined creeks and waterholes, lignum and canegrass swamps, and artesian mound spring. The site is one of the most important wetland systems for waterbirds in eastern Australia and supports a number of threatened plant and animal species as well as significant native fish communities. The area is highly significant for local Aboriginal people in terms of archaeological, traditional and contemporary social values. Ramsar site no. 1716. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Parque Andino Juncal

Site number: 1 909 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Region V Valparaíso  
Area: 13 796 ha | Coordinates: 32°55'S 70°03'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Andino Juncal. 22/05/10; Valparaíso; 13,796 ha; 32 55'S 070 03'W. This High Andean site is located in Chile's central zone on the Andes mountain range between 2500 and above 5000 m altitude. It comprises a hydric network counting rivers, streams, glaciers, Andean vegas, and underground springs. The area has extreme climatologic conditions characterized by intense cold, snow, drought and high radiation. These environmental conditions confer the site high ecological value because it supports an important group of fauna and flora including endemic species such as the small-tailed snake (*Tachymenis chilensis*) as well as endangered species such as the matuato (*Phymaturus flagellifer*), a large number of migratory birds and higher vertebrates. The ecosystem in the Ramsar Site Juncal Andean Park is representative of the Mediterranean shrubland region; unique in South America and considered an endangered ecosystem by World Bank and WWF. Among its main threats are: extensive livestock rearing, mining and industrial development. The Juncal Andean Park lies within the Mineral Cordillera private area, where its main land uses are recreation, education and scientific research. Ramsar site no. 1909. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

### Parque Estatal Cañón de Fernández

Site number: 1 747 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Durango  
Area: 17 001,5 ha | Coordinates: 25°20'N 103°43'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Estatal "Cañón de Fernández". 02/02/08; Durango; 17,002 ha; 25°21'N 103°44'W. Parque Estatal. A riparian wetland crossed by the Nazas river, located in northwest Mexico. It supports a great number of vulnerable and endangered species, as well as threatened ecological communities, and is a hotspot of flora and fauna endemism. The landscape is dominated by xerophytic brush in slopes and plains. The site also supports a variety of species important for sustaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region, constituting a germoplasm bank and an important shelter area for wildlife during droughts and extreme temperatures. This wetland contributes to the recharge of aquifers and the moderation of local climate. It works as a biological corridor between two ecosystems of regional importance (the Chihuahuense Desert and the Temperate Forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental). The main land uses are agriculture, livestock, fishing, industry and recreation. The main threat to the site is related to the mortality and morbidity of tree species, caused mainly by the dispersion of mistletoe (*Phoradendron* sp.), as it compromises the viability of the Montezuma Cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) and the Cottonwood (*Populus* sp.) populations. Other threats are related to the decrease of circulating water, the change in the regime of running and standing waters, and in general, the landscape changes created by the Francisco Zarco Dam. These are permanent threats that will remain as long as the dam is in operation. The Park has had a management plan since 2003. Ramsar site no. 1747. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Parque Estatal Lagunas de Yalahau

Site number: 1 690 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Yucatán  
Area: 5 683,3 ha | Coordinates: 20°38'N 89°13'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Estatal Lagunas de Yalahau. 02/02/07; Yucatán; 5,683 ha; 20°38'N 089°13'W. Parque Estatal. Comprising a series of continental wetlands, with lagoons and deep underground water reservoirs being the most representative. The underground reservoirs are typical of the karstic systems of the Yucatan Peninsula. This, combined with the topography of the region, allows a diversity of habitats which host a variety of animal and plant species, many of which are migratory, endemic and/or in danger of extinction; among the latter are the Northern Tamandua (*Tamandua mexicana*), the Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*), the Tayra (*Eira barbara*), the Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), the Margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) and the Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*). During winter, the park gives shelter to migratory birds, and during the dry season, the lagoons and the deep underground water reservoirs provide a source of water for species like the Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletti*), the White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*). The dominant vegetation type is tropical deciduous forest with more than 200 plant species, a high number given the small size of the area. The low inundated forests, found in small portions adjacent to the lagoons, are dominated by tree species such as *Dalbergia glabra*, *Haematoxylum campechianum*, and *Mimosa bahamensis*. Land and cattle activities are common in the site. Illegal hunting is the main activity negatively affecting the site. Areas previously affected by anthropogenic activity are already under restoration. Ramsar site no. 1690. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Parque Nacional Archipiélago Los Roques

Site number: 856 | Country: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Administrative region: Distrito Federal  
Area: 213 220 ha | Coordinates: 11°50'N 66°45'W | Designation dates: 04-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Archipiélago Los Roques. 04/09/96; Federal District; 213,220 ha; 11°50'N 066°45'W. National Park. An archipelago of 45 islands and keys scattered around a shallow water lagoon. The site includes sand banks, coral reefs, and two large coral barriers. Three tropical marine ecosystems interact: coral reefs, beds of marine phanerogams, and mangroves. The site supports migratory birds and numerous species of nesting birds. Marine turtles threatened with extinction lay their eggs on the beaches. Human activities include tourism and small-scale fishing. A marine biology station is located on one of the keys, and there is a conservation education programme. Ramsar site no. 856. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Parque Nacional Arrecife Alacranes

Site number: 1 820 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Yucatán  
Area: 334 113,2 ha | Coordinates: 22°28'N 89°41'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Arrecife Alacranes.02/02/08; Yucatán; 334,113 ha; 22°28' N 089°41' W. National Park. The most important coral formation in the Gulf of Mexico and one of the largest coral reefs of the country. It has five islands and supports a great biological diversity. The site is important for the preservation of germoplasm of endangered, endemic and useful species for humans. The conservation status of the coral reef is considered good, although the impact of human activities in the subaquatic medium is less known than in the terrestrial. It is BirdLife International Important Bird Area (IBA) for being the most important nesting site in the Gulf of Mexico for the bird species *S. dactylatra*, *S. leucogaster*, *Sterna fuscata* and *Anous stolidus*. In the sandy islands of Arrecife Alacranes, a great number of resident, migratory and occasional bird species have been registered. The site also supports four endangered species of marine turtles, threatened bird species *Accipiter striatus*, *Falco peregrinus* and *Charadrius melodus* and the coral species *Plexaura homomalla*, *Plexaurelladichotoma*, *Acropora cervicornis* and *A. palmata*. Until the 1940s, the Caribbean Monk Seal (*Monachus tropicalis*) lived in this park but was exploited to extinction. The main threats the site faces are the presence of introduced species and the extraction of corals as souvenirs. The site has had a management plan since 2006. Ramsar site no. 1820.

## Parque Nacional Arrecife de Puerto Morelos

Site number: 1 343 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 9 066 ha | Coordinates: 20°55'N 86°50'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Arrecife de Puerto Morelos. 02/02/04; Quintana Roo; 9,066 ha; 20°55'N 86°50'W. National Park. Part of the great Mesoamerican reef, known as the second biggest coral reef in the world. It contains rich biological communities among the coral formations and a wide reef lagoon with sea grasses fields. All these ecosystems are well conserved and have great ecological, economic, recreational, commercial, historical, educative and aesthetic values as well as an important interest for scientific research. From the human point of view, the conservation of the coral reef is vital for the 5,000 inhabitants of Puerto Morelos, who live by fishing, tourism income and scientific activities, the future of which depend on the health of the ecosystem. The terrestrial part of the designated site is also important because of the presence of some mangrove area and some turtle breeding beaches. Mangroves are today the most threatened ecosystem in this area. Gathering of information for designation of the site was supported by the Ramsar Wetlands for the Future Initiative. Ramsar site no. 1343. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Cozumel

Site number: 1 449 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 11 987 ha | Coordinates: 20°16'N 87°02'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Cozumel. 02/02/05; Quintana Roo; 11,987 ha; 20°16'N 087°02'W. National Park. The site covers the coral reefs off the southern coast of Cozumel island, one of the prime destinations for divers worldwide. Hard and soft corals, zoanthids, polychaets, actinarians, hydroids, sponges, crustaceans, mollusks, echinoderms and reef fish are very diverse, as well as algae and sea grasses. The park is habitat to numerous endangered species, such as the Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Green (*Chelonia mydas*) turtles, the Queen triggerfish (*Balistes vetula*) and the endemic Splendid Toadfish (*Sanopus splendidus*). Lobster, crab and pink conch *Strombus gigas* are commercially fished, populations of the latter having recovered following a prolonged fishing ban. Highly conspicuous fish are the Cat (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*), Tiger (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*) and Blacktip (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) sharks, as well as the Southern stingray (*Dasyatis americana*). The reefs develop in underwater cliffs, whereas there are some coastal lagoons and sand bars at the tip of the island. On the shore, stands of Red Mangrove *Rhizophora mangle* and coastal scrub are the main vegetation types. Over 1,500 divers visit the park every day, and there are concerns over the impacts of scuba diving, especially at night. Hotel development has contributed to a deterioration of water quality through their discharges. A management plan is in place since 1998 regulating diving, fishing, navigation, anchoring and other activities. Ramsar site no. 1449. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak

Site number: 1 320 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 17 949 ha | Coordinates: 18°20'N 87°48'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Xcalak. 27/11/03; Quintana Roo; 17,949 ha; 18°20'N 087°48'W. National Park. A well preserved area on the Caribbean coast bordering Belize, comprising coral reefs, coastal lagoons, beaches, mangrove swamps and karstic aquifers. An atypical submarine relief of massifs and channels, known as "La Poza", is one of the main highlights of the site. Endangered and near-threatened animals such as Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, the Jaguar *Panthera onca*, the American Manatee *Trichechus manatus*, the Central American Cacomistle *Bassariscus sumichrasti*, and the Black Catbird *Melanoptila glabriorstris* inhabit the park. A number of waterbirds are common nesters in the site, while the mangrove swamps and lagoons are important for spawning Rock-cod *Ephinephelus striatus*. Coral reefs are dominated by Elkhorn Coral *Acropora palmata* and fish species such as *Noronha wrasse* *Thalassoma bifasciatum* and *Blue Tang* *Acanthurus coeruleus*. Commercial fishing is regulated, though closed seasons are not fully enforced. Scuba diving and sport fishing are the main tourist activities, but large-scale hotel developments are expected in the near future, with possible threats to the ecosystem. A management plan will soon be published addressing these issues. Ramsar site no. 1320. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto

Site number: 1 358 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 206 580,8 ha | Coordinates: 25°49'N 111°08'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto. 02/02/04; Baja California Sur; 206,581 ha; 25°49'N 111°08'W. National Park. The Coronados, Danzante, Montserrat, Catalana and del Carmen islands form this archipelago off the eastern shores of Baja California. The diversity of marine mammals in the islands is higher than anywhere else in Mexico, with frequent sightings of Blue Whales *Balaenoptera musculus*, Fin Whales *B. physalus*, Humpbacked Whales *Megaptera novaeangliae*; as well as Orcas and dolphins, amongst others. *Spondylus calcifer*, *Pinctada mazatlanica* and the Widemouth Rocksnail *Purpura patula* are protected mussel species found in the park, while the Jumbo Squid *Dosidicus gigas* comes to lay its eggs in its waters. Endemic species or subspecies of mammals and reptiles in the different islands are also to be highlighted. The islands have arid climate, rocky slopes and desert vegetation, including seven endemic species, plus small inlets with mangrove forests. Seaweeds (*Sargassum* spp.) are found to 5m depth, while *Amphiroa* spp. and others reach 20 to 30m depth. Fishing is the main economic activity, and the breach of fishing laws and sustainable practices the main problem. Tourism is also important - visitors not only enjoy the natural landscape but also historical ruins of missions and an ancient whale grease processing plant. A management plan has been approved. Ramsar site no. 1358. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Parque Nacional Cabo Pulmo

Site number: 1 778 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 7 100,2 ha | Coordinates: 23°27'N 109°25'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Cabo Pulmo. 02/02/08; Baja California Sur; 7,100 ha; 23°27'N 109°25'W. National Park. UNESCO World Heritage site. This is one of the only coral reefs found in the eastern Pacific and the only one in the Gulf of California. More than 20,000 years old, it is one of the oldest coral reefs in the American Pacific. Among the noteworthy fauna are five endangered marine turtle species (*Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia agassizi*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Eretmochelys imbricata* y *Lepidochelys olivacea*) and six cetacean species (*Balaenoptera edén*, *Balaenoptera physalus*, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, *Stenella longirostris*, *Steno bredanensis*, *Tursiops truncatus*) found under special protection. The site is home to 11 of the 14 species of hermatypic corals. Concerning fish communities, 226 reef species have been sighted, and the site is extremely important for numerous bird species. 99% of the site is marine and the only land portion comprises the beaches included in the Terrestrial Federal Marine Zone. The adverse factors in the site are mainly sport fishing, nautical traffic and pollution damaging corals and other species. The site has had a management plan since 2006. Ramsar site no. 1778. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Parque Nacional Cajas

Site number: 1 203 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Azuay  
Area: 29 477 ha | Coordinates: 02°50'S 79°14'W | Designation dates: 14-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Cajas. 14/08/02. Azuay. 29,477 ha. 02°50'N, 079°14'W. National Park. A mountainous system of exceptional characteristics, the Cajas National Park includes over 300 bodies of water. In the Lagunas del Cajas area, this sui generis type of high-Andean wetland is found at the closest point between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The site is distinguished because of its unparalleled scenic beauty, its archaeological remains of ancient Andean cultures, and its highly vulnerable endemic flora. Additionally, it has been identified as a key bird conservation area within Ecuador, as well as an important transit point for migratory species. Notable vulnerable species in the site include spectacled (Andean) bears (*Tramarcos ornatus*), Andean condors (*Vultur gryphus*), as well as threatened plant species *Podocarpus spucey* and *Polylepis* sp. Administrative authority of the National Park has been transferred from the Ministry of Environment to the local municipality in a process of de-centralization that will attempt to strengthen the management of this one of a kind ecosystem. Ramsar site No. 1203. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero

Site number: 1 344 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 21 789 ha | Coordinates: 16°52'N 93°07'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero. 02/02/04; Chiapas; 21,789 ha. 16°52'N 093°07'W. National Park. The Grijalva River cuts a canyon landscape of chalk and basalt rockwalls up to 1000 meters in height, partially flooded by the Chicoasén Dam. Threatened species like the Great Curassow *Crax rubra*, the Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*, the American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* and the ocelot *Leopardus wiedii* find refuge in the park. Vegetation types range from deciduous forest to oak-pine forest, crasicaule (plants growing on the canyon walls), grasslands and agricultural areas. The canyon is the symbol in the coat of arms of Chiapas, whose capital, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, is close to the south border of the park. Besides power generation, the main human activities in the park are coffee planting at low scale. Rapid population growth is posing threats to the park as more areas are destined to agriculture and grazing in steep zones subject to wind erosion and soil loss. Nearly 300,000 tourists visit the site every year, and sport activities such as rappelling, mountain biking, kayaking and swimming are done regularly. A management plan is being reviewed for implementation. Ramsar site no. 1344. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Parque Nacional de Aiguestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici

Site number: 1 678 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: provincia de Lérida  
Area: 39 979 ha | Coordinates: 42°34'N 00°56'E | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional de Aiguestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici. 27/01/06; Cataluña; 39,979 ha; 42°34'N 000°56'E. National Park, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance. A good example of the typical glacier and raised bog valleys in the high mountain area of the Pyrenees, including mountainous and sub-alpine beech forests, mixed conifer forests and shrub-zones, including a diverse vegetation with many endemic species. The site also contains a rich diversity of natural hydrological systems such as mires, lakes and watercourses; as well as artificial ones including reservoirs and small dams. There are over 200 alpine lakes within the site boundaries. Among the negative impacts to the site are water extraction, infrastructure, electricity lines (which are expected to be removed in the future), and the increasing pressure created by tourism. Ramsar site No. 1678. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Parque Nacional Isla Contoy

Site number: 1 323 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 5 126 ha | Coordinates: 21°29'N 86°47'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Isla Contoy. 27/11/03; Quintana Roo; 5,126 ha; 21°29'N 086°47'W. National Park. One of the northernmost islands in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, 50km north of Cancún and 13km off the mainland Yucatán peninsula, the principal nesting site for seabirds in the Mexican Caribbean. Coastal dunes, mangroves, lagoons, low forest and coconut palm trees dominate the terrestrial landscape of the island, while marine environments include sea-grass beds and coral reefs. Marine fish stocks are significant due to the abundance of plankton provided by the upwelling of cold submarine currents. Mammals are notably absent from the island. The endangered Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles nest on Isla Contoy, as well as the Horseshoe Crab *Limulus polyphemus* and large colonies of Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*, Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* and Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*. A management plan regulates lobster fishing, sports fishing and tourist activities, and there is a fully equipped visitor and information centre. Rapid tourist development on the mainland coast poses threats to the island, as well as hurricanes such as Isidore in 2002. Ramsar site no. 1323. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Parque Nacional Isla Isabel

Site number: 1 324 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Nayarit  
Area: 93,7 ha | Coordinates: 21°51'N 105°53'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Isla Isabel. 27/11/03; Nayarit; 94 ha; 21° 51'N 105° 53'W. National Park. Volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean 70km off the port of San Blas. Deciduous tropical forest over lava soils, grasses, bare rock, islets, cliffs, sand beaches, surrounding coral reefs and a crater lake with hypersaline water compose a stunning landscape. Isla Isabel is one of the main nesting islands for seabirds in the Pacific, including large colonies of Magnificent Frigate birds *Fregata magnificens* (11,800 individuals), Blue-footed Boobies *Sula nebouxii*, Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* and Sooty Terns *Sterna fuscata*. Marine life is rich, with over 24 shark and ray species, three species of sea turtles, the California Sea Lion *Zalophus californianus*, Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* and Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*. The island is uninhabited, though there is a seabird reproductive research program run by UNAM and tourists visit to camp, fish and bird watch. After having depleted a huge colony of Sooty Terns, which in 1978 had over 150,000 pairs, cats were finally eradicated from the island in 1995 and the Terns are slowly recovering. The impact of hurricanes, fishing activities and tourism has been of concern. A management plan is in a final stage of approval. Ramsar site no. 1324. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Parque Nacional Jeanette Kawas

Site number: 722 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Atlántida  
Area: 78 150 ha | Coordinates: 15°51'N 87°40'W | Designation dates: 28-03-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Jeanette Kawas. 28/03/95; Atlántida; 78,150 ha; 15°51'N 087°40'W. National park. The ecosystems found are a portion of those originally existing. Fourteen ecosystem types have been identified, comprising five non-marine wetlands, five terrestrial, and four marine types. The park is species rich, supporting numerous rare, recently described and threatened species. The mangrove forests on the lagoon are amongst the best preserved on the Atlantic coast. Particularly important for the maintenance of biodiversity and the development of ecotourism, the coral reefs are the largest on the continental coast of Honduras. The marine ecosystem has a high diversity of fauna, including several endangered species. The former "Punta Sal National Park" and Ramsar site was renamed for Jeanette Kawas, president of PROLANSTATE, a local NGO in charge of the management of the park, who was murdered on 6 February 1995 for her opposition to drainage of the site for development purposes. Ramsar site no. 722. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Parque Nacional Laguna del Tigre

Site number: 488 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: El Petén  
Area: 335 080 ha | Coordinates: 17°27'N 90°52'W | Designation dates: 26-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Laguna del Tigre. 26/06/90; Petén; 335,080 ha; 17°27'N 090°52'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. Biosphere Reserve, Protected Biotope. An extensive complex of low-lying, seasonally flooded forest, slow-flowing rivers, marshes, permanent lagoons, and seasonal water bodies forming part of Guatemala's largest wetland. Most of the large vertebrates of Guatemala, and species limited to the Yucatán and El Petén peninsula, are supported. A group of families whose activities include maize and bean cultivation, hunting and fishing, inhabit the site. Several areas of archaeological importance have been identified. Included in the Montreux Record in 1993 due to threats by illegal hunting and wood cutting. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1997. Ramsar site no. 488. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Parque Nacional Lagunas de Montebello

Site number: 1 325 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 6 022 ha | Coordinates: 16°06'N 91°43'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Lagunas de Montebello. 27/11/03; Chiapas; 6,022 ha; 16°06'N 091°43'W. National Park, Important Bird Area. A complex of permanent and seasonal freshwater karstic wetlands and caves on the border with Guatemala, average altitude 1500m, amidst forests that share traits of tropical and temperate vegetation. Mixed communities of pine, oak and sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua* are dominant within the park. The site is noteworthy for its diversity of orchids, butterflies, and birds, the latter including the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler *Dendroica chrysoparia*. Many of the caves are considered holy by indigenous communities, who visit them on pilgrimage. Locals live mainly off agriculture and tourism. Forest fires are increasingly common: in 1998, 50% of the park was burnt. Water pollution and unregulated tourism are also of concern, but a management plan was recently finished to address these and other issues. Awareness campaigns are constantly carried out with locals and there are ongoing research activities. Ramsar site no. 1325. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Parque Nacional Manglares del Bajo Yuna

Site number: 2 091 | Country: Dominican Republic  
| Administrative region: Duarte, Sánchez Ramírez, Samaná, María Trinidad Sánchez  
Area: 77 518,6 ha | Coordinates: 19°10'N 69°41'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Manglares del Bajo Yuna. 02/02/2013; Duarte, Sánchez Ramírez, Samaná, María Trinidad Sánchez; 77,518 ha; 19°10'12"N 069°40'48"W. National Protected Area (partially). A large subtropical coastal wetland, with estuarine characteristics, predominance of mangroves, and many watercourses. It is located in the Samaná Bay, the largest semi-closed bay in the Caribbean, which contains a specific salinity gradient capable of supporting a great mosaic of habitats. It is also important by being part of karst systems and springs. The area supports species at risk of extinction, like *Hypsiboas heilprini*, *Eleutherodactylus flavescens*, and *Eleutherodactylus schmidti*, all of them endemic species. The site provides a refuge for seven endemic bird species: *Dulus dominicus* (Palmchat), *Melanerpes striatus* (Hispaniolan Woodpecker), *Todus subulatus* (Broad-billed Tody), *Phaenicophilus palmarum* (Black-crowned Palm-tanager), *Coccyzus longirostris* (Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo), *Corvus palmarum* (Palm Crow), and *Icterus dominicensis* (Hispaniolan Oriole). The site is closely related to the Samaná bay, an internationally important site for mating and reproduction of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Ramsar Site no. 2091. Most recent information: 2013.

## Parque Nacional Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano

Site number: 1 346 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 52 238 ha | Coordinates: 19°08'N 96°00'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano. 02/02/04; Veracruz; 52,238 ha; 19°08'N 096°00'W. National Park. Just offshore the city of Veracruz, this National Park in the Gulf of Mexico comprises 23 coral reefs in two distinct areas, rising from depths of around 40m. The reef is very rich in fauna and a favorite diving destination, boasting 84 different coral species, 339 mollusks, 47 sponges and 140 crustaceans. There are large seagrass beds, and pioneer coastal dune vegetation, coconut palms and mangroves are present in the emerged keys, as well as the Florida Cherry palm *Pseudophoenix sargentii*. Three main rivers have outlets in the vicinity, La Antigua, Jamapa-Atoyac, and Papaloapan, jointly discharging significant amounts of freshwater and sediments in the area, which pose a problem of turbidity. Additionally, water pollution comes from sewage and industrial waters from Veracruz and large vessels navigating close to the reefs. Overfishing is also affecting populations of lobsters, octopi and other species. In spite of these pressures, the recovery rate of the reef is greater than that of others in the Gulf of Mexico. The Veracruz Aquarium carries out monitoring of turtle nesting in the keys and a management plan is being drafted for the site. Ramsar site no. 1346. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Parque Nacional Yaxhá-Nakum-Naranjo

Site number: 1 599 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: Petén  
Area: 37 160 ha | Coordinates: 16°58'N 89°23'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Yaxhá-Nakum-Naranjo. 02/02/06; Petén; 37,160 ha; 17°09'N 089°25'W. National Park, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Located within the Reserva de la Biósfera Maya, 97% of the wetland is covered by forested lands, either high or seasonally flooded. It also contains various rivers, lagoons and pools such as the Yaxhá, Sacnab, Juleque, Lancajá and Champoxté. Among the species present are the Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletti*), the white fish (*Petenia splendida*), the Central American river turtle (*Dermatemys mawi*), spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) and the collared peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*). It has been estimated that over 90% of the flora in the site has not been studied botanically nor chemically. There exist certain pressures on the site due to illegal extraction of natural resources, and a progressive deterioration in the quality of the water bodies has also been noted. Ramsar site No. 1599. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Parque Natural Comunal de los Valles del Comapedrosa

Site number: 2 204 | Country: Andorra | Administrative region: La Massana  
Area: 1 543 ha | Coordinates: 42°35'N 01°28'E | Designation dates: 15-04-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Natural Comunal de los Valles del Comapedrosa (Parc Natural Comunal de les Valls del Comapedrosa). 15/04/2014; La Massana; 1,543 ha; 42°35'26"N 001°28'03"E. Natural Park, Habitat/Species Management Area, Protected Landscape. The Site comprises 74 high mountain wetlands, including permanent rivers and streams, freshwater springs, small glacial lakes and non-forested peatlands, in a well-preserved landscape. These wetlands provide an important concentration of biodiversity and water reservoir within the Alpine biogeographic region. They support numerous endemic Pyrenean species, as well as threatened flora and fauna. Given its location at the headwaters of the Arinsal basin, the site regulates and prevents floods and ensures drinking water supply to the parish of La Massana. The main human activities affecting the Site are related to tourism, and include hiking, hunting and fishing. The park has visitor facilities such as a viewpoint at Roc de la Sabina, interpretative trails and an extensive network of footpaths. A management plan was updated in 2013, which sets the conservation objectives and regulates the activities within the park. Ramsar Site No. 2204. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Parque Provincial El Tromen

Site number: 1 626 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Neuquén Province  
Area: 30 000 ha | Coordinates: 37°05'S 70°06'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Provincial El Tromen. 02/02/06; Neuquén; 30,000 ha.; 37°05S 070°06'W. Natural Protected Area. Reaching an altitude of up to 3,978 above sea level, this wetland forms a complex hydrological system in which the snowmelt slips through cracks in the basaltic bedrock and rises again at the base of the mountains to create small water bodies that in turn feed a variety of High Andean Wetlands. Apart from being a high Andean wetland representative of the Patagonia region, containing a rich biodiversity and serving as a resting and feeding ground for several waterfowl species, the wetland also qualifies as a Ramsar site under the recently added Criterion 9, being the only site known to host the endemic lizard *Liolaemus punmahuida*. Although the approval of the management plan is still underway, park rangers enforce some protective measures such as a total ban on hunting. Ramsar site no. 1626. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Partie Camerounaise du Fleuve Ntem

Site number: 2 067 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: South Region  
Area: 39 848 ha | Coordinates: 02°23'N 10°33'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Partie Camerounaise du fleuve Ntem. 05/06/12; South Region; 39,848 ha; 02°22'45"N 010°33'13"E. A permanent freshwater river surrounded by marshes, trees and shrubs. As part of the biogeographic region of three countries: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, this site is significantly rich in wildlife biodiversity. It supports over 80 species of large- and medium-sized mammals with 18 species of primates, 13 of which are considered threatened, including the endangered Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) as well as the critically endangered Western Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*). 28 species of bats have been identified with 2 endemic species: *Nycteris major* and *Hipposiderus curtus*. It also supports 1,500 plant species as well as 249 fish species with 4 endemic species, and serves as spawning grounds for several migrating fish species from the Atlantic Ocean. It is a source of livelihood for the resident population who carry out subsistence fishing, agriculture and the harvesting of non-timber forest products. Ramsar Site no. 2067. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Partie camerounaise du fleuve Sangha

Site number: 1 739 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: East Province  
Area: 6 200 ha | Coordinates: 01°50'N 16°02'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the southeast of Cameroon, bordering the Dzanga-Sangha National Park of Central African Republic (CAR) and Nouabale-Ndoko in the Republic of Congo. River Sangha is a tributary of the Congo, has its source in Cameroon and flows across CAR and Congo, and is surrounded by equatorial humid forest of great ecological value to all three countries. The site comprises the Sangha River, its tributaries, submerged land masses, and woody marshlands, raphia forests and grasslands. Its remoteness from major cities, combined with the rich flora and fauna, precious wood species, and mineral resources, make it a target resource base for the surrounding population (as a freshwater reserve, source of fish and other freshwater resources) and a haven for rare plant and animal species. It is noted for its historic significance in the culture of Baka Pygmies, whose existence was greatly associated to the forest. High densities of plants of the Marantaceae family favor the presence of the vulnerable Elephant and Gorilla. It is also a home to the endangered endemic Bates's Weaver and vulnerable Black Colobus amongst others. The site will benefit from the management plans proposed for the nearby Dja and Boumba-Bek and Nki reserves, the latter being presently managed under a GEF project with the intervention of the government of Cameroon, WWF and GTZ and aimed at biodiversity conservation through integrated conservation and development activities. Unrestrained exploitation of resources is seen as a potential threat.

## Partie Camerounaise du Lac Tchad

Site number: 1 903 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: Province de l'Extrême-Nord  
Area: 12 500 ha | Coordinates: 12°46'N 14°18'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

02/02/10; Extrême-Nord; 12,500 ha; 12°46'N 014°19'E. National Parks. The site represents the portion of the Lake Chad basin within Cameroon's territory. Lake Chad is known to frequently support over 200, 000 birds and various other fauna and flora of the region such as the endangered species like the African Clawless Otter, Red Fronted Gazelle and the African Bush Elephant amongst others. Of note is the use of the site as a refuge by hippopotamuses and the Nile crocodile during the dry season. The site is recognised for its numerous important hydrological values, including sediment retention, flood control and ground water replenishment. The local communities depend on the income-generating activities supported by the resources from the wetland such as traditional fishing, hunting, subsistence farming, livestock rearing, etc. The site is recognised, however, as one of the most affected areas as a result of the challenges posed by climate change and localised threats of over-grazing, water pollution, invasive species, excessive use of pesticides, etc. Ramsar site no. 1903. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Partie tchadienne du lac Tchad

Site number: 1 134 | Country: Chad | Administrative region: préfectures du Lac et du Kanem  
Area: 1 648 168 ha | Coordinates: 14°20'N 13°37'E | Designation dates: 14-08-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Partie tchadienne du lac Tchad. 14/08/01; Lac, Kenam; 1,648,168 ha; 14°20'N 013°37'E. A vast expanse of water bordered on the northwest by a cordon of dunes, on the northeast by an "erg" of shifting sand dunes, and on the south by flat lowlands. Lake Chad is shared with Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria, and the Chadian portion covers a great variety of wetland types, including open waters, islets and sandbanks, polders, oases and temporary and permanent "natron" or alkalai pools. The endorheic lake, as the only expanse of water of similar magnitude in the Sahara, is of immense importance to all life in the region and fulfills most of the Ramsar Criteria. The site supports internationally important numbers of waterbirds and is essential for some 150 fish species, and is the only place in the country that supports the endemic Kouri Ox, which is threatened by extinction through interbreeding. The lake also regulates the variability of annual water supply, recharges groundwater, and helps to control flooding. Of 300,000 fisherpeople in Chad, more than half of them live around Lake Chad, and the production of spiruline ("blue algae") and natron is economically important, as is the raising of cattle, sheep, and camels, and some agriculture. Desiccation and sanding over are seen as the main threats. Ramsar site no. 1134. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Pasvik

Site number: 810 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Finnmark  
Area: 1 910 ha | Coordinates: 69°09'N 29°13'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated along the Russian border in the northern boreal forest, the Site includes the most intact section of the (regulated) Pasvik River, characterized by many bays, lakes and islets. The area includes Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) forests and extensive mires. Due to its very early ice break-up, the area is especially important for staging migratory waterbirds. Numerous threatened species breed at the Site, including the bean goose *Anser fabalis*, the greater scaup *Aythya marila* and the little bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. The Site has also a stable breeding population of the nationally threatened brown bear *Ursus arctos* and the European otter *Lutra lutra*. The area is important for flood regulation, sediment transport and carbon sequestration. Human activities include nature protection, recreation, fishing and some reindeer husbandry. Archaeological findings document habitation of the area by Saami people up to 8,000 years ago. The greater trilateral Pasvik area was featured as a Ramsar case study on transboundary wetland ecosystems in the 2nd Assessment of Transboundary Rivers and Lakes (UNECE 2011).

## Pateira de Fermentelos Lake and Águeda and Cértima Valleys

Site number: 2 089 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Baixo Vouga  
Area: 1 559 ha | Coordinates: 40°34'N 08°30'W | Designation dates: 03-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pateira de Fermentelos Lake and Águeda and Cértima Valleys. 27/07/2012; Região Centro; 1,559 ha; 40°33'52"N 008°30'28"W. Natura 2000 (SPA) and Sensitive Area. The site contains one of the largest freshwater lakes of the Iberian Peninsula with a mosaic of wetland habitats, reed beds and marshland as well as riparian vegetation. The site supports important populations of migratory and threatened bird species, like the Ixobrychus minutus, Ardea purpurea, Circus aeruginosus, Milvus migrans and Sylvia undata. In the lagoon and in its adjacent water system, fish also find favourable ecological conditions for refuge and spawning during the breeding season. The wetland has a major role in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping and maintenance of water supply for both natural and human-made ecosystems. The largest threat factors which might affect the ecological status of the site are essentially intensive farming, cattle raising, and contamination of water and soils by industrial and urban infrastructures. The Municipality of Águeda has implemented a Development Plan for the site which provides a set of strategies and actions aiming at the sustainable development of the area. Ramsar Site Number: 2089. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Patvinsuo National Park

Site number: 10 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland  
Area: 12 727 ha | Coordinates: 63°07'N 30°44'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Patvinsuo National Park. 28/05/74; Eastern Finland; 12,727 ha; 63°06'N 030°44'E. Natura 2000 SCI, Mire Conservation Programme, National Park. An important area for the preservation and study of peatland and water ecosystems, including a noteworthy selection of threatened and rare species. The area consists of active raised bog and aapa mire zones along with transitional mires of various types interspersed with old coniferous forests, fens, brackish pools centered around the oligotrophic Lake Suomujärvi. Because of the wilderness character and large size of the site, its fauna is unique, and the lakes provide breeding, feeding and resting areas for various species of migratory birds. Several endangered species of mammals are supported, including beaver, bear, otter and wolf and wolverine. The site is used for recreational activities, and the Park had about 15,000 visitors in 2003. Facilities such as cabins, campfire sites, three observation towers, three nature trails and a network of marked trails have been constructed to guide visitors in the National Park. Ramsar site no. 10. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Paúl de Arzila

Site number: 822 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Regiao Centro  
Area: 585 ha | Coordinates: 40°10'N 08°33'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paúl de Arzila. 08/05/96; Regiao Centro; 585 ha; 40°40'N 008°33'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. Permanently flooded wetland including ponds and drainage channels along the Mondego River, surrounded by pine forest and farmland. The dominant feature is extensive reedbeds associated with Salix. The area supports important breeding and wintering populations of several species of wetland birds. The site is important for water retention and flood regulation. Human activities include fishing, reed cutting, and environmental education. Ramsar site no. 822. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Paúl de Madriz

Site number: 823 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Regiao Centro  
Area: 226 ha | Coordinates: 40°08'N 08°38'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paúl de Madriz (Bas Mondego). 08/05/96; Regiao Centro; 226 ha; 40°08'N 008°38'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. Permanently inundated freshwater marsh in an open alluvial plain with extensive reedbeds, Salix, and other marshland species. A freshwater spring ensures water availability in exceptionally dry years. There is a bird sanctuary supporting important concentrations of the breeding mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and other species of breeding and wintering waterbirds. The otter *Lutra lutra* occurs in the area. Ramsar site no. 823. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Paúl de Tornada

Site number: 1 106 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Lisboa e Vale do Tejo, Oeste  
Area: 50 ha | Coordinates: 39°27'N 09°08'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paúl de Tornada (Tornada Marsh). 24/10/01; Regiao Lisboa e Vale do Tejo; 50 ha; 39°27'N 009°03'W. A small freshwater permanently flooded marsh in a small alluvial plain, with extensive reed beds and numerous areas of open water, surrounded by agricultural and forest land. It fulfils the representativeness Criterion 1 and also supports a considerable diversity of species, particularly of migratory birds, as well as some threatened fish, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species. The site is presently located on private property that is rented to the environmental organizations GEOTA and PATO, with national and local government support, and a visitors' centre and observatory are in place. Ramsar site no. 1106. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Paúl do Boquilobo

Site number: 824 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Regiao Lisboa et Vale do Tejo  
Area: 529 ha | Coordinates: 39°23'N 08°32'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paúl de Boquilobo. 08/05/96; Regiao Lisboa e Vale do Tejo; 529 ha; 39°23'N 008°32'W. Biosphere Reserves, Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A freshwater marsh subject to winter floods of the Tejo River. The site supports characteristic aquatic vegetation and various tree species create hedges around the wetland, providing excellent cover for breeding waterbirds and other fauna. The site, an internationally important wintering site for *Anas acuta*, includes a major heronry. Human activities are agriculture and, in the surrounding areas, hunting. The area is important for maintaining the water table. Ramsar site no. 824. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Paúl do Taipal

Site number: 1 107 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Lower Mondego, Center Region  
Area: 233 ha | Coordinates: 40°11'N 08°41'W | Designation dates: 17-10-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paúl do Taipal (Taipal Marsh). 24/10/01; Regiao Centro; 233 ha; 40°11'N 008°41'W. EC Birds Directive Special Protection Area. A freshwater permanently flooded marsh in a small alluvial plain in the Mondego river valley, with extensive reed beds and some open water. The wetland is surrounded by agricultural land, with rice fields downstream. It has great bird diversity and habitats of major importance for migratory birds for wintering (including more than 1% of the Mediterranean population of *Anas clypeata*) and resting areas (for example, transaharan passerines and palearctic birds). It also supports a significant portion of the indigenous fish species *Rutilus macrolepidotus*, *Barbus bacogei*, and *Cobitis maroccana* in all life-cycle stages. The area is very important for local regulation of the underground water table and may also act as a buffer zone, contributing to increased protection of adjoining farmlands against erosion by winter floods. The marsh is publicly owned and managed, with educational activities and traditional fishing practiced within the site; conventional corn and rice cultivation takes place on private lands roundabout. Ramsar site no. 1107. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Paysage Aquatique Protégé du Nord

Site number: 2 149 | Country: Burundi | Administrative region: Kirundo  
Area: 16 242 ha | Coordinates: 02°30'S 30°09'E | Designation dates: 14-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paysage Aquatique Protégé du Nord. 14/03/13; Kirundo; 16,242 ha; 02°30'00"S 030°09'20"E. Protected Landscape, including a nature reserve. This is a complex of 8 permanent freshwater lakes and marshes, forming part of the Nile basin. It is a biodiversity rich site supporting several IUCN Red Listed species including the endemic fish species *Barbus acuticeps* and *Synodontis ruandae*, the Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idea*, and the endangered Grey Crowned-crane *Balearica regulorum*. Twenty fish species including two endemic species have been identified in the site. It is composed of Soudano-Zambezian vegetation type with *Tragelaphus scriptus*, *Sylvicapra grimmia* and *Lepus whytei*. The site is an important habitat for waterbirds and a stopover ground for several migratory birds - with 60 bird species identified in one of its rivers. The presence of these waterbirds (over 5,000 individuals counted) has encouraged ecotourism in the site. Its main hydrological functions include general hydrological balance and flood control. Agriculture and fishing are the main human activities. The site is generally threatened by overexploitation of natural resources and erosion. Ramsar Site no. 2149. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Peace-Athabasca Delta

Site number: 241 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Alberta  
Area: 321 300 ha | Coordinates: 58°42'N 111°08'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Peace-Athabasca Delta. 24/05/82; Alberta; 321,300 ha; 58°42'N 111°08'W. World Heritage Site; National Park. Composed of three river deltas and four large freshwater lakes with rich growths of aquatic vegetation, linked to Lake Athabasca by meandering river channels. Underlain by permafrost, there are expanses of open grass and sedge meadows interspersed with hundreds of perched wetland basins, giving rise to thousands of kilometers of shoreline during spring high water. One of the most important nesting, resting and feeding areas for numerous species of waterbirds in North America. Up to 400,000 birds occur during spring migration, and more than one million occur in the fall. The delta meadows provide grazing for several hundred free-roaming bison, one of 44 other mammals recorded. Ramsar site no. 241. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Peat bogs in the Tatra National Park

Site number: 2 341 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Małopolskie  
Area: 741 ha | Coordinates: 49°14'N 19°58'E | Designation dates: 11-12-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of four separate areas representing diverse types of mountain wetlands of European importance, and almost all typical Carpathian wetland types such as mountain raised bogs, transition mires and quaking bogs, small dystrophic lakes and *Bazzanio-Piceetum* spruce forest. It comprises wetlands in the High Tatra and in the Western Tatra mountains, and a bigger forest area in the Pańszczyca and Sucha Woda valleys. There are transitional mires in the marginal zones of small mountain raised bogs and acid fens among montane belt grasslands and in upper montane spruce forests. Some of the peatlands were born of vegetation succession in water bodies. The valuable wetlands occur mainly in the depressions on acid and poor habitats and they are supplied by rainfall. The plant life is dominated by numerous sphagnum and sedge species including the rare *Carex pauciflora* and *Carex limosa*. Animal species of interest include the Carpathian newt *Lissotriton montandoni* and dragonflies such as the bog hawk *Aeshna subarctica* and the Alpine emerald *Somatochlora alpestris*. Spruce forests in the Pańszczyca valley, Toporowe Stawy and the Smerczyński Staw region provide habitat for the western capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. The Site is located entirely within the borders of the Tatra National Park, which is a popular destination for picnics, touring and nature observation, as well as being important for monitoring and science.

## Peatland of the Iżera River Valley

Site number: 2 319 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Lower Silesia  
Area: 529,4 ha | Coordinates: 50°51'N 15°21'E | Designation dates: 09-04-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of peat bogs and transitional mires along the flood plains of the Iżera River in the central Iżera Mountains, on Poland's south-western border with the Czech Republic. It is the largest mountain bog complex in Poland, with no equivalent in any other part of the country. The mires feature subalpine tundra vegetation, and the peat bogs host communities which are significantly rare in mountain areas of the Continental biogeographical region. Species of European importance include the Boreal owl *Aegolius funereus*, the Eurasian eagle-owl *Bubo bubo* and the Eurasian black grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*. The mires play important roles in flood protection, by capturing the spring floods of the Iżera River and its tributaries. Other important functions of the wetland are carbon sequestration and storage, and soil formation. It also provides scientific and educational opportunities. It is adjacent to similar large mire complexes on the Czech side of the River, which have been designated as Jizera Headwaters ([Ramsar Site no. 2074](#)).

## Peel-Yalgorup system

Site number: 482 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 26 530 ha | Coordinates: 32°49'S 115°42'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Peel-Yalgorup system. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 26,530 ha; 32°49'S 115°42'E. National Park. A large system of shallow estuary and saline, brackish and freshwater lakes that is used by tens of thousands of waterbirds, including large numbers of migrant shorebirds from the northern hemisphere. Vegetation consists of fringing, samphire flats giving way to rushes, sedges and trees tolerant of water logging (*Melaleuca*, *Casuarina*), with open woodland (*Agonis*, *Eucalyptus*) on higher ground. The site is the most important area for waterbirds and waders in Southwest Australia, regularly supporting over 20,000 individuals. The system supports a regionally important estuarine fishery. There are unique formations of calcium carbonate, and the site is one of only two in southwestern Australia and one of very few in the world where living thrombolites (a type of microbialite, superficially resembling stromatolites) occur in hypersaline water. The area is used extensively for recreational purposes. Site's area significantly extended on 05/01/01. Ramsar site no. 482. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Peitzer Teichgebiet

Site number: 175 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Brandenburg  
Area: 1 060 ha | Coordinates: 51°51'N 14°25'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Peitzer Teichgebiet. 31/07/78; Brandenburg; 1,060 ha; 51°51'N 014°25'E. Nature Reserve. The site consists of numerous fishponds that form an internationally important breeding and staging area for several species of waterbirds. Lignite is mined nearby. Ramsar site no. 175.

## Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 590 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Florida  
Area: 2 203 ha | Coordinates: 27°48'N 80°26'W | Designation dates: 14-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. 14/03/93; Florida, 2,203 ha; 27°47'46"N 80°25'56"W. The Site lies in the Indian River Lagoon, a brackish water estuarine system that extends for over 200 km along the east coast of central Florida. Lying in a climatic zone of overlap between temperate and tropical zones its unique conditions are suitable for a large number of species, many of them threatened or endangered, from both zones. Overall the Site supports 140 bird species that use the refuge as a nesting, roosting, feeding or loafing area, as well as 18 species of mammals, 27 of reptiles and amphibians, over 300 of plants, and over 214 species of fish of which 87% are at a juvenile stage. It also serves as a nursery for species of threatened and endangered sea turtles such as the Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), green (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtles. The site's importance has been recognised since 1903 when it was named as the country's first National Wildlife Refuge. Since then it has also been designated as a National Historic Landmark and a National Marine Monument. The intensive development of the surrounding area has caused soil and water contamination, pollution, erosion and habitat destruction. Furthermore, the Site has been identified as highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as sea level rise and more intense hurricanes. Ramsar site No. 590. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Pembroke Marsh East

Site number: 988 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bermuda Island  
Area: 8 ha | Coordinates: 32°17'N 64°46'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pembroke Marsh East. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 8 ha; 32°17'N 64°46'W. Nature Reserve. The site is an extensive freshwater Typha and Cladium marsh with some open water channels up to 3m deep. It supports juvenile populations of certain fish species (*Gambusia affinis*) and a wide variety of passage and wintering waterfowl (*Gallinula chloropus*, *Podilymbus podiceps*, *Botaurus lentiginosus*). The former landfill site is now being restored. Ramsar site no. 988. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Perebrody Peatlands

Site number: 1 402 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivne Region  
Area: 12 718 ha | Coordinates: 51°42'N 27°08'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located near the border with Belarus, the Site consists of the largest mire in Ukraine which, together with the mires on the Belarusian side, is said to form the biggest peatland in Europe. Due to its inaccessible location, the wetland has been preserved in a natural state. The boundaries of the Site have been delineated more accurately to correspond to the territory of Rivnensky Nature Reserve. Transitional communities of sedge-sphagnum mires prevail at the periphery, and fens with *Phragmites australis* and *Carex lasiocarpa* predominate in the central area. The Site is important for the conservation of the typical boreal mire flora and fauna: it provides habitat for over 630 native plant species and 430 animal species, including 92 protected species. The mires and small forested islands provide important breeding and foraging grounds for globally threatened species of birds such as the greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* and aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. The peatlands are important for flood control, water retention and water purification. During extensive floods every ten years or so, the Site is almost completely covered by water. The duration of flooding is increasingly fluctuating; the years from 2013 to 2015 were very dry and led to a shorter flooding period. Human activities include the gathering of cranberries, and long-term monitoring and scientific activities.

## Pernajanlahti Bay

Site number: 1 526 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 1 143 ha | Coordinates: 60°28'N 25°59'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pernajanlahti Bay. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 1,143 ha; 60°26'N 026°00'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP, Baltic Sea Protected Area, Nationally Important Landscape Area. A narrow, over 10 km long sea bay with numerous islands, one of the longest sea bays on the southern coast of Finland, with a gradually increasing salinity from the two rivers of the estuary to the mouth of the bay. Aquatic vegetation is very abundant and reed zone extensive in the northern parts. Shore areas include coastal meadows and some fine wooded meadows. The bay supports threatened birds including corncrake, crane and Spotted Crake. In the past, the bay has been an important waterway and the earliest settlements date back to the Bronze Age. The western shores are characterized by three medieval manors with traditional cultural characters. Important disturbances are caused by the highway on the northern edge of the bay and a motorboat harbor. A power line crossing the bay causes risk for larger bird species. The conservation of the Natura 2000 site will be carried out including noise reduction measures and management of coastal meadows. Birdwatching is a popular activity during migration periods. Ramsar site no. 1526. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Persöfjärden

Site number: 28 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 3 452 ha | Coordinates: 65°47'N 22°05'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a shallow freshwater lake formed by geological uplift after deglaciation, which isolated the coastal bay from the sea. The lake is surrounded by freshwater marshes and shrub marsh with vegetation including extensive reedbeds, deciduous woodland and scrub. The Site supports various species of breeding and staging wetland birds and provides shelter for waders and ducks. About 210 bird species have been observed including several nationally red-listed species such as the nationally endangered Eurasian penduline tit *Remiz pendulinus* and the nationally vulnerable northern pintail *Anas acuta*, common swift *Apus apus* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The wetland plays an important role in water purification and sediment trapping. Some parts of the Site are used for agriculture and grazing, sport fishing, hunting, canoeing, and birdwatching. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to pollution from agricultural effluents, airborne pollutants and high mercury concentrations. The Site is managed by private owners and a conservation plan is being implemented for the part covered by the Natura 2000 designation.

## Pestersko polje

Site number: 1 656 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Stari Vlah and Raška

Area: 3 455 ha | Coordinates: 43°05'N 20°07'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2006

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Peatersko polje. 01/05/06; Stari Vlah and Raška; 3,455 ha; 43°05'N 020°07'E. Situated at about 1150m altitude on the Sjenica-Peater Plateau in southwestern Serbia. The site, which is part of the country's largest karst area, supports an extremely rare example of a specific wet peatbog habitat for this biogeographic region, including non-forested peatlands, permanent rivers, and seasonal freshwater marshes on inorganic soils. The Boroatica River and Lake are the most important hydrographic units and form the shape of pastures and natural ecosystems. Due to these conditions the site supports a number of endangered species, such as the plants *Fumana bonapartei*, *Halacsya sendtneri* and *Orchis tridentata*, and also provides habitat and refuge to a number of birds during unfavourable periods, such as during breeding season for the Montagu's harrier *Circus pygargus*, of which the only nesting place in Serbia is found in this area. The land use of the site is entirely based on traditional cattle breeding, with related pasturing meadow management. The ongoing draining and exploitation of peatbogs poses an important conservation issue for future management. Because of its isolated situation and the economy based on cattle breeding, a culture of Muslims and Christians has developed in the villages over centuries, and many of the traditional local dishes, particularly a wide variety of pies, are much appreciated. Ramsar site no. 1656. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Petit Loango

Site number: 352 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ogooué Maritime

Area: 150 868,6 ha | Coordinates: 02°07'S 09°36'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Petit Loango is part of the lagoon complex of Iguela. It is a slightly undulating coastal plain with several lakes, dissected by small rivers and temporary and permanent swamps, set in a savanna, mangrove and rainforest environment. The Site supports rare and vulnerable species such as the hippo, gorilla and elephant, and provides a nesting site for the three threatened turtle species: the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Birds, mainly terns of the *Sterna* genus, use the sandbanks for breeding. The Site plays an important role in flood control, sediment capture and bank stabilization through riverside vegetation. Given the very low population density and the area's classification as a wildlife reserve, the Site is very scarcely used. The surroundings are used for tourism and for oil exploitation, which could constitute a threat in the future, especially if expanded. As the Site opens out to the Atlantic Ocean, permanent communications paths are envisaged. The overlapping Loango National Park was established in 2002.

## Pettigoe Plateau

Site number: 872 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland

Area: 1 264 ha | Coordinates: 54°32'N 07°59'W | Designation dates: 19-11-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pettigoe Plateau. 19/11/96; Northern Ireland; 1,264 ha; 54°32'N 007°59'W. Area of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area. Abutting the border with the Irish Republic, the site is one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in Northern Ireland. Features include numerous pool complexes, acid flushes, basin mires and ladder fens supporting characteristic bog vegetation. The site supports an important assemblage of nationally vulnerable and endangered bird species. Nationally important numbers of golden plovers *Pluvialis apricaria* breed at the site. Human activities include livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 872. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Pettigo Plateau

Site number: 334 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Donegal

Area: 900 ha | Coordinates: 54°37'N 07°57'W | Designation dates: 31-07-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pettigo Plateau. 31/07/86; Donegal; 900 ha; 54°37'N 007°57'W. Council of Europe Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. An excellent example of highland blanket bog, a nationally rare bog type, covering low hills and broad basins and containing numerous nutrient poor and acidic lakes and pools. The site is a traditional feeding and roosting site for a wintering flock of the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and a breeding site for *Pluvialis apricaria*. Summer sheep grazing is controlled. Ramsar site no. 334.

## Pevensey Levels

Site number: 973 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England

Area: 3 578 ha | Coordinates: 50°51'N 00°20'E | Designation dates: 02-02-1999

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pevensey Levels. 02/02/99; England; 3,578 ha; 50°50'N 000°21'E. National Nature Reserve. The site is one of the largest and least fragmented lowland wet grassland systems in southeast England, including a small area of shingle and intertidal muds and sands. The low-lying grazing meadows are intersected by a complex system of ditches which support rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates (freshwater molluscs and dragonflies *Odonata* spp) as well as breeding and wintering wildfowl. The area is used for nature conservation, pastoral agriculture, tourism, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 973. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Phoksundo Lake

Site number: 1 694 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Karnali Zone

Area: 494 ha | Coordinates: 29°12'N 82°57'E | Designation dates: 23-09-2007

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Phoksundo Lake. 23/09/07; Karnali; 494 ha; 29°12'N 082°57'E. Within Shey-Phoksundo National Park. A glacial lake near Ringmo in the Dolpo region, the deepest lake in the country, that is the centre of endemism in the eastern Himalayan region and a vital source of freshwater for downstream, with the highest waterfall (167m) in Nepal 500m from the lake. The lake, alpine meadows, and bogs provide habitat for a number of rare and vulnerable plants and animals, including the Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*), Musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) and Grey or Tibetan Wolf (*Canis lupus*). The site has great cultural and religious importance, with traditional Tibetan culture of the upper Dolpo and both Buddhism and the ancient Tibetan Bon-Po religion of the lower Dolpo both observed in Ringmo village. There is some grazing and cultivation, but tourism, dependent upon the wetland, is the base of the economy. Overgrazing and pollution from the 42 households of Ringmo village are seen as potential threats to the site. Ramsar site no. 1694. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Piallassa della Baiona e Risega

Site number: 226 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 1 630 ha | Coordinates: 44°30'N 12°15'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Piallassa della Baiona e Risega. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 1,630 ha; 44°30'N 012°15'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park. A coastal basin of extensive areas of open water dissected by a network of canals. Vegetation includes submergent vegetation, reedbeds, grasses, and salt-tolerant plants. The area is particularly important for various species of staging, wintering and breeding waterbirds. Human activities include fish farming and hunting. Ramsar site no. 226. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Pian di Spagna - Lago di Mezzola

Site number: 117 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 1 740 ha | Coordinates: 46°10'N 09°25'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pian di Spagna-Lago di Mezzola. 14/12/76; Lombardia; 1,740 ha; 46°13'N 009°26'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. The site, an alluvial floodplain in the Alp foothills, lies between the Lakes Mezzola and Como and is formed by the confluence of the Mera and Adda rivers. A diverse aquatic vegetation is supported in the associated marsh. The area is important for numerous species of breeding and wintering waterbirds and nesting raptors. The lake supports a rich fish fauna, is intensively fished, and provides fish spawning and nursery areas. Human activities include boating and intensive agriculture in the surroundings. Ramsar site no. 117. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands

Site number: 2 136 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia  
Area: 862 ha | Coordinates: 38°03'S 140°56'E | Designation dates: 21-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands. 21/12/12; South Australia; 862 ha; 38°03'S 140°56'E. Conservation Park. The site is a unique combination of karst and coastal fen wetlands in good condition. The site includes a series of rising spring karst systems as well as several substantial groundwater beach springs along the foreshore of the beach. The site is an exceptional example of karst spring wetlands at the bioregional scale, with the largest and deepest of the springs reaching a depth of more than 110 metres. The karst springs support unique macrophyte and algal associations, with macrophyte growth extending to 15 metres. In addition, a number of different wetland types surround the karst wetlands, receiving surface runoff from the overflow of groundwater discharge. A large area of peat fens is also present. The geomorphic and hydrological features of the site produce a complex and biologically diverse ecosystem which supports considerable biodiversity, including a significant number of species of conservation value such as the globally threatened Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and Orange-bellied parrot (*Neohpema chrysoaster*). Human activities consist of recreation, tourism, snorkeling, camping and research. The surrounding areas are used for livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 2136. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Pilvineva Mires

Site number: 1 527 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 3 667 ha | Coordinates: 63°29'N 24°00'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pilvineva Mires. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 3,667 ha; 63°28'N 023°59'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme, Mire Protection Area. An unusually extensive, unbroken and diverse mire area in Middle Ostrobothnia, in the middle boreal forest vegetation zone with a valuable wetland bird fauna. The site represents the mire vegetation regions of eccentric bogs and Sphagnum fuscum bogs and of southern aapa mires. During the breeding season the site supports about 19 Europe-threatened bird species, e.g. Black Grouse, Osprey and Red-necked Phalarope, and forms an important habitat for many endangered bird species, such as Bean Goose and Crane, for staging and resting during migration periods. Virgin mires like this area support an important hydrological value while playing an important role in maintenance of water quality. Therefore many strict regulations apply to the site, which is without large public and recreation facilities. Ramsar site no. 1527. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Pirttimysvuoma

Site number: 2 177 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 2 586 ha | Coordinates: 68°16'N 20°44'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pirttimysvuoma is a large, unexploited mire complex with several types of wetlands, vegetation and morphological structures which are important for biodiversity. The Site features open mires, tundra wetlands, forested peatlands, shrub-dominated wetlands, permanent freshwater marshes and pools, rivers and streams. The mixed palsas (frost heaves) and the surrounding fens and open waters create a landscape mosaic which harbours a rich birdlife and supports species using the Site as a foraging ground, such as the nationally red-listed ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, common reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and Lapland longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*. The mires and bogs play a significant role as carbon sinks. The area is frequently used for reindeer grazing: the Saami villages of Talma and Saarivuoma have the right to use the land. The management plans for the overlapping Natura 2000 site and the Nature Reserve are being implemented. Forestry activities are regulated through the nature reserve management plan, and drainage is forbidden.

### Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon

Site number: 254 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Tasmania  
Area: 3 334 ha | Coordinates: 42°47'S 147°30'E | Designation dates: 16-11-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon is a tidal salt water lagoon with a narrow entrance to the sea, which includes the estuaries of four rivers. The Site comprises the uppermost parts of a wave-dominated barred estuary. The principal features are the channel and mouth of the Coal River estuary, Orielton Lagoon, a large embayment now almost closed by a causeway, and an extensive area of open marine waters. The Site supports a diversity of coastal, intertidal and marine habitats and communities, and is therefore a species-rich environment. In particular, it is considered important for conservation of coastal birdlife at the bioregional scale. Most of the wetland is fringed by saltmarsh vegetation and rocky shores. The Site supports a range of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), the endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) and the far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*); it also supports large numbers of the endemic Tasmanian viviparous sea-star (*Patiriella vivipara*). Extensive oyster farming operations occur within the Site and the surrounding area is used for livestock grazing. The Site continues to be important for the local Aboriginal community.

## Plaine de Massenya

Site number: 1 839 | Country: Chad | Administrative region: Région de Baguirmi  
Area: 2 526 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°15'N 16°15'E | Designation dates: 17-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Plaine de Massenya. 17/10/08; Baguirmi; 2,526,000 ha; 11°15'N 16°15'E. Located in the southwestern regions of the country, this inland wetland forms part of the Lake Chad Basin and is characterized by freshwater marshes, rivers, streams and creeks. It plays several roles such as flood control, sediment capture, groundwater renewal, etc. Various endangered species that also attract tourists are present, e.g., the African elephant, leopards, the Nile crocodile, and others. There are 386 species of birds noted in the area, as well as numerous fish species, due to the occurrence of vegetation such as *Echinachloa* sp among others. The most important livelihood activities in the area are fishing, agriculture and livestock keeping. The main threats are deforestation, high concentrations of livestock, bush fires, over-fishing practices, poaching and lack of personnel with technical capabilities to ensure proper management practices. In the surrounding areas the major threat is caused by exploration activities for petroleum. Development projects in the area are being carried out by NGOs, e.g., education of the local communities on sustainable management of their resources, and an inventory is being carried out on sustainable energy sources. Ramsar site no. 1839. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Plaine Inondable du Sourou

Site number: 2 128 | Country: Mali | Administrative region: Mopti  
Area: 56 500 ha | Coordinates: 13°38'N 03°20'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A seasonal freshwater marsh formed from seasonal freshwater rivers and small permanent lakes, forming part of the Black Volta basin. This is a biodiversity rich area supporting several fish and bird species already decreasing in the Inner Niger Delta, such as the African bonytongue *Heterotis niloticus*, Senegal bichir *Polypterus senegalus* and freshwater rat-tail *Gymnarchus niloticus*. 20,978 individuals of 32 bird species were identified in 2009 with over 2% of the West African breeding population of the African pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus* and purple heron *Ardea purpurea*, and 22,000 bird individuals in 2011. The site also supports IUCN Red-Listed hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* and African elephant *Loxodonta africana*. The rice fields are a good source of food and a spawning ground and nursery for fishes of the Sourou basin. It ensures general hydrological balance of the basin, flood control and groundwater recharge. The main human activities include rice farming, fishing, and wood harvesting.

## Plaines d'inondation des Bahr Aouk et Salamat

Site number: 1 621 | Country: Chad | Administrative region: Départements du Salamat et du Bahr Koh  
Area: 4 922 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°45'N 20°33'E | Designation dates: 01-05-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Plaines d'inondation des Bahr Aouk et Salamat. 01/05/06; Salamat, Bahr Koh; 4,922,000 ha; 10°45'N 20°33'E. Parc National. One of the world's largest Ramsar sites, a complex of floodplains, hills, a lake, rivers and ponds located in a natural depression at the border with the Central Africa Republic. The site plays a very important role for the surrounding wildlife, providing breeding grounds for several migratory waterbirds and supporting hippos, leopards, elephants and different antelope species. It also is a spawning and nursery ground for several fish families, and plays a role in flood control, groundwater recharge, sediment trapping and chemical regulation of the waters. Fishing is an important socio-economic activity, with annual catches amounting to 15,000 tonnes; the area is also a renowned grazing ground, and different crops are grown according to the habitat type. Local trees are used for medicinal purposes, firewood and fruit. Tourism in the Zakouma National Park and hunting concessions can potentially be further exploited. The main threats to the site arise from poaching, oil exploration, over-grazing, illegal fires and contamination by pesticides. An environmental education project is taking place in the schools, while awareness-raising and training in participatory management is being carried out with the local communities. One of the pilot projects in the framework of the GEF Lake Chad Basin project is taking place within the site. Ramsar site no. 1621. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Plaines d'inondation du Logone et les dépressions Toupouri

Site number: 1 560 | Country: Chad | Administrative region: Chari-Baguirmi / Mayo-Kebbi / Tandjilé  
Area: 2 978 900 ha | Coordinates: 10°30'N 16°14'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Plaines d'inondation du Logone et les dépressions Toupouri. 14/11/05; Chari-Baguirmi, Mayo-Kebbi, Tandjilé; 2,978,900 ha; 10°30'N 16°14'E. One of Africa's largest wetlands, characterized by a succession of rivers, lakes, floodplains and permanent and temporary ponds. The different ecosystems support typical faunal and floral associations, among which are some locally threatened plant species such as the African Palmyra palm and the Néré (*Parkia biglobosa*). The site also hosts important Occidental Palearctic and Ethiopian migratory species such as the Black Crowned-Crane, the Spur-winged Goose and *Dendrocygna* species. The floodplains also play an essential role in providing spawning and nursery sites for numerous fish families, which are exploited by the locals throughout the year, using different fishing practices according to season and location. Men are responsible for fishing, while women dry and smoke the fish which is then commercialized. Animal raising, subsistence agriculture (rice, sorghum, taro), a faunal reserve in the northern part, and oil prospecting are other land-uses in the site. Deforestation, poaching, water extraction, pesticide pollution and oil extraction are some of the threats arising from within the site, while irrigation, oil mining and cement production threaten the site's integrity from outside. A management plan is envisaged under the GEF/World Bank/UNDP Lake Chad Basin Commission project. Ramsar site no. 1560. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Planalto Central das Flores

Site number: 1 806 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago, Flores Island  
Area: 2 572 ha | Coordinates: 39°27'N 31°13'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Planalto Central das Flores (Morro Alto). 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 2,572 ha; 39°26'N 031°12'W. Sitio de Importância Comunitária SIC, Nature Reserve. A plateau area located at around 600m asl dominated by important wetlands ranging from permanent freshwater lakes to forested and non-forested peatlands adapted to low oxygen conditions. The wetlands play a significant role in the hydrological regulation of aquifer recharge and discharge on the Isla de las Flores. Among the four permanent lakes and their excellent water quality, Lagoa Negra is the deepest of the Azores archipelago with its 108 metres depth, while Lagoa Funda is the biggest on the island. The area is among the best place for migrating and breeding waterbirds in the Azores, with several American birds occurring there, and it is also the best conserved complex of mountain habitats in the region. It supports a broad variety of ecosystems supporting a large amount of plant endemism such as *Amni trifoliatum*, *Angelica lignescens*, *Euphorbia stygiana*, *Frangula azorica*, *Juniperus brevifolia*, *Leontodon filli*, *Leontodon rigens*, *Myosotis maritima*, *Pericallis malvifolia* and *Viburnum tinus subcordatum*. The site is also home of the endemic Bat of Azores (*Nyctalus azoreum*) also protected at national level. Ramsar site no. 1806. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Planalto Central da Terceira

Site number: 1 805 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 1 283 ha | Coordinates: 38°45'N 27°13'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Planalto Central da Terceira (Furnas do Enxofre e Algar do Carvão). 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 1,283 ha; 38°44'N 027°12'W. Sítio de Importância Comunitária SIC, Natural regional monument. A rather flat area on the top of the central plateau of Terceira Island that includes different and diverse palustrine habitats, a small set of geysers (Furnas de Enxofre) and a volcanic cave with a permanent subterranean lake inside (Algar do Carvão). The site has particular ecological conditions which support the peatland flora characteristic of the Azores and Macaronesia, with special relevance for the communities of *Juniperus brevifolia*, *Sphagnum* and laurel forest woodlands. The exuberant vegetation contributes in great degree to the rainfall levels of the area. This is the habitat for native and rare species such as the Azores Wood Pigeon (*Columbus palumbus azorica*) or the Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). The wetland has great importance for its hydrological characteristics for water retention and recharge of the underground springs. The geyser's field is an interesting habitat due to its excellent status of conservation. The Algar do Carvão is an ancient volcano with a small subterranean lake of clear waters and silicate stalactites as a unique case in the world. The lake is fed by rainwater from the surface and some small springs under the lake. The traditional corridas are organised locally with the bulls (touro) that are raised within this site, which confers a special social importance to the site. Ramsar site no. 1805. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Planalto Central de São Jorge

Site number: 1 807 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 231 ha | Coordinates: 38°39'N 28°04'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Planalto Central de São Jorge (Pico da Esperança). 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 231 ha; 38°39'N 028°04'W. Sítio de Importância Comunitária SIC, Nature Reserve. The site, a plain on the top of the plateau of São Jorge island, is a perfect example of the Macaronesian peatlands of the Azores due to its hydrological conditions and diversity of native species of plants dominated by peat moss *Sphagnum*. Amongst the endangered species: *Bellis azorica*, *Euphrasia grandiflora*, *Lactuca watsoniana*, *Prunus lusitanica ssp azorica*. The site is important for its water storage and regulation characteristics. The area is in relatively good shape in terms of conservation status, although lack of control and increasing pressure from tourism could become a threat. Ramsar site no. 1807. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Planalto Central do Pico

Site number: 1 808 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Azores archipelago  
Area: 748 ha | Coordinates: 38°26'N 28°14'W | Designation dates: 16-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Planalto Central do Pico (Achada). 16/06/08; Archipiélago de las Azores; 748 ha. 38°26'N 28°13'W. Sítio de Importância Comunitária SIC, Nature Reserve. The site covers the central area of Pico Island where there are several palustrine wetlands and the catchment areas of freshwater lagoons and ponds. The Lagoa Seca and the Cabeço dos Grotões correspond to volcanic craters while the remaining are topographic depressions receiving water from all their catchment areas. The wetlands are ecologically important as they constitute very illustrative examples of the native and endemic species and wetland habitats of Macaronesia and the Azores. Also some birds have here their main distribution areas in the region, especially the snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and the woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*). Although not the most important tourist asset on the island, the area is of scenic interest and visited by many people. Ramsar site no. 1808. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Playa Barra de la Cruz

Site number: 1 821 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Oaxaca  
Area: 17,7 ha | Coordinates: 15°50'N 95°55'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Barra de la Cruz. 02/02/2008; Oaxaca; 18 ha; 15°50'N 95°55'W. This site consists of sandy beaches and is of great importance as a nesting ground for three marine turtle species: *Dermochelys coriacea* from October to March, *Lepidochelys olivacea* through out the year and *Chelonia mydas* from October to January. It also supports a great variety of vertebrates including migratory birds such as *Pelecanus occidentalis*, *Charadrius sp.*, *Sterna sp.*; resident bird species like *Fregata magnificens*, *Larus argentatus*, *Casmerodius alvus* and *Phalacrocorax sp.*, and in less quantities small mammals such as *Nassua larica*, *Procyon lotor*, and *Conepatus mesoleucus*, as well as reptiles, amphibians and fish. During the winter, migratory birds have been registered using the estuaries as a resting stop during their long journeys. Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) are regularly observed close to the coast line and groups of Humpback Whales *Megaptera novaengliae* can be seen when migrating to the South West during December and January, and going back to the North East during March and April.

### Playa de Colola

Site number: 1 788 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacan  
Area: 286,8 ha | Coordinates: 18°18'N 103°25'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa de Colola. 02/02/08; Michoacán; 286.83 ha; 18° 18' N y 103 ° 25' W. This site is located in the western central region of Mexico, in the state of Michoacán and consists of 4.8 Km of sandy beaches, with a 150 m width, surrounded by different types of shrubs. This beach is highly significant as a major nesting site for three specific marine turtles found under different categories of protection IUCN, the national legislation and Appendix I of CITES: the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), the Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the Green Turtle (*Chelonia agassizii*). It is estimated that about 70% of the population of the green turtle comes to this beach to nest and breed in the waters near the beach which further emphasizes the importance of this site for the future of these species. The turtles are exposed to the dangers caused by humans since the nesting females can be easily caught. The eggs are extracted by the locals for personal consumption, or can also be extracted by animals digging through the nests. Another situation in which the turtles are found in danger is during the reproductive interactions, which take place near the beach at sea. Males and females are then vulnerable to illegal capture and distribution by coastal fishing vessels. Causes that negatively affect this site are due to population increase of Colola, in an unorganized manner and compromise the habitat where the turtles have laid their eggs. At the same time, tourism activities are increasing which can also cause disturbances to nesting females and the site itself, if it goes on unmonitored. This beach is found inside a Federal Protected Area under the Sanctuary category.

### Playa de Maruata

Site number: 1 795 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacan  
Area: 80,4 ha | Coordinates: 18°16'N 103°20'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa de Maruata. 02/02/08; Michoacán; 80 ha; 18°16'N 103°21'W. This site, located in the western central region of Mexico, is a marine-coastal wetland which includes three beaches. This beach is of great importance as a nesting site for three marine turtles: the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), the Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the Green Turtle (*Chelonia agassizii*), all of them found under different categories of protection (IUCN, the national legislation and Appendix I of CITES). 20% of the total population of *Chelonia agassizii*'s reproductive population nests in Playa de Maruata, which makes them vulnerable to predation. The site is a Natural Protected Area dedicated to conservation activities of marine turtles.

### Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán

Site number: 1 347 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Oaxaca  
Area: 65 ha | Coordinates: 16°17'N 98°29'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Tortuguera Cahuitán. 02/02/04; Oaxaca. 65 ha; 16°17'N 98°29'W. An important nesting beach for three species of endangered marine turtles in the Pacific Ocean: Leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea*, nesting from October to March; Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, nesting year-round; and the Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*, nesting from October to January. The beach is a highly dynamic system with large tidal surges, which can form sand walls of up to 2 metres high. Adjacent areas have been severely deforested, but extensions of Red Mangrove *Rhizophora mangle*, *Enterolobium cyclocarpum* and Roseodendron *donnellsmithii* remain, used locally for house building and woodwork. Leatherback turtles have been intensely surveyed since 1996, protecting nestlings and releasing newborns to the sea. However, there is an alarming diminishing trend of nestlings, attributed to nest looting by locals and the accidental capture of females by fishing lines in South America. Artificial illumination, waste disposal and the prospects of tourism development are also reported as threats for the turtles. There are future plans for designating this beach as a Wildlife Sanctuary. Ramsar site no. 1347. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Playa Tortuguera Chenkán

Site number: 1 348 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: State of Campeche  
Area: 121 ha | Coordinates: 19°06'N 91°00'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Tortuguera Chenkán. 02/02/04; Campeche; 121 ha; 19°06'N 91°00'W. An important nesting site for the endangered Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and the Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*. Coastal dune communities feature the Seagrape *Coccoloba uvifer*, Largeleaf Geiger tree *Cordia sebestena*, Ipomea *pescaprea* and *Jaquinia flamma*. A stretch of mangrove forest is found behind the beach, as well as deciduous forest. *Lylisoma bahamensis*, *Piscidia piscipula*, *Bursera simaruba* and *Croton flavens* are the more common species of trees. Oil and natural gas exploration in the Campeche Sound have caused some water pollution, and there are concerns for the risks for turtles. Northerly winds, tropical depressions and hurricanes have made the beach retreat in width, while coconut palms are suffering from lethal yellowing. A research camp has been built to monitor turtle populations and do awareness activities with local communities. There are plans to designate this beach as a Wildlife Sanctuary. Ramsar Site no. 1348. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Playa Tortuguera El Verde Camacho

Site number: 1 349 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 6 454 ha | Coordinates: 23°24'N 106°32'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Tortuguera El Verde Camacho. 02/02/04; Sinaloa; 6,454 ha; 23°24'N 106°32'W. Wildlife Reserve. The 25km long beach is the most important reproductive area for the Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* in the state of Sinaloa (Gulf of California), where they arrive to nest in groups of 40-50 individuals per night. It is also feeding and migration habitat for the Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, Black turtle *Chelonia agassizii*, and sporadically, the Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*, all of them endangered species and experiencing notorious decline in numbers. Due to the influx of the Quelite River, coastal lagoons behind the beach are both brackish and freshwater. They provide refuge to resident and migratory birds and nursery waters to economically important fish species such as *pargos* *Lutjanus* spp. Mangrove forests dominated by *Laguncularia racemosa* and deciduous tropical forest are the dominant vegetation. Aquaculture, fishing, agriculture and tourism are the main uses of the site. Building, night illumination, waste disposal and the transit of 4x4 vehicles affect the quality of the beach as turtle nesting ground, while fish farming and agriculture are modifying the hydrological regime and causing pollution and sedimentation. Turtle nesting has been monitored and researched since 1975, and a management plan is pending official approval. Ramsar site no. 1349. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Playa Tortuguera Rancho Nuevo

Site number: 1 326 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Tamaulipas  
Area: 30 ha | Coordinates: 23°14'N 97°46'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Tortuguera Rancho Nuevo. 27/11/03; Tamaulipas; 30 ha; 23°14'N 97°46'W. Wildlife Reserve. A stretch of sandy and gently sloping beach of over 30km on Gulf of Mexico, the only reproductive area in the world for the Atlantic Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys kempi*, which is endemic and critically endangered. The also endangered Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* nest on the beach, and sporadically the Loggerhead and Hawksbill Turtle. Since 1964, study and monitoring of the turtle nesting seasons have taken place jointly between Mexican and U.S. institutions. Areas of intertidal marshes, mangroves, lagoons and low deciduous forests are other features of the site. There is an important level of diversity of mollusks, crustaceans, fish, birds and marine mammals. The area is off limits to outside visitors, but local people harvest oyster and crab. Ramsar site no. 1326. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Playa Tortuguera Tierra Colorada

Site number: 1 327 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Guerrero  
Area: 54 ha | Coordinates: 16°25'N 98°38'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Tortuguera Tierra Colorada. 27/11/03; Guerrero; 54 ha; 16°25'N 098°38'W. Wildlife Reserve. An ocean-battered beach on the south central Pacific Coast, one of the most important nesting areas for the critically endangered Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*, and relevant also for the endangered Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* and Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*. American Crocodiles *Crocodilus acutus* have also been reported. Coastal dune vegetation, mangrove forests and desert scrub are found in the area, which although modified by anthropic uses sustain important biodiversity. Fishing is an important economic activity, and there is considerable exploitation of turtles and other reptiles for selling and eating. Cattle and dogs on the beaches are a problem, as well as coconut and mango plantations and potential threats from plans for new tourism development and the dredging of the beach for a wharf. Since 1995, UNAM and SEMARNAT have carried out research on marine turtles and seasonal beach cleaning campaigns. Ramsar site no. 1327. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Playa Tortuguera X'cachel-X'cachelito

Site number: 1 351 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 362,1 ha | Coordinates: 20°20'N 87°21'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playa Tortuguera X'cachel-X'cachelito. 02/02/04; Quintana Roo; 362 ha; 20°20'N 87°21'W. National Sanctuary. The site has the highest breeding index in the Quintana Roo State and in Mexico for the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*). It also includes a terrestrial band of 35 ha because of the importance of its vegetation: forests of Kuka palms (*Pseudophoenix sargentii*), Florida Thatch palm (*Thrina radiata*) and mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicennia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erecta*). The area also presents some underground water outcrops close to the sea shore that enhance the development of aquatic vegetation and the abundance of juvenile fishes and coral, some listed on the Endangered Species Lists. The main threat to the X'cachel and X'cachelito beaches is the land ownership - the site lies on private properties and though the turtles have been traditionally protected by the landowners, some tourist infrastructures development projects could threaten the site and its fauna, as e.g. the one presented in 1999 and rejected by the Federal Government in 2001. Ramsar site no. 1351. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Playón Mexiquillo

Site number: 1 350 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Michoacán  
Area: 66,5 ha | Coordinates: 18°07'N 102°52'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Playón Mexiquillo. 02/02/04; Michoacán; 67 ha; 18°07'N 102°52'W. National Sanctuary. The Mexiquillo beach is important for the breeding of three species of marine turtles: the Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the Olive Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); it is considered one of the five most important beaches for the breeding of the Leatherback turtle in the Mexican and Mesoamerican Pacific. This species has been included in the IUCN List of Threatened Species since 2000 and the three species are protected under the Mexican law and listed by CITES. The site is still well conserved, but an increase in the tourist sector during the past few years could imply the urbanization of the area. The lack of strict protection of the beach area, and its frequent use by 4-wheel-drive vehicles, is also a major threat to the turtles populations as well as to the fragile vegetation of the beaches. Ramsar site no. 1350. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Poda

Site number: 1 228 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Burgas  
Area: 307 ha | Coordinates: 42°27'N 27°27'E | Designation dates: 24-09-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Poda. 24/09/02; Burgas; 307 ha; 42°27'N 027°27'E. Partially Protected Area. A marshy wetland and adjacent sea bay located on the outskirts of the city of Burgas on the Black Sea coast. Although naturally formed as part of the Burgas-Mandra firth, the coastal wetland has deteriorated due to human interference in 1960s and later evolved into a mosaic of different habitats - freshwater, brackish, saline and hyper-saline pools, and flooded areas overgrown with aquatic vegetation. The site includes the shallow sea bay Phoros. The site has outstanding significance for biodiversity conservation, and more than 260 rare, vulnerable and endangered species of plants and animals have been recorded, among them eight globally threatened bird species and one globally threatened animal species (Otter *Lutra lutra*) - some species with restricted distribution also occur, like the Etruscan Shrew *Suncus etruscus*. Poda is an important breeding ground for some waterbirds (a mixed colony of glossy ibises, spoonbills - the only place along the Bulgarian coast where the spoonbill breeds - and five species of herons and egrets) and a valuable stopover site for migratory birds, and it hosts numerous winter concentrations of waterbirds, for many species often beyond the 1% threshold of the biogeographic population - Dalmatian Pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*, Great White Egret *Egretta alba*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, and White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. A management plan for the site, elaborated by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife Bulgaria (BSPB), is about to be approved by the Ministry of Environment and Waters. Ramsar site no. 1228. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Podvelikiy Moh

Site number: 2 267 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Gancevichi district/Brest Region  
Area: 10 647 ha | Coordinates: 52°44'N 26°16'E | Designation dates: 30-03-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Podvelikiy Moh is a large mire massif composed predominantly of raised bogs, fen mires, transition mires and waterlogged forests. Together with Vigonoshchanskoe (Ramsar Site no. 2141), the wetland forms one of the largest mires in Europe. This large complex is an active zone of groundwater discharge, and constitutes the source of the Bobrik River, a tributary of the Pripyat River. The raised bogs, which are rare for the Polesie region, provide valuable hydrological services such as flood protection and water regulation. They also influence the climate and geochemical processes through peat accumulation and carbon sequestration. The bogs also provide an important habitat for nationally red-listed bird species such as the black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and the short-toed snake eagle *Circaetus gallicus*. The Site's flora is diverse due its location at the junction of different floristic complexes - boreal, forest-steppe, nemoral and Eastern European. Oligotrophic and mesotrophic pine and European white birch forests dominate the Site's forest ecosystems. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to intensive melioration systems in the surrounding area, the gathering of plants, and recreational and tourism activities.

## Poiana Stampei Peat Bog

Site number: 2 003 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Suceava County, north Romania  
Area: 640 ha | Coordinates: 47°17'N 25°06'E | Designation dates: 05-03-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Poiana Stampei Peat Bog (Tinovul Poiana Stampei). 25/10/11; Suceava County; 640 ha; 47°17'28"N, 025°05'57"E. Scientific Reserve, NATURA 2000. Considered the largest oligotrophic peat bog in Romania, the site is forested with pine *Pinus silvestris f. turfosa* and surrounded by spruce forest, which acts as a buffer zone. It includes several habitat types listed under the EU Habitats Directive and provides a shelter for internationally rare species of fauna and flora such as the *Ligularia sibirica*. Many invertebrates like rotifers, cladocers, copepods and insects can be found, and the peat bog also hosts species of endemic algae such as *Batrachospermum dornense*. Some of the plant species, such as moss *Sphagnum wulfianum* and fern *Dryopteris cristata*, are relict in Romania. The forest components of the site are important for the prevention of floods, especially during spring and rainy periods. The site plays a role in the purification of water and stores considerable amounts of carbon dioxide as the peat grows. It is mainly used for scientific research and educational purposes. High winds have resulted in serious tree damage, which is expected to lead to an increase in bark insect populations. Ramsar Site no. 2003. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 1 210 | Country: India | Administrative region: Tamil Nadu  
Area: 38 500 ha | Coordinates: 10°19'N 79°38'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary. 19/08/02. Tamil Nadu. 38,500 ha. 10°19'N 079°38'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal area consisting of shallow waters, shores, and long sand bars, intertidal flats and intertidal forests, chiefly mangrove, and seasonal, often-saline lagoons, as well as human-made salt exploitation sites. Some 257 species of birds have been recorded, 119 of them waterbirds, including the vulnerable species Spoonbill Sandpiper (*Euryhorhynchus pygmaeus*) and Grey Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) and some 30,000 Greater and Lesser Flamingos. The site serves as the breeding ground or nursery for many commercially important species of fish, as well as for prawns and crabs. Some 35,000 fishermen and agriculturalists support their families around the borders of the sanctuary. Illegal collection of firewood and forest produce such as fruits (gathered by lopping off tree branches), the spread of *Prosopis chilensis* (Chilean mesquite), increasingly brackish groundwater caused by expansion of the historical salt works, and decreasing inflow of freshwater are all seen as potential causes for concern. Visitors come to the site both for recreation and for pilgrimage, as it is associated with Lord Rama. Ramsar site no. 1210. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Pointe d'Esny Wetland

Site number: 1 988 | Country: Mauritius | Administrative region: Grand Port  
Area: 22 ha | Coordinates: 20°26'S 57°43'E | Designation dates: 06-09-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pointe d'Esny Wetland. 16/09/11; Grand Port; 22 ha; 20°25'36'S 057°43'11"E. A rare example of a wetland characterized by a subtropical mangrove forest containing *Rhizophora mucronata* and, reportedly, the rarer *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, mud flats, and a sub-mangrove belt of pan-tropical coastal plants. The site provides habitat for some threatened plants and the native butterflies *Phalanta phalantha* and *Eurema floricola* *ceres*. The site is a natural coastal wetland of shallow depth whose water level fluctuates with rainfall and tidal variation. Its water is brackish, being a mixture of tidal sea water and freshwater overflow from inland. The main threats within the site include intense pressures to convert the wetland for various ecologically unsustainable economic purposes; a growing tourist industry, coastal roads, agricultural uses, and growing human settlements affect the site adversely. Ramsar site no. 1988. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Point Pelee

Site number: 368 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 1 564 ha | Coordinates: 41°59'N 82°30'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Point Pelee. 27/05/87; Ontario; 1,564 ha; 41°59'N 082°30'W. National Park. A spit resulting from erosion and deposition, bordered by forested, coastal dunes and beach ridges, and an 850ha peat marsh overlain by sand. The marsh occupies a closed drainage system and includes small lakes and ponds. Due to their southerly location, the marshes are unique in Canada, supporting four major vegetation communities. Several species of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and other waterbirds breed in the marshes, but the nearshore waters of Lake Erie support spectacular concentrations of staging ducks, notably *Mergus serrator* and *M. merganser*. Point Pelee is an internationally important resting area for the migratory butterfly *Danaus plexippus*. Ramsar site no. 368. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Poiplie

Site number: 930 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Banská Bystrica  
Area: 411 ha | Coordinates: 48°04'N 19°01'E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Poiplie. 17/02/98; Banská Bystrica; 411 ha; 48°04'N 019°01'E. The core area of the site is the Ipel River, an important tributary of the Danube River. It is linked with the extensive wetland ecosystem of the Ipoly Valley Ramsar site in Hungary. The area is a unique complex of well-preserved wetland habitats along the middle and lower part of the river floodplain within the Pannonian biogeographical region. Marshes and seasonally flooded grasslands along the river have a high level of biodiversity. There are two fragments of floodplain forest and scattered patches of willow shrub. Important habitat for migratory birds, mammals, amphibians spiders, and dragonflies. The site is used extensively for agriculture, poultry breeding, cattle grazing, and, on a limited scale, tourism. Ramsar site no. 930. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Polar Bear Pass

Site number: 245 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Northwest Territories  
Area: 262 400 ha | Coordinates: 75°43'N 98°40'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Polar Bear Pass. 24/05/82; Northwest Territories; 262,400 ha; 75°43'N 098°40'W. International Biological Programme Site; National Wildlife Area. A wetland oasis in a dry high Arctic desert consisting of a valley floor dotted with numerous lakes, tundra ponds and exceptionally productive meadows, grasses, sedges, mosses, lichens and flowering plants. A super-abundance of insects provide food for large numbers of breeding shorebirds (12 species). An important resting and feeding area for migrating birds. The pass takes its name from the polar bears migrating through from March to November. The purpose of most visits are for wildlife research or ecological studies. Ramsar site no. 245. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Polar Bear Provincial Park

Site number: 360 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 2 408 700 ha | Coordinates: 52°30'N 84°30'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Polar Bear Provincial Park. 27/05/87; Ontario; 2,408,700 ha; 52°30'N 084°30'W. Provincial Park. A vast wetland complex (Canada's second largest Ramsar site), embracing a series of beach ridges interspersed with ponds, bogs, fens and marshes subject to salt water inundation that includes the worlds most southerly example of tundra ecosystem. The area regularly supports hundreds of thousands of important populations of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), a breeding colony of more than 50,000, and during migration more than one million geese (*Anser C. caerulescens*). During migration the lowlands support a substantial proportion of the central Arctic breeding population of *Calidris canutus* and the entire breeding population of *Limosa fedoa*. Numerous species of large mammals are present. Ramsar site no. 360. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Poleski National Park

Site number: 1 565 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Lubelskie  
Area: 9 764 ha | Coordinates: 51°26'N 23°11'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is situated at the watershed between the basins of the Bug and Wieprz rivers in south-eastern Poland, near the border with Ukraine and within the pan-European ecological corridor of the Bug river, and has the same boundaries as the National Park. With its complex of shallow lakes and mires, Poleski National Park has habitats ranging from raised bogs to transitional and calcareous mires and alkaline fens, with vegetation indicating some features of woodland tundra. Forest communities vary from pine woods to alder swamps with a typical hollow-and-mound structure. The Site supports about 146 breeding bird species including raptors such as the lesser spotted eagle, hen harrier and Montagu's harrier. The only sparsely populated area, which features traditional wooden cottages, is used for extensive agriculture, fishing and forestry. Water habitats are endangered due to falling water levels and eutrophication. A management plan has been put in place by the Park authorities, and is renewed on a yearly basis.

## Polesye Valley of River Bug

Site number: 2 252 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Region/Brest District  
Area: 23 159 ha | Coordinates: 51°50'N 23°43'E | Designation dates: 29-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located along the middle reach of the Western Bug river, the Site encompasses the part in Belarus of a floodplain which follows the border with Poland and Ukraine. It is composed primarily of freshwater tree-dominated wetlands and open water bodies including the Western Bug, but it also includes meadows and open mires. The river has been preserved in its natural state with numerous meanders and oxbows, and the Site is representative of wetlands of the Continental biogeographic region. 209 bird species have been recorded, of which at least 167 are nesting, as well as four bat species and 700 vascular plant species. The Site is also of great importance for the passage of fish including *Barbus barbus* and *Vimba vimba* to spawning grounds. The wetland plays important roles across the river basin, in groundwater discharge and recharge and in water purification. The main activities focus on forestry, fishing and nature-based tourism and recreation. The Site features the "stradach" fish farm, a large complex of old fishponds and two natural lakes which is one of the oldest of its type in Belarus. Several archaeological sites related to the Golendras colonies of the beginning of the 16th Century are located within the wetland. The main threats relate to intensive forestry, drainage, the construction of dams, the late filling and full reconstruction of fish ponds and the overgrowth of open mires with shrubs due to the cessation of mowing. An integrative system has been developed to monitor the river, its ecosystems and the threats it faces.

## Polissia Mires

Site number: 1 403 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zhytomyrska Oblast  
Area: 2 145 ha | Coordinates: 51°31'N 28°01'E | Designation dates: 29-07-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Polissia Mires. 29/07/04; Zhytomyrska Oblast; 2,145 ha; 51°31'N 028°01'E. Nature Reserve. A large swamp area of transitional mires and oligotrophic bogs fed by rain and snow waters and, at the border with Belarus, a separated wetland complex of transitional mires and fens integrated in small rivers floodplains. A significant part of the mires is forested with *Betula pubescens* and *Alnus glutinosa*. The site is important for the conservation of the flora and supports rare and endangered species of clubmosses, mosses, algae and the endemic vascular plant *Tragopogon ucrainicus*. Birds such as *Crex crex*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Grus grus*, *Gallinago gallinago* and *Aquila heliaca* use the site for reproduction. *Felix lynx* and *Lutra lutra* are permanently recorded. Scientific research and nature conservation activities are ongoing. Ramsar site no.1403. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Pollardstown Fen

Site number: 474 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Kildare  
Area: 130 ha | Coordinates: 53°11'N 06°51'W | Designation dates: 30-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pollardstown Fen. 30/05/90; Kildare; 130 ha; 53°11'N 006°51'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. The largest remaining spring-fed fen in Ireland. Habitats include semi-natural fen, damp grassland, woodland, and open water. The open water attracts waterbirds in regionally important numbers. The fen supports an important assemblage of invertebrate fauna and contains a complete palaeoecological record dating back to the last glaciation. Interpretive material and an observation hide are available. Ramsar site no. 474.

## Pomorie Wetland Complex

Site number: 1 229 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Burgas  
Area: 922 ha | Coordinates: 42°36'N 27°38'E | Designation dates: 24-09-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pomorie Wetland Complex (Pomorie Lake, Pomoriysko Ezero). 24/09/02; Burgas; 922 ha; 42°35'N 027°37'E. Protected Area, Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI), IBA. The major part of the site is a shallow coastal hyper-saline lagoon connected to the Black Sea by an artificial canal. Other associated wetland types are estuaries (River Akhelay), salt marshes, sand dunes, reed beds, salt pans, etc. The wetland has been designated chiefly for its uniqueness, as one of the two coastal hyper-saline lagoons in the Black Sea region converted into salinas, but it is also of high importance for the region's biodiversity. It supports many nationally and internationally red-listed plant and animal species - some 269 bird species have been recorded, including three globally threatened ones, and some that are adapted to the hyper-saline conditions. It is an important stopover site for migratory birds and offers suitable conditions for wintering of shellducks, swans, ducks, coots, etc., and for breeding of several species of plovers, avocets, stilts, and terns. The main human uses include sea salt production and the extraction of curative mud. Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre was opened in 2010, two eco-trails have been established and a salt museum explains the 2,000 years of traditional salt production that also give a particular cultural value to the site. (The site was extended in 2012 from 814 ha.) Ramsar Site no. 1229. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Pong Dam Lake

Site number: 1 211 | Country: India | Administrative region: Himachal Pradesh  
Area: 15 662 ha | Coordinates: 32°01'N 76°05'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pong Dam Lake. 19/08/02. Himachal Pradesh. 15,662 ha. 32°01'N 076°05'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A water storage reservoir created in 1975 on the Beas River in the low foothills of the Himalaya on the northern edge of the Indo-Gangetic plain. The RIS notes that "at a time when wetlands in northern India are getting reduced due to extensive drainage and reclamation, the avian habitats formed by the creation of the Pong Dam assume a great significance" - given the site's location on the trans-Himalayan flyway, more than 220 bird species have been identified, with 54 species of waterfowl. Hydrological values include monsoon-season flood prevention, both in the surroundings and downstream due to water regulation, groundwater recharge, silt trapping and prevention of soil erosion; electricity is generated for this and neighboring states, and irrigation water is being channeled to fertile areas of the Punjab and Rajasthan deserts. Low-yield subsistence fishing existed prior to impoundment, but since, a lucrative fishery has grown up, with 27 fish species and a yield increasing markedly each year - some 1800 fishermen now have direct employment and 1000 families benefit indirectly. A nature conservation education centre is found on the island of Ramsar or Ramsar (sic). Recent management strategies have shifted away from law enforcement and use restrictions towards more participatory approaches and community awareness, and the site is well suited to "community-based ecotourism". Ramsar site no. 1211. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Poodří

Site number: 639 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Ostrava, Jistebník  
Area: 5 450 ha | Coordinates: 49°42'N 18°03'E | Designation dates: 02-11-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Added to the Montreux Record, 6 June 2005. Floodplain forests, fishponds and extensive wet meadows subject to fluctuating water levels along the meandering Odra River. Vegetation includes climax, hardwood forest communities. Situated along an important bird migration route, the site supports numerous species of staging and breeding birds. Because the river remains unregulated, its natural hydrologic regime persists today. Human activities include recreation, agriculture and intensive fish production. Eutrophication due to substantial concentrations of agricultural runoff, unsuitable agricultural management and intensive fishpond management are the primary threats to the site.

## Poole Harbour

Site number: 1 005 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 439 ha | Coordinates: 50°42'N 02°02'W | Designation dates: 22-07-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Poole Harbour. 22/07/99; England; 2,439 ha; 50°40'N 002°01'W. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. The site is described as the best and largest example in Britain of a bar-built estuary with lagoon characteristics. It is composed of salt marshes, peatland mires, swamps, and fens. The site supports two species of nationally rare plants and one nationally rare alga, as well as at least three Red Data Book species of invertebrate. There are also internationally important numbers of waterfowl, including *Sterna hirundo* and *Larus melanocephalus*. The area is used for nature conservation, recreation, permanent pastoral agriculture, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 1005. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Portland Bight Wetlands and Cays

Site number: 1 597 | Country: Jamaica | Administrative region: St Catherine, Clarendon  
Area: 24 542 ha | Coordinates: 17°49'N 77°04'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Portland Bight Wetlands and Cays. 02/02/06; St. Catherine, Clarendon; 24,542 ha; 17°49'N 077°04'W. Protected Area. Located on the south coast of the island, just west of Kingston, Portland Bight (or bay) includes some 8,000 ha of coastal mangroves, among the largest contiguous mangrove stands remaining in Jamaica, as well as a salt marsh, several rivers, offshore cays, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and open water. The site constitutes a critical feeding and breeding location as well as a general habitat for internationally threatened species such as the cave frog (*Eleutherodactylus cavernicola*), the Jamaican boa (*Epicrateres subflavus*), the endemic hutia or coney (*Geocapromys brownii*), and the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*). An endemic cactus (*Opuntia jamaicensis*) is also considered endangered under CITES. More than 3,000 fisher families make their livelihoods in the Bight, harvesting mostly finfish but also lobster, shrimp, oysters, and conch, and there are important sugar plantations in the surrounding area. Threats are feared from over-hunting and -fishing, pollution from sugar wastes, mangrove destruction for aquaculture, and invasive species. Ramsar site No. 1597. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Port Launay Coastal Wetlands

Site number: 1 432 | Country: Seychelles | Administrative region: Port Glaud District

Area: 124 ha | Coordinates: 04°39'S 55°24'E | Designation dates: 22-11-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Port Launay Coastal Wetlands (Port Glaud). 22/11/04; Port Glaud District; 124 ha; 04°39'16"S 055°24'21"E. One of the best mangrove wetlands on the island of Mahé, supporting all seven species of mangroves in Seychelles. The coastal area provides an ideal habitat for spawning, nursery, feeding and cover for several fish species including the Seychelles endemic Gouzon or Golden Panchax *Pachypanchax playfairii* and Spangled Gudgeon *Ophiocara porocephala*. It also supports the vulnerable Seychelles Swiftlet *Collocalia elaphra*, Millionaire's Salad *Deckenia nobilis*, and critically endangered Sheath-Tailed Bat *Coleura seychellensis*. The mangroves along the coast help in shoreline stabilization, sediment trapping, storm-damage limitation, water quality maintenance, nutrient retention and coral reef and lagoon protection. The main human activities include octopus collection by fishermen, coconut farming, and tourism, with the recent construction of a hotel resort. An Environment Impact Assessment for the construction of this hotel was carried out and the possible impacts on the site have been assessed and measures for mitigation planned. This is one of the top sites for environmental education and sensitisation of pupils and students, as well as the general public, especially during World Wetlands Day. The site is mainly threatened by exotic species, which present an obstacle to assisted mangrove restoration. Encroachment by residential areas, erosion and the possibility of undesirable tourism development are also potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1432. Most recent RIS information 2013.

## Port Phillip Bay & Bellarine Peninsula

Site number: 266 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria

Area: 22 897 ha | Coordinates: 38°04'S 144°36'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Port Phillip Bay & Bellarine Peninsula. 15/12/82; Victoria; 22,897 ha; 38°04'S 144°36'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Marine Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuary, Metropolitan Park. Six discrete areas of various wetland types, ranging from shallow, marine waters and estuaries to freshwater lakes, seasonal swamps, intertidal mudflats, and seagrass beds. Of outstanding importance to waterbirds, the bay supports more than 1% of the Australian population of 14 waterbird species, and 5% of the Victorian population of another 12 bird species. Tens of thousands of ibises (*Threskiornis molucca* and *arphibis spinicollis*) roost here. Up to 65,000 migratory waders occur in summer, making it the sixth most important site for waders in Australia. The area supports rare bird species, notably the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*). Located near a high density urban area of over three million people, the Bay is used intensively for recreation. Other activities include livestock grazing, aquaculture, and nearby salt production. Ramsar site no. 266. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Portsmouth Harbour

Site number: 720 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England

Area: 1 249 ha | Coordinates: 50°50'N 01°07'W | Designation dates: 28-02-1995

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Portsmouth Harbour. 28/02/95; England; 1,249 ha; 50°50'N 001°08'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. A large industrialized estuary consisting of a saltmarsh, vast expanses of mudflats, and tidal creeks on the south coast. The mudflats, supporting extensive beds of eelgrass, green algae, and sea lettuce, provide feeding grounds for internationally important numbers of wintering Dark-bellied Brent Geese. A unique and high quality flora and fauna occur at the site. Nationally important numbers of Gray Plover, dunlin, and Black-tailed Godwit are supported. Set in an urban area, there is a major port facility, and large-scale military activities occur at the site. Ramsar site no. 720. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Porvoonjoki Estuary - Stensböle

Site number: 8 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 958 ha | Coordinates: 60°22'N 25°42'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Porvoonjoki Estuary-Stensböle. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 958 ha; 60°21'N 025°42'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP and Mire Conservation Programme, Baltic Sea Protected Area. Situated in the southern boreal forest vegetation zone, the estuary supports an abundant and rich aquatic flora dominated by reeds and rushes and including coastal meadows, Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods, bog woodland and an active raised bog of 118 ha, and vast reed beds. The site is one of the most important staging areas for waterfowl and waders during migration periods in southern Finland. However, the increased outdoor recreation, boating, fishing and building on shores cause disturbance to the birds. The estuary has also become strongly eutrophicated; since 1970, purification measures have improved the water quality, but nutrients still run high in River Porvoonjoki. Restoration of meadows was carried out in 1997-98 with the help of WWF and, under an EU Life Nature project, a planning of management was carried out in 1997-2000. With facilities like observation towers and nature trails, the estuary as a very popular site for outdoor recreation and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 8. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Poyanghu

Site number: 550 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jiangxi

Area: 22 400 ha | Coordinates: 29°10'N 115°59'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Poyanghu. 31/03/92; Jiangxi; 22,400 ha; 29°10'N 115°59'E. Nature Reserve; Crane Network Site. A large freshwater lake subject to seasonal fluctuations, within a region of subtropical, deciduous broad-leaved and evergreen forest surrounded by marshes and wet grassland fed by five major rivers. The site supports numerous species of plankton, mollusc, fish, and mammals and at least 46 species of birds. It is important for wintering and staging birds and for a population of 20,000 people whose activities include grazing water buffalo, harvesting grass and aquatic vegetation, small-scale cultivation, fishing and a freshwater pearl industry. Wildlife tourism is increasing rapidly. Ramsar site no. 550. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Præsto Fjord, Jungshoved Nor, Ulvshale and Nyord

Site number: 161 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Faxe, Næstved and Vordingborg Municipalities  
Area: 24 778 ha | Coordinates: 55°05'N 12°12'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Præsto Fjord, Jungshoved Nor, Ulvshale and Nyord. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 24,778 ha; 55°05'N 012°15'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA); Nature Conservation Areas, Scientific Sanctuary, Experimental Wildlife Reserve. Shallow, coastal waters with reefs, mudflats, sand banks, islets, reedbeds, and the largest continuous area of saltmarsh in southeastern Denmark. Terrestrial areas include deciduous woodland, heathland, cultivated land and scattered human habitation. Internationally important for wintering and staging of numerous species of waterbirds, the site supports more than 1% of at least five species of swans, geese, wigeons, and coots. Declining grazing and haymaking have resulted in areas of marsh becoming overgrown. Present threats adversely affecting the sites ecological character are eutrophication, predation, human disturbance, and drains and ditches in saltmarshes. A visitors' centre and observation towers have been in operation since 2001. Management plans have been developed and implemented, and hunting from motor boats has been prohibited. Ramsar site no. 161. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Praia da Vitória Marsh

Site number: 2 099 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Autonomous Region of the Azores  
Area: 16 ha | Coordinates: 38°44'N 27°04'W | Designation dates: 13-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Paúl da Praia da Vitória (Praia da Vitória Marsh). 13/12/2012; Archipiélago de las Azores; 16 ha; 38°44'N 027°04'W. Located in the urban centre of Praia da Vitória on the Azores island of Terceira. The marshes strategic location allows the observation of a considerable number of migratory birds from both European and American continents. The wide diversity of bird species, especially considering its geographical origin and the importance of the site as a refuge for the mid-Atlantic migratory routes, provides the site with a special conservation value. Locally, the importance of the site can be measured by the presence of a considerable number of endemic species (e.g., *Columba palumbus azorica*, *Fringilla coelebs moreletti*, and *Motacilla cinerea patriciae*). Within it, some fish and mammals can also be found, notably the *Anguilla anguilla* and a bat *Nyctalus azoreum*, both considered as Endangered under the IUCN Red List. The marsh plays an important role in the local hydrological cycle, regulating floods of the surrounding hydrologic basin. Considered to be an excellent strategic point for bird watching, recreation and educational and environmental awareness purposes, the marsh has an added value for tourism and local development. Eutrophication, largely due to agricultural run-off, is seen as the principal threat, and there is a response plan in place that involves annual removal of algae. Ramsar Site no. 2091. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Prat de Cabanes - Torreblanca

Site number: 458 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valenciana  
Area: 812 ha | Coordinates: 40°14'N 00°12'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca. 05/12/89; Comunidad Valenciana; 812 ha; 40°14'N 000°12'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. Developed through the long-term sedimentation of a coastal lagoon, the site is the largest marsh in the province. Characterized by well-developed wetland vegetation, underlain by extensive areas of peat and separated from the sea by a dune complex, the site is nearly pristine. Principal vegetation types consist of submergent and emergent aquatic plants, halophytic and dune communities. The area is very important for a number of rare or endemic plants, fish, and invertebrates and supports several species of nesting birds. Human activities include agriculture, livestock grazing, commercial peat extraction, hunting, tourism and recreation. The area plays an important role in conservation education, and there is a visitors' centre. Ramsar site no. 458. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Prek Toal Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 245 | Country: Cambodia | Administrative region: Battambang province  
Area: 21 342 ha | Coordinates: 13°09'N 103°38'E | Designation dates: 02-10-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Prek Toal Ramsar Site includes some of the most pristine floodplains in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve in Cambodia. During the dry seasons, the Site is dry and covered mostly by freshwater swamp forests, but it floods annually, with the water depth reaching up to eight metres. Prek Toal is at the north-west upstream end of Tonle Sap Lake and the rise and fall of the lake's waters play a vital role in maintaining its biological wealth. The forests trap large quantities of sediment, and the nutrients deposited stimulate the growth of plants and fish which support the high numbers of waterbirds and other wildlife at the Site. Prek Toal includes a range of habitats for a great diversity of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered river terrapin (*Batagur baska*), Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*), giant barb (*Catlocarpio siamensis*), and Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*). The high concentration and diversity of nesting waterbirds (with over 20,000 counted regularly since 2001), including many globally threatened species such as the endangered greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) and masked finfoot (*Heliopais personatus*), make the area unique in the biogeographic region. The local communities live in floating houses and depend on fishing and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

## Presa de Atlangatepec

Site number: 1 986 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Tlaxcala  
Area: 1 200 ha | Coordinates: 19°34'N 98°11'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Presa de Atlangatepec. 02/02/09; Tlaxcala; 1,200 ha; 19°33'39"N 098°10'49"W. This dam has a great diversity of flora and fauna, with 87 registered species of birds associated with wetlands. During the winter the species diversity increases by thousands of ducks and other waterfowl species such as Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), American Wigeon (*Anas americana*), the Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), the Mexican Duck (*Anas diazi*), the Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), among others. The site is also home to species listed nationally as threatened, such as the Mexican Duck (*Anas diazi*, endemic to Mexico), the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and the Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*). The site is important for groundwater recharge and flood control, and it also retains, retrieves, and removes excess nutrients and pollutants. Adverse factors include changes in land use by opening land for agriculture and livestock, leading to a process of soil degradation due to mismanagement. The main land use is fishing. Ramsar Site no. 1986. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Presa Jalpan

Site number: 1 352 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Querétaro  
Area: 68 ha | Coordinates: 21°12'N 99°28'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Presa Jalpan. 02/02/04; Querétaro; 68 ha; 21°12'N 99°28'W. The Jalpan dam was built on the riverbed of the Jalpan river, its only water source; it has a maximum capacity of 8 million liters and is a breeding site and shelter for 33 resident and migratory bird species. The greatest colonies are the Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) and some herons like the Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), the Cattle egret (*Bubulca ibis*), and the Great egret (*Casmerodius albus*). There are in total 140 bird species around the dam, including waterfowl. Of the "non water" species, 8 have a special protection status and 5 are endemic in Mexico. Around the dam several mammal species can be found like the White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*), the Tree Ocelot (*Leopardus weidii*), the Jaguarondi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*) and occasionally the Cougar or Florida Panther (*Felis concolor*). The Jalpan dam is used primarily for water supply for domestic uses. Sedimentation caused by deforestation and erosion is the main threat to the area, though massive tourism is also a potentially key factor. Ramsar site no. 1352. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Presa La Vega

Site number: 2 026 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Estado de Jalisco  
Area: 1 950 ha | Coordinates: 20°38'N 103°51'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Presa La Vega. 02/02/10; Jalisco; 1,950 ha; 20°37'59"N 103°50'50"W. An artificial wetland including a dam and open water, permanent and intermittent rivers and streams, and the irrigation system surrounding the reservoir. The site has a high socio-economic importance because it is the largest water body in the state's central-western area, which generates jobs and is the main source of water for surrounding irrigation systems. It sustains a diversity of waterfowl species, some of which are protected under national law, such as the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), as well as endemic fish like the Butterfly Splitfin (*Ameca splendens*). The main threat to the site is water pollution from neighboring communities. A management plan adopted in 2008 is being partially implemented. Ramsar Site no. 2026. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Presa Manuel Ávila Camacho

Site number: 2 027 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Puebla  
Area: 23 612 ha | Coordinates: 18°55'N 98°11'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Presa Manuel Ávila Camacho (Presas Valsequillo). 02/02/12; Puebla; 23,612 ha; 18°55'00"N 98°10'58"W. Located on the southern side of the municipality of Puebla, the site is part of a network of conservation sites and part of an important wildlife corridor. It is also a center where three key endemism areas of the ecoregions Temperate Sierras and Dry tropical forest converge. The site provides refuge to at least 97 species of migratory birds, representing at least the 42% of the species recorded in the site. It also harbors a wide range of species of birds, mammals and reptiles under national protection, as well as the IUCN Red-Listed Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Besides the ecological services that it provides, the long cultural history of the site is an important heritage of humanity. Its zone of influence provides considerable documentation of prehispanic civilizations, including the oldest evidence of human presence in America, and the present city, founded in 1531, was one of the most important colonial cities and is now Mexico's fourth largest. Challenges to the site include urban and industrial growth; and deforestation is a problem for the whole area. Ramsar Site no. 2027. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Prince Edward Islands

Site number: 1 688 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape Province  
Area: 37 500 ha | Coordinates: 46°52'S 37°46'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Prince Edward Islands. 22/05/07; Western Cape; 37,500 ha; 46°46'S 037°51'E. Includes the larger Marion Island (46°54'S 037°45'E) and the smaller Prince Edward Island (46°38'S 037°57'E), which are classified as sub-Antarctic and are of volcanic origin. They are protected natural habitats and do not support any consumptive or exploitative activities. The three main terrestrial habitats are unvegetated uplands, well-drained vegetated slopes, and poorly-drained vegetated coastal plains. Significant wetland formations include non-forested peat lands (swamps and bogs), intermittent streams, waterfalls, freshwater ponds, crater lakes, rocky marine shores, kelp beds, sea cliffs and sand shores. The islands host numerous breeding seabirds like the vulnerable Wandering Albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*) and White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) and the endangered Sooty Albatross (*Phoebastria fusca*) and Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche carterii*). Three penguin species breed and moult on the rocky areas around the coastline; the King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*), Macaroni Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*) and Eastern Rockhopper Penguin (*E. c. filholi*). Commercial tourism and fishing within territorial waters are prohibited. The principal activities on these islands since their annexation by South Africa in 1947 and 1948 include meteorological observations, scientific research, logistic support for research and conservation and management activities. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for Patagonian Toothfish in the surrounding waters caused reduction in fish stock and high levels of incidental mortality of seabirds. This has declined in recent years, however. Ramsar site no. 1688. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Princess Sirindhorn Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 1 102 | Country: Thailand | Administrative region: Narathiwat Province  
Area: 20 100 ha | Coordinates: 06°12'N 101°57'E | Designation dates: 05-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Princess Sirindhorn Wildlife Sanctuary (Pru To Daeng Wildlife Sanctuary). 05/07/01; Narathiwat Province; 20,100 ha; 06°12'N 101°57'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. The largest remaining peat swamp forest in Thailand, situated in the extreme south, the site supports a high diversity of flora and fauna, including 217 bird, 52 reptile, and 62 fish species, some of which are nationally vulnerable or endangered; 106 species of butterfly are supported, as well as 60 mammal species, including 13 species of bats. The site is a popular tourist destination, and surrounding communities depend upon direct and indirect use of the forest's resources for low-intensity exploitation, such as fisheries and melaleuca harvesting for charcoal. Development in the 1980s, principally clearing for brief rice cultivation (followed in each case within two years by soil acidification) to the loss of two-thirds of the forest area, was curtailed by Sanctuary status in 1991. A management plan has been approved by the Royal Forest Department, and research and visitors' facilities are in place. Ramsar site no. 1102. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Pripyatsky National Park

Site number: 2 197 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Gomel Region  
Area: 88 553 ha | Coordinates: 52°00'N 28°05'E | Designation dates: 29-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pripyatsky National Park. 29/03/2013; Gomel Region; 88,553 ha; 52°00'N 28°05'E; Important Bird Area, National Park. The site is a large floodplain located in the valley of the Pripyat river, characterized by permanent rivers and streams, forested and non-forested peatlands, freshwater tree-dominated wetlands, transitional mires, raised bogs, marshes, and ponds within seasonally flooded agricultural land. The site harbours numerous nationally-rare species of flora and fauna which are important for the conservation of biological diversity within the Continental biogeographic region. The floodplain plays an important role in flood regulation, water supply and the maintenance of water quality and groundwater recharge. The peatland areas also store and sequester carbon contributing to global climate regulation. The land is used for forestry, agriculture and recreational fishing and hunting. The site is also host to a great concentration of archaeological sites protected by the State for their historical and cultural value. Threats include pollution and eutrophication of surface waters by industrial and agricultural enterprises and sewage from residential areas, alteration of the hydrological regime as a result of the construction of polders and drainage channels, logging, overgrazing, mowing, construction of roads and pipelines, and radioactive contamination as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. A management plan for the National Park has been adopted which covers the period from 2011 to 2030. Ramsar Site no. 2197. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Prostyr

Site number: 1 611 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Region / Pinsk District  
Area: 9 544 ha | Coordinates: 51°56'N 26°09'E | Designation dates: 18-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Prostyr is a complex of near-natural sedge and reed fen mires with black alder groves and scrub formations along the banks and floodplain meadows of the rivers Pripyat, Prostyr and Styr. Such eutrophic floodplain mires are typical of the Belarusian Polesie area, but they have become rare as a result of heavy drainage since the 1960s and have practically disappeared in Central Europe. The Site is a breeding ground for the globally vulnerable aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* and is generally one of the most important breeding and stopover sites in Belarus for migrating waterbirds. The vast natural floodplain meadows and mires also provide important spawning grounds and sources of food for fish. Small-scale economic activities take place within the Site, mainly associated with manual haymaking. Recreational activities are limited to amateur fishing and water tourism along the rivers. The existing network of drainage canals within the Site and in the surrounding areas continues to drain the fen mires. The disruption of the natural water regime as well as changes in traditional economic activities have led to the transformation of natural fen mires, encroachment of shrubs on open mires and meadows, disappearance of some rare plants and animals and also fires.

## Pripyat River Floodplains

Site number: 776 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volynska Oblast  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 51°48'N 25°15'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pripyat River Floodplains. 23/11/95; Volynska Oblast; 12,000 ha; 51°48'N 25°15'E. Regional Landscape Park, Regional Landscape Park, Hydrological Game Reserve. One of the largest wetland complexes of the Polissia biosphere region, the site borders Belarus and is situated on the crossroads of two main flyways. The site comprises rivers, lakes, marshes, peatlands, meadows, forests, and river islands. Characterized by a rich biodiversity, over 220 vertebrate species and 550 vascular plants occur at the site. An important area for numerous species of breeding, molting and migrating waterfowl and waders. The site provides important feeding and nursery areas for numerous species of freshwater fishes. Human activities include sport and commercial fishing, hunting, livestock grazing, haymaking, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 776. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Przemków Fish Ponds

Site number: 2 320 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Dolnośląskie and Lubuskie Voivodeship  
Area: 4 605,4 ha | Coordinates: 51°34'N 15°49'E | Designation dates: 09-04-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes two fish pond complexes with a total of 35 ponds, together with adjacent wet meadows, reedbeds and riparian forests. It boasts an abundant birdlife: out of 216 species observed, 48 are waterbirds. The Site is one of the most important areas in this part of Europe for resting and feeding migratory birds, and especially for bean goose *Anser fabalis*, with 19% of its non-breeding population supported by the Site. It is also of great importance for breeding birds, with as many as 147 species recorded, including waterbirds of European importance such as the common kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, the corn crake *Crex crex* and the red-backed shrike *Lanius collurio*. Various threatened amphibians, reptiles and mammals are also present. The Site plays a valuable role in flood control and soil formation, and provides recreational, educational and scientific opportunities. It is a model for local cooperation, with the Lower Silesia Landscape Park Complex, the Polish Angling Association, the Roma People Association and other organisations working together to support traditional fisheries, promote their products and raise the awareness of fishermen of the importance of birds to the health of the ecosystem.

## Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland

Site number: 669 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Pskov Oblast  
Area: 93 600 ha | Coordinates: 58°09'N 27°52'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland. 13/09/94; Pskov Oblast; 93,600 ha; 58°09'N 27°52'E. Nature Reserve, Ornithological Reserve, Nature Monuments. A system of interconnected freshwater lakes, bordering Estonia, and set in a large glacial depression. The site includes marshes of various types, floodplain meadows, rivers and streams surrounded by coniferous and mixed deciduous forests, agricultural land, and human settlements. The area, on an important bird migration route between the Baltic and the White Seas, links breeding areas in the tundra and northern taiga. Internationally important populations of breeding, migrating and molting waterbirds, including several rare and endangered species, are supported. The lakes are highly productive spawning, nursery and feeding areas for fish. The wetlands are an important supply of drinking water and support a rich biodiversity, including numerous rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Human activities include transport, recreation, and commercial and sport fisheries. Ramsar site no. 669. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park

Site number: 2 084 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Island of Palawan  
Area: 22 202 ha | Coordinates: 10°10'N 118°55'E | Designation dates: 30-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park. 30/06/12; Palawan; 22,202 ha; 10°10'00N 118°55'00E. National Park, National Geological Site, ASEAN Heritage Park, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. Located on the island of Palawan, the site is unique in the biogeographic region because it connects a range of important ecosystems from the mountain-to-the-sea, including a limestone karst landscape with a complex cave system, mangrove forests, lowland evergreen tropical rainforests, and freshwater swamps. It is home to about 800 plant and 233 animal species, including the critically endangered Philippine cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) and Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), as well as the endangered Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Nordmanns greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*). There are also some 15 endemic species of birds such as the Palawan peacock pheasant (*Polyplectron emphanum*) and the Tabon scrub fowl (*Megapodius freycinet cumingii*). One of the unique features of the park is an 8.2 km long section of the Cabayugan River that flows underground within large formations of stalactites and stalagmites. The river provides water to local communities for domestic and agricultural uses, before flowing towards the underground river. The site is a major ecotourism destination, and community-based sustainable ecotourism has been initiated to involve the local communities in Park management as well as to generate income. Ramsar Site no. 2084. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu Wetland Complex

Site number: 911 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Läänemaa  
Area: 4 640 ha | Coordinates: 58°34'N 23°33'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Puhtu-Laelatu-Nehatu Wetland Complex. 17/06/97; Läänemaa County; 4,640 ha; 58°34'N 023°33'E. Nature Reserve, Botanical-Zoological Reserve, IBA. A wetland consisting of a chain of lagoons, and a mire with shallow lakes and bogs, bordered by species-rich alvar, wooded meadow, and forest communities. The coastal area is a stopover for internationally important numbers of migrating waterfowl and provides roosting areas for geese and common crane. Human activities include scientific research, fishing, sheep and cattle grazing, agriculture, forestry, and limited tourism. Nutrient-enrichment is problematic. Ramsar site no. 911. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Pulau Kukup

Site number: 1 287 | Country: Malaysia | Administrative region: Johor  
Area: 647 ha | Coordinates: 01°19'N 103°25'E | Designation dates: 31-01-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pulau Kukup. 31/01/03; Johor; 647 ha; 01°19'N 103°25'E. State Park. Uninhabited mangrove island located 1 km from the southwestern tip of the Malaysian peninsula, one of the few intact sites of this type left in southeast Asia. The wetland supports such species as the Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus*, Smooth Otter *Lutra perspicillata*, Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*, Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*, all listed as threatened, vulnerable or near-threatened under the IUCN Red Book. Pulau Kukup has been identified as one of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) for Malaysia. Globally vulnerable Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* chooses this as a stop-over and breeding ground. Pulau Kukup is important for flood control, physical protection (e.g. as a wind-breaker), and shoreline stabilization as it shelters the mainland town from severe storm events. The coastal straits between Pulau Kukup and the mainland are a thriving industry for marine cage culture. The mudflats are rich with shellfish and provide food and income to local people. Tourism is another use of the island and the government has further plans to promote ecotourism. Ramsar site no. 1287. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Pulau Rambut Wildlife Reserve

Site number: 1 987 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: DKI Jakarta Province  
Area: 90 ha | Coordinates: 05°58'S 106°42'E | Designation dates: 11-11-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site, located on a small atoll reef island northwest of Jakarta City, has a tropical climate and comprises several wetland habitat types, such as coral reefs, intertidal flats, mangrove forests, lagoons and seasonal freshwater marshes. As one of the important chain of wetlands along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the site is an important transit station for waterbirds especially from October to December, when they migrate from the northern hemisphere to Australia. The site supports three internationally threatened bird species, especially the vulnerable Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*), with one of the biggest breeding colonies of this species in Indonesia. The sites 15 mangrove species form a complex community that provides breeding habitat for many waterbirds, including the Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and ardeidae such as the Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Small scale traditional fishery is practiced as daily support for local communities but there are no people or villages within the site itself. Access is allowed through a small jetty for small boats with the capacity of about 30 persons. A tower observation hide has been built as well as wooden boardwalks so that visitors do not damage the natural wetlands on the site.

## Pulu Keeling National Park

Site number: 797 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Cocos (Keeling) Islands  
Area: 2 603 ha | Coordinates: 11°49'S 96°49'E | Designation dates: 17-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A coral atoll comprising ca.213 ha of land, including the enclosed central lagoon, and 2390 ha hectares of surrounding coral reef and sea. When first listed, the centre of the atoll contained a single tidal lagoon with a narrow connection to the Indian Ocean, but natural processes have since closed this connection. The site is significant for the number of seabirds it supports, including large breeding colonies of red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) and lesser frigatebirds (*Fregata ariel*). An endemic species of buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) is a resident within the Ramsar Site. Fish and marine invertebrate fauna are abundant and, while there are few endemic species present, the fish fauna is considered unique due to the mixing of Indian and Pacific Ocean species which are at the edge of their distributions. The Ramsar Site was extended to conform to the National Park boundaries in 2011.

### **Punkva subterranean stream**

Site number: 1 413 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: South Moravian region

Area: 1 571 ha | Coordinates: 49°25'N 16°44'E | Designation dates: 18-03-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Punkva subterranean stream (Podzemní Punkva). 18/03/04; South-Moravian Region; 1,571 ha; 49°25' N 016°44'E; Protected Landscape Area; Nature Reserve; National Nature Reserve. The subterranean system belongs to the most valuable karst area in the Czech Republic, and the 'Amateur Cave' complex with 34 km of known cave passageways is its largest cave system. The site includes springs, several sinkholes, permanent and intermittent subterranean tributaries to the Punkva stream that are connected to caves. Through the sinkholes, surface streams disappear underground where they flow into the caves, some of which are permanently filled with water, with open water surfaces or flooded throughout their whole profile. The site hosts the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*), the bats *Myotis dasycneme*, *Myotis daubentonii*, and characteristic communities of cave fauna. Several species of fauna new to science have been found, which may be either endemics or newly-described species with a wider distribution such as the springtails *Onychiurus rauseri* and *Arrhopalites ruseki*. At the surface, most of the site is forested and a small area is covered by extensively managed agricultural land. The installation of wastewater treatment plants in the areas above sinkholes, changes in agricultural practices, regulations imposed in the caves with public access and for cave research have improved site conservation. A management plan is under implementation. The site presents some archaeological and cultural values with remains of an old settlement (cave Kulna), ruins of castles (Holatejn and Blansek), and a wind mill designated as a cultural monument. Ramsar site no. 1413. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### **Punta de Manabique**

Site number: 1 016 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: Izabal

Area: 132 900 ha | Coordinates: 15°50'N 88°28'W | Designation dates: 28-01-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Punta de Manabique. 28/01/00; Izabal; 132,900 ha; 15°50'N 088°28'W. Area of Special Protection. Located in the Honduran Gulf on the Caribbean coast, the site includes a) marine; b) marshes and swamps; c) coastal; and d) terrestrial ecosystems. The marine area is shallow with a sandy bottom and a few patches of corals; the main vegetation here is *Tallasia*. The marshes and swamps serve as refuge for many species such as manatees (*Trichechus manatus*). The swamp is characterized by detritus and peat which have been transported by the Motagua River, the largest of Guatemala. The main plant communities are *Chrysobalanus icaco*, *Symphonia globulifera*, *Phragmites comunis* and *Manicaria*. There are several threatened and vulnerable mammal species such as *Alouatta palliata*; *Tapirus bairdii*, *Tayassu tajacu*, *Tayassu pecari* and *Panthera onca* are also found in the area, as are *Crocodylus acutus* and *Iguana iguana*. Expansion of the grazing areas, use of pesticides and fertilizers, and development of tourist resorts present some threat. Access to the area is difficult, and the main economic activity, although restricted to a very small area, is fishing in shallow waters. Hunting of wildlife such as iguanas is also important, as well as grazing and rice plantations in the borders of the wetland. The management plan for the area is being prepared by FUNDARY (Fundación Mario Dary) with the support of CONAP (El Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas). Ramsar site no. 1016. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

### **Punta Patiño**

Site number: 630 | Country: Panama | Administrative region: Darién

Area: 13 805 ha | Coordinates: 08°18'N 78°14'W | Designation dates: 13-10-1993

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Punta Patiño. 13/10/93; Darién; 13,805 ha; 08°18'N 078°14'W. Private Nature Reserve. A littoral plain subject to tidal flooding, consisting of three types of tropical coastal-marine habitat: beaches, reefs, and an estuarine system with mangroves and "albinas" (crusty salt formations at dessicated pools). Numerous migratory and resident seabirds, including a large number of *Pelecanus* spp. (during the rainy season) occupy the site. There are 19 endangered and protected species occurring, consisting of reptiles, birds and mammals. Human activities include commercial and subsistence fishing, tourism, an environmental education programme, and an agroforestry project. Ramsar site no. 630. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

### **Punte Alberete**

Site number: 121 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 480 ha | Coordinates: 44°31'N 12°13'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Punte Alberete. 14/12/76; Emilia Romagna; 480 ha; 44°31'N 012°14'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park. An extensive wetland complex within the Po River floodplain consisting of alluvial woodland and relict sand dunes. Extensive reedbeds and submergent and floating vegetation are supported. An important area for breeding, nesting and wintering waterbirds. The area is supplied mainly with water from the polluted Lamone River. Nutrient-enrichment, sedimentation and vegetational succession are problems. Ramsar site no. 121. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### **Pürgschachen Moor**

Site number: 532 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Province Styria, district Liezen

Area: 62 ha | Coordinates: 47°35'N 14°21'E | Designation dates: 05-09-1991

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pürgschachen Moor. 09/09/91; Steiermark; 62 ha; 47°35'N 014°21'E. Protected Landscape Area. A raised peat bog in the basin of a post-glacial lake surrounded by peatland and damp meadows, interspersed with coniferous woodland. The site supports a range of rare or biogeographically important plant species, specialized and relict invertebrate species and is particularly important for its insects. The area is important for scientific research, notably pollen analysis. Ramsar site no. 532. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Pusztaszer

Site number: 188 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Csongrád county  
Area: 5 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°27'N 20°05'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is formed of four separate areas composed of artificial fishponds, permanently flooded marshlands, a seasonally flooded sodic-alkaline pan, flooded woodland, and oxbow lakes lined with gallery forests. The sodic-alkaline pan is a type of continental saltwater body which is a typical wetland type in Hungary and characteristic of the Pannonic biogeographic region. The area is an important staging ground for waterbirds during the breeding and migration seasons, regularly supporting over 20,000 individuals. It hosts several noteworthy plant species and communities, including several endemic species. The Site has an important role in the retention and storage of inland water and regulation of the groundwater levels of the surrounding area. Land use is dedicated to extensive agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, as well as a research station, information centre and several observation hides. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site include decreasing groundwater levels and extensive agricultural pollution. In 2000, a cyanide spill caused by a gold mining company near Baia Mare in Romania leaked into the River Someş. The polluted waters eventually reached the Tisza and then the Danube, causing severe water pollution and killing large numbers of fish in Hungary and Serbia. A few small-scale habitat restoration programmes have been carried out on the Site and further restoration measures are planned.

## Qinnquata Marraa and Kuussuaq

Site number: 382 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Qeqertarsuaq  
Area: 6 480 ha | Coordinates: 69°56'N 54°14'W | Designation dates: 27-01-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Qinnquata Marraa and Kuussuaq. 27/01/88; Qeqertarsuaq; 6,480 ha; 69°56'N 054°14'W. Two broad valleys subject to active periglacial processes, the site includes extensive intertidal mudflats and the shallow head of a fjord. Valley bottoms contain braided melt-water rivers draining surrounding glaciated areas. Various wetland types from extensive moss-sedge meadows to marshes and pools provide feeding areas for waterbirds. The single most important molting area in Greenland for King eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*), the area is internationally important for breeding waterbirds, and low numbers of several species use the area for staging. Ramsar site no. 382. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Qoliqoli Cokovata

Site number: 2 331 | Country: Fiji | Administrative region: Northern Division  
Area: 134 900 ha | Coordinates: 16°22'S 179°02'E | Designation dates: 16-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is part of an extensive barrier reef system known as the Great Sea Reef (GSR) or locally as Cakaulevu. At over 260 kilometres in length, the GSR is the third longest continuous barrier reef system in the world. Identified as one of the five marine priority conservation areas in Fiji, it sustains an exceptional wealth of marine biodiversity and endemic species, and supports the food security and livelihoods of local communities, which collectively retain custodial ownership over the fishing grounds. The Qoliqoli Cokovata is the most biodiverse “heart” of the GSR, and so is globally significant. The Site contains a network of a wide range of coral reef forms, associated seagrass beds and mangroves that support foraging and nesting grounds for globally threatened turtle species including hawksbill, green turtles (which are present in significant numbers), leatherbacks and loggerheads. It also supports at least eight globally threatened or near-threatened finfish species such as giant grouper, humphead wrasse and humphead parrotfish. The extensive seagrass beds together with coastal mangroves and mangrove islands are critical habitats and nursery grounds for the commercially important finfish, molluscs, crustaceans and sea cucumbers that support the national economy as well as the local communities. The major threats to the Site include chemical and waste water run-off from a neighbouring settlement, sugarcane farms and a mill. The custodial owners set up the Qoliqoli Cokovata Management Committee, which represents them in Site management decisions.

## Quark Archipelago

Site number: 6 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 63 699 ha | Coordinates: 63°23'N 21°26'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Quark Archipelago. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 63,699 ha [formerly called Valassaaret and Björkögrunden Archipelago]; 63°26'N 021°25'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Baltic Sea Protected Area, Shore Conservation Programme. Situated in the narrowest and shallowest area of the Gulf of Bothnia at the northern limit for many marine species, such as Eider and Blue Mussel. The archipelago bird fauna is exceptionally rich, e.g., more than 1,700 pairs of Arctic Tern and 3,800 pairs of Black Guillemot are breeding at the site. Shallow waters are important staging areas for waterfowl during migration and molting periods, and the archipelago is habitat for the endangered Grey Seal. The outer archipelago is composed of several groups of islands divided by shallow open sea areas, and the Valassaaret Islands are characterized by Storskär Island surrounded by about 80 small, nearly treeless and stony islands and islets. Because of strong land upheaval, virgin shores, such as coastal meadows and natural forests in primary succession stages, are relatively quickly born. Treeless islets are abundant and morainic ridges are broad. The main threats for the site are damage through oil pollution, followed by notable impacts of the American Mink in bird colonies. The Valassaaret Biological Station on Ebbskär Island is a bird monitoring station and an education site. Significantly extended from 16,730 ha and renamed in February 2004. Ramsar site no. 6. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Queen Maud Gulf

Site number: 246 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Northwest Territories  
Area: 6 278 200 ha | Coordinates: 67°00'N 102°00'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Queen Maud Gulf. 24/05/82; Northwest Territories; 6,278,200 ha; 67°00'N 102°00'W. Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Canada's largest Ramsar site embraces a vast tundra plain comprising a huge area of low-lying wet sedge meadows and marsh tundra, interspersed with communities of lichens, mosses and vascular plants. The area includes open sea, coastal bays, intertidal zones, tidal estuaries, deltas, lowland rivers and freshwater lakes. Internationally important for various species of nesting waterbirds, especially breeding geese who nest and molt here from May to August. The raptor *Falco peregrinus tundrius* (endangered in North America) is relatively common. The site is also important for seals and the large mammals, *Ragifer arcticus* (100,000 in 1988) and *Ovibos moschatus*. Ramsar site no. 246. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Quill Lakes

Site number: 365 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Saskatchewan  
Area: 63 500 ha | Coordinates: 51°55'N 104°20'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Quill Lakes. 27/05/87; Saskatchewan; 63,500 ha; 51°55'N 104°20'W. International Biological Programme Site. Surrounded by glacial moraines, Canada's largest saline lake consists of a series of lakes forming the center of a closed drainage basin on muddy or sandy alkaline flats. Salinity limits the floral diversity of the lakes. An internationally important area for nesting and staging waterbirds during both spring and fall migrations, with up to 155,000 individuals present at one time. Birds include 85,000 geese, 100,000 ducks, 12,000 cranes and the endangered plover *Charadrius melodus*, which breeds at the site. Ramsar site no. 365. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 1 172 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Kansas  
Area: 8 957,7 ha | Coordinates: 38°05'N 98°29'W | Designation dates: 02-12-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. 12/02/02; Kansas; 8,958 ha; 38°05'N 98°29'W. National Wildlife Refuge. An excellent example of inland salt marsh, a rare habitat type in the region, ranging from high salinity to almost fresh water depending upon varying precipitation and saline inflow from Rattlesnake Creek, resulting from local geological conditions which bring a layer of salt groundwater close to the surface upstream. The salt marshes, interspersed with mixed grass prairie and agricultural fields, provide critical nesting, migration, and wintering habitat for more than 311 bird species and literally millions of individuals. A number of nationally endangered and threatened species are present, including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), and piping plover. A diversity of habitat is provided by native grass uplands, fresh and saltwater marshes, and salt flats, and the site comprises a major site for migratory birds - because of the sporadic nature of prairie thunderstorms, Quivira complements the nearby Cheyenne Bottoms Ramsar site, such that when one is dry or flooded the other is nearly always suitable for use by shorebirds. The two sites, because of this sharing of habitat, often host over 90% of the world's population of such species as stilt sandpipers (*Calidris himantopus*) and white-rumped sandpipers (*Calidris fuscicollis*), as well as hundreds of thousands of geese and cranes. A large and growing number of tourists (presently 60,000 p.a.) enjoy wildlife observation at the site, with benefit of a visitors' centre, and a Friends of Quivira volunteer support group organizes many imaginative activities. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1172. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Qurm Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 144 | Country: Oman | Administrative region: Muscat - the Capital City of the Sultanate of Oman  
Area: 106,8 ha | Coordinates: 23°37'N 58°29'E | Designation dates: 19-04-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Qurm Nature Reserve is located in the Qurm neighbourhood in the heart of the capital city of Muscat, facing the Gulf of Oman at the foot of the Hajar Mountains. The Site is internationally important as it supports one of the largest areas of natural mangrove forests along the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula as well as in the Oman Sea ecoregion. The mangroves provide natural control against tropical storms and cyclones that regularly affect the city, play a critical role in shoreline stabilization, and maintain water quality by retaining stormwater run-off. In addition, the mangroves sustain the rich biodiversity of the biogeographic region by supporting essential ecological processes for over 40 fish species. These fish include a number of high-valued commercial species that are already under considerable pressure from intensive commercial fishing in the Oman Sea. The Site also supports 194 species of birds, 27 species of crustaceans, and 48 species of molluscs. It is a popular nature observation and outing venue for tourists and Muscat city residents, and it is being developed into the first conservation/education site in the city with a state-of-the-art visitors' centre. In addition to its recreational and educational values, Qurm Nature Reserve is home to archaeological remains of fishing activities that might have taken place more than 4,000 years ago.

## Rába valley

Site number: 1 645 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Vas  
Area: 9 552,3 ha | Coordinates: 47°05'N 16°45'E | Designation dates: 06-10-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site follows a section of the River Rába from the Austrian border downstream to Győr-Moson-Sopron County. In this section, the river meanders freely and yearly floods maintain the natural dynamic of oxbows, shifting riverbeds and typical riverside vegetation. The new boundaries of the Ramsar Site follow recently changed property boundaries and the shoreline of the water body more accurately. Typical habitat types are floodplain meadows, softwood riparian forests, willow bushes and hardwood riverside forests. The banks support nesting birds such as the European bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and sand martin *Riparia riparia*. The meandering sections of the Rába, the oxbows and the abandoned man-made pits play an important role in the reproduction of fish species and aquatic insects and provide important habitats for their survival during summer droughts. The Site supports high percentages of the Hungarian populations of threatened species such as the Ukrainian brook lamprey (*Eudontomyzon mariae*) and *Zingel zingel*. The Site plays an important role in flood control, and in maintaining relatively high groundwater levels which enhance the productivity of surrounding agricultural land. Uncontrolled tourism, fishing activities, intensive forestry, and the discharge of treated sewage water pollution inflow from upstream Austria all have a negative impact. The Rába River Basin Management Plan has recently been finalized and will be implemented with support of EU funds.

## Raheenmore Bog

Site number: 417 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Offaly  
Area: 162 ha | Coordinates: 53°20'N 07°21'W | Designation dates: 06-12-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Raheenmore Bog. 06/12/88; Offaly; 162 ha; 53°20'N 07°21'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. This classic example of a Midland raised bog developed in a small basin on the catchment divide between two major river systems. The peat, 15m in places, makes it the deepest known raised bog in Ireland. Vegetation is typical, with a good cover of Sphagnum mosses, but the formerly extensive hummock and hollow system is reduced due to conversion to agricultural land. Ramsar site no. 417.

## Randers and Mariager Fjords and The Adjacent Sea

Site number: 150 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Midtjylland and Nordjylland Regions  
Area: 39 190 ha | Coordinates: 56°43'N 10°21'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Randers and Mariager Fjords and the adjacent sea. 02/09/77; Regions Midtjylland & Norjylland; 39,190 ha; 56°42'N 010°13'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Nature Conservation Area, Wildlife Reserve. A shallow fjord, small islets, saltmarshes, mudflats and cultivated land, providing an internationally important site for breeding, wintering and staging various species of waterbirds. 38.6% of the Svalbard population of the goose *Branta bernicla hrota* (2,700 between 2004-2009) gather in winter. Human activities include fishing, hunting and sailing. At present the main factors affecting the sites ecological character are eutrophication of fjords and the open marine areas, overgrowing of saltmarshes with Cordgrass (*Spartina* sp) and other high vegetation, drainage and construction of sea dikes. Ramsar site no. 150. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Rannoch Moor

Site number: 78 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 1 519 ha | Coordinates: 56°39'N 04°36'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rannoch Moor. 05/01/76; Scotland; 1,519 ha; 56°39'N 004°36'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI. Dominated by glacial features, moraines, peat-filled depressions, and lochs, and exhibiting an extensive complex of western-type blanket bog, the site includes numerous nutrient-poor and acidic lakes with varying extents of marginal and submerged vegetation. Rare species of plants (Rannoch rush *Scheuchzeria palustris*), beetles, flies and moths are amongst features of national importance, and there is an excellent range of breeding wetland and moorland birds (*Pluvialis apricaria* and *Tringa nebularia*). The site is used for livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 78. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Rapides de Mboundou Badouma et de Doume

Site number: 1 853 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Haut Ogooué/l'Ogooué Lolo  
Area: 53 883 ha | Coordinates: 01°05'S 13°09'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a system of permanent and intermittent rivers and permanent marshes along the course of the Ogooue River. Its 140 kilometres of rapids form part of a large hydrographical network, and act as a spillway for several rivers. The Site supports a vast array of fauna and flora. The existence of certain vegetation as a source of food, refuge, and habitat maintains the presence of certain animals: for example, the buffalo in the savannah and the gorilla in the forest. Some of the animal species, such as elephants, monkeys, tilapia and carp, are severely threatened by the over-exploitation of forest resources, pollution of the waters by effluents from the surrounding towns, and manganese and uranium mining activities. While there is currently no specific management plan, the Site is protected by a number of national environmental laws and regulations.

## Rappomyran

Site number: 2 178 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 3 031 ha | Coordinates: 66°22'N 20°57'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rappomyran is a mire complex which runs along the Pulisbäcken stream. The Site is characterized by non-forested peatlands, shrub-dominated wetlands, permanent freshwater lakes, marshes, pools, rivers and streams. These habitats support nationally red-listed species including the small-spored jelly lichen *Collema curtisporum*, the Hudson Bay sedge *Carex heleonastes*, and the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The Site regularly supports significant numbers of birds during the breeding and migration seasons, and so is important for maintaining the biological diversity of the European Boreal region. The peatland areas play a significant role in carbon sequestration. The Site is still affected by traditional mowing practised until the 1950s. Saami villages located within the Site still share the rights to utilize the reindeer grazing land. Conservation and management plans for the overlapping nature reserve and Natura 2000 are being implemented, which include provisions against forestry, drainage, building and road construction.

## Rara Lake

Site number: 1 695 | Country: Nepal | Administrative region: Karnali Zone  
Area: 1 583 ha | Coordinates: 29°30'N 82°05'E | Designation dates: 23-09-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rara Lake. 23/09/07; Karnali; 1,583 ha; 29°30'N 082°05'E. National Park. The largest lake in Nepal, lying at about 2,900m altitude and providing water to the important Kamali River. The area has developed unique floral and faunal assemblages with a number of rare and vulnerable fauna and flora species, and the wet alpine pasture, moraines, and damp stream banks along the lake area are the natural habitats for endemic species of plants. The endemic frog Rara paha (*Paa rarica*) is found at only one other location in the Central region, and three endemic species of snow trout, *Asala macha* (*Schizothorax macrophthalus*, *S. nepalensis*, and *S. raraensis*), are found only here. Two temples in the area are the venue for a number of religious festivals. The people of the area speak a dialect that is considered the former or original form of the Nepali language. Principal threats come from pollution caused by army personnel and tourists and unregulated fuelwood collection, especially during festivals. Ramsar site no. 1695. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 1 715 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region:  
Area: 620 ha | Coordinates: 25°11'N 55°19'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary. 29/08/07; Dubai; 620 ha; 25°11'30"N 055°19'20"E. National Protected Area. Located at the end of the 14 km-long Dubai creek within the northern part of the Emirate of Dubai. A rare site in the arid Gulf region, this natural coastal wetland consists of low-lying saline flats, lagoon, intertidal mud and sand flats and mangrove swamps that serve as an important habitat for more than 450 species of fauna and 47 species of flora. During winter, it regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds belonging to 67 species and acts as a critical staging ground for migratory waterbirds along the East African-West Asian Flyway. A number of globally threatened species such as the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* and Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* are seen in the area; more than 3,000 Greater Flamingoes *Phoenicopterus ruber* have been counted, and more than 1% of the regional population of Broad-billed Sandpipers *Limicola falcinellus* migrate through in autumn and spring. Located in the heart of Dubai city, the site receives an average of 10,000 visitors annually and is a valuable conservation and educational center. A visitor center that will serve as the Regional Center for Excellence in Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) is planned with the goal of promoting awareness of wetland ecosystems and wetland management in the Arab region. Ramsar Site no. 1715. Most recent RIS information: 2012

### Rasmussen Lowlands

Site number: 247 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Northwest Territories  
Area: 300 000 ha | Coordinates: 68°40'N 93°00'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rasmussen Lowlands. 24/05/82; Northwest Territories; 300,000 ha; 68°40'N 093°00'W. A flat, poorly drained area recently emerged from the sea as a result of post-glacial rise of land relative to sea level. The lowlands contain numerous lakes and ponds of major importance for breeding (supports half a million nesting shorebirds) and summering waterbirds. Around 6% of the Canadian breeding population of *Cygnus c. columbianus* use the site, as do other summering Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). Ramsar site no. 247. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Rason Migratory Bird Reserve

Site number: 2 343 | Country: Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Administrative region:  
Area: 3 525,7 ha | Coordinates: 42°20'N 130°35'E | Designation dates: 16-05-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rason Migratory Bird Reserve is one of two Sites designated as a Wetland of International Importance on the accession of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Convention on Wetlands.

### Raven, The

Site number: 333 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Wexford  
Area: 589 ha | Coordinates: 52°20'N 06°19'W | Designation dates: 31-07-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Raven, The. 31/07/86; Wexford; 589 ha; 52°20'N 006°19'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A sand-dune spit protecting Wexford Harbour from the sea. The tip is highly mobile, with constantly changing patterns of recurves, lagoons and sand bars. The unforested foredunes support a well-developed native vegetation, including various nationally rare species. The site provides important roosting sites for passage terns and supports a small nesting colony of the tern *Sterna albifrons*. Internationally important numbers of the globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* winter at the site and large numbers of waders roost at high tide. The site is managed for timber. Ramsar site no. 333.

### Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park

Site number: 1 944 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: Province of South East Sulawesi  
Area: 105 194 ha | Coordinates: 04°28'S 121°59'E | Designation dates: 06-03-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park. 06/03/2011; Province of South East Sulawesi; 105,194 ha; 04°28'S 121°59'E.

Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park is one of the most important conservation areas in the Wallacea region, consisting of mangroves, savannah, peat swamps, lowland tropical rain forests and sub-montane forests.

The site is biologically rich, with over five hundred recorded species of flora, two hundred species of birds, eleven species of reptiles and over twenty species of fish and mammals. Many endemic and threatened species are found here, with over fifteen mammal species endemic to Sulawesi such as the endangered Lowland Anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*) and vulnerable Sulawesi Civet (*Macrogalidia musschenbroeckii*). The Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park is an important stopover for migratory waterbirds. The waterbird migration route passes through the Philippine Islands, through Sangihe Talaud (North Sulawesi), and transits through this site before entering Borneo. It supports a population of over 170 vulnerable Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*) which is more than 3% of the world population. This site contains the only remaining large mangrove habitat in South East Sulawesi that is an important nursery and spawning area for fish, prawns and crabs.

Swamps within the national park (particularly Aopa Peat Swamp) are important regulators of water. It acts as a reservoir for freshwater, while run-off habitats help to control water discharge. Aopa Swamp is the only representative peat swamp wetland in Sulawesi.

Threats to the site include illegal logging, poaching of waterbirds and collection of eggs. A section of the Aopa Swamp is being drained to direct water into surrounding agricultural areas.

Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park Office (under the management of the Ministry of Forestry) is responsible for the management of this site. Ramsar Site n.1944. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Redgrave and South Lopham Fens

Site number: 513 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 127 ha | Coordinates: 52°23'N 01°01'E | Designation dates: 15-02-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Redgrave and South Lopham Fens. 15/02/91; England; 127 ha; 52°23'N 001°01'E. Nature Reserve, SSSI, Environmentally Sensitive Area. An excellent example of spring-fed lowland valley fen, exhibiting several distinct vegetation communities, supporting a diverse and well-studied invertebrate fauna. The site is one of only two British localities for the spider *Dolomedes plantarius*. Intensive arable agriculture extends to the site boundary. There is a boardwalk and a network of footpaths for visitors. Ramsar site no. 513. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Reentrancias Maranhenses

Site number: 640 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Amazon Province  
Area: 2 680 911 ha | Coordinates: 01°41'S 45°04'W | Designation dates: 30-11-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reentrancias Maranhenses. 30/11/93; Maranhão; 2,680,911 ha; 01°41'S 045°04'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site; Area of Environmental Protection. A complex estuarine system of extensive islands, bays, coves, and rugged coastline covered mainly by mangrove forest. The site is of great importance for numerous species of fish, shellfish and migratory birds. The manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) is also present. Local communities practice subsistence fishing. Ramsar site no. 640. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Refugio de Fauna Silvestre de Cuare

Site number: 414 | Country: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Administrative region: Falcón  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°55'N 68°20'W | Designation dates: 23-11-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Cuare. 23/11/88; Falcón; 9,968 ha; 10°55'N 68°20'W. Wildlife Refuge. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993; removed from the Record, 7 August 1996. The site includes marine and inland habitats. The former are coral reefs, sandy beaches, mangrove stands, and scattered low forest. The latter, penetrated by a small gulf and a network of channels, includes mangrove and deciduous forests. The highly productive marshes support staging and wintering waterbirds, a rich flora and fauna, including commercially important fish, two species of marine turtles, and the endangered *Crocodylus acutus*. The site is of considerable archaeological interest. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1991. Ramsar site no. 414. Most recent RIS information: 1991.

### Refugio de Fauna Silvestre y Reserva de Pesca Ciénaga de Los Olivitos

Site number: 859 | Country: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Administrative region: Zulia  
Area: 26 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°55'N 71°26'W | Designation dates: 04-09-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ciénaga de Los Olivitos. 04/09/96; Zulia; 26,000 ha; 10°55'N 71°26'W. Wildlife and Fisheries Reserves. A coastal wetland subject to tidal influence and consisting of mangrove, lagoon, saltmarsh, and beach habitats. The site supports numerous species of migratory and resident birds, and aquatic shorebirds use the site for reproduction, feeding and resting. Species such as *Crocodylus acutus*, the manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), and sea turtles, all threatened with extinction, are supported. Human activities include salt extraction, commercial fishing, and shrimp farming. Ramsar site no. 859. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Refugio de Vida Silvestre Bocas del Polochic

Site number: 813 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: Izabal  
Area: 21 227 ha | Coordinates: 15°25'N 89°22'W | Designation dates: 20-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Bocas del Polochic. 20/03/96; Izabal; 21,227 ha; 15°25'N 89°22'W. Special Protected Area, Refugio de Vida Silvestre Bocas del Polochic. One of the most important and varied areas of tropical rainforest in Guatemala. The site consists of various seasonal wetland habitats supporting diverse aquatic plants and lowlands of broad-leaved forest. The site has high species diversity, supporting numerous species at critical stages of their life cycle and whose populations are threatened or have disappeared in Guatemala. The natural isolation has led to endemic communities of fauna. The site serves as a biological corridor for large mammals inhabiting nearby ecosystems. Human activities include subsistence fishing, hunting, firewood cutting, agriculture, and cattle ranching. Ramsar site no. 813. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Refugio de Vida Silvestre Isla Santa Clara

Site number: 1 142 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: El Oro  
Area: 46 ha | Coordinates: 03°10'S 80°26'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Isla Santa Clara. 02/02/02; El Oro; 46 ha; 03°10'S 80°26'W. Protected Area of Natural Heritage. A small island with rocky shores in the Gulf of Guayaquil, forming a complex transitional marine/coastal system situated in an area of convergence of marine currents and the fresh water of the Gulf, an important area of mixed and transitional biogeographical characteristics. The island is an undeveloped area of extraordinary importance for the conservation of waterbirds and constitutes a major refuge for the marine biodiversity of the continental coast of the country, for which reason it was inscribed as a Protected Area of Natural Heritage in 1999. Its outstanding feature is the large-scale presence of avifauna, 23,000 individuals of the species *Fragatas* or Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), and Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxi*. The site holds exceptional social and cultural value and is considered from archaeological artifacts to be an early refuge of the first inhabitants of the larger Isla Puná, and a point of reference for navigators since the prehistoric era. It provides a unique opportunity for scientific investigations of marine-terrestrial ecosystems. Artisanal and industrial fishing are supported in the area. The Fundación Natura and the Ministry of Environment have compiled the technical datasheets for the site designation with the support of the WWF Living Waters Programme. Ramsar site no. 1142. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Cabral o Rincón

Site number: 1 936 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Barahona e Independencia  
Area: 4 600 ha | Coordinates: 18°16'N 71°15'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Cabral o Rincón. 02/02/2011. Barahona e Independencia; 4,600 ha; 18°16'N 71°15'W. This Ramsar Site includes a freshwater lagoon, permanent and stationary rivers and inundated agricultural areas within the Laguna Cabral o Rincon Wildlife Refuge. The site provides habitat for species listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List such as the West Indian Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) and the Southern crested toad (*Bufo guentheri*). It has an important population of endemic plants (*Solanum microphyllum*), fish (Hispaniolan *Gambusia*) and birds such as the Hispaniolan Parrot (*Amazona ventralis*). The site is also important as a winter stop for migratory ducks where they have registered over 100,000 individual of different species like Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), White cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) among others. Main threats for this site include the hydrological changes caused by the water extraction and deviation for irrigation purposes, the introduction of invasive species and the overexploitation of fisheries. This Ramsar Site has an annual operational plan for its management activities and a management plan is currently being developed. Ramsar Site no. 1936. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Refugio de Vida Silvestre Punta Izopo

Site number: 812 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Atlántida  
Area: 11 200 ha | Coordinates: 15°44'N 87°21'W | Designation dates: 20-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Punta Izopo. 20/03/96; Atlántida; 11,200 ha; 15°44'N 87°21'W. Wildlife Reserve. Remnants of the last existing areas of pristine, tropical, broad-leaved forest. The site includes coastline, river valleys, flooded savannas, marshes, mangroves, rocky beaches, and lakes forming a large wetland of outstanding importance due to its biodiversity and numerous threatened or endemic populations supported. The site provides important breeding and feeding areas for birds and fish. Two ethnic communities inhabit the site and pre-Colombian remains have been excavated. Human activities include agriculture and ranching. Ramsar site no. 812. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Refugio de Vida Silvestre Río San Juan

Site number: 1 138 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Río San Juan, Atlántico Sur  
Area: 43 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°56'N 83°40'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Río San Juan. 08/11/01; Río San Juan, Atlántico Sur; 43,000 ha; ca.10°56'N 083°40'W. Wildlife Refuge, Biosphere Reserve. A long, slender, convoluted site that follows the course of the Río San Juan, which flows from Lake Nicaragua at 32m altitude along the Costa Rican frontier 200km to the city of San Juan del Norte on the Caribbean coast, and includes the coastline to the north as well, part of the Biosphere Reserve Indio Maiz, forming one of the two most extensive biological nuclei of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. The site comprises an array of wetland types, including estuary and shallow marine waters, coastal freshwater lagoon, and intertidal marsh, as well as permanent lakes, rivers, and pools, inter alia. Nearly all of the Ramsar Criteria are met, and four species of turtles, as well as the manatee *Trichechus manatus*, are supported. Ramsar site no. 1138. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Reisautløpet

Site number: 1 958 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms County  
Area: 600 ha | Coordinates: 69°47'N 21°00'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises a delta ecosystem formed through the discharge of a large sub-arctic river into a fjord. Large marine tidal areas of mud and sand flats as well as wet coastal meadows along the shore exhibit sub-Arctic features. Northern and southern plant communities coexist in this Site, some of which are nationally rare. It is a staging area for migratory birds such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, the black guillemot *Cephus grille*, the common merganser *Mergus merganser* and the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*. It is also a feeding area for ducks and wading birds, and important river stocks of the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, the anadromous Arctic char *Salvelinus alpinus* and the brown trout *Salmo trutta* migrate through the Site. Sørkjosen Airport is close, and the noise and runoff may affect the Site.

## Renuka Wetland

Site number: 1 571 | Country: India | Administrative region: Himachal Pradesh State  
Area: 20 ha | Coordinates: 31°37'N 77°27'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Renuka Wetland. 08/11/05; Himachal Pradesh; 20 ha; 31°37'N 077°27'E. Wildlife Sanctuary, Reserve Forest. A natural wetland with freshwater springs and inland subterranean karst formations, fed by a small stream flowing from the lower Himalayan out to the Giri river. The lake is home to at least 443 species of fauna and 19 species of ichthyofauna representative of lacustrine ecosystems like Puntius, Labeo, Rasbora, Channa. Prominent vegetation ranges from dry deciduous like Shorea Robusta, Terminalia tomentosa, Dalbergia sissoo to hydrophytes. There are 103 species of birds of which 66 are residents, e.g. Crimson-breasted barbet, Mayna, Bulbul, Pheasants, Egrets, Herons, Mallards and Lapwing. Among ungulates Sambhar, Barking deer and Ghorals are also abundant in the area. The lake has high religious significance and is named after the mother of Hindu sage Parshuram, and is thus visited by thousands of pilgrims and tourists. Conservation measures so far include community awareness, and prevention of silt influx from eroded slopes and 50 ha. of massive plantation in the catchment. The site is managed by the Shimla Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh. Ramsar site no. 1571. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Reserva Biológica Limoncocha

Site number: 956 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Sucumbios  
Area: 4 613 ha | Coordinates: 00°25'N 76°35'W | Designation dates: 10-07-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Biológica Limoncocha. 10/07/98; Sucumbios; 4,613 ha; 00°25'S 076°35'W. The site comprises seasonally flooded forest and permanent and seasonally flooded swamps, while the area surrounding the lagoon is predominantly wet tropical forest. The area has abundant species of flora, 41 species of fish, and 464 bird species, of which 68 are waterbirds with important populations. The forest surrounding the lagoon has eight primate species. There is a community of indigenous people along the banks of the Jivino River, which is very rich in fish stocks. Subsistence farming, mostly banana cultivation, is practiced, and small areas are used for animal grazing. The Limoncocha lagoon is the main tourism attraction in the reserve area and facilities are being developed for ecotourism. Ramsar site no. 956. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Reserva Costa Atlantica de Tierra del Fuego

Site number: 754 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Tierra del Fuego  
Area: 28 600 ha | Coordinates: 53°20'S 68°30'W | Designation dates: 13-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Costa Atlantica de Tierra del Fuego. 13/09/95; Tierra del Fuego; 28,600 ha; 53°20'S 068°30'W. Provincial Nature Reserve. Ramsar's most southern site shares a border with Chile. Composed of shallow coastal waters, intertidal zones, extensive mudflats and lowland hills and cliffs characterized by grassland, pastures, drought-tolerant plant communities, with patches of Notothagus woodland. An endemic bird area, outstanding for its variety of species, which provides important nesting areas for seriously endangered Chloephaga rubidiceps and wintering sites for internationally important numbers of shorebirds. At least 21 species of marine mammals use the waters for breeding, feeding and migration. Human activities include recreation and ranching. Ramsar site no. 754. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Reserva de la Biosfera Archipiélago de Revillagigedo

Site number: 1 357 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Colima  
Area: 636 685 ha | Coordinates: 18°50'N 112°47'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera Archipiélago de Revillagigedo. 02/02/04; Mexican Island Territory; 636,685 ha; 18°50'N 112°47'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. Nearly 400km offshore in the Pacific Ocean, this volcanic archipelago is home to a unique set of endemic flora and fauna as well as well-preserved terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Isla Socorro is the largest island, with the Evermann volcano peaking 1050 meters, followed by Clarión, San Benedicto and Roca Partida islands. Socorro presents an interesting array of vegetation following the altitudinal gradient, featuring coastal halophytes, shrubs of Dodonaea viscosa, Guettarda insularis, Croton masonii; forests of Figs Ficus cotinifolia, Bumelia socorroensis and Psidium galapageium. Ten endemic species and subspecies of birds have been recorded in Socorro; however, three of them, including the Socorro Dove Zenaida graysoni are considered extinct in the wild (there are plans of reintroduction with several captive individuals in Germany). The site is well preserved and uninhabited, apart from some navy officers. Diving and fishing groups visit the islands regularly. Volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and fires pose risks to the islands' wildlife, but invasive species remain the main threat. The federal government funds a group of technicians to eradicate introduced sheep, pigs and rabbits. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1357. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Reserva de la Biosfera Banco Chinchorro

Site number: 1 353 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 144 360 ha | Coordinates: 18°35'N 87°20'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera Banco Chinchorro. 02/02/04; Quintana Roo; 144,360 ha; 18°35'N 87°20'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. Reefs complex classified as a false atoll, or platform reef, the lagoon contains seagrass beds and sandy areas, with an average depth of 6m. It has four types of habitats: coral reefs, seagrass beds, sandy areas and mangroves. At least 15 species of threatened fauna and flora are present in this area, despite its small size. Two species of great economic importance are also present in the lagoon: the Spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) and the Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) - controlled fishing techniques allow for the conservation of both species. The merging parts of the area are frequently used by migratory and local birds for feeding and resting. Fishing is the only economic activity in the area but some tourist plans may prove to be a threat. Gathering of information for designation of the site was supported by the Ramsar Wetlands for the Future Initiative. Ramsar site no. 1353. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala

Site number: 1 334 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 13 142 ha | Coordinates: 19°29'N 104°59'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala. 02/02/04; Jalisco; 13,142 ha; 19°29'N 104°59'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. The site comprises a mountainous landscape, rocky coasts and a deltaic plain on the Pacific coast, noteworthy for its communities of deciduous tropical forest. The estuary of the Cuixmala River and the lagoons of El Corte y La Manzanillera are home of a population of 600 American Crocodiles and nesting site of several marine turtles and the southernmost colony of Least Terns *Sterna antillarum*. The forests host pumas, ocelots and jaguars and is the only known site for the rat *Xenomys nelsoni*. The reserve is uninhabited and the vegetation is well preserved. Fishing, hunting and scientific research by UNAM are the main human activities, thus making the site one of the best known tropical areas in terms of ecology. A management plan is being implemented. Ramsar site no. 1334. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Reserva de la Biosfera La Encrucijada

Site number: 815 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 144 868 ha | Coordinates: 15°11'N 92°53'W | Designation dates: 20-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera La Encrucijada. 20/03/96; Chiapas; 144,868 ha; 15°11'N 92°53'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. The only area in Chiapas that protects the ecosystems, fauna, and flora of coastal wetlands. Composed of coastal lagoons, swamps and marshes forming the largest area of mangrove forest in the North American Pacific, it is also the only zapotonal woodland (*Pachira acuatica*) in Central America. The site supports a large variety of wildlife that is threatened, endemic, rare, or in danger of extinction. 183 bird species have been reported, and it is a temporary and seasonal habitat for numerous migratory species. Nine of 19 vegetative associations recorded for Chiapas are present. Archaeological remains from 5,500 years ago are found as well. Human activities include an important commercial fishery, slash-and-burn agriculture, extensive cattle ranching, and exploitation of the area's fauna. Sedimentation due to poorly planned water projects, deforestation, and slash-and-burn agriculture impact upon lagoons and lakes. Ramsar site no. 815. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Reserva de la Biosfera Los Petenes

Site number: 1 354 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Campeche  
Area: 282 857 ha | Coordinates: 20°11'N 90°32'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera Los Petenes. 02/02/04; Campeche; 282,857 ha; 20°11'N 90°32'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. Located in the western Yucatan peninsula just north of the city of Campeche, whose old town is a World Heritage Site. Los Petenes owes its name to this unique ecosystem, consisting of islands of low seasonally flooded and/or mangrove forests associated with underwater springs from sinkholes or cenotes. The marine parts of the site are noteworthy for their seagrass beds, while inland the landscape is dominated by a saline wetland dotted with petenes. Worth highlighting are the communities of Button Mangrove *Conocarpus erectus* and Campeche Wood *Haematoxylum campechianum*. There are several globally near-threatened species, such as the Horseshoe Crab *Limulus polyphemus* and the Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*. The site also hosts relatively large colonies of the White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* and Greater Flamingoes *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Cod, sardines, shrimp and octopus fishing are the main human activities in the site. Overfishing of stocks and illegal tree felling are the main problems, as well as the lack of the implementation of the management plan. In 2003, a joint council of several institutions was established to carry out a conservation initiative in western Yucatan. Ramsar site no. 1354. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Reserva de la Biosfera Pantanos de Centla

Site number: 733 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Tabasco  
Area: 302 706 ha | Coordinates: 18°18'N 92°27'W | Designation dates: 22-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera Pantanos de Centla. 22/06/95; Tabasco; 302,706 ha; 18°18'N 92°27'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. Hydrologically, one of the most important sites of its kind in Mesoamerica, influencing the ecology from southern Mexico to northern Guatemala. The site consists of 110 (permanent and temporary) freshwater bodies important for fishing and flood regulation. Permanently flooded freshwater swamp is the most prevalent wetland type, and the site includes brackish lagoons, estuaries, mangroves, seasonally flooded saltmarshes, freshwater swamps and agricultural land. The lagoons play a key role in the life cycles of many marine species. The area has one of the most important aquatic vascular floras of Mesoamerica, consisting of 76 plant species used by people, 13 rare or threatened species of flora, and several nationally or internationally rare or threatened species of animals. Land uses include various traditional subsistence activities. The fishery is the most important source of protein and income for local people. There is intensive commercial hunting. Ramsar site no. 733. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Reserva de la Biosfera Ría Celestún

Site number: 1 333 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Yucatán, Campeche  
Area: 81 482,3 ha | Coordinates: 20°45'N 90°22'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de la Biosfera Ría Celestún. 02/02/04; Yucatán; 81,482 ha; 20°45'N 090°22'W. Reserva de la Biosfera. A diverse complex of wetlands including mangroves, seagrass beds, small estuaries, coastal dunes, hypersaline coastal lagoons, karstic caves and other coastal wetland types. Fresh water from subterranean aquifers have an outlet in the site. Eight specific vegetation zones are present, providing habitat for several notable or endangered species of plants. The vegetative diversity gives rise to an abundant fauna, representing a high percentage of species known in the Yucatan, including numerous threatened or endangered species. The site is of particular importance as a nesting and feeding site for turtles and migratory birds. Human activities include fishing, tourism, and salt extraction. Special research and educational efforts are devoted to the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the area. Ramsar site no. 1333. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Reserva de Usos Múltiples Río Sarstún

Site number: 1 667 | Country: Guatemala | Administrative region: Izabal  
Area: 35 202 ha | Coordinates: 15°51'N 88°58'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva de Usos Múltiples Río Sarstún. 22/03/05; Izabal; 35,202 ha; 15°51'N 088°58'W. Multiple Use Reserve. Located along the southern border with Belize and adjacent to the Amatique Bay. The reserve is formed by a series of wetlands, ranging from continental and coastal to artificial. It has a transboundary character, since it acts as a buffer zone for the wetland of the Sarstoon-Temash Ramsar site in Belize. It is an important stop-over and breeding site for migratory waterbirds, including several flagship species. It also assists in the regulation of the local microclimate and promotes other hydrological processes, including aquifer recharge. It possesses the remains of the Caribbean Biological Corridor ecosystems and karstic wetlands that have unique characteristics. Endangered species such as the manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), the river turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*), the tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) and the howler monkey (*Alouata pigra*) are present in the site. The main habitat type is predominantly mangrove forests, including white, red, and black mangrove, forming the second largest system of mangroves in the Caribbean coast of Guatemala. Negative factors affecting the site are the exploitation of precious woods, hunting, agriculture and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 1667. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Reserva Ecológica Costanera Sur

Site number: 1 459 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Buenos Aires  
Area: 353 ha | Coordinates: 34°37'S 58°21'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Ecológica Costanera Sur. 22/03/2005; Buenos Aires; 353 ha; 34°37'S 058°21'W. Declared a Natural Park and Ecological Reserve in 1986, the site is located in the east of Buenos Aires, the most populated city in Argentina. The site sustains a large population of *Cygnus melancorpus* swans and other waterfowl. In total, 250 species of birds, 9 of amphibians, 23 of reptiles, 10 of mammals and 50 of butterflies have been identified in the area. Plant varieties also include 245 species from 55 families. Most of these species are highly representative of the biological diversity occurring in the region. Ramsar site no. 1459. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Reserva Ecológica de Manglares Cayapas-Mataje

Site number: 1 292 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Esmeralda  
Area: 44 847 ha | Coordinates: 01°16'N 79°00'W | Designation dates: 12-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Ecológica de Manglares Cayapas-Mataje. 12/06/03; Esmeralda; 44,847 ha; 01°16'N, 079°00'W). Nature Reserve. Located on the Pacific coast near the border with Colombia, between the rivers Cayapas and Mataje, the site is a complex of estuaries and mangrove forests within the Choco-Darien-Western Ecuador hotspot, a region recognized worldwide for its high level of biodiversity, numerous endemic species, and priority for conservation. Sedge marshes, tidal brackish marshes, peatlands or guandales, as well as humid tropical forest add to its richness. The high productivity of phytoplankton and mangrove forests sustains a diverse wildlife, with reportedly 6 species of mangrove, 68 of fish, 22 of reptiles, 145 of birds and 53 of mammals, including several threatened taxa at national or global scale, such as the black mangrove *Avicennia germinans*, the Neotropical Otter *Lutra longicaudis*, the Jaguar *Panthera onca*, the Blue-fronted Parrotlet *Touit dilectissima* and the American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*. The Afro-Ecuadorian population at the site is involved in fishing, gathering of mussels and crustaceans, subsistence agriculture and livestock raising, and recently, ecotourism. Archaeological remains of the Tolita culture (ca. 500 BC-AD 400) are abundant. The area has been affected by the construction of numerous shrimp pools and the establishment of crop plantations. Following designation as a Nature Reserve in 1996, a management plan is in preparation with local involvement. WWF International's Living Waters Programme and the Fundación Natura assisted Ecuador in making this designation. Ramsar site No. 1292. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Reserva Ecológica El Ángel

Site number: 2 085 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Carchi  
Area: 17 003 ha | Coordinates: 00°44'N 77°57'W | Designation dates: 12-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Ecológica El Ángel (REEA). 07/12/2012; Carchi; 17,003 ha; 00°43'51"N 077°56'43"W. National Protected Area. One of the few sites in Ecuador that protects healthy mountain ecosystems (paramo, bogs, lagoons and forests), it plays an important role in the hydrological cycle of the region, since it is the source of several rivers that benefit directly human populations. The threatened fauna species that can be found in the site include Ecuadorian grass mouse (*Akodon latebricola*), the andean oncor (Vultur gryphus), the Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), and some regional herpetofauna, like *Centrolene buckleyi*, *Gastrotheca espeletia*, *Eleutherodactylus ocreatus*, *Eleutherodactylus* grp. *Devillei*, and *Riama simoteros*. Due to its location on the high occidental Andean mountain range (at 3,200-4,200m altitude) and the north occidental zone of Ecuador, it is a strategic area for the linkage of two biodiversity hotspots (Hotspot Tropical Andes and Hotspot Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena), and it is thus also an important site for neotropical bird conservation. All the biodiversity supported by the site is pressured by the advance of agricultural frontiers, burning, hunting, fishing, climate and hydrological changes. Ramsar Site no. 2085. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Reserva Estatal El Palmar

Site number: 1 328 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Yucatán  
Area: 50 177,4 ha | Coordinates: 21°03'N 90°12'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Estatal El Palmar. 27/11/03; Yucatán; 50,177 ha; 21°03'N 090°12'W. State Reserve. The site lies on the northwestern coast of the Yucatán peninsula and features mangroves, seagrass beds and tidal flats, as well as coastal dune vegetation, petenes (emerging islands of forests protected from saline intrusions), sinkholes or cenotes, swamp forests and low deciduous forest. El Palmar harbours a significant population of Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*, and 15 duck species have been recorded. The site also provides nesting ground for the endangered Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, for which a nest survey and liberation programme is underway. Fishing, agriculture, hunting and palm leaf collection are the main economic activities, which also represent the main potential threats to the site. Federal, state and municipal authorities as well as NGOs, communities and academic institutions participate in a board that manages the reserve. Training, restoration and awareness activities have been carried out successfully. Ramsar site no. 1328. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Reserva Nacional de Junín

Site number: 882 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Junín, Pasco  
Area: 53 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°00'S 76°08'W | Designation dates: 20-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Nacional de Junín. 20/01/97; Junín y Pasco; 53,000 ha; 11°00'S 076°08'W. This site is a shallow permanent freshwater Puna high-altitude lake (4,080-4,125 meters above sea level), the second most important in Perú, in size as well as biologically and socioeconomically. It is important for both resident and migratory bird species; the Junín Grebe (*Podiceps taczanoskii*) is endemic and on the verge of extinction (50-75 individuals). The fish fauna is abundant and includes several introduced species. The local inhabitants are mainly sheep farmers and fisherfolk. Peat is extracted traditionally for fuel because of the lack of firewood in the area. Ramsar site no. 882. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria

Site number: 546 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Loreto  
Area: 2 080 000 ha | Coordinates: 05°15'S 74°40'W | Designation dates: 30-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria. 30/03/92; Loreto; 2,080,000 ha; 05°15'S 074°40'W. National Reserve. Vast complex of alluvial terraces and floodplains covered by tropical rainforest. The site embraces the two large river basins and includes numerous permanent freshwater lakes, lagoons, and seasonally flooded, forested wetlands. The site supports a diverse population of mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, and birds. Archaeologically important, the various human activities at the site include tourism, forestry, fishing and petroleum prospecting, (illegal) hunting, fishing, and taking of river turtles' eggs. Upwards of 70,000 indigenous people live within the reserve, and there are three biological stations. Ramsar site no. 546. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

### Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Chiclana

Site number: 1 914 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 793 ha | Coordinates: 36°27'N 06°05'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Chiclana. 17/09/09; Andalucía; 793 ha; 36°27'N 006°05'W. The Nature Reserve of the endorheic wetland complex of Chiclana contains two water bodies, Laguna de Jeli (with a mean inundated area of 19 ha) and Laguna de Montellano (7 ha), and the surrounding buffer zone. Jeli is a semi-permanent wetland with a maximum depth of 2 meters that receives its water directly from rainfall and surface runoffs, as well as through a closed aquifer in its basin. Montellana is a temporary wetland on top of a non permeable argillaceous substrate with a maximum depth of 3m. Both are representative wetlands of the endorheic basins around Cádiz and Sevilla. They are surrounded by a landscape composed of non-irrigated agriculture, non-intensive pastures and some remains of Mediterranean matorral. They are strategically located close to the Guadalquivir marshes (Doñana) and other important wetlands, providing alternative breeding and stop-over habitat for many migratory waterbirds, particularly in dry years. Ramsar site no. 1914. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

### Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Espera

Site number: 1 679 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cadiz  
Area: 514 ha | Coordinates: 36°52'N 05°52'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Espera. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 514 ha; 36°52'N 005°52'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. Made up of a permanent, a semi-permanent, and a seasonal lagoon near the mouth of River Guadalquivir, essential for the breeding and resting of numerous migratory waterfowl, effectively constituting a functional extension of the Doñana marshes. Native vegetation has recently been reintroduced around the site as part of a broader conservation effort. The site suffers from soil erosion and silting from the surrounding agriculture, as well as other diffuse sources of pollution. Ramsar site no. 1679. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Puerto Real

Site number: 1 915 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 863 ha | Coordinates: 36°32'N 06°03'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Puerto Real. 17/09/09; Andalucía; 863 ha; 36°32'N 006°02'W. The Nature Reserve of the endorheic wetland complex of Puerto Real consists of three water bodies, Laguna del Taraje (with a mean inundated area of 19 ha and a maximum depth of 2 meters), Laguna de San Antonio (9.5 ha, 0.5 meters), Laguna del Comisario (21 ha, 1.5 meter), and the surrounding buffer zone. Taraje and San Antonio are permanent wetlands that receive additional water from a nearby drinking water station, while Comisario is a temporary wetland that depends on rainfall and surface water runoff only. They are representative wetlands of the endorheic basins around Cadiz and Sevilla. They are surrounded by a landscape composed of non-irrigated agriculture, non-intensive pastures and some remains of Mediterranean matorral. Strategically located close to the Guadalquivir marshes (Doñana) and other important wetlands, they provide alternative breeding and stop-over habitat for many migratory waterbirds, particularly in dry years. Ramsar site no. 1915. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico Lebrija-Las Cabezas

Site number: 1 913 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 897 ha | Coordinates: 36°54'N 05°54'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico Lebrija-Las Cabezas. 17/09/09; Andalucía; 897 ha; 36°55'N 005°54'W. The Nature Reserve of the endorheic wetland complex Lebrija-Las Cabezas includes six water bodies and their surrounding buffer zones. It is composed of two distinct units: the seasonal Laguna del Charrodo (also known as Charroao or Bujadillo) and its buffer zone, plus the semi-permanent Laguna del Taraje, and the seasonal Lagunas del Pilón, de la Cigarrera, de la Galiana, and de la Peña surrounded by a common buffer zone. The maximum water level in these surface wetlands can reach 3 meters at Taraje, above 2 meters at Cigarrera and 0.5 meter at Charrodo. They are representative wetlands of the endorheic basins around Cádiz and Sevilla. They are situated in a landscape composed of non-irrigated agriculture, non-intensive pastures and some remains of Mediterranean matorral. They are strategically located close to the Guadalquivir marshes (Doñana) and other important wetlands, providing alternative breeding and stop-over habitat for many migratory waterbirds, particularly in dry years. Ramsar site no. 1913. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Reserva Natural del Estuario del Muni

Site number: 1 311 | Country: Equatorial Guinea | Administrative region: Bata-Litoral  
Area: 80 000 ha | Coordinates: 01°07'N 09°48'E | Designation dates: 02-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural del Estuario del Muni. 02/06/03; Bata-Litoral; 80,000 ha; 01°13'N 009°45'E. Nature Reserve. Located in the mainland south, an area of estuaries and near-coastal highlands characterized by dense forest, inundated forest, and peat meadows. Secondary forest and mangroves are found around the mouths of the rivers Mitong, Mitemle, and Mbante or Mbané in the estuary of the Río Muni. Manatees, elephants, baboons, and migratory birds have an important presence. Traditional fishing, hunting, and subsistence agriculture are practiced, and disturbances caused by overhunting, overfishing, and forest exploitation are perceived as potential threats. A management plan is in preparation. Ramsar site no. 1311.

## Reserva Natural Laguna del Chinche

Site number: 1 682 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Jaén  
Area: 221 ha | Coordinates: 37°37'N 04°09'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Laguna del Chinche. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 221 ha; 37°36'N 0004°09'W. Nature Reserve, Andalusian Wetland. Located in the south of the Iberian Peninsula, the site constitutes an intermediate zone between the important palustrine wetlands of Doñana and Bajo de Guadalquivir Lagoons, on the one hand, and the La Mancha wetlands and the Mediterranean region, on the other. For many years the lagoon has been systematically drained through surface and underground extraction to provide water for olive plantations. Pollution from agriculture and poaching constitute further threats. Ramsar site no. 1682. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Reserva Natural Laguna del Conde o El Salobral

Site number: 1 683 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cordoba  
Area: 345 ha | Coordinates: 37°35'N 04°12'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Laguna del Conde o El Salobral. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 345 ha; 37°34'N 004°12'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. Of particular importance as feeding, breeding and nesting place for waterbirds, the value of the fauna in this wetland has the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) as its emblem, for it used to have its last European population in this area. In order to ensure its permanence, measures have been taken to eliminate the Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), an invasive species believed to constitute a major factor in the decrease of white-headed duck populations. Ramsar site no. 1683. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Reserva Natural Laguna de los Jarales

Site number: 1 680 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cordoba  
Area: 147 ha | Coordinates: 37°18'N 04°35'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Laguna de los Jarales. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 147 ha; 37°18'N, 004°34'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. The pond and surrounding fields is important, among other things, for hosting species like the toad (*Bufo calamita*), which shows local adaptations to this particular lagoon. Agriculture is important around the site, with olive, wine grape and cereal plantations generating a certain degree of silting and contamination of the lagoon. The arrival and spread of the invasive Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) is actively being prevented, as it tends to compete and interbreed with the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). Ramsar site no. 1680. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Reserva Natural Laguna de Tíscar

Site number: 1 681 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Cordoba  
Area: 185 ha | Coordinates: 37°26'N 04°49'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Laguna de Tíscar. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 185 ha; 37°25'N 004°49'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. This seasonal endorheic pond belongs to a wetland complex of ponds situated to the south of Córdoba, of which the first three are Ramsar sites. Among the Andalusian Red List / EU Birds Directive Annex I species of endangered bird populations present on this site are *Circus aeruginosus*, *Netta rufina* and *Podiceps nigricollis*. The site also contains the Castiseco archaeological ground. Ramsar site no. 1681. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Reserva Natural Laguna Honda

Site number: 1 684 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Jaén  
Area: 368 ha | Coordinates: 37°36'N 04°08'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Laguna Honda. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 368 ha; 37°35'N 004°08'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Site of Community Importance. Together with Laguna del Chinche, Laguna Honda constitutes one of the best conserved palustrine formations in the province. Its ecological importance lies in its strategic location promoting connectivity, its geological processes, and its associated flora and fauna. Among the species present are the nationally endangered birds *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Ardeola ralloides*, and a toad (*Bufo calamita*) registered in the EU Directive on Habitats and Wildlife, Annex IV. Adverse factors include agriculture and its associated groundwater extraction, infrastructure works, and illegal hunting. Ramsar site no. 1684. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Reserva Natural Lagunas de Archidona

Site number: 1 911 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 204 ha | Coordinates: 37°06'N 04°18'W | Designation dates: 17-09-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Lagunas de Archidona. 17/09/09; Andalucía; 204 ha; 37°06'N 004°18'W. The Nature Reserve of the Archidona wetlands contains two water bodies (about 1 km distant), Laguna Grande (7.96 ha) and Laguna Chica (7.88 ha), and a surrounding buffer zone. Laguna Grande is a permanent water body that receives its major part of water from an underlying karst aquifer on gypsum substrate. Laguna Chica is semi-permanent pond with important water level fluctuations that occasionally dries out when the level of the underlying aquifer drops too much. Both were created through the collapse of karst dolines that gave Laguna Chica its typical 8-shape. Laguna Grande has a maximum depth of 13.2 meters which makes it the deepest in Málaga province and the second in the Autonomous Region of Andalucía. Laguna Chica has a maximum depth of 8.3 meters. Together with the wetland complex of Los Hoyos, it is an outstanding example of karstic solution processes in the gypsum layer of the Triassic "German-Andalusian" deposit. Ramsar site no. 1911. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Reserva Natural Lagunas de Campillos

Site number: 1 685 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Málaga  
Area: 1 342 ha | Coordinates: 37°02'N 04°49'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Natural Lagunas de Campillos. 27/01/06; Andalucía; 1,342 ha; 37°02'N 004°49'W. Nature Reserve, EU Directive Special Protection Area, Site of Community Importance, Andalusian Wetland. Comprising five temporary ponds which form a functional unit with further ponds in the southeast of the Iberian Peninsula. The site is also important on archaeological grounds, as it hosts the Roman Capacete ruins. Regulated hunting exists in some parts of the Reserve. Among the threats to the site, changes to the hydrology, agriculture, eutrophication and water extraction count among the main ones. Although the numbers of cattle present are not excessive, they exceed the carrying capacity of the site. Ramsar site no. 1685. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Reserva Natural Otamendi

Site number: 1 750 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Provincia de Buenos Aires  
Area: 3 000 ha | Coordinates: 34°14'S 58°53'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in a rich biodiversity area where three biogeographic regions meet: Pastizal Pampeano, Espinal and Delta e Islas del Paraná. The site supports internationally threatened species such as the Dot-winged Crane (*Porzana spiloptera*) and the Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*). Some endemic species of the region include Straight-billed Reedhaunter (*Limnocites rectirostris*), the Bay-capped Wren-spinetail (*Spartonoica maluroides*), the dark-throated Seedeater (*Sporophila ruficollis*), and the Marsh Seedeater (*Sporophila palustris*), as well as a number of mammal species locally threatened by hunting activities, including the Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), Capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*) and other internationally threatened species. The site is dedicated to conservation activities and the main productive activities carried out include livestock, forestation, tourism and agriculture. Among the potential threats that are found in Otamendi are the invasion of exotic flora and fauna species, the pollution of the water bodies, changes in the hydrological system, and extraction of resources. The site is under national protection as a Natural Reserve and is part of the National System of Protected Areas. A five-year management plan is in place.

## Reserva Natural Villavicencio

Site number: 2 330 | Country: Argentina  
| Administrative region: Provincia de Mendoza, Departamento de Las Heras.  
Area: 62 244 ha | Coordinates: 32°35'S 69°01'W | Designation dates: 27-12-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Province of Mendoza. It has been designated as a Natural Voluntary Reserve of Multiple Use by the Ministry of Environment and Public Works of Mendoza Province; it belongs to Danone and provides the resources for its mineral water brand. Several thermal springs emerge from its hillsides and from the banks of its streams, and both the mineral components and the temperature of the water have therapeutic effects. The Reserve provides important ecosystem services, for example providing water, food, and recreational and aesthetic resources, regulating floods and erosion, and maintaining groundwater levels. It also supports numerous ecological communities such as *vegas* (alluvial plains), the most characteristic wetlands of the Site. The Reserve covers a wide altitude range, from 700 to 3,300 metres above sea level, and so it harbours numerous notable species such as the endangered Andean cat *Leopardus jacobita* and the endemic Burmeister's anole *Pristidactylus scapulatus*. The Site also has an important paleontological and historical heritage; however it faces threats such as the impacts of mining, invasive species, forest fires, hunting of large vertebrates and illegal capture of wild birds.

### Reserva Particular del Patrimonio Natural (RPPN) "Fazenda Rio Negro"

Site number: 1 864 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Mato Grosso del Sur  
Area: 7 000 ha | Coordinates: 19°33'S 56°13'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Particular del Patrimonio Natural (RPPN) Fazenda Rio Negro. 22/05/09; Mato Grosso del Sur; 7,000 ha; 19°33'S 056°13'W. Reserva Privada del Patrimonio Natural (RPPN). A well-preserved example of the Pantanal of Nhecolândia, a subregion of the Brazilian Pantanal that is characterized by the abundant presence of freshwater or alkaline lakes (baías' and salinas', respectively), as well as permanent and intermittent rivers. The site hosts more than 400 species of plants, 350 of birds and 70 of mammals. Among them stand out threatened species, such as the Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), Marsh deer (*Blastocercus dichotomus*), and Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*). Migratory bird species are also present in the site, e.g. *Tringa melanoleuca*, *Himantopus melanurus*, *Tachybaptus dominicus*, *Dendrocygna viduata* and *Coscoroba coscoroba*. Cattle farming is related to two of the main threats to the site: uncontrolled fires caused by neighboring ranches and the introduction of exotic herbs. In the area hunting and fishing are legally banned. The management plan is currently under revision. Ramsar site no. 1864. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Reserva Particular do Patrimonio Natural SESC Pantanal

Site number: 1 270 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Mato Grosso  
Area: 87 871 ha | Coordinates: 16°39'S 56°15'W | Designation dates: 06-12-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Particular do Patrimonio Natural SESC Pantanal. 06/12/02; Mato Grosso State; 87,871 ha; 16°39'S 056°15'W. Privately owned nature reserve. A significant and representative sample of the large Pantanal wetlands, known as Poconé's Pantanal, a private estate fully owned by the Serviço Nacional do Comercio (SESC) and established in 1998 as a reserve. The site, a mix of permanent rivers, seasonal streams, permanent and seasonal floodplain fresh water lakes, shrub-dominated wetlands, and seasonally flooded forests, satisfies all eight Ramsar criteria for designation as a Wetland of International Importance and is an excellent ecological complement to the Pantanal Matogrossense, already on the Ramsar List. The site contains several endangered species including hyacinth macaws *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, giant otters *Pteronura brasiliensis*, and marsh deer *Blastocercus dichotomus*, as well as numerous nesting sites for the rare Jabiru Jabiru mycetera. Populations of over 20,000 cormorants *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis* and some of the Pantanal's healthiest nesting sites for wood stork *Mycteria americana* are also found within. Many of the 260 fish species in the Pantanal are also believed to be found in the Reserva, a good number having a high commercial value. Since sport and commercial fishing is prohibited inside, the reserve provides essential ecological refuge for fish in the Cuiabá and São Lourenço rivers. The SESC administers this private reserve, under the supervision of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources (IBAMA), and is responsible for implementing its management plan and carrying out environmental education activities and non-intensive ecotourism at the site. Ramsar site no. 1270. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Reserva Provincial Laguna Brava

Site number: 1 238 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Rioja  
Area: 405 000 ha | Coordinates: 28°24'S 69°05'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserva Provincial Laguna Brava. 02/02/03. Rioja. 405,000 ha. 28°24'S, 69°05'W. Provincial Reserve. Located at altitudes between 2500-4500m above sea level, Laguna Brava includes a system of saline and hyper-saline shallow lagoons. Characteristic high-Andean communities of bofedales (wet-marshy meadows) are found above 3000m. The Reserve is host to a rich biodiversity associated to the wetland, with abundant summer populations of endemic waterfowl, including James' and Andean flamingos (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi* and *P. andinus*). The site also has special recognition as a Reserve for Camelids, most notably vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) and guanaco (*Lama Guanicoe*). Historically, the region was utilized by the Incas as an important enclave for domination of local populations and as a natural Andean transit point to Chile. Currently, it is precisely the development of an international road, plus the possibility of mineral prospecting, which could potentially affect the site. Recent management and zoning measures are to be strengthened to insure the proper long-term conservation of the site. Ramsar site No. 1238. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Réserve de faune de Binder-Léré

Site number: 1 561 | Country: Chad | Administrative region: Mayo-Kebbi  
Area: 135 000 ha | Coordinates: 09°18'N 14°17'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Réserve de faune de Binder-Léré. 14/11/05; Mayo-Kebbi; 135,000 ha, 09°18'N 014°17'E. A variety of wetland types, including lakes, permanent and temporary streams, and swamps at the Chad-Cameroonian border. The renowned Gauthiot Waterfalls, which are venerated by the indigenous Moundang people, prevent the rich fish fauna from moving from the Niger river system to the Lake Chad basin. The site hosts a number of endangered species such as the manatee, crocodiles, hippos, and cheetahs and is a feeding ground for many waterbirds including *Dendrocygna* spp, *Balearica pavonina*, *Pelecanus rufescens* and *Plectropterus gambensis*. Fishing is a very important activity for local people, with fish sold in the surrounding towns. Agriculture, hunting and livestock raising are also carried out. In the surrounding areas, a number of activities threaten the site or have the potential to do so, including oil exploration, gold and cement mining, and a cotton factory. An environmental information and training programme is being carried out to integrate an environmental component in primary school curricula. Ramsar site no. 1561. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Reserve de faune de Togodo

Site number: 736 | Country: Togo | Administrative region: Maritime  
Area: 31 000 ha | Coordinates: 06°50'N 01°40'E | Designation dates: 04-07-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Reserve de faune de Togodo. 04/07/95; Maritime; 31,000 ha; 06°50'N 001°40'E. Faunal Reserve. Deciduous and semi-deciduous forest studded with ponds and swamps. The site serves as a stopover point for migratory birds and provides ideal habitat for waders and other aquatic birds. Ramsar site no. 736.

## Réserve Intégrale du Lac El Mellah

Site number: 1 424 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'El Tarf  
Area: 2 257 ha | Coordinates: 36°54'N 08°19'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This lagoon, linked by a 900-metre channel to the sea, is part of the El Kala complex of wetland depressions. The Site also comprises a small brackish delta with *Salicornia* and *Juncus* species, and a smaller temporary freshwater lake which is fed by precipitation and groundwater and surrounded by a complex of sand dunes. The double exchange of Lake Mellah with its watershed and with the sea through the channel has given a rich biodiversity to the lake. The Site is important for waterbirds that use it as a staging and resting site during their migration, to feed on the abundant supplies of fish, invertebrates and bivalves, or to nest. The 52 species recorded (of which 14 were migrants, 19 nesting and 20 wintering) include the great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* and the tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*. The salinity gradient and high productivity in the lagoon contribute to high phytoplankton, zooplankton and fish biodiversity, and it acts as a nursery and growing site, especially for eels before they travel to the Sargasso Sea. Thus its most important socio-economic role is the provision of employment for fishermen. Local people also grow peanuts and raise livestock, which has caused over-grazing in some areas. Along with the Ramsar Sites at Lac Oubeira (Site no.280) and Lac Tonga (Site no.281), El Mellah is part of the El Kala Biosphere Reserve.

## Réserve Intégrale du Lac Oubeira

Site number: 280 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'El Tarf  
Area: 2 200 ha | Coordinates: 36°51'N 08°23'E | Designation dates: 04-11-1983  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive wetland complex, consisting of an endorheic freshwater lake and a major dune system. It is important for groundwater recharge. It supports an abundance of fish, and extensive plant life including species which are rare in Algeria. It is the only Algerian site of the water chestnut *Trapa natans* and the yellow water-lily *Nuphar luteum*. It is home to several avian species, including nesting, sedentary and wintering birds, including some globally threatened species. Sedentary species include the western swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* and the western osprey *Pandion haliaetus*; among the wintering birds are the white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, the greylag goose *Anser anser* and the great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*; while the glossy ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and the greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* are among the birds observed throughout the year. Mammals are represented by the otter *Lutra lutra*. The Site is important for human activities including water extraction for irrigation and domestic use. The surrounding area supports grazing and agriculture. The wetland was the subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission and added to the Montreux Record in 1990; it was removed from the Record in 1997. In 2017, the ecological character of the Site was again reported as threatened due to the introduction of the alien fish species *Cyprinus carpio*.

## Réserve Intégrale du Lac Tonga

Site number: 281 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: El Tarf  
Area: 2 700 ha | Coordinates: 36°51'N 08°30'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1983  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive wetland complex which includes a seasonal freshwater lake, wooded hills, wet forest, and a sand dune system, all located within El Kala National Park in the extreme north-east of the country. The lake is linked to the Mediterranean Sea and provides important habitat for aquatic plants. It is the most important nesting site in North Africa for a multitude of species including colonies of herons and egrets, western marsh harrier, and a wide range of waterbirds including rare and globally threatened species. Local communities engage in livestock grazing and seasonal cultivation. Management issues include the regulation of fishing and use of the lake water for irrigation, and restoration of the lake's natural hydrological functions. The Site was added to the Montreux Record in 1993 because the lake was covered by emergent aquatic plants, leaving little open water. A significant decrease in the water supply to the lake has led to changes in its ecological character.

## Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Palmarin

Site number: 2 328 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Fatick  
Area: 10 430 ha | Coordinates: 14°03'N 16°45'W | Designation dates: 01-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes various water bodies (the Atlantic Ocean, Saloum Inlet, Ndangane River, bolongs, and temporary pools), intertidal mud, sand and salt flats, mangrove swamps, islands, and savannas with trees, shrubs and grasslands. These wetlands provide foraging and resting areas for water birds such as flamingo, saddle-billed stork, grey and white pelicans, African sacred ibis, pied avocet, and species of the *Ardeidae* family including Goliath heron and dimorphic egret. Also present is the endangered green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The Reserve also has a notable cultural heritage: it includes several sacred woods whose custodians are women. These woods have historically significant cultural characteristics and play an important role in the preservation of natural resources and the promotion of ecotourism. There is a site management plan, and conservation measures are in place such as education of local communities including some which grow crops on the Reserve.

## Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Tocc Tocc

Site number: 2 199 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint-Louis  
Area: 273 ha | Coordinates: 16°21'N 15°50'W | Designation dates: 12-09-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Tocc Tocc. 12/09/2013; St. Louis Region; 273 ha; 16°20'38"N 15°50'13"W. Biosphere Reserve. This site is a permanent coastal freshwater lake which provides a habitat for spawning, nursery and feeding for over 98 fish species including Bagrid and Eel Catfish (*Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus* and *Clarias anguillaris*) and Guinean tilapia (*Tilapia guineensis*), which are species of high nutritional and commercial value to the local communities. The site serves as home for a large colony of water birds including the White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), and also the freshwater Adanson's mud turtle (*Pelusios adansonii*) and the iconic and vulnerable West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), which was recently listed on CITES Appendix I. As well as acting as a reservoir of biodiversity, the site supports the hydrological balance of the Senegal River basin and provides services including groundwater recharge and flood control, and also desalination of brackish water for agricultural purposes. It is also a source of livelihoods for resident populations, which engage mainly in artisanal fisheries and harvesting of forest products such as *Cyperus articulatus*, a sedge species used as a base in the perfume industry. The main threats facing the site are overfishing and the uncontrolled abstraction of the water; a local management committee has been established to monitor these activities. Ramsar Site no. 2199. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Réserve Naturelle de la Malagarazi

Site number: 2 150 | Country: Burundi | Administrative region: Makamba  
Area: 800 ha | Coordinates: 03°55'S 30°13'E | Designation dates: 14-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Réserve Naturelle de la Malagarazi. 14/03/13; Makamba; 800 ha; 03°55'00"S 030°13'00"E. Natural Reserve. A permanent freshwater river surrounded by marshes, forming the Burundian part of the Tanzanian Ramsar Site Malagarazi-Muyovozi Wetlands. It is a very important breeding ground for endemic fishes of the Congo basin and the Sudano-Zambesian ecoregion, hosting several bird species including the endangered Grey Crowned-crane *Balearica regulorum*, Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*, and the Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*. It is known to support the IUCN Red-Listed Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* and comprises diverse vegetation types including woodlands, gallery forests, savannas and marshes. Its hydrological functions include sediment trapping and maintaining water quality. The main human activities include agriculture, traditional fishing, and the collection of non-timber forest products. The site is threatened by slash and burn agriculture, deforestation, siltation, the use of toxic chemicals in fishing, and waste water discharges from the nearby sugar-producing industry. The designation of this site will permit the elaboration of a common management plan for this transboundary river between Burundi and Tanzania. Ramsar site no. 2150. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Réserve naturelle de Saddine

Site number: 2 220 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Gouvernorat du Kef  
Area: 2 610 ha | Coordinates: 36°05'N 08°31'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Réserve Naturelle de Saddine is a nature reserve composed of forest areas, permanent rivers and seasonal streams. The Site is a biodiversity-rich zone with a dense forest vegetation cover of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), conifers, oak (*Quercus* sp.), herbs, shrubs and other woody forest species. The steep relief and the permanent rivers provide a safe habitat and source of food for many raptor species including the booted eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus*), short-toed snake-eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Eurasian golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) and the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*). The forest ecosystem supports a diversity of wildlife species including the golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and over 15 reptile species such as the viperine snake (*Natrix maura*), Algerian psammadromus (*Psammadromus algirus*) and the Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*). Human activities in the Site include agriculture, beekeeping, livestock grazing and hiking, and there is an eco-museum dedicated to the reserve's natural history.

## Réserve Naturelle d'Intérêt Communautaire de la Somone

Site number: 2 327 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Thiès  
Area: 700 ha | Coordinates: 14°30'N 17°04'W | Designation dates: 01-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site was established in 1999 thanks to an initiative of local women who noted the degradation of the mangrove ecosystem on which they depended, and decided to regenerate it by planting hundreds of thousands of propagules. The Site consists of a lagoon with its bed and channels permanently covered by water, a zone of *Rhizophora*-dominated mangroves which are submerged at high tide, the sandy foreshore, *tanne* areas (bare and shrubbed salt flats) at the edge of the mangrove, and the transition area between the estuary and the mainland, including a barrier beach. The mangrove species include African *Avicennia*, red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and button mangrove (*Conocarpus erectus*). The fauna of the estuary is diverse and abundant, and includes birds such as the peregrine falcon (which is rare and threatened in Senegal), the slender-billed gull, the long-tailed cormorant and African darter, the sanderling, little egret and western reef heron, the black-headed gull, the grey heron and the western cattle egret. Encroaching tourist facilities and upstream quarries present potential threats.

## Réserve Naturelle du Lac de Béni-Bélaïd

Site number: 1 303 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Jijel  
Area: 600 ha | Coordinates: 36°53'N 06°06'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a small lake of ten hectares, surrounded by lake vegetation represented by *Ludwigia adscendens* and *Echinophora spinosa*, and hosting indigenous insects such as the dragonflies *Anaciaeshna isosceles* and *Sympetrum sanguineum*. Mammals are represented by the Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra*. The Site supports a rich and diverse bird life including several rare species such as *Aythya nyroca* and *Porphyrio porphyrio*, and small communities of *Alcedo atthis* and *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. The lake, during periods of low rainfall, supplies the groundwater reserves. Threats to the Site include the excessive extraction of lake water in dry periods, the cultivation of cash crops and the expansion of agricultural land at the expense of natural areas supporting high biodiversity.

## Réserve Naturelle du Lac de Réghaïa

Site number: 1 304 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Alger  
Area: 842 ha | Coordinates: 36°46'N 03°20'E | Designation dates: 06-04-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Réserve naturelle du Lac de Réghaïa. 04/06/03; Alger; 842 ha; 36°46'N 003°20'E. Nature Reserve. The lake and marsh of Réghaïa corresponds to the wadi Réghaïa estuary, the mouth of which has been blocked by a sand ridge. Some 600m inland, an artificial barrier retains permanent water in the marshes, composed mainly of reeds and rushes. The coastal marsh of Réghaïa is the last vestige of the old Mitidja (alluvial plain of Algeria, limited by the sahel, the massif of Miliana, the Tellian Atlas and large Kabylie), and currently the only wetland of the "Algerois" geographical area following drainage works during the colonial era. It directly faces the Mediterranean and thus plays a major role for the migratory birds after the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea and from the Sahara desert. A small island, Agueli or Bounettah, one km off the coast, with the surrounding waters, is part of the site and increases its value for migratory birds. In spite of its declining size, the lake has revealed an unsuspected wealth and diversity not only in wintering migratory birds but also of rare nesting bird species - it shelters more than 203 waterbird species, among which four species are classified as rare. The lake provides irrigation for 1,200 ha of arable lands, and its beaches, the most beautiful of the Algiers coast, attract many visitors during summer. The Centre Cynégétique de Réghaïa organizes World Wetlands Day educational expositions for the public. Ramsar site no. 1304. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Réserve naturelle nationale des Terres australes françaises

Site number: 1 837 | Country: France | Administrative region: Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises  
Area: 2 337 100 ha | Coordinates: 48°57'S 67°18'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the southern Indian Ocean and consists of two sub-Antarctic archipelagos – Crozet and Kerguelen – and the subtropical islands of Amsterdam and Saint-Paul. The islands are widely separated by open sea, so the centre coordinate given is purely notional. The Site includes a great variety of inland and coastal wetland types such as peatlands, marshes and lakes, rocky shores, estuaries and fjords. It supports many endemic species including the globally vulnerable Eaton's pintail *Anas eatoni* and Crozet pintail *Anas eatoni drygalskii*, and the critically endangered Amsterdam albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis*. The islands represent an important refuge and reproduction ground for millions of migratory birds. Many marine mammals such as the southern sea elephant *Mirounga leonina* and the Antarctic seal *Arctocephalus tropicalis* are also well represented. The major threat is related to the introduction of non-native species such as cats and rats that are leading to the population decline of many bird species. Climate change is also affecting the ecological character of the Site.

## Réserve sous-marine du Larvotto

Site number: 918 | Country: Monaco | Administrative region: Monaco  
Area: 23 ha | Coordinates: 43°45'N 07°26'E | Designation dates: 20-08-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Réserve sous-marine du Larvotto et zone côtière du Portier. 20/08/97; 10 ha; 43°44'N 007°26'E. Rocky coastal zone with rocky bottom to a depth of 10m in the western part; in the eastern part, beaches and artificial rocky protective works, and important seagrass beds of *Posidonia oceanica*, cited as one of Ramsar's "under-represented types". Qualifies for the List under the fish criterion (criterion 7), as the area shelters numerous species and constitutes a very important spawning ground. Development projects exist near the western part, but the protected beaches are used only for recreational activities; the coastal waters of the Reserve are off-limits to tourism, but serve as a site for limited environmental education and as a base for numerous scientific studies. Ramsar site no. 918. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Réserve Spéciale de Faune de Gueumboul

Site number: 338 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint Louis  
Area: 720 ha | Coordinates: 15°55'N 16°28'W | Designation dates: 29-09-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive saline lagoon surrounded by Sahelian vegetation and fed by seasonal rainfall and saltwater inflow from the Senegal River estuary. Native species include desert warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), African spurred tortoise (*Geochelone sulcata*) African rock python (*Python sebae*), as well as mongooses, pale foxes and genets. The permanent presence of water supports Afro-tropical and migratory Western Palearctic birds, such as black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), of which the largest concentrations in Senegal are recorded in this reserve. The reserve is gradually degrading due to a combination of factors, including the effects of the Diama dam which has reduced the inflow of freshwater, drought, salinization, the lowering of the water table and siltation of water tanks. Human activities include nature conservation and education, tourism, and recreation. A management plan and safeguarding policy are being implemented and are enabling the regeneration of the Sahelian vegetation.

## Réserve Spéciale de Faune de Ndiaël

Site number: 139 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint-Louis, Dagana  
Area: 26 000 ha | Coordinates: 16°14'N 16°04'W | Designation dates: 11-07-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an inland wetland, specifically an impervious alluvial basin, on saline soil in the floodplain of the Senegal River. It is part of the Senegal River Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, and has been classified as a special wildlife reserve since 1965. The vegetation is dominated by annual grasses and Acacia species. The Site is of great conservation importance, especially for birds such as Temminck's courser (*Cursorius temminckii*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*) and Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*). It also hosts mammals including jackal (*Canis aureus*), patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and water mongoose (*Atelax paludinosus*); and reptiles such as the African python (*Python sebae*). The wetland is also of economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value, and is vital for the wellbeing of local people, for example providing water for livestock and crops. However, it is still vulnerable to threats such as desertification, proliferation of invasive species, agricultural and forestry effluents and water abstraction. The natural hydrology of the region was transformed in the 1960s to improve conditions for agriculture, and then affected by long periods of drought. The main ecological features of the Site were degraded and the subsistence and survival of indigenous communities threatened. A management plan is now being implemented to restore the hydrological and ecological characteristics of the Ndiaël to maintain its function for local communities and wildlife.

## Rétszilás Fishponds Nature Conservation Area

Site number: 899 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Fejér  
Area: 1 494 ha | Coordinates: 46°50'N 18°35'E | Designation dates: 30-04-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of numerous fishponds and the remnants of marshy river beds created at the turn of the 20th century in place of the regulated "Össárvíz" marshland. The characteristic vegetation includes reedbeds, sedge communities, and sodic pastures. The Site is one of the most significant waterbird habitats in Western Hungary, with its large interwoven reeds providing optimal nesting habitat for several protected and endangered species and also a large number of heron species. 113 bird species use the Site, 84 of them protected; the few hundred hectares of water surface are essential during the birds' migration. The Site also supports numerous endangered and protected plants, notably a significant orchid community. Human activities include a fishery, cattle grazing, mowing and farming. The bird life at the Site is monitored and a Site management plan is in preparation.

## Rheinauen zwischen Eltville und Bingen

Site number: 88 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Hessen/Rheinland-Pfalz  
Area: 566 ha | Coordinates: 50°00'N 08°00'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rheinauen zwischen Eltville und Bingen. 26/02/76; Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz; 566 ha; 50°00'N 008°00'E. Nature Reserves. Three separate parts of the Rhine River made up of seasonally inundated riverine meadows, shallow water bodies, eroding and evolving islands supporting soft and hardwood vegetation, reedbeds, and sandbanks. The hardwood meadow vegetation is a rare habitat type, occurring in the floodplains of large rivers. The site supports a diverse invertebrate community, is internationally important for breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds, and includes a diverse flora of many rare species. The larger island has been used for agriculture since ancient times because of its fertile alluvial soils and ideal climate. Recreational activities include fishing and seasonally restricted hunting. There is a nature conservation center at the site. Ramsar site no. 88. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Rheindelta

Site number: 275 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Vorarlberg  
Area: 2 065 ha | Coordinates: 47°30'N 09°38'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rheindelta Bodensee. 16/12/82; Vorarlberg; 1,970 ha; 47°30'N 009°37'E. Nature Reserve. The Rhine Delta, bordering Switzerland and Germany, lies between the original estuary and the channelized Rhine. The site consists of open water, fens, wet meadows, tall sedge communities, reedbeds and riverine forest. An important area for waterbirds; almost the entire Alpine breeding population of merganser molts here, and moderate numbers of several species pass or winter in the area. Various rare or endangered plants are present. Human activities include agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and recreation. Ramsar site no. 275. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Rhin Supérieur / Oberrhein

Site number: 1 810 | Country: France | Administrative region: Alsace  
Area: 22 413 ha | Coordinates: 48°25'N 07°45'E | Designation dates: 05-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rhin supérieur / Oberrhein.05/09/08; Alsace; 22,413 ha; TRS centre 48°25'N 007°45'E. Natura 2000 SPA, National Nature Reserve. The upper part of the river Rhines western bank, along nearly 170km. The hydrological regime has been strongly regulated in the 19th century and the site consists of many different natural areas such as relict swampy forests and meadows, but also humanmade habitats including dumps, canals and agricultural lands. The site support a large number of internationally protected species such as *Bufo calamita*, *Castor fiber*, *Lutra lutra* and *Myotis myotis*, and it provides nesting, resting, and wintering habitats for many birds, indeed every year an average of 55,000 migratory birds stop here. The Rhine also supports migratory fish species such as *Salmo salar*, *Alosa alosa*, *Salmo trutta*, *Lampetra fluviatilis* and *Anguilla anguilla*. Navigation, water sports, agriculture, hydroelectric power stations are only few of the main land uses. Canalization and deforestation could represent serious threats for the area. Ramsar site no. 1810. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Rhonegletschervorfeld

Site number: 1 445 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton de Valais  
Area: 317 ha | Coordinates: 46°35'N 08°23'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the tongue of the Rhône glacier, which is the source of the Rhône River, and the recent glacier foreland. It is located between 1,750 and 2,485 metres above sea level. The Site is one of the most remarkable alpine alluvial plains in the Western Central Alps, due to its size, structure, and the unregulated dynamics of the Rhône and a long tradition of research. The flat alpine alluvial zone of Gletschbode contains various stages of plant successions from the pioneer associations on raw ground, up to the forests of larches and different types of vegetation developing on wet, moist and even dry ground. A variety of ecosystems provide a habitat for mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates and support many rare and endangered species. More than 280 vascular plant species are present on the Site, with 12 plants and 23 animal species included in the Swiss red lists, and two plant and 16 animal species protected at European level. The glacier foreland is an important place for mountain birds, with 25 nesting species including the rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), the black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) and the common rock thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*). In summer and autumn, the Site is a well-frequented place for recreation, and restricted areas are grazed.

## Ria de Alvor

Site number: 827 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Regiao Algarve  
Area: 1 454 ha | Coordinates: 37°08'N 08°37'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ria de Alvor. 08/05/96; Regiao Algarve; 1,454 ha; 37°08'N 008°37' W. Protected Landscape Area; National Ecological Reserve. A coastal lagoon and estuarine wetland system separated from the sea by sand spits. The site includes stable and mobile dunes with characteristic vegetation, intertidal sand and mudflats, tidal saltmarshes, and salt pans. An important stopover site for many trans-saharan passerines, with nationally important numbers of several species of avifauna breeding at the site. The area is most valued for its aquatic life, which includes important commercial shellfish production. A field station and bird-ringing station are located at the site. Ramsar site no. 827. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Ría del Eo

Site number: 705 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Galicia  
Area: 1 740 ha | Coordinates: 43°30'N 07°01'W | Designation dates: 04-10-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ría del Eo. 04/10/94; Galicia, Asturias; 1,740 ha; 43°30'N 007°01'W. Hunting Refuge. The site consists of the Eo River Estuary and supports typical coastal vegetation consisting of halophytic communities and particularly beds of eelgrass, *Zostera marina* and *Z. noltii*. The site is important for passage and wintering ducks and waders, supporting internationally important numbers of wintering *Anas acuta*. Human activities include commercial fishing, oyster and clam culture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 705. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Ría de Mundaka-Guernika

Site number: 600 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: País Vasco  
Area: 945 ha | Coordinates: 43°22'N 02°40'W | Designation dates: 26-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ría de Mundaka-Guernika. 26/03/93; País Vasco; 945 ha; 43°22'N 002°40'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; Wildlife Refuge. A coastal wetland complex near the mouth and lower reaches of the Guernika and Mundaka rivers. The site includes beaches, regularly and intermittently inundated salt marshes supporting salt-resistant vegetation, intertidal mud and sand flats with *Zostera* beds, and small sedge and reedbeds. The area is notable for its rich fauna, which includes a diversity of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Various species of waterbirds use the site for nesting, staging or wintering. Significantly, it is the second most important staging area in Spain for the Dutch breeding population of *Platalea leucorodia*. Presently, increasing tourism and shellfish, crustacean, and annelid worm harvesting are major human activities. Ramsar site no. 600. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Ría de Villaviciosa

Site number: 2 037 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Asturias  
Area: 1 263 ha | Coordinates: 43°31'N 05°24'W | Designation dates: 07-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ría de Villaviciosa. 07/01/11; Asturias; 1,263 ha; 43°31'12"N 005°23'23"W. Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA, SIC). One of the best-conserved estuaries on the Cantabrian coast, containing a wide diversity of species of flora and fauna, including internationally threatened species such as the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*, Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* and the Gold-striped Salamander *Chioglossa lusitanica*. Amongst the different habitat types, four wetland types are listed as European priority habitats including coastal lagoons and dunes as well as Atlantic heaths. The site is an important wintering and staging area for numerous species of waterbirds. It is located along the pilgrim's trail "Camino de Santiago" and is of high cultural and archeological as well as touristic importance. Bird observatories, environmental education opportunities and an interpretation centre exist. Water contamination and invasive species threaten the site. Ramsar Site number: 2037. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Ria Formosa

Site number: 212 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Algarve  
Area: 16 000 ha | Coordinates: 37°02'N 07°49'W | Designation dates: 24-11-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ria Formosa. 24/11/80; Regiao Algarve; 16,000 ha; 37°03'N 007°47'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. A complex of coastal saltwater lagoons and barrier islands, with extensive mudflats, sand banks, dune systems, saltmarshes, and substantial *Zostera* beds. The site also includes *Pinus* plantations, urban areas, agricultural land, industrial sites, and nurseries for fish and mollusc rearing. The area is important for numerous species of breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds, including egrets and ibis. The site is of botanical importance, supporting several endemic plants, and is a major nursery zone for fish. Ramsar site no. 212. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Rias de Ortigueira y Ladrado

Site number: 453 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Galicia  
Area: 2 920 ha | Coordinates: 43°42'N 07°47'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rías de Ortigueira y Ladrado. 05/12/89; Galicia; 2,920 ha; 43°42'N 007°47'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Reserve. A rocky coastal inlet and estuarine complex at the mouths of the Mera and Ladrado rivers. Dominant vegetation consists of various species of reedbeds. Several species of shorebirds winter here, the most numerous being ducks. Human uses consist of fishing and shellfish harvesting. Ramsar site no. 453. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Ribble & Alt Estuaries

Site number: 325 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England and Lancashire  
Area: 13 464 ha | Coordinates: 53°40'N 03°01'W | Designation dates: 28-11-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ribble and Alt Estuaries. 28/11/85; England; 13,464 ha; 53°43'N 002°59'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. A large area, including two estuaries, extensive sand and mudflats, saltmarsh and dunes. The tidal flats and saltmarsh support internationally important populations of wintering waterbirds. Internationally important vegetation communities and amphibian populations occur in the sand dunes. Human activities include tourism, livestock grazing, hunting, and large-scale industrial and military activities. There are port facilities, as well as oil and gas production and exploration activities, in the surroundings. Extended on 16/02/95 from the former Ramsar Site known as Alt Estuary. Ramsar site no. 325. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Rieselfelder Münster

Site number: 277 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Area: 233 ha | Coordinates: 52°02'N 07°39'E | Designation dates: 28-10-1983  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rieselfelder Münster. 28/10/83; Nordrhein-Westfalen; 233 ha; 52°02'N 007°39'E. Numerous shallow water basins, fringed by reedbeds and dissected by a network of mud banks, wet-pasture, arable land, woodland, and scrub. An important site for breeding and staging numerous species of waterbirds with several pairs of raptors wintering here. The site is also very important for butterflies. Birdwatching hides and interpretative materials are available. Human activities include recreational and other traffic. Ramsar site no. 277. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Rif-Sint Marie

Site number: 2 120 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Curaçao Government  
Area: 667 ha | Coordinates: 12°12'N 69°03'W | Designation dates: 05-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rif-Sint Marie. 05/02/2013. Curaçao; 667 ha; 12°12'16"N 069°03'16"W. Conservation Area, Important Bird Area. The area of Rif-Sint Marie is relatively undisturbed and undeveloped and comprises a salt marsh surrounded by mud flats, shrub land, and forests. The marsh is a strategic feeding habitat for flamingos and several waterbirds. The coral reef of Rif-Sint Marie is well developed and shelters several threatened coral species such as *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis*, as well as such endangered turtle species as *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Eretmochelys imbricata* and threatened fishes like Goliath grouper *Epinephelus itajara*. Dense thickets of Elkhorn coral sustain major ecological processes such as gross community calcification and nitrogen fixation; dense populations of this branching species dissipate wave energy and thus protect the coast. The area is currently used for recreational purposes like hiking, biking and guided eco-tours. The major threats to the site are uncontrolled access of visitors with dogs disturbing flamingos and potentially unwise development of touristic infrastructures in the surrounding area. Ramsar Site no. 2120. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Riisitunturi National Park

Site number: 1 528 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 12 461 ha | Coordinates: 66°13'N 28°27'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Riisitunturi National Park. 02/02/04; Lapland; 12,461 ha; 66°12'N 028°27'E. Natura 2000 SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme, Protected Old-Growth Forest. Steep and diverse blanket mires representing the mire vegetation region of Main aapa mires of sloping type. The site is located on the watershed of Maanselkä and the humid climate affects the vegetation, which is exceptionally "maritime" and rich. On the banks of numerous brooks and small rivers, and in the lower parts of hill slopes with springs, there are luxuriant grass-, hay- and fern-rich spruce swamps. The most peculiar mire types are the locally very steep and open blanket mires and hanging bogs, which form the special value of the area. Most of the Park is covered by spruce forests with nearly a hundred small ponds. Threatened species hosted at the site are from both flora, such as the buttercup species *Ranunculus lapponicus*, and fauna, such as the Golden Eagle, and about 13 species of the EU Bird Directive are breeding on the site. Significant values include environmental education, outdoor recreation, reindeer husbandry and scientific research, for which it is among the most important study areas for research on blanket mires. Ramsar site no. 1528. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Ringkøbing Fjord

Site number: 141 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Ringkøbing Municipality  
Area: 27 652 ha | Coordinates: 55°56'N 08°16'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ringkøbing Fjord. 02/09/77; Region Midtjylland; 27,652 ha; 56°00'N 008°15'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC); Nature Conservation Area, Scientific Reserves. A big shallow, brackish inlet, surrounded by extensive areas of salt meadows. Water flow from fjord to sea is artificially controlled. The site is an internationally important area for breeding, wintering and staging numerous species of waterbirds. During the 1970s and 1980s serious problems of sedimentation and nutrient-enrichment caused by regulation of the River Skjern and runoff of agricultural nutrients triggered changes in ecological character which led to the registration of the site on the Montreux Record in 1990. Human activities include commercial fishing, reed harvesting, sheep grazing, hunting, and extensive farming. A Ramsar Advisory Mission visited the site in 1996, and since then management plans have been implemented. There are signs of generally improved water quality, return of submerged vegetation, and higher bird numbers in recent years. However, the total nitrogen load doesn't yet show a significant statistical decrease. Ramsar site no. 141. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Rinns of Islay

Site number: 466 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 3 571 ha | Coordinates: 55°48'N 06°25'W | Designation dates: 25-04-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rinns of Islay. 25/04/90; Scotland; 3,571 ha; 55°51'N 006°23'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. A mosaic of natural and semi-natural habitats including bog, moorland, blanket mires, dune and maritime grasslands, and farmland. The site supports a peatland flora of exceptional interest that includes several nationally scarce wetland species. An important staging area for internationally important numbers of Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* and redshank *Tringa totanus*, and nationally important numbers of Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and sanderling *Calidris alba*. The site supports a diverse assemblage of breeding waders and internationally important numbers of wintering geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Human activities include livestock grazing, recreation, fishing, and hunting. Extended on 27/11/95 to include former Ramsar Sites Feur Lochain and Glac na Criche. Ramsar site no. 466. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Río Blanco

Site number: 2 092 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Beni  
Area: 2 404 916 ha | Coordinates: 13°38'S 63°24'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

02/02/2013; Beni; 2,404,916 ha; 13°37'59"S 063°23'35"W. Área Natural de Manejo Integrado; Reserva Científica, Ecológica, Arqueológica. A large and important system of alluvial plains in the northeast of the country, with representative flooded amazon forests. The site hosts a huge biodiversity - some 87 mammal, 433 bird, 61 reptile, and 436 fish species have been identified. It hosts three species of crocodiles (*Melanosuchus niger*, *Caiman yacare* and *Paleosuchus palpebrosus*) and 16 migratory bird species like Pearl Kite *Gamponyx swainsonii*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, and White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*. There are 22 threatened species of vertebrates, amongst them the Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis*, Water Opossum *Chironectes minimus*, and Giant Armadillo *Priodontes maximus*. The site also hosts more than 1% of the total population of the Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* as well as of the Giant Otter. In the Iténez River sub-basin can be found 436 fish species, about 60% of all the species to be found in the Amazon basin. Pressures from illegal exploitation of resources, especially timber and fish, are seen as a potential threat. Ramsar Site no. 2092. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Rio Doce State Park

Site number: 1 900 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Minas Gerais  
Area: 35 973 ha | Coordinates: 19°41'S 42°33'W | Designation dates: 15-03-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rio Doce State Park (Parque Estadual do Rio Doce). 15/03/10; Minas Gerais; 35,973 hectares; 19°38'S 042°32'W. State Park. Located in the southeastern region of Brazil, the site is the largest vegetation fragment of the endangered Atlantic Rain Forest in Minas Gerais State. In addition to permanent and seasonal rivers, there are 42 natural lakes that represent 6% of the park surface. The site hosts 10 different vegetation communities, 325 species of birds, and at least 77 of mammals. The endemic and threatened Brazilian rosewood (*Dalbergia nigra*) can be found here, as well as other threatened species, such as jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), Red Billed Currawong (*Crax blumenbachii*) and North Muriqui, the largest primate of South America and important seed disperser (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*). One of the main threats is the introduction of exotic fish species that have led to changes in the fish community. Nevertheless, the site has a management plan that is being implemented. The site is a fully protected area (Category II, IUCN) and is one of the core areas of the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO). Ramsar site no. 1900. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Rio Juruá

Site number: 2 362 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Amazonas State  
Area: 2 136 489 ha | Coordinates: 05°10'S 67°13'W | Designation dates: 29-09-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located in the upper Amazon basin, includes a complex system of rivers, canals, lakes, seasonal rivers and floodplain forests. It provides habitat to endemic species such as the fulvous-chinned nunlet (*Nonnula sclateri*) and the bamboo antshrike (*Cymbilaimus sanctaemariae*). Rio Juruá also provides habitat to threatened species such as the giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*); the South American manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*); the lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) and the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*). This Site provides important ecosystem services to more than 130,000 people, varying from provision of food, fresh water and genetic materials, to regulating and cultural services such as protection against erosion, recreation and education activities. The main actual threats to the Site relate to its unsustainable use for logging and hunting.

## Rio Kapatchez

Site number: 573 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Boke  
Area: 679 280 ha | Coordinates: 10°45'N 14°15'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site encompasses marshy coastal plains bordered by a stabilized dune cordon, and includes a complex of mangrove forests, intertidal mud and sand flats, and freshwater marshes. These different habitats support various waterbirds. In the mangroves, nesting bird species include the woolly-necked stork *Ciconia episcopus*, hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*), African fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) and yellow-billed stork (*Mycteria ibis*), while the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) winters there. The mudflats host populations of pink and lesser flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus* and *Phoenicopterus minor*) in the dry season, and large numbers of wintering waders including a few thousand avocets. Fulvous whistling duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) nest in the freshwater swamp and rice paddies. A small island is also important as it is a high tide roost for shorebirds. Human activities include traditional fishing and subsistence rice cultivation, while there is intensive rice cultivation in surrounding areas.

## Río Matos

Site number: 2 093 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Beni  
Area: 1 729 788 ha | Coordinates: 14°49'S 66°12'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

02/02/13; Beni; 1,729,788 ha; 14°48'54"S 066°12'00"W. The site is composed of a great ecosystem range with recent alluvial plains, rivers, lakes, and marshes, generally representative of the Amazon's flooded forests. There are 24 threatened species of vertebrates, such as the Giant Otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* and Peruvian spider monkey *Ateles chamek*. Overall, some 102 mammal, 206 bird, 75 reptile, and 394 fish species have been identified within the site, and 17 migratory bird species can be found, like Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, and Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*, amongst others. The fish community of 394 species in the Marmoré river basin is said to amount to 55% of the fish species in the Amazon basin, from which 50 species of the Ramsar Site are migratory. Ramsar Site no. 2093. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Río Negro

Site number: 729 | Country: Paraguay | Administrative region: Alto Paraguay  
Area: 370 000 ha | Coordinates: 19°52'S 58°34'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Río Negro. 07/06/95; Alto Paraguay; 370,000 ha; 19°52'S 058°34'W. A riverine system of meanders and oxbow lakes set in an ecotone arising from the confluence of three biogeographic provinces, with representative fauna from all. Considered a world centre of floral genetic diversity, numerous rare and threatened species of flora and fauna are supported. Some livestock rearing, timber extraction, and poaching take place. A border is shared with both Bolivia and Brazil. Ramsar site no. 729. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Río Negro

Site number: 2 335 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Federative Republic of Brazil, Amazonas State.  
Area: 12 001 614,4 ha | Coordinates: 01°44'S 64°05'W | Designation dates: 19-03-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Rio Negro is the biggest tributary river on the north side of the Amazon basin. At over 1,500 kilometres long, it is the longest blackwater river in the world, and it supports one of the largest preserved tropical rainforests. The Ramsar Site covers over 12 million hectares; it includes a variety of wetlands that are particular to the region, such as Igapó (blackwater-flooded) forests, edaphic savannas and fluvial archipelagos, and comprises more than 20 conservation units. The designation of the Site greatly increases the connectivity of Brazil's protected areas. Its rich biodiversity includes globally-threatened bird species such as the ash-breasted antbird *Myrmoborus lugubris*, and plants such as the Brazil nut *Bertholletia excelsa*. Three endangered mammals are present: the giant river otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), the Brazilian bare-faced tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*) and the white-bellied spider monkey (*Ateles belzebuth*). The Site also contributes to the Amazon rainforest's climate regulation on which the stability of the planet depends. The local communities are enormously ethnically and culturally diverse; the protected areas included in the Site aim to support their low-impact sustainable forms of resource utilization and agriculture. The Site directly or indirectly supplies water to at least six Brazilian municipalities, and the main river channel serves as a waterway connecting communities. Among the main threats to the Site are land conversion and clearance of vegetation, as well as hunting and fishing.

## Río Ntem o Campo

Site number: 1 310 | Country: Equatorial Guinea | Administrative region: Bata-Litoral  
Area: 33 000 ha | Coordinates: 02°11'N 09°51'E | Designation dates: 02-06-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Río Ntem o Campo. 02/06/03; Bata-Litoral; 33,000 ha; 02°13'N 009°52'E. Nature Reserve. Located along the Ntem (or Campo) river, which forms the frontier with Cameroon in the nation's north, the site has been designated for the List because of its support for vulnerable or endangered species and because it is an important source of food for fishes or spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks depend. Coastal stabilization and flood control have been noted as important hydrological values. The work of the forestry industry is seen as a potential threat to the ecological character of the site. Ramsar site no. 1310.

## Río Pilcomayo

Site number: 557 | Country: Argentina | Administrative region: Formosa  
Area: 51 889 ha | Coordinates: 25°30'S 58°30'W | Designation dates: 04-05-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Río Pilcomayo. 04/05/92; Formosa; 51,889 ha; 25°30'S 058°30'W. National Park. An extensive complex of rivers, lagoons, pools, permanent freshwater marshes and seasonally inundated grassland, interspersed with riparian woodland and gallery forest. Seasonally flooded savanna grassland with palm trees is the dominant habitat type. The site is notable for its rich terrestrial and waterbird populations. The region is increasingly important for tourism, supporting livestock grazing, and unauthorized hunting. A border is shared with Paraguay. Ramsar site no. 557. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Río Pongo

Site number: 574 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Boké  
Area: 600 571 ha | Coordinates: 10°32'N 13°44'W | Designation dates: 18-11-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Río Pongo is an extensive estuarine complex dominated by pristine mangrove forests, with some intertidal mudflats. It is a resting, reproduction and growth area for juvenile waterbirds, and a migration corridor for many coastal and marine organisms. The mangrove ecosystem is a biodiversity hotspot. The site is home to bird species such as the woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*), Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*), hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*), yellow-billed stork (*Mycteria ibis*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). The vulnerable African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) has also been reported. Several small villages which depend on traditional fishing and subsistence rice growing are found on stabilized dune ridges within the Site. Other human activities include woodcutting by outsiders, poaching, and disturbance of nesting birds. Domestic and foreign artisanal fishermen are attracted by the abundance of fish resources along the Site's seafont, as are illegal trawlers of industrial fisheries. Hunting, poaching, disturbance of possible nesting sites, the misuse of mangrove forests, and rice cultivation are also potential threats to the Site.

## Río Sabinas

Site number: 1 769 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Coahuila de Zaragoza  
Area: 603 123 ha | Coordinates: 27°53'N 101°09'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Río Sabinas.02/02/08; Coahuila de Zaragoza; 603,123 ha; 27°53'N 101°09'W. Natural Resources Protection Area. The Río Sabinas sub-basin, belonging to the Nearctic region and influenced by Neotropical elements, is considered one of the most important of the state of Coahuila and its protection, conservation and restoration are considered a high priority for its great ecological and economical importance. The vegetation of the area is mainly represented by semiarid brushes and small oak communities and riparian vegetation. It supports endemic species such as *Yucca coahuilenses*. Among the endangered species supported are the *Castor canadensis mexicanus*, *Erethizon dorsatum couesi*, and the *Ursus americanus eremicus*. Its name comes from the great number of Montezuma Bald cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) found along the shores of the river. Ramsar site no. 1769. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Río San Pedro - Meoqui

Site number: 2 047 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chihuahua  
Area: 374 ha | Coordinates: 28°17'N 105°27'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

## Río Yata

Site number: 2 094 | Country: Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | Administrative region: Beni  
Area: 2 813 229 ha | Coordinates: 12°19'S 66°06'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

02/02/2013; Beni; 2,813,229 ha; 12°18'32"S 066°06'11"W. Reserva Natural, Área de Manejo Integrado. A very large mosaic of ecosystems formed basically of recent alluvial plains, rivers, lakes, and marshes. Located in a transition zone, the site presents unique characteristics in terms of ecosystem formation processes and vegetal succession. It is estimated that the site supports more than 50,000 waterbirds; some 13 migratory species visit, and the site hosts more than 1% of the global population of the Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. The fish community of the Marmoré river basin numbers 394 species, representing 55% of the fish species in the Amazon basin, and the site hosts more than 1% of the global population of the Bolivian river dolphin *Inia boliviensis*. There also 24 threatened species of vertebrates, including the Giant Otter. As elsewhere in the Amazon basin, the importance of rubber exploitation generates severe cultural and socio-environmental impacts which can have drastic effects on the indigenous population. The Ramsar Site is part of two Nature Reserves and the municipal Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Pampas del Río Yacuma. Ramsar Site no. 2094. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Risøysundet

Site number: 2 163 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 504 ha | Coordinates: 68°59'N 15°42'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of shallow marine areas within a complex of flat grassy islets, lagoons and brackish swamps, supporting communities of *Zostera*, *Potamogeton* and *Salicornia*. In the west, there is a 15-hectare lake surrounded by a large beach meadow complex. There are also exposed bays, isolated freshwater ponds, sheltered salt marshes and exposed seaweed meadows which are important for shoreline stabilization. The Site supports one of the few, intact larger mud/sand flats in northern Norway, and a broad range of regionally rare sublittoral plant species. Many waterbirds depend on these rich areas for food and rest during their spring and autumn migration. More than 50 species of waterfowl have been recorded here, mainly ducks and waders, with some species reaching several thousand individuals. The Site is a particularly important staging area for pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* during their spring migration. It is also an important breeding site. The Site regularly supports a stable population of the European otter *Lutra lutra*. The area features archaeological and historical remains. The main land uses are livestock grazing, tourism, fishing and birdwatching.

## Riverland

Site number: 377 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia  
Area: 30 640 ha | Coordinates: 34°02'S 140°51'E | Designation dates: 23-09-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Riverland. 23/09/87; South Australia; 30,600 ha; 34°02'S 140°51'E; The site is located within the south Australian section of the Murray-Darling Basin Catchment, along the River Murray and consists of various wetland types including creeks, channels, anabranches, lagoons, billabongs, floodplains, swamps and lakes and one of the major waterbird breeding areas in southeastern Australia. The site supports extensive stands of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forests, which support a rich flora and fauna and attract many tourists. The site also supports internationally endangered species such as the Australian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), the Southern Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and the critically endangered Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*). While the dominant landuse within the site is biodiversity conservation, other uses include grazing and limited commercial fishing. The site supports a significant tourism industry (nature-based boat tours, bush camping, canoeing, water-skiing). Surrounding areas support agriculture, horticulture, Dryland farming and a commercial pastoral operation. Ramsar site no. 377. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## River Luiro Mires

Site number: 1 529 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 12 345 ha | Coordinates: 67°17'N 27°34'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

River Luiro Mires. 02/02/04; Lapland; 12,345 ha; 67°20'N 027°33'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. Among the most outstanding mire areas in Finland with extremely diverse mire types and the most extensive unbroken birch fen areas, representative of the mire vegetation region of Main aapa mires of middle and northern types. The area is situated on both sides of River Luiro, characterized by extensive alluvial meadows and alluvial grove forests. Several brooks and small rivers traverse the mires together with small esker formations, and interchanging open-water flarks are typical. Birch fens are typical of Sakkala-aapa in the south, while eccentric bogs constitute the centre and barren aapa mires in the Kairanaapa area eastwards. They are an important breeding and staging area for waterfowl and waders, supporting about 13 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I, such as Wood Sandpiper, Capercaillie and Ruff. They also provide habitat for threatened mammals such as Brown Bear and otter. The alluvial meadows are slowly turning into forests with the cessation of hay cutting, and some drainage has been carried out on the margins of the mires. Ramsar site no. 1529. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## River Spey - Insh Marshes

Site number: 889 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 1 159 ha | Coordinates: 57°06'N 03°59'W | Designation dates: 02-02-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

River Spey-Insh Marshes. 02/02/97; Scotland; 1,159 ha; 57°05'N 004°00'W. Special Protection Area, SSSI. Forming the largest unit of poor fen floodplain mire in Britain, the site consists of a large area of swamp and carr subject to seasonal flooding, extensive river shingles, and a gravel fan. The site includes Loch Insh and reaches of the Spey River that support large numbers of wintering and breeding waterbirds consisting of several rare species. The site supports a large assemblage of nationally rare or scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates, and is one of the best sites in Britain for otter *Lutra lutra*. Human activities include recreation, fishing, hunting, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 889. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Rives du Lac Léman

Site number: 519 | Country: France | Administrative region: Rhône-Alpes  
Area: 1 915 ha | Coordinates: 46°21'N 06°23'E | Designation dates: 05-04-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rives du Lac Léman. 08/04/91; Rhône-Alpes; 3,335 ha; 46°23'N 006°28'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Hunting Reserve. Several physically separate zones on the shores of Lac Léman (Lake Geneva) consisting of alluvial terraces, gravel islands, lacustrine dunes, extensive reedbeds and parts of the Dranse, Redon, Foron and Vion rivers. Lac Léman is the second most important wintering area for waterbirds in France. Breeding and staging birds use the site, which also supports various mammals and a rich flora including several rare plant species. Land use includes commercial fishing, fish farming, agriculture, and tourism. Significant shoreline development is causing a decline in nesting birds. Ramsar site no. 519. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel

Site number: 505 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Canton de Fribourg (FR) et Canton de Vaud (VD)  
Area: 1 705,9 ha | Coordinates: 46°51'N 06°50'E | Designation dates: 09-11-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The southern shore of Lake Neuchâtel is the largest swamp lake in Switzerland, with extensive reed beds, sedges and ponds, bordered by a belt of alluvial forest and slope forest. This great diversity of habitats has allowed for the development of an exceptional fauna and flora. 511 species of plants have been identified, with nearly 100 nationally threatened or potentially threatened species. Some 3,200 animal species have been identified, including 144 species which are included in the Swiss Red Lists and 18 protected at European level. The Site is a very favourable location for overwintering and migratory waterbirds. Together with the neighbouring Fanel et Chablais de Cudrefin (Ramsar Site no. 79), the wetland forms Switzerland's most important nesting site for wetland birds. The Site is home to an average of 45,000 birds, including more than 1% of the populations of tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, common pochard *Aythya ferina* and red-crested pochard *Netta rufina*. Human activities relate to conservation, hunting, fishing, forest production and tourism. The Pro-Natura centre in Champ-Pittet offers many facilities including a tower and an ornithological observatory, as well as two kilometres of discovery trails in the marsh and forest. Threats mainly relate to invasive species, canalization and regulation of the waters of the lakes along the base of the Swiss Jura mountains. There is a specific management plan for the Site.

## Rivière Nosivolo et affluents

Site number: 1 916 | Country: Madagascar  
| Administrative region: districts de Marolambo et Mahanoro, Région Atsinanana, Province Autonome de Toamasina  
Area: 358 511 ha | Coordinates: 20°07'S 47°59'E | Designation dates: 17-09-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises a 130-kilometre stretch of the Nosivolo River and almost 3,600 square kilometres of its river basin system. It includes a mosaic of flowing rivers, inland islets, lakes and marshes, vestiges of dense rainforests, highly fragmented gallery forests, secondary vegetation (savoka) covering cleared forest, and irrigated farm land. The near-natural ecosystem has the highest concentration of endemic freshwater fish species in Madagascar: it is home to 19 endemic fish species including the endangered *Oxylapia polli*. There are also six species of endemic birds: Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*), Madagascar snipe (*Gallinago macrodactyla*), Madagascar sparrowhawk (*Accipiter madagascariensis*), rufous-headed ground roller (*Atelornis crossleyi*), Madagascar yellowbrow (*Crossleyia xanthophrys*) and Pollen's vanga (*Xenopirostris polleni*); ten species of lemurs; reptiles; and ten endemic plant species. Among other resources, the Site provides materials for handicraft production, as well as fish, rice and a unique range of medicinal plants. Threats within the Site include habitat destruction from rice cultivation, gold and precious stones mining, and poaching for local consumption. These activities cause water pollution and disruption of riverbeds.

## Rivière Sangha située en République Centrafricaine

Site number: 1 889 | Country: Central African Republic | Administrative region: Sangha-Mbaéré  
Area: 275 000 ha | Coordinates: 02°40'N 16°15'E | Designation dates: 05-11-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rivière Sangha située en République Centrafricaine. 05/11/09; Sangha-Mbaéré; 275,000 ha; 02°40'N 016°15'E. National Park, Nature Reserve. The site is noted for the presence of large areas of dense periodically flooded forests with rivers, marshes and lakes found within. It is recognized for the role it plays in the maintenance of biological diversity through the support of various flora such as raphia, also used in the local production of raphia wine, and fauna such as elephants, chimpanzees, hyenas, freshwater crabs and turtles amongst many others. It is also responsible for flood control and prevention in the area; these are important hydrological values that ensure that the income generating activities that the local communities are dependent upon are minimally affected during the rainy season. These include fishing, hunting, safari tourism, forestry, subsistence agriculture, diamond mining and scientific research. As a result of the mining activities occurring upstream of the site, a major concern is the siltation of the river, leading to a decrease of areas available for fish to take refuge during the dry season. The site is included in a cross-border project with Cameroon and Congo, which involves carrying out joint patrols for poachers in the Dzanga Sangha Special Reserve'. Ramsar site no. 1889. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary

Site number: 1 094 | Country: Mauritius | Administrative region: Port Louis  
Area: 26,4 ha | Coordinates: 20°08'S 57°29'E | Designation dates: 30-05-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary. 30/05/01; Port Louis; 26 ha; 20°08'S 057°29'E). Protected reserve. Listed as Ramsar wetland types F) Estuarine and A) Shallow marine waters and G) Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats, internationally important for 14 regularly visiting migratory birds, as well as for three species of endemic plants. Situated in close proximity to the capital, Port Louis, the site has protected area status and a visitors' centre is being established, following the completion of which, access to adjacent fishing facilities and unrelated recreational uses will be provided for elsewhere nearby. Port-related activities present a chronic risk but oil spill contingency plans are in place; agricultural effluents are present but plans are in place to minimize their adverse effects. As an ex-dumping ground, leachates are detected, but a rehabilitation plan is under study. Invasive species of flora are being removed, and a management plan is in preparation. Preparations for this accession were assisted by the Swiss Grant for Africa. Ramsar site no. 1094.

## Roebuck Bay

Site number: 479 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 55 000 ha | Coordinates: 18°07'S 122°16'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Roebuck Bay. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 55,000 ha; 18°07'S 122°16'E. A tropical, marine embayment of extensive intertidal flats, sand beaches, extensive mudflats supporting various species of mangroves, and grasslands above high tide mark. Northwestern Australia is the continent's most important region for waders, regularly supporting up to half a million birds. The bay regularly supports over 100,000 other waterbirds, with numbers being highest in the austral spring when migrant species breeding in the Palearctic stop to feed during migration. There is light recreational usage and a bird observatory. Ramsar site no. 479. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Rogerstown Estuary

Site number: 412 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Dublin  
Area: 195 ha | Coordinates: 53°30'N 06°08'W | Designation dates: 25-10-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rogerstown Estuary. 25/10/88; Dublin; 195 ha; 53°30'N 006°08'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A small tidal embayment sheltered from the sea by a broad sand and shingle spit. Extensive areas of mud, sand and gravel are exposed at low tide. The mudflats support beds of green algae (Enteromorpha) and *Spartina anglica*. Numerous species of large numbers of wintering waterbirds use the tidal flats and the site is internationally important for *Branta bernicla hrota*. Human activities include bait-digging and shellfish collection. Ramsar site no. 412.

## Ronas Hill - North Roe & Tingon

Site number: 916 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 5 470 ha | Coordinates: 60°33'N 01°26'W | Designation dates: 11-08-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ronas Hill-North Roe & Tingon. 11/08/97; Scotland; 5,470 ha; 60°33'N 001°25'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. Comprises two adjacent headlands separated by Ronas Voe in the North Mainland of Shetland. Most of the site is composed of active blanket bog with numerous acidic lochans and pools that support a typical peatland avifauna. It provides habitat for common seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*), and the invertebrate fauna includes the arctic water flea (*Eurycercus glacialis*). Human activities include tourism, recreation, fishing, and grazing. Ramsar site no. 916. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Ropar

Site number: 1 161 | Country: India | Administrative region: Punjab  
Area: 1 365 ha | Coordinates: 31°01'N 76°30'E | Designation dates: 22-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ropar. 22/01/02; Punjab; 1,365 ha; 31°01'N 76°30'E. National Wetland. A humanmade wetland of lake and river formed by the 1952 construction of a barrage for diversion of water from the Sutlej River for drinking and irrigation supplies. The site is an important breeding place for the nationally protected Smooth Indian Otter, Hog Deer, Sambar, and several reptiles, and the endangered Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) is thought to be present. Some 35 species of fish play an important role in the food chain, and about 150 species of local and migratory birds are supported. Local fisheries are economically significant, and wheat, rice, sugar cane, and sorghum are cultivated in the surrounding area. Deforested local hills leading to siltation, and increasing industrialization causing an inflow of pollutants, are potential threats, and invasive weeds are a further cause for concern. Nature lovers, birdwatchers, swimmers and boaters visit the site in considerable numbers. Ramsar site no. 1161. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Ropotamo Complex

Site number: 65 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: Burgas  
Area: 5 500 ha | Coordinates: 42°19'N 27°45'E | Designation dates: 24-09-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ropotamo Complex (formerly called 'Arkoutino'). 24/09/75; Burgas; 5,500 ha; 42°19'N 27°45'E. Partially Reserve, Natural Monument, Maintained Reserve and Protected Area. The site has been extended from 97 ha to 5,500 ha and the name has been changed on 24/09/2002. The site, on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast, represents a diverse mosaic of various habitats - river downstream and estuary, seasonally flooded riverine and broad-leaved deciduous forests, small freshwater and brackish lagoons, sand dunes, rocky shores and fjords, a sea bay, sea inlets. The site provides refuge to many nationally and internationally IUCN red-listed species of plants and animals, among which are seven globally threatened species of birds and two plant species, eight invertebrate species and seven mammal species. Rich endemic and relict flora and fauna are recorded in the site. The main human uses are forestry, hunting, and recreational activities, and the site is a very popular destination for nature lovers, offering some facilities as well. Management plans are in preparation, and the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme is active at the site. Ramsar site no. 65. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Rostherne Mere

Site number: 221 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 80 ha | Coordinates: 53°21'N 02°23'W | Designation dates: 24-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rostherne Mere. 24/07/81; England; 80 ha; 53°21'N 02°23'W. Nature Reserve, SSSI. Part of a series of open water and peatland, including peat bog and marsh areas set in glaciated landscape. Vegetation consists of fringing reedbeds, wooded and agricultural land. Wintering waterbirds include nationally important numbers of various duck species. Human activities include agricultural use and bird hunting. Ramsar site no. 221. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Røstøyen

Site number: 1 950 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 6 986,4 ha | Coordinates: 67°27'N 11°57'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Røstøyen is a large archipelago with hundreds of islands, islets and skerries surrounded by shallow marine waters. Vedøya and Storfjellet are the two largest islands. The Site is the most important breeding area for seabirds in Nordland County. Bird cliffs on several islands harbour nationally red-listed breeding populations of Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (650,000 birds, constituting 3% of the global population), black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, razorbill *Alca torda* and common guillemot *Uria aalge*. On the skerries are breeding colonies of the great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, common shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and black guillemot *Cephus grylle*. The Site has a stable population of the nationally-threatened European otter *Lutra lutra* and common seal *Phoca vitulina*. It is popular for sports fishing and boat tours. The area has three protected archaeological and cultural heritage sites such as Skomvær lighthouse. A long-term research project on seabirds led by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research has been ongoing for 40 years.

## Roswell Artesian Wetlands

Site number: 1 917 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: New Mexico  
Area: 917 ha | Coordinates: 33°27'N 104°23'W | Designation dates: 20-01-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Roswell Artesian Wetlands (Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lakes State Park); 20/01/2010; New Mexico; 917 ha; 33°27'N 104°23'W. The Roswell Artesian Wetlands Ramsar Site consists of a series of springs, seeps and sinkhole lakes located along the Pecos River but largely fed by natural groundwater discharged from the Roswell Basin; its wetlands contain two distinct areas: Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lakes State Park. The Ramsar Site supports a diverse collection of plants and animals including several endemic species such as the Roswell springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis roswellensis*), Koster's springsnail (*Juturnia kosteri*), and Noel's amphipod (*Gammarus desperatus*) as well as many migratory songbirds, waterfowl, and wading birds such as the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*); and a large amount of dragonflies and damselflies. The site enables a number of recreation and research activities such as swimming, hiking and wildlife observation; it also plays an important role in the hydrology of the Pecos River and is important economically for the communities living in the Chavez County. The site's main threats include increased groundwater use and surface water diversion, changes in land use towards urbanization, and presence of invasive species like the saltcedar (*Tamarix chinensis*). Both areas in the Roswell Artesian Wetlands Ramsar Site are designated as a National Natural Landmark and a Research Natural Area and their respective management plans serve as a tool to provide direction for its management. Ramsar Site no. 1917. Most recent information: 2010.

## Rotmoos im Fuschertal

Site number: 719 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Salzburg  
Area: 58 ha | Coordinates: 47°17'N 12°47'E | Designation dates: 16-02-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rotmoos im Fuschertal. 24/02/95; Salzburg; 58 ha; 47°17'N 12°47'E. A rare type of calcareous fen, interspersed with rock-slides and periglacial features. The site, a high altitude valley head with a U-shaped amphitheater, is fed by torrents and waterfalls and supports a unique mix of alpine and swamp vegetation (*Carex davalliana*, *Carex firma* and *Drosera rotundifolia*), rarely found elsewhere. The area supports an invertebrate community of high species diversity, numerous species of birds and waterfowl, and several endangered plant species. Human activities include tourism, farming, fishing and hunting. Ramsar site no. 719. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

### Rott-Håstein-Kjør

Site number: 1 952 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Rogaland  
Area: 10 721,8 ha | Coordinates: 58°55'N 05°29'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site includes a large number of small islands, skerries and islets surrounded by shallow seas. Several islands have shallow ponds and lakes with saltwater influence; the vegetation cover is mostly sparse. The highly diverse marine ecosystems harbour extensive areas of shell sand and kelp *Laminaria hyperborean*. The Site is located just off the coast of mainland Jæren (and the Jæren wetland system, Ramsar Site no. 309) and provides ecological continuity as well as one of the main migrating routes for regional and international birdlife. It is an important staging, moulting and breeding area for seabirds including the highest national population of breeding European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* with over 4,500 pairs, moulting common eider *Somateria mollissima* and several nationally red-listed species such as the vulnerable Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* and black guillemot *Cephus grylle*, and the critically endangered common guillemot *Uria aalge*. The common seal *Phoca vitulina* and the grey seal *Halichoerus grypus* also visit. The Site is part of the earliest prehistoric settlement area in Norway and remains an actively managed cultural landscape.

### Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer

Site number: 1 277 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland  
Area: 1 369 ha | Coordinates: 52°50'N 05°54'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer. 29/08/00; Friesland; 1,369 ha; 52°51'N 05°53'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The boundary of the Ramsar Site has been aligned with the boundary of the Natura 2000 site, resulting in the addition of the Brandemeer Nature Reserve and an increase in area of 234 ha. The Site is an open landscape of seasonally flooded agricultural land with small ponds and canals made by peat excavations in the past. The area lies downstream of the small Linde and Tjonger rivers, and it is rich in wet grasslands and heath, peatland, reed marshes and bog woodland characterized by alder and birch trees. The Site is important for nationally endangered bird species such as the great bittern and great reed warbler, mammals such as the European otter, and fish. In addition, it supports vulnerable Sphagnum moss species and endangered vascular plants such as fen orchid. Land use within the Site includes recreation and tourism, road infrastructure, commercial fisheries, reed cutting, water management, conservation and research. Factors which might adversely affect it are tourism, drainage of surrounding farmlands and eutrophication. Ramsar Site no.1277. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Roydon Common

Site number: 588 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 194 ha | Coordinates: 52°46'N 00°30'E | Designation dates: 05-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Roydon Common. 05/03/93; England; 194 ha; 52°46'N 00°30'E. SSSI. A mixed valley mire exhibiting a classic sequence of vegetation types, linked to the varying hydrological characteristics of the site and influenced by the nutrient quality of the water. Several vulnerable or nationally scarce plant and invertebrate species are supported. The site provides nesting habitat for *Caprimulgus europaeus*, winter roosting sites for raptors *Circus cyaneus* and *Falco columbarius*. Ramsar site no. 588. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Rudava River Valley

Site number: 931 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Malacky  
Area: 560 ha | Coordinates: 48°32'N 17°13'E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rudava River Valley. 17/02/98; Malacky; 560 ha; 48°31'N 017°09'E. The site contains the most valuable middle part of the Rudava River floodplain. It has a well-developed complex of wetlands including the river and its tributaries, oxbow lakes, sandbanks, peat bogs, fens, reedbeds, flooded forest, swamps, wet meadows, and pastures. It is considered to be one of the best-preserved small lowland river ecosystems in Slovakia. An important area for fish (30 species), amphibians (13 species), reptiles (5 species), and birds (48 species with 13 on the Red List). Main human activities include forestry, fishing, agriculture, hunting, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 931. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Rudrasagar Lake

Site number: 1 572 | Country: India | Administrative region: West Tripura District  
Area: 240 ha | Coordinates: 23°29'N 91°16'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rudrasagar Lake. 08/11/05; Tripura; 240 ha; 23°29'N 090°01'E. A lowland sedimentation reservoir in the northeast hills, fed by three perennial streams discharging to the River Gomti. The lake is abundant in commercially important freshwater fishes like *Botia* spp, *Notopterus Chitala*, *Mystus* spp., *Ompok pabda*, *Labeo bata*, and freshwater scampi, with annual production of 26 metric-tons, and an ideal habitat for IUCN Redlisted Three-striped Roof Turtle *Kachuga dhongka*. Owing to high rainfall (2500mm) and downstream topography, the wetland is regularly flooded with 4-5 times annual peak, assisting in groundwater recharge. Aquatic weeds are composed of rare marginal-floating-emergent-submerged weeds. Lands are owned by the state with perennial water areas leased out to the subsistent fishermen's cooperative, and surrounding seasonal waterbodies are cultivated for paddy. Main threats are increasing silt loads due to deforestation, expansion of agricultural land and intensive farming, and land conversion for population pressure. Vijaya Dashami, one of the most important Hindu festivals with various sports events, attracts at least 50,000 tourists and devotees every year. A management plan is underway by the MoEF-India. Ramsar site no. 1572. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Marine Ramsar Site

Site number: 1 443 | Country: United Republic of Tanzania | Administrative region: Coast Region, Lindi Region  
Area: 596 908 ha | Coordinates: 08°08'S 39°38'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site is located in the three districts of Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa, within the Coast and Lindi regions of southeast Tanzania.

## Rugezi-Burera-Ruhondo

Site number: 1 589 | Country: Rwanda | Administrative region: Burera and Gicumbi Districts  
Area: 6 736 ha | Coordinates: 01°28'S 29°53'E | Designation dates: 12-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Rugezi marsh is located in a flooded valley near Rwanda's northern border with Uganda at an altitude of 2,050 metres. The marsh feeds the Burera (or Bulera) and Ruhondo lakes. The Ramsar Site is a unique and important ecosystem which covers part of an Important Bird Area. It hosts endangered species including Grauer's swamp warbler (*Bradypterus graueri*) and the grey crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*), and threatened birds including the papyrus yellow warbler (*Calamanastides gracilirostris*). The conservation of the Site's ecosystems is also essential for the promotion of tourism. The marsh is an important headwater of the Kagera and Nile river systems and so its good functioning has wider hydrological consequences. It is very significant to the national economy as it enables downstream hydro-electric power generation. The wetland and the services which it provides were threatened by agricultural activities which were causing water levels to fall, until drainage was halted and management measures implemented. The successful restoration of the wetland has gained international recognition including a Green Globe Award in 2010.

## Ruggeller Riet

Site number: 529 | Country: Liechtenstein | Administrative region: Vaduz  
Area: 101 ha | Coordinates: 47°15'N 09°33'E | Designation dates: 06-08-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ruggeller Riet. 06/08/91; 101 ha; 47°15'N 09°33'E. Nature Reserve. A complex of lowland wet meadows underlain by up to nine meters of peat. Dominant vegetation includes *Molinia*, *Schoenus* and *Cladium*, with some areas of scrub. The site supports an exceptional floral diversity for its size, 450 species of ferns, flowering plants and numerous species of particularly rare plants. There are significant stands of *Allium*, *Dryopteris cristata*, *gladiolus*, and iris. Other important elements of the area's biodiversity include fungi, mosses, invertebrates and birds. The hay meadows are cut on a rotational basis. Ramsar site no. 529. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Runde

Site number: 2 164 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Møre og Romsdal  
Area: 351 ha | Coordinates: 62°25'N 05°40'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of several protected areas on the island of Runde, the neighbouring islands Skjervøya and Grasøya and surrounding islets, which support nationally endangered bird species such as the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and the common murre *Uria aalge*. Cliff-nesting birds dominate the wildlife, and Runde regularly supports more than 120,000 breeding pairs. The vegetation on the hillsides and the plateau of Runde is dominated by open heathland, small freshwater ponds and grassland, as well as mires which are important for carbon storage and provide nesting sites for species such as the great skua *Stercorarius skua*. There are no human settlements inside the protected areas, but the Site is used for tourism, sheep grazing, scientific research, and the SEAPOP seabird monitoring and mapping project.

## Runn of Kutch

Site number: 1 285 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Sindh Province  
Area: 566 375 ha | Coordinates: 24°23'N 70°05'E | Designation dates: 05-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Runn of Kutch. 05/11/02; Sindh; 566,375 ha; 24°23'N 070°05'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. Part of the great Thar desert and comprising stabilized sand dunes, some more than 170m in height, with broad inter-dunal valleys of alluvial soil, integral with the large Rann of Kutch across the frontier with India, which includes permanent saline marshes, coastal brackish lagoons, tidal mudflats, and estuarine habitats. The site supports many locally and globally threatened species, including the Great Indian bustard (*Choriotis nigriceps*), Houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*), Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), and hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) and supports more than 1% of the biogeographical population of flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* and *P. minor*. Some 500,000 agro-pastoralists live in 330 villages/hamlets in the site area, and rich archaeological remains include three giant temples dating from 1375-1449. Scarcity of water remains the potential threat to the ecosystem. WWF-Pakistan and Sindh authorities have carried out work with GEF funding and a management plan is in preparation. Ramsar site no. 1285. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Rutland Water

Site number: 533 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 360 ha | Coordinates: 52°39'N 00°40'E | Designation dates: 04-10-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rutland Water. 04/10/91; England; 1,360 ha; 52°39'N 000°40'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. A large, artificial freshwater reservoir fringed by a mosaic of wetland habitats that display a succession from open water communities to semi-natural mature woodland. A regionally important area for breeding and passage birds. Wintering waterbirds regularly exceed 20,000 individuals and include internationally important numbers of ducks and nationally important numbers of several Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans). The policy of integrating nature conservation with recreation has proved extremely successful. Ramsar site no. 533. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Rwenzori Mountains Ramsar Site

Site number: 1 861 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Kasese, Kabarole and Bundibugyo  
Area: 99 500 ha | Coordinates: 00°25'N 30°00'E | Designation dates: 23-01-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Rwenzori Mountains Ramsar Site. 13/05/09; Kasese, Kabarole, Bundibugyo; 99,500 ha; 00°25'N 030°00'E. Within National Park, World Heritage Site, Important Bird Area. Noted by Ptolemy in AD 300 as the Lunis Montae ("Mountains of the Moon"), this site has continued to fascinate. The entire Afro-alpine ecosystem (between 1,600 and 5,100 meters asl.) is unique; with the contribution of high rainfall and the melting of snow from the peaks, various wetland types are present such as peatlands, freshwater lakes, and tundra, amongst others. The mountains are known to support 21 species of small mammals, including the endemic and vulnerable Rwenzori Shrew. Other species of global conservation concern include L'Hoest's monkey, Horseshoe bat, and Rockefeller's Sunbird. With the distribution of fish varying with altitude, several indigenous fish species are found within the site, with the most common Cyprinid species including *Varicorhinus rwenzorii*. The Rwenzori Mountains continue to face challenges from increasing population pressure resulting in increased demand for agricultural land, growing tourism, and climate change, despite the stringent protection measures in place within the Park. Through its designation as a state-owned National Park, it is covered by a management plan that allows activities such as tourism, firewood collection, research, etc., to be carried out in zoned areas only. The National Park is contiguous with the Parc national des Virunga Ramsar site in DR Congo to the

### Sabkhat al-Jabbul Nature Reserve

Site number: 935 | Country: Syrian Arab Republic | Administrative region: Halap/Aleppo Governorate  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 36°04'N 37°30'E | Designation dates: 05-03-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sabkhat al-Jabbul Nature Reserve. 05/03/98; Halap; 10,000 ha; 36°04'N 037°30'E. State & privately-owned. A large, permanent saline lake surrounded by semi-arid steppe, the lake is an important staging, wintering and breeding area for large numbers of waterbirds; it regularly supports more than 1% of the world population of Greater Flamingo. Within the site, land use is limited to salt production. The surrounding areas are used primarily for agriculture and livestock grazing. The lake has been identified as an Important Bird Area. Ramsar site no. 935. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### Sablatnigmoor

Site number: 558 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Kärnten  
Area: 96 ha | Coordinates: 46°34'N 14°36'E | Designation dates: 04-05-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sablatnigmoor. 19/05/92; Kärnten; 96 ha; 46°34'N 014°36'E. Council of Europe Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve; Natura 2000 site. An area of fen in a glacial basin consisting of tall sedge and herb communities, wet grassland and broad-leaf deciduous forest. The site supports numerous species of flora and fauna of European concern such as the amphibians *Rana arvalis* and *Bombina variegata*, and it provides habitat for staging and several nationally endangered breeding birds, including great crested grebes, teals and little bitterns. Agriculture and forestry are practiced in the surrounding area. Ramsar site no. 558. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Sacca di Bellocchio

Site number: 119 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 223 ha | Coordinates: 44°37'N 12°16'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sacca di Bellocchio. 14/12/76; Emilia Romagna; 223 ha; 44°37'N 012°16'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; State Natural Reserve, Regional Park. An inter-dunal lagoon fed with fresh water via a canal from the Reno River and connected to the Adriatic Sea. Water level is subject to seasonal variation, and the brackish environment is artificially maintained. Vegetation includes submergent flora, salt-tolerant plants, emergent reedbeds, and damp grassland cut for animal fodder. The area is important for several species of fish and for breeding, staging and nesting numerous species of waterbirds. Part of the site is used as a firing range and is subject to use by heavy military vehicles. Ramsar site no. 119. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Sakata

Site number: 820 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Niigata Prefecture  
Area: 76 ha | Coordinates: 37°49'N 138°53'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sakata. 28/03/96; Niigata; 76 ha; 37°49'N 138°53'E. National Wildlife Protection Area; National Park; Urban Park; Anatidae Network Site. Four lakes of varying salinity surrounded by dunes. Aquatic vegetation covers the lakes, and pine forests occur in the surroundings. A large variety and number of birds use the site, which provides important wintering areas for numerous species of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.). There is a wildlife observatory at the site. Human activities include small-scale fishing and cultivation. Groundwater levels are declining due to extraction for agricultural purposes. Ramsar site no. 820. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Sakumo Ramsar Site

Site number: 565 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Greater Accra Region  
Area: 1 364,4 ha | Coordinates: 05°38'N 00°02'E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sakumo Ramsar Site comprises a coastal brackish-saline lagoon and the surrounding floodplains, freshwater marsh, coastal savannah grasslands with thicket vegetation, and a narrow sand-dune connection to the sea. Over 70 waterbird species, estimated to number 30,000 individuals, depend on the Site's resources during migratory and reproduction periods. Notable species include waders such as the spotted redshank and common greenshank (*Tringa erythropus* and *Tringa nebularia*), the collared pratincole *Glareola pratincola*, sandpipers, curlew, little stint *Calidris minuta*, the black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and the black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, as well as terns such as *Sterna albifrons* and *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. The wetland is important for marine and freshwater fish species including the blackchin tilapia *Sarotherodon melanotheron*, which represents about 97% of the fish population. Hundreds of local communities rely on the fishing industries for their livelihoods. The Site is also used for agriculture, industrial development and recreation. The major threats are rapid population growth, urbanization, and the presence of sewage and domestic waste.

### Saladar de Jandía

Site number: 1 262 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Canarias  
Area: 127 ha | Coordinates: 28°03'N 14°20'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Saladar de Jandía. 24/10/02; Canarias; 127 ha; 28°03'N 014°20'W. Proposed Site of Community Importance EC Directive. One of the rare coastal saltmarshes on the Canary islands, extending along 2.5 km of the southern shore of Fuerteventura. The site contains many endemic invertebrates and reptiles, such as the lizard *Gallotia atlantica mahoratae* and the gecko *Tarentola angustimentalis*. It serves as a stopover and breeding site for several shorebirds. No human uses occur on site which is, however, adjacent to the expanding Morro Jable urban area and a coastal motorway. Ramsar site no. 1262. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Saladas de Sástago-Bujaraloz

Site number: 2 038 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Aragón  
Area: 8 145 ha | Coordinates: 41°24'N 00°13'E | Designation dates: 07-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Saladas de Sástago-Bujaraloz. 07/01/11; Aragón; 8,145 ha; 41°23'59"N 00°12'36"W. Natura 2000 (SPA, SIC). An endorheic complex of 26 seasonal saline lakes located in a salt steppe ecosystem representing a habitat which is unique in Western Europe due to its geomorphological, geochemical, hydrological and ecological characteristics. Many of the lakes contain water for only short periods of time following heavy precipitation events and are mostly covered with a typical salt crust. Only 16 of the lakes are flooded regularly. The site is exceptionally rich in species specifically adapted to such extreme saline environments. It contains several threatened and endemic species such as crustacean *Candacelacypris aragonica*, endemic to these salt lakes, as well as 31 species of flora endemic to the Iberian Peninsula or to the Ebro basin like *Limonium stenophyllum*. Furthermore, 238 vertebrate species have been recorded in the wider area, many of them of European interest. The site is of cultural importance due to its history of salt exploitation. It is used to some extent for rain-fed agriculture, research and nature tourism. Threatening factors include the possible future transformation from rain-fed to irrigated agriculture and the use of some of the lakes as a waste dump due to a lack of appreciation of the site's values. Ramsar Site number: 2038. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Salamajärvi National Park

Site number: 1 530 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 9 261 ha | Coordinates: 63°15'N 24°46'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salamajärvi National Park. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 9,261 ha; 63°15'N 24°45'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, National Park, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. A complex of mires and water bodies of pristine character, representing the diversity of the aapa mire type. The forests are mostly barren and stony, dominated by pine. Threatened species include the Brown Beak Sedge and Early Marsh-orchid as well as the near-threatened moss species *Sphagnum subnitens*. Breeding waterfowls are abundant, including more than 400 pairs of 13 wader species, and the site also supports several endangered mammal species such as otter, wolverine and Wild Forest Reindeer, which was re-introduced to the area in the 1970s. Ditches of drained areas, which were dug in the past, are still affecting the quality of running waters in some parts of the site. In 1985 a master plan for the National Park was established, and restoration of mires was carried out under an EU Life project in the 1990s by filling ditches and cutting trees. The different tourist facilities, like accommodation cabins, camping sites, an observation tower and a network of trails, have been accepted very well in recent years. Ramsar site no. 1530. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Salar de aguas Calientes IV

Site number: 1 870 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Antofagasta  
Area: 15 529 ha | Coordinates: 24°59'S 68°38'W | Designation dates: 14-08-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salar de Aguas Calientes IV. 14/08/09; Región de Antofagasta; 15,529 ha; 24°59'S 068°17'638"W. This High Andean site (3,665m a.s.l.) is located in the deserted area of the Central Dry Puna of northern Chile. The saline lakes (salt pans) and azonal vegetation (meadows and bofedales) wetlands caused by groundwater upwelling sustain a rich and abundant wildlife. Similarly to the neighboring Ramsar site Salar de Pujsa, this wetland is an staging area (feeding and roosting) for interhemispheric migratory birds, such as sandpipers (*Calidris bairdii*, *C. melanotos*, *C. himantopus*, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*, *T. flavipes*), and Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). Furthermore, the three high Andean flamingo species (Andean, Chilean and James's), Darwin's Rhea (*Pterocnemia pennata*), Andean Goose (*Chloephaga melanoptera*), and Puna Tinamou (*Tinamotis pentlandii*), as well as the mammals short-tailed chinchilla (*Chinchilla brevicaudata*) and vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*), are present in the area. Currently there are mining concessions for salt extraction, which implies a conservation threat, either directly due to salt extraction from the surface or indirectly due to groundwater extraction. Ramsar site no. 1870. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Salar del Huasco

Site number: 874 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Tarapaca  
Area: 6 000 ha | Coordinates: 20°18'S 68°50'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salar del Huasco. 02/12/96; Región I; 6,000 ha; 20°18'S 068°50'W. Seasonal, brackish lagoons and sparsely vegetated saltmarsh. Surrounding areas consist of five High Andean, sub-desert steppe vegetation types. An important group of flamingos is present at the site. Human activities include small-scale ranching and mining in the surrounding area. The saltmarsh is a source of rites and myths in the Aymara culture. A plan for groundwater extraction to supply the city of Iquique is pending. Ramsar site no. 874. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Salar de Pujsa

Site number: 1 871 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Antofagasta  
Area: 17 397 ha | Coordinates: 23°11'S 67°32'W | Designation dates: 14-08-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salar de Pujsa. 14/08/09; Región de Antofagasta; 17,397 Ha; 23°11'S 067°32'W. Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos. This High Andean site (4,530m a.s.l.) is comparable to an oasis in the desert although it is located in the deserted area of the Central Dry Puna of northern Chile, groundwater flows to the surface naturally, which allows the formation of saline lakes (salt pans) and azonal vegetation (meadows and bofedales) that sustain the regional wildlife. The site constitutes one of the most important wetlands for the conservation of high Andean flamingos (Andean, Chilean and James's), which are relatively abundant in the site (more than 1% of the global population, in all cases). It is also a staging area (feeding and roosting) for interhemispheric migratory birds, such as sandpipers, yellowlegs, and Wilson's Phalarope. In addition, the site stands out by the presence of large groups of austral vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna vicugna*), which graze in the meadows around the lake. The native communities Toconao and Talabre use the meadows and bofedales for grazing livestock (lamas and alpacas) and harvesting medicinal plants. Recently these communities, supported by the public sector, have started to take part in tourism activities in order to increase traditional household incomes. The Salar de Pujsa lies within the Atacama site, one of the 14 priority sites of the Wetland Network of Importance for Conservation of High-Andes Flamingos in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Part of the Ramsar site is protected under the National Reserve Los Flamencos. Ramsar site no. 1871. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Salar de Surire

Site number: 873 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Tarapaca  
Area: 15 858 ha | Coordinates: 18°51'S 69°00'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salar de Surire. 02/12/96; Región I; 15,858 ha; 18°51'S 069°00'W. A saltmarsh and saline lakes subject to seasonal fluctuations set in the High Andean steppe. Vegetation is determined primarily by the relief and the water availability. Numerous non-metallic minerals (calcium and boric salts) are found around the saltmarsh. One of the four most important places in Chile for nesting flamingos. The site supports various high altitude species of flora and fauna which are endangered or rare. Human activities include livestock grazing, borax mining, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 873. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Salar de Tara

Site number: 875 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Antofagasta  
Area: 96 439 ha | Coordinates: 22°56'S 67°15'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salar de Tara. 02/12/96; Antofagasta Region; 96,439,6 ha; 22° 56' S and 67° 15' W. This High Andean site encompasses a brackish lagoon that has maintains itself with the superficial waters that flow from the high mountains and volcanoes that surround it. This water body is important as nesting grounds for at least two flamingo species including *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* and *Phoenicopterus chilensis* and is habitat to many other waterfowl species, resident and migratory, such as the mammal species *Vicugna vicugna* and *Lagidium viscacia*. Among the land uses are the conservation of natural resources, as well as tourism and the use of the surrounding grounds by the communities for grazing and collection of medicinal plants. The area is partially included in Los Flamencos National Reserve, which has a Participative Management Plan in place, and is included in the National System of Protected Areas of the State. Salar de Tara falls under the IV Management Category of the IUCN (Habitat/Species Management Area). Last information: 2010.

### S'Albufera de Mallorca

Site number: 449 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Balears  
Area: 1 700 ha | Coordinates: 39°49'N 03°07'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

S'Albufera de Mallorca. 05/12/89; Balears; 1,700 ha; 39°49'N 003°07'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park, Hunting Refuge. An extensive, highly sedimented, freshwater marsh of dense reedbeds, separated from the sea by a dune bar supporting scrub. The marsh is fed by surface runoff and groundwater and dissected by a network of former irrigation dikes and canals fringed by woodland and scrub. The area is internationally important for breeding, staging and wintering various species of waterbirds. Human activities include conservation education, ecotourism, and controlled fishing. Ramsar site no. 449. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Salburua

Site number: 1 263 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: País Vasco  
Area: 174 ha | Coordinates: 42°51'N 02°39'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salburua. 24/10/02; País Vasco; 174 ha; 42°51'N 002°39'W. A complex of two shallow lakes at the edge of Vitoria-Gasteiz, the capital of the Basque autonomous region (220,000 inhabitants). The marshes were drained during the 20th century and subsequently restored in the 1990s. Arkaute lake fulfils a key hydrological function in preventing flooding of the nearby part of town. The site contains the most extensive *Carex riparia* reedbed of the Iberian peninsula and other priority habitats of the EC Habitats Directive. The population of the globally endangered European mink *Mustela lutreola* is noteworthy. The area is used for research and environmental education. Specific trails and picnic areas are designated for nature tourists. Controlled grazing with a herd of deer is managing the emergent aquatic vegetation. Ramsar site no. 1263. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Salinas de Ibiza y Formentera

Site number: 641 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Balears  
Area: 1 640 ha | Coordinates: 38°46'N 01°26'E | Designation dates: 30-11-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salinas de Ibiza y Formentera. 30/11/93; Balears; 1,640 ha; 38°46'N 001°26'E. European Union Special Protection Area; Nature Reserve, Natural Area of Special Interest. The site consists of various Mediterranean habitats including islands, coastal lagoons, and a complex of salt pans. Vegetation consists of halophytic communities and *Juniperus* scrub. The area is important to various species of nesting and migratory waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 641. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Salinas del Cabo de Gata

Site number: 448 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Andalucía  
Area: 300 ha | Coordinates: 36°44'N 02°12'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salinas del Cabo de Gata. 05/12/89; Andalucía; 300 ha; 36°44'N 002°12'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. An area of salt pans (salinas) occupying a coastal depression at the foot of the mountains and separated from the sea by a dune complex. The immediate vicinity of the salt pans supports a salt-resistant vegetation. The area is important for breeding, staging and wintering various species of water birds. Ramsar site no. 448. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Salinas de Santa Pola

Site number: 457 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Comunidad Valenciana  
Area: 2 496 ha | Coordinates: 38°08'N 00°37'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salinas de Santa Pola. 05/12/89; Comunidad Valenciana; 2,496 ha; 38°08'N 000°37'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. An extensive complex of active salt pans (salinas) and seasonal saline pools, bordered by dunes and beaches. The vegetation varies considerably according to salinity, supporting stands of *Carex* and *Juncus*, interspersed with halophytic plants. The area supports a diverse fauna, including invertebrates, reptiles and fish. Its most important feature, however, is its importance as habitat for nesting, staging and wintering numerous species of waterbirds. Land uses include hunting, fishing, some agriculture, and transportation. Ramsar site no. 457. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Salinas of the English Port

Site number: 2 182 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Maio  
Area: 535 ha | Coordinates: 15°09'N 23°14'W | Designation dates: 03-07-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salinas of the English Port (Salinas de Porto Inglês). 03/07/13; Maio; 535 ha; 15°09'16"N 23°13'33"W. Protected Landscape. Salt flats with a lagoon basin, sand dunes, rocky semi-desert areas and wooded areas (principally acacia trees). The site hosts important number of characteristic sand dune and semi-desert species, including the Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*, Black Crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*, Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cinturus*, and wetland species such as the Sanderling *Calidris alba* and the Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, all very important in maintaining the biological diversity of the Macaronesia ecoregion. It supports 10 to 13% of the global population of the Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* as well as the endangered Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*. The site supports the largest population of the Cape Verdean Kentish Plover in the Atlantic Ocean, 150-300 individuals, representing 50% of the Cape Verdean population. Current land use includes salt extraction, livestock grazing and small-scale recreation/tourism. Tourism is gradually developing with the on-going construction of the Salinas beach resort. There is a need for regulatory actions to prevent over-construction of touristic structures in the Ramsar Site. Ramsar site no. 2182. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Saline di Cervia

Site number: 228 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 785 ha | Coordinates: 44°15'N 12°20'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Saline di Cervia. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 785 ha; 44°15'N 12°20'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; State Natural Reserve, Provincial Wildlife Sanctuary. An extensive complex of salt pans, dissected by a network of channels and embankments linked to the sea by an artificial canal. Vegetation includes submerged aquatic flora and salt-tolerant plants. The area is important for nesting waterbirds and staging migratory birds. The principal land use is salt production; other human activities include hunting. Ramsar site no. 228. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Saline di Margherita di Savoia

Site number: 191 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Puglia  
Area: 3 871 ha | Coordinates: 41°24'N 16°03'E | Designation dates: 02-08-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Saline di Margherita di Savoia. 02/08/79; Puglia; 3,871 ha; 41°24'N 16°03'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A complex of salt pans connected with the sea, supporting salt-resistant vegetation and scattered reed and sedge beds. Up to 30,000 waterbirds of numerous species winter at the site. Human activities include commercial salt extraction, fish rearing and ecotourism. Ramsar site no. 191. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Salines de Monastir

Site number: 2 015 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Monastir  
Area: 1 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°45'N 10°46'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salines de Monastir. 02/02/12; Monastir; 1,000 ha; 35°45'N 10°46'E. BirdLife IBA. A permanent wetland with variable salinity and nutrient value favoring the presence of scavenger fish species, comprising a saline coastal lagoon between the cities of Monastir and Sousse, connected to the sea by two relatively broad channels and bounded on the seaward side by the international airport. It is a natural salt marsh and a representative example of the rare Western Palearctic wetland type. The wetland is home to populations of fish and algae and important for biodiversity conservation as well as for wintering, nesting and permanently resident seabirds, and thus it is a natural waterbird refuge, especially for species such as Tadorna Tadorna, *Himantopus himantopus* and *Recurvirostra avocet*, and supports the Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* and the little tern *Sterna albifrons*. The site is a source of food (algae and organic matter) to fishes and plays a role in the retention and disposal of water during floods. It is threatened by pollution from several sources, including tourism, transport and industry. Ramsar Site no. 2015. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Salines de Thyna

Site number: 1 709 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sfax  
Area: 3 343 ha | Coordinates: 34°39'N 10°43'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salines de Thyna. 07/11/07; Sfax; 3,343 ha; 34°39'N 10°43'E. Located within the 'Gulf of Gabès, one of only two Mediterranean zones under the influence of tidal fluctuations of up to 2m amplitude, consisting of salt pans, permanent shallow marine waters, and intertidal marshes. These remarkable physical conditions result in unique ecosystems such as natural salt flats, which are presently rare in Tunisia and serve as refuge and feeding grounds for sea birds such as the common Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*), Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*) and the little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), etc., during high tides. The boundaries of the seaward side of the Ramsar site go as deep as 5m below sea level. The marine zone is important for fishing and has *Posidonia oceanica* as the dominant marine vegetation. The salt pans are presently exploited by the Tunisian general salt company (COTUSAL), which prohibits public access, thus serving as a security strategy for fauna in the site. This is further reinforced by a hunting and grazing prohibition by the Ministry of Agriculture. Ramsar site No. 1709. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Salins d'Hyères

Site number: 1 838 | Country: France | Administrative region: Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur  
Area: 900 ha | Coordinates: 43°05'N 06°11'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salins d'Hyères. 15/09/08; 900 ha; 43°05'N 06°11'E. Natura 2000 SPA; ZNIEFF (Zone Naturelle d'Intérêt Ecologique, Faunistique et Floristique). One of the largest Mediterranean coastal wetlands in France, constituted of two separate sites: Salin des Pesquiers and Vieux Salins. The area is of a great importance for many birds during their migration season, but also for breeding and wintering. It regularly supports 218 bird species, amongst them *Grus grus*, *Lanius senator*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, and *Hirundo daurica*. Exploited for salt from 1848 until 1995, the salins d'Hyères were acquired by the Conservatoire du littoral and represent a mosaic of different habitats very important in supporting a wide range of other fauna and flora species. These wetlands are the only site in continental France where *Matthiola tricuspidata* and *Tamarix africana* can be found. The site is located in an urban area where the main economy is based on coastal tourism. Possible threats are the spreading of exotic species and algal bloom. Ramsar site no. 1838. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Sambhar Lake

Site number: 464 | Country: India | Administrative region: Rajasthan  
Area: 24 000 ha | Coordinates: 27°00'N 75°00'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sambhar Lake. 23/03/90; Rajasthan; 24,000 ha; 27°00'N 075°00'E. A large saline lake fed by four streams set in a shallow wetland and subject to seasonal fluctuations. It is surrounded by sand flats and dry thorn scrub and fed by seasonal rivers and streams. The site is important for a variety of wintering waterbirds, including large numbers of flamingos. Human activities consist of salt production and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 464. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Sammuttijänkä - Vaijoenjänkä Mires

Site number: 1 531 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 51 749 ha | Coordinates: 69°29'N 27°40'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sammuttijänkä - Vaijoenjänkä Mires. 02/02/04; Lapland; 51,749 ha; 69°25'N 027°30'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, Wilderness Area, Mire Protection Area. Finland's largest continuous mire area in natural state, formed by northern aapa mires. The palsa mires are extensive and well developed, changing gradually into aapa mires. Wide areas of rounded hummocks, riverbank willow growths, wet flark fens and rich fens are characteristic of these mires. Areas of rounded hummocks are divided by kilometer-long stretches of mesotrophic sedge fens or by rich fens without ridges. The area is rich in pools, ponds and lakes, of which the largest cover about 170 ha. It is among the most valuable breeding areas of waterfowl and waders in Fjeld Lapland. Reindeer husbandry with up to 10,000 reindeer is an important livelihood in the area. Hunting is permitted to local residents, as are fishing and picking of mushrooms and berries. Acid deposition has weakened the buffering capacity of lakes and ponds, and hunting has negative effects on the site, but a management and land use plan will be established in the near future. Ramsar site no. 1531. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Sandblåst-/Gaustadvågen Nature Reserve

Site number: 807 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: More og Romsdal  
Area: 245,3 ha | Coordinates: 62°59'N 07°17'E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a typical well-developed estuary where three small rivers converge, forming a system of sheltered brackish lagoons and extensive intertidal mudflats with wet meadows. Salinity varies from freshwater to brackish and finally salt water. A total of 250 different bird species have been recorded. The high biological production, extensive beds of aquatic vegetation, and invertebrate populations support large numbers of migrating birds and numerous wintering swans, geese, ducks and waders. Particularly high numbers of birds gather here during the autumn migration, with regular counts of several hundred whooper swans and various ducks and waders. Several waterbird species as well as the otter *Lutra lutra* breed at the Site. Human activities include agriculture, recreation and research. Birdwatching takes place throughout the year and there is a viewing facility. The further expansion of agricultural activities, abandonment of traditional management practices and infrastructural development could pose threats to the Site.

## Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Site number: 957 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: South Dakota  
Area: 8 700 ha | Coordinates: 45°45'N 98°15'W | Designation dates: 03-08-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge. 03/08/98; South Dakota; 8,700 ha; 45°45'N 098°15'W. A large freshwater cattail marsh, it provides critical nesting and staging habitat for many different bird species. The number of migrating waterfowl using the large wetland complex often exceeds 20,000 and includes such birds as Mallards, Wood ducks and Canada geese. Sand Lake is also important habitat for reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals. Thousands of people from birdwatchers to anglers and hunters to school groups visit Sand Lake Refuge each year. Ramsar site no. 957. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Sand River Dam

Site number: 2 122 | Country: Eswatini | Administrative region: Lubombo district  
Area: 764 ha | Coordinates: 24°00'S 31°42'E | Designation dates: 12-06-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sand River Dam is situated in the Lubombo district within the IYSIS cattle ranch which is privately owned by Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC). The reservoir is a major magnet for waterfowl and other waterbirds, particularly when water levels are low. The lowveld of Swaziland is relatively arid with few naturally-occurring wetlands other than riparian strips along rivers. The waterbird community of this region, therefore, relies heavily on a handful of artificial wetlands. Sand River Dam is one such site, and plays an important role in maintaining waterbird abundance and diversity within the region. The surrounding hillsides are heavily overgrazed by goats and domestic cattle and crop residues are burned every winter. The Site regularly supports over 20 waterbird species and regularly harbours more than 500 individual birds. This makes it the second most important wetland in the country in terms of waterbird abundance. It is a critical site for a number of threatened species, including the critically endangered hooded vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* and African white-backed vulture *Gyps africanus*.

## Sandwich Harbour

Site number: 743 | Country: Namibia | Administrative region: Erongo Region  
Area: 16 500 ha | Coordinates: 23°23'S 14°29'E | Designation dates: 23-08-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sandwich Harbour. 23/08/95; 16,500 ha; 23°23'S 014°29'E. Namib-Naukluft Park, Marine Protected Area. Two distinct wetlands and associated mudflats. One is aquifer-fed and supports typical emergent vegetation, but is slowly disappearing due to natural causes. The second, under tidal influence, consists of mudflats and raised shingle bars. One of Namibia's most important coastal wetlands, supporting eight endangered species among the large numbers of wading birds. Several archaeological sites dating back 1,000 years exist within the site. Human activities have included fishing, guano collection, and hunting. The site is used for scientific research, with surrounding areas used for tourism, recreation, and angling. Ramsar site no. 743. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

### Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary

Site number: 832 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Dublin  
Area: 654 ha | Coordinates: 53°20'N 06°12'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary. 11/06/96; 654 ha; 53°20'N 06°12'W. Special Protection Area under EC Directive. An intertidal system supporting a large bed of eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) with extensive areas of sandflats. The site is important for various species of waterbirds, supporting internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and large numbers of roosting gulls and terns. Various species of annalids, bivalves and small gastropods occur. Bait-digging is a regular activity on the sandy flats. Ramsar site no. 832. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### San Francisco Bay/Estuary (SFBE)

Site number: 2 097 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: California  
Area: 158 710,9 ha | Coordinates: 37°52'N 122°22'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

San Francisco Bay/Estuary (SFBE). 02/02/13; California; 158,711 ha; 37°52'N 122°23'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; includes National Wildlife Refuges and other protected areas. San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the US, encompassing approximately 160,000 hectares. SFBE is widely recognized as one of North America's most ecologically important estuaries, accounting for 77% of California's remaining perennial estuarine wetlands and providing key habitat for a broad suite of flora and fauna and a range of ecological services such as flood protection, water quality maintenance, nutrient filtration and cycling, and carbon sequestration. The site is home to many plant species and over 1,000 species of animals, including endemic and conservation status species. It is noted for hosting more wintering shorebirds than any other estuary along the US Pacific Coast south of Alaska and is recognized as a site of Hemispheric Importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. It is also important for over 130 species of resident and migratory marine, estuarine and anadromous fish species. Development pressures on remaining wetlands and adjacent uplands continue to threaten habitats not owned or managed for conservation. The site is a renowned international tourism destination. Parts of the site are within the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve (1988). Ramsar site no. 2097. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Sangha-Nouabalé-Ndoki

Site number: 1 858 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Sangha, Likouala  
Area: 1 525 000 ha | Coordinates: 01°41'N 16°26'E | Designation dates: 04-03-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sangha-Nouabalé-Ndoki. 03/04/09; Sangha, Likouala; 1,525,000 ha; 01°41'N 016°26'E. National Park. Found in the northwest of Congo, the site is characterised by lakes, marshes, ponds, floodplain forests, swamps and the Sangha river, whose main tributary is the Ndoki. Various species of conservation concern are found here; flora from the family Fabaceae and Orchidaceae as well as fauna such as the Chimpanzee, Leopard and the Giant Pangolin amongst others. The site provides refuge for palearctic waterbirds such as *Glaucopis pratensis* as well as for the Nile Crocodile and fish such as *Heterobranchius longifilis* that take refuge as the extent of their aquatic habitat declines during the dry season. Apart from the resources provided by the site, it also plays an important role not only in the hydrological regulation of the Congo Basin but also in the socioeconomic development of the country. The Sangha is a communication route through which local communities can move their timber to Brazzaville. Agriculture, fishing, hunting, research, and extraction of sand and clay for construction are also practiced. At present there is a management plan in place only for the National Park, but a management plan will be elaborated for the entire site following the adoption of the National Policy on Wetlands. Ramsar site no. 1858. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

### Sango Bay-Musambwa Island-Kagera Wetland System (SAMUKA)

Site number: 1 641 | Country: Uganda | Administrative region: Masaka, Rakai districts  
Area: 55 110 ha | Coordinates: 00°55'N 31°46'E | Designation dates: 15-09-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sango Bay-Musambwa Island-Kagera Wetland System (SAMUKA). 15/09/06; Masaka, Rakai; 55,110 ha; 00°55'S 031°46'E. Important Bird Area. A mosaic of wetland types including the biggest tract of swamp forest in Uganda, papyrus swamps, herbaceous swamps interspersed with palms and seasonally flooded grasslands, sandy, rocky and forest shores, and three rocky islets about 3 km offshore in the Sango Bay. The area lies in the transition between the East and West African vegetation zones and this biogeographical ecotone makes it biodiversity rich. The system supports huge congregations of waterbirds, hosting an average of 16.5% of the population of Grey-headed Gulls (*Larus cirrocephalus*), and hosts globally endangered mammals such as Elephant, Black and White Colobus Monkey and a subspecies of the Blue Monkey. It is a source of fish to the people of the area, of medicinal plants, of grazing and of raw materials for building and making crafts including luxurious sofa chairs and mattresses. Tourism has been developed on Musambwa Island. Relatively inaccessible, Sango Bay forests have had no immediate threats; however, as overexploitation of resources and grazing depletes the rest of the landscape, forest reserves become the immediate retreat for the surrounding communities. The site contains Stone Age artifacts, internationally known as the Sangoan industry, which dates to about 200,000 years ago. Ramsar site no. 1641. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### San Jiang National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 152 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang  
Area: 164 400 ha | Coordinates: 47°56'N 134°20'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

San Jiang National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Heilongjiang; 164,400 ha; 47°56'N 134°20'E. National Nature Reserve. An alluvial floodplain typical of high-altitude wetlands, a mixture of rivers, open bogs, seasonally flooded meadows, and sedge marshes, the largest area of freshwater wetland in the country. The site is internationally important for waterbirds, including the endangered *Ciconia boyciana*, *Mergus squamatus* and *Anser cygnoides*. The number of geese and ducks may reach up to 100,000 in autumn. The site is an important habitat and breeding area for several commercial fish species and serves as a natural reservoir for the San Jiang Plains, providing vital flood control as well. The management of the reserve has been working together with the governments of surrounding towns and villages since 2003, and a conservation committee has been established. Ramsar site no. 1152. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Sankarani-Fié

Site number: 1 167 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Kankan  
Area: 1 656 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°20'N 08°33'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, within the basin of the Sankarani River, is located in the east of the country next to the border with Côte d'Ivoire. It is characterized by savannah and dry forest, and enormous floodplains along the length of the river. This stretch of the river is an important fish spawning ground because the current is calm, deep and well protected by gallery forests. It is also a refuge for spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), white-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and African jacana (*Actophilornis africana*). Hippopotamuses have also become numerous within the Site because of water retained by the Sélingué dam. However, extensive agriculture accompanied by the use of fires, exploitation of gold and prohibited fishing practices have all contributed to the destruction of vegetation cover and an increasing scarcity of wildlife.

### San San - Pond Sak

Site number: 611 | Country: Panama | Administrative region: Bocas del Toro  
Area: 16 413,5 ha | Coordinates: 09°30'N 82°30'W | Designation dates: 09-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

San San-Pond Sak. 09/06/93; Bocas del Toro; 16,414 ha; 09°24'N 082°57'W. An aggregation of channels, shallow, brackish and freshwater lakes in the lower basin of two rivers. The site, bordering Costa Rica, includes coastal plains, bays, sand bars, and beaches. Vegetation consists of mangroves and peat bogs. The wetlands recharge aquifers which provide water for 56,000 inhabitants and irrigate banana plantations. The site provides important habitat for 133 species of birds, of which 36 are endangered; 55 species of mammals, 24 endangered; seven endangered reptiles of the 54 occurring; and 20 amphibian species. Human activities include ranching, timber harvesting, subsistence agriculture, pig raising, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 611. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

### Santuario de la Naturaleza Laguna Conchalí

Site number: 1 374 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Región IV  
Area: 34 ha | Coordinates: 31°53'S 71°30'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Santuario de la Naturaleza Laguna Conchalí. 02/02/04; Región IV; 34 ha; 31°53'S 071°30'W. Nature Sanctuary, Private Reserve. A brackish coastal lagoon representative of wetlands in central Chile, where the wildlife of the Atacama-Sechura Desert and Chilean Matorral ecoregions meet, a key staging area for migratory birds along the central Chilean coast. A creek feeds freshwater to the lagoon, and during periods of high rainfall, the barrier island is flooded and the lagoon becomes an estuary. Saltmarshes are mainly composed of coastal salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), alkali seaheath (*Frankenia salina*), and *Sarcocornia peruviana*. There are coastal dunes, coastal shrub-steppe vegetation, and coastal Mediterranean shrub, the latter of high conservation priority. The Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*, White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*, endemic Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*, and Tropicbird lizard *Liolaemus zapallarensis* are noteworthy species of the site. Five endemic fish species are found, including *Odontesthes brevipinnis* and *Mugil* sp. The Pelambres copper mining company purchased the area in 1997, and the site was cleaned, fenced and is undergoing a restoration process. Footpaths, observatories and information panels have been placed to attract ecotourism and carry out environmental education. The mining port nearby has a contingency plan in place to avoid impacts on the site and there are no major threats currently affecting the area. The University of Chile is carrying out a monitoring and management plan. Ramsar Site no. 1374. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Santuario Nacional Lagunas de Mejía

Site number: 547 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Arequipa  
Area: 690,6 ha | Coordinates: 17°08'S 71°51'W | Designation dates: 30-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Santuario Nacional Lagunas de Mejía. 30/03/92; Arequipa; 691 ha; 17°08'S 071°51'W. National Sanctuary. A series of small, shallow, saline lagoons, associated saline marshes, reedbeds, riverine forest and sandy shores in the arid coastal region of southern Peru. The lagoons are important wintering area for Nearctic-breeding shorebirds. There is a visitors' centre and ornithological research is conducted. Human activities include pumping of water for irrigation, (illegal) hunting, and reed harvesting. Ramsar site no. 547. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Santuario Nacional Los Manglares de Tumbes

Site number: 883 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Tumbes  
Area: 2 972 ha | Coordinates: 03°25'S 80°17'W | Designation dates: 20-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Santuario Nacional Los Manglares de Tumbes. 20/01/97; Tumbes; 2,972 ha; 03°25'S 080°17'W. The greater part of the wetlands comprise creeks (1,800ha) and streams while the remainder is mangroves (1,172ha). The inclusion of Manglares de Tumbes in the Ramsar List is a very important step forward in the conservation of mangroves, not only because it is at the southernmost limit of this type of wetland on the Pacific coast of South America, but also because of the ever-increasing rate of mangrove destruction for shrimp and fish farming. The area is important for the population of the vulnerable American crocodile and otter, both endangered in Peru. Waterfowl are also important in this area, as there are a number of species which do not occur elsewhere in the country. The wetland serves as a source of food for the local communities roundabout. Ramsar site no. 883. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Santuario Playa Boca de Apiza - El Chupadero - El Tecuanillo

Site number: 1 764 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Colima  
Area: 40 ha | Coordinates: 18°48'N 103°44'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Santuario Playa Boca de Apiza - El Chupadero - El Tecuanillo. 02/02/08; Colima; 40 ha; 18o45'N 103o49'W. Natural coastal wetland with dominant thorn scrubs and low deciduous forest vegetation, and in the surroundings, coastal dunes, seagrass beds and mangroves. Three of the 7 species of marine turtles registered in Mexico hatch their eggs in these beaches: *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, and *Chelonia agassizi*. The Sanctuary provides a habitat for a number of resident and migratory, terrestrial and aquatic birds, many of which are threatened or endangered, such as the Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), the Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), the Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*), and the Agami Heron (*Agamia agami*). Agriculture, livestock, fishing and tourism are the most common activities in the site. Among the threats are the hunting of female turtles during their hatching period to obtain meat, eggs, oil, depredation of nests by wild and introduced species, and contamination of nest zones, among others. The site is listed under IUCN Management Categories: Ia (Strict Nature Reserve), Ib (Wilderness Area), IV (Habitat/Species Management Area) and VI (Managed Resource Protected Area). The Park has had a management plan since 2003. Ramsar site no. 1764. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Sapais de Castro Marim

Site number: 829 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Algarve  
Area: 2 235 ha | Coordinates: 37°12'N 07°27'W | Designation dates: 08-05-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sapais de Castro Marim. 08/05/96; Regiao Algarve; 2,235 ha; 37°12'N 007°26'W. Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive. A complex estuarine system of creeks, alluvial plains, saltmarshes and artificial salinas, subject to wide fluctuations in tidal range and salinity levels. The wetland is noteworthy for its halophytic saltmarsh communities and distinctive shrubby vegetation adapted to the extremes of a hot, dry and saline environment. The site supports several species of breeding waterbirds and a small heronry, and is crucial for large numbers of non-breeding flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* and spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia*. The wetland plays a crucial role in maintaining water tables, flood attenuation, and serves as a freshwater reservoir in one of the driest areas of Portugal. Human activities include salt production, intensive agriculture, fish-farming, tourism, and recreation. The area holds historic settlements of Roman and Arabic occupation. Ramsar site no. 829. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Sarobetsu-genya

Site number: 1 555 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Prefecture  
Area: 2 560 ha | Coordinates: 45°05'N 141°42'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sarobetsu-genya. 08/11/05; Hokkaido; 2,560 ha; 45°05'N 141°42'E. NWP. A vast peatland at the northern tip of Hokkaido represents one of the largest high moors in lowland plains. The Sarobetsu River, flowing around the marshland, has limited water fluctuation and poor supply of nutrients leading to ideal conditions for formation of such high moors. Ponds and small lakes scattered in the site provide breeding sites for waterbirds and support more than 1% of the East Asian population of *Anser fabalis middendorffii* and *Cygnus columbianus*. From spring to autumn, the wetland is covered by more than 100 species of colorful flora including Small cranberry, Hare's cotton-grass, and lilies. Boardwalks constructed in Sarobetsu Wildflower Garden and Panke-numa provide a close look at these pretty flowers. A project is underway to restore the dry areas of wetlands due to past incidence of lowering the groundwater level. About 300,000 people visit the Sarobetsu Nature School/Toyotomi Visitor Center and Horonobe Visitor Center annually and walk along the nature trails. Ramsar site no. 1555. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Sarstoon Temash National Park

Site number: 1 562 | Country: Belize | Administrative region: Toledo District  
Area: 16 955 ha | Coordinates: 15°58'N 89°00'W | Designation dates: 19-10-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sarstoon Temash National Park. 19/10/05; Toledo; 16,955 ha; 15°58'N 089°00'W. National Park. A complex of several different terrestrial ecosystem types located on the southern frontier with Guatemala, bisected by two large rivers, one of which forms the border. Seasonally and permanently flooded forests predominate, with some 1,100 hectares of lowland sphagnum moss bog unique to the region, a saline/brackish inland lagoon, and 9,600 ha of saline swamps, with the country's most undisturbed and largest stand of red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and its only stands of Comfra Palm (*Manicaria saccifera*). Several threatened and vulnerable species are supported, such as Black Howler Monkey, the Hickatee Turtle, the tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, the West Indian Manatee, and Morelett's Crocodile. The buffer zone of the park is home to the indigenous Kekchi Maya and Garifuna people, both of which attach high cultural importance to parts of the site. Stands of mahogany, cedar, and rosewood are targets for illegal crossborder logging efforts. The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) is active in research and management planning for the site and has a co-management agreement with the government. Ramsar site no. 1562. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Sasthamkotta Lake

Site number: 1 212 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kerala District  
Area: 373 ha | Coordinates: 09°02'N 76°37'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sasthamkotta Lake. 19/08/02. Kerala. 373 ha. 09°02'N 076°37'E. The largest freshwater lake in Kerala state in the southwest of the country, spring-fed and the source of drinking water for half a million people in the Kollam district. Some 27 freshwater fish species are present. The water contains no common salts or other minerals and supports no water plants; a larva called "cavaborus" abounds and eliminates bacteria in the water, thus contributing to its exceptional purity. The ancient Sastha temple is an important pilgrimage centre. WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. Ramsar site no. 1212. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Sasyk Lake

Site number: 762 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 21 000 ha | Coordinates: 45°40'N 29°41'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sasyk Lake. 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 21,000 ha; 45°40'N 029°41'E. Artificially maintained as a freshwater area by pumping, the site consists of a reservoir near the Danube Delta and the Black Sea and includes various floodplain areas. Vegetation consists of emergent and submergent plants and salt meadows and includes nationally rare and relic species. The wetland is important for numerous species of migrating, breeding (25,000 pairs), and molting waterbirds and supports seasonal concentrations of up to 100,000 individuals. Large numbers of the threatened species *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and *Branta ruficollis* occur at the site. Numerous species of fish also occur. Human activities include an important fishery, forestry, livestock grazing, environmental education, recreation, and scientific research. The site is of religious and archaeological importance. Ramsar site no. 762. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Savannes Bay

Site number: 1 171 | Country: Saint Lucia | Administrative region: Vieux Fort  
Area: 24,6 ha | Coordinates: 13°48'N 60°37'W | Designation dates: 19-02-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Savannes Bay. 19/02/02; Vieux Fort; 25 ha; 13°48'N 060°37'W. Marine Reserve. Comprises mangrove forest, seagrass beds, and coral reef, long utilized for subsistence-based activities by adjacent communities. The Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), the most valuable species in most of the Caribbean islands, occupies the mangrove and seagrass as a nursery and supports the artisanal fisheries particularly during the low period for offshore pelagics. The site is crown land and a marine reserve, and has been included in the proposed Point Sable National Park complex. Ramsar site no. 1171. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Sawa Lake

Site number: 2 240 | Country: Iraq | Administrative region: Muthanna Governorate  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 31°19'N 45°00'E | Designation dates: 03-03-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sawa Lake is a permanent lake located in the western field of the Mesopotamian Plains, near the border with the Western Desert. The lake is unique for the biogeographic region because it is a closed water body in an area of sabkha (salt flat) with no inlet or outlet. It is normally only fed by groundwater that originates from the higher western desert areas, though it can also be temporarily fed by local wadis when heavy rain in the desert area causes flash floods. The lake is formed over limestone rock and is isolated by gypsum barriers surrounding the lake; its water chemistry is unique. The Site is home to several globally vulnerable species, namely eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). As Sawa Lake is the only water body nearby Samawa City it is a popular picnic and excursion area. However, these recreational activities threaten to lead to accumulation of solid waste, and disturb the wildlife including the nesting and migrating birds because of the poor vegetation cover in the surrounding zones.

## Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and adjacent areas

Site number: 537 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Schleswig-Holstein  
Area: 454 988 ha | Coordinates: 54°30'N 08°40'E | Designation dates: 15-11-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and adjacent areas (Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer). 15/11/91; Schleswig-Holstein; 454,988 ha; 54°30'N 08°40'E. National Park, Nature Reserves. This site comprises 40% of the Wadden Sea (shared by Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany) and consists of extensive mudflats, rivers, sandbanks, dunes, saltmarshes, heathland and islands. It supports internationally important breeding numbers of several species of birds and more than two million staging waterbirds, including internationally important numbers of 24 species. In particular, approximately 70% of the entire European population of *Tadorna tadorna* (180,000) gather here in molting flocks. The site supports endemic aquatic invertebrates, endangered reptiles and amphibians, and is an important breeding area for *Phoca vitulina*. It is also an important nursery area for several commercially exploited fish species. Human activities include grazing livestock, tourism, hunting, shell fishing, military activities, and boating. Significantly extended in 2002. Ramsar site no. 537. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Schorren van de Beneden Schelde

Site number: 327 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Vlaamse Gewest  
Area: 420 ha | Coordinates: 51°20'N 04°15'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Schorren van de Beneden Schelde. 04/03/86; Vlaamse Gewest; 420 ha; 51°20'N 004°15'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserves, Classified Landscape. Three separate intertidal areas comprising the last remaining area of brackish, intertidal flats and marshes in Belgium. A border is shared with the Netherlands. The intertidal flats support a typical invertebrate fauna. An important area for numerous species of wintering, staging and molting waterbirds. Human activities include recreation, sheep grazing and fishing. Surrounding areas are dominated by large industrial and port complexes and intensive agricultural land. The naturally dynamic character of the area is intensified by extensive dredging to maintain a deep-water shipping channel. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because agricultural intensification led to severe nutrient-enrichment and lowering of the areas' water table. Site of the first Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1988. Ramsar site no. 327. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Sea Lion Island

Site number: 1 104 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: East Falkland  
Area: 1 000 ha | Coordinates: 52°25'S 59°05'W | Designation dates: 24-09-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sea Lion Island. 24/09/01; 1,000 ha; 52°25'S 059°05'W. An isolated island 17km off the southern tip of East Falkland, Ramsar's second southernmost site, notable as an important breeding site for Southern Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia*) and Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*). Despite a history of sheep ranching, the extent and condition of stands of Tussac Grass (*Paradiachloa flabellata*) are particularly good. Shallow marine waters, seagrass beds, both rocky and sandy shores, brackish lagoons, freshwater pools, and peat bogs are all present within the site. Vulnerable and endangered birds such as Cobb's Wren (*Troglodytes cobbi*) and Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*) are supported, and a number of endemic bird species breed there, as do Gentoo, Rockhopper, and Magellanic Penguins and Southern Giant Petrel. A lodge with 15 beds is available for wildlife tourists, and a small number of tourists make day visits by boat and helicopter, causing no disturbance. Ramsar site no. 1104. Most recent RIS information: 2001. [Note: On 24 October 2001, the Argentine Republic made a diplomatic protest to this designation.]

## Sebkhia Bou Areg

Site number: 1 484 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Nador  
Area: 14 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°10'N 02°51'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhia Bou Areg. 15/01/05; Nador; 14,000 ha; 35°10'N 002°51'W. The largest lagoon on the Mediterranean southern shore, with a length of 24km and a width of 7.5km, separated by the sea by a system of sand dunes. It is a micro-tidal lagoon system with high biodiversity levels and acts as a wintering site for migratory birds, and as spawning and feeding ground for several fish species. Among the variety of life forms, one can find 13 fish species, nine mollusks, two cephalopods and two crustaceans. Bird species which nest here include the Water Rail, the Little Tern, the Pied Avocet and the Slender-billed Gull. Agriculture, fishing and salt production are the main activities to be found. Aquaculture is also practiced by the Moroccan Society for Ostreiculture (MAROST) and concentrates among others on the royal sea-bream, Japanese shrimp, and two oyster varieties. The main threats to the site are pollution by the activities taking place in the surroundings. Conservation measures are being proposed but none are in place thus far. Ramsar site no. 1484. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Sebkhia d'Oran

Site number: 1 055 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'Oran  
Area: 56 870 ha | Coordinates: 35°22'N 00°48'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhia d'Oran. 02/02/01; Oran; 56,870 ha; 35°22'N 000°48'W. A large endorheic depression of tectonic origin, with a seasonal saline lake and flats characterized by halophilic vegetation. The site surpasses the 1% threshold for pink flamingos and shelduck (Criterion 6). Ramsar site no. 1055. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Sebkhat Imlili

Site number: 2 323 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Région de Dakhla-Oued Eddahab  
Area: 1 774 ha | Coordinates: 23°15'N 15°56'W | Designation dates: 12-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a relic of an original Saharan aquatic system, which bears witness to the recent tropical past of the extreme south of Morocco. The sebkha (salt flat) is in an area of limited and irregular rainfall over ten kilometres from the Atlantic Ocean. In its northern part are more than 160 permanent water pockets. The water is salty or hypersaline, but the pockets are home to aquatic flora and fauna with origins in marine, stagnant freshwater and flowing freshwater environments. Notably, these include a locally endemic fish of the *Cichlidae* family, which is related to the Guinean tilapia *Coptodon guineensis*, and some rare plant species. About 50 species of birds visit the site more or less regularly, especially migrants attracted by its greenery and water-related features.

### Sebkha Zima

Site number: 1 485 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Safi  
Area: 760 ha | Coordinates: 32°05'N 08°40'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkha Zima. 15/01/05; Safi; 760 ha; 32°05'N 08°40'W. An endorheic lake with saline water, which supports a number of organisms adapted to hypersaline conditions, including two rare endemic plant species (*Halopeltis amplicauli* and *Spergularia tenuifolia*), 46 phytoplankton and 11 zooplankton species. It also has a high ornithological value, supporting a number of species during both winter and reproduction seasons. These include significant proportions of the biogeographical populations of *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Tadorna ferruginea* and *Phoenicopus ruber*. The site plays an important role in the recharge of the groundwater table. 30,000 tonnes of salt are produced annually from this area, supplying salt to the cities of Marrakech and Safi and providing employment to 50 people. However, salt extraction has transformed almost half of the wetland area into salt works and drainage channels and deeply modified the site's hydrology. Overgrazing, cutting of firewood, and disturbance to birds and nests are also a concern. No conservation measures exist at the moment, but some are being proposed for the future, such as preventing any further habitat transformation and closing certain areas during the bird reproduction period. Ramsar site no. 1485. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Sebkhet Bazer

Site number: 1 427 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Sétif  
Area: 4 379 ha | Coordinates: 36°03'N 05°41'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a permanent endorheic saltwater depression, fed by rainwater and domestic and industrial wastewater carried by three tributaries from the nearby town of El Eulma. The Site consists of three areas; the flooded central part which is devoid of vegetation; its extension along Oued El Melah; and the peripheral belt with sparse vegetation on which cattle and sheep graze. *Typha* and *Juncus* reeds around the mouth of the Oued El Melah provide important habitat for a number of nationally threatened bird species, such as black-winged stilt, greylag goose, western marsh harrier, common crane and pied avocet. The Site also hosts more than 1% of the common shelduck's biogeographic population, showing the importance of saline conditions for some wintering species. The area is used for grazing animals and has potential for birdwatchers. Industrial wastewater could threaten the Site in future, and there are plans to build a purification plant to ensure the Site's integrity. School groups visit the Site on World Wetlands Day to learn about the environment and its protection.

### Sebkhet El Hamiet

Site number: 1 428 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Sétif  
Area: 2 509 ha | Coordinates: 35°55'N 05°33'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhet El Hamiet. 12/12/04; Sétif; 2,509 ha; 35°55'N 05°33'E. A temporary, shallow brackish wetland composed of two main habitats: the open saltwater lake, called sebkha, and the chott, a peripheral zone with a haline vegetation meadow. The site plays an important role for wintering waterbirds like the Common Shelduck, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Charadrius* and *Larus* spp. Livestock raising is the main economic activity for the local population, while outside the site agriculture (cereals and vegetables) is also practiced. Waste disposal and pollution from both domestic and industrial sources are the main problems around the site. A management plan needs to be elaborated and implemented by the different stakeholders, as conservation activities are currently very limited and undertaken haphazardly. Ramsar site no. 1428. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Sebkhet El Melah

Site number: 1 429 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya de Gharadaia  
Area: 18 947 ha | Coordinates: 30°30'N 02°56'E | Designation dates: 12-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an endorheic depression with saline soils featuring two bodies of water: the pond-like upper basin of moderate salinity, which is very rich in biological diversity, and a bare *sebkha* or salt lake with salt-encrusted banks. The Site is important for the conservation of Mediterranean and central Saharan biodiversity, thanks to its variety of habitats including tamarisk forest and dunes which cater to different species: it hosts various reptiles and amphibians, algae, phanerogams; fish, crustacean, bird species, and small mammals. The area's high productivity, caused by the high temperatures and consequently high decomposition rates, contributes to making it a significant breeding and nursery site for several waterbird species. It hosts more than 1% of the biogeographic populations of *Tadorna ferruginea* and *Aythya nyroca*. Ancient graves can be found in the area, while the cliffs have been found to contain marine paleontological remains. Limited agricultural activities take place in the Site, while around it are palm cultivations organized under cooperatives. Waste disposal, human expansion and poaching are the main threats to the Site. A management plan and classification as a nature reserve are foreseen.

### Sebkhet Ezzmoul

Site number: 1 896 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Oum El Bouaghi  
Area: 6 765 ha | Coordinates: 35°53'N 06°33'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a seasonal *sebkha* (salt lake) located on the high plains of the region of Constantine in Eastern Algeria. It consists of a temporary, shallow water body which rarely reaches 40cm in depth. It is an important wintering and resting site during migration for several migratory waterbird species, including the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), the common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) and the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). It is also one of the most important breeding sites for greater flamingo in the Mediterranean basin. The waterbirds attract predators such as golden jackal and red fox. Rodents such as the Algerian mouse (*Mus spretus*) and Barbary striped grass mouse (*Lemniscomys barbarus*) are also attracted by the surrounding cereal cultivation. The principal threats facing the Site are erosion, over-grazing, poaching and collection of the waterbird eggs. While there is no management plan, other conservation measures regulate the exploitation of the surrounding forests of the wilaya (province) of Oum El Bouaghi.

### Sebkhet Halk Elmanzel et Oued Essed

Site number: 2 006 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sousse  
Area: 1 450 ha | Coordinates: 35°59'N 10°30'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhet Halk Elmanzel et Oued Essed. 02/02/12; Sousse; 1,450 ha; 35°59'23"N 10°30'10"E. BirdLife IBA. A coastal saline lagoon that is representative of an almost natural *sebkha*, a characteristic wetland type in the semi-arid region of the Tunisian Sahel. It contributes significantly in maintaining the biodiversity characteristics of its biogeographical region as it serves as a habitat for biologically important species such as the vulnerable Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*. It is a wintering and nesting ground for birds and also an important source of food and a spawning ground for fishes such as Mugil sp. and Lisa sp. The site also supports several animal species throughout their life cycles. Fishery activities and aquaculture are carried out by the people of the area to sustain livelihoods, and water from the lagoon is used for animal rearing nearby. Strategic measures of erosion control have been put in place through the planting of forest trees (particularly Acacias) around the lake. The main hydrological value of the wetland is the absorption of flood waters, which are sometimes violent, from the large tributary wadis. Ramsar Site no. 2006. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Sebkhet Kelbia

Site number: 1 710 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sousse Governorate  
Area: 8 732 ha | Coordinates: 35°50'N 10°15'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhet Kelbia. 07/11/07; Sousse; 8,732 ha; 35°50'N 10°15'E. Nature Reserve. Since the site is composed of a combination of private and public owned lands, the strategy to promote conservation in the short term has consisted in assigning priority to public lands. Together with Ichkeul, this wetland has historically been considered one of the two great continental wetland zones of the country, regularly hosting around 200,000 waterbirds. Dams were built in the past that brought about significant ecological changes. Restoration of the site, including some of the original water flows, is among the main management objectives. Ramsar site No. 1710. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Sebkhet Noual

Site number: 1 711 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sidi Bou Zid and Sfax Governorates  
Area: 17 060 ha | Coordinates: 34°25'N 09°45'E | Designation dates: 11-07-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhet Noual. 07/11/07; Sidi Bou Zid, Sfax; 17,060 ha; 34°25'N 09°45' E. A vast saline depression that occasionally collects the rainwater runoff of the multiple creeks that form in the adjacent mountains. Precipitation is highly variable, and the lake can remain dry for several years. This steppe environment hosts large numbers of waterbirds such as the vulnerable houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*). It is a typical example of a vast Sub-Saharan saline lake surrounded by an acacia (*Acacia raddiana*) forest. Apart from climate variations, overgrazing has caused a loss of vegetation cover and increased erosion. Ramsar site No. 1711. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

### Sebkhet Sejoumi

Site number: 1 712 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Tunis Governorate  
Area: 2 979 ha | Coordinates: 36°45'N 10°09'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhet Sejoumi is the furthest inland of the three "sebkhets" or seasonal salt flats around the city of Tunis, and the only one that has no natural outlet to the sea. This representative example of the *sebkhet* takes its name from the neighbouring village of Sejoumi. It is a very shallow closed basin, with an inflow of water from several small wadis, including wadi Gueriana. The lake is important for controlling the periodic wadi floods. The Site is a refuge for migrating and also hibernating birds. Being one of the northernmost *sebkhets* of the country, the Site retains some water throughout the year and so it is important for different populations of waterbirds in different seasons, and particularly in summer when other *sebkhets* are completely dry. Indeed, the concentration of more than 25,000 flamingos makes it one of the most important centres of North Africa of this species. It is also a refuge for the common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) and the northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). The edges of the lake are used by some sheep and goat pastors. The increasing urbanization of the area could potentially pose a threat to the Site.

### Sebkhet Sidi Elhani

Site number: 2 019 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Sousse  
Area: 36 000 ha | Coordinates: 35°34'N 10°24'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sebkhet Sidi Elhani. 02/02/12; Sousse, Mahdia; 36,000 ha; 35°34'N 10°24'E. BirdLife IBA. An extensive salt lake where the water is intermittent, characteristic of the Tunisian Sahel semi-arid, almost natural ecosystem that contributes to the maintenance of biological diversity of the Western Palearctic. Fed by several rivers (Wadis Chrita, Mansoura, and Om El Melah), the site hosts plant species such as *Arthrocnemum* sp., *Salicornia* sp. and *Suaeda* sp. and avian species such as *Phoenicopterus roseus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Anas clypeata* and *Grus grus*. As an Important Bird Area, the area is habitat for the crustacean *Artemia salina* which is of great interest as food for birds and some aquaculture species. The main hydrological value of the site is the absorption of sometimes violent floods from its large tributaries, and the watershed also captures a large quantity of sediment and plays an important role in recharging the groundwater and wells. The main economic activity around the lake is the animal rearing. Ramsar Site no. 2019. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Sebkhet Soliman

Site number: 1 713 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nabeul Governorate  
Area: 880 ha | Coordinates: 36°43'N 10°29'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The coastal plain of Soliman is located at the southern end of the Gulf of Tunis, between two mountains, Djebel Bou Kournine, which means “the mountain with two horns”, and Djebel Korbeus which descends almost directly into the sea. The Site is representative of the wider coastal plain in a near-natural state, and includes a lagoon, salt flats and dunes. It provides refuge to species whose original habitats have been lost, particularly as it is close to Tunis, the capital city, and other nearby wetlands have been lost. It is one of the few places in the area that retain water throughout the summer, and it is an important refuge for water birds, hosting breeding populations such as the marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), the Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*), the Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) and the collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). Sebkhet Soliman also contains a typical flora of wetlands dominated by halophyte plants of the *Halocnemum* and *Arthrocnemum* genera and *Salicornia arabica* L. The increasing urbanization of the area could potentially pose a threat to the Site.

### Secoveljske soline

Site number: 586 | Country: Slovenia | Administrative region: Slovenian Littoral  
Area: 650 ha | Coordinates: 45°29'N 13°36'E | Designation dates: 28-10-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Secoveljske soline (Secovlje salt pans). 03/02/93 650 ha; 45°29'N 013°36'E. Landscape Park; Nature Reserve. An area of tidal mudflats, salt pans, and saltmarsh supporting reedbeds and salt-resistant vegetation at the mouth of a canalized river. The site is important for various species of breeding, wintering and large numbers of staging waterbirds. Numerous nationally rare invertebrates and halophytic plants occur within the site, and the area is important for conservation education, outdoor recreation, and scientific research. Salt pans have been operated in the delta for hundreds of years and 40% of the site consists of operational salt pans. Ramsar site no. 586. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

### Seekoivlei Nature Reserve

Site number: 888 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Free State  
Area: 4 754 ha | Coordinates: 27°36'S 29°35'E | Designation dates: 21-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Seekoivlei Nature Reserve. 21/01/97; Free State; 4,754 ha; 27°34'S 029°35'E. Nature Reserve. The largest inland wetland in the Highveld. It has high conservation priority, as it provides water to the highly industrialized and densely populated Gauteng Province. It is a world-renowned sanctuary rich in birdlife and supporting several species of rare or endangered birds and mammals. The site consists of seasonal freshwater lakes, riverine floodplain, seasonally flooded grasslands, marshes and pools, and peatlands. Human activities include tourism and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 888. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

### Sejrø Bugt, Nekselø Bugt and Saltbæk Vig

Site number: 157 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sjælland Region  
Area: 44 111 ha | Coordinates: 55°50'N 11°18'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sejrø Bugt, Nekselø Bugt and Saltbæk Vig. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 44,111 ha; 55°47'N 011°18'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA), Nature Conservation Area. Shallow coastal waters with cultivated islands, clay cliffs and sand and gravel bars, heathland, reedbeds, meadows, saltmarshes, and an artificially regulated lake. The site forms the most important Danish moulting area for the goose *Anser anser* and is internationally important for wintering and staging geese and sea ducks, with more than 1% of the biogeographic population of Eider *Somateria mollissima* and Common Scooter *Melanitta nigra*. Two invasive plant species, *Rosa rugosa* and *Heraclium pubescens*, are spreading along the coastline. Human activities include hunting, mineral extraction, and conversion of meadows for cultivation. Public access is limited. Present factors adversely affecting the sites ecological character are changes in the land use. Management plans have been developed for the site and the river basin, and a monitoring programme for water and nature (NOVANA) has been carried out since 2003. Ramsar site no. 157. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Selenga Delta

Site number: 682 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Republic of Buryatia  
Area: 12 100 ha | Coordinates: 52°17'N 106°22'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Selenga Delta. 13/09/94; Buryat Republic; 12,100 ha; 52°17'N 106°22'E. World Heritage site; Nature Reserve; Anatidae Network Site. The site includes the shallow water area of Lake Baikal, streams and oxbow lakes. Vegetation consists of reedbeds, regularly flooded sedge-grass meadows, and willow shrub. The site is an example of a unique type of wetland and supports numerous threatened and endemic species of flora and fauna. Large concentrations of various species of migrating, breeding and molting waterbirds use the site. The total breeding population of Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans) varies between 20,000 and 138,000 individuals. Up to five million birds pass through the delta in autumn, with 7,300 to 18,300 birds stopping at the site. Human activities include hay harvesting, livestock grazing, commercial and sport fishing, muskrat trapping, waterbird hunting, and recreation. River regulation resulted in changes in the hydrologic regime, and rising lake levels (Baikal) are a major threat to delta ecosystems. Further activities increasing the area's water levels are planned. Ramsar site no. 682. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Sembilang National Park

Site number: 1 945 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: South Sumatra Province  
Area: 202 896,3 ha | Coordinates: 01°57'S 104°36'E | Designation dates: 03-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sembilang National Park; 06/03/2011; South Sumatra Province; 202,896.31 ha; 1°57'S, 104°36'E

Sembilang National Park supports a unique estuarine environment which has the largest mangrove formation in East Sumatra, along the western part of Indonesia. The site also supports coastal forest, lowland tropical forests, swamps, and peatlands.

This site is biologically rich with over two hundred species of birds, one hundred forty species of fish and over fifty mammal species. Many of these species are threatened such as the critically endangered Sumatran Tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), and the endangered Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Storm's Stork (*Ciconia stormi*), and Malay Giant Turtle (*Orlitia borneensis*). Over 43% of the mangrove species in Indonesia are also found here.

The mangroves and large alluvial delta at Sembilang National Park makes this site one of the critical stopover areas for migratory waterbirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Some 0.5-1 million shorebirds use this area and during winter and almost 80,000-100,000 migratory birds feed and rest here. It supports more than 1% of the population of Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*), Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and the Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*). It has one of the largest breeding colony of Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*) in the world, and one of the largest breeding colony of the Spotted-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) and Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) in Indonesia.

The swamps and peat forests act as container areas to store freshwater, this in turn recharges the ground water table that feeds seventy small rivers in the park.

Threats to the site include illegal logging and encroaching development (e.g. harbour and industrial estates).

The Ministry of Forestry, Directorate General of Protection and Nature Conservation has jurisdiction over this site. Ramsar site: 1945. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Senné fishponds

Site number: 500 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Vychodoslovensky  
Area: 425 ha | Coordinates: 48°41'N 22°04'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Senné Fish-ponds (Senné-rybníky). 02/07/90; Vychodoslovensky; 425 ha; 48°41'N 22°04'E. Nature Reserve. The site is located in a formerly seasonally-inundated large, flat depression within the Východoslovenská nížina Lowland (East Slovakian Lowland) that lies on an important waterbird migration route. It includes one large pond with adjacent seasonally-flooded grasslands and shrub swamps and 28 fish-farming ponds. It is one of the most important breeding and resting sites of rare, endangered and vulnerable water birds in Slovakia, including globally threatened and migratory species. A part of the site is used for fish-farming and for cattle grazing. The site is also an important subject of scientific research (hydrological, ornithological, botanical) and education for students and members of non-governmental organizations. Ramsar site no. 500. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Seocheon Tidal Flat

Site number: 1 925 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Country  
Area: 1 530 ha | Coordinates: 36°00'N 126°30'E | Designation dates: 09-09-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Seocheon Tidal Flat is an open tidal flat directly linked to the ocean, its ecosystem is composed of a combination of sand and/or muddy sand flats which are very important for migratory birds and as a spawning and nursery ground for fish.

Seocheon Tidal Flat supports globally threatened bird species such as the vulnerable Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*), the critically endangered Spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*) and the endangered Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*). This wetland supports 1% of the population of Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), providing an important habitat for over 3,000 individuals as a stopover site during winter and as a breeding area. There are 125 species of fish which include the River Puffer (*Takifugu obscurus*), Korean Rockfish (*Sebastes schlegelii*), and other marine life such as the Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) and ninety-five species of macro benthic animals.

Due to its wide expanse, Seocheon Tidal Flat protects the coast from typhoons, waves, and also slows down tidal current which performs an important function of transporting deposits which have been carried down the main river. Through filtration, the sediments are highly effective in flood control and also purify nutrient and metallic pollutants discharged from farms and sewage stations near the site.

Locals take advantage of the farming tracts and paddy fields in surrounding areas. Various marine food can be harvested including shellfish such as clams (*Ruditapes philippinarum* and *Dongjuk*, *Mactra veneriformis*), octopus (*Octopus membranaceus*) and crustaceans such as the Korean Shrimp (*Penaeus chinensis*).

Threats to the area include extraction of living organisms from the tidal flat, and increased pollution in the surrounding areas. The Division of Fisheries and Ocean Division (Chungcheongnam-do province) is directly responsible for managing this diverse and culturally rich wetland

## Servech

Site number: 2 250 | Country: Belarus  
| Administrative region: Glubokoe and Dokshitsy administrative districts of Vitebsk region  
Area: 9 068 ha | Coordinates: 54°58'N 27°30'E | Designation dates: 29-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the floodplain of the Servech river, Servech Ramsar Site is a complex of fen mires, transitional marshes and raised bogs. This mosaic of habitats supports the existence of rare and vulnerable species listed in the Red List of the Republic of Belarus. The globally threatened aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* and great snipe *Gallinago media* use the fen mires every year for breeding. The Site holds great hydrological value as it stabilizes the hydrological regime of Lake Servech, the Servech river and its tributaries. As a tributary of the Vilja river, the Servech also plays a significant role in the water balance of Vileiskoe Water Reservoir and Vileisko-Minskaya Water System. Lake Servech hosts amateur and commercial fishing. Threats to the Site include the unstable use of floodplain meadows and fen mires: the stopping of mowing and grazing has left the open fens overgrown with reeds, shrubs and trees, and so reduced the habitat of the aquatic warbler and great snipe. Other threats include the pollution of surface water and groundwater from agricultural effluents and the spring burning of the vegetation in the floodplain meadows and fen mires. Although it is currently prohibited, the possibility of peat extraction within the Site is of a certain concern.

## Setté Cama

Site number: 353 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ogooué Maritime  
Area: 240 000 ha | Coordinates: 02°44'S 10°11'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located a few kilometres south of Petit Loango, the Site comprises a wildlife reserve and a hunting concession. The landscape consists of a slightly undulating sandy plain with several lakes (in particular the Ndougou lagoon), marshes and swamps, interspersed with patches of savannah. The area hosts significant biodiversity, with 15 species of bats, approximately 75 of amphibians and reptiles, and more than 450 of birds. It is also important for several endangered mammals, including elephants, duikers and hippopotamus. Several fish species use the wetland as spawning, feeding and breeding grounds, while turtles nest along the coast. The Site is used by local populations for agriculture and traditional fishing, while water is pumped from the lagoon to supply the town of Gamba. Oil exploitation has taken place at the lagoon for the past 50 years, with the company putting in place regulatory measures against hunting, as well as other environmental regulations. The area is also used for tourism and for scientific research on turtles and mammals including whales. An office of the Wildlife Brigade of the Ministry of Water and Forest in Setté Cama is responsible for controlling poaching in the region.

## Severn Estuary

Site number: 67 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England, Wales  
Area: 24 701 ha | Coordinates: 51°30'N 02°48'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Severn Estuary. 05/01/76; England, Wales; 24,701 ha; 51°36'N 002°40'W. Special Protection Area, Nature Reserve, SSSI. The estuary has the second highest tidal range in the world and consists of an extensive intertidal zone comprising intertidal mudflats, sand banks, saltmarsh, shingle, and rocky platforms. Flora and fauna communities typical of extreme physical conditions occur at the site. The invertebrate community provides an important food source for passage and wintering waders. The site is of particular importance for staging nationally important numbers of several species of waterbirds, including *Tadorna tadorna* and *Numenius phaeopus*, and supports internationally important numbers of various species of wintering waterbirds, including *Limosa limosa islandica*. This site is important for several species of fish migrating between sea and river via the estuary. Small patches of a nationally rare plant *Lythrum hyssopifolia* are found in the grassland zone. Human activities include recreation, fishing, and hunting, and a visitors' centre, trails and hides are maintained. Extended on 13/07/95 from the former Ramsar Sites Bridgwater Bay and Upper Severn Estuary. Ramsar site no. 67. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Shadegan Marshes & mudflats of Khor-al Amaya & Khor Musa

Site number: 41 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Khuzestan  
Area: 400 000 ha | Coordinates: 30°30'N 48°45'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shadegan Marshes & mudflats of Khor-al Amaya & Khor Musa. 23/06/75; Khuzestan; 400,000 ha; 30°30'N 048°45'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. Wildlife Refuge. An extensive delta on the border with Iraq, forming part of the largest lowland in Iran, and composed of the floodplains of major rivers draining 11.5 million hectares. The site includes fresh and brackish sedge marshes, tidal flats, creeks, sandbanks and a low island. The delta is fed by overflow channels of the Karun river, irrigation canals and local rainfall. The area is important for breeding and wintering waterbirds and is possibly the most important wintering site in the world for Marbled Teal. The wetland is bordered by saltflats, rice fields, date palms and human settlements. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 because of chemical pollution from the Iran-Iraq war. Ramsar site no. 41. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System

Site number: 763 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast  
Area: 19 000 ha | Coordinates: 45°48'N 29°55'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System. 23/11/95; Odeska Oblast; 19,000 ha; 45°48'N 029°55'E. Three shallow limans (brackish lagoons) of the Black Sea, set in a closed drainage area and thus subject to drought and intensive sea currents. The lakes are separated from the sea by a sandy spit. The site includes a sandy shell bar, peninsulas, and islands. Vegetation consists of salt meadows and numerous species of aquatic plants. Over 1,000 pairs of waterbirds nest at the site, including nationally and internationally threatened species. The site supports internationally important numbers of *Rufibrenta ruficollis* and is an important staging, breeding and wintering area for numerous species of waterbirds. Human activities include conservation education, traditional fishing, recreation, and scientific research. Ramsar site no. 763. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Shandong Jining Nansi Lake

Site number: 2 346 | Country: China | Administrative region: In Jining City, Shandong Province.  
Area: 50 761,6 ha | Coordinates: 34°54'N 116°57'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shandong Jining Nansi Lake is the sixth-largest freshwater lake in China and the largest in northern China. The water body, comprising Weishan, Nanyang, Dushan and Zhaoyang lakes, is a unique natural environment with rich biological resources, which has developed into a well-preserved and structurally complete macrophytic wetland ecosystem, the largest north of the Huaihe River. With its rivers and vast expanse of open water and extensive marshes, the Site supports a large variety of flora and fauna. There are 656 species of vascular plants, 148 aquatic plants, 248 planktonic animals, 79 benthic animals, 46 fish, six amphibians, seven reptiles, 205 birds and 11 mammals. It also serves as a wintering and resting site for a variety of migratory birds. Some of these are globally threatened such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*); others are vulnerable such as the swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*) and white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*). The Site is also an important water diversion area and transfer channel of the South-North Water Transfer Project (Eastern Route), playing a key role in regulating the runoff and water quality.

## Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland

Site number: 2 187 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shandong Province  
Area: 95 950 ha | Coordinates: 37°46'N 119°05'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland. 16/10/2013; Shandong; 95,950 ha; 37°42'18"N 119°09'02"E. National Reserve. Located in the Yellow River National Reserve of Shandong Province, the wetland is composed of two units, with the northern part located at Diaokou River, referred to as the 'Ancient Yellow River', while the southern part is located along the course of the Yellow River and extends out to the Bohai Sea. The site is an almost naturally intact estuary wetland composed of shallow estuarine waters, tidal flats, marshes, reed swamps, canals and drainage channels, and aquaculture ponds at the mouth of Yellow River estuary. It has an annual accretion rate of 32.4 km<sup>2</sup> which is one of the fastest rates in the world and is due to the large amount of sediment brought down by the Yellow River. The wetland is an important migratory waterbird staging and wintering area and supports 38 species in internationally important numbers, with a total waterbird count of between 80,500 and 248,600 in recent years. The large amount of reeds found in the wetland form the basis of the weaving and paper production industries in the area. In recent years, flow from the Yellow River has decreased, resulting in wetland degradation. Ramsar Site no. 2187. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Shanghai Yangtze Estuarine Wetland Nature Reserve for Chinese Sturgeon

Site number: 1 730 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shanghai  
Area: 3 760 ha | Coordinates: 31°31'N 122°05'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shanghai Yangtze Estuarine Wetland Nature Reserve for Chinese Sturgeon. 02/02/08; Shanghai; 3,760 ha; 31°31'N 122°05'E. Nature Reserve. A estuarine salt-fresh water wetlands in the estuarine area of the Yangtze river, the third largest in the world. The wetland provides habitat for IUCN Red Listed species like Baixun or Chinese paddlefish (*Psephurus gladius*), Baiqitun (*Lipotes vexillifer*), and Moxiangjing (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and it provides critical refuge for Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) as well as breeding place for important economic fish species. 332 fish species are found here. Deposition of large amounts of sands, mud and nutrition accelerates the development of coast, maintaining the nutrient level of the water body which plays important role in levelling ground water table, purifying water quality, and stabilizing microclimate conditions. The shipping business is potential threat to site. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1730. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 153 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guangxi  
Area: 4 000 ha | Coordinates: 21°33'N 109°41'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Guangxi; 4,000 ha; 21°28'N 109°43'E. Nature Reserve, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Two related areas on either side of the Shatian Peninsula on the Beibu Gulf at the border between Guangxi and Guangdong provinces in the southwest of China, where salt marsh and mangrove forest form a protective barrier for the coastal farmlands and villages. Some 14 species of mangrove are represented, principally *Rhizophora stylosa* and *Avicennia marina*, and provide support for the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. It is also an important stopover site for a great number of migratory birds. Shrimp culture and improper hunting create pressures, and ecotourism is growing at the site, but reforestation efforts since 2002 have restored 200 ha of mangrove. Ramsar site no. 1153. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Shatsk Lakes

Site number: 775 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volynska Oblast  
Area: 32 850 ha | Coordinates: 51°31'N 23°50'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shatsk Lakes. 23/11/95; Volynska Oblast; 32,850 ha; 51°31'N 23°50'E. National Nature Park. Bordering Belarus, this unique system of 22 lakes includes marshes, peatlands, meadows, and forests. The wetland supports reedbeds, sedges and grasses and is important for the protection of various threatened species of swamp fauna and flora. Situated on the crossroads of two main flyways, the site is important for up to 60,000 migrating, as well as internationally important numbers of breeding and molting, waterbirds and waders. Human activities include recreation, health sanatoria, hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, and haymaking. The site supports an important fishery. Ramsar site no. 775. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Sheedvar Island

Site number: 1 015 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Central Persian Gulf  
Area: 870 ha | Coordinates: 26°48'N 53°24'E | Designation dates: 29-12-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sheedvar Island. 29/12/99; Hormozgan Province; 870 ha; 26°48'N, 053°24'E. Protected Area, Wildlife Refuge; Important Bird Area (BirdLife International). A small sandy and rocky offshore island surrounded by excellent coral reefs in the north central Persian Gulf, extremely important for breeding marine turtles (*Cheloniidae*) and some species of waterbirds, including a breeding colony of terns (*Sterna spp*) and other waterbirds in internationally important numbers. The flat area within sparsely-vegetated sand dunes is densely clad with halophytic shrubs (*Atriplex sp*) up to 60cm high. Abundance of a small poisonous snake has led to the island's alternative name "Maru" (Snake Island). There are no springs or surface water on the island and rainfall is very low, and the island is uninhabited by humans and owned by the government. Uncontrolled egg collection by humans was a serious problem in the 1970s but has diminished to manageable proportions. Department of the Environment personnel have been stationed on the island during the breeding season. Ramsar site no. 1015. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Shepody Bay

Site number: 363 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: New Brunswick  
Area: 12 200 ha | Coordinates: 45°47'N 64°35'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shepody Bay. 27/05/87; New Brunswick; 12,200 ha; 45°47'N 064°35'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve. A tidal embayment of saltmarsh, eroding coastline with sand and gravel beaches and extensive intertidal mudflats. The mudflats support internationally important numbers of the crustacean *Corophium volutator*, the principle food source for millions of fall migrating shorebirds. 400,000 *Calidris pusilla* may be present at one time in late summer. More than two million pass through in August, as do large numbers of other shorebirds. A shorebird research station is available. Ramsar site no. 363. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Shinji-ko

Site number: 1 556 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Shimane Prefecture  
Area: 7 652 ha | Coordinates: 35°26'N 132°58'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shinji-ko. 08/11/05; Shimane; 7,652 ha; 35°26'N 132°58'E. NWP. The seventh largest lake in Japan and one of the largest wintering sites of Anatidae species, with 21,000-48,500 per year. Shinji-ko offers an essential habitat for 80 brackish water species of fish and shellfish, including Japanese indigenous Shinjo-ko Goby and popular Shijimi or Corbicula clam. The site supports 240 species of waterbirds and more than 1% of the East Asian population of White-fronted Goose and Scaup. The lake provides the largest catch of Corbicula Leana, about 7500 tons, more than 40% of the country's total catch, and has a special connotation in Japanese seafood culture as 'Shinji-ko Shichi-chin' or '7 rare seafoods of Shinji-ko'. Bird watching, nature observation, Nature Museum visits, windsurfing, pleasure fishing and boating are popular activities. In recent years, reduction of pollution loads in this prefecture has become a priority, and there is a plan to employ effective measures for conservation and raise water quality. Ramsar site no. 1556. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Shizugawa-wan

Site number: 2 358 | Country: Japan  
| Administrative region: Minamisanriku Town / Miyagi Prefecture / Honsyu, Tohoku District  
Area: 5 793 ha | Coordinates: 38°41'N 141°31'E | Designation dates: 18-10-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the southern Sanriku Coast on the Pacific Ocean, Shizugawa-wan is a bay (wan) encompassing a number of scattered islands such as Areshima and Tsubakishima. Its complex "ria coast", featuring capes and inlets formed by submerged river valleys, includes various subtidal habitats such as reef zones, silt grounds and mudflats; these support extremely diverse vegetation, including 208 species of seaweeds and seagrasses. The Site is influenced by three ocean currents, the cold "Oyashio" and the warm "Kuroshio" and "Tsugaru" currents, enabling warm- and cold-water kelp to coexist. This uncommon environment provides habitats or feeding grounds for 553 animal species. The abundant seaweeds and seagrasses make the Site an ideal wintering ground for brent geese (*Branta bernicla nigricans*), white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and Steller's sea eagles (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), all of which are designated as natural monuments of Japan under the National Red List and the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES). The Site is the southernmost wintering ground for brent geese in Japan. The bay supports local livelihoods including the farming of seaweed (wakame), oysters and fish such as coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). The 2011 tsunami had a great impact on the seaweed beds, but the bay has been recovering steadily.

## Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area

Site number: 792 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Livingston Shire, Queensland  
Area: 202 023 ha | Coordinates: 22°34'S 150°30'E | Designation dates: 01-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bounded by approximately 330 kilometres of east Queensland coastline, the Site supports diverse, extensive and relatively undisturbed wetland systems including subtidal beds, shallow marine waters, coral reefs, intertidal marshes, and also forests, peatlands, freshwater marshes and pools, sinkholes and springs. It represents a climatic overlap zone with an unusual mix of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate species. There are approximately 908 native plants and the native animals include 445 fish, 11 frogs, 60 reptiles, 265 birds, and 42 species of mammals. The Site is home to an abundance of shorebirds and migratory waterbirds, with over 23,000 individuals recorded on several occasions. The seagrass beds, at over 130,000 hectares, are the most extensive on Australia's east coast and provide important feeding grounds for globally threatened dugongs and marine turtles as well as fish species which are important for commercial and recreational purposes. Diverse and abundant mangrove communities support nursery areas for fish, and roosting and sheltering sites for shorebirds. The extensive freshwater peat swamps in the Site are rare within the bioregion and in Australia. The Site is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, a World Heritage Site. Human activities include military training, tourism, commercial and recreational fishing; the Site is also of significant cultural value for the Aboriginal Darumbai people.

## Shorkul and Rangkul Lakes

Site number: 1 085 | Country: Tajikistan | Administrative region:  
Area: 2 400 ha | Coordinates: 38°28'N 74°10'E | Designation dates: 18-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shorkul and Rangkul lakes. 18/07/01; 2,400 ha; ca. 38°28'N 74°10'E. Most recent RIS information: none.

## Shuangtai Estuary

Site number: 1 441 | Country: China | Administrative region: Liaoning Province  
Area: 128 000 ha | Coordinates: 40°55'N 121°46'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shuangtai Estuary. 07/12/04; Liaoning; 128,000 ha; 40°54'45"N 121°45'41"E. National Nature Reserve. The estuary of the Liao River at Liaodong Bay in northeastern China, the site includes "the essential part of the world's largest reed marsh (*Phragmites communis*)", a large area of Suaeda community, and shallow sea. The site, which meets eight of the Ramsar Criteria, provides flood control and prevention, maintains groundwater recharge, and retains 10.4 million tons of nutrients and sediment each year, helping to prevent coastal water eutrophication and salt water intrusion. It provides important habitat for resting and breeding of over 100,000 waterbirds from 106 species, including the critically endangered Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* and the endangered Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, and is the largest breeding site in the world for the vulnerable Saunderson's Gull *Larus saundersi*. The site provides seasonal occupation for 20,000 people for reed irrigation and harvest, oil exploration facility checking, agriculture and aquaculture. Conservation measures include environmental awareness and education for the protection of birds. A Wetland Ecosystem Monitoring Station has been established to observe and study waterbirds and monitor the status of the wetland. So far, about 400ha of *Larus saundersi* habitat have been restored. Ramsar site no. 1441. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Shurgol, Yadegarlu & Dorgeh Sangi Lakes

Site number: 45 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: East Azarbaijan  
Area: 2 500 ha | Coordinates: 37°00'N 45°30'E | Designation dates: 23-06-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shurgol, Yadegarlu & Dorgeh Sangi Lakes. 23/06/75; Azarbaijan-e Gharbi; 2,500 ha; 37°00'N 045°30'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Three physically separate units, each including a lake and associated seasonally flooded marshland. All are fed by a combination of rainfall, runoff, seepage, springs and small streams. Shurgol is brackish to saline and adjoining marshes usually flood seasonally. Yadegarlu is a smaller, freshwater lake, with abundant submerged flora and sedge marshes. Dorgeh Sangi is shallow and fluctuates greatly according to seasonal rainfall. The area is important for the breeding and passage of waterbirds; nesting species include Marbled Teal. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 due to over-grazing of lakeshore vegetation by domestic livestock, over-grazing of the aquatic vegetation, excessive wildfowl hunting, and the effects of the war and drought at Yadegarlu. Ramsar site no. 45. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Sian Ka'an

Site number: 1 329 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Quintana Roo  
Area: 652 193 ha | Coordinates: 19°30'N 87°37'W | Designation dates: 27-11-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sian Ka'an. 27/11/03; Quintana Roo; 652,193 ha; 19°30'N 087°37'W. World Heritage Site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Wildlife Protection Area. The site lies on a large karstic plain along a 120km-long barrier reef. Two large, shallow bays surrounded by mangroves, as well as numerous sinkholes or cenotes, are main landmarks in a landscape of tropical deciduous forests. Endemic communities of swamp forests and of petenes, emerging islands of forests protected from saline intrusions, are mostly pristine and of global significance. There is a wealth of flora and fauna, including 320 bird species and 5 Neotropical felines. Endangered species include Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles, American and Belize Crocodiles *Crocodylus acutus* and *C. moreletii*, Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, Jaguar *Panthera Onca*, Puma *Puma concolor*, American Manatee *Trichechus manatus* and Sperm Whales *Physeter catodon*. Mayan archeological sites have been found in the Reserve. Several tree species are used for wood, and forest products such as thatch palm leaves and resin for chewing gum are extracted. The main problems are due to overfishing, increasing tourism, forest fires and invasive species. There is a management plan in place and several research activities have been undertaken. A community program training locals as tourist guides has started in order to manage tourism beneficially. Ramsar site no. 1329. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Sichuan Changshagongma Wetlands

Site number: 2 348 | Country: China  
| Administrative region: In Shiqu County of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Region western in Sichuan Province, P.R.China  
Area: 669 800 ha | Coordinates: 33°46'N 97°59'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a high-altitude wetland on the south-eastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, featuring herbaceous swamps, lakes and rivers. It includes a large peatland developed in the alpine humid climate which serves as an important carbon sink. With its unique geographical and ecological setting, it is one of the region's biodiversity hotspots, providing important habitats for a large number of rare and threatened species (including some that are endemic to China,) such as the globally endangered alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) and Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*), and the vulnerable snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Chinese mountain cat (*Felis bieti*) and the endemic white-lipped deer (*Przewalskium albirostris*). The Site serves as an important stopover and breeding ground for many migratory birds such as black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). It plays a significant role in regulating the local climate, conserving water, controlling floods and mitigating climate change.

## Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 731 | Country: China | Administrative region: Sichuan Province  
Area: 166 570 ha | Coordinates: 33°43'N 102°49'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve. 02/02/08; Sichuan; 166,570 ha; 33°43'N 102°44'E. Nature Reserve. Said to be the largest alpine peat marsh in the world as well as tundra wetland located in the upstream area of the Yellow River and the northeast of Qinghai Tibet Plateau at 3,422m-3,704m altitude. A marsh meadow vegetation provides habitat for 137 bird species including IUCN Red-List species Chai (Cuon alpinus), Yudaishaidiao (Haliaeetus leucorhynchus), and Heijinghe or Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), as well as 38 animal species, 3 amphibian species, 15 fish species, 3 amphibian species and 362 wild plant species. The site is also referred to as the water tower of China, as it serves the important water supply area of upper Yangtze River and Yellow River. The site stores peat of 7 billion m<sup>3</sup> and has water-holding capability of nearly 10 billion m<sup>3</sup>. It contributes to local climate regulation, water and soil conservation, and aids in reducing green house effects. A high touristic place with a unique ecosystem, panoramic plateau landscape, and colorful Tibetan culture with great aesthetic value. Desertification and decrease in marsh area have occurred due to global warming and rainfall reduction. Ramsar site no. 1731. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Sierra Leone River Estuary

Site number: 1 014 | Country: Sierra Leone | Administrative region: Western Area  
Area: 295 000 ha | Coordinates: 08°37'N 13°03'W | Designation dates: 13-12-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sierra Leone River Estuary. 13/12/99; 295,000 ha; 08°37'N 013°03'W. The Estuary, near Freetown Peninsula, is dominated by mangrove systems, with lowland coastal plains to the north. As it enters the Atlantic Ocean, the estuary widens to about 11 km and deepens to form a natural harbor said to be the third largest in the world. 19% of Sierra Leone's total mangrove is included within the site. The site exceeds the 1% threshold for at least eight waterbird species, namely Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Sanderling, Curlew Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Greenshank and Redshank, and Western Reef Heron; breeding habitat is supported for some of these. More than 20,000 individuals have been recorded for some waterbird species, and in 1995 more than 10,000 were recorded for 36 species. The Estuary is threatened by vegetation clearance and unsustainable fishing, and efforts are being made strictly to conserve certain core areas within the site. Vast areas of untouched mangrove forest still exist, however, and traditional fishing and agro-forestry for fuelwood can be managed sustainably in collaboration with an existing EU-funded Artisanal Fishing Community Development Programme. Fine beaches in some areas provide hope for well-managed tourist development, especially in light of the presence of an historic slave castle on Bunce Island, and so ecotourism development is considering promising. Ramsar site no. 1014. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Signilskär-Märket Archipelago

Site number: 5 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Åland  
Area: 22 566 ha | Coordinates: 60°15'N 19°18'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Signilskär - Märket Archipelago. 28/05/74; Åland; 22,566 ha; 60°14'N 019°17'E. Natura 2000 SPA, Baltic Sea Protected Area. An offshore archipelago near the border with Sweden, consisting of 50 mostly treeless islands. The main island consists of extensive deciduous forest, meadows and a small mire, and the great variation of water-depth creates a rich selection of underwater biotopes. The site represents a diverse and abundant community of archipelago birds for breeding, migrating and over-wintering. Threatened birds include White-tailed Eagle and Lesser Black-backed Gull. It also provides habitat for some threatened vascular plants such as Wall Rue and Fragrant Orchid as well as for some mammal species, e.g., the Ringed Seal and Grey Seal, with more than 200 individuals in the waters near Märket Island. Oil pollution damage is the main threat, mainly from two shipping routes crossing the area. Fishing and increased boating in the breeding season also cause disturbance to birds, as well as hunting of waterfowl. Since 1927 a station for the study of migratory birds has been in operation on Signilskär Island. Ramsar site no. 5. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Siikalahti Bay Area

Site number: 1 532 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 682 ha | Coordinates: 61°34'N 29°34'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Siikalahti Bay Area. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 682 ha; 61°33'N 029°33'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Three separate areas situated in the northeastern corner of Southern Finland just 5 km west of Russian border. Siikalahti and Rautalahti are inlets of Lake Simpelejärvi; Sallengampi is a small lake with an outlet to the same lake. These are characterized by extensive growths of Common Reed and thereby in the process of overgrowing, in a transitional stage in the succession of water ecosystems, with the vegetation and bird fauna most diverse and richest at the present stage. Siikalahti Bay is the most valuable bird-lake in Finland as habitat for many threatened bird species. The ecological character of the site is affected negatively by rapid overgrowth as a result of eutrophication. Regulations of water levels and drainage ditches caused a decrease of wetland species in southern parts to one third of previous numbers; nonetheless, the area is very appreciated for environmental education, birdwatching and outdoor recreation activities. Ramsar site no. 1532. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Sikåsvågarna

Site number: 2 260 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jämtland county  
Area: 2 305 ha | Coordinates: 63°38'N 15°17'E | Designation dates: 29-01-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located along the Sikåsån stream, Sikåsvågarna consists of large topogenous calcareous fens, wooded mires, wetland forest, meandering streams, small pools and a delta formed where the stream flows into Lake Hammerdalssjön. The Site provides breeding grounds for several birds including the western marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and the common crane *Grus grus*. The natural water regime of the river supports important migration paths, nursery and foraging grounds for several fish species including brown trout *Salmo trutta*. Significant transportation and deposition of sediments takes place within the Site as erosion occurs in the meandering bows of the Sikåsån stream and sediments are then deposited further downstream in the recent delta in Hammerdalssjön Lake. Human activities include hunting, fishing and cloudberry picking. A birdwatching tower is placed near the stream. The main factors affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to logging and wood harvesting. A conservation plan for the Natura 2000 Site is implemented on the Site.

## Silver Flowe

Site number: 219 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 620 ha | Coordinates: 55°07'N 04°24'W | Designation dates: 24-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Silver Flowe. 24/07/81; Scotland; 620 ha; 55°07'N 004°24'W. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; Nature Reserve, SSSI. This series of patterned blanket mires constitutes the least-disturbed and most varied extent of acid peatland in southern Scotland and is one of the most important systems of blanket mire in Great Britain. These mires, which have developed on the floor of a broad glacial valley in the Galloway Hills, exhibit a complete gradation from discrete mires along the valley bottom which, in their external features, have obvious affinities with raised mire topography to others at the head of the valley which are indisputably blanket mire. Ramsar site no. 219. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Sim Maiakiv Floodplain

Site number: 2 273 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizhska Oblast  
Area: 2 140 ha | Coordinates: 47°26'N 35°03'E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the lower Dnipro (Dnieper) River, the Site is composed of a unique karst system which is atypical of southern Ukraine and its flat steppe areas. A deep tertiary river channel with a small steppe river forms a unique complex of floodplain forests, wet meadows and reed beds where it meets the Kakhovka reservoir. The wetland constitutes a unique refugium for biodiversity in the steppe region: 137 species of birds, 24 species of mammals, 47 of fish, 690 of insects and 326 species of plants have been recorded at the Site. The Site is on one of Eastern Europe's largest transcontinental migration routes and provides important nesting as well as foraging grounds for many waterbirds. The karst system is important for groundwater recharge and discharge, for the provision of fresh drinking water for the local population. The livestock and agricultural practices in the surrounding areas depend upon the stability and quality of water from the reservoir and the steppe river. The Site is one of the few places in the lower Dnipro region where traditional basket weaving is preserved. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to drainage, agriculture and housing and urban areas. The management plan of the "Velyky Luh" National Nature Park covers all of the Ramsar Site.

### Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area

Site number: 2 191 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: United Arab Emirates  
Area: 4 964 ha | Coordinates: 25°14'N 54°13'E | Designation dates: 02-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area; 02/12/2013; Sharjah; 4,964ha; 25°13'55"N and 54°13'09"E; National Protected Area.

Located some 110 km from Sharjah, this offshore island has a terrestrial area of 1,333ha. Geologically, the site is a salt dome formed from regional tectonic activities, and is rich in minerals. Despite its small size, the site supports a high biodiversity for the biogeographic region. A total of 40 coral species and 76 reef fish species have been recorded, including seven coral species that are Red Listed as Vulnerable. The site is an important nesting site for the Critically Endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and supports more than 1% of the regional breeding population of the Sooty gull (*Larus hemprichii*). The island is of historical importance as pottery has been found dating back to about 3,500 years ago. It also used to be a meeting point for fishermen and a base for pearl divers. The island was declared as a National Protected Area in 2000 and visits are permitted only for environmental surveys and studies. There is a plan to develop a limited area of the site for commercial tourism.

### Sistema de Humedales Cuyamel-Omoa

Site number: 2 133 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Cortes  
Area: 30 029 ha | Coordinates: 15°39'N 88°12'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales Cuyamel-Omoa. 02/02/2013; Omoa, Cortes; 30,029 ha; 15°39'18" N 88°11'48.99"W. National Park. The importance of this wetlands system is based on its function as habitat of endangered species such as the Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), the Jabiru bird (*Jabiru mycteria*), the Guasa fish (*Epinephelus itajara*), the crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) and the sea turtle species *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*. This Ramsar Site is also vital for aquatic species particularly during their early life stages as they maintain the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System fisheries and are the basis of the local economy. Furthermore, this wetlands system supports resident and migratory water bird populations as well as sea turtle populations that depend on the site's beaches particularly during the spawning season. Apart from the ecosystem services already mentioned, this site is essential for the regulation of water flux and the prevention of seawater intrusion and contamination of aquifers in the coastal areas where local communities are located. Among the adverse effects faced by this Ramsar Site are the expansion of cattle ranching, the growing number of African Palm crops and the growing construction sector among others. Ramsar Site No. 2133

### Sistema de Humedales de la Bahía de Bluefields

Site number: 1 139 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Atlántico Sur  
Area: 86 501 ha | Coordinates: 11°55'N 83°45'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales de la Bahía de Bluefields. 08/11/01; Atlántico Sur; 86,501 ha; 11°55'N 083°45'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 15/01/07. Comprising a diversity of ecosystems from saline to freshwater, encompassing the "bay", which is in fact a coastal lagoon associated with the Rio Escondido. The intertidal forested areas and mangroves form habitat and biological corridors for endangered larger animals, such as the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Central American Tapir or "Danta" (*Tapirus bairdii*), the howling monkey *Alouatta fusca*, and ocelot *Leopardus pardalis*. The system is regenerating despite the devastation of Hurricane Joan in 1988. The site is extremely important for the artisanal fishing which forms the economic and cultural base of the ethnic groups in the area. Problems associated with population growth and pollution pose threats, though several communities have organized a group of communal park-wardens. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in December 2005 and added to the Montreux Record on 15/01/07. Ramsar site no. 1139. [Signs] Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Sistema de Humedales de la Isla de Utila

Site number: 2 134 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Islas de la Bahía  
Area: 16 226 ha | Coordinates: 16°06'N 86°52'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales de la Isla de Utila. 02/02/2013; Islas de la Bahía; 16,226 ha; 16°06'00"N 15°56'14"W. Bahía Islands Marine Park, which includes two Marine Special Protection Zones and one Wildlife Refuge. The importance of these wetlands is based on its diverse and interdependent ecosystems, which are part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. These ecosystems include coral reefs, marine grasses, mangroves, swamps, coastal lakes, rocky shores, hypersaline shallow waters, floodplains and above and below ground karstic systems among others. These ecosystems support numerous fauna and flora species including some endangered species such as the following sea turtles: *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* (green sea turtle) and *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Endangered species of birds, fish and shellfish are also found at this Ramsar Site. Furthermore this site has the largest habitat and species diversity of the Norwest Caribbean region of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and is home to numerous terrestrial and marine endemic species. This wetlands system also plays a vital role in supporting various species particularly during their first life stages. Utila Island is also a tourism hotspot, which is also a valuable and mostly unexplored, archaeological site having been home to Chibcha and Mesoamerican tribes. Ramsar Site No. 2134.

### Sistema de Humedales de la Zona Sur de Honduras

Site number: 1 000 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Tegucigalpa  
Area: 69 711 ha | Coordinates: 13°20'N 87°25'W | Designation dates: 10-07-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales de la Zona Sur de Honduras. 10/07/99; Tegucigalpa; 69,711 ha; 13°20'N 087°25'W. A complex of seven coastal areas totaling 69,711 hectares along the Honduran portion of the Golfo de Fonseca, along the Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano Pacífico de Honduras. Various species of mangrove form the predominant vegetation in this area of typical marine-coastal ecosystem influenced by the fluctuation of the tides. Several lagoons in the rainy season provide refuge for both migratory and non-migratory birds, as well as spawning grounds for various species of tortoise, molluscs, crustaceans, and fish. The area is important to the nearby people for its mangrove wood for construction, as well as for traditional fishing and grazing activities. Subject of Ramsar staff visit in September 2000. Ramsar site no. 1000. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

### Sistema de Humedales de San Miguelito

Site number: 1 140 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Río San Juan  
Area: 43 475 ha | Coordinates: 11°25'N 84°51'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales de San Miguelito. 08/11/01; Río San Juan; 43,475 ha; 11°25'N 084°51'W. Situated along the southeast coast of Lago Cocibolca (Lake Nicaragua, the largest lake in Central America), the site maintains a rich biological diversity, supporting a large number of species of birds, fish, reptiles and mammals. It also performs essential functions in the prevention of natural disasters, in purifying and recycling the water of the lake, and in regulating local climate. Ramsar site no. 1140. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Sistema de Humedales de Santa Elena

Site number: 2 334 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Departamento de Islas de la Bahía, Honduras  
Area: 1 542,8 ha | Coordinates: 16°25'N 86°15'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located at the eastern end of the island of Roatan, in the north of the country. It includes a good example of a wooded wetland composed mainly of mangroves, and a marine wetland composed of seagrass beds and reef lagoons that are part of the Mesoamerican Reef System, the second longest barrier reef in the world. The Site is an important resting, feeding and nesting area for several species of resident and migratory birds. The reef area and the seagrass also act as a nursery and feeding area for marine species such as sea turtles, dolphins and sharks that are frequently found here. Among the threatened species that inhabit the site are the royal tern (*Thalasseus maximus*), the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the corals *Acropora cervicornis* and *Acropora palmata*, among others. Despite changes in land use and the disposal of waste, the Site is well conserved and its fisheries resources support local communities. The mangroves and seagrass beds serve as natural barriers against extreme weather events, and they also filter nutrients and some pollutants.

### Sistema de Humedales Laguna de Zambuco

Site number: 2 189 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Atlántida  
Area: 649 ha | Coordinates: 15°48'N 87°13'W | Designation dates: 22-04-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales Laguna de Zambuco (SH-LZ). 22/04/2013; Atlántida; 649 ha; 15°47'54"N 087°13'23"W. The site, characteristic of the estuarine systems found in northern Honduras, supports numerous threatened or endangered species such as the Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and the leatherback and Hawksbill sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea* and *Eretmochelys imbricata* respectively), for which it provides nesting areas. It is rich in biodiversity and, to date, 59 species of plants, 34 of fish, 87 of birds (24 of which are migratory species), and 11 species of reptiles among others have been identified. In addition, the site supports numerous fish and crustacean species during their larval and juvenile stages, contributing to the maintenance of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef fisheries, and as it is located between two other Ramsar Sites (Parque Nacional Punta Izopo and Refugio de Vida Silvestre Cuero y Salado) it contributes to the creation of a Biological Corridor in northern Honduras. The area is also important for the Garifuna people, one of the nine ethnic groups present in Honduras, who depend on the site for their livelihoods. The main threats to the ecological character are related to deforestation of mangroves, expansion of African Palm crops, and population growth. Ramsar Site no. 2189. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Sistema de Humedales Remanentes del Delta del Río Colorado

Site number: 1 822 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California, Sonora  
Area: 127 614 ha | Coordinates: 32°19'N 115°15'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Humedales Remanentes del Delta del Río Colorado. 02/02/2008; Baja California and Sonora; 127,614 ha; 32°19' N 115°15' W. This site includes the remnants of the Delta of the Colorado River (Ramsar site 814), and is of great importance, as it represents an ideal habitat for many migratory and resident species in a desert area in the northwest of Mexico. This wetlands form part of the Pacific Flyway of migratory waterfowl in their journey from Canada or the U.S. to the south of the continent, including species such as *Dendroica coronata*, *Tachycineta bicolor*, *Vermivora celata*. Other bird species use it as reproduction and nesting grounds, such as is the case of *Charadrius vociferans* and *Himantopus mexicanus*. This wetlands present several values at a regional level, including the recharge of aquifers in a desert area, the prevention of floods, among others. Agriculture is the main activity undertaken in this area.

### Sistema de Lagunas Interdunarias de la Ciudad de Veracruz

Site number: 1 450 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 140,6 ha | Coordinates: 19°10'N 96°10'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Lagunas Interdunarias de la Ciudad de Veracruz. 02/02/05; Veracruz; 141 ha. 19°10'N 096°10'W. On the periphery of the city of Veracruz and within the city itself, 18 humid dune slacks comprise the site, the largest being Laguna Olmecha with 60 ha. These are rare geomorphologic features that have permanent water but depend entirely of rainfall recharging the aquifers. Communities of jointed flatsedge *Cyperus articulatus*, Frog fruit *Phyla nodiflora*, Cattail *Typha latifolia*, and *Pontederia sagittata* populate the site. Noteworthy fauna include Western grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*, American Coot *Fulica americana*, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* and Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*. Filling or dredging for land reclamation and urbanization are the biggest threats to the lagoons, and many have already disappeared, thus reducing the flood control services the slacks provide for the city. Low water quality is also a concern in most of the lagoons. Foot paths have been constructed along the shores and some restoration work has been carried out, dredging sediments in some of the water bodies. The municipality of Veracruz has recently taken over the management and restoration of the lagoon system. Ramsar site no. 1450. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Sistema Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta

Site number: 951 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Magdalena  
Area: 400 000 ha | Coordinates: 10°45'N 74°29'W | Designation dates: 18-06-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta. 18/06/98; Magdalena; 400,000 ha; 10°45'N 074°29'W. The site is a coastal estuarine system with 20 lagoons of varying salinity, with several rivers running through the area and extensive zones of mangroves. The site is important for its mangrove ecosystem, which is the largest on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. It also serves as habitat and winter breeding ground for several bird species, has at least two endemic bird species, and is also a spawning ground for many fish species. Part of the site is state-owned, while a large area is privately-owned and commercial fishing is important for the community around it. Shellfish and crayfish are also harvested in the area, while the higher zones are used for agriculture. Ecotourism is being developed in the protected area. Ramsar site no. 951. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Sistema de Represas y Corredores biológicos de la Cuenca Hidrográfica del Río Necaxa

Site number: 1 796 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Hidalgo, Puebla  
Area: 1 541,4 ha | Coordinates: 20°09'N 98°03'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema de Represas y Corredores biológicos de la Cuenca Hidrográfica del Río de Necaxa. 02/02/2008; Hidalgo and Puebla; 1,541 ha; 20° 09' N 98° 04' W. Located in the central area of the Mexican Republic, this site is composed by 5 dams which are part of the Necaxa River Basin. This system acts as a corridor for aquatic and semiaquatic waterfowl such as *Casmerodius albus*, *Egretta thula*, *Egretta caerulea*, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, *Ceryle torquata*, *Chloroceryle americana*, among others. It also supports endangered species listed in the Mexican normative such as *Cyathia mexicana* and *Litobathes (Rana) pueblae*. The main land use consists in water storage for electric energy production, and at a minor scale, forestry activities are practiced around the dams. The site is contained in the Natural Resources Protection Area Zona Protectora Forestal Vedada Cuenca Hidrográfica del Río Necaxa.

## Sistema Estuarino Boca del Cielo

Site number: 1 770 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 8 931 ha | Coordinates: 15°48'N 93°35'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Estuarino Boca del Cielo. 02/02/08; Chiapas; 8,931 ha; 15°48'N 93°35'W. Marine Turtle Reserve. Coastal wetland with predominantly dune and coastal brush vegetation. The site is important for the spawning of three endangered turtle species: *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, and *Chelonia agassizi*. The marshes and channels are strongly influenced by mangrove vegetation, including *Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* and *Conocarpus erecta*. The system supports endangered and threatened species of migratory and resident birds, and commercial and subsistence fishing is practiced along the beaches. The main threats include the plundering of turtle nests, pollution of the spawning zones, the construction of infrastructure and tourist development, tropical depressions, thunderstorms, and hurricanes that lead to flooding. Environmental education and public awareness programs are developed through a project for the conservation and protection of marine turtles. Ramsar site no. 1770. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Sistema Estuarino Puerto Arista

Site number: 1 823 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 62 138,5 ha | Coordinates: 16°00'N 93°53'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Estuarino Puerto Arista. 02/02/2008; Chiapas; 62,138 ha; 16°00' N 93°39'W. This estuarine system is a natural coastal wetland. The main flora species includes *Pithecellobium dulce*, *Coccoloba caracasana*, *Acanthocercus pentagonus*, *Bursera excelsa*, among others. In the estuarine zone, 4 mangrove species can be found (*Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* y *Conocarpus erecta*). Its beaches are used as nesting grounds by the endangered marine turtles: *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Chelonia agassizi*. The presence of juveniles of *Eretmochelys imbricata* *bissa* has also been registered in the site. The site is considered an Important Bird Area (IBA), and supports many resident and migratory waterfowl such as *Recurvirostra americana*, *Tringa flavipes*, *Tringa melanoleuca*, *Calidris minutilla*. The main activities undertaken are fishing of subsistence, touristic activities, as well as furtive use of marine turtles that use this area for nesting.

## Sistema Hidrológico de Soncor del Salar de Atacama

Site number: 876 | Country: Chile | Administrative region: Antofagasta  
Area: 67 133 ha | Coordinates: 23°18'S 68°10'W | Designation dates: 02-12-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Hidrológico de Soncor del Salar de Atacama. 02/12/96; Antofagasta Region; 67,133 ha; 23° 18' S, 68° 10' W. Located in the catchment area of Salar de Atacama, this site is characteristic for presenting a crust of different types of salts, mainly chlorides and sulphates. There is also a hydrological system conformed by a series of superficial channels and lagoons, that together constitute a perfect habitat for waterfowl, many of which are endangered such as the three High Andean flamingo species *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* y *Phoenicoparrus andinus*. This last species is found in the Barros Negros, Chxas and Puillar Lagoons of this site, being their most important reproductive center in the World. These lagoons also represent an important area for resting for inter-hemispheric waterfowl in their migration, such as the species *Calidris bairdii*, *Steganopus tricolor*, among others. Sistema Hidrológico de Soncor is located in the National Reserve Los Flamencos, and the main land use focuses in the conservation of natural resources, the public use and recreation in natural spaces. Among the negative impacts that affect this area are the following: uncontrolled tourism, use of underground water for the production of non-metallic mining activities, and the extraction of flamingo eggs. The site is included in the Participative Management Plan of the National Reserve Los Flamencos, and falls under the Management Category IV of IUCN (Habitat/Species Management Area). Last update: 2010.

## Sistema Lacustre de Chingaza

Site number: 1 782 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Cundinamarca  
Area: 4 058 ha | Coordinates: 04°30'N 73°45'W | Designation dates: 25-06-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lacustre de Chingaza. 25/06/08; Cundinamarca; 4,058 ha; 04°30'N 073°45'W. Parque Nacional. A complex of lagoons and wetlands that supply water to the capital city, Bogotá. Located in the Northern Colombian Andes between 3,050 and 3,950m a.s.l., this region supports one of the dampest páramos of the country and is a center of particular endemism which has been the refuge for more than 400 flora species and 500 fauna species, some of them endangered and others which have not yet been totally identified. The complex is formed by 20 lagoons and is of great importance for migratory birds. Among the species found under special protection, at national as well as international levels, the following mammals are noteworthy: *Tremactus ornatus*, *Mazama rufina bricenni*, *Tapirus pinchaque* and *Tapirus terrestris*, and among the flora: *Espeletia grandiflora*, *Podocarpus oleifolius*, and the palm genus *Xeroxylum*. The site is within the boundaries of the Chingaza National Natural Park, designated in 1977. The high andean lakes also have great pre-colombian ceremonial significance. Ramsar site no. 1782. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Sistema Lacustre Ejidos de Xochimilco y San Gregorio Atlapulco

Site number: 1 363 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Distrito Federal  
Area: 2 657 ha | Coordinates: 19°17'N 99°04'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lacustre Ejidos de Xochimilco y San Gregorio Atlapulco. 02/02/04; Distrito Federal; 2,657 ha; 19°17'N 099°04'W. Protected area; World Heritage Site. A remaining ecosystem of the Mexico valley surrounded by the urban growth of Mexico City, consisting of seasonal freshwater lakes feeding from groundwater deposits, the site maintains today the cultural traditions of chinampas (crops in the wetlands). Vegetation is mainly of cattail *Typha latifolia*, bulrush *Schoenoplectus americanus*, the invasive water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, and trees such as *Salix bonplandiana*. The vulnerable Axolotl Salamander *Ambystoma mexicanum* inhabits the site, as well as other threatened or endemic species of reptiles, amphibians and birds. Water levels in the aquifers are being depleted, thus causing the terrain to sink and the soil to dry. Eutrophication, pollution, silting, salinization and invasive species are putting pressure on the site, not to mention the impacts of the surrounding urban environment. During weekends, thousands of tourist draw to the site for rides in typical boats (trajineras). A management plan is due to be ready in 2004. Ramsar site no. 1363. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Sistema Lacustre Lagunas del Compadre

Site number: 2 086 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: El Oro, Loja y Zamora Chinchipe  
Area: 28 115 ha | Coordinates: 04°12'S 79°06'W | Designation dates: 15-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lacustre Lagunas del Compadre. 15/12/2012; Loja, Zamora Chinchipe; 23,952 ha; 04°12'26"S 079°06'10"W. National Park, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A lake system formed by 50 glacial lagoons located in the central portion of the National Park Podocarpus. The site is source of some rivers of local importance, as well as of the bi-national basin Catamayo-Chira and the Zamora basin. This type of lagoon system and its vegetation can be found exclusively in the southern part Ecuador and the immediate Peruvian Andean region. This high Andean region has the highest index of mammalian endemism in the country, particularly the *Tapirus pinchaque* and *Tremarctos ornatus*. The avifauna of the site is represented by Andean species adapted to high altitudes. Among others, there are some relevant species that are also considered in the IUCN Red List, such as *Buthraupis wetmorei*, *Doliornis remseni*, *Neblina Metallata* (*Metalura odomae*), *Coeligena iris*, *Montain Caracara* (*Phalacrocorax megalopterus*), and migratory boreal birds like the Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). The Ramsar Site is part of the nucleus zone of the Podocarpus-El Cóndor UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (2007). Ramsar Site no. 2086. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Sistema Lacustre Playitas-Moyúa-Tecomapa

Site number: 1 980 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Matagalpa  
Area: 1 161 ha | Coordinates: 12°36'N 86°03'W | Designation dates: 29-06-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lacustre Playitas-Moyúa-Tecomapa. 29/06/11; Matagalpa; 1,161 ha; 12°35'47"N 086°02'48"W. Comprises a permanent lake and two seasonal freshwater lakes, intermittent rivers, swamps, and the flooded agricultural lands that surround them. The site is among the 10 most important wetlands in Nicaragua due to its hydrological importance as the only surface water reservoir in one of the driest areas of the country, which also ensures its biological importance as it supports a diversity of mammals, reptiles, fish, and birds. Migratory species include the blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*), which uses the site as a rest area, endangered species according to IUCN Red List as *lignum-vitae* (*Guaicum sanctum*), and fish species representative of the region. In addition, the site supports important activities for the population such as fisheries and agriculture. Among the main factors which could adversely affect the site's ecological character are the extraction of water for livestock and agriculture, overfishing, and poaching, among others. The site has a management and development plan approved in 2006. Ramsar Site no. 1980. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Sistema Lacustre Yacuri

Site number: 2 087 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Loja, Zamora Chinchipe  
Area: 27 762 ha | Coordinates: 04°38'S 79°21'W | Designation dates: 15-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A lake system is formed by 48 glacial lagoons that are mainly located in the southern part of the National Park Yacuri and continue into the Peruvian Andean region. The site is associated with unique paramo ecosystems formed by elfin forests, bamboo areas, shrubs and grasslands. Together with other high mountain ecosystems, it supports many threatened species, such as *Tremarctos ornatus*, *Tapirus pinchaque*, *Puma concolor* and *Pudu mephistophilus*. Its ecological peculiarities permit it to host a paramo vegetation that is unique to the region. These ecosystems provide shelter to a wide range of endemic species threatened by the continuous habitat loss in the region, such as *Penelope barbata*, *Leptosittaca branickii*, *Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops* and *Doliornis remseni*; it also supports endemic vegetation like *Baleriana aretioides* and *Neurolepis nana*. The Ramsar Site is part of the nucleus zone of the UNESCO Podocarpus-El Cóndor Biosphere Reserve Podocarpus-El Cóndor.

## Sistema Lagunar Agiabampo - Bacorehuis - Río Fuerte Antiguo

Site number: 1 797 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sonora, Sinaloa  
Area: 90 804,4 ha | Coordinates: 26°10'N 109°14'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lagunar Agiabampo Bacorehuis Río Fuerte Antiguo. 02/02/08; Sonora; 90,804 ha; 26° 12' N and 109° 14' W. This estuarine system is located in the coastal area south of the state of Sonora and to the north of the state of Sinaloa, with direct communication with the Gulf of California. It consists of five bodies of water, almost all linked to each other, sharing a single opening to the Gulf of California, as well as sharing two bays and many estuaries. In the bodies of water there is no important freshwater supply, except for the Agiabampo Bacorehuis lagoon, which is important because it is surrounded, as well as the estuaries, by Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), Black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), White mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*) and Buttonwood mangrove (*Conocarpus erectus*). Agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism are economic activities that are practiced in the area and have negative impacts on the site, posing a threat to the biodiversity of the area. The site is located in the migratory pathway of various species of birds, providing them food and protection; it is also an area of refuge, feeding and growth for aquatic species such as crustaceans, fish, mollusks and marine mammals. The resident and migratory birds are represented by seventy species of which nine are endangered. The site is proposed as a priority area for conservation by Ducks Unlimited and is considered an Important Bird Area (IBA).

### Sistema Lagunar Alvarado

Site number: 1 355 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Veracruz  
Area: 267 010 ha | Coordinates: 18°39'N 95°51'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lagunar Alvarado. 02/02/04; Veracruz; 267,010 ha; 18°39'N 095°51'W. A lagoon and estuarine complex comprising several coastal brackish lagoons, more than 100 interior lagoons and parts of the Papaloapan, Acula, Blanco and Limón rivers. The site features representative and diverse ecosystems of the coastal plain of the Gulf of Mexico, such as coastal dunes, reedbeds of *Cyperus* spp., cattail *Typha* spp., palm forests of *Sabal mexicana*, *Scheelea liebmanni* *Acrocomia mexicana*, oak forests of *Quercus oleoides*; *apompales* (*Pachira aquatica*); and large mangrove forests. It is regarded as the most important site for the American Manatee *Trichechus manatus* in Veracruz. Siltation, agricultural expansion, mangrove cutting and extensive cattle raising are threatening the site, as are increases in fish catch and the use of banned fishing nets. The area is highly regarded as of conservation priority and listed as an Important Bird Area. The Biological Research Institute of the Universidad Veracruzana has carried out several research activities in the area. Ramsar site no. 1355. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

### Sistema Lagunar Ceuta

Site number: 1 824 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 14 973 ha | Coordinates: 24°01'N 107°04'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lagunar Ceuta. 02/02/2008; Sinaloa; 1,497 ha; 24°01'N 107°04'W. Located in the North West of Mexico, this system is formed by several lagoon complexes and marshes and has an important extension of mangrove vegetation including the following species: *Conocarpus erecta*, *Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Avicennia germinans*. It is considered a Site of Regional Importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) in Mexico, supporting populations of: *Calidris mauri* 20,000, *Phalaropus tricolor* 15,000, *Recurvirostra americana* 15,000, *Charadrius alexandrinus* 650, and *Sterna maxima* 2,500. Its beaches are used by the Leatherback turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) as a nesting ground. The main activities undertaken in the site are fishing, aquaculture and agriculture. The site is also found under the Sanctuary category at a national level.

### Sistema Lagunar de Tisma

Site number: 1 141 | Country: Nicaragua | Administrative region: Mun. de Tipitapa, Granada, Tisma  
Area: 16 850 ha | Coordinates: 12°04'N 85°56'W | Designation dates: 08-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lagunar de Tisma. 08/11/01; Managua, Granada; 16,850 ha; 12°04'N 085°56'W. A number of small lake, marsh, and river shore ecosystems associated with the northwest shores of Lake Nicaragua. The sites supplies water for cattle grazing, rice cultivation, and irrigation of pastures, recharges groundwater and assists in flood control, retains sediments and contaminants, and supports a number of species of migratory birds. Inhabitants of the site benefit by meat and fish and derive fiber materials for the fabrication of handkerchiefs, mats, fans, and other handicrafts. Rice cultivation and resulting alterations of water level and agrochemical effects have a direct impact upon the site. The Audobon Society Nicaragua and the IUCN Mesoamerica Office assisted in preparation of the designation and in the ongoing development of a management plan, with support from the government. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Sistema Lagunar Estuarino Agua Dulce - El Ermitaño

Site number: 1 825 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Jalisco  
Area: 1 281,4 ha | Coordinates: 20°00'N 105°30'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Lagunar Estuarino Agua Dulce El Ermitaño. 02/02/2008; Jalisco; 1,281 ha; 20°0'N 105°30'W. This lagoon system is considered as the main coastal water body of the State of Jalisco, and is composed by two water bodies: Agua Dulce Lagoon and El Ermitaño Estuary, interconnected with a channel constructed in the 60s, with floodgates that regulate the entrance from the estuary to the lagoon. 95 species of waterfowl has been reported in the site, of which 69 species are migratory and 26 resident of this system and its surroundings, playing an important role for the reproduction, nesting, and feeding grounds for these species. This system is also home to species found under special protection according to the Mexican normative, such as *Heloderma horridum*, *Iguana iguana* and *Crocodylus acutus*, as endangered, and *Branta bernicla*, *Anas platyrhynchos* y *Nomonyx dominicus*, as threatened. Three new species for the coast of Jalisco have been observed in the lagoon: *Melanitta perspicillata*, *Branta bernicla* and *Anas penelope*. The main threats that negatively affect this system include: the diversion of water for agricultural purposes, the use of agrochemicals in the surrounding crops, sewage water coming from rivers which supply the estuary, and deforestation. The main activities undertaken are fishing and tourism. The site is located next to the Marine Turtle Sanctuary El Playón de Mismaloya.

### Sistema Lagunar San Ignacio - Navachiste - Macapule

Site number: 1 826 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Sinaloa  
Area: 79 872,9 ha | Coordinates: 25°26'N 108°48'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema lagunar San Ignacio-Navachiste-Macapule. 02/02/08; Sinaloa; 79,873 ha. 25°26' N 108°48' W. This coastal/lagoon system is situated in the Gulf of California and is habitat to 21 endangered species and considered of great importance for maintaining biological diversity. 87 species of terrestrial and halofitic plants have been registered. The mangroves found in the site are *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Avicennia germinans* y *Rizophora mangle*. Among the noteworthy fauna found in this site are the dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*, sea lion *Zalophus californianus* and three marine turtles (*Chelonia agassizii*, *Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Lepidochelys olivacea*). It is considered an Important Bird Area (IBA), supporting nesting species such as *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* and *Fregata magnificens* and other species such as *Ardea herodias herodias*, *Cathartes aura*, *Pandión haliaetus* and *Caracara cheriway*. Traditional fishing and shrimp farming (species *Litopenaeus stylirostris*, *L. vanamei*, *Farfantepenaeus californiensis* and *F. brevisrostris*) are the main activities undertaken in the site.

### Sistema Ripario de la Cuenca y Estero de San José del Cabo

Site number: 1 827 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Baja California Sur  
Area: 124 219 ha | Coordinates: 23°03'N 109°41'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sistema Ripario de la Cuenca y Estero de San José del Cabo. 02/02/2008; Baja California Sur; 124,219 ha; 23°03'N 109°42'W. This ecosystem is of great relevance for the region, from an hydric as well as a biological perspective, as it supports a great number of unique flora species which constitute important corridors and refuges for wildlife. Among this unique flora species found in the riparian system are *Washingtonia robusta* and *Erythra brandegeei* endemic of Baja California; *Populus brandegeei* var *glabra* endemic of Sierra La Laguna, as well as *Prunus serotina*, *Ilex brandegeana*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* y *Salix lasiolepis*. One of the main characteristics of the site is the presence of the San Jose oasis and the estuary of the same name, as it constitutes one of the greatest epicontinental environments of the Baja California Peninsula, and the only one of its type in the Cabo Region. The characteristic vegetation of this estuarine system is formed by typical oasis species such as palms and aquatic species. It plays an important role for migratory species, as it is the last resting stop for aquatic bird species migrating to areas in the south of Mexico, Central America or South America. A total of 217 species of waterfowl have been registered in the site, of which 97 are migratory, and 19 considered under a risk category, such as the *Sterna antillarum browni*. For the role it plays for birds, this estuary has been recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The biggest threat the site undergoes is mainly due to a big touristic Project in Puerto Los Cabos, 800 meters away from the water body. Another threat is the introduction of invasive species such as the *Tilapia* (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*). Since 1994, this site is considered an Area Subject to Ecological Conservation.

### Site Bioculturel d'Antrema

Site number: 2 286 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région de Boeny  
Area: 20 620 ha | Coordinates: 15°46'S 46°07'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is on the north-western coast of Madagascar and consists of permanent and temporary lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and intertidal areas, and mangrove habitats. The wetland-forest complex supports 220 plant species indigenous to Madagascar, with an endemic rate of 76%; there are also five endemic lemur species, 18 species of reptile and three of amphibians. 70 bird species have been recorded including 23 species of waterbirds, of which three are endangered (*Ardeola idae*, *Threskiornis bernieri* and *Ardea humbloti*). The water bodies are home to 21 species of fish grouped in 16 families, of which two are endemic: *Pachypanchax arnoulti* and *Paratilapia polleni*. The Site provides food, water and non-food items, and multiple other services to local communities. It is also recognized for its cultural and spiritual importance. Lemurs are considered sacred by the entire indigenous community, and this helps ensure the sustainability of the Site and its ecosystems. However, the erosion of denuded land has caused lakes to dry up and has had adverse impacts on the functioning of wetland habitats.

### Site Ramsar des Monts Birougou

Site number: 1 654 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ngounié, Ogooué-lolo  
Area: 536 800 ha | Coordinates: 01°58'S 12°17'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Site Ramsar des Monts Birougou. 02/02/07; Ngounié, Ogooué-lolo; 536,800 ha; 001°58'S 012°17'E. National Park. Comprising forests, swamps, savannah, falls, caves, valleys, and mountainous zones between 800 and 900m, which are the source of the Nyanga and Ngounié rivers and their main tributaries. The woody and non-woody products of the forest provide resources for feeding, building, clothing and construction of artistic objects. The diversity of this ecosystem gives it a rich flora as well as one of the most remarkable faunas in Africa. Primates are dominant, with about 20 different species found in the Birougou Mountains. The endangered Gorilla (*Gorilla g. gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), the vulnerable sun-tailed monkey (*Cercopithecus solatus*), mandril (*Mandrillus sphinx*), the West African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), the forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) and the savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*), amongst others, are found here. The area is noted for its cultural and religious value in the country. Fishing with chemical products, over-exploitation of forest and mining practiced on the outskirts pose a threat. In the absence of a management plan, the Advisory Council for National Parks in Gabon is making plans for putting in place certain management activities such as evaluation of land use zones by the population and sensitization of local administrative authorities and the population on national parks. Ramsar site no. 1654. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Site Ramsar du Complexe W

Site number: 1 668 | Country: Benin  
| Administrative region: Le site Ramsar du complexe W est localisé à l'extrême nord du pays dans le département de l'Alibori.  
Area: 926 927 ha | Coordinates: 11°41'N 02°41'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site includes the National Park of W of Benin and other protected areas, as well as the free zones between the Park and the Niger River (which offer customary use rights to inhabitants). It is bordered by Burkina Faso and Niger with which it shares the W-Arly-Pendjari transboundary Ramsar Site established in 2018. The Site has a diverse and rugged landscape featuring rivers, ponds, meadows and floodplains, gallery forests and savannah. It hosts the most important savannah population of the African elephant in West Africa, as well as cheetah. Its vegetation is characterized by vulnerable plant species such as African rosewood *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Significant numbers of waterbirds have been recorded, and the floodplains of the rivers Niger, Mékrou and Alibori offer a breeding ground and passage zone for fish species such as *Distichodus rostratus*. The Site helps to ensure water availability and quality by receiving and filtering surface water runoff, recharging groundwater, trapping sediment and controlling flooding. It is also important for tourism, environmental education and fish production, and it includes traditionally sacred sites such as the Koudou Falls. Threats to the Site include poaching, illegal farming and grazing, toxic fishing methods and bush fires. Management and restoration plans are currently being implemented, with monitoring of key animals and plants and of the hydrological regime.

### Site Ramsar Ntokou-Pikounda

Site number: 2 079 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Sangha, Cuvette  
Area: 427 200 ha | Coordinates: 00°10'N 16°17'E | Designation dates: 08-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Site Ramsar Ntokou-Pikounda. 18/09/2012; Sangha, Cuvette; 427,200 ha; 0°10'15"N 16°16'50"E. A complex of permanent freshwater rivers and lakes surrounded by marshes, trees, shrubs and ponds. The diverse habitat types favour a rich biodiversity including several IUCN Red-Listed species such as Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Western lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and Central Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*). The site serves as refuge to several migrating waterbirds, and it supports above 180 fish species and several plant species with great economic value for the local population, who harvest and trade on non-timber forest products and carry out subsistence agriculture, fishing and hunting. It is very important in maintaining the general hydrological balance of the Congo basin and ensuring ground water recharge. In addition to its economic and hydrological values, it is of great cultural, historical and religious value to the resident population. The site is mostly threatened by invasive exotic aquatic plant species, destructive fishing techniques, agriculture by burning, and poaching. Ramsar site no. 2079. Most recent RIS information 2012.

### Site Ramsar Odzala Kokoua

Site number: 2 080 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Sangha, Cuvette-Ouest  
Area: 1 300 000 ha | Coordinates: 00°56'N 14°52'E | Designation dates: 18-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Site Ramsar Odzala Kokoua. 18/09/2012; Cuvette-Ouest, Sangha; 1,300,000 ha; 00°56'00"N 014°52'00"E. National Park. With permanent freshwater rivers surrounded by very dense seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forests and ponds, the site is characterised by semi-evergreen forests, swamp forests, saline marshes, shrubs and a rich savannah forest. The diversity of forest types provide a habitat for a wide range of species including the Lion (*Panthera leo*) and Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), which are savannah species, and forest primates such as the Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and Western lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), all listed in the IUCN Red List of threatened species. It supports 25 families and over 150 species of indigenous fishes and 108 migratory fish species, as well as 1,062 plant species, including several endemic species, usually harvested by the local population for food and trading in nearby towns. The main activities carried out in the site are agriculture, aquaculture, hunting, and harvesting of non-timber forest products. It is also an eco-touristic site and an ecological research ground. Ramsar site no. 2080. Most recent RIS information 2012.

### Site Ramsar Vallée du Niari

Site number: 2 081 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Niari, Bouenza, Kouilou  
Area: 1 581 000 ha | Coordinates: 03°47'S 12°30'E | Designation dates: 18-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Site Ramsar Vallée du Niari. 18/09/2012; Niari; 1,581,000 ha; 03°47'S 012°30'E. A complex of permanent freshwater rivers and lakes surrounded by seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forests. It supports a rich diversity of plant and animal species including several IUCN Red-Listed species such as the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Western lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*). It is a migrating path for over 200 waterbird species and serves as a spawning ground and food source for several fish species. Its main hydrological functions include groundwater recharge, flood control, shoreline stabilisation, and sediment trapping. Ecotourism activities, especially bird-watching, are currently being developed in the site. It is of great cultural value to the resident population, who depend on fishing, hunting, agriculture and harvesting of forest products for a source of livelihood. The site is threatened by slash and burn agriculture and wood logging. This has promoted the current development of a management plan for its exploitation. Ramsar site no. 2081. Most recent RIS information 2012.

### Sjaunja

Site number: 32 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 181 333 ha | Coordinates: 67°23'N 19°26'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site in the mountainous area of northern Sweden includes a wide range of habitats such as primeval western taiga and mountain birch woodland, alpine heaths, grasslands, open marshes, mineral-rich and alkaline fens, and over 150 lakes. The central part of the Site is dominated by one of the largest mire complexes in Europe, which is composed mainly of string mires and palsa mires. Landscape features include moraine ridges, fluvio-glacial channels, and tundra polygons. The Site supports flora and fauna representative of the Alpine and Boreal regions. More than 150 species of birds and 25 mammal species are supported by the Site, with over 100 breeding and 50 wetland birds, including the nationally red-listed ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, red-throated pipit *Anthus cervinus* and gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*. Other notable species include brown bear *Ursus arctos*, lynx *Lynx lynx*, wolverine *Gulo gulo* and otter *Lutra lutra* and the nationally endangered snowy owl *Bubo scandiacus*. Some parts of the Site are used for sport fishing, hunting, canoeing, birdwatching, and hiking. Archaeological sites in the eastern part of the Ramsar Site exhibit remains from hunter-gatherer societies as well as reindeer husbandry. The reserve is an important reindeer foraging area and several former settlers' homes are used today as holiday homes. A place of sacrifice of Sami origin is also located close to the Leáffasáiva Lake. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to canalization and water regulation linked to hydropower plants, which may affect some of the streams and lakes. The Naturum visitor centre is located within the Site and associated with the World Heritage Site. There are management plans for the two nature reserves which overlap with the Ramsar Site, Sjaunja and Stubba.

### Skadarsko Jezero

Site number: 784 | Country: Montenegro | Administrative region: Montenegro  
Area: 20 000 ha | Coordinates: 42°12'N 19°17'E | Designation dates: 13-12-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Skadarsko Jezero. 15/12/95; Montenegro; 20,000 ha; 42°12'N 019°17'E. National Park; Ornithological Reserve, Scientific Reserve. A natural freshwater lake of tectonic-karst origin, supporting a lush wetland vegetation of various reed, sedge and willow species. The site includes woodlands and sub-Mediterranean communities. The diverse fauna includes endemic invertebrates, numerous fish species, and mammals. The site is important for nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds of various species, some of which are globally threatened. Large numbers of waterbirds occur during spring migration. Human activities include fishing, hunting and poaching. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2005. Ramsar site no. 784. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Skälderviken

Site number: 1 127 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Skåne  
Area: 1 463 ha | Coordinates: 56°14'N 12°44'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes a shallow coastal bay in south-western Sweden and its adjacent shoreline consisting of grazed meadows, a few islands, sand dunes and shoals, and two small river mouths (Vegeån and Görslövsån). The Site is an important spawning ground, nursery, and feeding area, especially for the Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus*, the Atlantic cod *Gadus morhua* and flatfish species, and is classified as nationally important for commercial fishing. It is important for breeding, migrating, and wintering water birds including a number of nationally vulnerable species such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* and the common kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. The scenic beauty of the area makes it popular for recreation and tourism; one of the shoals is commonly used for bathing and some areas for angling. Increasing disturbance from human activities has had a severe effect on birds, while inadequate grazing of the meadows has possibly contributed to the reduction in the number of breeding waders and ducks.

## Sklinna

Site number: 1 953 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag County  
Area: 589 ha | Coordinates: 65°12'N 10°58'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sklinna is a small archipelago which consists of several small islands with rocky shores, divided by shallow water. The main island in the archipelago is Heimøya. The archipelago as a whole is an important site for seabirds, especially in early summer. The most numerous bird species are the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (1,350 pairs), European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (2,000 pairs, or 2% of the population found in this biogeographic region) and the great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (895 pairs; 1.5% of the regional population). Furthermore, it is a breeding area for nationally red-listed bird species such as the common guillemot *Uria aalge* and the Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* as well as for wintering seabirds. Gull and cormorant droppings provide nutrients for plants such as the common scurvy weed *Cochlearia officinalis* and the common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*. Sklinna has a long history of traditional fishing. The Site is also part of a long-term monitoring and mapping programme for Norwegian seabirds since its establishment as a SEAbird POPulations (SEAPOPOP) key site in 2007 and a SEATRACK site in 2014.

## Skocjanske Jame

Site number: 991 | Country: Slovenia | Administrative region: Divaca  
Area: 305 ha | Coordinates: 45°40'N 14°00'E | Designation dates: 21-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Skocjanske jame (Skocjan Caves). 21/05/99; 305 ha; 45°40'N 014°00'E. World Heritage Site, Important Bird Area. The site is a karst underground water cave system with typical karst phenomena and features developed at the contact between permeable and impermeable rocks and in limestones. It provides habitat to numerous endemic (crustacean species, cave beetles) and endangered animal species (such as *Miniopterus schreibersi*, one of the rare bat species). The karst grassland is a breeding site for *Apus melba*, *Bubo bubo*, and *Emberiza hortulana*. Human activities include tourism, extensive agriculture, and forestry. Ramsar site no. 991. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Skogvoll

Site number: 1 195 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland  
Area: 5 544 ha | Coordinates: 69°10'N 15°49'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of two separate mire and marine areas. The mire area is one of the most extensive lowland Atlantic mire complexes in Norway, dotted with numerous ponds and lakes. The other half of the Site consists of shallow marine waters, with islets and skerries, tidal zones and a lagoon system with brackish as well as fresh water and rare flora. Wet salt-influenced meadows fringe the shorelines. The marine part of the Site is important as a staging, moulting and wintering area for several threatened species of waterbirds. A large population of the harbour porpoise *Phoca vitulina* breeds on the skerries, and the Site is also an important spawning area for the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and the brown trout *Salmo trutta*. The human impact upon the Site is very limited; its uses include fishing, birdwatching and cloudberry picking.

## Skuvoy

Site number: 2 053 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sandoy  
Area: 1 790 ha | Coordinates: 61°46'N 06°50'W | Designation dates: 31-05-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Skuvoy (Skúvoy and Skúgvoy). 31/05/12; Faroe Islands; 1,790 ha; 61°46'11"N 006°49'46"W. Important Bird Area. Grassy slopes and sea cliffs provide breeding habitat for large concentrations of up to 280,000 pairs of seabirds. The site hosts the Faroe Islands' largest colony of Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* with an estimated 10,000 pairs and Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* with 96,000 individuals. Moreover 12,000 pairs of Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, 50,000 pairs of Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, and 40,000 pairs of Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* can be found in the site. Bird species of European importance include the European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* and the Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. Great Skua and Arctic Skua also feed along the coast. Human uses include hay making, agriculture, sheep pastures, fishing, research and tourism. Traditional seabird hunting and chick collection of Manx Shearwater is still practiced to some extent. Monitoring data indicate a decline in breeding success and bird numbers. Potential factors of threat include the possible introduction of rats to the island, tourism-related disturbance of bird colonies, as well as climate related ecological changes. Ramsar Site no. 2053. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Slano Kopovo

Site number: 1 392 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina Province

Area: 976 ha | Coordinates: 45°38'N 20°13'E | Designation dates: 14-05-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Slano Kopovo. 22/07/04; Vojvodina; 976 ha; 45°38'N 020°13'E. Special Nature Reserve; IBA. The site, left over from the draining of an ancient meander of the Tisza River, is a rare and representative example of salt habitats but presents also, on its eastern side, a smaller freshwater depression. It is one of Serbia's most important bird habitats and regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds, breeding and migrating. It is especially suitable for cranes, ducks, geese and shorebirds and supports a significant number of vulnerable, threatened and critically endangered species such as *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Anser erythropus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Falco naumanni*, *Otis tarda*, the rodent *Spermophilus citellus*, and plant communities such as the rare *Thero-Salicornietea* specific to salty grounds. The area is threatened by a decrease in water level, as the drying up of the depressions during summer and autumn is becoming more frequent, caused chiefly by the development of a channel web and dam construction on the Tisza which has lowered the level of the underground waters. Other negative factors are plowing of pastures, use of chemicals and artificial fertilizers for agriculture. Human activities include regulated hunting, livestock husbandry, agriculture, and the use of mud for curing ailments. There is a high potential of scientific research and conservation education. Church remnants from the 9th-11th centuries exist on site. Conservation priorities concern the sanitation and improvement of the water regime. Ramsar Site no. 1392. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh

Site number: 1 158 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland

Area: 1 939 ha | Coordinates: 56°31'N 06°51'W | Designation dates: 16-11-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast). 16/11/01; Scotland; 1,939 ha; 56°30'N 006°52'W. SSSI, SPA EC Directive. The site includes significant portions of a small island west of the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides, consisting of two zones: an intertidal sector comprising rocky shore, sandy bays, and shingle shore, and an inland sector comprising "machair" (sandy coastal) plain, marsh, and wet moorland with one large and several small lochs and numerous pools. The inland areas provide roost sites for internationally important numbers of wintering geese from Greenland and breeding sites for a variety of wader species, whilst the intertidal sectors support similarly significant numbers of wintering wader populations. Several of the lochs support rich aquatic plant communities including a range of nationally scarce and rare species, and the site provides an excellent representative of dune and machair habitats. Sheep and cattle grazing is the main land use of the site; disturbance from ditching and clearance by local crofters is being addressed by management agreements. Features of archaeological and historical interest are mentioned in the datasheets but no details have been provided. Reprint of the RIS. Ramsar site no. 1158. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Slettnes

Site number: 1 196 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Finnmark

Area: 1 230 ha | Coordinates: 71°05'N 28°12'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal lowland plain in the northernmost area of mainland Europe. It consists of treeless meadows with mires, ponds and lakes on the Arctic shore. A number of "fossil" and elevated shorelines several kilometres in length characterize the landscape. The many freshwater bodies create an area of high importance to birdlife, with many species breeding and resting there; it is important across Scandinavia as a breeding area for waders. More than 100 bird species have been recorded, some in unusually high densities, with for example colonies of some 300 pairs of Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Otters also breed at the Site. In addition to the Site's importance for birdlife, it has also some importance as a historical site: it has been inhabited for over 10,000 years. Archaeological remains include foundations of houses, grave sites, and remains of Sami turf huts and old stone fences. The Site is used for research, and for tourism which may cause some disturbance for breeding birds. There is a nature trail and information boards.

## Slieve Beagh

Site number: 1 035 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland

Area: 1 885 ha | Coordinates: 54°21'N 07°12'W | Designation dates: 28-07-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Slieve Beagh. 28/07/00; Northern Ireland; 1,885 ha; 54°21'N 007°12'W. Area of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve. A particularly good and relatively intact example of a blanket bog, featuring occasional well developed hummock and lawn complexes, a few small localized pool complexes, as well as soakways and flushes. The vegetation is characterized by Sphagnum mosses, ericoid dwarf-shrubs and sedges, including amongst the peatland flora a number of rare and unusual species. Potential threats include peat-cutting, past drainage, heavy grazing, excessive burning, and afforestation in adjacent areas, but these are being addressed by means of management agreements with private owners near the site. Ramsar site no. 1035. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Slieve Bloom Mountains

Site number: 335 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Offaly, Laois

Area: 2 230 ha | Coordinates: 53°03'N 07°38'W | Designation dates: 31-07-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Slieve Bloom Mountains. 31/07/86; Offaly, Laois; 2,230 ha; 53°03'N 007°38'W. Biogenetic Reserve; Nature Reserve. The largest and most intact area of mountain blanket bog known in Ireland. Features include areas of well-developed hummock, hollow and pool systems. Vegetation consists of a dwarf shrub and herb layer and extensive cover of Sphagnum moss. An absence of rock outcrops limits species and habitat diversity, except in valleys where seepage areas and streams provide increased nutrients. Ramsar site no. 335.

### Small Island of Braila

Site number: 1 074 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Braila county  
Area: 17 586 ha | Coordinates: 44°58'N 27°55'E | Designation dates: 15-06-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Small Island of Braila. 15/06/01; Braila; 17,586 ha; 44°58'N 027°55'E. Natural Reserve. A group of wetlands in the Lower Danube region, one of the rare areas along the river that has preserved its natural hydrological conditions and which contains a representative sample of habitats characteristic of floodplains as well as a former inland delta. Comprising seven small islands stretching over 61 km between two arms of the Danube just south (upstream) of Braila, Romania's second largest city, the site is of major interest for at least 34 internationally protected bird species, two of which, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (pygmy cormorants) and *Pelecanus crispus*, are considered priorities for LIFE financing, and 65 species of fish. The wetlands perform important hydrological functions, particularly during seasonal inundations, and affect the local microclimate. The adjacent "Big Island of Braila", five times greater in size, was largely drained during the previous political era. Regional management plans in the past have tended toward intensive agriculture and aquaculture, but more recently sustainability has emerged as an objective. Ramsar site no. 1074. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Snaefell and Eyjabakkar Area

Site number: 2 131 | Country: Iceland | Administrative region: Fljótsdalshreppur  
Area: 26 450 ha | Coordinates: 64°43'N 15°32'W | Designation dates: 18-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Snaefell and Eyjabakkar Area (Snaefells- og Eyjabakkasvæðið). 18/02/2013; Norður-Múlasýsla County; 26,450 ha; 64°43'00"N 15°32'00"W. National Park; Habitat/Species Management Area; Nature Reserve. Situated in the northeastern boundaries of the Vatnajökull icecap, in the outwash plain formed by the river Jökulsá í Fljótsda where it flows through the depression to the north of Eyjabakkajökull glacier. Small ponds and lakes, sedge and sandy fens, palsa mires, moist sedge and moss heath are the main habitat types. The site is a key area for moulting of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* during summer. The most common breeding birds of the Eyjabakkar wetlands and surrounding heathlands are Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. There are no major humanmade structures within the reserve area with the exception of the new Fljótsdalsvirkjun power plant. The main land uses within the site are grazing and some tourism. Some of the factors affecting the site's ecological character are soil erosion and global warming, which is reducing glaciers, permafrost and palsa formations. Ramsar Site no. 2131. Most Recent RIS information: 2013.

### Sneekermeergebied

Site number: 1 250 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Friesland  
Area: 2 300 ha | Coordinates: 53°01'N 05°46'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sneekermeer / Goengarijsterpoelen / Terkaplesterpoelen and Akmarijp. 29/08/00. Friesland. 2,300 ha. 53°01'N 005°46'E. SPA. A complex of freshwater lakes, originated from peat extraction activities, and adjoining marshlands and wet meadows. It has been designated as a Ramsar site for its importance for waterbirds - it hosts more than 1% of the respective biogeographic populations of the Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, the White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, and the Wigeon *Anas penelope*. It serves as a drain for the surrounding polders and surplus water is discharged into the Wadden Sea. Part of the water is used for irrigation. Main human uses comprise boating (ca. 1,800 boat docking places), commercial fisheries, tourism, and farming. The most significant threat posed on the site is drainage. Ramsar site no. 1250. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

### Söderskär and Långören Archipelago

Site number: 3 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 18 219 ha | Coordinates: 60°07'N 25°41'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Söderskär & Långören Archipelago. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 18,219 ha; 60°08'N 025°39'E. Natura 2000 SPA, Baltic Sea Protected Areas, Protected Area for Grey Seal. Comprising four main areas, with a total water surface of more than 99%, which freeze during the winter. Different coastal wetland types characterize the areas with small islands and islets in the outer archipelago as well as a low esker island. Most of the islands are treeless, but others are partly overgrown by Common Juniper or characterized by sandy beaches and herb-rich forests or formed by skerries. The bird sanctuary, founded in 1930, is one of the first areas to thaw, making it important for early spring migrants. A major population of Grey Seal stays at the site, with the highest counts reaching more than 200 individuals. The main threats are damage from oil pollution and increased shipping near the area due to the planned harbour of Vuosaari. Intensive boating affects the site as well during summer months. A few small islands of the archipelago are popular birdwatching sites during the migration of arctic waterfowl and waders in May. Ramsar site no. 3. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Solent and Southampton Water

Site number: 965 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 5 415 ha | Coordinates: 50°47'N 01°21'W | Designation dates: 01-10-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Solent and Southampton Water. 01/10/98; England; 5,415 ha; 50°44'N 001°32'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The site is comprised of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reefs, saltmarsh, and reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The site exhibits an "unusual strong double tidal flow" and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It supports internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl (51,361 over the winter) including *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Anas crecca* and *Branta bernicla* *bernicla*, important breeding gull and tern populations, and an impressive assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants. Human activities include tourism, recreation, fishing, marine aquaculture, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 965. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park

Site number: 2 354 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Anguilla  
Area: 1 050,7 ha | Coordinates: 18°35'N 63°26'W | Designation dates: 22-05-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is formed by Sombrero Island, an offshore cay, and the surrounding sea; it lies some 65 kilometres north-west of the mainland of Anguilla. The Island is a remote, flat-topped rocky outcrop, characterized by its karst topography. The sparse vegetation is concentrated on the eastern half. The otherwise-flat Island was once mined for phosphate and is now marked by craters up to ten metres deep. These craters, and the shallower pits formed over time through natural weathering and erosion (particularly along the shoreline) often form shallow pools in which periwinkles and small reef fish can be found, attracting resting and feeding seabirds. The Island was significantly damaged by Hurricane Luis in 1995, but the vegetation is recovering and once more provides important habitat to the endemic Sombrero Island ground lizard *Ameiva corvina*. Over 40 endemic species of insect have been documented. The Island was listed in 2005 as an Important Bird Area for its nesting population of bridled tern *Sterna anaethetus*. Brown booby *Sula leucogaster*, masked booby *Sula dactylatra* and brown noddy *Anous stolidus* also nest there in internationally important numbers.

## Somerset Levels and Moors

Site number: 914 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 6 388 ha | Coordinates: 51°07'N 02°52'W | Designation dates: 26-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Somerset Levels and Moors. 26/06/97; England; 6,388 ha; 51°10'N 002°52'W. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. This inland wetland consists of wet grassland, peat bog, fen, and reedbed. It attracts rare invertebrates, particularly beetles, and internationally important numbers of wildfowl in winter. It supports 73,014 waterfowls, including Vanellus vanellus (0.5% of the population) and Anas crecca (3.3% of the population). The area is used for recreation, fishing, commercial forestry, hunting, and grazing. Ramsar site no. 914. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Somerset Long Bay Pond

Site number: 985 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Somerset Island  
Area: 1 ha | Coordinates: 32°18'N 64°52'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Somerset Long Bay Pond. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 1 ha; 32°17'N 064°51'W. A former tidal swamp that was filled in as a garbage dump and then restored into a brackish to freshwater pond with mangrove islets, separated from the sea by a beach dune. It is a low-lying sandy/peaty back beach area. The site supports Red and Black Mangrove and provides habitat for the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The site is used for tourism. Ramsar site no. 985. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Somyne Swamps

Site number: 2 275 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivnenska Oblast  
Area: 10 852 ha | Coordinates: 51°25'N 26°55'E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Somyne Swamps in north-eastern Ukraine is one of the best-preserved peatlands in the country. The main area of the Site is a large swamp with sedge and sphagnum dominating and sparse forest growth. Other habitats include a lake and a small number of eutrophic swamps, and alder and pine forest swamps. The bog is one of the biggest in the Polesia region of Eastern Europe. It is almost unchanged by land drainage which took place during the Soviet era, and it plays an important role in maintaining the hydrological regime of a large region of western Polesia. It is critically important for wetland, forest and meadow ecosystems and for the biodiversity which they host, including large number of rare species. The Site provides habitats for over 780 native plant species and 580 animal species, including 89 species protected nationally and internationally. The globally threatened greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* regularly breeds on the Site, using small forested islands for nesting and surrounding bogs for feeding. The Site also serves as an important breeding habitat for other wetland-dependent bird species, including the common crane, wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* and great grey owl *Strix nebulosa*.

## Songdo Tidal Flat

Site number: 2 209 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Incheon Metropolitan City  
Area: 611 ha | Coordinates: 37°23'N 126°39'E | Designation dates: 10-07-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Songdo Tidal Flat. 10/07/2014; Incheon; 611 ha; 37°24'26"N 126°35'58"E. Coastal Wetland Protected Area. The Site includes two sections of a larger area of tidal mud flat along the coast of Incheon Metropolitan City, which has a complicated coastline with about 170 large and small islands. It is an important feeding and roosting ground for threatened waterbirds such as endangered black-face spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) as well as the vulnerable far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) and Saunders's gull (*Larus saundersi*). It also regularly supports 1% of the population of the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* as well as of the far eastern curlew. Traditionally, the Site has been used by fishermen and clam collectors, who fish with their bare hands. Major species collected are the surf clam (*Macra veneriformis*), corb shell (*Cyclina sinensis*) and Manila clam (*Ruditapes philippinarum*). Threats to the Site include reclamation and the building of facilities at the adjacent Songdo International City. Ramsar Site no. 2209. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Songor Ramsar Site

Site number: 566 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Greater Accra Region  
Area: 51 133,3 ha | Coordinates: 05°45'N 00°30'E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Songor Ramsar Site is a closed lagoon with inundated mudflats, islands, broad sandy beaches and flood plains associated with the Volta River estuary. It is one of Ghana's wetlands that fall on the boundary of two flyways of water birds, the east Atlantic flyway and the Mediterranean flyway. The main wetland habitats include saline marshes with degraded mangroves, waterlogged grassland, riverine woodland, scattered thickets of shrubs and degraded coastal savannah characterized by farmland, and eroded lands invaded by neem tree, fan palms, silk cotton trees and baobab trees. They serve as ideal feeding and roosting grounds for heron, egret, common greenshank, avocet, stilt, and other small waders and terns estimated at about 50,000 individuals, and as a reproduction site for fish species. The sandy beach plays host to the green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle and the olive ridley sea turtle commonly found along the shores. Communities within the Site are engaged in fishing, farming and intensive salt extraction for their livelihoods. Tourism is another growing economic activity. Potential threats included coastal erosion and siltation.

## Son-Kol Lake

Site number: 1 943 | Country: Kyrgyzstan | Administrative region: Naryn Township

Area: 36 869 ha | Coordinates: 41°50'N 75°07'E | Designation dates: 23-01-2011

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Son-Kol Lake.23/01/2011; Naryn Oblast; 36869ha; 41°50N 75°07E. The Ramsar site includes the Karatal-Japyryk State Nature Reserve.

Son-Kol Lake is the largest high altitude freshwater lake in central Kyrgyzstan. It is valuable both as a stopover point for a high diversity of migratory birds, such as the Black Stock (*Ciconia nigra*), as well as supporting breeding populations of gulls (e.g. *Larus* spp), terns (e.g. *Sterna hirundo*), geese (e.g. *Anser indicus*), and grebes (e.g. *Podiceps nigricollis*). The site also offers refuge for threatened species like the critically endangered Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) and the vulnerable Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*).

The lake is important for maintaining the livelihood of pastoralists and is also a popular camping site for tourists.

Historically, the lake was used as a meeting place for many tribes. The site is archaeologically significant for its burial mounds, stone monuments and stone hearths. Local people consider the lake and its basin as sacred, and often visit this area to pray.

Prior to 1957 the lake was fishless but since then, introduced fish (e.g. *Coregonus peled*) have provided alternative sources of food. However, such introductions have altered the zooplankton composition in the lake which in turn, has affected the number of bird species occurring in the area. Particularly, the decrease in population of the Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) has been attributed to the shortage of food for their juveniles.

The site is jointly managed by the Karatal-Japyryk State Nature Reserve and the State oblast administration. Ramsar site no. 1943. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Sookuninga Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 748 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Pärnu County

Area: 5 869 ha | Coordinates: 58°00'N 24°45'E | Designation dates: 25-01-2006

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A complex of six different raised bog massifs with hummock and hollow complexes as well with numerous pools. The site supports rare, vulnerable and endangered species of birds and plants, some of them occurring in great numbers or densities. Highly endangered and strongly protected are Black Stork, Golden Eagle, Lesser-Spotted Eagle, Great-Spotted Eagle and *Lagopus lagopus* Willow Grouse. The site also supports populations of large mammals including *Canis lupus* Wolf, *Lynx lynx* Lynx, *Ursus arctos* Brown Bear and *Alces alces* Elk. The site plays an important role in the recharge and discharge of groundwater as well maintenance of water quality in southwest Estonia and northwest Latvia. It also has a significant cultural and historical importance for its small scale battle grounds, burials, and war routes. Due to its remote location the area is sparsely inhabited, and the main uses are tied to forestry, berry and mushroom picking, and small-scale hunting - all at comparatively low intensities. Ramsar site no. 1748. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Soomaa

Site number: 912 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Pärnu, Viljandi Counties

Area: 39 639 ha | Coordinates: 58°25'N 25°05'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Soomaa.17/06/97; Pärnu & Viljandi Counties; 39,639 ha; 58°25'N 025°05'E. National Park, Natura 2000 (SCI and SPA), Pan Parks wilderness area, IBA. A valuable wilderness area composed of a bog complex, fens, rivers with floodplain and wooded meadows, surrounded by extensive forests and carrs. The site is subject to annual floods over a vast area and comprises some of the best preserved large bogs in Estonia, with very high species diversity, including 524 species of vascular plants. Numerous species of waterbirds, many of them threatened, use the area for roosting and as a stopover point during autumn migration. 36 species of mammals like Otter *Lutra lutra* and Flying Squirrel *Pteromys volans* occur at the site. The site is important for groundwater recharge, the maintenance of water quality and flood control. Human activities include research, extensive forestry, small-scale agriculture and increasingly nature-based tourism, and a visitor's centre was constructed in 1998 which includes 10 educational trails and viewing towers. The site received the European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) award in 2009. (The site has been extended in 2012 from originally 37,169 ha.) Ramsar Site no. 912. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Sørkapp

Site number: 1 965 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 55 203 ha | Coordinates: 76°34'N 16°34'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, at the southern tip of Spitsbergen, includes shallow, nutrient-rich marine areas, islands, numerous ponds and lakes, streams, small rivers and, further inland, ice-covered mountain ridges. It is characterized by permafrost and erosion by wind, ice and the sea, and mainly covered by intermittent spots of grass. More than 60% of the Sørkapp land territory is still covered by glaciers, despite its climate warming since the beginning of the 20th century. The Svalbard rock ptarmigan *Lagopus muta hyperborea* is the only bird species wintering on land. A few bird species such as the long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* and gulls and auks might occasionally overwinter in areas free of sea ice, but most bird species are migratory. Waders, goose species and seabirds are the dominant groups. 19 species of mammals can be observed in the area, including the Svalbard reindeer *Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus*, the Arctic fox *Vulpes lagopus*, and the polar bear *Ursus maritimus*. The Site's permafrost areas and mires are important carbon reservoirs. There are several cultural heritage sites relating to overwintering Russian (17th century) and Norwegian (19th century) groups, including graves, huts and hunting traps.

## Sotkavuoma Mires

Site number: 1 533 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland

Area: 2 602 ha | Coordinates: 68°20'N 23°17'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sotkavuoma Mire. 02/02/04; Lapland; 2,602 ha; 68°20'N 023°16'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme. Lake Sotkajärvi is the most valuable bird-lake in Northern Lapland as a breeding, molting and staging area. Migrating waterfowl favour it as a staging area and in autumn several hundreds of e.g. Wigeons, Tufted Ducks, Goldeneyes and Goosanders can be observed with tens of e.g. Whooper Swans, Bean Geese and Smews. The site represents the mire vegetation region of northern aapa mires, typically very wet and non-forested. The vegetation zones of several small ponds and two lakes are very extensive with sedge meadows and growths of water horsetail dominating. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the surrounding areas and is permitted also in the Mire Protection Area. As it is a rather wet area the livestock numbers are not high. Hunting of waterfowl occurs in some amount in autumn and has negative effects on the site. Forestry, ditching, extraction of earth material and damaging of soil or bedrock, and construction of new buildings and roads are prohibited in the Mire Protection Area. In general there are no significant numbers of visitors on the site. Ramsar site no. 1533. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands

Site number: 1 043 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bailiwick of Jersey  
Area: 3 210 ha | Coordinates: 49°09'N 02°02'W | Designation dates: 10-11-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands. 10/11/00; Bailiwick of Jersey; 3,210ha; 49°09'N 002°02'W. Amongst the largest intertidal reef sites in Europe, this site 22km off the coast of France comprises various habitats: reefs, boulder fields, mud, sandy and shingle shores not covered by water at low tide, combined with shallow tidal lagoons, seagrass beds and a large number of outlying reefs. The maximum spring tide range of 12m exposes 17.5km<sup>2</sup> of wave cut rock platforms, extensive areas of reef, and a complex system of soft substrate gullies. The site provides important winter habitat for waders and wildfowl and produces a rich and diverse range of biotopes and some uncommon species assemblages. It meets Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 for inclusion in the List - in regard to the Fish Criteria, because of the enormous water exchanges and substrate variability a wide diversity of species and life history stages are present. The flora and fauna is characterized by a number of limit-of-range species at both the northern and southern margins of their distributions. Fishing is of great cultural, social, and traditional importance to the population, and a wide range of non-exploitive recreational activity is very important within the site. Effects of inorganic waste disposal and sewage discharge are seen as potential threats. Ramsar site no. 1043. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

### Southern Bight-Minas Basin

Site number: 379 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Nova Scotia  
Area: 26 800 ha | Coordinates: 45°13'N 64°16'W | Designation dates: 05-11-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Southern Bight-Minas Basin. 05/11/87; Nova Scotia; 26,800 ha; 45°13'N 064°16'W. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve; National Wildlife Area. An estuarine embayment surrounded by uplands interspersed with saltmarshes. High tidal amplitudes expose extensive intertidal sand and mud flats that attract large numbers of various species of staging waterbirds, including Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), *Calidris pusilla* (over 100,000) and *C. minutilla* (up to 10,000). There is unregulated harvesting of polychaetes for the bait fishing business. Ramsar site no. 379. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea

Site number: 689 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Leningrad Oblast  
Area: 6 400 ha | Coordinates: 60°00'N 29°15'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea. 13/09/94; Leningrad Oblast; 6,400 ha; 60°00'N 029°15'E. Nature Reserve. The site comprises a shallow sea bay with reeds, sand and stony beaches. Terrestrial habitats include alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) forests, patches of spruce and pine, and mixed birch-aspen forests. The site is important for numerous species of waterbirds during the spring migration and, to a lesser extent, during the autumn migration and breeding seasons. The site is important as a staging area for large populations of waterbirds, including numerous threatened species. Fishing is the principal human activity. Ramsar site no. 689. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### Southern James Bay

Site number: 367 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 25 290 ha | Coordinates: 51°20'N 80°25'W | Designation dates: 27-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Southern James Bay (Moose River & Hannah Bay). 27/05/87; Ontario; 25,290 ha; 51°20'N 080°25'W. Hannah Bay and Moose River Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. James Bay, a shallow, extension of Hudson Bay, is one of the most important staging areas in northern North America for migratory, Arctic-breeding waterbirds. The area consists of mudflats, intertidal marsh, meadow marsh, fens and bogs and is a late fall staging ground for large numbers of geese, up to 75,000 at one time, and ducks. Substantial numbers of diving sea ducks occur offshore. Ramsar site no. 367. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### South Funen Archipelago

Site number: 156 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Fyn Region  
Area: 38 329 ha | Coordinates: 54°56'N 10°31'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

South Funen Archipelago. 02/09/77; Region Syddanmark; 38,329 ha; 54°55'N 10°32'E. Natura 2000 (SPA,SAC) Nature Conservation Areas, Wildlife Reserves. Shallow coastal waters, uninhabited islands, saltmarshes and reedbeds. The site is an internationally important area for wintering, staging, moulting and breeding of a large number of waterbirds, among them, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Baltic Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*, and Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. The archipelago regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals of the population of Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* and Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Land use within the site is dedicated to farming, grazing and forestry. The major threats affecting the sites ecological character are human disturbance, tourist pressure, eutrophication, drainage for agriculture, and habitat loss. A management plan was issued by the Danish Ministry of the Environment in 2011 and has been implemented. Ramsar site no. 156. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### South Tayside Goose Roosts

Site number: 601 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 331 ha | Coordinates: 56°18'N 03°48'W | Designation dates: 22-04-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

South Tayside Goose Roosts. 22/04/93; Scotland; 331 ha; 56°16'N 003°50'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. The site incorporates three widely separated component sectors consisting of seven permanent, freshwater lakes ("lochs"), numerous smaller water bodies, and various wetland habitats, including one of the largest raised bogs in the region. The lochs provide roost sites for internationally important numbers of wintering geese and for nationally important numbers of nesting ducks. Ramsar site no. 601. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## South Uist Machair & Lochs

Site number: 71 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 5 019 ha | Coordinates: 57°19'N 07°23'W | Designation dates: 05-01-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

South Uist Machair and Lochs. 05/01/76; Scotland; 5,019 ha; 57°19'N 007°20'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. A complex site that includes inland, marine and coastal wetlands on the west coast of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides, with outstanding examples of relict woodland, moorland, blanket bog, freshwater marsh, salt marsh, coastal dunes, and sandy rock shores. Part of the largest "machair" (sandy coastal plain) system in the British Isles. Coastal dunes with dune slacks grade into the machair plain consisting of shallow, nutrient-rich lochs, associated fens and marshes. The site is important for wintering and breeding waterfowl such as Anser anser (4.8% of the breeding population) and Charadrius hiaticula (2.5% of the breeding population). The machair is used for traditional rotational cultivation and grazing, as well as for nature conservation, tourism, and recreation. Extended on 01/12/97 from the Ramsar site Loch Druidibeg, Loch a'Machair & Loch Stilligarry, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Ramsar site no. 71. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## South West London Waterbodies

Site number: 1 038 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 828 ha | Coordinates: 51°27'N 00°30'E | Designation dates: 09-10-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

South West London Waterbodies. 09/10/00. England. 828 ha. 51°24'N 000°23'E. SSSI, SPA. Comprises a number of reservoirs and former gravel pits in the Thames Valley adjacent to Heathrow Airport between Windsor and Hampton Court which support internationally important numbers of Gadwall *Anas strepera* and Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (Criterion 6). Potential future decommissioning of reservoirs once they are no longer needed for water supply may eventually require discussions with the current owners. Threats from potential urban development pressures are felt to be covered by existing regulations. Disturbance from recreational activities in parts of the site in winter months will be monitored. Ramsar site no. 1038. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Ślowiński National Park

Site number: 757 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Pomorskie  
Area: 32 744 ha | Coordinates: 54°43'N 17°18'E | Designation dates: 24-10-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ślowiński National Park covers a 33-kilometre stretch of the Baltic coast near the town of Łeba, and includes a two-mile-wide belt of shallow coastal waters. The Site boasts a wide range of strikingly diverse habitats ranging from sand beaches, notable "moving dunes", lakes, mires, meadows and forests, and these and the transitional "ecotones" between them support a wealth of biodiversity. Within the Site there are at least 25 bird species listed in Annex 1 of the European Union Birds Directive, of which 15 are listed in the Polish national red list, including *Aegolius funereus*, *Asio flammeus*, *Botaurus stellaris* and *Philomachus pugnax*. During winter the unfrozen mouths of the Łeba and Łupawa rivers provide favourable conditions for 73 wintering bird species, and during spring and autumn the lakes become very important foraging and resting sites for waterbird species. The Site is visited annually by about 500,000 visitors who use the marked trails, viewing towers and educational trails to observe these rare animals and plants in their natural habitats. At the same time, the high number of tourists results in dune trampling, habitat destruction and disturbance of breeding birds. Falling water levels, lake eutrophication and the presence of invasive species also present threats to the Site. The Ślowiński National Park Organization, the management authority of the area, is implementing a management plan.

## Spittal Pond

Site number: 984 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bermuda Island  
Area: 10 ha | Coordinates: 32°18'N 64°43'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Spittal Pond. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 10 ha; 32°18'N 064°43'W. Nature Reserve. The only Bermuda example of a non-tidal permanent shallow brackish lagoon with fringing mudflats and salt marshes, subject to periodic sea flooding with mudflats exposed at low water levels. Bermuda's most important wetland for wintering waterfowl (*Egretta caerulea*, *Podilymbus podiceps*, *Anas rubripes*) and shorebirds (*Tringa limnodromus*). Ramsar site no. 984. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Sporovsky Biological Reserve

Site number: 1 007 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Oblast  
Area: 19 384 ha | Coordinates: 52°25'N 25°19'E | Designation dates: 22-11-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated along the middle course of the Yaselda River, the Site includes waterlogged floodplains, lakes, reedbeds, sedge fen mires, and mineral islands. The floodplain fen mires stretch for about 35 kilometres along the Yaselda River and cover 75% of the Site's area. The Site provides important habitats for rare plants and animals, including 15 plant species and 48 animal species registered on the national Red List, including the greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* and the short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*. The fen mires support over 1% of the European population of the globally threatened aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Fifteen species of dragonflies can be found in the Site and the globally threatened beetle *Dytiscus latissimus* has been recorded in oxbows of the Yaselda River. The River and Sporovskoe Lake provide freshwater for agricultural needs. By accumulating water during the spring and summer floods, the mires also prevent inundation of settlements and agricultural land. The Reserve's territory is used by local people and visitors for recreation and amateur fishing. There is an education centre and ecological path. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to disruption of the hydrological regime, which leads to the overgrowth of shrubs and reeds and the gradual reduction in the open sedge mire which is critical habitat for the aquatic warbler. However, the hydrological regime has improved in recent years with the implementation of a management plan.

## Springs and Mires of the Slavkov Forest

Site number: 2 075 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Karlovy Vary Region  
Area: 3 223 ha | Coordinates: 50°02'N 12°44'E | Designation dates: 13-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Springs and Mires of the Slavkov Forest (Pramenne vyvery a raeliniate Slavkovskeho lesa). 13/02/12; Karlovarsky kraj; 3,223 ha; 50°01'31"N 012°45'35"E. (National) Nature Reserve, (National) Nature Monument, Protected Landscape Area, Natura 2000 (SCI). Situated in the Slavkov forest highlands and composed of two parts, this site consists of raised bogs, forested peat bogs, transition mires, wet meadows and mineral springs. The site is home to many threatened species of flora, mainly fen and bog associated, but also including *Cerastium alsinifolium* which is endemic to this area. One of the most threatened butterflies in Europe, Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* occurs here as well as the threatened fish species Bullhead *Cottus gobio*. It also is a nesting site for internationally threatened species of birds, including Corncrake *Crex crex*. The site is important for groundwater recharge, water retention and flood protection. It is also a resource for mineral water and an important spa region for Central Europe. Other human uses include forestry, recreation and research. Drainage, the introduction of invasive alien species, and changes in land use, especially re-allotment of land, are threatening the site. Nature trails and information booklets exist and an information centre is in preparation. Ramsar Site number: 2075. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Srēbarna

Site number: 64 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region:  
Area: 1 464 ha | Coordinates: 44°07'N 27°07'E | Designation dates: 24-09-1975  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Srēbarna. 24/09/75; Silistra; 1,464 ha; 44°06'46"N 027°06'41"E. World Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve, Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Managed Reserve. Added to the Montreux Record 16 June 1993. The site includes arable lands, forests, islets with reedbeds and a eutrophic freshwater lake which is the biggest marsh on the Bulgarian part of river Danube. The wetland is an important breeding, staging and wintering site for large number of birds – it is the only breeding site of *Pelecanus crispus*, with a colony of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* as well as of the largest breeding population of *Aythya nyroca* in Bulgaria. Moreover, the site is also important for endangered fish communities such as the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* and mammals like the European Marbled Polecat *Vormela peregusna*. The main hydrological values are groundwater recharge, flood control and sediment trapping. The major ecological changes in the site are connected with eutrophication leading to succession and increase of the sedimentation processes, which are triggering a decrease in biodiversity richness. Ramsar Advisory Missions took place in 1992 and 2001. The site boundary was extended in 2013 by the incorporation of the protected area Pelikanite. Ramsar site no. 64. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Stabursneset

Site number: 312 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Finnmark  
Area: 1 568 ha | Coordinates: 70°10'N 24°57'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a part of a river delta including shallow marine waters, sandbanks which are exposed at low tide, saltmarshes and wet mires, as well as large well-developed salt meadows with Arctic plant species and communities. The Valdak marshes at the southern end of the Site are internationally important staging, feeding and moulting areas for several species of waterfowl. Many migrating species of ducks, geese and waders stage here, and it is the most important staging site in Northern Europe for the lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The most numerous bird species at the Site are the Nearctic red knot *Calidris canutus islandica* (up to 20,000 individuals) and the common eider *Somateria mollissima* (up to 5,600 individuals). The River Staburselva is important for the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and is used for sport fishing. There is an information centre close to the Site, and strict regulations control hunting and camping.

## Stadil and Vest Stadil Fjords

Site number: 142 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Ringkøbing Municipality  
Area: 6 932 ha | Coordinates: 56°10'N 08°11'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stadil and Vest Stadil Fjords. 02/09/77; Region Midtjylland; 6,932 ha; 56°11'N 008°09'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA); Nature Conservation Area. Two shallow fjords with four lakes surrounded by extensive reed swamp, meadows, fields and dunes, with adjacent agricultural land. The site is an internationally important area for breeding, wintering and staging of a diverse number of threatened waterbirds as Eurasian or Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*, Black Tern *Chidonias niger*, and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The site includes greater than 1% populations of at least five species, among them *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* and *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Human activities include tourism, hunting and reed harvesting. The site is a popular area for birdwatching, and guided tours are frequently organized to raise public awareness about the value of the site. Ramsar site no. 142. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Stagno di Cábras

Site number: 178 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 3 575 ha | Coordinates: 39°57'N 08°30'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Cábras. 28/03/79; Sardegna; 3,575 ha; 39°57'N 008°29'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. The site is the largest freshwater lake in Sardinia. It is supplied mainly by the Mare Foghe River, together with runoff from adjacent agricultural land, and is connected with the sea by a narrow channel. Vegetation consists of various salt-tolerant plants, submergent species and emergent reedbeds. The site is important for numerous species of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds, with *Phoenicopeterus ruber roseus* occurring in large numbers. Human activities include commercial fishing, agriculture and tourism. Ramsar site no. 178.

### Stagno di Cagliari

Site number: 134 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 3 466 ha | Coordinates: 39°12'N 09°03'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Cagliari. 14/12/76; Sardegna; 3,466 ha; 39°12'N 09°03'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990; removed from the Record, 26 November 2008. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A large, coastal lagoon, converted to 2,000 ha of salt pans, and a dune system. The lagoon is fed with fresh water by the Cixerri and Mannu rivers. Vegetation consists of extensive reedbeds and salt-tolerant plants. The lagoon supports rich fish and invertebrate faunas and is critical habitat for numerous important species of breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds. The ecology of the site has been seriously damaged by thermal, industrial and urban effluent from the city of Cagliari, resulting in nutrient-enrichment. Additionally, major port development projects have caused substantial changes in the ecological character of the site. The site was added to the Montreux Record in 1990 due to these factors and removed from the Record on 25 November 2008 following successful remedial efforts. Ramsar site no. 134. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Stagno di Corru S'Ittiri, Stagni di San Giovanni e Marceddi

Site number: 179 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 2 610 ha | Coordinates: 39°44'N 08°30'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Corru S'Ittiri, Stagni di San Giovanni e Marceddi. 28/03/79; Sardegna; 2,610 ha; 39°44'N 08°30'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A series of three interconnected coastal lagoons of varying salinity, partly separated from the sea by a dune system. Vegetation consists of extensive reedbeds and halophytic plants. The lagoons support a rich fish fauna and are used for commercial fishing and shell-fish harvesting. The area is important for numerous species of breeding and wintering waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 179.

### Stagno di Mistras

Site number: 233 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 680 ha | Coordinates: 39°54'N 08°27'E | Designation dates: 03-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Mistras. 03/05/82; Sardegna; 680 ha; 39°54'N 08°28'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A brackish, coastal lagoon connected with the Gulf of Oristano by means of a wide channel, but separated from the sea by a dune system. Virtually all of the wetland's fresh water comes from rainfall and runoff, thus salinity varies seasonally. Vegetation consists of submergent species while the fringing vegetation is typically halophytic. The lagoon is rich in bivalve molluscs and fish. The site is important for a range of staging, breeding and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include commercial fishing and shell-fish harvesting. Ramsar site no. 233.

### Stagno di Molentargius

Site number: 133 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 1 401 ha | Coordinates: 39°14'N 09°10'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Molentargius. 14/12/76; Sardegna; 1,401 ha; 39°14'N 09°10'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 2 July 2008. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A heavily modified lagoon complex of varying salinity and extensive salt pans, separated from the sea by a fossil dune system. The site supports extensive reedbeds, submergent vegetation, and rich fish and invertebrate faunas. An important area for breeding, staging and wintering numerous species of waterbirds, including various protected species. Human activities include a salt industry, hunting, commercial fishing, and tourism. 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. As a result, the site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 and removed on 2 July 2008. Ramsar site no. 133. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Stagno di Pauli Maiori

Site number: 180 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 287 ha | Coordinates: 39°52'N 08°37'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Pauli Maiori. 28/03/79; Sardegna; 287 ha; 39°52'N 08°37'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Sanctuary. A small freshwater lagoon surrounded by extensive reedbeds and connected to a second lagoon. The only inflow consists of waste water runoff from agricultural irrigation. The lagoon supports submergent vegetation, and the site is important for several species of breeding waterbirds. A major road and railway line pass between the two wetlands. Ramsar site no. 180.

### Stagno di Sale Porcus

Site number: 232 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 330 ha | Coordinates: 40°01'N 08°26'E | Designation dates: 03-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Sale Porcus. 03/05/82; Sardegna; 330 ha; 40°01'N 08°21'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. An extensive complex of seasonal, saline lagoons that dry out in summer, leaving a hard salt crust. The vegetation is typically halophytic. When full, there are three small islets that are important nesting sites for birds. The site is one of the most important wetlands in the Mediterranean for staging flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*). Various other migratory waterbirds stage and nest at the site. There are facilities for birdwatching and conservation education. Ramsar site no. 232.

### Stagno di S'Ena Arrubia

Site number: 132 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 223 ha | Coordinates: 39°49'N 08°34'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di S'Ena Arrubia. 14/12/76; Sardegna; 223 ha; 39°50'N 08°34'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A freshwater lagoon, representing the last remnant of a once extensive complex of marshes and lagoons, converted to agriculture in the 1930s. The site is fed with runoff from irrigated agricultural land and is connected with the sea via a channel and sluice gate. The vegetation consists of submergent species, extensive fringing reedbeds and salt-tolerant plants. The area is important for the breeding, staging and wintering of several species of waterbirds. The lagoon supports a commercial fishery, although runoff is enriched by agricultural chemicals. Ramsar site no. 132.

### Stari Begej - Carska Bara Special Nature Reserve

Site number: 819 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Vojvodina province  
Area: 1 767 ha | Coordinates: 45°15'N 20°23'E | Designation dates: 14-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stari Begej/Carska Bara Special Nature Reserve. 25/03/96; Serbia; 1,767 ha; 45°15'N 020°23'E. Special Nature Reserve. The site, a remnant of the once flooded area in the lower Begej River, is a mosaic of fishponds, swamp, marsh, forest, meadow, and steppe intersected by rivers, canals, and embankments. Vegetation consists of salt-tolerant communities, a rich aquatic flowering plant community, and steppe vegetation. Of the 250 recorded bird species, 140 species nest at the site and 100 pass through on migration. Notably, all eight European heron species and Anser anser nest at the site. The diversity of biotopes gives rise to high species diversity at the site and includes various rare, endangered, or vulnerable fish, birds, plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Human activities include recreation, birdwatching, sport fishing, and some traditional agricultural. There is an important commercial fishery nearby. Ramsar site no. 819. Most recent RIS information: 1994.

### Starnberger See

Site number: 94 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 5 720 ha | Coordinates: 47°45'N 11°18'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Starnberger See. 26/02/76; Bayern; 5,720 ha; 47°45'N 011°18'E. Nature Reserve, Landscape Reserve. A large, freshwater lake subject to seasonal fluctuations set in a glaciated valley and surrounded by end-moraine dams. The site supports areas of reedbeds, is important for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds, and provides protected fish spawning areas. There are three large leisure complexes available, and the lake experiences intensive recreational use and seasonal fishing. Ramsar site no. 94. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

### Stary Zhaden

Site number: 2 140 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Gomel region  
Area: 17 048 ha | Coordinates: 51°54'N 27°37'E | Designation dates: 07-09-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stary Zhaden. 07/09/2012; Gomel Region; 17,048 ha; 51°53'01"N 027°35'52"E. Important Bird Area, Protected area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources. A Belarusian Polesie complex wetland system, formed by fens combined with sphagnum transitional mires of boreal type and sphagnum bogs. The site is characterized by a diversity of geomorphological conditions and relatively high biodiversity. It plays an important hydrological role in water purification, maintenance of groundwater levels and water supply during the dry season. Land uses include forestry, farming, recreation and hunting. The main factors threatening the ecological character of the wetland are logging, fires, drainage, poaching, recreational disturbances caused by mass collection of berries and mushrooms, and significant radioactive contamination caused by the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. Ramsar Site no. 2140. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Stavns Fjord and adjacent waters

Site number: 153 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Midtjylland Region  
Area: 15 533 ha | Coordinates: 55°56'N 10°44'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stavns Fjord and adjacent waters. 02/09/77; Region Midtjylland; 15,533 ha; 55°54'N 010°40'E. Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA), Nature Conservation Area, Nature Reserve, Wildlife Reserve. Shallow sea and fjord areas of reefs, sand banks, islands, and saltmarshes, with farmland on inhabited islands. A rich marine flora and fauna are supported and parts of the site are used for commercial fish-farming. The site is internationally important for various species of breeding, moulting, staging and wintering waterbirds, and includes haul-out areas for the seal *Phoca vitulina*. Human activities include diving, windsurfing, hunting and exploitation of raw materials, but public access is prohibited during the breeding season. There has been mineral extraction from the sea bed. Archaeological, geological, and ecological research is carried out within the site. In 2011 management plans settled site-specific nature goals and priorities to improve water quality and the ecological character of the wetland and its catchment and coastal area. Ramsar site no. 153. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### St. Clair

Site number: 319 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Ontario  
Area: 244 ha | Coordinates: 42°22'N 82°22'W | Designation dates: 16-10-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

St. Clair. 16/10/85; Ontario; 244 ha; 42°22'N 082°22'W. National Wildlife Area. Extensive system of marshes and dune ridges along Lake St. Clair. One of southern Canada's most important resting, feeding and breeding areas for migratory waterbirds. Peak numbers in spring reach 360,000 individuals, with up to 150,000 in the fall. Almost 25% of the North American population of *Cygnus c. columbianus* passes through the area in spring. Fall migrants include over 200,000 *Branta canadensis*, more than 18% of the world population of *Aythya valisineria*, and large numbers of other ducks. The area supports a number of rare or threatened amphibians and reptiles. Ramsar site no. 319. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

### Steinhuder Meer

Site number: 87 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 5 730 ha | Coordinates: 52°28'N 09°20'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Steinhuder Meer. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 5,730 ha; 52°28'N 009°20'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive, Nature Reserves. The largest inland lake in northern Germany, including remnants of raised bog and moorland. Situated in a glacial meltwater channel, the lake is thought to be fed by springs in its bed. Fringing vegetation consists of a broad reed belt. The site is internationally important for staging and wintering waterbirds, and is used by small numbers of various species of breeding birds. Human activities include peat extraction, water sports, and holiday home construction. Ramsar site no. 87.

## Stigfjorden

Site number: 431 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västra Götaland  
Area: 7 326 ha | Coordinates: 58°06'N 11°39'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stigfjorden is a large, shallow marine bay fringed by meadows and deciduous forests with many islands. The sea bed is covered by *Zostera* and *Potamogeton* species, and marine currents help keep the area ice-free for long periods during the winter. The shallow water in the northern part of the Site holds one of the richest bird colonies of this coast and provides shelter and food for waterbirds. It is a moulting site for common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and an important staging and foraging site for nationally threatened species such as bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and common eider *Somateria mollissima*. The area supports an important fishery, while other activities include livestock grazing, boating, and swimming. Continuation of traditional grazing is important for maintaining the ecological character of the meadows. In 2017, the Site was extended by nearly 400 hectares to include a large area of open waters to the east.

## St. Lucia System

Site number: 345 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Kwazulu Natal  
Area: 155 500 ha | Coordinates: 27°55'S 32°30'E | Designation dates: 02-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

St. Lucia System. 02/10/86; Kwazulu/Natal; 155,500 ha; 28°04'S 032°28'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 11 March 1996. Wetland Park, State Forest Reserve. Coastal wetlands system associated with Lake St. Lucia and consisting of several principal habitat types. Supports the largest estuarine prawn nursery area in South Africa. An important migratory bird staging area, feeding ground for flamingos, and spawning and nursery area for many of the 82 species of fish supported. It is also a breeding area for crocodiles. Large mammals include hippopotamus and black rhino. Human activities have included cattle grazing, slash and burn cultivation, and the planting of *Pinus elliptica*. The site is an important recreational area offering many facilities and activities. The site was threatened by large-scale mining for heavy metals but spared. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1992. A case study is available. Ramsar site no. 345. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Stodmarsh

Site number: 646 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 481 ha | Coordinates: 51°18'N 01°10'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stodmarsh. 16/12/93; England; 481 ha; 51°18'N 001°10'E. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. This is a complex site comprising inland, marine and coastal wetlands. It is important because it supports a number of uncommon wetland invertebrates and plants, and it provides breeding and wintering habitat for several wetland bird species, particularly waterfowl such as *Anas strepera*. The main activities include nature conservation, recreation, research, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 646. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Stokhid River Floodplains

Site number: 777 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volynska Oblast  
Area: 10 000 ha | Coordinates: 51°40'N 25°22'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stokhid River Floodplains. 23/11/95; Volynska Oblast; 10,000 ha; 51°40'N 025°22'E. Regional Landscape Park, Landscape Game Reserves, Hydrological Game Reserve. The site includes rivers, lakes, marshes, peatlands, islands, and meadows. It supports numerous species of nationally and internationally threatened flora and fauna. Situated on the crossroads of two main flyways, the site provides important habitat for numerous species of large numbers of breeding, staging, and molting waterbirds. An important site for feeding, nursery and wintering numerous freshwater fishes. Human activities include hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, haymaking, and recreation. Ramsar site no. 777. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Store Mosse

Site number: 20 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jönköping  
Area: 7 797 ha | Coordinates: 57°17'N 13°57'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Store Mosse consists of a mosaic of raised bogs, fen, deciduous swamp woods and nutrient-poor lakes. The Site holds southern Sweden's most extensive mire complex and the country's largest active raised bog. The boundaries of the Site were adjusted in 2016 to follow protected areas and future restoration areas, resulting in an increase in area of 200 ha. The typical mire vegetation is interspersed with patches of *Pinus sylvestris* and treeless areas of dwarf shrubs. The *Orchidaceae* species found in the fens include the nationally protected narrow-leaved marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*, the fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and the marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*. The wetland supports animal populations which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the boreal region, including a wealth of birds with a number of nationally red-listed species. The Site provides important staging areas and breeding grounds for a number of species including the nationally endangered northern pintail *Anas acuta*, the garganey *Anas querquedula* and spotted crane *Porzana porzana*. A visitor centre opened in 2003, and bird watching, educational activities, scientific research and tourism attract between 70,000 and 100,000 visitors each year. The main threats to the Site's ecological character relate to drainage, dams and water management, and ongoing peat extraction. A restoration plan is being implemented to reduce the drainage and restore the hydrology of former peat extraction plots, to promote the regeneration and regrowth of raised bog habitats.

## Storkölen

Site number: 1 129 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Dalarna  
Area: 6 992 ha | Coordinates: 61°47'N 12°14'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Storkölen is an undisturbed area of high wetland diversity, featuring numerous small lakes, streams and waterlogged areas surrounded by old-growth forests. There are large systems of flark pools, and pools and fen soaks are common. Botanically valuable alkaline fen areas are rich in species, holding a species-rich flora of a composition unusual for this part of the country. The Site is greatly valued for its scenic beauty, old forests and high ornithological values. It is important for breeding water birds such as bean goose *Anser fabilis*, crane *Grus grus*, ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*. There is an adjacent Ramsar Site in Norway. Picking cloudberries is practiced as both an economical activity and for outdoor leisure. Visitor facilities include a number of trails with adjacent shelters and huts, information signs and a car park.

## Stour & Orwell Estuaries

Site number: 662 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 3 324 ha | Coordinates: 51°58'N 01°11'E | Designation dates: 13-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stour and Orwell Estuaries. 13/07/94; England; 3,324 ha; 51°57'N 001°09'E. Special Protection Area, SSSI. An estuary comprising extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh, and areas of vegetated shingle on the lower river reaches. The site supports internationally and nationally important numbers of numerous species of wintering wildfowl and waders. Several nationally scarce plants and invertebrates occur. Human activities include tourism, bait collection, livestock grazing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 662. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Strangford Loch

Site number: 937 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 15 581 ha | Coordinates: 54°28'N 05°36'W | Designation dates: 09-03-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Strangford Loch. 09/03/98; Northern Ireland; 15,581 ha; 54°27'N 005°36'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The wetland types for this site include marine and coastal wetlands. The site supports one of the most extensive saltmarsh areas in Northern Ireland. Present are an assemblage of vulnerable and endangered wetland plants and animals such as eelgrass, and marine sponges, marine mollusc, and it is also a breeding and wintering site for well over 70,200 waterfowl. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, recreation, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 937. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Streams in Kume-jima

Site number: 1 845 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Okinawa Prefecture  
Area: 255 ha | Coordinates: 26°22'N 126°46'E | Designation dates: 30-10-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Streams in Kume-jima. 30/10/08; Okinawa; 255 ha; 26°22'N 126°46'E. Habitat/ Species Management Area, Habitat Conservation Area. The site mainly consists of streams flowing from Mt Uegusuku on Kume-jima in the Ryukyu Islands, creating an important habitat for endangered species under IUCN Red List and National Protected Species lists, including bird species like Amami Woodcock (*Scolopax mira*) and reptile species like Kikuzato's Stream (or Brook) Snake (*Opisthotropis kikuzatoi*), Ryukyu black-breasted leaf turtle (*Geoemyda japonica*), and Kuroiwa ground gecko (*Goniurosaurus kuroiwa yamashinae*) as well as some endemic species. The vegetation with *Psychotria rubra* - *Castanopsis sieboldi* sp. *lutchuensis* and *Pinus lutchuensis* serves as excellent habitat for these rare species. Ruins of Uegusuku Castle in the site are an Okinawa Prefectural historical site. Surrounding communities use stream water for liquor production. Decrease of stream flow due to water withdrawals, disruption by invasive alien species like Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), and disturbance to stream environment from gusty heavy rain and floods due to steep landscapes are some of the potential threats in the site. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1845. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Stung Sen

Site number: 2 365 | Country: Cambodia | Administrative region: Kampong Thom Province  
Area: 9 293 ha | Coordinates: 12°38'N 104°31'E | Designation dates: 02-11-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located along the south-eastern edge of the Tonle Sap Great Lake, and mainly comprises seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forests. Along the Stung Sen River, there are gallery forests, low-stature shrub land, inundated and submerged trees, and extensive mats of herbaceous and aquatic vegetation which provide habitat for a variety of species. The vegetation of Stung Sen is strongly influenced by the exchange of water between the Mekong River, the Stung Sen River and the Great Lake, and the area is subject to an annual flooding cycle that makes it extremely fertile. The Site is an important spawning ground for several fish species such as Jullien's golden carp (*Probarbus jullieni*) and small scale mud carp (*Cirrhinus microlepis*), a migratory pathway and feeding ground for waterbirds, and an important habitat for mammals. It is regionally important for supporting a number of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Mekong giant carp (*Catlocarpio siamensis*); the endangered yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*) and Indochinese silvered langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*); and the vulnerable lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*).

## Suakin-Gulf of Agig

Site number: 1 860 | Country: Sudan | Administrative region: Red Sea State  
Area: 1 125 000 ha | Coordinates: 18°34'N 38°05'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Suakin-Gulf of Agig. 02/02/09; Red Sea State; 1,125,000 ha; 18°34'N 038°05'E. The site boundary follows the Suakin Archipelago, a proposed Marine Protected Area that occupies the southeastern quarter of the site. It is comprised of diverse forms of wetlands such as sand flats, coral reefs, lagoons, sand shores amongst others, a diversity which allows for a rich range of fauna and flora to thrive at the site, marine turtles such as the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); seabirds; commercial bony fish and shrimp species. Sightings of the Sea Cow (Dugong dugon) and Bottlenose Dolphin (*Turciops truncatus*) have also been noted. Various socio-economic activities take place within and around the site, but the most common practice is nomadism with camels, which are of great social and economic value. The Tokar Delta is the sole area with significant potential for cultivation in the whole coastal zone, with cotton, sorghum, millet and vegetables. The proposed shrimp and fish farming industry project, as well as efforts to widen the entrance and ship channels and reconstruct the port of Suakin, pose major threats to the character of the site. Ramsar site no. 1860. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Subalpine peatbogs in Karkonosze Mountains

Site number: 1 566 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Dolnośląskie Voievodeship  
Area: 40 ha | Coordinates: 50°44'N 15°42'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Subalpine peatbogs in Karkonosze Mountains. 29/10/02; Dolnoslaskie; 40 ha; 50°45'N 015°36'E. National Park, UNESCO Bilateral Biosphere Reserve. Three subalpine bogs situated on mountain flats in the dwarf pine zone, along the Polish-Czech border in the Karkonosze Mountains. Situated at the European watershed dividing the Baltic Sea and North Sea basins, the area has special importance for groundwater recharge and flood control in the mountains. The vegetation is dominated of endemic dwarf pine communities with cloudberry vegetation and surrounded with spruce forest growing on hanging bogs. Most typical of the site are bog moss communities including associations resembling subarctic tundra with a combination of alpine and arctic species and association of alpine tufted common bog. Numerous hummocks and permanent pools that support a unique flora of algae form the rich relief of the area. The major threat for the bogs is trampling, littering and water pollution from tourist and recreation activities in the area. Since 1992 the site has been part of a MAB Bilateral Biosphere Reserve, and discussions are under way with Czech authorities of the Krkonoská rasiliniste Ramsar site about management collaboration as a transboundary Ramsar site. Ramsar site no. 1566. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Subcuenca del Lago de Yojoa

Site number: 1 467 | Country: Honduras | Administrative region: Comayagua, Cortés, Santa Bárbara  
Area: 43 640 ha | Coordinates: 14°51'N 88°00'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Subcuenca del Lago de Yojoa. 05/06/05; Comayagua, Cortés and Santa Bárbara; 43,640 ha; 14°51'N 88°00'W. A lake and surrounding area containing a total of 13 wetland types and unique ecosystems for Honduras, such as evergreen low mountain forest and the highest karst mountain in Central America. Among the most notable species are the endemic salamanders *Dendrotriton sanctibarbarus* and *Nototriton barbouri*, as well as the giant anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*, all of them threatened species. Despite spreading over only 0.37% of the national territory, the site hosts 169 fern species (24.7% national total); 71 aquatic and emergent plants (86.5% national total); and 29 freshwater fish species (32.9% national total). It is also the only site in Honduras where the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), the snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*), and all kingfishers have been recorded. The introduction of exotic species, deforestation and the advance of the land-and-cattle frontier are some of the most pressing problems in this site. Ramsar site No. 1467. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Sudd

Site number: 1 622 | Country: South Sudan | Administrative region: Southern Sudan  
Area: 5 700 000 ha | Coordinates: 07°34'N 30°39'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sudd. 05/06/06; 5,700,000 ha; 07°34'N 30°39'E. Includes National Park and game reserves. One of the largest tropical wetlands in the world, located in South Sudan in the lower reaches of Bahr el Jebel, a section of the White Nile. The site is composed of various ecosystems, from open water and submerged vegetation to floating fringe vegetation, seasonally inundated woodland, rain-fed and river-fed grasslands, and floodplain scrubland. It is an important wintering ground for birds such as *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Balearica pavonina*, *Ciconia ciconia* and *Chlidonias nigra*, and home to some endemic fish, birds, mammal and plant species. The wetland serves as a filter that controls water quality and a sponge that stabilizes water flow. It is the major source of water for domestic, livestock, and wildlife use and an important source of fish. The socio-economic and cultural activities of local people are dependent on its annual floods and rains to regenerate floodplain grasses to feed their cattle, as they move from permanent settlements on the highlands to dry-season grazing in the intermediate lands and return to the highlands in May/June when the rainy season starts. Threats to the site include oil exploration - Sudd contains South Sudan's largest oil reserve - and the Jonglei Canal Project, which is currently on hold, but would reduce wet and dry season flows by 20% and 10% respectively, thus impacting the wetland's ecology and consequently its inhabitants. Ramsar site no. 1622. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin & Hopper Lakes

Site number: 2 042 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Illinois  
Area: 1 117 ha | Coordinates: 41°13'N 89°20'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin & Hopper Lakes. 02/02/12; Illinois; 1,117 ha, 41°13'20"N 089°20'17"W. Includes Nature Preserve. A complex system of backwater lakes, marshes, wet prairie, savannah, and forest that has been restored to a landscape that closely resembles the presettlement conditions of the place, before the human impacts of the 20th century. The mix of rare wetland habitats integrated within the extensive natural landscape is unique in this region, where most remaining wetlands have been isolated and/or fragmented. Due to the extent and quality of habitat, the site is home to federally endangered or threatened species such as the decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). The Refuge hosts 22 federally or state endangered and threatened birds, including the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), and Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). The Refuge has become a living laboratory where restoration techniques, successional dynamics, and adaptive management strategies can be tested and evaluated. The site offers excellent opportunities for hiking, bird-watching, wildlife photography, canoeing, and kayaking. Threats include invasive species, fires, and pesticide residues due to nearby agricultural activities. The Refuge is owned by nine non-profit entities and managed by one of them, the Wetlands Initiative, under agreement with the others. Ramsar Site no. 2042. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Suhaia

Site number: 2 066 | Country: Romania | Administrative region: Teleorman County  
Area: 19 594 ha | Coordinates: 43°44'N 25°12'E | Designation dates: 13-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Suhaia.13/06/12; Teleorman County; 19,594 ha; 43°44'17"N 025°11'33"E. Avian Protection Site, Natura 2000 (SPA), IBA. Located along a major migratory route and comprising Suhaia Lake, the Danube river, connecting channels, fishing ponds, reed beds, swamps and rice fields. The site offers habitat to numerous threatened species of birds which feed, rest and breed here, including 21 bird species of European importance as well as the globally vulnerable Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. Moreover, several threatened species of invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals can be found, including the globally vulnerable European Mudminnow *Umbra krameri*. Suhaia Lake plays a significant role in groundwater replenishment and had an important flood control function prior to the bankment of the Danube. Human uses include aquaculture, agriculture, forestry and recreational activities. Illegal burning of vegetation, poaching and the overuse of fertilizers threaten the ecological character of the site. Ramsar Site number: 2066. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### Sultan Marshes

Site number: 661 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Kayseri  
Area: 17 200 ha | Coordinates: 38°20'N 35°16'E | Designation dates: 13-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sultan Marshes. 13/07/94; Kayseri; 17,200 ha; 38°20'N 035°17'E. Natural Park; Wildlife Conservation Area. Part of an extensive wetland complex on the Develi plain, the site includes a saline lake, salt steppe, nutrient-rich freshwater marshes, wet meadows, small islands, and lakes. Freshwater areas support reeds and rushes, and halophytic plants occur in the saltwater ecosystem. Situated in a closed basin and surrounded by hills and mountains, the area is an important breeding and wintering site for various species of endangered or globally threatened waterbirds. Human activities include reed cutting, tourism, research, and livestock grazing. Threats are seen from illegal hunting, agricultural pollution, and over-grazing leading to desiccation of the surrounding area. Ramsar site no. 661. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Sumeunmulbaengdui Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 225 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeju Special Self-Governing Province  
Area: 117,5 ha | Coordinates: 33°22'N 126°27'E | Designation dates: 13-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sumeunmulbaengdui is a natural mountainous peat wetland on Halla Mountain or 'Hallasan', a shield volcano on Jeju Island and the largest mountain in the Republic of Korea. The Site is unique in the biogeographic region because of its geology and method of formation. It plays an important role in storing and recharging groundwater since Jeju, being a volcanic island, is short of water throughout the year due to irregular precipitation and low infiltration rate. Mostly, water is recharged by groundwater from wetlands, including Sumeunmulbaengdui and the three other Ramsar Sites on the island. The geographic features of these Sites are all different: Sumeunmulbaengdui is situated on the slope of the volcano, surrounded by six parasitic cones. The Site's bedrock has a high water-retaining capacity and functions as a natural filter. The name 'Sumeunmulbaengdui' which means 'a field covered with water and hidden by parasitic volcanoes' in the local dialect, reflects the rarity of the site and surrounding landscape.

## Suncheon Bay

Site number: 1 594 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Jeollanam-do  
Area: 3 550 ha | Coordinates: 34°48'N 127°24'E | Designation dates: 20-01-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Suncheon Bay. 20/01/06; Jeollanam-do; 3,550 ha; 34°48'N 127°24'E. Wetland Protected Area. A wide estuarine tidal flat and intertidal marshes, creating one of the most diverse and beautiful coastal ecosystems in the country. Two rivers flow through the city and surrounding rice fields at the northern part of the bay, and numerous streams flow through the site, sustaining clean water quality and influx quantity. The tidal flats are largely muddy with shallow salt marshes supporting a wide-range of species, including at least 25 threatened birds, e.g. Black-faced Spoonbill, Nordmann's Greenshank, Spoonbill Sandpiper, and Relict Gull. It is the only wintering site for *Grus Monacha* and supports over 1% of the population of Common Shelduck, Hooded Crane, Eurasian Curlew, Saunder's Gull and Kentish Plover. It has important scenic, tourist, and cultural heritage values, and the annual production of fish, seaweed, and mollusks, mainly harvested using traditional techniques, is substantial. Rapid urban expansion is noted as a potential threat. The Suncheon Bay Natural Eco-park was established in 2004 and a management plan is underway which focuses on protection of biological resources, pollution abatement, institutional improvement, and public awareness. Ramsar site no. 1594. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Sundarbans Reserved Forest

Site number: 560 | Country: Bangladesh | Administrative region: Khulna Civil Division  
Area: 601 700 ha | Coordinates: 22°02'N 89°31'E | Designation dates: 21-05-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sundarbans Reserved Forest. 21/05/92; Khulna; 601,700 ha, 22°02'N 89°31'E. Reserved Forest, World Heritage Site. At the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers, which with the innumerable small channels and creeks flowing into the Bay of Bengal dissect the whole area creating the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world, the site is a hotspot of rich flora and fauna, home to a number of unique and endangered species of plants, animals like endangered Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), vulnerable Pallas Fishing Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*) and Masked Finfoot (*Heliopais personata*), and critically endangered River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*), all listed in the IUCN Red Book, rare species of shark (*Glyptis gangeticus*) and very rich avifauna with 315 species, of which 84 are migratory. Many fish species depend upon this transitional zone between freshwater and saline water pushed by high tides from open sea, for spawning and juvenile feeding. The wetland is remarkable for protection from the tidal surge generated from the cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal. Abundant fish and biomass resources are harvested by local communities. Artifacts and festivals within the site have high Hindu religious and cultural importance. Reduction in fresh water flow due to water diversion, the construction of dykes combined with the pollution of the industries and the ports of Khulna and Mongla have affected the plant and fish population. There are 8 research field stations that provide data for ongoing studies and research. Recently an information center was established at Khulna and a management plan is under preparation. Ramsar site no. 560. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Sundarban Wetland

Site number: 2 370 | Country: India  
| Administrative region: The Headquarters of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve is located at Canning town, South 24 Parganas district and is connected with broad.  
Area: 423 000 ha | Coordinates: 21°46'N 88°43'E | Designation dates: 30-01-2019  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sundarban Wetland is located within the largest mangrove forest in the world, the Sundarbans, that encompasses hundreds of islands and a maze of rivers, rivulets and creeks, in the delta of the Rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra on the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh. The Indian Sundarban, covering the south-westernmost part of the delta, constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area and includes 90% of Indian mangrove species. The mangrove forests protect the hinterland from storms, cyclones, tidal surges, and the seepage and intrusion of saltwater inland and into waterways. They serve as nurseries to shellfish and finfish and sustain the fisheries of the entire eastern coast. The Sundarban Tiger Reserve is situated within the Site and part of it has been declared a "critical tiger habitat" under national law and also a "Tiger Conservation Landscape" of global importance. The Sundarbans are the only mangrove habitat which supports a significant population of tigers, and they have unique aquatic hunting skills. The Site is also home to a large number of rare and globally threatened species such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin (*Batagur baska*), the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), and the vulnerable fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*). Two of the world's four horseshoe crab species, and eight of India's 12 species of kingfisher are also found here. The uniqueness of the habitat and its biodiversity, and the many tangible and intangible, local, regional and global services they provide, makes the Site's protection and management a conservation priority.

## Sungai Pulai

Site number: 1 288 | Country: Malaysia | Administrative region: Johor  
Area: 9 126 ha | Coordinates: 01°23'N 103°32'E | Designation dates: 31-01-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sungai Pulai. 31/01/03; Johor; 9,126 ha; 01°23'N 103°32'E. Forest Reserve. The largest riverine mangrove system in Johor State, located at the estuary of the Sungai Pulai river. With its associated seagrass beds, intertidal mudflats and inland freshwater riverine forest the site represents one of the best examples of a lowland tropical river basin, supporting a rich biodiversity dependent on mangrove. It is home for the rare and endemic small tree *Avicennia lanata*, animals such as near-threatened and vulnerable Long-tailed Macaque, Smooth Otter and rare Flat-headed Cat and threatened birds species as Mangrove Pitta and Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, all included in the IUCN Red List. Relatively undisturbed parts including the Nipah swamps may be nesting sites of the Estuarine Crocodile. The site fringes play a significant role in shoreline stabilization and severe flood prevention in the adjacent 38 villages. The local population depends on the estuary as its mudflats, an ideal feeding, spawning and fattening ground, support a significant proportion of fish species. Other mangrove uses include wood cutting, charcoal production, aquaculture activities and eco-tourism. The current construction of a new port at the river estuary may represent a direct impact on the mangrove ecosystem, causing coastal erosion and water pollution from associated dredging and reclamation works and traffic. The site is managed in line with Integrated Management Plan for the sustainable use of mangroves in Johor state. Ramsar site no. 1288. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Súr

Site number: 498 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Západoslovenský  
Area: 1 137 ha | Coordinates: 48°14'N 17°14'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Súr. 02/07/90; Západoslovenský; 1,137 ha; 48°15'N 017°13'E. Nature Reserve. Located on the Danube floodplain, at the foot of the mountains, the site includes woodland, wet meadows, reedbeds, and a fishpond and gravel pit. The area is important for numerous species of waterbirds, several of which breed at the site. A notable fauna of two species of shrew, various amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and numerous notable plant species are supported. Principal human activities include commercial forestry, agriculture, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 498. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Surinsar-Mansar Lakes

Site number: 1 573 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jammu, Kashmir State  
Area: 350 ha | Coordinates: 32°45'N 75°12'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes. 08/11/05; Jammu & Kashmir; 350 ha; 32°45'N 075°12'E. Wildlife Sanctuary, Hindu sacred site. Freshwater composite lake in semi-arid Panjab Plains, adjoining the Jhelum Basin with catchment of sandy conglomeratic soil, boulders and pebbles. Surinsar is rain-fed without permanent discharge, and Mansar is primarily fed by surface run-off and partially by mineralised water through paddy fields, with inflow increasing in rainy season. The lake supports CITES and IUCN Redlisted *Lissemys punctata*, *Aspideretes gangeticus*, and *Mansariella lacustris*. This composite lake is high in micro nutrients for which it is an attractive habitat, breeding and nursery ground for migratory waterfowls like *Fulica atra*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Aythya fuligula*, and various *Anas* species. The site is socially and culturally very important with many temples around owing to its mythical origin from the Mahabharata period. Although the lakes support variety of fishes, fishing is discouraged for religious values. The main threats are increasing visitors, agricultural runoff, bathing and cremation rituals. Conservation is focused on awareness-raising. Ramsar site no.1573. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Suurenaukeansuo - Isosuo Mires and Lake Pohjalampi

Site number: 1 534 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Eastern Finland  
Area: 1 640 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'N 27°04'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Suurenaukeansuo - Isosuo Mires and Lake Pohjalampi. 02/02/04; Eastern Finland; 1,640 ha; 62°10'N 027°03'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Mire Conservation and WHCP. The site represents the mire vegetation region of eccentric bogs and *Sphagnum fuscum* bogs. It is composed mainly of oligotrophic pine bogs and poor fens, including several *Sphagnum fuscum*-type raised bogs with diverse and representative vegetation. The mires are restricted to the unmodified River Naarajoki with rich alluvial meadows and dense growths of Yellow Flag. Pohjalampi is a small lake in the south, characterized by extensive growths of water horsetail and sedge meadows on shores. About eleven species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I breed in the area, including Black-throated Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Osprey, Golden Plover and Wood Sandpiper. The site also provides habitat for the lynx and otter as well as the dragonfly species *Ophiogomphus cecilia*. Drainage ditches have diminished the natural condition of mires in eastern parts. Overall there are no significant land use activities or visitors, which raises the site's value as an undisturbed place for wildlife. Ramsar site no. 1534. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Svartådalen

Site number: 436 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västmanland  
Area: 1 977 ha | Coordinates: 59°53'N 16°20'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Svartådalen is a complex of four nutrient-rich freshwater lakes which support emergent and submerged vegetation and are surrounded by low-lying wet meadows. The lakes are connected by the meandering river Svartån. The area is internationally important for staging whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*), with 2,500 birds representing 4% of the population of north-west mainland Europe; it also supports a diversity of breeding wetland birds. Maintenance of traditional hay-cutting is encouraged by payment of subsidies.

## Svenska Högarna-Nassa

Site number: 435 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Stockholm  
Area: 15 210 ha | Coordinates: 59°26'N 19°21'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site was originally designated under the name "Stockholm, outer archipelago" of which it forms part. It includes four groups of islands: Stora Nassa, Lilla Nassa, Gillöga and Svenska Högarna. The area constitutes a mosaic of many islands surrounded by shallow marine water, which together are of high conservation value. The Site supports populations of animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the European Boreal region, including grey seals and a rich bird life counting over 50 breeding species. The Site is a refuge of great significance in adverse weather conditions and is important to some migrating and breeding waterbirds including velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* and ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, which is listed as vulnerable in the National Red List. Human activities include recreation, boating, and fishing. The main threats affecting the Site's ecological character relate to its shipping lanes, tourism and recreation areas. The Site is also known as a Baltic Sea Protection Area and benefits from a marine collaboration plan.

## Svensksundsviken-Ållonöfjärden

Site number: 1 128 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Östergötlands county  
Area: 3 529,5 ha | Coordinates: 58°37'N 16°27'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is composed of two shallow bays within the larger Bråviken bay on the Baltic coast, each holding a handful of islands, and the bordering reed-belts, coastal and steppe meadows, and coniferous and oak forests. The Site is an important breeding and staging area for over 230 bird species, and regularly supports over 20,000 waterbirds including large populations of greylag goose *Anser anser*, bean goose *Anser fabalis* and tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*. It also supports over 1% of the biogeographic population of the smew *Mergellus albellus* and the globally vulnerable lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The bays provide an important spawning, nursery and feeding area for fish, and the Site is classified as nationally important for commercial fishing for the Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus*, the zander *Stizostedion lucioperca*, the northern pike *Esox lucius* and the brown trout *Salmo trutta*. Human activities include recreation, forestry, grazing for livestock and fishing. A few ancient monuments are found within the Site. A restoration plan is being implemented to restore the meadows and pastures and reduce the threat to biodiversity caused by overgrowth and shadowing of light-dependent species.

## Svir Delta

Site number: 688 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Leningrad Oblast  
Area: 60 500 ha | Coordinates: 60°35'N 32°56'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Svir Delta. 13/09/94; Leningrad Oblast; 60,500 ha; 60°35'N 032°56'E. Nature Reserve, Wildlife Refuge. The Delta consists of numerous channels, streams, bogs, lakes, wet meadows, polders, and the shallow waters of Svir Bay with sand beaches and reedbeds. Terrestrial habitats include bogs, fens, and transitional mires. The vegetation consists of spruce, pine and mixed forests, *Salix* sp. willows and speckled alder *Alnus incana* are widespread. Floodplain meadows support diverse herbs and grasses. The site provides important habitat for 44 regionally threatened species of birds and is an extremely important staging and feeding area for migrating geese. Numbers of migrating geese reach 150,000 birds, and up to 600,000 ducks of various species pass through the area in spring. Numerous species of waterbirds breed at the site. Human activities include agriculture, cattle breeding, haymaking, fisheries, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 688. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Svislochsko-Berezinskiy

Site number: 2 268 | Country: Belarus  
| Administrative region: Osipovichy, Klichev and Kirov districts/Mogilev region  
Area: 18 341 ha | Coordinates: 53°22'N 28°59'E | Designation dates: 30-03-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Svislochsko-Berezinskiy is located where the Svisloch and Olsa rivers flow into the Berezina river. Over 80% of the Site is covered by forests adjoining the Berezina and Svisloch floodplains, but it also encompasses lakes, fen, transition mires and raised bogs. The wetland supports plant and animal populations which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Predpolesie region, which is on the border of the Boreal and Continental biogeographic regions. More than 650 upper vascular plant species are registered within the Site. The floodplain meadows along the Olsa and Berezina are important stopovers during migration for waders and ducks, including large numbers of white-winged tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* and ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. The globally threatened sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus* can also be found on the Site. The Berezina river floodplain, fen mires and lakes are important for flood control. The Site also plays an important role in ensuring water quality and maintaining groundwater reserves which supply surface wetland complexes. The wetland is important for timber production and for the provision of water for industry as well as drinking water. The main factors affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to the burning of vegetation in the floodplains and to unstable flood regimes, which cause the drying out of tree stands, and increase the vulnerability to forest pests and the risk of fires during dry years.

## Swidwie Lake Nature Reserve

Site number: 283 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Zachodniopomorskie  
Area: 891 ha | Coordinates: 53°34'N 14°22'E | Designation dates: 03-01-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in north-western Poland, between the Wkrzańska Primeval Forest and the border with Germany. Swidwie Lake is bordered by a mosaic of different habitats, including reed beds, meadows, alder carrs, fresh conifer forests and mixed oak-linden forests, while the Lake itself is eutrophic, shallow and overgrown by reeds. The area is important for breeding, feeding, moulting, wintering and resting birds including several endangered species. The Reserve is a regular feeding area for birds of prey such as white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), which also nests in the area. Numerous flocks of migrating birds, especially geese, gather on the lake during spring and autumn migrations. Flood control, erosion protection, water purification and maintenance of hydrological regimes are among the services which the Site provides. A centre for ecological education has been opened next to the Site in Zalesie, and some birdwatching towers and marked paths have been installed. Between successive updates of the Ramsar Information Sheet in 2007 and 2018, the Site faced increasing urbanization of nearby areas, and the loss of some habitats.

## Syra Pogonia Bog

Site number: 2 274 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivnenska oblast  
Area: 9 926 ha | Coordinates: 51°31'N 27°13'E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large, well preserved marsh area in one of the most waterlogged parts of Europe's continental biogeographic region. Its hills and wetter depressions are unique in Ukraine and Central Europe, as they are more characteristic of northern taiga wetlands, with oligotrophic communities of pine, sphagnum mosses, cottongrass, sedges and pod grass. The Site supports over 600 native plant species and 675 animal species and is an important breeding ground for many waterbirds. Some of these are of national importance, such as the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, European roller *Coracias garrulus* and western capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. The Site represents a relict boreal refuge for insects and supports rare boreal butterfly species such as *Oeneis jutta*. The wetland plays an important role in flood protection and in maintaining hydrological regimes; however the clearing and excavation of melioration channels in the surrounding areas every 10 to 15 years cause a sharp outflow of water. The Site provides important revenue for local communities, who collect berries within the Site and in adjacent areas. The Rivnensky Nature Reserve of which the Site is a part has an education centre, and organizes annual events focused on the importance of environmental conservation and the value of bogs including the wetlands of the Syra Pogonia Bog.

## Szaporca

Site number: 182 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: County of Baranya  
Area: 289,5 ha | Coordinates: 45°47'N 18°05'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Szaporca Ramsar Site is an oxbow lake that developed naturally from the River Dráva, which supports gallery forests, wet meadows, reedbeds, agricultural land and marshes. The Site is important for numerous species of breeding waterbirds such as the ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and the Eurasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). It also supports diverse floating vegetation communities such as Lemno-Utricularietum and Nuphareto-Castalietum. River regulation works in the late 1980s had a negative impact on the Site, creating a permanent separation between the river and its former riverbed. Since then, water supply has been managed through sluices connected to the River Dráva. The wetland area plays an important role in groundwater recharge and the maintenance of the hydrological balance. Human activities include agriculture and tourism. The main threats are overfishing and colonization by exotic invasive plant species such as the Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and the Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*).

## Tabusintac Lagoon and River Estuary

Site number: 612 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: New Brunswick  
Area: 4 997 ha | Coordinates: 47°20'N 64°56'W | Designation dates: 10-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary. 10/06/93; New Brunswick; 4,997 ha; 47°20'N 064°56'W. Protected Area. A coastal lagoon system protected from the Gulf of St. Lawrence by a barrier beach and dune system, composed of sub- and intertidal estuarine water, flats, dunes, beaches and islands. Dominant vegetation is saltmarsh and forest. A highly productive system with 80% of the area supporting *Zostera marina*. The beach system, considered as a tern "core colony" of importance due to high reproductive success rates, supports the second largest nesting colony in New Brunswick. The site is a major waterbird concentration area during spring and autumn migration for a high diversity of shore and waterbirds. Human activities include controlled bird hunting, clam digging, fishing, and using all-terrain vehicles. The surrounding area supports agriculture and peat extraction. Ramsar site no. 612. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Taiamã Ecological Station

Site number: 2 363 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Mato Grosso  
Area: 11 555 ha | Coordinates: 16°52'S 57°31'W | Designation dates: 21-10-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the core area of one of the largest wetlands on the planet, the Pantanal. Taiamã Ecological Station consists of several rare and representative swamps and marshes known for their extraordinary wildlife, and particularly their fish and birds. One hundred and thirty-one fish species have been identified in the rivers that border the Site, and 237 bird species have been recorded. The rich biodiversity includes populations of threatened species such as the vulnerable marsh deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*) and the endangered giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*). The Site provides ecosystem services to more than 2,000 people, varying from food provision, maintenance of hydrological regimes and nutrient cycling, to recreation, tourism and scientific activities within the Station. Fire is a potential threat.

## Taim Ecological Station

Site number: 2 298 | Country: Brazil | Administrative region: Rio Grande do Sul  
Area: 10 938,6 ha | Coordinates: 32°45'S 52°36'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Taim Ecological Station is a conservation area of worldwide importance, preserving wetlands and lagoons, fields, dunes and forests, and sheltering a great diversity of plant and animal species in the Atlantic Forest. Its notable birdlife includes species which migrate from the northern hemisphere, migrants from the continent's Southern Cone, and others that live here all year round. Endangered species such as the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) and Flamarion's tuco-tuco (*Ctenomys flamarioni*) are found in the Site. Taim Ecological Station is a core zone of the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve; it plays a very important role in biodiversity conservation, maintenance of the ecological balance of the area, food production, containment of flooding and pollution control. However urbanization and transport infrastructure are major threats.

## Tåkern

Site number: 23 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Östergötland  
Area: 5 421 ha | Coordinates: 58°21'N 14°49'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Tåkern is a shallow, nutrient-rich freshwater lake supporting reedbeds and submerged vegetation. It is one of the most important nesting and feeding grounds in Northern Europe; out of 270 species observed, over 100 nest at the Site. It regularly supports over 100,000 waterbirds during the spring and autumn migration, with species including the globally vulnerable lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus* and common pochard *Aythya ferina*, which are present in internationally significant numbers, well over 1% of their corresponding biogeographic populations. The lime-rich *molinia* meadows host a diversified flora with nationally protected species of orchids such as the fly orchid *Ophrys insectifera*, early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* and musk orchid *Herminium monorchis*. The wet meadows at Lake Tåkern have been created by years of grazing and haymaking, which continue to preserve the biodiversity and prevent overgrowth, maintaining the ecological character of the Site. Lake Tåkern is popular among visitors: facilities include a visitor and education centre offering guided tours, footpaths and bird towers, including one adapted to wheelchair users. The Site is also of cultural and historical value: about 30 stone age settlements have been found around the lake, evidence showing that the area was used for hunting and fishing. The earliest trace of human activity is represented by a bone harpoon, which could be as many as 9,000 years old.

## Tamarindo

Site number: 610 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Guanacaste  
Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 10°19'N 85°50'W | Designation dates: 09-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tamarindo. 09/06/93; Guanacaste; 500 ha; 10°19'N 085°50'W. National Wildlife Refuge. A coastal area under tidal influence with permanent saline wetlands subject to seasonal flooding. About 80% of the area is mangrove forest, 75% of which are the red mangrove. Provides habitat for large numbers of waterbirds; reptiles include iguana and two species of crocodiles. Main land uses consist of traditional and recreational fishing, ranching, agriculture and commerce. Ramsar site no. 610. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Tanamunningen

Site number: 1 197 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Finnmark  
Area: 3 409 ha | Coordinates: 70°30'N 28°24'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Tana is one of the largest rivers in Norway and the most important for the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The Site is part of its estuary, one of the few unspoiled river estuaries of this size in Europe, which is shallow and partly brackish, with huge underwater deposits of gravel and some sandy islands. It is particularly important for the goosander *Mergus merganser*, with 21,000 individuals recorded in October 2010. The Site is also important for the nationally threatened harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*; the sand banks are the only place in Norway where the female seals give birth. The River Tana plays a significant role in flood protection and sediment transport and is extremely important for the local Sami culture, both as a traditional means of transport and as a source of salmon. Possible threats include the introduction of invasive species through the unloading of ballast water, potential oil spills and plans for the development of a new quarry on the western side of the Site.

## Tana River Delta Ramsar Site

Site number: 2 082 | Country: Kenya | Administrative region: Coast Province, Tana Delta and Lamu Districts  
Area: 163 600 ha | Coordinates: 02°27'S 40°17'E | Designation dates: 09-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tana River Delta Ramsar Site. 07/09/2012; Coast Province; 163,600 ha; 02°27'S 040°17'E. Important Bird Area (IBA). The second most important estuarine and deltaic ecosystem in Eastern Africa, comprising a variety of freshwater, floodplain, estuarine and coastal habitats with extensive and diverse mangrove systems, marine brackish and freshwater intertidal areas, pristine beaches and shallow marine areas, forming productive and functionally interconnected ecosystems. This diversity in habitats permits diverse hydrological functions and a rich biodiversity including coastal and marine prawns, shrimps, bivalves and fish, five species of threatened marine turtles and IUCN red-listed African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Tana Mangabey (*Cercocebus galerritus*), Tana River Red Colobus (*Procolobus rufomitratus rufomitratus*) and White-collared Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis albotorquatus*). Over 600 plant species have been identified, including the endangered *Cynometra lukei* and *Gonatopus marattioides*. As one of the only estuarine staging posts on the West Asia - Eastern Africa coastal flyway, it is a critical feeding and wintering ground for several migratory waterbirds such as waders, gulls and terns. The main human activities include fishing, small-scale family-oriented agriculture, mangrove wood exploitation, grazing, water supply, tourism and research (ongoing research on the protection and monitoring of breeding turtles and the conservation of dugongs). Ramsar site no. 2082. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Tanbi Wetlands Complex

Site number: 1 657 | Country: Gambia | Administrative region: Brikama, Kanifing, Banjul  
Area: 6 304 ha | Coordinates: 13°26'N 16°38'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tanbi Wetland Complex. 02/02/07; Banjul, Kanifing, Brikama; 6,304 ha; 13°26'N and 016°38'W. A low-altitude zone formed from the deposition of marine and fluvial sediments, which constitutes estuarine and intertidal forested wetlands, 80% of which is dominated by mangrove swamps with *Rhizophora mangle*, *R. harrisoni*, *R. racemosa*, *Avicennia africana*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Annona glabra* and West Indian Alder *Conocarpus erectus* being the main mangrove species found here. It captures incoming water and rainfall, thus playing an important role in shoreline stabilization, sediment and nutrient retention and export, ground water replenishment and flood control, thereby acting as a hydrological buffer zone. This site harbours vulnerable species like the African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), African Clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*), and the Western Red Colobus (*Ptilocolobus badius temminckii*). The shade of the mangroves provide an important breeding ground for the shrimp *Panaeus notialis* in the Western African Marine Eco-region. Activities carried out in this area include subsistence fishing and agriculture, oyster and mangrove harvesting and tourism. Exposure to negative influences such as rapid coastal erosion, industrialization and agriculture has been noted. The Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity (ICAM) project, jointly implemented by the Government of Gambia, the World Bank and WWF, will update the existing management plan for this site as well as carry out sensitization and educational activities. Ramsar site no. 1657. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Tanda Dam

Site number: 98 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: North West Frontier Province  
Area: 405 ha | Coordinates: 33°35'N 71°22'E | Designation dates: 23-07-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tanda Dam. 23/07/76; North West Frontier Province; 405 ha; 33°35'N 071°22'E. Wildlife Reserve. A small water-storage reservoir supporting irrigated agriculture and a small fishery. The site is a wintering area for Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) and serves as a staging area for various waterbirds. Bird numbers seldom exceed 500 in mid-winter and 2,000 during migration periods. Ramsar site no. 98.

## Tanganyika

Site number: 1 671 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Northern Province  
Area: 230 000 ha | Coordinates: 08°31'S 30°53'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tanganyika. 02/02/07; Northern Province; 230,000 ha; 08°31'S 030°53'E. National Park, Game Management Area. Includes the Zambian part of Lake Tanganyika, Africa's deepest and longest lake, shared by Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as shoreline areas of Nsumbu National Park and Kaputa GMA. The Zambian shoreline (about 238km) is steep and rocky, with some areas of shallow swampy land and limited stretches of sandy beaches. The site has a rich diversity of vegetation including riverine forest, woodland, thickets, shrub and grassland and hosts the African elephant, lion, wild dog, and endemic reptiles like the Lake Tanganyika Water Snake (*Lycodonomorphus bicolor*) and Water Cobra (*Boulengerina annulata*). The Zambian part of the lake hosts over 252 fish species, 82 of which are endemic (e.g., *Neolamprologus brichardi* and *Altalamprologus compressiceps*). The main inhabitants (Tabwa and Lungu peoples) practice artisanal fishing for a living but also trade forest products (grass, fuel wood and timber wood). The lake holds historical landmarks such as ruins of early missionary churches and some early Stone Age sites near the Kalambo Falls. A management plan has been finalized for the NP with UNDP assistance, aimed at decreasing poaching levels, ensuring proper waste disposal, restoring degraded habitats, and ensuring implementation of EIAs and land use plans for all development projects in the park, and will soon be implemented. There are plans to formulate a transnational fisheries management plan. Ramsar site no. 1671. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Tanguar Haor

Site number: 1 031 | Country: Bangladesh | Administrative region: Sunamganj District

Area: 9 500 ha | Coordinates: 25°09'N 91°04'E | Designation dates: 10-07-2000

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tanguar Haor. 10/07/00; Sunamganj; 9,500 ha; 25°09'N 91°04'E. Bangladesh's most important freshwater wetland, the site lies in the northeastern part of the country in the floodplain of the Surma River, one of the main tributaries of the Brahmaputra at the base of the Meghalaya Hills in adjacent India. The area harbours some of the last vestiges of natural swamp forest and is totally flooded in the monsoon season, apart from artificial hillocks upon which homesteads are constructed. Tanguar Haor provides habitat for at least 135 fish and 208 bird species, including 92 waterbird species and 98 migratory bird species, and including 10 IUCN Red Book and 22 CITES listed species. About 30-40,000 migratory waterfowl converge on the area in the northern winter months, and rare species such as Pallas's Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucorhynchus* are relatively common and breed in the area. Tanguar Haor also supports a rich fishery and is regarded as one of the country's richest breeding grounds for freshwater fish. Threats include over-exploited fishery stocks and uncontrolled taking of waterfowl, and the local community has been denied access to the resources by leaseholders of the fishery, which has led to conflicts. Under the National Conservation Strategy Implementation Project-1, a first management plan was produced in 1997 and a new one is going into implementation in 2000, which is intended to restore access and use rights. Hunting of turtles, tortoises, and waterfowl is widespread and part of everyday life, and the way of life - living in homesteads built on mounds -- is said to be unique in this part of Bangladesh. Ramsar site no. 1031. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Tanjung Piai

Site number: 1 289 | Country: Malaysia | Administrative region: Johor

Area: 526 ha | Coordinates: 01°16'N 103°31'E | Designation dates: 31-01-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tanjung Piai. 31/01/03; Johor; 526 ha; 01°16'N 103°31'E. State Park. The site consists of coastal mangroves and intertidal mudflats located at the southernmost tip of continental Asia, especially important for protection from sea-water intrusion and coastal erosion. Tanjung Piai supports many threatened and vulnerable wetland-dependent species such as Pig-tailed Macaque and Long-tailed Macaque, birds like Mangrove Pitta, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, Mangrove Whistler. Globally vulnerable Lesser Adjutant may be observed in the vicinity of the site. The Scaly Anteater, Common Porcupine, Smooth Otter and Bearded Pig are classified as vulnerable or near threatened listed in the IUCN Red Book 2000. Waters of the four main rivers traversing Tanjung Piai are abundant with commercially valuable species. The site enjoys the status of a State Park for eco-tourism -- a visitor centre with boardwalks near the southern tip of the park provides interpretive materials, guided walks, and overnight facilities, with a World Wetlands Day programme beginning in 2003. Due to increased sea traffic, the western side of Tanjung Piai has been affected by oil spills which caused natural erosion processes in nearly 70 ha of the mangrove forest. In addition, the new port being established in the estuary of Sungai Pulai will likely lead to increased wave energy reaching the east shore of Tanjung Piai, thus accelerating coastal erosion. Ramsar site no. 1289. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Tanjung Puting National Park

Site number: 2 192 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: Central Kalimantan

Area: 408 286 ha | Coordinates: 03°03'S 112°00'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tanjung Puting National Park. 11/12/2013; Central Kalimantan; 408,286 ha; 03°02'47" S and 111°59'45" E. National Park; UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve.

This area is one of the most important conservation areas in Central Kalimantan, acting as a water reservoir and representing one of the largest remaining habitats of the endangered Kalimantan Orangutan *Pongo pygmaeus*. The site consists of seven different types of swamp, including peat swamp forests, lowland tropical rainforest, freshwater swamp forests and as well as mangroves and coastal forest. It supports large numbers of endemic species of flora and fauna adapted to the predominant acidic peat swamp environment. The area was declared a National Park in 1996, and is currently managed under a long-term plan (2009-2029) to rehabilitate areas formerly used for timber concessions and to prevent illegal logging and encroachment. Local communities depend on the wetlands for fish, fruit and timber and some continue to use traditional methods of fishing and to extract latex from the Jelutong/Gum tree *Dyera costulata*. However, there is increasing pressure on the natural resources of the area, leading to the decline of endemic species such as the Ramin *Gonystylus bancanus* and Meranti (*Shorea* spp.) trees. Ramsar Site no.2192. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Tärnasjön

Site number: 29 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västerbotten County

Area: 23 236 ha | Coordinates: 65°56'N 15°33'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the upper stretch of the Umeälven (Ume) river, the Site consists of a large alpine freshwater lake with an extensive archipelago, large mire complexes including the southernmost palsa mires in Sweden, numerous small lakes and a delta virtually unmodified by human activities. The Site has been extended to incorporate the Mire Protection Plan Site "Tärnasjön och Ånkardalen" and other wetland types, resulting in an increase in area of over 11,000 hectares. Vegetation is dominated by dwarf *Betula* scrub and a rich shoreline flora. Ånkardalen, in the southern part of the Site, is one of only four or five localities of the endemic species *Gymnadenia runei*. The Tärnasjön lake and the surrounding mire complexes are important for breeding birds, especially alpine waders and ducks. The Site regularly supports more than 1% of the Fennoscandia/Eastern Mediterranean population of the globally vulnerable lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The wetland is important to local Sami communities for fishing and reindeer herding. The area is also used for recreation such as nature observation and nature-based tourism. Recent studies have shown that the palsa mires in Laivadalen have severely deteriorated, as a result of a warmer climate during recent years. There is a management plan for the Site.

## Tasek Bera

Site number: 712 | Country: Malaysia | Administrative region: Pahang

Area: 38 446 ha | Coordinates: 02°58'N 102°36'E | Designation dates: 10-11-1994

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tasek Bera. 10/11/94; Pahang; 38,446 ha; 02°58'N 102°36'E. Forest Reserve; State Reserve for Conservation. An excellent example of a "blackwater" ecosystem which includes open water, a reed swamp area, and swamp forest with grasslands on the periphery. The site supports high species diversity, including 328 species of algae, 19 aquatic plants, 64 zooplankton, an abundance of aquatic insects, shrimp, crab and 95 species of fish (most indigenous, and including the endangered Asian Bonytongue or Arowana). All amphibians and reptiles of Malaysian tropical swamps are represented as well as 119 bird species, of which two, Masked Finfoot and Crested Fireback, are threatened. Indigenous people inhabit the area and depend on its natural resources, the fishery in particular, for their livelihood. Ecotourism is promoted. Other site uses include conservation education and scientific research. Ramsar site no. 712. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Tateyama Midagahara and Dainichidaira

Site number: 2 059 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Toyoma Prefecture  
Area: 574 ha | Coordinates: 36°34'N 137°32'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tateyama Midagahara and Dainichidaira. 03/07/12; Toyama; 574 ha; 36°34'18"N 137°32'06"E. National Park. An alpine wetland extending over the flat lava plateau formed by the past volcanic activity of Mt. Tateyama. These snow patch grasslands contain about 1,000 shallow ponds recharged by melting snow and rain. The site includes Shomyo Waterfall, at 350m the highest waterfall in Japan, and offers a wintering spot for *Lagopus muta* (Ptarmigan) and several species of alpine butterflies and the dragonfly *Leucorrhinina dubiaorientalis*. The site overlaps the Special Protection Zone of the Chubu-sangaku National Park which is intended to give strict protection to the pristine natural environment of the park. The site holds religious significance as it lies within the Tateyama area, a place of mountain worship. Shomyo Waterfall (Shomyo = chanting the name of Buddha) is said to have been named for the roaring sound of the waterfall that closely resembles Buddhist prayer. The opening of the Tateyama-Kurobe Alpine sightseeing route in 1971 has caused some disturbances that are seen as potential threats. Ramsar Site no. 2059. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Taunsa Barrage

Site number: 817 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Punjab Province  
Area: 6 756 ha | Coordinates: 30°42'N 70°50'E | Designation dates: 22-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Taunsa Barrage. 22/03/96; Punjab; 6,576 ha; 30°42'N 70°50'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A large reservoir on the Indus River, constructed for irrigation purposes. Vegetation includes riverine forest and numerous species of aquatic plants. A very important wintering area for waterfowl, notably Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) which breed in the area, and a staging area for some species of cranes and shorebirds. Human activities include commercial fishing, irrigation, reed harvesting, recreation, and in adjacent areas agriculture, livestock grazing, and forestry. Ramsar site no. 817.

## Tautra and Svaet

Site number: 311 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag  
Area: 1 635 ha | Coordinates: 63°34'N 10°38'E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the island of Tautra and a shallow strait between Tautra and the neighbouring mainland, together with the surrounding shallow intertidal marine waters. These waters and their mud- and sandflats are particularly important as a staging area in spring and autumn for a large number of bird species, including the globally vulnerable velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* and long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*. The birdlife also stops over on the island's freshwater lakes. The island itself is dominated by farms, houses, roads and some woodland areas with pine and spruce forests and juniper shrubs. The traditionally managed cultural landscape, shaped over hundreds of years, contains a high diversity of specialized plant species.

## Tavvuoma

Site number: 33 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 28 920 ha | Coordinates: 68°31'N 20°44'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tavvuoma is a vast and unexploited mire complex set in one of the northernmost plateau regions of Lapland. The Site is rich and diverse: it includes palsa mires, alpine rivers, freshwater lakes, pools and mountain birch woodland. The Site is unusual in Sweden due to its natural hydrological regime which remains intact, unlike many other river valleys in the region which have been dammed for hydro-electricity production. Due to the cold climate, Tavvuoma is also known as the most palsa-rich area in Sweden, with some palsas (peat mounds formed by the growth of permanently frozen ice lenses under the surface) reaching a height of up to seven metres. Climate change is affecting the condition of the palsas in Tavvuoma. The palsa mires are characterized by a mosaic of microhabitats and the conditions provide opportunities for an unusually rich and varied plant and animal life. The vegetation here is strongly influenced by permafrost. The birdlife at the site is extremely rich for mires in this region, and as many as 78 bird species have been noted. At least 50% of these species breed within the Site, and densities of breeding Anatidae and waders reach the regionally high numbers of 70 pairs per square kilometre. Numerous lakes and streams attract fish and birds as well as fisherman and ornithologists.

## Tchikapika-Owando

Site number: 2 223 | Country: Congo | Administrative region: Département de la Cuvette  
Area: 970 165,8 ha | Coordinates: 00°54'N 15°58'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Tchikapika-Owando is a biodiversity-rich wetland which supports fish, reptiles, birds, mammals, and invertebrate species and plays an important role in the hydrological regulation of the Congo river basin. The Site is known to support a multitude of species of fauna and flora, with its grassy savannah, rainforest and rural complexes particularly characteristic of the Guinean-Congolese/Zambeian biogeographic region. Notable species include the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), water chevrotain (*Hyemoschus aquaticus*), forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), African civet (*Civettictis civetta*), side-striped jackal (*Canis adustus*), the critically endangered western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*), crocodiles, tortoises and reptiles. The aquatic vegetation and marshy forests offer ideal feeding and breeding ground for waterbirds such as the African darter, egret, woolly-necked stork and the tawny eagle. The local human population depends on the resources of the Site for its livelihoods, such as traditional fishing, hunting, subsistence farming, livestock rearing, collection of non-timber forest products and medicinal plants.

## Třeboňská rašeliniště

Site number: 636 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: South Bohemia, České Budejovice  
Area: 1 100 ha | Coordinates: 49°00'N 14°49'E | Designation dates: 26-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mostly forested, disjunct transition peat bogs without large water bodies and situated in shallow basins fed by artesian waters. The site has unique island ecosystems with many protected and endangered plant and animal species. The bogs support a high species diversity of insect fauna unique for Central Europe. Berry picking is the only land use.

## Třeboňské rybníky

Site number: 495 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: České Budejovice  
Area: 10 165 ha | Coordinates: 48°38'N 14°49'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A highly complex and disjunct system of 180 interconnected, artificial fishponds excavated in the flood plain of two rivers and consisting of extensive reedbeds, coniferous woodland, wet meadows, agricultural land, peat bogs and freshwater marshes. The area is important for numerous species of breeding waterbirds, as a feeding ground for Black stork (5-10 pairs) nesting nearby, and an internationally important staging area for up to 20,000 waterbirds. The site supports several notable species of invertebrates and plants. Human activities include bird hunting (uncontrolled), agriculture and tourism. The site was added to the Montreux Record in 1994 due to possible threats arising from the privatization process. Since 1997 the adverse effects of intensive fish farming and hunting became more significant due to nutrient-enrichment and the destruction of littoral zones and surrounding habitats.

## Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast

Site number: 741 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 1 247 ha | Coordinates: 54°38'N 01°10'W | Designation dates: 15-08-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast. 15/08/95; England; 1,247 ha; 54°38'N 001°07'W. National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, SSSI. An estuary, highly modified by human activities, encompassing a range of habitats including sand and mud flats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, and sand dunes. Nationally and internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds stage and winter at the site. The site supports a rich assemblage of invertebrates, including seven nationally rare species. Human activities include recreation, hunting, and fishing. Site extended from 943 to 1247 hectares, 11/04/00. Ramsar site no. 741. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Teici and Pelecare bogs

Site number: 740 | Country: Latvia | Administrative region: Madona, Jekabpils, Preiļi  
Area: 23 560 ha | Coordinates: 56°36'N 26°29'E | Designation dates: 25-07-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Teici and Pelecare bogs. 25/07/95; Madona, Jakabpils, Preiļi; 23,560 ha; 56°34'N 026°30'E. This site is made up of 60% ombrogenous mire, 10% peat swamp forest, 19% bog lakes and 5% fens. The lake is a good representative example of a near-natural bog. The site also contains endemic plant and bird species. The surrounding landscape is characterized by extensive agriculture. Ramsar site no. 740. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Tendrivska Bay

Site number: 768 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast  
Area: 38 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°14'N 31°56'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tendrivska Bay. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast; 38,000 ha; 46°14'N 031°56'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993; removed from the Record, 29/08/03. Chornomorskyi Biosphere Reserve. A saltwater lagoon of varying salinity, separated from the Black Sea by sandy spits. The site includes islands, numerous lakes, and temporary waterbodies. Vegetation is characterized by brackish and saltwater associations, kelpbeds, reedbeds, a rich aquatic vegetation, and abundant crustaceans and mollusks. Large numbers of numerous species of waterfowl nest and stage, and up to 700,000 individuals (including the globally threatened duck *Aythya nyroca* and goose *Branta ruficollis*) winter at the site. Human activities include commercial fishing, recreation, hunting, and conservation education. There is disturbance from commercial fishing and pollution by industrial and agricultural waste water; these impacts led to listing on the Montreux Record in 1993. The site was removed from the Montreux Record in 2003. Ramsar site no. 768. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur

Site number: 953 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Arkhangai Province  
Area: 6 110 ha | Coordinates: 48°10'N 99°43'E | Designation dates: 06-07-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur. 06/07/98; Arkhangai Province; 6,110 ha; 48°10'N 099°43'E. Natural Park; Anatidae Network Site. A freshwater and nutrient-poor lake formed by volcanic activity, located in the Suman River valley in the Central Khangai Mountains. As with most wetlands in Mongolia, land use in and around the lake is restricted to fishing and livestock grazing. The extensive marshes in the west are an important breeding and staging area for migratory waterfowl. Ramsar site no. 953. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Terraba-Sierpe

Site number: 782 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: Puntarenas  
Area: 30 654 ha | Coordinates: 08°52'N 83°36'W | Designation dates: 11-12-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Terraba-Sierpe. 11/12/95; Puntarenas; 30,654 ha; 08°52'N 083°36'W. Forest Reserve, National Wetland. The estuary of two rivers, adjacent lagoons, periodically inundated mangrove and "yolillo" palm swamp forest, sandy beaches and cliffs. Supports 55 species of fish, several commercial shellfish species, numerous bird species, mammals and reptiles. Human activities within the site consist of extraction of mangroves for fuel and tannins, traditional fishing, clam and crab harvesting. Ramsar site no. 782. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Teuravuoma - Kivijärvenvuoma Mires

Site number: 1 535 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Lapland  
Area: 5 788 ha | Coordinates: 67°20'N 24°06'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Teuravuoma - Kivijärvenvuoma Mires. 02/02/04; Lapland; 5,788 ha; 67°20'N 024°05'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Finnish Mire Conservation Programme, Protected Primeval Forest Area. The most representative mire complex in western Lapland and an important protection area of rich fens and the largest unbroken aapa mire in the area of River Tornionjoki. A major part of the mires consists of representative grass or flark fens. Sphagnum fuscum bogs with spruce and poor pine bogs occur on margins, traversed by small rivers, and there are three small lakes and numerous ponds. The mires are an important area for breeding birds, including several threatened species such as Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle and Merlin, and it provides habitat for scarce species including Whooper Swan, Hen Harrier and Osprey as well as many waterfowl and waders during the migration period. Reindeer husbandry is an important livelihood in the surrounding areas and also permitted in the Mire Protection Area. Hunting, fishing and picking of mushrooms and berries are permitted. Apart from these uses the area has few visitors and is untouched by tourist activities. The alluvial meadows are in the process of overgrowing because of diminished hay cutting. Ramsar site no. 1535. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Thames Estuary and Marshes

Site number: 1 025 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 5 589 ha | Coordinates: 51°28'N 00°34'E | Designation dates: 05-05-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Thames Estuary and Marshes. 05/05/00; England; 5,589 ha; 51°29'N 000°36'E. Special Protection Area/ EC Birds Directive; SSSI. The site comprises a complex of brackish, floodplain grazing marsh ditches, saline lagoons and intertidal saltmarsh and mudflat along the River Thames between Gravesend and Sheerness in Essex and Kent. The habitats support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, and the saltmarsh and grazing marsh are of international importance for their diverse assemblages of wetland plants and invertebrates. The site performs important hydrological functions, including shoreline stabilization, sediment trapping, flood water storage and desynchronization of flood peaks, and maintenance of water quality by removal of nutrients. Human uses include yachting, angling, wildfowling (seasonal), jet skiing, waterskiing, and birdwatching; disturbance from some of these is a current issue but is being addressed through negotiation and awareness-raising. Ramsar site no. 1025. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Thanedar Wala Game Reserve

Site number: 97 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: North West Frontier Province  
Area: 4 047 ha | Coordinates: 32°37'N 71°05'E | Designation dates: 23-07-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Thanedar Wala. 23/07/76; North West Frontier Province; 4,047 ha; 32°37'N 071°05'E. Game Reserve. A stretch of the Kurram River and associated floodplain, consisting of braided river channels and seasonally flooded islands. Reeds and sedges occur, along with extensive thickets of Tamarix. An important route for migratory birds, the site supports small numbers of various species of breeding and wintering waterbirds. Hunting is the main human activity. Ramsar site no. 97.

## Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay

Site number: 664 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 2 169 ha | Coordinates: 51°19'N 01°20'E | Designation dates: 28-07-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay. 28/07/94; England; 2,169 ha; 51°18'N 001°23'E. Special Area for Conservation, Special Protection Area, SSSI. A coastal site, consisting of a long rocky shore, adjoining estuary, dune, maritime grassland, saltmarsh, and grazing marsh. The site supports internationally important numbers of wintering turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, nationally important numbers of a breeding seabird, and four waders: ringed plover, golden plover, gray plover, and sanderling. Large numbers of migratory birds use the site for staging. Large numbers of nationally scarce invertebrate species occur at the site. Human activities include recreation, bait collection, agriculture, livestock grazing, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 664. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## The Broadmeadow Estuary

Site number: 833 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Dublin  
Area: 546 ha | Coordinates: 53°27'N 06°10'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Broadmeadow Estuary. 11/06/96; 546 ha; 53°27'N 006°10'W. An estuary cut off from the sea by a large sand spit. The site includes well-developed saltmarshes, salt meadows, rocky shores, a well-developed outer dune ridge and sand mudflats exposed at low tide. Vegetation consists of a large bed of eelgrass (*Zostera noltii* and *Z. angustifolium*) and extensive mats of green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp., *Ulva lactuca*). The estuary is an important wintering site for numerous species of waterbirds. The Brent goose population is of international importance. The high numbers of diving birds reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary. Human activities include water sports. There is a marina and some housing. Ramsar site no. 833. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina & Albert Wetland

Site number: 321 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: South Australia  
Area: 142 530 ha | Coordinates: 35°18'S 138°44'E | Designation dates: 11-01-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina & Albert Wetland. 01/11/85; South Australia; 142,530 ha; 35°56'S 139°18'E. National Park, Game Reserves and Crown Land; Shorebird Network Site. The site is located at the mouth of the River Murray, south east of the city of Adelaide. It consists of two lakes forming a wetland system at the river's mouth and a long, shallow brackish-to-hypersaline lagoon which they feed into, separated from the ocean by a narrow sand dune peninsula. The lakes contain water of varying salinity and include a unique mosaic of 23 wetland types including intertidal mud, sand and salt flats, coastal brackish/saline lagoons and permanent freshwater lakes. The site is of international importance for migratory waterbirds and supports the greatest wealth of waterbird species in the Murray-Darling Basin. It hosts important nesting colonies of cormorants, plovers, ibises and terns, and also supports globally endangered species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) and the Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peilii*). The site is popular for recreation activities include camping, boating, regulated duck hunting, and supports a range of commercial activities related to tourism, irrigated agriculture, and commercial fishing. The area is central to aboriginal culture and spiritual beliefs, and it is noted for its extensive sites of historic and geological importance. Ramsar site no. 321. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## The Dales, Christmas Island

Site number: 1 225 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Christmas Island Territory  
Area: 580 ha | Coordinates: 10°29'S 105°34'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A near-pristine system of seven watercourses within the Christmas Island National Park, including permanent and intermittent streams and most of the surface water on the island. It is the first Australian Ramsar Site to include surface and subterranean karst features. The sites numerous wetland types support important populations of endemic and/or threatened species including Christmas Island Hawk-owl *Ninox natalis* and Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus natalis*, Abbotts Booby *Papasula abbotti*, the gecko *Lepidodactylus listeri*, and the Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops exocoeti*. The site plays host to the annual mass migration and spawning of red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*) and provides critical habitat for the blue crab (*Discoplax hirtipes*). In total, 20 species of land crabs are found within the site, all migrating to the ocean to spawn. The Dales are a popular sightseeing destination for local people and tourists and one of them has religious significance for Buddhist inhabitants of Chinese background. The principal threat to the site comes from introduced species, particularly the Yellow Crazy Ant *Anoplolepis gracilipes*, which was accidentally introduced in the first half of the 20th century and whose supercolonies proliferated markedly in the mid- to late 1990s.

### The Dee Estuary

Site number: 298 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England, Wales  
Area: 14 303 ha | Coordinates: 53°19'N 03°11'W | Designation dates: 17-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Dee Estuary. 17/07/85; England, Wales; 14.302 ha; 53°18' 08"N 03°12' 56" W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC) Local Nature Reserve; SSSI. The Dee is a large funnel-shaped sheltered estuary and is one of the top ten estuaries in the UK for wintering and passage waterfowl populations. The estuary supports internationally important numbers of waterfowl and waders. The estuary plays a very important role in shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces, sediment trapping and water supply. The two shorelines of the estuary show a marked contrast between the industrialised usage of the coastal belt in Wales and residential and recreational usage in England. The site was subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1993 and 1994 due to several adverse factors affecting its ecological character: pollution, overfishing, introduction of invasive species and general disturbance from transport and industrial activities. Since then, management plans have been developed and implemented. However, some of the threats remain. Ramsar site no. 298. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### The Emiquon Complex

Site number: 2 031 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Illinois  
Area: 5 729 ha | Coordinates: 40°21'N 90°03'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Emiquon Complex. 02/02/12; Illinois; 5,729 ha, 40°21'22"N 090°03'10"W. National Wildlife Refuges. The site lies within the former natural floodplain of the Illinois River, and as in other large-floodplain river systems, the dynamic relationship between the river and its floodplain creates a diversity of habitats including bottomland lakes, side channels, sloughs, marsh, bottomland hardwood forests, and wet, mesic and dry prairies. These in turn support correspondingly abundant and diverse animal populations, both terrestrial and aquatic. The site and its natural diversity of both resident and migratory animal species contribute to a corridor that provides essential habitats for long-distance longitudinal migrants such as Neotropical song birds, North American waterfowl, and some fishes such as paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) and American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), and it also provides habitat and corridors for lateral migrants, especially amphibians and reptiles. In addition to providing habitat for animals, the complex contributes to important ecological processes including processing and cycling of nutrients, sediments, and energy; improving water quality; sequestering carbon; and normalizing hydrology. It also provides opportunities for people for education, recreation, and compatible economic development. Threats include invasive species, high sedimentation rates, pollution, and altered hydrology in the areas of the complex that are not protected by levees. Ramsar Site no. 2031. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam

Site number: 898 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Kangwon-do  
Area: 106 ha | Coordinates: 38°13'N 128°07'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam. 28/03/97; Kangwon-do; 106 ha; 38°13'N 128°07'E. Natural Environment Preservation Area; Natural Ecosystem Conservation Area; Natural Monument Protection Area. Composed of two bogs and surrounded by deciduous broad-leaved forest, the area is the only high moor in the country. Thick layers of peat formed over 4,000 years ago prevent surface water infiltration, creating a specific topography. The site exhibits high species diversity and supports numerous species of rare plants and many newly discovered species of animals. Public access is strictly controlled. Ramsar site no. 898. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

### The Issyk-kul State Nature Reserve with the Issyk-kul Lake

Site number: 1 231 | Country: Kyrgyzstan | Administrative region: Issyk-kul region  
Area: 626 439 ha | Coordinates: 42°25'N 77°15'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Issyk-Kul State Nature Reserve with the Issyk-Kul Lake. 12/11/02; Issyk Kul Province; 626,439 ha; 42°25'00"N 077°15'00"E. (First designated for the Ramsar List by the Soviet Union in 1976, added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990.) UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The second largest saline lake in the world, Issyk-Kul is fed by over 80 streams and minor channels, but has no outflow. The name means "hot lake" because, despite its high altitude (1609m), the lake itself never freezes over – the average water temperature is 22° C. The site is of primary importance as a wintering site for migratory waterbirds (up to 70,000 birds recorded annually). Notable waterbird species include the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). The lake is home to 28 fish species of which 7 are found nowhere else in the world. The silt from the lake and the hot springs at Aksu are thought to have medicinal properties, which has led to the development and expansion of health resorts along its shore. Ramsar site no. 1231 (formerly Ramsar site no. 109). Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore

Site number: 2 202 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Merseyside  
Area: 2 078 ha | Coordinates: 53°25'N 03°09'W | Designation dates: 07-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore. 05/07/2013; England; 2,078 ha; 53°25'N 03°11'W. Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). Located on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England, on the mouths of the Mersey and Dee estuaries, the site comprises large areas of saltmarsh and extensive intertidal sand and mud flats, with limited areas of brackish marsh, rocky shoreline and boulder clay cliffs, along a rural and industrial stretch of coast. The intertidal flats are internationally important feeding grounds for waders: the site regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds, including 2.4% of the *Calidris canutus islandica* population and 2.8% of the *Limosa lapponica* population. The wetland provides ecosystem services including shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces, sediment trapping and water supply. The potential threats to its ecological character derive from increasing recreational activities and social and economic pressures to return the foreshore back to sandy beaches, and sedimentation of the foreshore which reduces the available low-tide feeding habitat and causes vegetation succession. The adjacent land is dedicated to agriculture and urban development as well as nature conservation and scientific research and monitoring. Recreational activities include bird watching, walking, fishing, sailing, canoeing, cycling and kite surfing, all carried out at intensive levels. There is a visitor centre at Seaforth Nature Reserve. Ramsar Site no. 2202. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## The New Forest

Site number: 622 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 28 003 ha | Coordinates: 50°52'N 01°37'W | Designation dates: 22-09-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The New Forest. 22/09/93; England; 28,003 ha; 50°50'N 001°39'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; SSSI. An extensive complex of woodland, dry and wet heath and over 90 valley mires, associated seepages and peatlands situated on acidic and nutrient-poor soils. Pools in the heath-mire matrix contain nutrient-enriched water supporting a species-rich assemblage of plants. Several species of plants, invertebrates and birds occurring at the site are rare, vulnerable, endangered or nationally scarce. The site is important for breeding, feeding and roosting birds characteristic of the heathland environment and wintering raptors, with up to 15 *Circus cyaneus* feeding or roosting in the area. Human activities include tourism, recreation, and increased development around the periphery. The decline in livestock grazing has caused a reduction in the floral diversity. Ramsar site no. 622. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## The Swale

Site number: 299 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 6 515 ha | Coordinates: 51°22'N 00°52'E | Designation dates: 17-07-1985  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Swale. 17/07/85; England; 6,515 ha; 51°22'N 000°50'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Local Nature Reserve. An extensive complex of mudflats, saltmarsh and freshwater grazing marsh, an estuarine channel, and areas of shingle, shell and sand beaches and mussel beds. The saltmarshes and mudflats support a high species diversity of plants and invertebrates, including several nationally rare species. The area is of national importance for various breeding, passage and wintering ducks and waders, and regularly supports internationally important numbers of numerous species of wintering waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 299. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## The Wash

Site number: 395 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 62 212 ha | Coordinates: 52°56'N 00°17'E | Designation dates: 30-03-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Wash. 30/03/88; England; 62,212 ha; 52°56'N 000°17'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserve. A vast intertidal embayment incorporating one of the largest and most important areas of estuarine mudflats, sandbanks and saltmarsh in Britain. Counts of wintering waterbirds reach 320,673 individuals and include nationally and internationally important numbers of numerous species, notably up to 17,000 passerines (perching songbirds). The site is also of outstanding international importance for passage birds, notable waders, and supports various breeding birds, an important shell fishery, and the largest breeding colony in Europe of the seal *Phoca vitulina*. Adjoining land is used for intensive agriculture, and includes several localized industrial and residential zones. There are few public access points. Ramsar site no. 395. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Thjörðsárver

Site number: 460 | Country: Iceland | Administrative region:  
Area: 37 500 ha | Coordinates: 64°37'N 18°45'W | Designation dates: 20-03-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Thjörðsárver. 20/03/90; 37,500 ha; 64°35'N 019°15'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 16 June 1993. Nature Reserve. The upper part of the Thjörða River, tundra meadows dissected by numerous glacial and spring-fed streams, the site includes abundant pools and lakes and extensive marshland dominated by sedges. The site is surrounded by a desert composed of volcanic sand. It is the most important nesting area in Iceland for the goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, supporting about 10,000 pairs. Ramsar site no. 460. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Thursley & Ockley Bog

Site number: 647 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 265 ha | Coordinates: 51°10'N 00°42'E | Designation dates: 14-02-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Thursley and Ockley Bog. 14/02/94; England; 265 ha; 51°10'N 000°42'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The site is a valley mire complex which occurs within a matrix of heathland, where drainage is impeded, and a deep layer of peat has built up from the remains of bog-moss *Sphagnum* spp. which forms much of the vegetation. Several areas of open water also contribute to the overall diversity of the site, ranging from acidic boggy pools and ditches to large ponds. It supports rare wetland invertebrates, six native reptile species, and nationally important breeding populations of *Caprimulgus europaeus* and *Lullula arborea*. Human activities include nature conservation, recreation, fishing, and military activities. Ramsar site no. 647. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Tibet Selincuo Wetlands

Site number: 2 352 | Country: China  
| Administrative region: Nagqu City, Tibet Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China  
Area: 1 893 630 ha | Coordinates: 31°22'N 89°36'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an inland wetland dominated by permanent highland saline and freshwater lakes on the south Chang Tang plateau, part of the Tibetan plateau. This high-altitude wetland, with an average elevation of 4,700 metres, is a representative alpine wetland ecosystem highlighting rare and unique features of such wetlands across the world. The Site is divided into two zones: the western part, in the vast area between the Kunlun mountains and the Nyenchen Tanglha mountains of the Gangdisê range, which is the largest system of inland lakes on the Tibetan plateau; and the eastern part, to the north of the Nyenchen Tanglha mountains and on the eastern side of the north-east Tibetan watershed, with a system of rivers which flow towards the sea. The Site's vast and varied alpine wetland ecosystems play a significant role in maintaining biodiversity, including 472 species of plants, 23 mammals, 105 birds, one amphibian, three reptiles and ten fish species, among them rare and threatened species such as the saker falcon *Falco cherrug*, Pallas's fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, the eastern imperial eagle *Aquila heliaca* and the snow leopard *Panthera uncia*. The Site is also an important stopover and breeding ground for many waterbirds such as *Grus nigricollis*, *Larus brunnicephalus*, *Anser indicus* and *Tadorna ferruginea*.

## Tifunque

Site number: 730 | Country: Paraguay | Administrative region: Pte. Hayes  
Area: 280 000 ha | Coordinates: 24°15'S 59°30'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tifunque. 07/06/95; Pte. Hayes; 280,000 ha; 24°15'S 059°30'W. National Park. An alluvial plain along the Pilcomayo River which is flooded much of the year and characterized by patches of forest, extensive, clustered lakes, and savannas of palm groves. Watercourses follow ancient riverbeds, with gallery forest growing alongside. Another sector is composed of vast, dry plains of grasses and shrubs. Located in the tropical deciduous dry forest biogeographical region, the site, in outstanding condition, is a good representative of biodiversity. Situated along the migration route, birds are abundant in species and number. Several threatened wildlife species (rhea, caiman, turtle, and jaguar) and fish species breed here. The site is important for *Potamogeton striatus*, a critically endangered plant, and supports a distinct mammalian fauna. Extensive ranching, extraction of forest products, and poaching occur. The site shares a border with Argentina. Ramsar site no. 730. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Site number: 1 452 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: California  
Area: 1 021 ha | Coordinates: 32°33'N 117°07'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR). 02/02/05; California; 1,021 ha; 32°33'N 117°07'W. National Wildlife Refuge. On the border with Mexico facing the city of Tijuana, the site is one of the few unfragmented estuaries and coastal lagoons in Southern California. It is a seasonally marine-dominated estuary experiencing freshwater input only during the wet winter period, though its mouth remains open throughout the year. It has several sensitive habitats such as sand dunes and beaches, vernal pools, tidal channels, mudflats and coastal sage scrub. The site is critical habitat for nationally endangered species and subspecies such as the San Diego Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta sandiegonensis*, the Light-footed Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris levipes* and the Salt Marsh Bird's Beak *Cordylanthus maritimus maritimus*; as well as nursery grounds for commercially important fish like the Diamond turbot (*Hypsopsetta guttulata*) and the California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*). Dirt roads and border patrol off-road vehicles are a primary cause of concern because of the impacts of lighting, noise and sedimentation, already serious due to strong erosion and runoff from the shared basin with Mexico. The site is unfortunately isolated from surrounding habitat by urban areas and there are problems with introduced species. A multi-phased restoration program designed to restore tidal exchange and wetland habitats is in place, as well as a management plan. The site is administered jointly by California State Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Ramsar site no. 1452. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Tinkisso

Site number: 1 168 | Country: Guinea | Administrative region: Préf. de Dabola,Préf. de Dinguiraye,Préf. de Kouro  
Area: 1 228 995,3 ha | Coordinates: 11°02'N 10°39'W | Designation dates: 17-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Tinkisso Ramsar Site covers over 12,000 square kilometres of the upper reaches of the Tinkisso River, which flows from the highlands near Dabola and Dinguiraye downstream toward the plains near Siguiri. Its climate is characterized by two seasons, rainy from June to October and dry from November to May, with a strong dry easterly wind called the harmattan. The Site supports water birds such as the spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*), the white-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), the cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and the African jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*). Extensive farming, prohibited fishing practices, and gold panning are major threats to the Site. The rhun palm (*Borassus aethiopum*) has been seriously over-exploited, particularly for making palm wine, and will disappear in the region unless steps are taken. A range of legislative texts have been adopted to strengthen measures to protect natural resources.

## Tisa River

Site number: 1 411 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Kosice  
Area: 735 ha | Coordinates: 48°24'N 22°07'E | Designation dates: 04-12-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tisa River.04/12/04; Koaice; 735 ha; 48°23' N 022°07' E. In southeastern Slovakia, the site includes a 6 km section of the Tisa River and its floodplain contiguous with portions of the river in Hungary and Ukraine. The site includes floodplain forests and shrubs, an oxbow lake and grasslands. It is part of a larger wetland important for the recharge of aquifers in the Tisa River basin, natural control of flooding and self-purification processes, as well as for maintaining biological diversity. It supports species vulnerable at international level such as the Corn crane (*Crex crex*), Geoffroy's bat (*Myotis emarginatus*) and the Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*). The upper part of the designated section has natural river bed, but the lower part was changed by human interferences in the 1880s. Within the site, human activities include regulated recreation and tourism, hunting, pasture and extensive agriculture. There is high eutrophication in the oxbow as a result of pollution from nearby intensive agricultural practices. The site was also used for fishing before February 2000 when several heavy metals pollution spills originating in Romanian mines caused damage in river ecology. Ramsar site no. 1411. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

## Tivat Saline

Site number: 2 135 | Country: Montenegro | Administrative region: Tivat Municipality  
Area: 150 ha | Coordinates: 42°24'N 18°43'E | Designation dates: 30-01-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tivat Saline (Tivatska solila). 30/01/2013; Tivat Municipality; 150 ha; 42°23'37"N 018°42'55"E. Special Flora and Fauna Reserve, Emerald Network, Important Bird Area, Strict Nature Reserve. Situated in the coastal strip of Tivat Bay between the rivers Odoljenatica and Kolo-unja, the site comprises a centuries-old former salt works and includes the underwater site of Jankove Vode. It is an important resting and feeding area for migratory birds such as Limosa limosa, Numenius arquata, and Aythya nyroca, as well as the regional population of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*. The site also supports such endangered reptile species as *Ophisaurus apodus*, sea turtles like *Caretta caretta*, and the endangered amphibian *Rana shqiperic*a. Within the site complex types of halophyte vegetation grow on sludge-clay ground, a type of vegetation which has largely disappeared from the eastern coast of the Adriatic. Besides the old salt works infrastructure (dyke, canals, etc.), archaeological relics have been identified at the salina and its surroundings, including fragments of Hellenistic-Roman ceramics, mainly amphoras and fragments of Corinthian skyphoi (6th century BC). Hunting activities are allowed in the site. Potential factors threatening the ecological character of this wetland are poaching, pollution, and touristic pressure. A management plan for the site is currently under preparation. Ramsar Site no. 2135. Latest RIS Information: 2013.

## Tjålmejaure-Laisdalen

Site number: 30 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 21 602 ha | Coordinates: 66°15'N 16°18'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1974  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is situated in the mountainous area of north-west Sweden, where watercourses of two converging valleys join to form a delta in Lake Yraft. The Site comprises a number of lakes, bogs and marshes, as well as riparian forest with *Betula* woodland and sparse *Pinus sylvestris* and subalpine birch forest. The southern valley, Tjålmejaure, has many lakes with shallow shores which are important for breeding birds. The northern valley, Laisdalen, is one of the most wildlife-abundant valleys in the Swedish mountain area, and forms an important species distribution corridor into nearby mountainous areas. The Site supports a rich bird life and is an important breeding and staging area for a large number of threatened bird species. Human activities include reindeer farming by indigenous Saami people, forestry, sport fishing, hunting, and hiking. The area from the Yraft delta and downstream Laisälven is of national cultural importance. There are many prehistoric and historic remains in the area, representing a diversity of cultures. It is one of the few alluvial meadow areas that are still managed in the province of Norrbotten, serving as an example of earlier traditional use of wetlands. A long tradition of mowing has provided a favourable habitat for a vast number of plant species.

## Tobol-Ishim Forest-steppe

Site number: 679 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Tyumen Oblast/Tumen Oblast  
Area: 1 217 000 ha | Coordinates: 55°27'N 69°00'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tobol-Ishim Forest-steppe. 13/09/94; Tyumen Oblast; 1,217,000 ha; 55°27'N 69°00'E. State Nature Reserve, Temporary Wildlife Refuge, Nature Monument. A region of birch and aspen forests interspersed with wetlands consisting of freshwater lakes and rivers with marshy areas of meadow and steppe, most of which are ploughed. Vegetation includes reed and sedge beds, peatlands, and mosses. The hydrologic regime of the lakes is characterized by a 20- to 50-year inundation cycle determined by climate variations. These cycles cause dynamic changes in salinity levels and vegetative communities. The wetland mosaic supports a rich and significant diversity of habitats and species. At least 20 rare and endangered waterbird species occur. The area is situated on a major migration route used by millions of birds each spring and autumn, and is important for large concentrations of breeding and molting waterbirds and colonial shore birds. Ramsar site no. 679. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Tofutsu-ko

Site number: 1 557 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Prefecture  
Area: 900 ha | Coordinates: 43°56'N 144°24'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tofutsu-ko. 08/11/05; Hokkaido; 900 ha; 43°56'N 144°24'E. Special National Park Zone. A brackish lagoon in eastern Hokkaido, with salt marshland developed in lowlands along the shore filled with rare aquatic plants, in particular, Common Glasswort *Salicornia europaea*, which fills the shore with red color in autumn inviting many tourists. It is one of few important stopovers for 67,000 Anatidae species as well as *Grus japonensis* and Yellow-breasted Bunting for breeding every year. White-tailed Eagle, Steller's Eagle and commercially important mollusks are also found. Common vegetation includes meadow, cropland, coniferous and broad-leaved forest. Present threats affecting the ecological character are sediment inflow, land development for agriculture, and population. Ramsar site no. 1557. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Tokai Hilly Land Spring-fed Mires

Site number: 2 060 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Aichi Prefecture  
Area: 23 ha | Coordinates: 35°05'N 137°13'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tokai Hilly Land Spring-fed Mires. 03/07/12; Aichi; 23 ha; 35°05'02"N 137°12'59"E. Quasi National Park. A cluster of six small oligotrophic spring-fed mires at an elevation of 100-300m that occur in three main areas (Kamitaka, Onshinji, and Yanami) in adjacent catchments, but are hydrologically linked because of underground seepage from the Yahagi River system. The mires are representative examples of such wetland types that once used to be common in the biogeographic region but have since been lost due to development. The wetland supports many rare and endemic plant species that are adapted to the oligotrophic conditions of Tokai Hill, including a number that are locally called 'Tokai Hill Land Elements' because they have their main distribution only at the site. These include 'Shiratama-hoshikusa' *Eriocaulon nudicuspe*, 'Mikawa-shiogama' *Pedicularis resupinata* var. *microphylla* and 'Tokai-komousengoke' *Drosera Tokaiensis*. As a result of land development elsewhere, these are the only remaining spring-fed mires that are still in good condition. The clusters of wetlands are currently well conserved and protected under national law. They represent a water reservoir and support the agriculture carried out downstream. Ramsar Site no. 2060. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Tomales Bay

Site number: 1 215 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: California  
Area: 2 850 ha | Coordinates: 38°09'N 123°23'W | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tomales Bay. 30/09/02. California. 2,850 ha. 38°09'N, 123°23'W. Part of Marine Sanctuary. Tomales Bay is a marine-coastal wetland consisting of geomorphologically dynamic estuaries, eelgrass beds (*Zostera marina*), sand dune systems, and restored emergent tidal marshes which floods the northern 20 km of the San Andreas Fault-generated Olema Valley on the central California coast. The site fulfills all eight Ramsar Criteria. Approximately 90% of the bay's 28.5 km<sup>2</sup> area is subtidal with a much greater area of open water at low tide than most other Pacific coast estuaries, thus becoming a suitable waterbird habitat through the tidal cycle. Because the 58,000 ha. watershed is non-industrial and has a low human population density, the bay is relatively pristine. The site supports several endangered or threatened plant and animal species, and is an important waterbird migratory stopover site and over-wintering ground along the Pacific flyway - it regularly hosts over 20,000 individuals in the winter months, most notably of surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), and greater scaup (*Aythya mariloides*). In the past, the site has been affected by industrial and agricultural activities, which have since been terminated or mitigated. Local authorities and private and non-governmental organizations have conducted a number of watershed protection measures and conservation and restoration projects over the past 40 years in the area. Ramsar site no. 1215. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Tonda Wildlife Management Area

Site number: 591 | Country: Papua New Guinea | Administrative region: Western Province  
Area: 590 000 ha | Coordinates: 08°45'S 141°23'E | Designation dates: 16-03-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tonda Wildlife Management Area. 16/03/93; Western Province; 590,000 ha; 08°45'S 141°23'E. Wildlife Management Area; Shorebird Network Site. Flat, coastal plains subject to seasonal, freshwater flooding. The site, bordering Indonesia, includes tidal river reaches, mangrove areas, grassland, and savannah woodlands. An important wetland for over 250 species of resident and migratory waterbirds and as a refuge during drought. Most of the world population of *Numenius minutus* stage on the plains during migration. Sixty-three species of fish are supported. About 1,500 subsistence gardeners and hunters live in the area. Visitors come for fishing, birdwatching, and deer or *Lates calcarifer* hunting. The site is contiguous with the Wasur National Park Ramsar site in Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Ramsar site no. 591. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Tönnersjöheden-Årshultsmynnen

Site number: 1 131 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Halland, Kronoberg  
Area: 12 388 ha | Coordinates: 56°43'N 13°17'E | Designation dates: 19-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tönnersjöheden-Årshultsmynnen is a large wetland complex with a high diversity of representative wetland types located in the western part of the "South Swedish Highland". This is one of the most humid parts of Sweden, with a precipitation of between 1,200 and 1,500 millimetres yearly. Due to this "humid" status, the Site contains a number of large mire complexes and has a high diversity of wetland types such as permanent forested and non-forested peatlands, and shrub-dominated wetlands. The wetlands display several different developmental stages, from fens to slightly raised bogs and large raised bogs of different types. There are a number of streams and lakes in the area. The Site is of importance for flora and fauna and hosts both typical and rare species. It is important for birds living in open and forested wetlands and it is a resting and staging area for some bird species. A number of red-listed species depend on dry habitats in the area.

## Toolibin Lake

Site number: 483 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 497 ha | Coordinates: 32°55'S 117°36'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Toolibin Lake. 07/06/90; Western Australia; 497 ha; 32°55'S 117°36'E. Nature Reserve. A lake of fresh-to-brackish water fed by surface runoff, Toolibin Lake dries out occasionally and may receive no inflow over several years. It is the only remaining example in Southwest Australia of a wetland with extensive living thickets of swamp oak *Casuarina obesa* - one of the principal natural characteristics of wetlands there prior to agricultural development. The lake supports numerous species of waterbirds such as the freckled duck *Stictonetta naevosa* and the Nankeen night heron *Ncticorax caledonicus*. Vegetation includes submerged aquatic plants and sedges around the lake, and eucalyptus and acacia woodland on higher ground. The site also supports Acorn Banksia *Banksia prionotes* and Rock she-oak *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, species which are not well represented in the region. Ramsar site no. 483. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Torbiere d'Iseo

Site number: 295 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 325 ha | Coordinates: 45°39'N 10°01'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Torbiere d'Iseo. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 325 ha; 45°38'N 10°02'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. A complex of artificial pools formed by peat cutting to the South of Iseo Lake. The pools support floating and emergent vegetation, wet meadows and woodland. The site is an important nesting area for a diversity of waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 295. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Torey Lakes

Site number: 683 | Country: Russian Federation  
| Administrative region: Trans-Baikal area, on territories of the Ononsky and Borzinsky rayons of the Chita Oblast  
Area: 172 500 ha | Coordinates: 50°05'N 115°32'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biosphere Nature Reserve, International Protected Area, Strictly Protected Area, Important Crane Area; Anatidae Network Site. Near the Mongolian border, the largest enclosed soda lakes in the trans-Baikal are an example of natural wetlands of the Mongol-Manzurian steppe. The hydrologic regime is characterized by cyclical changes in inundation and wide variations in water level. The area includes terrestrial steppe ecosystems, rivers, numerous islands, arable land, and human settlements. The site is an important breeding, feeding and staging area for internationally important numbers of numerous species of migratory waterbirds, and it supports important populations of rare and threatened species. The site supports a highly diverse flora including numerous species endemic to Siberia or the Trans-Baikal. The fauna consists of elements of taiga, tundra, broad-leaved forests, and steppe zones; 305 bird species (include 90 breeding species), 42 mammal species, various reptile, amphibian, and fish species, and over 590 species of insects occur at the site. 16 bird species are vulnerable. Fishing and animal husbandry are vital to the local population. Other activities include recreation, traditional agriculture, and a shorebird-ringing programme. Agricultural intensification may have an adverse effect upon wetland ecosystems in the future.

## Torre Guaceto

Site number: 215 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Puglia  
Area: 940 ha | Coordinates: 40°43'N 17°48'E | Designation dates: 21-07-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Torre Guaceto. 21/07/81; Puglia; 940 ha; 40°43'N 17°48'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 31 December 1993, removed from the Record, 21 March 2000. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary, Marine Nature Reserve, State Natural Reserve. A small, brackish marsh dissected by a network of canals and separated from the sea by a dune system. The site includes adjacent shallow seas and several small islands. Vegetation associations of particular interest are supported, including a diverse aquatic community and areas of Mediterranean scrub. The marsh is an important staging area for several species of migratory birds and provides habitat for various endangered waterbirds. The site is of archaeological interest, owing to the presence of the remains of a Neolithic village. The site, subject to inputs of sewage and industrial effluent, was added to the Montreux Record in 1993 due to the various anthropogenic disturbances. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1998. Ramsar site no. 215. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Torransuo National Park

Site number: 1 536 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 3 093 ha | Coordinates: 60°44'N 23°38'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Torransuo National Park. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 3,093 ha; 60°44'N 023°37'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, National Park. The largest mire area still in natural state in Southern Finland, including a complex of five interconnected active raised bogs, bog woodland and pools. The middle parts are characterized by ombrotrophic, pine and hollow bogs. Wet fenny strips alternate with elongated dry hummocks, together with hundreds of small pools. Sedge fens and shrub-pine swamps occur on edges of mires and of forested islands. Only small areas of forest with mineral soil occur in the National Park. The site supports a valuable wetland bird fauna and is an important staging area for Cranes during migration periods, peak counts reaching 1,000 individuals in autumn. The lowering of water level and nutrients leaching from surrounding fields have caused eutrophication and overgrowing of Lake Talpianjärvi, which has been reduced by drainage to a marsh. Restoration of mires was carried out under an EU Life project in 1996-99 in an area of 150 ha. The wetland provides significant services such as maintenance of water quality, environmental education, scientific research, outdoor recreation and birdwatching. Ramsar site no. 1536. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Tourbière de Moltifao

Site number: 1 994 | Country: France | Administrative region: Haute-Corse  
Area: 33 ha | Coordinates: 42°29'N 09°09'E | Designation dates: 27-10-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tourbière de Moltifao.27/10/11; Corse; 33 ha; 42°28'52"N 009°09'13"E. Forest Nature Reserve (RBD), Biotope Protection Area, Natura 2000. The largest active raised bog on the island of Corsica southeast of the French mainland, located in the watershed of the Asco valley. In terms of flora, several species are protected on a national, European and international level, including three Sphagnum species and the orchid species *Liparis loeselii*, listed as vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List and subject to a national action plan. In terms of fauna, numerous regionally and nationally protected species are present, including 9 bat species (e.g., Greater mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis*), 4 reptile species (e.g., the European Pond Turtle *Emys orbicularis*) and 2 amphibian species. More than 80% of the bird species occurring in the site are protected on a national level, and several endemic species are present, such as the Corsican Fire Salamander *Salamandra corsica*. Traditional hunting is practiced in the site and it has been used for environmental education activities since 2008, mainly on World Wetlands Day. Threats include river bank erosion caused by flooding, the spread of the invasive plant *Ailanthus altissima*, and the use of agricultural fertilizers upstream. A management plan exists for the Forest Nature Reserve. Ramsar Site no. 1994. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Tourbière du Lac Noir

Site number: 1 305 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Wilaya d'El Tarf  
Area: 5 ha | Coordinates: 36°54'N 08°12'E | Designation dates: 06-04-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tourbière du Lac Noir. 04/06/03; El Tarf; 5 ha; 36°54'N 008°12'E. Within El Kala National Park. The "peat bog of the black lake", a former lake accidentally drained by two combined actions, the opening of a significant drinking-water drilling in 1990 and the building of the road connecting the towns of Annaba and El Kala. All that remains is the underlying peat bog, considered to be one of two sites where the yellow water lily occurs. The site forms part of an interesting area in terms of fauna and is visited by species like the Barbary Red Deer, European Genet, the Egyptian Mongoose, and Spotted Hyena. Ramsar site no. 1305. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Towra Point

Site number: 286 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: New South Wales  
Area: 604 ha | Coordinates: 34°00'S 151°10'E | Designation dates: 21-02-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Towra Point. 21/02/84; New South Wales; 604 ha; 34°00'S 151°10'E. Nature Reserve, Aquatic Reserve. A system of seagrass, mangrove and saltmarsh communities, marine sub-tidal aquatic beds as well as terrestrial vegetation communities. These include she-oak forest, littoral rainforest, littoral strandline and a complex mosaic of dune sclerophyll scrub/forest. The site contains approximately half of the mangrove communities and over half of the remaining saltmarsh communities in the Sydney region. As one of the few remaining areas of estuarine wetlands in that region, it is important for the survival of many bird species such as the vulnerable Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), the Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*), Mangrove Gerygone (*Gerygone levigaster*), and the Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*). Human activities consist of recreation and non-commercial fishing, with surrounding areas developed for industrial, residential and recreational use. Ramsar site no. 286. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Tralee Bay

Site number: 440 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Kerry  
Area: 861 ha | Coordinates: 52°16'N 09°48'W | Designation dates: 10-07-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tralee Bay. 10/07/89; Kerry; 861 ha; 52°16'N 009°48'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. A shallow embayment fringed by sandy beaches and protected from the sea by a rocky promontory and sand spits. The site includes a compound spit of a series of pebble beaches and sand dunes and extensive saltmarsh and mudflats. This complex of habitats is of considerable geomorphological and botanical interest. The mudflats support one of the four largest areas of *Zostera* (*Z. noltii* and *Z. angustifolia*) in Ireland. In winter the reserve supports internationally important numbers of the goose *Branta bernicla hrota* and various other waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 440.

## Tram Chim National Park

Site number: 2 000 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Dong Thap Province  
Area: 7 313 ha | Coordinates: 10°43'N 105°30'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tram Chim National Park (7,313 hectares, 10°42'49N 105°30'12E) is one of the last remnants of the Plain of Reeds wetland ecosystem, which previously covered some 700,000 ha of the Mekong Delta in southwestern Viet Nam. The site is one of the very few places in the region where the Brownbeard Rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) communities survive.

The wetland supports 9 bird and 5 fish species that are globally threatened, including the critically endangered Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* and the Giant Barb *Catlocarpio siamensis*. The site regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds in the dry season, and more than 1% of the population of 6 waterbird species, especially the Easter Sarus Crane *Grus antigone sharpii*.

The near natural landscape of the park serves to break wave energy during the flood season, helping to protect the houses of about 20,000 people along its eastern and southern dykes, as well as having a significant capacity to mitigate the damage from floods and droughts for the downstream part of the Mekong Delta. The beautiful landscape of the park attracts visitors internationally. The site has historical values as during the American-Vietnam war many battles took place in the plain. The park is a rich source of grass for fodder, trees for fuel and, most importantly, fish, which provide the main source of protein for local people.

Tram Chim is one of the demonstration sites of the Mekong River Basin Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme, Phase I, implemented by IUCN, the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and UNDP, with funding from UNDP/GEF and SIDA. The goal of the programme is to assist countries in the Lower Mekong subregion to develop new approaches to integrating the protection and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity with economic development, including ecotourism development. Recently, from 2007 to 2011, WWF supported Tram Chim National Park with a series of research and pilot activities to rehabilitate the natural habitats.

## Tramore Backstrand

Site number: 835 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Waterford  
Area: 367 ha | Coordinates: 52°10'N 07°07'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tramore Backstrand. 11/06/96; Waterford; 367 ha; 52°10'N 007°07'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A shingle spit across a shallow bay with well-developed dunes and back strands that dry out at low tide. All major vegetation types are found from strand flora, through mobile dunes to stable grassland and saltmarsh. The flora is particularly rich, consisting of various protected species. The site supports nationally and internationally important numbers of shorebirds. Human activities include cockle collection. Ramsar site no. 835.

## Trapani and Paceco salt ponds

Site number: 2 329 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sicily  
Area: 971 ha | Coordinates: 37°59'N 12°31'E | Designation dates: 19-10-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in western Sicily, Trapani and Paceco Salt Ponds is one of the most important wetlands for millions of birds crossing the 140-kilometre-wide Strait of Sicily during their migration to and from Africa. Some 224 bird species have been recorded at the Site, with many of them threatened and protected including the endangered saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*. The Site is of great importance as a resting and feeding ground, and the number of breeding species has increased since the establishment of the Natural Reserve in 1995. The biodiversity of the area has benefited from the ancient traditional production of sea salt, as demonstrated by the high numbers of bird and plant species – some rare or unique – as well as insects and amphibians. The Site's ancient mills and unique landscape, which bear witness to the historical salt production, have remained intact despite the threats of urbanization and industrialization.

## Trappola Marshland - Ombrone River Mouth

Site number: 2 284 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Tuscany Region  
Area: 536 ha | Coordinates: 42°40'N 11°01'E | Designation dates: 13-10-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Trappola Marshland - Ombrone River Mouth, located on the Tyrrhenian coast of Tuscany, represents one of the last remnants of a partly salty and partly freshwater complex of wetlands and sandy dunes. The landscape includes the mouth of the Ombrone River and coastal wetlands bordered by the sea. The Site is a relict example of wetlands which maintains a remarkable biodiversity value. The dunal-interdunal system generates a mosaic of different habitats, including an alternation of permanently and seasonally flooded areas. It is a semi-natural landscape which has been modified by variations of the coastline and by anthropogenic reclamation activities such as water canalization, pastoral use, reforestation and tillage. The Site also includes a pine forest of anthropogenic origin and is characterized by sporadic non-intensive agriculture such as free-ranging cattle grazing. It has a very important ecological role because its diverse habitats support rare plant species and a large number of animal species, particularly birds, with many of international, national and regional importance. The Site is also very important for maintaining the biological diversity of Tyrrhenian coastal wetlands, especially concerning birds, of which more than 150 species are present or migrate to the area.

## Träslövläge-Morups Tånge

Site number: 430 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Halland  
Area: 1 975,5 ha | Coordinates: 56°59'N 12°20'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of shallow marine waters and adjacent low-lying wet meadows along the coast of the Kattegatt Sea. Important habitats include shallow bays, lagoons and islands, rocky shorelines, sand dunes, salt meadows, moors, mudflats and reefs. The flat shore meadows are unique in the European Continental Region and are of great ecological importance for plants and staging and breeding waders. The combination of grazed meadows and mudflats supports nesting waders and is a staging area for migratory birds such as the locally vulnerable garganey *Anas querquedula*, common eider *Somateria mollissima* and little tern *Sternula albifrons*. Human activities include fishing and other recreational activities. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site include housing and urban areas, recreational activities such as camping and windsurfing, and wind turbines. Continued grazing by cattle is essential to the ongoing condition of the shore meadows.

## Trawbreaga Bay

Site number: 841 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Donegal  
Area: 1 003 ha | Coordinates: 55°17'N 07°15'W | Designation dates: 07-06-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Trawbreaga Bay. 11/06/96; Donegal; 1,003 ha; 55°17'N 07°15'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A sheltered sea bay with no large rivers entering it. The sandy mud supports relatively small numbers of birds but there is a large variety in species including (518) Barnacle geese *Branta leucopsis*, (210) Brent geese *B. bernicla hrota*, and *Charadrius hiaticula*. Ramsar site no. 841.

## Tremedales de Orihuela

Site number: 2 039 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: Aragón  
Area: 1 845 ha | Coordinates: 40°32'N 01°39'W | Designation dates: 07-01-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tremedales de Orihuela. 07/01/11; Aragón; 1,845 ha; 40°31'48"N 001°39'00"W. Natura 2000 (SPA, SIC). A high mountain site (1,400m asl) in the Mediterranean biogeographical region dominated by large areas of pine forest and interspersed with dense grassland which contains about 1,000 small peat bogs, including active raised and blanket bogs. Its very diverse and predominantly Mediterranean flora distinguishes this bog complex from others in Europe, offering habitat to more than 600 different plant species, 32 of them endemic. It is especially rich in bryophytes with 141 species of mosses reported, and some unique species of pteridophytes can be found as well. The site also harbours different species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates, some of them threatened globally, such as the endangered European Freshwater Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. The site is geologically interesting due to its periglacial formations, namely "rivers of stone" on which the bogs have formed. Human uses include livestock feeding, forestry, fishing, hunting, research and recreational activities. The alteration of the hydrological regime due to water abstraction, changes in traditional land management, and touristic pressure threaten the site. Ramsar Site number: 2039. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Trondheimfjord wetland system

Site number: 1 198 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Sør Trøndelag; Nord Trøndelag  
Area: 1 846 ha | Coordinates: 63°43'N 11°09'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of 13 subsites with sheltered intertidal mudflats, salt marshes, permanent shallow marine waters and rocky shores. There are also the two largest river estuaries in the fjord, notably Gaulosenas, one of very few unspoilt large-river estuaries in southern Norway. Both estuaries play an important role in flood regulation. These wetlands support outstanding biodiversity and are of great importance for migratory birds, in particular geese, ducks, waders and wintering seabirds. Nearly the entire Svalbard population of pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* uses the Site as a staging area both in spring and autumn. The nutrient-rich freshwater areas and the numerous islets and skerries in the fjord are the most important areas for breeding species such as the horned grebe *Podiceps auritus* and the great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. The shallows also comprise important moulting areas for common eiders *Somateria mollissima* and mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* during summer months. Ørin, Gaulosen, Vinnan and Velvangen are important spawning grounds for the local fjord population of Atlantic herring *Clupea herengius*. The Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and brown trout *Salmo trutta* also use some of the subsites as migratory paths. The main human activities include recreation, fishing and birdwatching.

## Tsomoriri

Site number: 1 213 | Country: India | Administrative region: Eastern Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 32°54'N 78°18'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tsomoriri. 19/08/02. Jammu & Kashmir. 12,000 ha. 32°54'N 078°18'E. Wetland Reserve. A freshwater to brackish lake lying at 4,595m above sea level, with wet meadows and borax-laden wetlands along the shores. The site is said to represent the only breeding ground outside of China for one of the most endangered cranes, the Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*), and the only breeding ground for Bar-headed geese in India. The Great Tibetan Sheep or Argali (*Ovis ammon hodgsoni*) and Tibetan Wild Ass (*Equus kiang*) are endemic to the Tibetan plateau, of which the Changthang is the westernmost part. The barley fields at Korzok have been described as the highest cultivated land in the world. With no outflow, evaporation in the arid steppe conditions causes varying levels of salinity. Ancient trade routes and now major trekking routes pass the site. The 400-year-old Korzok monastery attracts many tourists, and the wetland is considered sacred by local Buddhist communities and the water is not used by them. The local community dedicated Tsomoriri as a WWF Sacred Gift for the Living Planet in recognition of WWF-India's project work there. The rapidly growing attraction of the recently opened area to western tourists (currently 2500 per summer) as an "unspoilt destination" with pristine high desert landscapes and lively cultural traditions brings great promise but also potential threats to the ecosystem. Ramsar site no. 1213. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park

Site number: 1 010 | Country: Philippines | Administrative region: Sulu Sea  
Area: 96 828 ha | Coordinates: 08°57'N 119°52'E | Designation dates: 12-11-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park; 12/11/99; 96,828 ha; 8°57'N 119°52'E. This Ramsar Site is a National Marine Park and World Heritage Site located in the center of the Sulu Sea.

This wetland is an example of an ecosystem with near pristine coral reefs having high diversity with at least 359 species of corals (equivalent to about 80% of all coral species in the Philippines), 600 species of fish, 7 species of seagrass, 13 species of sharks and two species of marine turtles.

Being the apex of the Coral Triangle, this biogeographic region has one of the highest coral diversity in the world harbouring threatened species like the vulnerable Staghorn Coral (*Acropora abrolhosensis*) and Dana Staghorn Coral (*Acropora aculeus*) and serves as an important source and sink for not only coral larvae but also fish and other marine species. To date, this site harbors the highest number of white-tip sharks and supports threatened fish such as the endangered Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) and the vulnerable Giant Grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*).

Islets provide the only known breeding area for the endemic subspecies of Black Noddy (*Anous minutus worcestri*) in the Philippines and act as breeding and feeding grounds for threatened species such as the critically endangered Christmas Island Frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*) and the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Threats to the site include, plans for oil exploration in the Sulu Sea, illegal harvesting of Topshell and introduction of invasive plant species.

This biologically rich site is managed by the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board. Ramsar site no. 1010. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Tubli Bay

Site number: 921 | Country: Bahrain | Administrative region: Northeast corner of the main island of Bahrain  
Area: 1 610 ha | Coordinates: 26°11'N 50°34'E | Designation dates: 27-10-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tubli Bay. 27/10/97; 1,610 ha; 26°11'N 50°34'E. State-owned; Natural Reserve at Ras Sand. A sheltered bay with extensive intertidal mud/sand flats south of the capital city Manama. The only remaining natural mangrove stand in the country is located at Ras Sand in the southwest corner of the site. Important nursery area for commercially-important prawns and fish. An important staging and wintering area for up to 45 species of waterbirds. Land use within and around the site is limited to small-scale commercial fishing, recreation and cultivation. Ramsar site no. 921. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Tufsingdeltaet

Site number: 1 199 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark  
Area: 895 ha | Coordinates: 62°12'N 11°49'E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the delta of the River Tufsinga where it meets Lake Femund, and a section of the Lake. The landscape is in a state of slow continuous change as the river erodes, transports and deposits sediments to create a number of small islands covered with mires and willow scrubs, and belts of sedge. The formation of mires into the lake through the overgrowing of ponds is considered to be remarkable. Land areas along the slow flowing river are dominated by large, dry and open mires with several dystrophic pools and ponds. The aquatic vegetation is relatively rich and the river banks are surrounded by dense birch woodland. Despite the Site's high altitude and latitude, a total of 49 different wetland bird species have been recorded. Several nationally threatened bird species use the Site for feeding, breeding and staging, probably because of the great variety of biotopes in the area. Human uses include sport fishing, berry-picking, hunting and canoeing, but human impacts are very limited. The Site is valuable for its roles in flood reduction, sediment trapping and nutrient fixing.

## Turberas de Talamanca

Site number: 1 286 | Country: Costa Rica | Administrative region: San José, Cartago, Limón  
Area: 192 520 ha | Coordinates: 09°30'N 83°42'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2003  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Turberas de Talamanca. 02/02/03. San José, Cartago, Limón provinces. 192,520 ha. 09°30'N, 083°42'W. National Parks, Forest Reserve, Biological Reserve. A unique high mountain wetland (altitude 700-3821m) located in the Talamanca mountain range and considered an extremely heterogeneous area in terms of the ecosystems present: non-forested peatlands, paramos, meadows, cloud forests, and rain forests. The protected areas comprising the Ramsar site make up an immense biological corridor that allows numerous vulnerable animal species to move about in search of food and breeding sites, among them the Central American tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, the ocelot *Felis pardalis*, and the red brocket *Mazama americana*. Numerous plant communities are present in the site's different ecosystems present - paramos, oak forests, and non-forested peatlands. Paramos are found between 2900-3100 meters above sea level, and contain a unique mixture of neotropical flora, including holartic, Andean, and endemic species, which show important adaptations to extreme conditions, seasonality, and high solar radiation. Oaks are the dominant feature in what is regarded as the country's largest forest mass, most notably the IUCN Red-Listed black oak *Quercus costaricensis* and the hook *Quercus corrugata*. Peatlands are "drowned" and thus are characterized by *Cyperaceae*, *Juncaceae*, *Ericaceae*, large ferns of the *Blechnaceae* family, plus *Sphagnum* and other mosses. The hydrological network in Tapantí National Park is of vital importance for Costa Rica in terms of hydroelectric power production and supply of a large portion of the drinking water for the country's largest cities. Chirripó National Park features the country's tallest mountain, Cerro Chirripó (3820m above sea level), as well as rare geomorphologic formations of glacial origin. The largest indigenous group in Costa Rica, the Bribri, are native to the mountains of Talamanca, thus giving the site a great cultural importance. Ramsar site no. 1286. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Turiec wetlands

Site number: 932 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Žilina  
Area: 750 ha | Coordinates: 48°55'N 18°51'E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Turiec Wetlands (Mokrade Turca). 17/02/98; Žilina; 750 ha; 48°54'N 18°51'E. Includes National Nature Reserves and Protected Site. Habitats present include scattered oxbow lakes, permanent and seasonal marshes, fens, seasonally inundated grassland, shrub and tree dominated wetlands, and peat pits. The site is internationally important for fish and benthic organisms (over 1,000 species) such as *Acentrella* and *Rhabdiopteryx*. Diverse wetland plant communities contain a large number of rare, endangered plant species, including the orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata transilvanica* and *Sesleria uliginosa*. The site is also important for algae, fungi, and mosses, as well as for 170 bird species and mammals such as *Lutra lutra* and *Sicista beulina*. Human activities include scientific research, pastoral agriculture, hunting, recreation, and tourism. Area significantly extended in 2007. Ramsar site no. 932. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Turkmenbashy Bay

Site number: 1 855 | Country: Turkmenistan | Administrative region: Balkan Administrative Region  
Area: 267 124 ha | Coordinates: 39°47'N 53°21'E | Designation dates: 23-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Turkmenbashy Bay. 23/02/2008; Balkan Province; 267,124 ha; 39°48'N 53°22'E. Within Harzar State Reserve; Important Bird Area.

The site is located in the southeastern part of the Caspian Sea and encompasses several shallow brackish bays, spits, islands and dunes. It valuable as a stopover and wintering site on two important migratory routes, the Afro-Eurasian Flyway and part of the Central Asian-Indian Flyway. About 5-8 million waterbirds pass along the east coast of the Caspian Sea on migration, and up to 0.8 million winter in Turkmenbashy Bay. It is thus the largest wintering area for waterbirds that nest in Western Siberia, Kazakhstan and other regions of Northern Asia. Threatened waterbird species recorded at the site include the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Chettusia gregaria*) and over 1% of the population of the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the vulnerable Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*). Other threatened species include the endemic Caspian Seal (*Phoca caspica*) and the critically endangered Russian Sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*).

The site is a feeding ground for fish especially during their migration, fattening and spawning periods.

Threats to the site include oil pollution, habitat disturbance, and illegal hunting of migratory waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 1855. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Turmennan Lough

Site number: 1 178 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 15 ha | Coordinates: 54°23'N 05°43'W | Designation dates: 10-06-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Turmennan Lough. 10/06/02; Northern Ireland; 15 ha; 54°23'N 005°43'W. ASSI. A valley mire, transitional between fen and bog, characterized by a broad range of surface conditions, ranging from slightly base-rich to markedly acidic, influenced by the position of the ground water table in the surface peat layer. The main plant community of the mire surface is an extensive mixed sedge sward dominated by Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata*, growing over a carpet of brown mosses that are replaced by Sphagnum bog mosses where the water is more acidic. The diversity of wetland habitats support a rich invertebrate community that includes notable water beetles and several locally distributed species of Odonata. Livestock grazing is the principal land use in the area. Ramsar site no. 1178. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland

Site number: 344 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Kwazulu Natal  
Area: 39 500 ha | Coordinates: 27°30'S 32°44'E | Designation dates: 02-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland. 02/10/86; Kwazulu/Natal; 39,500 ha; 27°30'S 032°40'E. Marine Reserve. An important transition zone between true reef and non-limestone substrates with reef communities. Known to support 16 species of coral, 1,200 species of fish, five species of marine turtles, 41 species of marine mammal, and 49 species of bird. The flora is predominantly algal, and many species reach the southern limit of their distribution. General water recreation is a popular activity. Ramsar site no. 344. Most recent RIS information: 1984.

## Txingudi

Site number: 1 264 | Country: Spain | Administrative region: País Vasco  
Area: 128 ha | Coordinates: 43°20'N 01°47'W | Designation dates: 24-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Txingudi. 24/10/02; País Vasco; 128 ha; 43°20'N 001°47'W. Coastal marshes in the estuary of the Bidasoa river at the Spanish-French border next to the towns of Irún, Hondarribia and Hendaye (France). Where fresh and salt waters mix, much food is produced for over 20,000 migrating waterbirds, including 250 spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* (2.5% of the flyway population) and many rare and threatened species. Part of the area was recently restored to create an "ecological park" with a visitor education centre. Ramsar site no. 1264. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Tyligulskiy Liman

Site number: 766 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast, Mykolaivska Oblast  
Area: 26 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°50'N 31°10'E | Designation dates: 23-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tyligulskiy Liman. 23/11/95; Odeska, Mykolaivska Oblasts; 26,000 ha; 46°50'N 031°10'E. Ornithological Game Reserves, Regional Landscape Park. One of the purest limans (brackish lagoons) on the northwest coast of the Black Sea, the site includes accumulative islands, salt meadows, and sandy peninsulas. Vegetation consists of various species of hydrophilic plants and reedbeds and includes several endemic species. The site supports wintering, nesting, and autumn and spring migrating waterbirds, several species of which are nationally or internationally threatened. Over 25% of the European *Egretta alba* population winters at the site. Human activities include fishery, hunting, livestock grazing, recreation, and environmental education. Ancient Greek archeological settlements occur on the site. Ramsar site no. 766. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Tyre Beach

Site number: 980 | Country: Lebanon | Administrative region: Tyre  
Area: 380 ha | Coordinates: 33°15'N 35°13'E | Designation dates: 16-04-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tyre Beach. 16/04/99; 380 ha. World Heritage Site. The Ramsar site is located within the best preserved stretch of sandy coastline in southern Lebanon; it is remarkable for its biodiversity but threatened by its proximity to the city of Tyre and the Rachidieh refugee camp. Its artesian wells are an important heritage site and give rise to a number of notable freshwater habitats. Beach vegetation is dominated by sea spurge and cotton weed, while the hillocks are dominated by shrubs, grasses and the rush, *Juncus*. Vegetables, citrus and palm trees are cultivated within the reserve area and irrigated with water from the artesian wells. In the summer months, the area is a popular tourist destination. The beaches of Tyre are thought to be important nesting areas for the Green Turtle and Loggerhead Turtle. Ramsar site no. 980.

## Tysjöarna

Site number: 1 132 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Jämtland  
Area: 424 ha | Coordinates: 63°14'N 14°38'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tysjöarna is composed of two lime lakes and marl fields surrounded by calcareous fens, open and wooded fens and wetland forest. The calcareous fens hold a rich and typical flora, with populations of *Schoenus ferrugineus*, *Carex jemtlandica*, *Carex capillaris* and the orchids *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Cyperipodium calceolus* and *Ophrys insectifera*. The first observation in Sweden of the rare moss *Bryum wrightii* was made here in 1992. The Site is important for migratory water fowl and for breeding birds including the globally endangered common pochard *Aythya farina*, and a number of nationally endangered species such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and the garganey *Anas querquedula*. The calcareous lakes and the Semsån stream provide important spawning areas and nursery habitats for several fish species including the burbot *Lota lota*, northern pike *Esox lucius*, perch *Perca fluviatilis* and Eurasian minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*. The Site is frequently visited by bird watchers; three bird-watching towers and three resting places are accessible through boardwalks and footpaths. The main threats to its ecological character are of low impact. Under the EU Life project "Life to ad(d)mire", restoration activities were carried out to raise the water level of the lakes, which had originally been lowered by a ditching project in the late 19th century.

## Uchhali Complex

Site number: 818 | Country: Pakistan | Administrative region: Punjab Province  
Area: 1 243 ha | Coordinates: 32°37'N 72°00'E | Designation dates: 22-03-1996  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Uchhali Complex (including Khabbaki, Uchhali and Jahlar Lakes). 22/03/96; Punjab; 1,243 ha; 32°37'N 072°00'E. Game Reserve; Wildlife Sanctuary. Three separate brackish to saline lakes of fluctuating levels, surrounded by agricultural fields, located in the heart of the Salt Range. An important wintering area for the rare or vulnerable White-headed Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Greylag Goose, and flamingos. Villagers depend on the wetland for their domestic water supply. Human activities include fishing, livestock grazing, recreation, and illegal hunting. Ramsar site no. 818. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Ulendeltaet

Site number: 1 967 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag  
Area: 269,9 ha | Coordinates: 64°10'N 13°49'E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ulendeltaet is an undisturbed freshwater delta on Lake Ulen, which includes stretches of a meandering river, marshes, islands, oxbow lakes and pools. Spruce and birch forests line the riverbank and vast, well-developed willow scrubs are important breeding areas for different passerines such as the yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*, the willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and the brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. The delta and the lake harbour large numbers of brown trout *Salmo trutta*, Arctic char *Salvelinus alpinus*, burbot *Lota lota* and common minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*. The area also has a stable population of beaver *Castor fiber* and moose *Alces alces*. The area functions as a sediment trap and is important for nutrient fixing as well as flood reduction. The Site is mainly used for fishing and moose hunting, but also for canoe trips and bird watching. A National Park Centre is located near the Site.

## Ulvedybet and Nibe Bredning

Site number: 146 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Nordjylland  
Area: 18 575 ha | Coordinates: 57°02'N 09°38'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ulvedybet and Nibe Bredning. 02/09/77; Region Nordjylland; 18,575 ha; 57°02'N 009°35'E. NATURA 2000 (SAC,SPA); Nature Conservation Area, Wildlife Reserves. A shallow fjord surrounded by marshes and reedbeds, including open water, islets, mudflats, saltmarsh, small lakes and agricultural land. It is internationally important for wintering and staging various species of waterbirds and supports more than 1% of the biogeographic populations of Whooper and Bewick's Swans and Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*). Nutrient loading and resulting eutrophication of the aquatic environment have caused a major collapse and 90% reduction of the surface area of the submerged *Zostera marina* beds in Nibe and Gjol Bredning, and this has been followed by notable reductions in numbers of Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*), Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), and Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*). Management plans have been issued in 2011 by the Danish Ministry of the Environment setting up site-specific nature goal and priorities to improve water quality and the ecological status of wetland catchments and coastal areas. Ramsar site no. 146. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Šumavská rašeliniště

Site number: 494 | Country: Czech Republic | Administrative region: Klatovy,Prachatice  
Area: 6 371 ha | Coordinates: 49°05'N 13°25'E | Designation dates: 02-07-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A complex of disjunct peatlands, raised and valley bogs and montane and coniferous forest in the Vltava River wetlands. The peat bogs are of considerable entomological and botanical interest, supporting various notable, endemic or rare species. An important breeding site for birds. Nature trails exist, although most of the site is closed to the public. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 2001.

## Umeälvens delta

Site number: 438 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västerbotten County  
Area: 1 889 ha | Coordinates: 63°44'N 20°19'E | Designation dates: 12-06-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site constitutes a large, constantly changing delta where the Umeälven River flows into the Gulf of Bothnia. The area also includes transition mires, sedge-dominated shoreland, periodically exposed dunes of sand and fine grained material, grazed beach meadow and deciduous and conifer forests. The Site boundary has been adjusted to follow the boundaries of the Umeälvens delta Nature Reserve, leading to an increase in area of over 800 hectares. The delta constitutes an important spawning ground for the pike *Esox lucius* and a migration path for the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and brown trout *Salmo trutta*. The Site supports over 30,000 waterbirds, and is a key staging area for ducks, geese and waders including the Eurasian wigeon *Anas penelope*, northern pintail *Anas acuta* and bean goose *Anser fabalis*. It also constitutes a historical feeding area for the globally threatened lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The Site is important for sediment and nutrient retention as well as for water purification. It is used for recreational hunting, fishing, educational activities and monitoring. The main threats to the Site's ecological character relate to water regulation activities, transportation lines and recreational hunting and fishing.

## uMgeni Vlei Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 132 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: KwaZulu-Natal  
Area: 958 ha | Coordinates: 29°30'S 29°50'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

uMgeni Vlei Nature Reserve. 19/03/2013; KwaZulu-Natal; 958 ha; 29°29'34"S 029°49'43"E. Nature Reserve; BirdLife IBA. Permanent freshwater marshes and pools consisting mainly of grasslands and a few small areas of scrubby woodland. Located at about 1,840m asl in the Drakensberg Alpine Centre biodiversity hotspot, the site contains endemic and nationally threatened plant species including *Merwillia natalensis* and the KwaZulu-Natal endemic *Kniphofia brachystachya* and *Kniphofia breviflora*. It is a key representative remnant of the natural wetlands in the Highland Sourveld bioregion and noted to be an important breeding ground for several waterbirds including the IUCN Red-Listed Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*, Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*, and Wattled Crane *Bucconanans carunculatus* (2-3 breeding pairs present, representing over 2-3 % of the South African breeding Population). The site and its surrounding area are threatened by the invasive American bramble *Rubus cuneifolius*. Ramsar site no. 2132. Most recent RIS information: 2013

## U Minh Thuong National Park

Site number: 2 228 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: U Minh Thuong district, Kien Giang province  
Area: 8 038 ha | Coordinates: 09°36'N 105°06'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

U Minh Thuong National Park is one of the last remnants of climax peat swamp forest in the biogeographic region, dominated by mixed forests and Melaleuca forests on peat that covers around 3,000 ha (approximately 37%) of the Park. The Site is recognized as one of the three highest priority sites for wetland conservation in the Mekong Delta. It is home to distinctive flora and fauna including 32 mammal species, 187 bird species, 34 reptile and amphibian species, 37 fish species, and 203 insect species. Many of these are globally threatened, including the endangered yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*), Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*). It is also one of the only three sites in the world known to support a population of the endangered hairy-nosed otter (*Lutra sumatrana*). The Site regularly hosts more than 20,000 waterbirds. Most of the fish species observed are native and the distribution of eight of these is restricted to the lower Mekong Basin.

U Minh Thuong National Park supports large areas of peat layers and a complex system of canals that can store a large volume of water. It functions as a sponge that maintains the groundwater level and releases surface water to the surrounding areas, and supports production and daily activities of the local communities surrounding the Park. In addition, the Site is of significant spiritual, historical, archaeological, educational and scientific value.

## Ungok Wetland

Site number: 1 948 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: North Jeolla Province  
Area: 180 ha | Coordinates: 35°28'N 126°39'E | Designation dates: 06-04-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ungok Wetland. 07/04/2011; North Jeolla Province; 180 ha; 35°28'N 126°39'E. The whole site is designated as a Wetland Conservation Area and part of the site is an Electric Source Development Area and an Agricultural Conservation Land Area.

Ungok Wetland is located in the southwest part of the Republic of Korea and consists of Ungok Lake and Obaygol low-moor (Obaygol wetland). Obaygol low-moor was used for rice paddy cultivation in the past, and overtime the site was completely abandoned. This site supports important species like the vulnerable Chinese Water Deer (*Hydropotes inermis*) and Seoul Frog (*Pelophylax chosonicus*), and Natural Monument species such as the Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Chinese Goshawk (*Accipiter soloensis*). Natural Monuments are strongly linked to Korean cultural heritage and are consequently protected under national law. Designated as an Electric Source Development Area, the quantity and quality of water is being managed to supply a nuclear power plant. Ungok Wetland is mostly surrounded by natural forest and a Dolmen World Heritage Site is also located here. This site is thought to be the biggest dolmen community in Asia and is thought to be home to human beings who lived by hunting and gathering during prehistoric times.

The Department of Nature Environment, Jeonju Regional Environmental Agency and Department of Environment and Hygiene, Gochang-gun Office, is responsible for the management of this site. Ramsar Site no.1947. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

## Unguri-Holosnita

Site number: 1 500 | Country: Republic of Moldova | Administrative region: Soroca & Ocnita counties  
Area: 15 553 ha | Coordinates: 48°17'N 28°03'E | Designation dates: 14-09-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Unguri - Holosnita. 14/09/05; Soroca, Ocnita, 15,553 ha; 48°17'N 028°03'E. Landscape Reserve, Nature Monument. High rocky, crumbling-sloughing slopes and narrow flood-land of the Dniester River's left bank, in northeastern Moldova near the border with Ukraine. The Dniester includes wide, shallow segments here with little islands, small rivers and short creeks feeding the stream and forming steep canyons. Fluvial forests are formed by poplar associations with an admixture of willows, ash and elm, with riparian willow formations. The most numerous waterfowl and waders during forage and seasonal migrations are ducks, e.g. *Anas platyrhynchos*, *A. querquedula*, and *A. strepera*, which also predominate amongst wintering birds. Agriculture provides the main sources of economic life, supplemented by livestock farming and traditional fishing, which is losing its economic value as fish resources became scarce as a result of strong variations of discharge levels from the Novodnistrovsk hydropower station. There are more than sixty sites of cultural, geological, paleontological and archeological interest in the area, along with a settlement of Old Believers in the village of Pocrovca. The BIOTOCA Ecological Society in Chisinau was helpful in the preparation for this site designation. Ramsar site no. 1500. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Untere Lobau

Site number: 273 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Wien  
Area: 915 ha | Coordinates: 48°10'N 16°30'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Untere Lobau. 16/12/82; Wien; 915 ha; 48°10'N 016°30'E. Biosphere Reserve; Nature Reserve, Protected Landscape Area. A complex of former alluvial floodplain habitats, riverine forest, meadows, oxbow lakes, sand and gravel ridges and reedbeds. The site supports a diverse flora and fauna, including the recently reintroduced European beaver and many orchids. Human activities include small-scale fishing, timber production and recreation. Flood embankments erected in the nineteenth century are now used as a groundwater protection area for Vienna's domestic supply. Ramsar site no. 273. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Unterer Inn, Haiming-Neuhaus

Site number: 96 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Bayern  
Area: 1 955 ha | Coordinates: 48°20'N 13°09'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Unterer Inn, Haiming-Neuhaus. 26/02/76; Bayern; 1,955 ha; 48°20'N 013°09'E. Nature Reserve. A section of the Inn River bordering Austria, consisting of a shallow reservoir and a series of islands supporting extensive reedbeds. An important breeding, wintering and staging site for various species of waterbirds. Numerous rare aquatic and semi-aquatic plant species are also present. Human activities include boating and angling. Ramsar site no. 96. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Unterer Niederrhein

Site number: 279 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Area: 25 000 ha | Coordinates: 51°43'N 06°14'E | Designation dates: 28-10-1983  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Unterer Niederrhein. 28/10/83; Nordrhein-Westfalen; 25,000 ha; 51°43'N 06°14'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993, removed from the Record, 8 January 1999. Special Protection Area EEC Directive, Nature Reserves. A section of the lower Rhine floodplain near the border with the Netherlands consisting of pasture, woodland, arable land, meadow dikes and river channels. A large proportion of the West European population of geese overwinter in the area and several species of breeding birds use the site. Due to the extent of human encroachment, the site was included on the Montreux Record in 1993. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1993. Ramsar site no. 279. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Unteres Odertal, Schwedt

Site number: 174 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Brandenburg  
Area: 5 400 ha | Coordinates: 53°04'N 14°19'E | Designation dates: 31-07-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Unteres Odertal, Schwedt. 31/07/78; Brandenburg; 5,400 ha; 53°04'N 014°19'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park, Nature Reserve. A section of empoldered floodplain in the Oder Valley containing numerous permanent pools, creeks and agricultural areas subject to seasonal flooding. The site is an important breeding area for waterbirds and is internationally important for spring staging birds. Ramsar site no. 174.

## Upo Wetland

Site number: 934 | Country: Republic of Korea | Administrative region: Kyongsangnam-do  
Area: 854 ha | Coordinates: 35°33'N 128°25'E | Designation dates: 02-03-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Upo Wetland. 02/03/98; Kyongsangnam-do; 854 ha; 35°33'N 128°25'E. Nature Conservation Area. A large oxbow lake, small ponds, and marshes comprise the largest undisturbed wetland in the country. Surface water is persistent even in the dry season. The site exhibits high biodiversity, providing important feeding and spawning areas for fish and supporting rare and endangered flora. Many species of birds breed, stage or winter in the area. Human activities include tourism, agriculture, and snail and shellfish harvesting. Ramsar site no. 934. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Upper Drava River

Site number: 2 208 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Carinthia  
Area: 1 029 ha | Coordinates: 46°47'N 13°20'E | Designation dates: 06-05-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Upper Drava River (Obere Drau). 06/05/2014. Carinthia; 1,029 ha; 13°17'E 46°45'N; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Site is the last free-flowing stretch (of around 68 km) of the inner alpine mountain river Drau (Drava in English) and its neighbouring alluvial area in the Carinthia region. The river flows in a landscape characterized by Austria's largest alluvial forest of grey alder (*Alnus incana*), with permanent freshwater wetlands alongside seasonally flooded agricultural land. The Site supports threatened species of waterbirds such as the little bittern (*Ixobrychis minutus*) and the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and endangered species of amphibians and mammals including bats and the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), which are important to the biological diversity of the Alpine biogeographic region. The permanent freshwater marshes are also an important spawning and feeding ground for several fish species such as spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*) and different species of crayfish. The alluvial lands play an important role in water retention and flood mitigation. Human activities include agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, and recreational activities such as biking, hiking, canoeing and camping. In the past, various ecologically important habitats were lost due to modifications in the river course accompanied by draining to reduce floods and create areas for settlement and intensive agriculture. More recently, however, two EU-LIFE conservation projects and several habitat-improving measures have been implemented. Currently the Site once again supports regionally extinct species such as the German tamarisk (*Myricaria germanica*), the dwarf bulrush (*Typha minima*) and the Ukrainian brook lamprey (*Eudontomyzon mariae*). Ramsar Site no. 2208. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

## Upper Dvuoobje

Site number: 678 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region  
Area: 470 000 ha | Coordinates: 61°42'N 67°10'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

An extensive network of the Ob River tributaries composed of permanent and seasonal lakes (sors), marshes, and islands supporting high taiga forests and meadows. These habitats interact, forming a complex and unique mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The site and the adjacent Lower Dvuoobje Ramsar site form one of the richest waterbird habitats and nesting areas in the world, supporting numerous species of nationally or globally threatened waterbirds. The area supports large breeding, molting and migrating populations of waterbirds. Estimated numbers of waterbirds migrating through the area in spring are 500,000 to 3,000,000 individuals, with various duck species being the most numerous. Breeding waterbirds reach 300,000 pairs. The site supports a rich mammal and fish fauna. Human activities include conservation education, fish production, waterbirds hunting, hay harvesting, and livestock grazing.

## Upper Ganga River

Site number: 1 574 | Country: India | Administrative region: Uttar Pradesh  
Area: 26 590 ha | Coordinates: 28°33'N 78°12'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora Stretch). 08/11/05; Uttar Pradesh; 26,590 ha; 28°33'N 078°12'E. A shallow river stretch of the great Ganges with intermittent small stretches of deep-water pools and reservoirs upstream from barrages. The river provides habitat for IUCN Red listed Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Crocodile, 6 species of turtles, otters, 82 species of fish and more than hundred species of birds. Major plant species, some of which have high medicinal values, include *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Saraca indica*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Tectona grandis*, *Azadirachta indica* and aquatic *Eichhorina*. This river stretch has high Hindu religious importance for thousands of pilgrims and is used for cremation and holy baths for spiritual purification. Major threats are sewage discharge, agricultural runoff, and intensive fishing. Conservation activities carried out are plantation to prevent bank erosion, training on organic farming, and lobbying to ban commercial fishing. Ramsar site no. 1574. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Upper Kiskunság Alkaline Lakes

Site number: 187 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Bács-Kiskun county  
Area: 7 393,8 ha | Coordinates: 46°49'N 19°10'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Danube and Tisza rivers, the Site includes four shallow open water sodic-alkaline pans, three major sodic-alkaline reedbeds and an associated mosaic of saline marshes, meadows, aquaculture ponds and irrigated land. It is the largest and most important area of saline lakes and flats between the Danube and Tisza rivers in the Great Hungarian Plain. The Site supports notable species of breeding, migrating, wintering and resident birds, including the great bustard (*Otis tarda*), pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Eurasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) and red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*). It hosts several noteworthy plant species and communities endemic to the Pannonic biogeographic region, including *Aster tripolium* ssp. *pannonicus*. The lakes play an important role in the retention and storage of water and the regulation of the groundwater level in the surrounding area. Currently the Site is mainly used as extensive grassland, and for reed harvesting and other agricultural activities. The main threats to the Site's ecological character are agricultural pollution and the loss of groundwater due to the overexploitation of the aquifers and severe droughts.

## Upper Kiskunság alkaline steppes

Site number: 1 646 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Bács-Kiskun, Pest counties  
Area: 13 177 ha | Coordinates: 47°04'N 19°09'E | Designation dates: 06-10-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is in central Hungary in the Danube river basin. Its continental saline ecosystems – marshes, grazing lands, sodic-alkaline meadows and terraces – and salt-resistant vegetation are characteristic and unique to the Pannonic biogeographic region. The Site is important for birds as a nesting, feeding and roosting ground and supports more than 20,000 geese, ducks and waders during migration periods. It hosts several plant and animal species endemic to the Carpathian Basin, which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the region, and it constitutes one of the Hungarian strongholds for the great bustard *Otis tarda* and black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. The wetland plays an important role in the retention and storage of inland water and the regulation of groundwater levels. Land use is dedicated to traditional extensive farming and in particular domestic semi-nomadic animal grazing. The main threats derive from agricultural pollution and water regulation followed by falling groundwater levels. Wetland restoration programmes have been carried out.

## Upper Lough Erne

Site number: 896 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Northern Ireland  
Area: 5 818 ha | Coordinates: 54°12'N 07°30'W | Designation dates: 04-03-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Upper Lough Erne. 04/03/97; Northern Ireland; 5,818 ha; 54°12'N 007°30'W. SSSI, National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area EC Directive. The site, set in a basin bordering the Republic of Ireland, is a particularly good example of a nutrient-rich lake and associated swamp, fen and wet grassland. A very large and complex freshwater system, it includes a series of islands, bays and many lakes bordered by damp pastures. Vegetation consists of reedbeds, alder and willow carr, and oak woodland. Internationally important numbers of wintering Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus*, use the site regularly. Human activities include tourism, recreation, research activities, fishing, hunting, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 896. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Upper Mississippi River Floodplain Wetlands

Site number: 1 901 | Country: United States of America  
| Administrative region: Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois  
Area: 122 357 ha | Coordinates: 43°10'N 91°02'W | Designation dates: 01-05-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

05/01/10; Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois; 122,357 ha; 43°03'N 091°10'W. National Wildlife Refuges, National Monument. Natural floodplain backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River in the US Upper Midwest were enlarged and enhanced by construction of locks and dams in the 1930s to improve commercial and recreational navigation. Today the site consists primarily of flowing main and side channel habitats, large shallow to moderately deep backwater marshes, flooded floodplain forests and shrub-dominated communities. It is perhaps the most important corridor of fish and wildlife habitat remaining in the central US; e.g., it supports significant populations of over 100 native fish species and the nationally endangered Higgins' Eye Pearly Mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*). In addition, the site is at the core of the Mississippi Flyway, through which 40% of North America's waterfowl migrate, e.g. Canvasback Ducks (*Aythya valisineria*) and Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*). Several federal and state-managed areas are located within the site and recreation is one of the major economic activities in the area (ca. 3 million visits each year). The site is currently threatened by the accelerating spread of plant and invertebrate invasive species. The Ramsar site includes the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, and selected contiguous federal and state-managed floodplain wetlands associated with mouths of tributary rivers and streams. Ramsar site no. 1901. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Upper Navua Conservation Area

Site number: 1 612 | Country: Fiji | Administrative region: Viti Levu Island  
Area: 615 ha | Coordinates: 18°07'S 177°57'E | Designation dates: 11-04-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Upper Navua Conservation Area – (UNCA). 11/04/06; Serua; 615 ha; 18°07'28"S 177°56'52"E. The upper Navua River cuts a narrow gorge in the central highlands of Viti Levu, the main island - the gorge itself is some 75 meters deep and 5 to 25 meters wide and hosts important fauna and flora, including an abundance of the disappearing endemic sago palm *Metroxylon vitiense*. The waters of the site contain breeding populations of at least two endemic freshwater fish species (*Redigobius leveri* and *Schismatogobius chrysonotus*), and in the forests surrounding the gorge there are 17 endemic species of birds. Due to its relative inaccessibility, the site is in a nearly undisturbed state, but increased logging in the area poses a potential threat. The land is owned by traditional families and managed on their behalf by the Native Land Trust Board, and is presently leased to Rivers Fiji Ltd, an ecotourism and rafting venture which is designing training and education programmes, among other efforts, in order to develop sustainable ecotourism further. Villagers' centuries-old traditional knowledge of the river and its systems is seen as the foundation for the long-term preservation and sustainable use of the river and near-river resources. Wetlands International - Oceania, Mainstream Environmental, and Rivers Fiji Ltd provided valuable assistance to the government in compiling data for this site designation. Ramsar site no. 1612. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

### Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

Site number: 2 023 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: East Midlands  
Area: 1 358 ha | Coordinates: 52°19'N 00°38'E | Designation dates: 04-07-2011  
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits. 07/04/11; England; 1,358 ha; 52°20'04"N 000°34'56"W. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Natura 2000 (SPA). A chain of both active and disused sand and gravel pits including open water, reed swamps, marshes, pastures and grasslands. The range of habitats and the varied topography of the lagoons regularly provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. The site is important for flood control, and human activities include recreation (bird-watching, walking, fishing, sailing, canoeing, waterskiing, cycling), research and environmental education. Potential threats to the site include urban development, vegetation succession, and invasive plants such as Nuttall's Pondweed *Elodea nuttallii*. There is a visitor centre at Stanwick Lakes. Ramsar Site no. 2023. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

### Upper Orashi Forests

Site number: 1 759 | Country: Nigeria | Administrative region: Rivers State  
Area: 25 165 ha | Coordinates: 04°54'N 06°31'E | Designation dates: 30-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Upper Orashi Forests. 30/04/08; Rivers State; 25,165 ha; 04°53'N 006°30'E. Forest Reserve. A freshwater swamp forest in the central Niger Delta, inundated from September to November by floodwaters of the River Orashi, resulting in siltation and soil fertility augmentation. The reserve is the remnant of a small centre of endemism, noted for hosting the critically endangered Sclater's guenon and endangered White-throated guenon, Red Colobus monkey and Hestlop's pygmy hippopotamus. The site is a roost for the Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) and also hosts a significant number of waterbird species whose distribution is confined to the Guinea-Congo Forest biome. The forest reserve has an official management plan which is, however, not being implemented, and the reserve is recommended for a more articulate management plan and management structure. Opportunities for tourism, education, and research are currently hampered by ethnic militancy and insecurity, and poaching and uncontrolled logging are related, serious problems. Ramsar site no. 1759. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

### Upper Solway Flats & Marshes

Site number: 341 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England, Scotland  
Area: 43 637 ha | Coordinates: 54°54'N 03°26'W | Designation dates: 01-10-1986  
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Upper Solway Flats & Marshes. 01/10/86; England, Scotland; 43,637 ha; 54°54'N 003°25'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, SSSI, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Bordering Scotland, the extensive flats and marshes form one of the largest and most important continuous areas of intertidal habitat in Britain. The site exhibits an outstanding display of vegetational transition from seaward edge communities through grassy saltmarsh to mature marsh. The estuary is internationally important for numerous species of wintering waterbirds, whose numbers reach 121,325 individuals and include the entire Svalbard breeding population of the goose *Branta leucopsis*. The site is a vital estuary link used by various migrating waders, and the area is used for recreation, fishing, and grazing. Extended 30/11/92 from the former Ramsar Site Rockcliffe Marsh. Ramsar site no. 341. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

### Upper Tisza (Felső-Tisza)

Site number: 1 410 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County  
Area: 26 871 ha | Coordinates: 48°11'N 21°56'E | Designation dates: 10-01-2004  
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

The Site covers the entire active floodplain along a 215-kilometre section of the River Tisza in north-eastern Hungary, adjacent to the Bodrogzug Ramsar Site; it meets the Ukrainian and Slovakian borders to the east and north, and the catchment is also shared with Romania. Felső-Tisza is a typical floodplain with dikes constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The natural and near-natural habitats consist of large softwood and hardwood riverside forests, oxbow lakes and filled-in meanders with rich natural flora and fauna, extensively managed or abandoned orchards, and farmland. The Site supports many globally threatened species and ecological communities; it offers habitat to 57 different orchids and is especially important as a migration path to many fish species, some of which are endemic to the Danube river system. The Site fulfills numerous important functions such as flood control and habitat connectivity and provides numerous social and economic services including irrigation for agricultural land, fishing, recreation and education. Threats include uncontrolled tourism and fishing, intensification of forestry and eutrophication.

### Ural River Delta and adjacent Caspian Sea coast

Site number: 1 856 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Atyrau oblast  
Area: 111 500 ha | Coordinates: 46°58'N 51°45'E | Designation dates: 10-03-2009  
[View Site details in RSJS](#)

Ural River Delta and adjacent Caspian Sea coast. 10/03/09; Atyrau oblast; 111,500 ha; 46 58'N 51 45'E. Part of North Caspian Nature Reserve. A unique river delta wetland in western Kazakhstan along the northern shore of the Caspian Sea, comprising a large variety of marine/coastal and inland wetland types. Due to its mixed water supply and seasonal variation, the site has a range of marine and freshwater habitats and supports considerable numbers and diversity of species, notably 13 IUCN threatened bird species. The site is significant for large numbers of nesting, moulting and migratory species, among them appreciable numbers of Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) (22,000), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) (12,000) and Teal (*Anas querquedula*) (44,000). The Ural River is significant as a spawning ground for a number of Caspian Sea sturgeon fish species. The site supports more than 460 species of vertebrate animals, including 76 species of fish, 20 species of reptile, 292 bird species and 48 species of mammals. The site is important for transport, and also supports farming activities (pasture, cropping) and tourism. Intensive fishing, navigation and exploration all pose threats to the ecological character of the wetland. A management plan has been prepared for the site. Ramsar site no. 1856. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Uryunuma-shitsugen

Site number: 1 558 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido Region  
Area: 624 ha | Coordinates: 43°42'N 141°36'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Uryunuma-shitsugen. 08/11/05; Hokkaido; 624 ha; 43°42'N 141°36'E. Quasi-National Park. The second largest mountain high moors, after Oze, in Japan. The regular snowfall is more than 3m high and post-winter thawing of snows leave the area with replenished freshwater with frozen parts of semi-decomposed, but nutritious land. The most diverse plant communities among Japan's northern marshlands, at least 150 species, are developed in the site, where peatmoss, Sphagnum spp. and Moliniopsis japonica are typically observed. The most remarkable characteristic of this site is that more than 100 ponds are scattered in the wetlands including small islands of waterweed swamps, in summer filled with colourful aquatic flowers like blooming lilies. A main threat is invasion of alien species like Solidago altissima, although continuous control measures are taken by the local management authority. Ramsar site no. 1558. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Utkholok

Site number: 696 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Koryakski Autonomous Okrug  
Area: 220 000 ha | Coordinates: 57°40'N 157°11'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Utkholok. 13/09/94; Korak Autonomous Area; 220,000 ha; 57°40'N 157°11'E. Nature Reserve. The site incorporates extensive tundra wetlands and bogs. Vegetation consists of floodplain communities, meadow and tundra supporting numerous species of grass. Habitats include patterned bogs and birch forests (*Betula ermanii*) with patches of Siberian dwarf-pine elfin wood (*Pinus pumila*). The site is important for various species of migrating, breeding and molting waterbirds, in particular *Anser fabalis*. Several threatened species of birds, fish and plants occur at the site. Human activities include reindeer grazing, fishing, hunting, and berry and mushroom collecting. Ramsar site no. 696. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Utonai-ko

Site number: 539 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Hokkaido  
Area: 510 ha | Coordinates: 42°42'N 141°43'E | Designation dates: 12-12-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Utonai-ko. 12/12/91; Hokkaido; 510 ha; 42°42'N 141°43'E. National Wildlife Protection Area. A freshwater lake in the Bibi River floodplain, surrounded by reed-sedge swamp, swamp forest and stands of wild rice. One of the most important staging and wintering areas for Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.) in Japan. Human activities are fishing and nature conservation devoted to research and monitoring projects. Ramsar site no. 539. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Vadehavet

Site number: 356 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sønderjylland  
Area: 151 080 ha | Coordinates: 55°16'N 08°29'E | Designation dates: 14-05-1987  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vadehavet (Wadden Sea). 14/05/87; Region Syddanmark; 151,080 ha; 55°16'N 08°32'E. Natura 2000 SPA; Nature Conservation Areas, Scientific Reserve, Wildlife Reserve. The Danish Wadden Sea area is characterized by tidal mud and sandflats, saltmarshes, brackish and freshwater marshland and arable land. The entire Wadden Sea is one of the worlds most productive wetlands with an outstanding rich bottom fauna including vast mussel beds. The area is an important nursing habitat for several fish species of the North Sea as well as for internationally important numbers of seals and waterbirds, of which various species use the site for breeding, wintering and staging, notably *Ciconia ciconia*, *Calidris alpina schinzii* and *Philomachus pugnax*. Ramsar Site Number: 356. Most Recent RIS Information: 2012.

## Vadret da Roseg

Site number: 1 446 | Country: Switzerland | Administrative region: Grisons  
Area: 383 ha | Coordinates: 46°24'N 09°51'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the glacier foreland, between 2,000 and 2,800 metres above sea level, of the two glaciers Vadret da Roseg and Vadret da Tschierva, and the alpine alluvial zone formed where they have retreated. It includes a lake and meanders of the Ova da Roseg, a stream originating from the spurs of ice of the two glaciers. It is home to a rich and diverse wetland flora and fauna, with six plant and 14 animal species listed on the red lists of endangered species in Switzerland. The natural dynamism of the stream and the constant evolution of its network of meanders create the conditions for a rich plant biodiversity with a highly diverse mosaic of succession stages of plant communities typical of alpine alluvial zones. Notable animals present include the nationally threatened bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* and common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. The Site is susceptible to the impacts of climate change: glacier variations are the best indicator of climate fluctuations and both glaciers, which are monitored by the Swiss Glacier Monitoring Network, are retreating year by year, and so influencing a range of ecological factors.

## Valkmusa National Park

Site number: 1 537 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland  
Area: 1 710 ha | Coordinates: 60°34'N 26°42'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valkmusa National Park. 02/02/04; Southern Finland; 1,710 ha; 60°34'N 26°40'E. Natura 2000 SCI, Finnish Mire and Esker Conservation Programmes, National Park. A large and varied mire complex including more than 1,400 ha of mires with numerous small ponds, flarks and small forested islands. It consists of two nearby areas: the Munasuo Mire, a raised plateau bog, and the Kananiemensuo Mire composed of several mire types. The site is an especially valuable habitat for threatened and near-threatened butterfly species. The name Valkmusa comes from the Swedish for Falcon Moss, but the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) disappeared from the southern parts of its breeding range in Finland in the 1960s due to the use of toxic chemicals. Virgin mires play an important role in maintenance of water quality. Significant values include outdoor recreation and birdwatching. The general land use in the catchment area is shaped mainly by private forestry and agriculture. Drainage ditches nearby may negatively affect the site. A management and land use plan for the National Park has been elaborated but not yet implemented. Ramsar site no. 1537. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Vall de Madriu-Perafita-Claror

Site number: 2 183 | Country: Andorra  
| Administrative region: Encamp, Andorra la Vella, Sant Julià de Lòria, Escaldes-Engordany  
Area: 4 247 ha | Coordinates: 42°29'N 01°36'E | Designation dates: 28-08-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vall de Madriu-Perafita-Claror. 28/08/2013; Encamp, Andorra la Vella, Sant Julià de Lòria, Escaldes-Engordany; 4,247 ha; 42°29'01"N 001°36'22"E. Cultural Landscape, UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley, encompassing nearly 10% of the national territory, comprises 350 high mountain wetlands which support endangered species of flora and fauna as well as habitats of cultural and ecological interest. These wetlands are all well preserved due to reduced anthropogenic influence on the site. One of the most representative examples is the glacier lake l'estany de l'illa covering an area of 12.5 ha. The wetland complex offers a very good representation of the biodiversity characteristic of the Pyrenean acid water wetlands. Moreover, it plays a vital role in flood mitigation and is very important freshwater reserves. The whole Vall de Madriu watershed is located within the boundaries of the drinking water supply for the population of Escaldes-Engordany in the lower part of the river catchment. The main activities within the site are related to tourism, mainly hiking from April to November, fishing, hunting and cattle raising during summer. The management plan for the valley was approved in December 2011. Ramsar Site no. 2183. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Valle Bertuzzi

Site number: 224 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 3 100 ha | Coordinates: 44°47'N 12°14'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Bertuzzi. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 3,100 ha; 44°47'N 012°14'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park, Wildlife Sanctuary. A brackish, coastal lagoon separated from the sea by sand spits and including stabilized dunes with thickets, small islands covered by salt-resistant vegetation, and areas of reedbeds. Several species of waterbirds use the site for breeding, and large numbers of waterbirds occur in winter and during migration periods. Ramsar site no. 224. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valle Campotto e Bassarone

Site number: 181 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 1 363 ha | Coordinates: 44°35'N 11°50'E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Campotto e Bassarone. 28/03/79; Emilia Romagna; 1,363 ha; 44°35'N 011°50'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park. An artificial, freshwater impoundment at the confluence of the Idice and Reno rivers. The site is supplied by flood water from the Idice and drains into the Reno. The open water area is colonized by various aquatic plants, and fringed by reedbeds and areas of wet forest. A rich fish fauna is supported and the area is important for numerous species of nesting waterbirds. A wide variety of passage and wintering birds also occur. The site is used for intensive fish farming, angling and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 181. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valle Cavanata

Site number: 169 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Friuli-Venezia Giulia  
Area: 243 ha | Coordinates: 45°43'N 13°28'E | Designation dates: 10-03-1978  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Cavanata. 10/03/78; Friuli-Venezia Giulia; 243 ha; 45°43'N 013°28'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. The site, a fish pond, was created from coastal lagoons and wetlands. The freshwater parts of the site support reedbeds, salt-resistant vegetation and submergent flora, including *Zostera* beds. The area is important for breeding and passage birds, with up to 10,000 occurring during migration periods. Human activities include commercial fish farming and tourism. Tourism and fish farming are intensive. Ramsar site no. 169. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valle di Gorino

Site number: 223 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 1 330 ha | Coordinates: 44°48'N 12°21'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle di Gorino. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 1,330 ha; 44°48'N 012°21'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park, State Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal lagoon separated from the sea by a dune system. Wetland vegetation consists of submergent and emergent communities. The area is important for several species of nesting birds, and large numbers of waterbirds stage and winter in the area. Human activities include tourism, fishing, commercial shellfish farming, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 223. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Vallée de la Haute-Sûre

Site number: 1 408 | Country: Luxembourg | Administrative region:  
Area: 16 900 ha | Coordinates: 49°53'N 05°51'E | Designation dates: 08-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vallée de la Haute-Sûre. 24/03/2003; transboundary Ramsar Site: 29,000 ha Belgium (région Wallone), 16,900 ha Luxembourg; total area: 45,900 ha; 49°53'N 005°51'E; Nature Park (both countries), SPA (Belgium). A complex of forested wetlands, acidic fen and peatlands, wet grasslands, reed beds, springs, rural zones and a barrage with a water storage area of 380 ha in the Luxembourg part. The site supports internationally threatened species, especially the otter *Lutra lutra*, the bats *Plecotus auritus* and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, the badger *Meles meles* and the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritefera margaritifera*. It shows a high biodiversity in both animal and plant species - besides the typical wetland plants such as *Comarum palustris*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, the rare *Epipactis palustris* and *Pedicularis palustris* are present as well. The site is of stopover and nesting importance for many birds, notably the Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*. Some 20 species of fish have been identified within the site, and a special construction exists to enable the fish to pass the main barrage. The barrage regulates the rises in water level and provides an important part of Luxembourg's population with drinking water. Pollution from intensive agriculture and the lack of water treatment plants have a significant impact on the water quality of la Sûre and its tributaries. Uncontrolled tourism activities such as water sports, leisure fishing, and cycling cause disturbances to the site. Authorities in both countries are collaborating closely on developing and implementing a joint management plan. Ramsar site no. 1407 (B) and 1408 (L). Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Vallée de la Haute-Sûre

Site number: 1 407 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Wallonie  
Area: 29 000 ha | Coordinates: 49°54'N 05°39'E | Designation dates: 08-03-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vallée de la Haute-Sûre is part of a Transboundary Ramsar Site in Belgium and Luxembourg, composed of a complex of forested wetlands, peatlands, wet grasslands, reed beds, springs and rural zones. The Esch-sur-Sûre barrage forms a 380 hectare reservoir in the Luxembourg part (Site number 1408). The valley's mosaic of habitats supports internationally-threatened mammals including the European otter *Lutra lutra*, the brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, the common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus Pipistrellus* and the badger *Meles meles*. It also supports some 20 species of fish, as well as the endangered freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* which depends on the river trout *Salmo trutta* for the first stages of its development. Besides typical wetland plants such as *Comarum palustre* and *Menyanthes trifoliata*, the rare *Epipactis palustris* and *Pedicularis palustris* are also present. The Site is an important stopover and nesting area for many birds, notably the black stork. The barrage provides drinking water for 80% of Luxembourg's population. Pollution from intensive agriculture and untreated wastewater have affected the water quality of the River Sûre and its tributaries, while the introduction of resinous tree species has upset the balance of aquatic ecological communities. Uncontrolled activities such as hunting, water sports, leisure fishing and cycling also disturb the Site. For the Belgian part of the Site, a management plan has been implemented since 2007. Several projects (including transboundary projects) have supported the protection and restoration of wetlands and raised public awareness.

## Vallée de l'oued Soummam

Site number: 1 898 | Country: Algeria | Administrative region: Béjaïa  
Area: 12 453 ha | Coordinates: 36°36'N 04°46'E | Designation dates: 18-12-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated in the north-east of the country, the Site covers the downstream 65-kilometre stretch of the Soummam river catchment. It is characterized by permanent rivers, temporary marshes in the elevated areas, and a coastal lagoon. It is of particular importance for recharging groundwater reserves and regulating the river's flow; the upstream sections limit the risk of flooding further downstream. The Site supports 119 species of birds, 38 species of mammal, amphibians and reptiles, and around 36% of fish species in Algerian inland waters. The estuary is a fish diversity hotspot, as a breeding and nursery area for many marine and brackish water species. The main land uses are agriculture (notably including olive plantations) and small village settlements. The principal threats relate to the unsustainable use of the Site's resources to support this agriculture.

## Valle Santa

Site number: 120 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 261 ha | Coordinates: 44°34'N 11°50'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Santa. 14/12/76; Emilia Romagna; 261 ha; 44°33'N 011°50'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park, Wildlife Sanctuary. An artificial, freshwater impoundment at the confluence of the Sillaro and Idice Rivers. Various aquatic plants are supported and reedbeds fringe the site. There is a rich fish fauna. The area is particularly important for numerous species of nesting, passage and wintering waterbirds. The site is used for intensive fish farming, angling and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 120. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valley of Lakes

Site number: 954 | Country: Mongolia | Administrative region: Bayan-Khongor and Over-Khangai Province  
Area: 45 600 ha | Coordinates: 45°18'N 100°07'E | Designation dates: 06-07-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valley of Lakes (Boon Tsagaan Nuur, Taatsiin Tsagaan Nuur, Adgiin Tasgaan Nuur, Orog Nuur). 06/07/98; Bayan-Khongor Province; 45,600 ha; 45°19'N 099°58'E. A chain of four saline lakes at the foot of the Gobi Altai, ranging from 1100m to 1235m in altitude. The lakes are shallow, with a saucer-shaped depth profile, and vary considerably in size both seasonally and from year to year. These lakes are known to be an important staging area for migratory waterfowl, and it has been suggested that they might be a breeding area for the rare Relict Gull. The lakes provide grazing land for domestic livestock in an otherwise arid region. Ramsar site no. 954. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valli del Mincio

Site number: 294 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 1 082 ha | Coordinates: 45°11'N 10°42'E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valli del Mincio. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 1,082 ha; 45°10'N 010°42'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Park, Regional Natural Reserve. A complex of artificial pools created from marshland in the floodplain of the Mincio River. Vegetation consists of emergent, floating and submergent species and includes species rare in Italy. The pools support a rich fish fauna. A diversity of breeding and wintering birds occur, including the regionally rare *Acrocephalus melanopogon*. Human activities include reed cutting and commercial fishing. Dams in surrounding mountain valleys prevent the passage of migrating eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) and numbers are declining. Ramsar site no. 294.

## Valli residue del comprensorio di Comacchio

Site number: 225 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 13 500 ha | Coordinates: 44°37'N 12°11'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valli residue del comprensorio di Comacchio. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 13,500 ha; 44°37'N 012°11'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. The remnants of an extensive complex of coastal lagoons and marshes drained in 1850 for agriculture. The site includes a shallow, brackish lagoon connected with the sea, sand banks and islands. Vegetation is dominated by salt-tolerant plants. The single most important wetland in Italy for breeding waterbirds, the area is also a valuable staging and wintering area. Birdwatching and conservation education facilities are available. Ramsar site no. 225. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Van Eck Dam

Site number: 2 123 | Country: Eswatini | Administrative region: Lubombo district

Area: 187 ha | Coordinates: 26°46'S 31°55'E | Designation dates: 12-06-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Van Eck Dam is situated within the Mhlosinga Nature Reserve in the Lubombo district, about a kilometre north-west of Big Bend. When water levels are low, the reservoir is a major magnet for waterfowl and other waterbirds. A number of globally threatened and near-threatened species have been recorded at Van Eck Dam, including the martial eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* and the critically endangered African white-backed vulture *Gyps africanus*, both of which have bred on or very close to Mhlosinga Nature Reserve. Several other raptor species regularly breed at Mhlosinga, including the African fish eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* and African goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*. Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and South African rock python (*Python natalensis*), both of which are listed as threatened nationally, are found at Van Eck Dam, as well as the globally threatened hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*). The boundaries of Mhlosinga Nature Reserve have been changed. The area to the west of the reservoir has been removed from the Reserve and sugarcane irrigation pivots have been installed, transforming the savannah habitat. The area to the south of Van Eck Dam was previously used as a cattle ranch, but has now been incorporated into the Reserve.

## Vanhankaupunginlahti, Laajalahti

Site number: 9 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Southern Finland

Area: 508 ha | Coordinates: 60°12'N 24°56'E | Designation dates: 28-05-1974

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vanhankaupunginlahti, Laajalahti. 28/05/74; Southern Finland; 508 ha; 60°12'N 024°54'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, WHCP. Two separate bay areas in metropolitan surroundings of Helsinki and Espoo forming a wetland complex comprising shallow estuarine waters with marshlands and small ponds. Vegetation includes growths of Common Reed, coastal meadows, submerged vegetation and a few forested swamps. The site represents an important staging area during migration periods for ducks and waders. The main adverse factors are heavy pressure for building along the margins and wastewater discharge. Expansion of a ring road beside Laajalahti increases noise pollution and reduces meadows and forests in western parts. One third of the reed area and Black Alder swamps has been destroyed by land filling in Laajalahti since the 1950s. Management plans were established to stop the eutrophication process, and planning of restoration, research and education was carried out under an EU Life project in 1997-2001. Both areas are of great importance for outdoor recreation and birdwatching, and a nature information centre, several birdwatching towers, nature trails and a hide have been constructed. Ramsar site no. 9. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Vankalai Sanctuary

Site number: 1 910 | Country: Sri Lanka | Administrative region:

Area: 4 839 ha | Coordinates: 08°56'N 79°55'E | Designation dates: 12-07-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vankalai Sanctuary (8°56'N 079°55'E) is located North-West of Sri Lanka in the District of Mannar. This site covers an area of 4,839 ha and consists of several ecosystems which range from arid-zone thorn scrubland, arid-zone pastures and maritime grasslands, sand dunes, mangroves, salt marshes, lagoons, tidal flats, sea-grass beds and shallow marine areas. Due to the integrated nature of shallow wetland and terrestrial coastal habitats, this sanctuary is highly productive, supporting high ecosystem and species diversity.

The site provides excellent feeding and living habitats for a large number of waterbird species, including annual migrants, which also use this area on arrival and during their exit from Sri Lanka. It harbours more than 20,000 waterbirds in a given year, including the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and the Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), of which Vankalai Sanctuary supports 1% of the population of the latter two species. The site's coastal and marine ecosystems are important for over 60 species of fish, marine turtles, and rare species such as Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*). These ecosystems provide important spawning and feeding grounds for juvenile fish species such as Trevally (*Caranx* spp.), Snappers (*Lutjanus* spp.), and also host a number of threatened species, such as the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*), and Saltwater Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*).

Vankalai Sanctuary sustains diverse food chains, while also sustaining the livelihoods of fisheries-dependent communities in the area. Civil unrest has kept human activity out of this region for nearly two decades, hence there are only few permanent settlements in the area. Locals engage in small-scale livestock grazing, subsistence and commercial fishing. Part of the Vankalai Sanctuary is an archaeological site since it is partly located in the major port of ancient Sri Lanka, dated from 6th century BC to 13th century AD. The Department of Conservation is directly responsible for managing this diverse and culturally rich wetland.

## Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 360 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Ninh Binh

Area: 2 736 ha | Coordinates: 20°24'N 105°51'E | Designation dates: 10-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the northernmost tip of the Pu Luong-Cuc Phuong limestone mountain range, Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve is one of the few intact lowland inland wetlands remaining in the Red River Delta. The Site is centred on a block of limestone karst outcrops that rise abruptly from the flat coastal plain of northern Vietnam. The freshwater lake, marshes and swamps that surround the karst, together with subterranean hydrological systems, form a wetland complex that is very rare in the Indochinese Peninsula. The limestone hills are famous for providing habitat for the critically endangered Delacour's langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*), one of the world's 25 most endangered primates. The Site is home to more than half of the global population and is the only place where the species can be observed in the wild. The Site is also an important refuge and breeding ground for a number of aquatic species, and a staging site for waterbirds. It provides important ecosystem services for the surrounding communities, including its aquatic and agricultural resources, its water regulation and its scenic beauty for recreation and ecotourism.

## Vascão River

Site number: 2 090 | Country: Portugal | Administrative region: Alentejo  
Area: 44 331 ha | Coordinates: 37°27'N 07°48'W | Designation dates: 03-12-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vascão River (Ribeira do Vascão). 30/10/2012; Região Algarve; 44,331 ha; 37°27'N 007°48'W. Natura 2000 (SPA, SCI), Natural Park. Vascão River is the biggest river without artificial interruptions such as dams or reservoirs in Portugal. Situated in the Mediterranean Region, it supports high concentrations of threatened species of such freshwater fishes as Jarabugo (*Anaocypris hispanica*), European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*). The wetland area regulates the Vascão River floods. The riparian vegetation contributes to underground water infiltration and stabilization of different hydrological processes. Numerous archaeological remains from the Roman and Islamic periods are found in the area, and it is popular for outdoor activities, nature sports, and environmental education. The lack of sewage treatment plants in the adjacent villages threatens the ecological character of the site, but management plans have been implemented together with restoration activities and invasive alien species eradication strategies. Ramsar Site Number: 2090. Most Recent RIS information: 2012.

## Vasikkavuoma

Site number: 2 179 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Norrbotten  
Area: 200 ha | Coordinates: 67°14'N 23°12'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vasikkavuoma is one of the largest and best-preserved mown mires in northern Europe. The Vasikkajoki stream runs through the wetland and provides the marshy meadows with nutrients when it floods. The Site consists mostly of transition mires and quaking bogs, but also contains aapa mire and alkaline fens. It supports important populations of plants (with at least 50 vascular species) as well as resident and seasonally migrating and breeding waterbirds. The mires are also important as carbon sinks. It is estimated that mowing of the Site commenced around 1770, but stopped altogether between 1950 and 1980. Restoration projects involving clearing and mowing were carried out, and today around 90 hectares are cut for hay to feed reindeer by the villages around the Site, preserving part of Sweden's cultural heritage. In addition, approximately 200 hectares are mown annually by a local organization. Of the original 200 hay barns, 80 remain. Other activities include tourism and bird-watching; facilities available at the Site include parking, a birdwatching tower, footbridges, camp-fire sites, cabins and restrooms. Management plans for the overlapping Natura 2000 site and the Nature Reserve are being implemented.

## Vasse-Wonnerup System

Site number: 484 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Western Australia  
Area: 1 109 ha | Coordinates: 33°38'S 115°25'E | Designation dates: 07-06-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vasse-Wonnerup System Ramsar Site is a shallow, extensive, nutrient-rich wetland system with widely varying salinities. Water within the Site fluctuates from fresh to brackish depending on the season. It provides dry-season habitat for tens of thousands of resident and migrant waterbirds of a wide variety of species including the Australian shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*), Australian shoveler (*Anas rhynchos*), black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), and red-necked avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*). It also regularly supports the largest breeding colony of black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) in south-western Australia. In winter, broad expanses of open water are fringed by samphire and rushes. There are melaleuca woodlands behind the samphire belt and eucalyptus woodlands on higher ground. The Vasse and Wonnerup lagoons (former estuaries) are the two principal components of the Vasse-Wonnerup System and act as compensating basins for water discharging from four rivers through the use of weirs (flood gates). The Site plays a vital role in flood protection for the town of Busselton. The surrounding area is used primarily for cattle grazing and potato cropping. The Site's close proximity to residential, farming and tourism areas presents a range of management issues and opportunities.

## Vassorfjärden Bay

Site number: 1 538 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Western Finland  
Area: 1 537 ha | Coordinates: 63°12'N 21°59'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vassorfjärden Bay. 02/02/04; Western Finland; 1,537 ha; 63°12'N 021°59'E. Natura 2000 SPA and SCI, WHCP. Vassorfjärden Bay, formed by the River Kyrönjoki, is one of the largest estuaries in Finland, with a large shallow water zone because of silt brought by the river. The reed zone is very extensive. Shores are diverse with silt-rocky and turf shores and extensive sedge meadows. Because of sedimentation and land upheaval the vegetation is in a continuous process of change. The wetland is for the most part surrounded by forests and on the northwestern side by agricultural land. It is an important breeding and staging area for waterfowl and waders during migration and molting periods and provides habitat for the threatened Russian Flying Squirrel. Dredging of boating channels, embankment creation and acid waters leaking from embankments have destroyed vegetation in many places, and the wetland area has diminished by hundreds of hectares. The former significance as an important spawning area has weakened as fish and bottom fauna have disappeared in certain areas. The eastern shores are densely built and a main road crosses the southern edge of the bay. Nonetheless, birdwatching remains a significant activity. Ramsar site no. 1538. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Västra Roxen

Site number: 1 133 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Östergötland  
Area: 4 108 ha | Coordinates: 58°29'N 15°35'E | Designation dates: 14-11-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the western part of Lake Roxen and downstream areas of three main rivers: Stångån, Motala Ström and Svartån. It includes one of the largest concentrations of freshwater meadows in the country. The flora is to a large extent formed by and dependent upon haymaking and grazing. Such a large area of managed grasslands is unusual in the European Boreal region, and the Site is therefore important for supporting the biodiversity which depends on this habitat. The wide range of birds, fish, amphibians, and insects includes about 30 nationally red-listed species. The grasslands and the shallow waters are important areas for migrating and breeding birds, with more than 260 species observed. The Lake provides spawning grounds and nursery habitats for the asp *Leuciscus aspius* and it is classified as nationally important for commercial fishing. The Site also plays an important role in flood control and water purification. The main visitor areas are located in the Svartåmynningen and Kungsbro nature reserves; the birdlife in the water meadows and the shallow waters can be viewed from three different observation towers.

## Vattenån

Site number: 2 180 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: The counties of Västernorrland and Jämtland  
Area: 3 621 ha | Coordinates: 62°36'N 15°19'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site is formed by the River Vattenån in the east and most of its upstream tributaries in the west, and includes more than 20 freshwater lakes, small mires, streams and some wet forests. River Vattenån supports one of the largest European populations of freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* outside the Russian Federation. The lakes and streams are important spawning grounds for brown trout *Salmo trutta*, on which the freshwater pearl mussel depend (the larvae grow on the trout's gills). Nationally threatened species such as otter *Lutra lutra* and wolf *Canis lupus* are also present. The pearl mussels and other freshwater invertebrates are being monitored, as former forestry activities, pearl fishing, Rotenone insecticide use and the introduction of pike and char in some of the lakes have reduced the populations of trout and mussels. The Site is remote, but quite popular as a recreational area for fishing and hiking. There are cottages for public use as well as marked trails and information boards. Land use is mainly dedicated to nature conservation.

## Vaya Lake

Site number: 1 230 | Country: Bulgaria | Administrative region: District Center  
Area: 2 900 ha | Coordinates: 42°30'N 27°25'E | Designation dates: 11-11-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vaya Lake. 11/11/02; Burgas; 2,900 ha; 42°30'N 027°25'E. Partially Protected Area. The largest Bulgarian lake, one of the four lakes of the Burgas wetland complex surrounding the city. The wetland, of very high significance for biodiversity (especially birds), is a shallow freshwater/brackish liman with associated marshy areas and extensive reedbeds (the largest in the country); fish farm basins, adjacent to the lake, are heavily overgrown by aquatic vegetation. In the site have been recorded several IUCN red-listed species of animals - 5 invertebrates, 4 fish, 4 amphibians, 3 reptiles, 5 birds and 3 mammals. Situated along the second largest migration path of birds in Europe, the "Via Pontica", the site is an important stopover and staging site for a large number of waterbirds, raptors and passerines. Yearly during migration and wintering more than 20,000 (up to 100,000) waterbirds congregate there, some species with more than the 1% threshold of the biogeographic population, including Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, and White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. Fishing and sand extraction are practiced. Among the most serious threats to the site are those associated with the country's only petrol refinery. A management plan is under elaboration. Organization active on the ground - the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme. Ramsar site no. 1230. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Veerse Meer

Site number: 1 251 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland  
Area: 2 539 ha | Coordinates: 51°33'N 03°43'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Veerse Meer. 29/08/00; Zeeland; 2,539 ha; 51°32'N 003°44'E. Natura 2000 (SPA). Formerly part of the Oosterschelde estuary (closed in 1961), the Site is now a 20km-long stagnant brackish lake with sandbanks and small islands, surrounded by wet meadows, improved grasslands, arable lands and some wood plantations. The Ramsar Site boundary was aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014; farmland and the dyke separating the western end of the lake from the North Sea were excluded. Veerse Meer hosts significant concentrations of waterbirds (with average peaks of nearly 38,000 between 2005/2006 and 2009/2010) and provides refuge to more than 1% of the biogeographic population of Eurasian wigeon (*Anas penelope*). The lake acts as a storage basin for surplus water pumped from the surrounding polders until it is discharged into the Oosterschelde. Human uses include commercial fishing, farming, tourism and boating. The Site is threatened by nutrient pollution causing eutrophication, and by recreational activities and the Midden-Zeeland airport which cause disturbance to birds. In 2004 a sluice was constructed in the Zandkreekdijk, which separates the eastern end of the lake from the Oosterschelde, to allow more natural water management and improvement of the water quality. Ramsar site no. 1251. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Vejlerne and Løgstør Bredning

Site number: 145 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Thisted and Jammerbugt municipalities  
Area: 43 534 ha | Coordinates: 56°58'N 09°03'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vejlerne and Løgstør Bredning. 02/09/77; Region North Denmark; 43,534 ha; 056°56'N 009°03'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Nature Conservation Area, Wildlife Reserves. A shallow, brackish fjord of open water, shoals, islands and saltmarshes internationally important for nesting, wintering and staging of numerous species of waterbirds. Abandonment and unsuccessful reclamation efforts led to the development of extensive reedbeds, lakes and meadows. The site is surrounded by rural landscape composed of privately owned forests and agricultural lands, causing eutrophication through cultivation of meadows in the adjacent area. A management plan for the site has been implemented since 2009. Bird watching tourism has increased since the creation of the new visitors centre and observation towers in 2001. Ramsar site no. 145. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Velence and Dinnyés Nature Conservation Area

Site number: 183 | Country: Hungary | Administrative region: Fejér county  
Area: 1 354,5 ha | Coordinates: 47°11'N 18°33'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1979  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is formed by a part of Lake Velence, the second biggest lake in the country, and Dinnyési-fertő, an alkaline marshland with surrounding meadows supporting extensive reed and *Scirpus* beds. The floating marshes are among the most important habitats of the lake: they provide good conditions for plant species such as the orchid *Liparis loeselii* and Sphagnum mosses, as well as animal species including the weatherfish *Misgurnus fossilis*, which has a stable population in the area. The Site is an important breeding, wintering and staging area for numerous species of endangered waterbirds, such as the red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*, the marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and the little bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*. It regularly supports an average of 25,000 to 30,000 waterfowls per year, and more than 1% of the individuals of the population of greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* and greylag goose *Anser anser*. The wetland area plays an important role in water purification and climate regulation. Human activities include reed harvesting on the lake, grazing and mowing of the meadows in Dinnyés, and ecotourism. There is a visitor centre, a birdwatching tower and a research facility at the Site. The main threat is posed by illegal fishing.

## Veluwerandmeren

Site number: 1 242 | Country: Netherlands  
| Administrative region: The site is located between the provinces of Flevoland, Gelderland and Overijssel.  
Area: 6 123,5 ha | Coordinates: 52°26'N 05°44'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The three Ramsar Sites "Drontermeer" (former Site no.1242), "Veluwemeer" (former Site no. 1278) and "Wolderwijd en Nuldernaauw" (former Site no. 1281) were combined in 2015 into a single Ramsar Site following the borders of Natura 2000 site "Veluwerandmeren". This has resulted in an overall increase of 14 ha. The new Site is formed by three lakes situated between the dikes of the Flevoland polder and the mainland. It regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the of NW European populations of tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*). The Site also supports threatened species of plants, mosses, mushrooms, molluscs and fish, which are important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. In addition it maintains the hydrological balance of the region and is an important fresh water reservoir during periods of drought. Land use is dedicated to commercial fisheries, sand extraction, water management, recreation and tourism, shipping traffic, conservation and research. The main factors adversely affecting the Site's ecological character include the extension and deepening of the shipping lane, impacts of the extraction industry, pollution, eutrophication and disturbance from recreation activities.

## Vembanad-Kol Wetland

Site number: 1 214 | Country: India | Administrative region: Kerala State  
Area: 151 250 ha | Coordinates: 09°50'N 76°45'E | Designation dates: 19-08-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vembanad-Kol Wetland. 19/08/02. Kerala. 151,250 ha. 09°50'N 076°45'E. The largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India, fed by 10 rivers and typical of large estuarine systems on the western coast, renowned for its clams and supporting the third largest waterfowl population in India during the winter months. Over 90 species of resident birds and 50 species of migratory birds are found in the Kol area. Flood protection for thickly-populated coastal areas of three districts of Kerala is considered a major benefit, groundwater recharge helps to supply well water for the region, and the value of the system for the local transport of people and trade is considerable. Ramsar site no. 1214. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

## Vendicari

Site number: 424 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sicilia  
Area: 1 450 ha | Coordinates: 36°48'N 15°06'E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vendicari. 11/04/89; Sicilia; 1,450 ha; 36°48'N 015°07'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. A complex of five brackish lakes subject to marked seasonal variations in extent and salinity. Saline areas support typical salt-resistant vegetation, while freshwater areas give rise to a more varied flora. The site supports up to 20,000 waterbirds during the spring migration period, and is also important for wintering birds. Several notable nesting species as well as large numbers of shorebirds use the area. The site is subject to considerable tourism-related development. Ramsar site no. 424.

## Veneneva-Pelso Mires

Site number: 1 539 | Country: Finland | Administrative region: Oulu  
Area: 12 039 ha | Coordinates: 64°29'N 26°11'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Veneneva - Pelso Mires. 02/02/04; Oulu; 12,039 ha; 64°28'N 026°10'E. Natura 2000 SPA, SCI, Mire Conservation Programme, Strict Nature Reserve. An extensive unit of various types of aapa mire complexes representing the mire vegetation region of Southern aapa mires, constituted of extensive flark fens and pine bogs typical of Ostrobothnia aapa mires. Spruce mires and patches of rich fens also occur in the area. For the most part the mire types are mesotrophic and oligotrophic. The waters consist of small ponds and headwaters of rivers. In the middle of mires there are barren esker formations which are in the process of changing into mires. Virgin aapa mires play an important role in the maintenance of water quality and in flood control, and in some aapa mires restoration was carried out in the 1980s. The breeding wetland bird fauna is valuable, including about 14 species of the EU Birds Directive Annex I. In the Strict Nature Reserve visiting is prohibited except for scientific research and education purposes. Under the EU Life Nature project in 2002-2007, restoration of forests will be carried out in an area of 180 hectares. Ramsar site no. 1539. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Verloren Valei Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 110 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Mpumalanga Province  
Area: 5 891 ha | Coordinates: 25°19'S 30°07'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Verloren Valei Nature Reserve. 16/10/01; Mpumalanga; 5,891 ha; 25°17'S 030°09'E. Nature Reserve. A provincial protected area above 2000m altitude comprising more than 30 wetlands (14% of the site's area), ranging between 2 and 250 hectares, primarily permanent freshwater marshes, with the emergent vegetation waterlogged for most of the season. The area is especially important hydrologically because it acts as a sponge in the upper catchment of important river systems for both South Africa and Mozambique, ensuring gradual release to more populous downstream regions during rainy periods. It supports high botanical diversity and is one of the last areas with suitable Wattle Crane *Bucconas carunculata* breeding habitat. A variety of wetland types characteristic of the region is represented, and a significant number of vulnerable and threatened plant, butterfly, and mammal species are supported. Population density in the area is low, but farming and grazing occur in the surrounding areas. A management plan, including controlled burning, is in place, employing local people. Small-scale avi-tourism occurs and guided tours are planned. No urgent threats are foreseen, though introduced exotic plant species are being watched carefully. Ramsar site no. 1110. Most recent RIS information: 2000.

## Verlorenvlei

Site number: 525 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape  
Area: 1 500 ha | Coordinates: 32°21'S 18°25'E | Designation dates: 28-06-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Verlorenvlei. 28/06/91; Western Cape; 1,500 ha; 32°24'S 018°26'E. One of the largest lakes (and one of the country's few coastal freshwater lakes), with associated scrub, shrubland, dune systems, marshland and reedbeds representing a transition zone between two plant communities. The site is an important feeding area for rare pelicans and fish, for molting and breeding birds, as well as for staging wading birds. During dry periods, large numbers of flamingos gather. The site also supports notable plant species. Water is pumped for irrigation purposes, and the marshland is used for cattle grazing. Ramsar site no. 525. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Veselovskoye Reservoir

Site number: 672 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Rostov Oblast

Area: 309 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°55'N 41°02'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Veselovskoye Reservoir. 13/09/94; Rostov Oblast; 309,000 ha; 46°55'N 041°02'E. Hunting Reserve. A chain of reservoirs with numerous temporary water bodies and bays located in the Zapadny Manych River valley. The site includes numerous islands, vast areas of abandoned rice fields, and fishponds. Vegetation includes reedbeds, meadow, steppe vegetation, forests, and halophytic communities. The area provides habitat for large concentrations (over 250,000 individuals) of numerous species of breeding, wintering, molting, feeding, roosting and staging waterbirds, particularly geese (*Anser albifrons*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Anser erythropus* and *Anser anser*), dabbling and diving ducks. The site supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna, including numerous rare and endangered species. Ramsar site no. 672. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Victoria Falls National Park

Site number: 2 108 | Country: Zimbabwe | Administrative region: Matabeleland North Province

Area: 1 750 ha | Coordinates: 17°59'S 25°52'E | Designation dates: 03-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dominated by a unique vegetation of mopane forest and miombo woodlands, and characterized by basaltic gorges shaped by the Zambezi River, the Victoria Falls National Park is a natural wonder and a biodiversity hotspot. Also designated as a World Heritage site for its exceptional geological features and natural beauty, the Park is known for the largest and most spectacular waterfalls in the world, the Mosi-oa-Tunya ("The smoke that thunders") or Victoria Falls. Animal species recorded in the Site include a sizeable number of elephants, buffalo, lions, leopards and black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*, of which 10% of the world population lives in the Park. Hippopotamus, giraffe, zebra, antelopes, warthog, baboons and other monkeys, and Nile crocodiles can also be found in large numbers. The Site also supports a wealth of reptiles, amphibians and over 500 bird species including falcons, eagles, black storks and herons, which feed and nest in the area. The flora is made up of about 400 species of trees, shrub, grasses, sedges and ferns, notably including the hairy leaved Cape fig (*Ficus sur*), the African olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) and the Natal mahogany (*Trichilia emetica*). The other most common tree species include the wild date palm (*Phoenix reclinata*) which together with the waterboom (*Ilex mitis*) and red milkwood (*Sapotaceae*) species make up over 80% of the trees in the Site. Thousands of tourists travel to the park each year for sightseeing, rafting, boating, and game viewing.

## Viesvile

Site number: 627 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region: Taurage

Area: 3 218 ha | Coordinates: 55°09'N 22°26'E | Designation dates: 20-08-1993

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Viesvile (Vieavil). 04/10/93; Taurage; 3,218 ha; 55°09'N 022°27'E. Strict Nature Reserve, Natura 2000, pSCI. Undisturbed representative complex of bogs, swamps and mires in the upper reaches of Viesvile rivulet surrounded by dry coniferous forests on a sandy plane with continental dunes. Dominate wetland types include forested and non-forested peatlands and freshwater tree dominated wetlands. The site holds a number of habitats as well as plant and animal species of European and national concern, including those dependent on natural hydrological regime. It is an important breeding area for Golden Plovers and other threatened waterbird species. Swamps play significant role in replenishing resources of clean ground water. At present the area is used for scientific research and monitoring, ecological education and restricted sightseeing tourism; there is a nature trail to raised bog. Present threats include dry summers and overgrowing of open bogs and fens, lack of natural disturbances caused by fires, presence of alien species (Raccoon Dog), illegal fishing and hunting, as well as (on surrounding areas) forest cuttings and declining of grazing and haymaking. Ramsar Site no. 627. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Vigonoshchanskoe

Site number: 2 141 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Region

Area: 54 182 ha | Coordinates: 52°42'N 25°40'E | Designation dates: 16-01-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vigonoshchanskoe. 16/01/2013; Brest Region; 54,182 ha; 52°42'N 25°40'E. National Landscape Reserve; Important Bird Area; Habitat/Species Management Area. A large forest-wetland complex situated at the watershed of river basins of the Black and Baltic seas. This area, slightly transformed by economic and recreational activities, is of great importance for the conservation of plant and animal species as well as for the protection of the whole natural complex of Belarusian Polesie. There are two large lakes on the territory as well as rivers, canals, floodplains and open marsh areas, including waterlogged forests, fens, transitional and raised bogs. The core of the Site is Lake Vygoshchanskoe. The site plays a key role in maintaining the hydrological regime in the region and feeding the River Shchara, one of the River Nemans largest tributaries. Moreover, the wetland regulates regional climate by mitigating fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Traditional human activities within the site are fishing, hunting, and berry and mushroom collection. A network of monitoring plots has been created, where research studies have been carried out within the national integrated monitoring system for ecosystems in the protected areas. Ramsar Site no. 2141. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Vileity

Site number: 2 251 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Pastavy and Braslavsky districts/Vitebsk region

Area: 8 452 ha | Coordinates: 55°15'N 26°46'E | Designation dates: 30-09-2014

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vileity Ramsar Site is a waterlogged forest with a complex of fen and transitional mires, floodplain meadows and marshes, rivers, oxbow lakes and a system of channels overgrown with woods. It makes up the eastern part of a large natural wetland complex located in the transboundary zone between Belarus and Lithuania and is adjacent to the Lithuanian "Aduiskis-Svyla-Birveta wetland complex" Ramsar Site. The floodplains provide an important stopover and migration corridor for threatened waterbirds including the black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and the common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). During the spring floods, the Site hosts more than 20,000 waterfowl. More than 1% of the biogeographic population of the greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) and the bean goose (*Anser fabalis rossicus*) regularly visit. The Myadelka and Drisvyata rivers which flow through Vileity serve as important migratory channels to allow adult European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) to reach their spawning grounds in the Baltic Sea. The Site plays an important role in regulating the hydrological regime of the Western Dvina River basin and in supporting flood control. The main threats are logging and wood harvesting, drainage and unsustainable agricultural practices in parts of the Site.

## Vilsandi National Park

Site number: 913 | Country: Estonia | Administrative region: Saare County, Saaremaa Island  
Area: 24 100 ha | Coordinates: 58°23'N 21°54'E | Designation dates: 05-06-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vilsandi National Park. 17/06/97; Saare County, Saaremaa Island; 24,100 ha; 58°23'N 021°54'E. National Park, IBA. A large wilderness area comprised of a varied coastal landscape, archipelago, and brackish and freshwater relict lakes. Predominant vegetation consists of coastal meadows and includes, reedbeds, forests, and cropland. One third of the plant species present are rare for Estonia and include numerous endangered and vulnerable plants. Internationally important numbers of 249 species of waterbirds use the site for breeding, staging and wintering. Numerous species of mammals are present. Human activities include small-scale recreation and tourism, farming, forestry, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 913. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Vincheto di Cellarda

Site number: 118 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto  
Area: 99 ha | Coordinates: 46°01'N 11°58'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vincheto di Cellarda. 14/12/76; Veneto; 99 ha; 46°01'N 011°58'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. Part of the periodically inundated floodplain of the Piave, a highly braided river rising in the Alps and emptying into Venice Lagoon. The area includes many oxbow lakes and other riverine wetlands. Vegetation includes deciduous woodland, thickets, permanent meadows and marshes supporting reedbeds. The site supports many nesting birds, as well as numerous species of wintering and passage waterbirds. The site is used for grazing and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 118. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Vindelälven

Site number: 2 181 | Country: Sweden | Administrative region: Västerbotten County  
Area: 66 395 ha | Coordinates: 65°08'N 18°12'E | Designation dates: 19-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stretching 450 kilometres from Sweden's alpine biogeographic region to the coast, the Site encompasses the entire Vindelälven River and its tributaries. Vindelälven is one of Sweden's four large protected national rivers; it is free of hydropower dams and includes a large number of impressive rapids. The water vegetation in the slow-running parts of the river is well developed. The natural water flow and seasonal flooding have a positive effect on the flora along the river, which is particularly species-rich for northern boreal conditions. The Site is very important for maintaining the biological diversity associated with free-flowing rivers in the region as it creates good conditions for migrating freshwater-spawning populations of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and brown trout *Salmo trutta*. The river is also important for the reproduction of the grayling *Thymallus thymallus*. Lake Storvindeln holds the entire population of the endemic *Coregonus maraena* morphotype known as "storskallesik". The inland delta in Ammarnäs is important for migrating and breeding waterbirds such as the globally threatened lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The river is a very important freshwater source and contributes to sediment trapping in the slow-flowing parts and water purification in the adjacent areas. The main human activities are recreation, fishing and hunting, while the main threats relate to wood and pulp plantations. Restoration measures have included the re-naturalisation of parts of the river as well as infrastructure improvements along some creeks to facilitate the passage of fish and invertebrates.

## Viruá National Park

Site number: 2 295 | Country: Brazil  
| Administrative region: Iss located in the south-central region of the State of Roraima, in the Municipality of Caracará.  
Area: 216 427 ha | Coordinates: 01°17'N 61°09'W | Designation dates: 22-03-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Viruá National Park is in the megadiverse "Campinaranas" ecological region, on the lower Rio Branco ("White River") within the Rio Negro basin. It covers a mosaic of forested and non-forested humid ecosystems, which are representative of a unique geo-ecological system in the Amazon, and play important roles in flood control, sediment deposition and other natural cycles. The Site presents exceptional levels of biodiversity, especially of fish with 500 species recorded, and birds with over 530 species recorded of which 28 are endemic. It provides important fishing resources. The Site hosts populations of species such as the endangered giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the near-threatened jaguar (*Panthera onca*).

## Vistula River Mouth

Site number: 2 321 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Pomorskie voivodeship (Pomerania)  
Area: 1 748,1 ha | Coordinates: 54°21'N 18°56'E | Designation dates: 09-04-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of two separate areas of the Vistula River estuary, the largest estuary in Poland. The western part is the Ptasi Raj (Bird's Paradise) Nature Reserve located on the westernmost section of Sobieszewska Island, covering a wetland and a partly dyked section of the mouth of the western arm of the Vistula (called Wisła Śmiała or "Bold Vistula"). The eastern part, which includes the Mewia Łacha Nature Reserve, covers the main river mouth (known as Wisła Przekop or "Vistula Canal") and an area of sea. The Site is one of the most important areas in the country for migratory and wintering coastal waterbirds, as the only nesting site in Poland of the sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* and one of the most important nesting sites for the little tern *Sternula albifrons* and the common tern *Sterna hirundo*. It is also an important resting area of grey and harbour seals: it hosts Poland's main population of grey seals. Harbour seals occasionally breed at the Site, the only breeding location of the species in Poland. Visitor facilities include an educational trail with two observation towers in the Ptasi Raj Nature Reserve, and a trail in the Mewia Łacha Nature Reserve.

## Vlaamse Banken

Site number: 326 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: Vlaamse Gewest  
Area: 1 900 ha | Coordinates: 51°10'N 02°44'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vlaamse Banken. 04/03/86; Vlaamse Gewest; 1,900 ha; 51°10'N 002°44'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A beach zone and adjacent marine waters overlying submerged banks. The area is used by large numbers of wintering grebes and sea-ducks and provides important winter foraging and roosting areas for numerous species of shorebirds. Human activities include commercial fishing, water-based recreation, sand and gravel extraction. Ramsar site no. 326. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Vlasina

Site number: 1 738 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Surdulica  
Area: 3 209 ha | Coordinates: 42°42'N 22°21'E | Designation dates: 13-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vlasina. 20/11/2007; Serbia; 3,209 ha; 42°42'N 22°21'E. Landscape of Outstanding Features; IBA. Comprises the Vlasinsko reservoir (created in 1949) and surrounding gently rolling hills, jagged shore, wet meadows, peat bogs, and the valley of the River Vlasina, along with two islands and several narrow and elongated peninsulas with many meadows and birch thickets, giving the site a characteristic and unique appearance. The peat island and peat bogs represent one of the most important refuges of the boreal flora in southern Europe in general. The site harbors many rare and threatened vegetal and animal species. More than 125 bird species are recorded, amongst them the endangered corncrake (*Crex crex*) which nests every year within the site and on sloping meadows of the surrounding mountains, as well as a colony of sand martins (*Riparia riparia*) with around 300 active nests, unique in this biogeographical region. Prior to creation of the reservoir, the Vlasinsko Blato, or peat bog, was considered the largest peat bog in the Balkans and one of the largest in Europe. There are 1,400 farming households in the area, but the human population is declining as in other mountainous areas of Serbia. Sport fishing and other recreation, as well as tourism, supplement small-scale farming. Ramsar site no. 1738. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Volga Delta

Site number: 111 | Country: Russian Federation  
| Administrative region: Limansky, Kamyzyyansky, Ikryaninsky and Volodarsky districts of Astrakhan Oblast  
Area: 800 000 ha | Coordinates: 45°54'N 48°47'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; Strict Nature Reserve, Wildlife Refuges. One of the largest deltas in the world and characterized by a highly braided morphology, creating over 1,000 channels in the lower delta. The site covers the seaward edge, and is composed of extensive areas of open water, numerous islands, reedbeds, and other aquatic plants. 70% of the world catch of sturgeon come from the Volga tributaries, which are a vital link in the life cycle of other commercially important fish. During mild winters, the delta supports up to 750,000 waterbirds, including swans, geese and ducks, and summer molting ducks reach 400,000 individuals. Breeding wetland birds include the endangered pelican *Pelecanus crispus*; herons, *Ardea cinerea*; and egrets, *Egretta alba* (thousands of pairs each). The delta is a major staging area for many species of waterbirds, raptors and songbirds. The rise in the Caspian Sea level has caused a northward retreat of the foredelta.

## Voordelta

Site number: 1 279 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland and Zuid-Holland  
Area: 92 271 ha | Coordinates: 51°45'N 03°41'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Voordelta. 29/08/00; Zeeland, Zuid-Holland; 92,271 ha; 051°43'N 003°35'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Ramsar Site boundary has been aligned with the Natura 2000 site, resulting in an increase of 3,502 ha in its area. The Site is an extensive coastal wetland in the North Sea, characterized by shallow sandbanks, mudflats, salt meadows and embryonic dunes. Its high food productivity, caused by the increased nutrient supply from the rivers Rhine and Meuse, attracts an outstanding range of species that depend on it. Threatened birds such as the Sandwich tern, Eurasian spoonbill and avocet use the Site during migration and winter, as do more than 1% of the population of northern pintail and sanderling. The shallow mudflats are a very important spawning and nursery ground for migratory fish such as river lamprey and allis shad. Moreover, common seal and grey seal regularly use the Site. The main human uses include intensive aquaculture and shellfish fishing, angling, boating, recreation and tourism. All these uses put pressure on its ecological character, as do other potential threats such as the disturbance of birds by aircraft, non-industrial pollution, construction work on dykes and dams, extraction activities and reclamation projects. The management plan for the Natura 2000 site has been approved. Ramsar Site no. 1279. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Voornes Duin

Site number: 1 280 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zuid-Holland  
Area: 1 432 ha | Coordinates: 51°54'N 04°04'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Voornes Duin. 29/08/00; Zuid-Holland; 1,432 ha; 051°53'N 04°03'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The Site represents the least damaged dune system of the Netherlands. It is located between Oostvoorne and Haringvliet, just 20 km south of the capital The Hague. The Ramsar boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, including the addition of a new area of 45 ha. The area includes two lakes – Breedewater and Quackjeswater – and mesotrophic dune slacks surrounded by alder woodland and wet dune valleys. The Site supports rich vegetation including endangered plant species such as water germander and fen orchid, and is of particular importance for many breeding birds such as the Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). The dunes play an important role in shoreline stabilization and water purification. Land use is dedicated to water management, tourism, conservation and research. The main factors adversely affecting the Site's ecological character come from the surrounding area: the construction of a harbour and an industrial area will influence the salt spray and dynamics of shifting dunes. Moreover, the partial opening of the sluices in Haringvliet dam will also influence the hydrology of the Site. Ramsar site no. 1280. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Vransko Lake

Site number: 2 109 | Country: Croatia | Administrative region: Zadar & Šibenik-Knin counties  
Area: 5 748 ha | Coordinates: 43°54'N 15°35'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vransko Lake; 30/07/2012; County of Zadar and County of Šibenik-Knin; 5,747.51 ha; 43°53'28"N 15°34'36"E; Nature Park, Special Ornithological Reserve. Vransko Lake is the largest natural lake in Croatia, situated in a shallow karst bed and separated from the Adriatic Sea by a narrow karst ridge. Significant seasonal variations in water level and changes in salinity due to intrusion of sea water through permeable karst create conditions for development of very specific habitats. The shallowest northwest part of the site is characterized by reedbeds, floodplain and seasonally flooded arable land; the hills lining the eastern coast are covered by typical Mediterranean macchia and garrigue, while the lower western coast gives a more rocky appearance. Vransko Lake marsh is a remaining of what used to be a much larger Vrana swamp, drained by melioration canals in 18th century. This site is a nesting, wintering and resting area for many threatened waterbirds as the *Ardea purpurea*, *Egretta alba* or *Porzana pusilla*. Vransko Lake is the biggest reservoir of fresh water in this region of Croatia. During rainy season the marsh regulates floods. The reedbeds are excellent in purifying waters that enter the lake through melioration canals, carrying fertilizers that could enhance the lake eutrophication. The Management Plan for the Nature Park was developed in 2010 and since then being implemented. Ramsar Site Number: 2109. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Vydritsa

Site number: 2 195 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Gomel Region  
Area: 21 292 ha | Coordinates: 52°44'N 29°40'E | Designation dates: 29-03-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vydritsa. 29/03/2013; Gomel Region; 21,292 ha; 52°46'N 29°40'E; Important Bird Area, Habitat/Species Management Area, National Landscape Reserve. The site is on a floodplain between the Berezina and Vydritsa rivers in the south-east of Belarus. It is a system of oxbow lakes, tree-dominated wetlands and forested peatlands with meadows, marshes, swamps and drainage channels. The site is internationally important for the maintenance of biological diversity within the Continental biogeographic region. It supports nationally-threatened bird species such as the Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, the Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and the Common Crane *Grus grus*, and vulnerable mammals such as the Eurasian Badger *Meles meles*. The hydrological values of the site include flood regulation, water supply, and maintenance of groundwater level and water quality, while the peatland areas play an important role in carbon sequestration. Land use within the site is dedicated to forestry, hunting, fishing, mushroom and berry-picking. Factors adversely affecting its ecological character include reclamation of land, overgrazing, unregulated mowing and logging activities, recreational pressures, reduction of water levels and also radioactive contamination caused by the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Ramsar site no. 2195. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Wadden Sea

Site number: 289 | Country: Netherlands  
| Administrative region: Provinces of Groningen,Friesland,Noord Holland  
Area: 271 023,3 ha | Coordinates: 53°18'N 06°16'E | Designation dates: 02-05-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a marine and coastal wetland in the Wadden Sea, between the mainland and barrier islands, consisting of extensive tidal mudflats, salt marshes, wet meadows, reclaimed polders, sand banks, and dune systems. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to follow the Natura 2000 boundary, and the former Ramsar Sites Griend (former Site no. 196) and Boschplaat (former Site no. 195) as well as 750 ha of the nature development area Friesland Buitendijks have been included within the Wadden Sea Ramsar Site. These changes have together resulted in an area increase of over 5,000 ha. Waddenzee is internationally important for many threatened species such as avocet and Sandwich tern, as well as for more than 20,000 wintering migratory birds. In addition, more than 5,000 individuals of harbour seal regularly use the site. The coastal wetland plays an important role in flood regulation, shoreline stabilization and sediment trapping. The main activities within the Site are commercial fisheries, sand, clay, shell and gravel extraction, oil and gas exploitation, wind turbine electricity generation and military training. All these activities are potential threats to its ecological character. The management plan was updated in 2010.

## Wadi El Rayan Protected Area

Site number: 2 041 | Country: Egypt | Administrative region: Fayoum  
Area: 175 790 ha | Coordinates: 29°12'N 30°19'E | Designation dates: 04-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wadi El Rayan Protected Area. 04/06/12; Fayoum; 175,790 ha; 29°12'N 030°18'E. World Heritage site, Nature Reserve. Comprises two main lakes, at different elevations, connected by a swampy channel, one of the most important habitats for certain bird species of national, regional and international importance. The area holds reasonable numbers of wintering birds such as the near-threatened Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* as well as several threatened species of mammals, including the slender horned gazelle, *Gazella leptoceros*. The lakes and springs play a critical role in the life cycles of a remarkable diversity of species, including 29 fish species, 164 bird species, 24 mammal species, 14 reptile species and 38 plant species. Fishing and agriculture are the major sources of livelihood for the 12,000 resident population, and the annual fish catch has been increasing markedly. Potential threats to the site include agricultural and wastewater drainage as well as illegal hunting. Wadi al-Hitan ("Whale Valley"), within the Ramsar Site, was designated as a World Heritage site in 2005 because of "invaluable fossil remains of the earliest, and now extinct, suborder of whales, Archaeoceti. These fossils represent one of the major stories of evolution: the emergence of the whale as an ocean-going mammal from a previous life as a land-based animal" (WH List). Ramsar Site no. 2041. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Wadi Wurayah National Park

Site number: 1 932 | Country: United Arab Emirates | Administrative region: Emirate of Fujairah  
Area: 12 700 ha | Coordinates: 25°24'N 56°15'E | Designation dates: 10-07-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wadi Wurayah National Park. 07/10/2010; Emirate of Fujairah; 12,700ha; 25°24N, 56°15E. Wadi Wurayah National Park is also a Protected Area.

The area's geology has created a unique hydrogeological system that allows run-off water to emerge between impermeable and permeable rock creating fresh water streams, pools and waterfalls, all of which are uncommon in an arid region. The diversity of fresh water habitats provide important spawning ground for fish such as *Garra barreimiae* (Cyprinidae) which is threatened and endemic to the Arabian Peninsula, including seven newly discovered insect species of which four (Order: Ephemeroptera) have water dependent larval stages.

The site supports 11 threatened species of mammals, such as the Arabian Tahr (*Hemitragus jayakari*). In 1978 the total world population of Arabian Tahr was estimated at ca 2000 (Munton,1985), today, the population is estimated to be at least 20 individuals. So far, 73 species of birds such as the endangered Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) have been recorded. The Wadi Wurayah National Park hosts 17 reptile species such as the Bar-tailed Semaphore Gecko (*Pristurus celerrimus*) and at least two amphibian species, all which are endemic to the UAE and Northern Oman.

The Wadi Wurayah National Park is a rich archaeological site with 29 heritage sites such as, Islamic graveyards, petroglyphs and settlements dating as far as the Iron Age (1,300-500BC).

The last local family left the area in 1981. Occasionally, locals venture to the site to collect medicinal plants, wild honey and fodder for livestock.

Threats to the site include water exploitation, rock extraction and wild life poaching.

The Wadi Wurayah National Park is owned by the ruler of Fujairah Emirate, the local tribes and families. The Environment Protection and Development Department of Fujairah Municipality is responsible for managing this site. Ramsar site no.1932. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Waldviertel ponds, peat bogs & floodplains

Site number: 1 013 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: District: Gmünd; federal state: Lower Austria  
Area: 13 000 ha | Coordinates: 48°46'N 14°59'E | Designation dates: 16-12-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Waldviertel ponds, peat bogs & floodplains (Teich-, Moor- und Flusslandschaft Waldviertel). 22/12/99; Niederösterreich; 13,000 ha; 48°46'N 015°59'E. A number of Natura 2000 sites under the EC Birds and Habitats and Species Directives; Important Bird Area. Situated in the southeasternmost part of the central European mountain region; contains a number of small and large riverine, peat bog, and pond wetlands. Crucial to the area's water regime, the Lainsitz is a common river connecting to the Czech Republic's Ramsar sites Trebon fishponds and Trebon peatlands (the 'Lusnice' river in Czech) with high commercial value since the 13th century. Peat was extracted for fuel for the glass industry until the end of the 19th century, but no longer. Hunting is common in all parts of the site. The site enjoys high species diversity, especially in plants, dragonflies, amphibians, and birds, with rare species like the mammals *Lutra lutra* and *Micromys minutus*, mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Unio crassus*, and the crustacean *Astacus astacus*. The rivers and ponds perform valuable functions in flood control and water retention and serve as a hydrological buffer zone. Ownership is very mixed, partly publicly-owned by local and national entities and partly owned by small, large, and very large private landowners. Many parts of the Ramsar site have management plans implemented under an EU LIFE project by WWF-Austria, and ongoing research is carried out by WWF Austria and BirdLife Austria. Ramsar site no. 1013. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Walmore Common

Site number: 538 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 53 ha | Coordinates: 51°50'N 02°22'W | Designation dates: 05-12-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Walmore Common. 05/12/91; England; 53 ha; 51°50'N 002°22'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. Improved and unimproved grassland dissected by a network of drainage ditches and subject to intermittent seasonal flooding. The common is grazed by cattle during the summer months and is surrounded by improved grassland. The site regularly supports nationally or internationally important numbers of wintering Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans) and waders. Ramsar site no. 538. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Walvis Bay

Site number: 742 | Country: Namibia | Administrative region: Erongo Region  
Area: 12 600 ha | Coordinates: 23°00'S 14°27'E | Designation dates: 23-08-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Walvis Bay. 23/08/95; 12,600 ha; 23°00'S 014°27'E. Nature Reserve. A tidal lagoon consisting of adjacent intertidal areas, Pelican Point, mudflats exposed at low tide, and sandbars serving as roosting sites. The site supports varying numbers of wetland birds (37,000 to 79,000 individuals); some species such as flamingos occur in impressive numbers. Eleven endangered bird species are regularly observed. Human activities consist of recreation and salt production. Residential development exists along the lagoon, and natural siltation may eventually lead to the infilling. Ramsar site no. 742. Most recent RIS information: 1995.

## Warta River Mouth National Park

Site number: 282 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Gorzów  
Area: 7 956 ha | Coordinates: 52°36'N 14°47'E | Designation dates: 03-01-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Warta River Mouth National Park (Park Narodowy "Ujście Warty"). 03/01/84; Lubuskie; 7,956 ha; 52°36'N 014°47'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993. National Park, Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 site. An artificial reservoir near the German border which is subject to wide seasonal variations. The site is set in the Warta River floodplain and surrounded by marshes, meadows and pasture. The area is extremely important for various nesting and wintering waterbirds. Staging and molting flocks include large numbers of ducks and geese. Human activities include non-intensive cattle grazing, fishing, haymaking, and goose hunting. Warta River regulation and polluted inflow are problematic. Boundaries significantly extended in 2007. Removed from the Montreux Record, 5 November 2007. Ramsar site no. 282. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Warwick Pond

Site number: 986 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Bermuda Island  
Area: 2 ha | Coordinates: 32°16'N 64°48'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Warwick Pond. 11/05/99; Bermuda; 2 ha; 32°16'N 064°48'W. Bermuda's largest freshwater pond with mudflats at the north end and a broad fringing marsh. Good example of natural small island wetland. Important for the only freshwater adapted population of endemic Killifish (*Fundulus bermudae*). The most important mudflat for passage shorebirds (16 species including *Charadrius semipalmatus* and *Tringa melanoleuca*) on Bermuda. Ramsar site no. 986. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Wasur National Park

Site number: 1 624 | Country: Indonesia | Administrative region: Merauke Regency  
Area: 413 810 ha | Coordinates: 08°38'S 140°23'E | Designation dates: 16-03-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wasur National Park. 16/03/06; Irian Jaya; 413,810 hectares; 08°38'S 140°23'E. National Park. A low-lying wetland in the monsoon climate zone of southern New Guinea, with intertidal mudflats and coastal mangroves with extensive seasonally inundated grasslands, reed swamps, savannahs, and monsoon forest. The site is the habitat for a number of rare and endemic species, including the Fly River Grassbird (*Megalurus albolimbatus*) and Grey-crowned Munia (*Lonchura nevermanni*). Tens of thousands of waterbirds visit the region during migration between eastern Siberia and northern Australia. The topography is exceptionally flat, with little natural drainage in large parts of the reserve. Land use is chiefly subsistence farming by small local communities of four groups of autochthonous peoples, and the area contains many sites of spiritual significance and archaeological importance. Poaching and alien invasive species like water hyacinth and mimosa pigra, as well as population pressures from the nearby town of Merauke, are seen as the greatest threats. Ecotourism infrastructure is being developed to accommodate international as well as local tourists, to benefit local communities. The site is contiguous with the Tonda Wildlife Management Area Ramsar site in Papua New Guinea. Ramsar site no. 1624. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

### **Watarase-yusuichi**

Site number: 2 061 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Honshu Island  
Area: 2 861 ha | Coordinates: 36°14'N 139°41'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Watarase-yusuichi. 03/07/12; Ibaragi, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama; 2,861 ha; 36°14'20"N 139°40'56"E. National Wildlife Protection Zone. A natural river flood plain where the Watarase, Uzuma and Omoi rivers meet and includes the Watarase reservoir, an artificial retarding basin surrounded by an embankment managed mainly for flood control. Located 60 km north of Tokyo, it is representative of a Phragmites australis-dominated low moor wetland in the Japanese Evergreen Forest biogeographic ecoregion. The extensive reedbed is one of the largest in the biogeographic region and supports a diversity of wetland flora and fauna. The site has an important flood control function by retarding the flood water from the rivers that flows into the site, and then slowly releasing the water into the Tone River that flows downstream. It is also used for fisheries, recreation, and environmental education. The wetland is at risk of drying up due to excess deposits of earth and sand and is being maintained through excavation since 2010. Ramsar Site no. 2061. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### **Waters between Lolland and Falster including Rødsand, Guldborg sound, and Bøtø Nor**

Site number: 164 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sjælland  
Area: 34 812 ha | Coordinates: 54°38'N 11°43'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Waters between Lolland and Falster, including Rødsand, Guldborg Sound, & Bøtø Nor. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 34,812 ha; 54°38'N 11°43'E. Natura 2000 SPA; Nature Conservation Areas, Wildlife Reserves. Shallow, coastal waters, shoals, sand banks, uninhabited islands, saltmarshes and reedbeds. The mainland terrestrial areas support farmland and woodland. The site is an internationally important area for breeding, wintering and staging numerous species of waterbirds, and a particularly important moulting area for Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). There are also breeding and haul-out areas for Common Seal *Phoca vitulina* and Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*. Hunting from motor boats is prohibited in selected areas. Two bird observation towers have been built in Bøtø Nor. Ramsar site no. 164. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### **Waters north of Anholt**

Site number: 151 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Midtjylland  
Area: 11 616 ha | Coordinates: 56°45'N 11°33'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Waters north of Anholt. 02/09/77; Region Midtjylland; 11,616 ha; 56°42'N 11°34'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Nature Conservation Area, Seal Reserve. Shallow waters with shoals and sandbanks, vast sandy beaches, reefs and open sea. The site is the only Danish breeding site for *Halichoerus grypus* and *Phoca vitulina* seals. Gravel extraction affected the sites ecological character until recent times. Public access is limited and hunting has been prohibited. Since 2003 a national monitoring programme (NOVANA) is assessing nature and water quality under the EEC Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives. Ramsar site no. 151. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### **Waters southeast of Fejø and Femø islands**

Site number: 160 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sjælland  
Area: 41 826 ha | Coordinates: 54°56'N 11°33'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Waters southeast of Fejø & Femø islands. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 41,826 ha; 54°54'N 11°30'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC); Wildlife Reserves. A shallow coastal area of open water with reefs, sand banks, mudflats, uninhabited islets, saltmarshes, reedbeds, and islands supporting cultivated land and scattered habitation. Mainland coastal areas support deciduous woodland. The site is an internationally breeding, staging and wintering important area for waterbirds, including Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) and Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). Human activities include recreation and agriculture. There is heavy hunting pressure in the open sea areas; strict regulations within the two wildlife reserves contribute to sustainable practices, however. The main factors affecting the sites ecological character are eutrophication of marine waters. A management plan was developed in 2011 which set site-specific nature goals and priorities. Parallel to this initiative, River Basin Management Plans have also been developed in order to improve water quality and the ecological status of wetland catchments and coastal areas. Ramsar site no. 160. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### **Waters South of Zealand, Skælskør Fjord, Glænø and adjacent wetlands**

Site number: 158 | Country: Denmark | Administrative region: Sjælland  
Area: 18 577 ha | Coordinates: 55°11'N 11°17'E | Designation dates: 02-09-1977  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Waters south of Zealand, Skælskør Fjord, Glænø and adjacent wetlands. 02/09/77; Region Sjælland; 18,577 ha; 55°11'N 11°18'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), Nature Conservation Areas. A coastal area with open waters and reefs, coves, saltmarshes, reedbeds, lakes, islands, woodland and farmland. The whole site is internationally important for wintering, staging and moulting of numerous species of waterbirds as Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. It also supports more than 1% of European population of Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, and Coot *Fulica atra*. The main factors affecting the ecological character of the site are invasive plant species *Rosa rugosa* and *Heracleum pubescens*, which are spreading along the coastline, habitat loss, vegetation succession, water pollution and eutrophication caused by agricultural activities. Hunting has been regulated in order to reduce waterbird disturbance. Site specific management action plans are in preparation. Ramsar site no. 158. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

### **Wattenmeer, Elbe-Weser-Dreieck**

Site number: 80 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 38 460 ha | Coordinates: 53°50'N 08°24'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wattenmeer, Elbe-Weser-Dreieck. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 38,460 ha; 53°50'N 08°24'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, National Park. Part of the Wadden Sea, with extensive mudflats, saltmarshes and islands. An internationally important area for numerous species of wintering and staging waterbirds and for breeding by low numbers of several species. Hunting is strictly controlled, and considerable ecological and geological research is carried out in the area. Knechtsand Island is slowly being eroded by the sea. Ramsar site no. 80.

## Wattenmeer, Jadebusen & westliche Wesermündung

Site number: 81 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 49 490 ha | Coordinates: 53°40'N 08°19'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wattenmeer, Jadebusen & westliche Wesermündung. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 49,490 ha; 53°40'N 08°19'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park; Nature Reserve, Game Protection Area. A large bay of the Wadden Sea and therefore internationally important for numerous species of waterbirds. The site includes extensive sand and mud flats, grading into saltmarsh and dune habitats, and includes Mellum Island. Numerous species of waterbirds winter, stage and breed in the area. Bird hunting is controlled and several field stations exist from which extensive ecological and geological research and monitoring is carried out. Ramsar site no. 81.

## Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart

Site number: 82 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Niedersachsen  
Area: 121 620 ha | Coordinates: 53°42'N 07°21'E | Designation dates: 26-02-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart. 26/02/76; Niedersachsen; 121,620 ha; 53°42'N 07°21'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park, Nature Reserves. Two sections of the North Sea coast consisting of parts of the East Friesian Islands and the Ems River estuary. Both areas include extensive mudflats and saltmarsh and support vast reedbeds. As part of the Wadden Sea, the site is internationally important for breeding, wintering and staging abundant numbers of waterbirds. Popular as a recreation area, the site is vulnerable to oil spills from nearby shipping lanes and port facilities. In some areas hunting is strictly controlled. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 for the following reasons: dyke construction, boring for gas, a planned oil pipeline and harbor extension, and low-altitude military overflights. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1990. Ramsar site no. 82.

## Waza Logone Floodplain

Site number: 1 609 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: Extreme North Province  
Area: 600 000 ha | Coordinates: 11°38'N 14°37'E | Designation dates: 20-03-2006  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Waza Logone Floodplain. 20/03/06; Extrême-Nord; 600,000 ha; 11°38'N 014°39'E. Includes two National Parks and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The floodplain of the lower Logone River in the extreme north of the country, between Nigeria and Chad, within the Lake Chad basin between Lake Maga and Lake Chad. Said to represent 10% of the surface area of major inland wetlands in the West African Sahel, the area is home to more than 100,000 people who depend upon wetland products for fishing, seasonal grazing, and agriculture. A 2001 census counted more than 320,000 waterbirds from 104 species, and there is a huge concentration of wildlife, particularly in the parks, including large mammals such as elephant, ostrich, giraffe, lion, and many others. Two decades of poor rainfall and the construction of the Maga Dam in 1981 for rice irrigation caused severe disruption to the ecological character of the floodplain, but an important rehabilitation project, begun in 1988 and a collaboration among IUCN, the governments of Cameroon and the Netherlands, and the CML of Leiden University with contributions from other institutions such as WWF and the EC, has shown good results in demonstrating the feasibility of the partial rehabilitation of the floodplain. Ramsar site no. 1609. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Weerribben

Site number: 193 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Overijssel  
Area: 3 329 ha | Coordinates: 52°47'N 05°57'E | Designation dates: 23-05-1980  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Weerribben. 23/05/80. Overijssel; 3,329 ha; 052°47'N 05°55'E. Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC), National Park. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 site, resulting in the addition of an area of 790 ha. The Site is a low-lying peatland formed by bogs, marshland, reedbeds, wet meadows, pools, channels, heathland, and woodland. It is an important breeding area for numerous species of endangered waterbirds including bittern, purple heron and black tern. It also supports notable species of plants, fish and butterflies. European otter have been reintroduced since 2002 and healthy and expanding populations have developed. The Site is part of the catchment area of the river Rhine and it plays an important role in flood regulation and groundwater recharge. Human activities include farming, reed cutting, commercial fisheries, angling and other recreation activities, as well as water management. Potential threats to its ecological character include drainage, eutrophication, pollution and animal disturbance caused by recreational activities. There is a visitors' centre at the site and biodiversity monitoring activities are carried out by the Dutch Bird Research Organisation. Ramsar Site no. 193. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg

Site number: 278 | Country: Germany | Administrative region: Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Area: 1 600 ha | Coordinates: 52°27'N 08°59'E | Designation dates: 28-10-1983  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg. 28/10/83; Nordrhein-Westfalen; 1,600 ha; 52°27'N 008°59'E. Nature Reserves. A stretch of the Weser River floodplain, adjacent pasture, arable fenland and gravel pits. The site is of international importance for breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds. It is the most important inland wintering site in western Germany for *Bucephala clangula* (max. 1,500), the last remaining breeding site for *Ciconia ciconia* (3 pairs), and the main staging site for *Pluvialis apricaria* (max. 1,000) in Westphalia. Angling and water sports are regulated. Ramsar site no. 278. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Western District Lakes

Site number: 268 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 32 898 ha | Coordinates: 38°10'S 143°31'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Western District Lakes. 15/12/82; Victoria; 32,898 ha; 38°10'S 143°31'E. State Wildlife Reserves, Lake Reserves. Numerous lakes varying in depth and salinity from hypersaline to fresh water, which serve as a drought refuge for tens of thousands of ducks, swans, coots and other waterbirds. Several vulnerable, rare or endangered plants occur within the site, including the nationally endangered species *Lepidium ashersonii*. The lakes are used for recreational purposes, fishing and duck hunting as well as grazing, commercial fishing, and waste water disposal. Ramsar site no. 268. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Western Port

Site number: 267 | Country: Australia | Administrative region: Victoria  
Area: 59 297 ha | Coordinates: 38°22'S 145°17'E | Designation dates: 15-12-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Western Port Bay. 15/12/82; Victoria; 59,297 ha; 38°22'S 145°17'E. A coastal embayment incorporating vast mudflats, two sites of international, geological and geomorphological significance, and nationally important expanses of relatively undisturbed, species-rich, saltmarsh vegetation. An internationally important feeding and roosting area for numerous species of summering waders, many of which are listed under the bilateral Migratory Birds Agreements Australia has with Japan and China. The site periodically supports over 10,000 waders and 10,000 ducks and swans, and a rich invertebrate fauna of 1,381 species. There is intensive use by commercial shipping. Human activities include recreation, commercial fishing, water extraction, and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 267. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Western Salt Ponds of Anegada

Site number: 983 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Anegada Island  
Area: 1 071 ha | Coordinates: 18°43'N 64°19'W | Designation dates: 11-05-1999  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Western Salt Ponds of Anegada. 11/05/99; British Virgin Islands; 1071 ha; 18°43'N 064°19'W. The site comprises tidal mudflats, mangrove, and brackish saline lagoons. The shallow lagoons support a re-introduced flock of Caribbean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*) and a fishery based on mullet fish (*Mugil cephalus*), while the endemic and endangered Anegada Rock Iguana (*Cyclura pinguis*) lives in the surrounding shrubbery. Human activities include tourism and fishing. Ramsar site no. 983. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Westerschelde & Saeftinghe

Site number: 748 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Zeeland  
Area: 43 647 ha | Coordinates: 51°23'N 03°56'E | Designation dates: 09-04-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Westerschelde & Saeftinghe. 04/09/95; Zeeland; 43,647 ha; 051°22'N 003°48'E; Natura 2000 (SPA, SAC). The boundary of the 'Westerschelde en Verdrongen Land van Saeftinghe' Ramsar Site was aligned with the Natura 2000 site in 2014 and renamed to reflect the Natura 2000 site name. Westerschelde & Saeftinghe covers the entire estuary of the River Scheldestretching stretching 60 km from the border with Belgium to the North Sea. The Site is one of the largest and most intact examples of Atlantic salt marshes in Europe. The extensive mudflats and sandbanks regularly support more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and more than 1% of the respective biogeographic populations of 18 bird species, as well as many other endangered breeding birds such as the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*). In addition, the mudflats support endangered molluscs, and the tidal waters are important spawning grounds for migratory fish including sea lamprey and twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*). The harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) regularly uses the Site. Land use is dedicated to farming, birdwatching, tourism, commercial fisheries, shipping, conservation and research. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site are posed by aquaculture, industrialization, urbanization, the extension of harbours, dredging and canalization, the construction of wind farms, pollution and eutrophication. Ramsar site no. 748. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## West-Vikna Archipelago

Site number: 2 165 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag  
Area: 13 592 ha | Coordinates: 64°54'N 10°44'E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the major part of the Vest-Vikna archipelago, and consists of several larger islands and numerous islets in shallow marine waters. The landscape has a mosaic pattern including rocky shores, narrow mires and bogs, and sparse vegetation fertilized by seabird guano. Some of the islands are covered by a nationally endangered heathland mosaic with bogs and ponds. More than 345 vascular plant species have been recorded, with several species at the northernmost or southernmost limits of their range. The large mires constitute important water reservoirs during dry periods and play an important flood control role during periods of heavy precipitation. The wetland supports breeding, staging and wintering populations of many nationally threatened species such as the black guillemot *Cephus grylle*, the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, and the black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. The islets hold populations of grey seal *Halichoerus grypus* and harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*. More rarely, false killer whale *Pseudorca crassidens* and Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* visit the archipelago. European roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* is common on some of the islands. The Site is used for fishing and agriculture.

## Westwater

Site number: 780 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 50 ha | Coordinates: 55°45'N 03°25'W | Designation dates: 27-11-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Westwater. 27/11/95; Scotland; 50 ha; 55°45'N 003°24'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive, SSSI. An artificial reservoir providing part of the region's water supply. The site supports internationally important numbers of wintering Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*, among various other wintering waterbirds. Human activities include recreation, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 780. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Wetlands in the Lower Bagan area

Site number: 681 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Novosibirsk Oblast  
Area: 26 880 ha | Coordinates: 54°09'N 78°23'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wetlands in the Lower Bagan area. 13/09/94; Novosibirsk Oblast; 26,880 ha; 54°09'N 078°23'E. Freshwater and brackish lakes and reaches of the Bagan River. The lakes are subject to varying salinity and water levels. Set in the biogeographical herb and feather grass steppe zone, vegetation includes halophytic communities, reedbeds, floating islands, and meadows. The area supports large breeding and migrating populations of waterbirds. Migrating birds include up to 6,000 Anser anser, ducks (10,000-12,000), *Fulica atra* (up to 15,000), waders (10,000-15,000), and up to 40,000 gulls. Human activities include livestock grazing, hay harvesting, fur trapping, waterbird shooting, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 681. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Wetlands of Central Kolkheti

Site number: 893 | Country: Georgia | Administrative region: Guria, Samegrelo  
Area: 33 710 ha | Coordinates: 42°12'N 41°42'E | Designation dates: 07-02-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wetlands of Central Kolkheti. 07/02/97; Guria and Samegrelo; 33,710 ha; 42°12'N 041°42'E. State Reserve, Nature Reserve. A coastal alluvial plain, dissected by rivers with extensive peat wetlands and lakes. The site supports a wealth of relict and endemic flora and fauna species. Vegetation consists of typical bog and peatland species, with freshwater marshes supporting reedbeds and brackish areas supporting halophytic plants. Various species of waterbirds use the site for wintering. Nesting species in internationally important numbers include *Haliaetus albicilla* and *Pandion haliaetus*. Human activities include tourism, small scale fishing, agriculture, timber cutting, peat extraction and hunting. Bronze Age artifacts are found at the site. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, 2005. Ramsar site no. 893. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Wetlands of Orava Basin

Site number: 933 | Country: Slovakia | Administrative region: Zilina  
Area: 9 287 ha | Coordinates: 49°24'N 19°37'E | Designation dates: 17-02-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wetlands of Orava Basin (Mokrade Oravskej kotliny). 17/02/98; Zilina; 9,287 ha; 49°25'N 019°34'E. Important Bird Area; most of the site is situated in the Protected Landscape Area. It has a diverse mosaic of wetland communities, including riverine-forested peatland, wet peat meadows, non-forested shrub, swamp forests, fens, open bogs, and an artificial water reservoir. The site is characteristic of the Western Carpathian biogeographical province. It supports a high diversity of rare and endangered plant and animal species, especially insects (butterflies and dragonflies), amphibians, fish (37 species recorded), mammals (*Lutra lutra*, *Arvicola terrestris* and *Alces alces*), and birds, many of which use the site for breeding, overwintering and feeding. The most numerous bird species are from the Anseriformes and Charadriiformes. Rare migratory species include *Haliaetus albicilla*, *Pandion haliaetus*, and *Limosa limosa*. The area used for recreation, fishing, hunting, agricultural production, and timber harvesting. Ramsar site no. 933. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Wexford Wildfowl Reserve

Site number: 291 | Country: Ireland | Administrative region: Wexford  
Area: 194 ha | Coordinates: 52°30'N 06°20'W | Designation dates: 15-11-1984  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. 15/11/84; Wexford; 194 ha; 52°30'N 006°20'W. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. Low-lying areas of empoldered farmland dissected by numerous drainage ditches created by draining an estuarine embayment. Water levels are controlled for irrigation and flood prevention. The site forms part of the world's most important wintering site for the vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (world population about 30,000), which nests in Greenland, stages in Iceland and winters in Ireland and the UK. The average count of *A. a. flavirostris* wintering at the site is 32% of the world population. Several other passage and wintering waterbirds use the site. Ramsar site no. 291.

## Whangamarino

Site number: 443 | Country: New Zealand | Administrative region: North Island  
Area: 5 923 ha | Coordinates: 37°18'S 175°07'E | Designation dates: 04-12-1989  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Whangamarino. 04/12/89; North Island; -5,923 ha; 37°18'S 175°07'E. Stewardship Area. The second largest peat bog and swamp complex on the North Island. The most important breeding area in New Zealand for *Botaurus poiciloptilus*. Habitat for wintering birds and a diverse invertebrate fauna, including new, endemic, threatened, and endangered species of plants or fish. Supports a commercial fishery, cattle grazing, recreational activities, and nearby coal mining. Ramsar site no. 443. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Whooping Crane Summer Range

Site number: 240 | Country: Canada | Administrative region: Alberta, Northwest Territories  
Area: 1 689 500 ha | Coordinates: 60°15'N 113°15'W | Designation dates: 24-05-1982  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Whooping Crane Summer Range. 24/05/82; Alberta, NW Territories; 1,689,500 ha; 60°15'N 113°15'W. World Heritage site, International Biological Programme Site, National Park. A huge complex of thousands of basically continuous water bodies including lakes, bogs, marshes, shallow ponds and streams. This site is of unique importance as the only remaining natural nesting area for the endangered whooping crane *Grus americana*. Each pair requires an extensive breeding territory to assure the survival of its single chick. Ramsar site no. 240. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Wicken Fen

Site number: 752 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 254 ha | Coordinates: 52°18'N 00°17'E | Designation dates: 12-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wicken Fen. 12/09/95; England; 254 ha; 52°18'N 000°17'E. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. The site acts as a flood catchment area, thus the water level is regulated, and it includes dikes and abandoned clay pits. The mosaic character of the vegetation is due to extensive peat cutting and differing systems of crop exploitation. Areas subject to frequent cutting have a higher species diversity. Vegetation includes various types of rushes, sedges, and marsh orchids with corresponding insect associations. Waterbirds frequenting the site are mallards, teal, wigeons, shovelers, pochards, and tufted ducks. The site supports an appreciable assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates. Human activities include nature conservation and livestock grazing. Ramsar site no. 752. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Wieden

Site number: 1 241 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Overijssel  
Area: 9 039,7 ha | Coordinates: 52°42'N 06°04'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site (previously "De Wieden") is characterized by shallow freshwater lakes, reed beds, fens, wet meadows, transition mires, quaking bogs, forested peatland and numerous canals created through peat extraction activities in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to that of the Natura 2000 site. Some wetlands have been included while some agricultural land, residential and recreational areas have been excluded. Together, Wieden and the adjoining Weerribben (Ramsar Site no. 193) form the largest peat swamp of its kind in Western Europe. The Site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds and is also a refuge for more than 1% of the biogeographic populations of three waterbird species. It also supports notable species of plants, fish and butterflies. There is a healthy otter population which was reintroduced in 2002. The lakes act as water storage reservoirs during the summer and provide water for irrigation. The main human activities relate to tourism, angling, boating, commercial fisheries, farming and reed harvesting. The main threats to the Site derive from drainage and nutrient pollution from intensive farming in the surrounding polders.

## Wigry National Park

Site number: 1 567 | Country: Poland | Administrative region: Podlaskie  
Area: 15 095,4 ha | Coordinates: 54°03'N 23°06'E | Designation dates: 29-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wigry National Park, close to the border with Lithuania in the north-east of Poland, is a diverse wetland system which encompasses Wigry Lake, several peat bogs, and woodland surrounding the Lake. The Site and its landscapes, which range from hills of glacial moraine in the north to flat land in the south, provide a wide variety of ecological niches which support a rich biodiversity. The Site supports globally endangered bird species including the red kite, white-tailed eagle and corncrake, and a further 150 breeding bird species. The numerous small rivers in a natural state provide habitat for beavers, which affect the water regime with their damming activities. The Site also includes Paleolithic archaeological sites, with remnants of stone and iron age nomadic hunter settlements, a graveyard of the Jacwing people with mounds from the 3rd and 4th centuries, and a valuable baroque monastery. Environmentally friendly methods are used for agriculture, forestry and fishing on the Site, and they are widely accepted by local communities for the preservation of the Site. Nonetheless, urbanization, water pollution, habitat destruction and the presence of alien species still remain significant threats. Site management plans are developed each year, and they establish the protective actions which the land managers use to protect the Site from these threats.

## Wilder Kaiser

Site number: 2 146 | Country: Austria | Administrative region: Federal State of Tyrol  
Area: 3 781 ha | Coordinates: 47°33'N 12°19'E | Designation dates: 08-04-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wilder Kaiser. 08/04/2013; Tyrol; 3,781 ha; 47°34'0"N 012°18'0"E. Nature Reserve, Wilderness Area. The Wilder Kaiser ("Wild Emperor") is an outstanding limestone karst massif in the Alps, ranging between 480 and 2344 meters asl. The whole area is a rare combination of different wetland types including mires, bogs, fens, creeks, brooks, meadows, wet pastures and freshwater springs. The site supports populations of vulnerable and endangered plants and animal species important for maintenance of the biological diversity within the Alpine biogeographic region. The main hydrological value of the wetland complex is groundwater recharge. Land use within the site is dedicated to certified forestry, hunting, fishing and tourism, including environmental education. Some of the factors potentially affecting the site's ecological character adversely are a forestry road which cuts off some seepage areas and ski tourism in the area. Nature conservation education facilities are present, featuring a nature trail, a specially designed playing ground for children, and numerous information boards. Ramsar Site no. 2146. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Wilderness Lakes

Site number: 524 | Country: South Africa | Administrative region: Western Cape  
Area: 1 300 ha | Coordinates: 33°59'S 22°41'E | Designation dates: 28-06-1991  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wilderness Lakes. 28/06/91; Western Cape; 1,300 ha; 33°59'S 022°39'E. National Park, Wilderness Area, Nature Reserve. A series of three permanent, interconnected coastal lakes linked to the Indian Ocean; includes a dune system with associated thickets, woodlands, marshes, and reedbeds. Important numbers of locally-migrant resident birds as well as staging and breeding birds use the site, which supports 285 native plant species, 32 fish species (several of which use the site as a nursery area), and a diverse marine invertebrate fauna. The lakes provide a major form of flood control. Ramsar site no. 524. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park

Site number: 1 779 | Country: United States of America | Administrative region: Ohio  
Area: 21 ha | Coordinates: 40°01'N 83°01'W | Designation dates: 18-04-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park. 18/04/08; Ohio; 21 ha; 40°01'N 083°01'W. A complex of created and natural freshwater riverine wetlands located on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The wetlands include freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands, permanent rivers/streams/creeks, seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes, and permanent freshwater marshes. It is a unique combination of 1) a biologically diverse assemblage of different wetland and riverine habitats both representative and unique to the region; 2) high-quality university teaching, research, and publishing related specifically to wetland ecology and management; and 3) significant wetland ecotourism and outreach for an urban community where few wetlands remain. As a result of wetland creation, restoration, and sound management, the ORWRP has developed into a diverse set of habitats and vegetated ecosystems comparable to any similar-sized temperate zone wetland. The site has supported almost 160 bird species, diverse fish and invertebrate communities in the river and marshes, and a wide variety of mammals, amphibians and reptiles, all in an urban region of 1.6 million people. The ORWRP is one of only two wetland research facilities in the USA in the Global Wetland Consortium (GWC). It is also found under the IUCN protected areas category Ia (Strict Nature Reserve). Ramsar site no. 1779. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Wilpattu Ramsar Wetland Cluster

Site number: 2 095 | Country: Sri Lanka | Administrative region: North Western and North Central Provinces  
Area: 165 800 ha | Coordinates: 08°32'N 80°10'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wilpattu Ramsar Wetland Cluster. 02/02/2013; North Western, North Central provinces; 165,800 ha; 08°32'27"N 080°10'01"E. National Park. The site encompasses all of Wilpattu National Park (Willu-pattu meaning 'Land of Lakes'), declared in 1938. Some 205 water bodies, both natural and manmade, were identified within the boundary of the park. A unique feature is the numerous 'villus' which are natural, sand-rimmed water basins ranging between 10 to 160 hectares that are filled with rainwater. The varying salt content of the villus offer an ideal habitat for a wide range of resident and migrant wildlife species, including the endangered Asia Elephant *Elephas maximus*, the vulnerable Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and the vulnerable freshwater crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*. Seagrass beds, mangroves, salt marshes, swamps and floodplain forests are also found and contribute to the area's rich biodiversity. Twenty-one endemic species of vertebrates have been recorded at the site, including the endangered Sri Lankan Leopard (*Panthera pardus* ssp. *Kotiya*) and the Ceylon Swallow (*Hirundo hyperythra*). The site once supported a thriving agricultural civilization, demonstrated by its 68 archaeologically important sites. Currently, communities in the southeastern and western areas rely on commercial and subsistence fisheries, while those in other areas depend upon agriculture. Invasive aquatic species, logging, slash and burn agriculture threaten the site. Ramsar Site no. 2095. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Wonga-Wongué

Site number: 351 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Estuaire / Moyen Ogooué / Ogooué Maritime  
Area: 396 581,6 ha | Coordinates: 00°32'N 09°31'E | Designation dates: 30-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wonga-Wongué (also known as Wongha-Wonghé) is an extensive coastal region composed of plains, rolling hills and plateaus dissected by numerous small coastal rivers, swamps and marshes. There are also impressive erosional amphitheatres and cliffs. The Site comprises a wildlife reserve and two hunting concessions. Vegetation varies from humid tropical forest to stunted woodland, savanna and thickets. The Site supports notable mammals including chimpanzees, gorillas, elephants, buffalos and hippos, as well as important numbers of waterbirds, with *Pelecanus onocrotalus* dominating. Any type of land utilization is forbidden due to the Site's status as a presidential reserve, giving it a very important conservation potential. In the surrounding areas logging occurs, but this does not constitute a threat to the Site as yet. Tourism also occurs in the surroundings, with the main activities consisting of wildlife viewing and beach recreation.

## Woodwalton Fen

Site number: 753 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: England  
Area: 208 ha | Coordinates: 52°27'N 00°11'E | Designation dates: 12-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Woodwalton Fen. 12/09/95; England; 208 ha; 52°27'N 00°11'W. National Nature Reserve, SSSI. A range of wetlands that includes several types of open fen and swamp communities, a relict area of acid peat, and an important network of ditches. The site supports an appreciable assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates, including two species of nationally rare plants, fen violet *Viola persicifolia* and fen wood rush *Luzula pallescens*, and a large number of wetland invertebrates, including 20 nationally rare species. Aquatic beetles, flies and moths are particularly well represented. Human activities include research and agricultural activities. Ramsar site no. 753. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Wular Lake

Site number: 461 | Country: India | Administrative region: Jammu & Kashmir State  
Area: 18 900 ha | Coordinates: 34°16'N 74°33'E | Designation dates: 23-03-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wular Lake. 23/03/90; Jammu & Kashmir; 18,900 ha; 34°16'N 074°33'E. The largest freshwater lake in India with extensive marshes of emergent and floating vegetation, particularly water chestnut, that provide an important source of revenue for the State Government and fodder for domestic livestock. The lake supports an important fishing industry and is a valuable source of water for irrigation and domestic use. The area is important for wintering, staging and breeding birds. Human activities include rice cultivation and tree farming. Ramsar site no. 461. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Xe Champhone Wetlands

Site number: 1 942 | Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic | Administrative region: Savannakhet Province  
Area: 12 400 ha | Coordinates: 16°23'N 105°13'E | Designation dates: 16-06-2010  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xe Champhone Wetlands. 16/06/2010; Savannakhet Province; 12,400 ha; 16°23'N 105°13'E.

A large plain consisting of marshes, swamps, and flooded woodland forest. The site is an outstanding example of a river with many oxbow lakes, deep pools and mats of dense floating vegetation, rare in Lao. It supports the largest population of the critically endangered Siamese Crocodiles (*Crocodylus siamensis*) in the country and protects other species such as the endangered Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). As the water level recedes during the dry season, crocodiles and fish migrate to permanently flooded deep ponds and marshes. Fish use the site as a spawning area and as a migration path during the wet season.

Local people engage in rice paddy farming, communal fishing, and cattle and water buffalo raising. Traditional management systems such as sacred areas and local taboos play an important role in the protection of some parts of Xe Champhone Wetlands and its resources.

Threats to the site include conversion for agriculture, collection of crocodile eggs, and disturbance to crocodile hatching areas due to flooding caused by the construction of weirs.

The office of Agriculture and Forestry and the Administration of Water Resources and Environment is responsible for the management of this site. Ramsar site no. 1942. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Xianghai

Site number: 548 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jilin  
Area: 105 467 ha | Coordinates: 45°02'N 122°41'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xianghai. 31/03/92; Jilin; 105,467 ha; 44°02'N 122°41'E. Nature Reserve; Crane Network Site. A system of freshwater marshes, lakes, wet grassland and a linked series of irrigation canals, fed by three major rivers. The site includes sand dunes, plantations, cultivated land and reservoirs subject to spring flooding. At least 30 species of mammals are found here and the area is important for breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds. 15,000 permanent inhabitants cultivate various crops, raise livestock and, in winter, cut reeds for the paper industry. Ramsar site no. 548. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Xi dongting lake nature reserve

Site number: 1 154 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hunan  
Area: 35 000 ha | Coordinates: 29°01'N 112°05'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xi Dongting Lake (Mupinghu) Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Hunan; 35,000 ha; 29°01'N 112°05'E. Nature Reserve. The important western part of Dongting Lake, comprising open freshwater lake and smaller lakes, some shallow mudflats during low water periods, reed swamp, sphagnum bog, and beaches. The site is very important for rare fish, such as the endangered Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), and birds, such as the endangered Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*); in addition it serves as a staging area for many other migrating cranes and storks. Fishing, and increasingly fish-breeding, and livestock grazing are important economic activities dependent upon the site. The wetland provides water to over 90,000 people and 10 local industries. Conservation research and education have been developed in collaboration with WWF. The construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River has impacted the wetland through a change in hydrological conditions and sedimentation. Ramsar site no. 1154. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Xingkai Lake National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 155 | Country: China | Administrative region: In Jixi City, Heilongjiang Province, PR China  
Area: 222 488 ha | Coordinates: 45°16'N 132°40'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the south of Sanjiang Plain, in north-eastern China, the Xingkai Lake National Nature Reserve is an inland wetland ecosystem dominated by lakes and swamps. It is representative of the alpine wetland ecosystems along the border between China and Russia. The Site is a tectonic lake and the largest water body in the Heilongjiang river basin. The Sanjiang Wetlands in China and the mixed broadleaf-coniferous forests of the Russian far east, both of great importance for the region's biodiversity, are interconnected by this Site. Having a reputation as a "natural reservoir", Xingkai Lake and the surrounding wetlands are very important for biodiversity protection globally. The Site is a refuge for several globally important species such as the critically endangered yangtze sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*), Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*); the endangered red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*), scaly-sided merganser (*Mergus squamatus*) and eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*); and the vulnerable white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*), velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) and Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*). The flood plain formed by Xingkai Lake and its rivers provides a significant stopover and breeding ground for 1.5 – 2 million birds migrating between East Asia and Australia.

## Xuan Thuy Natural Wetland Reserve

Site number: 409 | Country: Viet Nam | Administrative region: Nam Ha Province  
Area: 12 000 ha | Coordinates: 20°10'N 106°20'E | Designation dates: 20-09-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xuan Thuy Natural Wetland Reserve. 20/09/88; Nam Ha; 12,000 ha; 20°10'N 106°20'E. Strict Nature Reserve. Delta and estuary islands supporting the last significant remnants of coastal mangrove and mudflat ecosystems in the Red River Delta; includes land enclosed by sea dikes, with fringing marshes. A critically important area for migratory waterbirds and shorebirds, regularly supporting several globally threatened species. Human uses include fishing and aquaculture yielding up to 10,300 tonnes per year, rice production yielding 40,000 tonnes per year, duck rearing, bird hunting, and reed harvesting. The mangrove forest is of considerable importance in maintaining the fishery, as a source of timber and fuelwood, and in protecting coastal settlements from the full impact of typhoons. Ramsar site no. 409. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Yagorlytska Bay

Site number: 116 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast, Mykolaivska Oblast  
Area: 34 000 ha | Coordinates: 46°24'N 31°53'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yagorlytska Bay. 23/11/95; Khersonska, Mykolaivska Oblasts; 34,000 ha; 46°24'N 031°53'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 16 June 1993, removed from the Record, 29/08/03. Biosphere Reserve; Ornithological Refuge, Protected Area. A saltwater lagoon separated from the sea by a long sandy spit, the site includes numerous interconnected lakes and temporary waterbodies. Vegetation consists of brackish and saltwater associations made up of emergent and submergent species and marsh communities. The site supports internationally important numbers of several species of nesting, molting, and wintering waterbirds. Some of these species, the duck *Aythya nyroca* and the goose *Branta ruficollis*, are globally threatened. Numerous nationally rare fish species occur at the site. Human activities include fishing, recreation, and hunting. There is disturbance from commercial fishing and pollution by industrial and agricultural waste water; these impacts led to listing on the Montreux Record in 1993. The site was removed from the Montreux Record in 2003. Ramsar site no. 116. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Yakushima Nagata-hama

Site number: 1 559 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Yakushima Island  
Area: 10 ha | Coordinates: 30°24'N 130°25'E | Designation dates: 08-11-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yakushima Nagata-hama. 08/11/05; Kagoshima; 10 ha; 30°24'N 130°25'E. National Park, UNESCO World Heritage site. A sand shore on the northwestern part of Yakushima Island, entirely surrounded by sea cliffs and the beach sweeping south from the River Nagata-gawa. With subtropical climate, it experiences rare and diverse vertical distribution of pristine flora, the most famous 1000-year old 'Yaku-sugi' cedar and other ancient Yaku-sugi revered as sacred trees. The beach is a renowned spawning ground and crucial stopping point for the Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta* -- in 2005, a total of 2,799 turtles were recorded, of which 1,394 individuals nested. In 1985, the NGO Yakushima Umigame-kan/Sea Turtle Center was established with activities including ecosystem assessment, beach cleanups, nesting patrols, protecting the eggs and eco-volunteer training. A Sea Turtle Aquarium was also built near the beach. Recreation activities include bathing and turtle observation, attracting at least 7,000 visitors every year. Ramsar site no. 1559. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Yancheng National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 156 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jiangsu  
Area: 453 000 ha | Coordinates: 33°31'N 120°22'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yancheng National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Jiangsu; 453,000 ha; 33°31'N 120°22'E. National Nature Reserve. Comprises the largest coastal wetland in China, expansive mudflats along over 120 kilometres of coastline which supports high biodiversity. About 3 million individuals of 200 bird species are said to migrate through the site annually, and many, particularly Anatidae, winter there. The site provides one of the two largest habitats in China for the Pere David's or Water deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*), known as "Milu", and is said to support about 10% of the world population of Black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*). The core areas are uninhabited and in natural condition, whereas the buffer and experimental zones include rice fields, fish and shrimp ponds, with about one million people living in and near the site. The site is owned by Yancheng City; the Reserve management has managerial rights over the core area, whilst local governments have managerial rights over the buffer zones, within agreed parameters. Ramsar site no. 1156. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Yatsu-higata

Site number: 615 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Chiba Prefecture  
Area: 40 ha | Coordinates: 35°41'N 140°00'E | Designation dates: 10-06-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yatsu-higata. 10/06/93; Chiba, Honshu; 40 ha; 35°41'N 140°00'E. Wildlife Protection Area; Shorebird Network Site. This mudflat, submerged at high tide and connected to Tokyo Bay, is in relatively pristine condition. Important for visiting migratory birds: 10% of the plovers and sandpipers migrating through Japan are counted in this area. The site is used for conservation education, birdwatching, research, and light recreation. A nature observation centre is located on-site. Surrounding areas are residential or industrial. Ramsar site no. 615. Most recent RIS information: 1993.

## Yelnia

Site number: 1 218 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Vitebsk Oblast  
Area: 25 301 ha | Coordinates: 55°33'N 27°51'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a complex of raised bogs and transition mires encompassing over 100 lakes and small mineral islands covered with small-leaved and spruce forests. The boundaries of the Ramsar Site were aligned in 2016 with the boundaries of the Yelnia Republican Landscape Reserve, leading to an increase of 2,100 hectares. The Site holds one of the largest raised bogs in Europe, which is also representative of the near-natural bogs of the Belarusian Lake District. The Site provides key habitats for a number of stenotopic species associated with raised bogs and is also important for a number of glacial flora and fauna relicts. The large bog and adjacent farmland provide important staging areas and foraging grounds during migration for over 20,000 waterbirds, including more than 1% of the biogeographic population of the common crane *Grus grus* and the globally threatened greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*. More than 15 rivers originate from the Site, and it exerts a significant influence on the hydrological regime and microclimate of the region and acts as a biofilter of anthropogenic pollutants. Due to its inaccessibility, human activities are limited to berry-picking, angling, and hunting, and also forestry on the periphery. There is a visitor centre, ecological trail and observation tower, and guided tours and excursions are organized for individuals and groups. A management plan has been prepared and the priority measures implemented; for example, drainage of the bog and adjacent areas had disturbed the hydrological regime, but following restoration work the distribution of Sphagnum mosses has increased throughout the Site.

## Yonahawan

Site number: 2 062 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Miyako Island  
Area: 704 ha | Coordinates: 24°46'N 125°16'E | Designation dates: 03-07-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yonaha-wan. 03/07/12; Miyako Island; 704 ha; 24°45'57"N 125°16'16"E. Special Protection Zone. Located in the Okinawa archipelago, Yonaha-wan is the biggest tidal flat on Miyako Island and is one of the largest in the Ryukyu Islands biogeographic region. The site supports mangrove forests and extensive seaweed beds mainly composed of *Thalassia hemprichii*, *Cymodocea rotundata* and *Syringodium isoetifolium*. A significant number of waterbird species stop at the site to forage or breed, including the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* and the endangered Japanese Crane *Grus japonensis* and Oriental stork *Ciconia boyciana*. A number of reptiles are also recorded in this marine sanctuary, such as the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* as well as endangered endemic species such as the Miyako Grass Lizard *Takydromus toyamai*. The area is important for fisheries, tourism and environmental education and is currently affected by the inflow of excess nutrients and sediments from agricultural and domestic sources. Ramsar Site no. 2062. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Yoshigadaira Wetlands

Site number: 2 233 | Country: Japan | Administrative region: Nakanogo town, Agatsuma-gun, Gunma Prefecture  
Area: 887 ha | Coordinates: 36°39'N 138°34'E | Designation dates: 28-05-2015  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yoshigadaira Wetlands are located in the centre of Honshu Island on the north-east flank of Mount Kusatsu-Shirane, an active volcano that erupted eight times in the 30 years to 2015. The Site comprises a group of moors, ponds, a lake and a stream which developed on low-permeable layers, depressions and a crater created by the volcanic activities.

The Site is unique because of the high temperature and acidity from the volcano and volcanic gases such as hydrogen sulphide. The water of the Anajigoku stream is extremely acidic (pH 2.6-2.8) with abundant iron and sulphur, but it hosts the largest community of the aquatic liverwort *Jungermannia vulcanicola* in East Asia. The water of Yugama, a crater lake near the top of Mt. Kusatsu-Shirane, is even more acidic (pH 1.0-1.2) and so there is little vegetation in the area. Yoshigadaira moor and Odaira moor provide an important refuge in the surrounding volcanic area for animal and plant species that depend on the wet environment.

The geothermal heat and water around the Yoshigadaira Wetlands enable wild fauna and flora to survive the winter at altitudes up to and beyond 2,000 metres and temperatures below -15°C. For example, the breeding site of the forest green tree frog *Rhacophorus arboreus* in Yoshigadaira Wetlands is at 2,150m, the highest recorded in the world.

## Ythan Estuary & Meikle Loch

Site number: 939 | Country: United Kingdom | Administrative region: Scotland  
Area: 314 ha | Coordinates: 57°20'N 00°00'E | Designation dates: 30-03-1998  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ythan Estuary & Meikle Loch. 30/03/98; Scotland; 314 ha; 57°20'N 001°57'W. SSSI. The site is a combination of inland wetlands and marine and coastal wetlands. The area is a waterfowl wintering ground and supports well over 20,000 waterfowl. The main activities in the area include nature conservation, recreation, fishing, rough or shifting grazing. Ramsar site no. 939. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Yumurtalik Lagoons

Site number: 1 619 | Country: Turkey | Administrative region: Adana  
Area: 19 853 ha | Coordinates: 36°40'N 35°38'E | Designation dates: 21-07-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yumurtalik Lagoons. 21/07/05; Adana; 19,853 ha; 36°42'N 035°38'E. Nature Conservation Site. Comprises the whole of the alluvial delta formed by several rivers in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, with a broad array of freshwater and coastal habitat types which support sand dune vegetation, salt marsh vegetation, stream bank vegetation, and ruderal vegetation of roadsides and field margins. The threatened sea turtles *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas* are supported, and the site is one of the key points where migratory birds on the Palaearctic-Africa route meet, using the site as both a stopover and a wintering site. It is also a key area for fish reproduction. The main uses of the area are irrigation agriculture, commercial and artisanal fishing, and recreation, as it is close to the city of Adana along a beautiful and uncrowded coast. Ramsar site no. 1619. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Zambezi Delta

Site number: 1 391 | Country: Mozambique | Administrative region: Sofala / Zambezia Province  
Area: 3 171 172 ha | Coordinates: 16°00'S 36°00'E | Designation dates: 03-08-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Characterized by a broad flat alluvial plain with vast mosaics of tropical grassland, palm, thicket, woodland, deep water swamp, and some of the most extensive mangrove communities on the East African coast, the Zambezi Delta is a unique wetland and one of the most diverse and productive river delta systems in the world. A recognized global biodiversity conservation hotspot, the Delta is home to a significant population of large mammals including the African buffalo, elephant, hippopotamus, lion and leopard, and a large concentration of waterbird species including white-backed and pink-backed pelicans, herons, flamingos, egrets, African fish eagles, storks, Caspian terns, wattled cranes and endangered grey crowned cranes. Bottlenose and humpback dolphins and a variety of marine and freshwater fish and shellfish species have also been recorded in the Site. In addition to the rich biodiversity values, the Site provides a wealth of ecosystem services which are vital to food security and socio-economic development in Mozambique. It also provides hydrological functions including coastal protection, flood control and carbon sequestration. The major threat to the Zambezi Delta is the construction of dams for hydroelectric power.

## Zambezi Floodplains

Site number: 1 662 | Country: Zambia | Administrative region: Western Province  
Area: 900 000 ha | Coordinates: 15°15'S 23°15'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zambezi Floodplains. 02/02/07; Western Province; 900,000 ha; 15°15'S 023°15'E. Game Management Area. The second largest wetland in Zambia, chiefly riverine wetland consisting of the Zambezi River and its naturally formed floodplains. The small hills scattered on these plains stand out like islands during flood periods which extend from February to March. There is sparse riparian vegetation, small stands of *Acacia albida* in the floodplains, *Syzgium guineens* along the main river channel and patches of *Diplorhynchus* scrub and *Borrassus* forest in the northern areas. Semi-evergreen woodlands found on the Kalahari sands have economically important species like *Baikiaea plurijuga* and *Pterocarpus angolensis*. The site hosts the vulnerable Lion (*Panthera leo*), several endemic reptiles, and the world's second largest migration of the Blue Wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*), as well many water birds. It is a major spawning ground for fish, with about 80 different fish species, and thus serves as a source of livelihood to the local inhabitants, along with harvesting of other wetland resources like reeds and sedges for handicraft, and rice cultivation. Potential threats include unsustainable fishing, poaching of wetland dependent animals, and dredging of canals. Traditional management of wetland resources has been affirmed through customary laws and village wetland conservation committees established with representatives from different stakeholder groups. Ramsar site no. 1662. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Zarivar

Site number: 2 369 | Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Administrative region: Kurdistan Province  
Area: 2 185,6 ha | Coordinates: 35°33'N 46°08'E | Designation dates: 17-07-2016  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located at the foot of the Zagros mountains in north-western Iran, Zarivar is a freshwater wetland featuring a lake fed mainly by springs from the lake floor. The Site provides a suitable breeding and resting place for birds and other wetland animals, and due to the relatively extensive reed beds, it is an important overwintering site for northern migratory birds. 29 plant species, 74 birds, nine fish, two mammals, three reptiles and three amphibians have been identified in the wetland. These include some globally vulnerable species such as the lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*), red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Amur carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and common tortoise (*Testudo graeca*). The Site also supports endemic species such as the Namak scraper (*Capoeta buhsei*) and the Mesopotamian spiny eel (*Mastacembelus mastacembelus*). Communities around the wetland depend on the lake for their livelihoods related to fishing and recreational activities.

## Zasavica

Site number: 1 783 | Country: Serbia | Administrative region: Sremska Mitrovica and Bogatić

Area: 1 913 ha | Coordinates: 44°56'N 19°31'E | Designation dates: 13-03-2008

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zasavica. 13/03/08; Vojvodina; 1,913 ha; 44°56'N 019°32'E. Special Nature Reserve, IBA (Important Bird Area).

Located in northern Ma

va, the riverine ecosystem dominates the area south of the river Sava, with the rivulet Zasavica and its tributary the Batar, for the total length of 33 km. Aquatic and swampy ecosystems line up along with fragments of floodable meadows and forests representing one of the last preserved pristine swamp areas in Serbia. The natural conditions are favorable for many rare plant and animal species, such as greater spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*), water violet (*Hottonia palustris*), marsh nettle (*Urtica kioviensis*), freshwater sponge (*Spongilla lacustris*), a rare species of oligochaete (*Rynchelminis limnosela*), Danube crested newt (*Triturus dobrogicus*), ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) as well as otter (*Lutra lutra*) and beaver (*Castor fiber*). It is also the only habitat of the mudminnow, *Umbra krameri*, in Serbia. Traditional grazing and cattle breeding, particularly of autochthonous races, along with the several centuries long usage of the area, supports the maintenance of grassland habitats within the Reserve. Zasavica has inspired many legends and myths, and it is woven into the cultural being of the people. Ramsar site no. 1783. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Zeya-Bureya Plains

Site number: 685 | Country: Russian Federation | Administrative region: Amur Oblast

Area: 31 600 ha | Coordinates: 49°55'N 127°39'E | Designation dates: 13-09-1994

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zeya-Bureya Plains. 13/09/94; Amur Oblast; 31,600 ha; 49°55'N 127°39'E. Wildlife Refuge, Nature Park. Extensive floodplains of the Zeya and Bureya rivers consisting of islands, beaches, a complex of levees, oxbow lakes, marshes, and old river terraces. Vegetation consists of wet meadows with herbs and includes dry meadows, grass fens, and patches of oak forest. Various rare animal and plant species occur at the site. The area is important for large numbers of migrating and breeding waterbirds, including rare species. Human activities include agriculture, livestock grazing, and sport fishing. Ramsar site no. 685. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Zhaling Lake

Site number: 1 442 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guo Luo State, Qinghai Province

Area: 64 920 ha | Coordinates: 34°55'N 97°16'E | Designation dates: 01-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A plateau freshwater lake located in north-western China, Zhaling Lake is the second largest lake in the source area of the Yellow River and serves as a major source of water for communities there. This high altitude tectonic lake is situated within the core area of Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve and helps to regulate the hydrology of the region. With its particular natural environment, abundant water resources and productive grasslands, this Site is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the Tibetan plateau biogeographic region. Since 2001, the Chinese Academy of Forestry has led multiple scientific surveys on the Nature Reserve, which have found that this area is among the most species-rich areas in this biogeographic region with about 2,300 plant species, 85 mammals, 238 birds and 40 fishes. Some of these are globally threatened, such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*); the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and Przewalski's gazelle (*Procapra przewalskii*); and the vulnerable black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*). The wetland provides stopover and breeding areas for several waterbird species, and it is also an important spawning and nursing site for the fish species endemic to the upper Yellow River, such as *Chuanichia labiosa* and *Gymnocypris eckloni*. The Site is also designated as an Important Bird Area.

## Zhalong

Site number: 549 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang

Area: 210 000 ha | Coordinates: 47°12'N 124°12'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zhalong. 31/03/92; Heilongjiang; 210,000 ha; 47°12'N 124°12'E. Nature Reserve. A system of permanent and seasonally flooded freshwater marshes, shallow lakes and ponds, with extensive reedbeds and grasslands. An important area for breeding, wintering, and staging migratory birds, supporting a flora of more than 500 species, 42 species of fish, and numerous amphibians. Reed harvesting provides a major source of income. Ramsar site no. 549. Most recent RIS information: 1997. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Zhangye Heihe Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2 246 | Country: China | Administrative region: Zhangye City in Gansu Province

Area: 41 164,6 ha | Coordinates: 39°30'N 99°46'E | Designation dates: 16-10-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zhangye Heihe Wetland National Nature Reserve is located along the Heihe River, on the plains of the historic Gansu Corridor trading route in north-western China. Surrounded by the extremely fragile environment of the temperate desert, the Reserve is the region's largest oasis zone and plays a critical role in regulating surface runoff, storing floodwater and mitigating drought impacts, supporting regional biodiversity and maintaining ecological security. The Site includes a rich variety of landscapes such as glaciers and snowy mountains, forests and grasslands, deserts and oases, and red Danxia landforms. It is dominated by aquatic systems such as natural rivers, lakes, swamps and meadows which are important breeding and stopover grounds for a variety of globally threatened birds including Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*), saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), and relict gull (*Larus relictus*). The Reserve is also the largest breeding habitat for black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) in East Asia, with a stable population of above 300 every year and the highest recorded being above 500. The Site is in an extremely arid environment with average annual precipitation of only 129 mm, and so the wetland ecosystems of the region are vulnerable to any change in climate that exacerbates the impacts of drought, high temperature and evaporation.

## Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1 157 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guangdong  
Area: 20 279 ha | Coordinates: 20°54'N 110°08'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Guangdong; 20,279 ha; 20°54'N 110°08'E. National Nature Reserve. The largest mangrove forest wetland reserve in China, located along coastal areas of the Leizhou Peninsula at the southernmost tip of China between the South China Sea and the Tonkin Gulf, adjacent to Hainan Island. Some 24 species of mangrove are said to be present, and at low tide large areas of exposed mudflats provide excellent support for migrating waterbirds. Like other mangrove forests, the somewhat separate components of the site provide sanctuary for offshore fish, sustenance for birds and other fauna, and coastal protection from waves, tides, and storm surges. The coastal and inshore area supports economic fishing and aquaculture for local people. Agricultural and urban development and fishfarming have destroyed much of the former mangrove areas, but a comprehensive management and afforestation programme for the Reserve, supported by The Netherlands, holds promise for arresting these impacts. Ocean pollution of oil and heavy metal has been taking a toll. Ramsar site no. 1157. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

## Zharsor-Urkash Lake System

Site number: 1 873 | Country: Kazakhstan | Administrative region: Kostanay Region  
Area: 41 250 ha | Coordinates: 51°19'N 62°44'E | Designation dates: 12-07-2009  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zharsor-Urkash Lake System. 12/07/09; Kostanay Oblast; 41,250 ha; 51°22'N 62°48'E. A system of approximately 14 lakes characteristic of the arid steppe province in northern Kazakhstan. Consisting of both saline and freshwater permanent or intermittent lakes and wet marsh habitat, the site is a regular stopping site of the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) and habitat for 16 threatened bird species. It supports appreciable numbers of White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) and Common Crane (*Grus grus*), as well as Little Stints (*Calidris minuta*) and Curlew Sandpipers (*C. ferruginea*) along shorelines. It is an important migratory stopover for a large number of waterbirds dominated by *Anseriformes* and *Limicolae* and nesting habitat for 79 species. Mammals are represented by 27 species, including the Critically Endangered Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica*). Land use at the site includes hayfields, pasture, small-scale salt production, and limited hunting. Steppe fires are a threat to the ecological character of the lakes. The site is included in the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes and other waterbirds, under the Bonn Convention. Ramsar site no. 1873. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

## Zona Marina Parque Nacional Machalilla

Site number: 503 | Country: Ecuador | Administrative region: Manabí  
Area: 14 430 ha | Coordinates: 01°00'S 80°45'W | Designation dates: 07-09-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zona Marina Parque Nacional Machalilla. 07/09/90; Manabí; 14,430 ha; 01°00'S 80°45'W. National Park. A complex of shallow coastal waters, sandy beaches and off-shore islands fringed by coral reefs. The site includes the mouths of several seasonal rivers and streams and remnant dry tropical forest. Archaeologically interesting with evidence of civilizations dating from 3,000 B.C. to 1526 A.D. The area supports an important fishery, provides habitat for a breeding colony of seabirds, and nesting beaches for marine turtles. Human activities include subsistence agriculture, livestock raising, and tree harvesting for firewood and charcoal. Ramsar site no. 503. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

## Zona Reservada Los Pantanos de Villa

Site number: 884 | Country: Peru | Administrative region: Lima  
Area: 263 ha | Coordinates: 12°12'S 76°59'W | Designation dates: 20-01-1997  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zona Reservada Los Pantanos de Villa. 20/01/97; Lima; 263 ha; 12°12'S 76°59'W. Located within the municipal limits of the city of Lima. This site is a coastal lagoon with brackish water and abundant emergent vegetation. The wetland is situated in the desert and the main source of water is of underground origin. It is a habitat for waterfowl typical of coastal Peru and 17 species of migratory shorebirds. In 1993 an amphibian *Colostethus littoralis* was rediscovered, having been considered extinct in the area. The site is of special relevance for recreation, environmental education, and public awareness given its proximity to Lima, and it is state-owned. Ramsar site no. 884. Most recent RIS information: 1996.

## Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica Cabildo - Amatal

Site number: 1 771 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 2 832 ha | Coordinates: 14°46'N 92°27'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica Cabildo-Amatal.02/02/08; Chiapas; 2,832 ha; 14°46'N 92°28'W. Located in the coastal planes of the Pacific, the site is considered to be in a good conservation state. It provides shelter for a number of flora and fauna species, including the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), the Boa, *Boa constrictor*, the Royal Duck, *Cairina moschat*, the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the Wood Stork (*Mycteria Americana*), Snail Kite (*Rothramus sociabilis*), Tamandua (*Tamandua mexicana*) and the Margen (*Leopardus wiedii*), as well as the Mangrove species *Rhizophora mangle* and *Laguncularia racemosa*. The main activities practiced in the site are agriculture, livestock and fishing. The main threats include the use of agrochemicals, deforestation, flora and fauna trafficking, furtive hunting, new human settlements, and open dumpsters. Many conservation activities such as mangrove restoration are carried out. Ramsar site no. 1771. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica El Gancho - Murillo

Site number: 1 772 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 4 643 ha | Coordinates: 14°41'N 92°17'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica El Gancho Murillo.02/02/08; Chiapas; 4,643 ha; 14°37'N 92°18'W. Located in the Physiographic Region of the Coastal Plains of the Pacific, this area has an extension of more than 280 km adjacent to the Pacific littoral, from the State of Oaxaca to Guatemala. It presents a compact surface of mangroves, cattails, palm forests, tropical deciduous forests and secondary vegetation areas in different stages of development. It is mainly composed by mangroves, with dominancy of red (*Rhizophora mangle*) and white (*Laguncularia racemosa*). Regarding fauna, the following species can be found: *Felis pardales*, *Felis wiedii*, *Lepidochelys olivacea* (categorized as endangered). The threatened species include *Tamandua mexicana*, *Ardea herodias* and *Caiman crocodylus fuscus* under special protection. The main land uses are agriculture, river fishing, and prawn capture, as well as livestock farming. Its beaches are a tourist attraction where sports fishing, swimming, boat rides and camping are the main activities. Ramsar site no. 1772. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica Sistema Lagunar Catazajá

Site number: 1 765 | Country: Mexico | Administrative region: Chiapas  
Area: 41 059 ha | Coordinates: 17°39'N 91°43'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica Sistema Lagunar Catazajá.02/02/08; Chiapas; 41,059 ha; 17°39'N 091°43'W. System of lagoons located in the physiographic region of the southern Gulf of Mexico, characterized by smooth slopes and the presence of multiple lagoons and floodplains. The site is of great importance for the conservation of three endangered species in particular: the Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), the Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*), and the Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*). The main factors affecting this system include the rapid demographic growth, pollution, unstable socio-political situation in the area, tourism, agriculture and livestock. The site is under the IV IUCN Category (Habitat/Species Management Area) and is managed by the Natural History and Ecology Institute. Catazajá comes from a Mayan word meaning "valley covered in water". The Park has had a management plan since 2003. Ramsar site no. 1764. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Zone de confluence Mouhoun-Sourou

Site number: 2 292 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région de la Boucle du Mouhoun  
Area: 23 300 ha | Coordinates: 12°41'N 03°19'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is at the confluence of the Mouhoun and Sourou rivers in the "Boucle du Mouhoun" region. The larger Mouhoun river forms, with its tributary the Sourou, a complex with a particular hydrological regime. The Site is important as a sanctuary for endangered plant and animal species: it is home to nationally or globally threatened species such as hippopotamus, and the trees *Khaya senegalensis*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Vitellaria paradoxa* and *Parkia biglobosa*. It also has a great diversity of fish with over 40 species recorded, of which the most important for fishing are various tilapia (*Sarotherodon galilaeus*, *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Tilapia zillii*), the catfish *Clarias gariepinus*, the African arowana *Heterotis niloticus* and the aba *Gymnarchus niloticus*. The wetland provides many ecosystem services to riparian populations, including fertile land, water for agricultural production, and resources for fishing, medicinal plants and livestock. A significant part of the Site corresponds to the gazetted forests of Say and Sourou which are zoned as hunting and game-viewing concessions, and so benefit from additional protection. This limits the degradation of the Site's resources relative to those of the surrounding areas. Local communities live in symbiosis with the wetlands because of their awareness of the important role that they play in their survival.

## Zone Humide d'Ebogo

Site number: 2 068 | Country: Cameroon | Administrative region: Centre Region  
Area: 3 097 ha | Coordinates: 03°23'N 11°29'E | Designation dates: 06-05-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zone Humide d'Ebogo. 05/06/12; Centre Region; 3,097 ha; 03°23'09"N 011°29'20"E. Seasonally flooded freshwater swamp forest. It is a biodiversity rich rain forest which supports several IUCN Red-Listed plant species including the African Pearwood (*Baillonella toxisperma*), Sapele (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*) and Ebony (*Diospyros crassiflora*). It also supports nationally important animal species such as the Nile Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) and the African Python (*Python sebae*) as well as over 100 waterbird species. The site supports a rich diversity of non-timber forest products which are very important to the local population both as a source of food and as a cultural heritage. The temporarily flooded marshes serve as food and breeding ground for waterbirds. It is an important ecotourism site in the area, and a management plan is in preparation. Ramsar Site no. 2068. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Zone Humide de la Rivière Pendjari

Site number: 1 669 | Country: Benin  
| Administrative region: Administrativement, le site Ramsar 1669 est situé dans les communes de Tanguéta, Matéri et Kèrou appartenant au Département de  
Area: 483 366 ha | Coordinates: 11°09'N 01°33'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site in the far north-west of Benin is one of the most important humid ecosystems in sub-sahelian West Africa, and features forest galleries, savannah and swampy meadows, alluvial plains, ponds, rivers, and dense dry forests within floodplains. This combination of habitats supports threatened species such as African elephant, cheetah and many bird species including black crowned crane *Balearica pavonina*. The ponds retain water during the dry season, attracting animals and tourists, and the Site plays an important role in sediment retention and stabilization of the banks of the River Pendjari. The local communities have the customary use rights on natural resources; their main activities include agriculture, animal breeding, fishing and hunting. The historic and archaeological value of the Site can be seen in ancient metal-working areas found there. The wildlife habitats are threatened by population pressure which has led to the partial declassification of the protected area. However, a participatory land use and management plan have been drawn up for the Site as well as a business plan to promote sustainable tourism. The Site was extended in 2018 from 144,774 ha to 483,366 ha, with the creation of the W-Arly-Pendjari transboundary Ramsar Site shared with Burkina Faso and Niger.

## Zone Humide de Mandrozo

Site number: 2 049 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Melaky  
Area: 15 145 ha | Coordinates: 17°32'S 44°06'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2012  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zone humide de Mandrozo. 05/06/12; Mahajanga; 15,145 ha; 17°32'27"S 044°05'47"E. A permanent freshwater lake surrounded by marshes, irrigated rice farms, and portions of dried forests, as well as savannah lands. Forming part of the western continental waters of the country, it is the fourth largest lake in Madagascar. It supports diverse species throughout their life cycles, including the IUCN Red-Listed Madagascar Big-headed Turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) and the Madagascar Fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), as well as the Sakalava Rail (*Amaurornis olivieri*) and a diversity of threatened reptile species. The site is also an important spawning ground and source of food for fishes; it is important for irrigation as well and serves as a source of livelihood for hundreds of dependent families. It also has a cultural value as it is inhabited by typical communities that promote the sustainable management of resources by traditional agricultural and fishery practices. There is an ongoing project for the classification of the site as a protected area, which would also increase its eco-tourism potential. Ramsar Site no. 2049. Most recent RIS information 2012.

## Zone humide du moyen Niger

Site number: 1 073 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Falmey  
Area: 52 180 ha | Coordinates: 12°08'N 03°11'E | Designation dates: 17-06-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Part of a wetland shared with Benin and Nigeria, the Site comprises the left bank of the River Niger and its floodplains with their permanent and seasonal ponds and watercourses. Its regionally unique habitat supports waterbirds and fish, in particular several fish species that have disappeared elsewhere along the River. It provides habitat for thousands of water birds during the low water period. Inundation occurs over four or five months, from rains in August through to the arrival of floods from upstream in November, and the Site thus plays a key role in the hydrological cycle of the region. The tough herbaceous plant *Anthephora nigritana* is found, but the vegetation is dominated by *Echinochloa stagnina*; this grass provides local communities with pasture for their livestock, which they raise in addition to their traditional pursuits of diversified agriculture and fishing. Though the land is state-owned, the inhabitants have age-old rights of use. Tourism is beginning in the area, and no-hunting mechanisms have been instituted to encourage birdwatching. A regional management plan for parks and reserves was being developed as of 2018 by Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

## Zone Humide du Moyen Niger II

Site number: 1 383 | Country: Niger | Administrative region: Dosso  
Area: 38 555 ha | Coordinates: 11°49'N 03°31'E | Designation dates: 26-04-2004  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A 25-kilometre stretch of the River Niger along the border with Benin in the south-west of the country, with associated floodplains and pools. The area is extremely important for the presence of hippo grass *Echinochloa stagnina*, a quality forage plant, and the grass *Anthephora nigritana*, which provide habitat for thousands of water birds as well as pasturage. The Site also hosts threatened species including the African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) and the hippopotamus, and the permanent pools provide refuge for several fish species that have disappeared elsewhere along the River. The hydrological regime is characterized by a period of flooding of four or five months, beginning in August with local torrential rains and again in November with floods coming down from upstream. Rich alluvial soils provide agricultural livelihoods; however unsustainable agricultural practices, as well as invasions of *Typha australis*, are potential threats. The land is largely state-owned but local communities enjoy long-standing usage rights.

## Zones Humides Ankarafantsika (CLSA)

Site number: 2 289 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Dans la Région de Boeny  
Area: 33 145 ha | Coordinates: 16°17'S 46°53'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site covers 33,200 hectares in two separate areas of the Ankarafantsika National Park. It consists of a complex of six permanent lakes, rivers and streams, and raffia palm swamps. Some of the lakes are considered sacred. Dense dry forests around the lakes present endemic and endangered plants, including members of the *Diospyros*, *Dalbergia* and *Adansonia* genera. In addition to their cultural values, these lakes are home to threatened waterbird species and endemic and endangered fish species. Of 823 species recorded, more than 90% are endemic to Madagascar. The lakes are a particularly critical habitat for the critically-endangered Madagascar big-headed turtle *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*. There are also abundant Nile crocodile, 15 species of fish of which five are endemic and threatened, and 22 waterbird species. The site is very close to Madagascar's second most important area of rice cultivation, where agricultural use has become more intensive. Other factors currently affecting the Site include the presence of invasive plants and illegal net fishing in the case of Lake Ravelobe.

## Zones humides d'Ambondrobe

Site number: 2 300 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Dans la Région de Menabe  
Area: 13 000 ha | Coordinates: 19°14'S 44°32'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is on the west coast of Madagascar, on the plain of the lower Manambolo River in Menabe Region. It lies between the villages of Ankaivo and Aboalimena and includes the Ambondrobe permanent lake, temporary satellite lakes, and swamp and transitional forest ecosystems. The Site is home to approximately 10,000 water bird individuals, with egret and heron species present in large numbers. It is a conservation area for endemic and endangered species such as the Madagascar heron *Ardea humbloti*, Madagascar pond-heron *Ardeola idae* and Madagascar sacred ibis *Threskiornis bernieri*, and the critically endangered Madagascar fish-eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* and Madagascar big-headed turtle *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*. Approximately 110 nests of this last species were recorded, with an average of 18 eggs per nest. Other endemic species include lemurs, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. The Site hosts a large population of the Madagascan flying fox *Pteropus rufus*. The dry deciduous forest, which is typical of Madagascar's western coastal plain, features some evergreen formations. The characteristic species are *Commiphora guillauminii*, katrafay (*Cedrelopsis grevei*), mpanjakabenitany (*Baudouinia fluggeiformis*), amaninomy (*Terminalia ruffovestita*), and farafatsy *Givotia madagascariensis*. The Site's management plan establishes standards of social behaviour to harmonize conservation measures among local communities, and ensure compliance with regulatory measures by empowering communities to apply sanctions.

## Zones humides de Bedo

Site number: 1 686 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région MENABE  
Area: 1 962 ha | Coordinates: 19°56'S 44°33'E | Designation dates: 12-05-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bedo Ramsar Site is located in the west of Madagascar in the centre of the Menabe region, between the Morondava and Tsiribihina rivers, at the western end of the Marandravy and Analabe forests. It is an important site for birds and hosts migratory species such as the endangered Bernier's teal (*Anas bernieri*) and Humblot's heron (*Ardea humbloti*) and the vulnerable Madagascar plover (*Charadrius thoracicus*). The forest is a habitat of lemur species and endemic land tortoises, while the Mandroatse river which feeds the Site is home to endemic and threatened species such as the Marakely fish (*Paratilapia polleni*) and the Nile crocodile. The natural resources of the Site are significant for the surrounding communities; the lesser bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*, known as vondro in Madagascar) is the main raw material for basketry and roofs of houses of all the coastal villages and even further afield. The wetland provides all the fish for local consumption and the fish products are also sold in the market of Morondava city, the main town. The nearby Baobab forest increases the potential for ecotourism.

## Zones humides de l'Onilahy

Site number: 2 304 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Sud-Ouest  
Area: 42 950 ha | Coordinates: 23°31'S 44°03'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Amoron'i Onilahy Protected Area in the south-west of Madagascar. It covers a 75-kilometre stretch of the lower Onilahy River, and features the adjacent valleys, rivers and channels, lakes, marshes and swamps, as well as gallery forests from the Mahafaly Plateau and the Belomotra Plateau on each side of the river. The Site is notable for the high degree of heterogeneity of its habitats as well as the rate of endemism of its unique flora and fauna. It provides key habitats for a wide range of animal species: 27 mammals are listed, including six endemic lemurs such as the endangered *Lemur catta* and *Propithecus verreauxi*; 56 reptile species including crocodiles, amphibians and two species of freshwater turtles; 79 bird species including the endangered *Ardeola idae* and *Ardea humbloti*; and the recently identified toadfish *Allenbatrachus meridionalis*. The wetlands are directly threatened by the expansion of agriculture and indirectly by the production of charcoal upstream, which promotes erosion. WWF supported the establishment of the Protected Area and has helped local resource-dependent communities identify alternative sustainable livelihoods.

## Zones humides de l'oued El Maleh

Site number: 1 486 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Mohammedia  
Area: 1 200 ha | Coordinates: 33°39'N 07°23'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zones humides de l'oued El Maleh. 15/01/05; Mohammedia; 1,200 ha, 33°39'N 007°23'W. Site of Biological and Ecological Interest. A wetland complex made up of two separate systems: a littoral swamp and salt steppe which correspond to the estuary of the Al Maleh River, and a small reservoir situated 30km upstream. This site is an important refuge during migrations and for wintering for a variety of 80 bird species, ranging from waterbirds to sparrows and birds of prey. The dam has been crucial in promoting the development of agriculture and fishing in the region, which are the main activities carried out, in addition to playing an important role in the control of floods. Its water volume has been reduced, however, due to sedimentation and this, combined with the canalization in parts of the estuary of the river, has meant that many floods still have destructive effects. The estuary of the Al Maleh is also used for educational purposes for schoolchildren from the nearby city of Mohammedia in order to raise awareness of environmental protection. Pollution by several industries (chemical, mechanical and electrical) which surround the site poses the main threat, together with the construction of canals which have altered the site's hydrology. Ramsar site no. 1486. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Zones Humides de Sahamalaza

Site number: 2 288 | Country: Madagascar  
| Administrative region: A cheval entre la Région SOFIA et Région de DIANA, ainsi que les Districts d'Analava et d'Ambanja.  
Area: 24 049 ha | Coordinates: 14°12'S 47°54'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sahamalaza wetlands consist of a number of coastal and marine areas in the estuaries of the Maetsamalaza, Berondra and Manambara rivers, which separate the peninsula of Sahamalaza and the coast of Maromandia. They include forests which host around 220 plant species, coral reefs covering approximately 12,800 hectares, and mangroves which cover about 10,000 hectares and feature eight mangrove species. More than 40 species of endemic birds have been recorded. Globally threatened water birds include the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) and the endangered Malagasy sacred ibis (*Threskiornis bernieri*), Humblot's heron (*Ardea humbloti*) and the Malagasy pond heron (*Ardeola idae*). The coral reefs provide very diverse sub-habitats, including shallow reefs, seagrass beds and reef slopes within Ramanetaka Bay, and the deep reefs of the outer bank, all dissected by channels. The mangroves provide important ecosystem services for local communities in protecting the coast and enabling the regeneration of fish stocks. Reforestation activities and steps to ensure the secure land ownership of local communities have helped to protect the Site against unplanned development. All parts of the Site have cultural attractions including spiritual sites, royal tombs and talismans.

## Zones humides de Souss-Massa

Site number: 1 487 | Country: Morocco | Administrative region: Province de Chtouka Ait Baha  
Area: 1 000 ha | Coordinates: 30°13'N 09°37'W | Designation dates: 15-01-2005  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zones humides de Souss-Massa. 15/01/05; Agadir; 1,000 ha; 30°13'N 009°37'W. Parc National de Souss-Massa, Permanent Hunting Reserve. Two separate areas which are part of a national park that was initially designated to protect the critically endangered Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*), which is represented by 7% of its biogeographic population. Subsequently, it was found that more than 270 bird species occur in the area, with several finding refuge at the site during winter, including the Marbled Teal, the Greater Flamingo, the Caspian Tern and the Little Tern. The area comprises a variety of habitats, ranging from dunes to freshwater and brackish marshes, coastal waters, sandy beaches and rocky shores. The main activities taking place in the site are agricultural, with a large area dedicated to banana plantations and livestock raising, as well as ecotourism and tourism along the coast. Threats include urban pollution and disturbance to the fauna by locals and tourists. Ramsar site no. 1487. Most recent RIS information: 2005.

## Zones Humides du Littoral du Togo

Site number: 1 722 | Country: Togo | Administrative region: Région maritime  
Area: 591 000 ha | Coordinates: 06°34'N 01°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zones Humides du Littoral du Togo. 02/02/08; Maritime; 591,000 ha; 06°34'N 001°25'E. Comprising the entire coastline of Togo, characterized by natural and artificial mangroves dominated by *Rhizophora racemosa* and *Avicennia germinans* species, rivers, lakes, lagoons, marshes, ponds, and a long sandy beach. These different ecosystems of the littoral zone are of great natural biological, ecological and economic value and host a wide variety of bird, mammal, reptile, fish, mollusk and crustacean species. Endangered species found here include marine turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Dermochelys coriacea*), the African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), hippopotamus, etc. This zone contributes over 85 % of the total annual fish production in Togo and is also important for transportation of people and goods. The site is also exploited for fuel wood, construction wood, mollusks, crustaceans, bush meat and medicinal plants, both for subsistence and commercial purposes. There is presently no management plan for the site, but personnel from the Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières combat unsustainable logging and fishing and illegal hunting. The Ministry has also produced a strategy for wetland management, with an emphasis on mangroves, which should lead to the preparation of an action plan. Ramsar site no. 1722. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Zones humides et marines de Saint-Martin

Site number: 2 029 | Country: France | Administrative region: Saint-Martin  
Area: 2 996,7 ha | Coordinates: 18°05'N 63°05'W | Designation dates: 27-10-2011  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zones humides et marines de Saint-Martin. 27/10/11; Saint-Martin; 2,997 ha; 18°05'N 063°05'W. Protected Biotope, Nature Reserve. Shallow marine waters, sea grass beds, coral reefs, mangroves, lagoons and a network of 14 ponds dispersed throughout the French side of the island. The ponds are influenced by the sea and serve as feeding, breeding and wintering areas for as many as 85 bird species, many of them threatened and some endemic. The marine part of the site harbours most of the coral reef areas surrounding the island and is habitat to several endangered and critically endangered sea turtles such as Leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea*. It constitutes a feeding and spawning area for more than 100 species of fish and is also important as shelter, nursery and migration path. The site fulfills a diverse set of ecological functions like water flow regulation, oxygenation of water, stabilization and storm protection as well as the reduction of pollutant loads entering the Sea. The marine part of the site is used for recreational activities such as diving, sailing, kayaking and surfing. Threats include poaching, water pollution from sewage, and extreme weather events as well as increasing water temperatures. Ramsar Site no. 2029. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

## Zones humides oasiennes de Kebili

Site number: 1 714 | Country: Tunisia | Administrative region: Nefzaoua  
Area: 2 419 ha | Coordinates: 33°30'N 08°55'E | Designation dates: 07-11-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zones Humides Oasiennes de Kebili. 07/11/07; Kebili; 2,419 ha; 33°30'N 008°55'E. The site is composed of many small wetlands that together form one unit, made up of depressions that border upon oases, sometimes formed by springs and used for irrigation. The water types vary from fresh to slightly salty, the latter often unsuitable for agriculture. The site is important for migratory birds that cross the Sahara, especially in spring (in summer they tend to fly over the Mediterranean). Although date plantations are vast and constantly expanding, the main threat to the site appears to be uncontrolled hunting, which causes the birds to move constantly from one site to another. Ramsar site No. 1714. Most recent RIS information: 2007.

## Zoommeer

Site number: 1 253 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Zeeland  
Area: 1 171 ha | Coordinates: 51°30'N 04°13'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a stagnant freshwater lake which is separated from the Oosterschelde estuary by a dam constructed in 1986. It forms a hydrological unit with Ramsar Site Krammer-Volkerak (Site no. 747) through the Rhine-Schelde canal. The Ramsar Site boundary has been adjusted to the Natura 2000 boundaries and the Molenplaat area, although it is not included under Natura 2000, has been maintained within the Ramsar Site. Recreational land and a dike have been excluded. The wetland is in the process of changing from a marine tidal system into a stagnant freshwater lake resulting in changes in the flora and fauna composition. The Site is of international importance for threatened breeding waterbirds such as the Mediterranean gull, common tern and avocet. It also supports more than 1% of the individuals of the North-West European population of the gadwall. The primary human activities relate to boating, commercial fisheries, shipping traffic, tourism, dairy farming and water management. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site include non-industrial pollution leading to an increase in eutrophication and intensive livestock grazing.

## Zorkul Lake

Site number: 1 086 | Country: Tajikistan | Administrative region:  
Area: 3 800 ha | Coordinates: 37°23'N 73°20'E | Designation dates: 18-07-2001  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zorkul Lake. 18/07/01; 3,800 ha; ca. 37°23'N 073°20'E. Most recent RIS information: none.

## Zuidlaardermeergebied

Site number: 1 282 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Groningen, Drenthe  
Area: 2 100 ha | Coordinates: 53°09'N 06°41'E | Designation dates: 29-08-2000  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zuidlaardermeergebied. 29/08/00. Groningen, Drenthe. 2,100 ha. 53°08'N 006°41'E. SPA. A freshwater lake with reedbeds and extensive area of wet grasslands. Zuidlaardermeer is of natural origin, with average depth of 1m, and one of the largest lakes in the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe. The river Hunze flows through the lake. Until recently water from the Lake IJsselmeer has been let in to keep summer water levels high. The site has been awarded Ramsar status for supporting more than 1% of the biogeographical populations of 3 waterbird species - Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii* (1.3%), White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (2%), and Wigeon *Anas penelope* (1.1%). Main human uses include commercial fisheries, water management, boating, farming, tourism and leisure activities. The site is threatened by non-industrial pollution discharge, drainage, disturbance and persecution of birds. More than half of the site is owned by conservation organizations (Groningen Landschap and Staatbosbeheer) and management is provided by Groningen Landschap in accordance with a management plan. Ramsar site no. 1282. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

## Zuvintas

Site number: 628 | Country: Lithuania | Administrative region:  
Area: 7 500 ha | Coordinates: 54°28'N 23°35'E | Designation dates: 04-10-1993  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zuvintas. 04/10/93; 7,500 ha; 54°28'N 023°35'E. Strict Nature Reserve. An overgrown nutrient-rich lake surrounded by reed swamps, sedge fens, raised bogs, and bogmoss pine forests. The lake and its surroundings are important breeding (20-30 pairs of *Cygnus olor*) and passage areas for numerous species of waterbirds and other birds. The diversity of habitats support numerous species of rare and threatened plants and animals and exhibit a high species diversity of both flora and fauna. Human activities include conservation education, a bird-ringing programme, and research. Ramsar site no. 628.

## Zvanets

Site number: 1 219 | Country: Belarus | Administrative region: Brest Oblast, Drogichin and Kobrin Districts  
Area: 16 227,4 ha | Coordinates: 52°03'N 24°52'E | Designation dates: 21-10-2002  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zvanets is composed of numerous islands characterized by mineral soil and a rich and unique flora. The Site, described as the largest European mesotrophic fen mire, is a typical example of well-preserved sedge-Hypnum fen mires. It is a biodiversity hotspot, with 664 plant species and 168 vertebrate species including a significant proportion which have adapted to the particular environmental conditions. Ten vegetation communities are present which were formerly widespread across the Polesian fen mires but are now rare in Belarus and Europe. The Site hosts the globally threatened greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* as well as over 1% of the European population of the aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. The wetland is located on the watershed of two river basins, and plays a significant role in regulating the hydrology of the region. Human activities include small-scale bee keeping, growing of arable crops, hay making, cattle grazing and forestry. An ecological-educational centre is located within the Site. The main threats to its ecological character relate to the disruption of the hydrological regime due to adjacent amelioration and the uncontrolled burning of vegetation, logging, and the extension of arable land. The shrinking area of the open fen mires has resulted in a decline in the aquatic warbler population. The Site's management plan is updated every three years.

## Zwanenwater en Pettemerduinen

Site number: 400 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Province of Noord-Holland  
Area: 770,3 ha | Coordinates: 52°48'N 04°41'E | Designation dates: 15-06-1988  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zwanenwater en Pettemerduinen is a coastal wetland dominated by humid dune-slacks, marshes, woodland and two connected freshwater lakes, which are among the largest of their kind in Europe. The Ramsar Site name and boundary have been adjusted to the proposed Natura 2000 site. Residential land has been excluded while a natural area in the south has been added, resulting in an increase in the area of 175 hectares. These ecosystems support a rich and vulnerable vegetation as well as endangered species of waterbirds such as the Eurasian bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* and lesser white-fronted goose *Anser erythropus*. The Site is an integral part of the North Sea dunes which protect the Netherlands against the North Sea. Land use is dedicated to tourism, military training, water management, dams, reservoirs and hydro-electric generation. Two birdwatching hides are located at the Site, and a national monitoring programme is coordinated by the Dutch Bird Research Organisation. The military training puts pressure on the ecological character of the Site and causes bird disturbance.

## Zwarte Meer

Site number: 749 | Country: Netherlands | Administrative region: Flevoland & Overijssel  
Area: 2 162 ha | Coordinates: 52°38'N 05°57'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1995  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zwarte Meer. 04/09/95; Overijssel, Flevoland; 2,162 ha; 52°38'N 05°58'E; Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA). The Site comprises a large shallow lake with extensive reed marshes, floodplains, and a human-made island (Vogeleiland). The Ramsar Site boundary was adjusted in 2014 to reflect the Natura 2000 site, while Noordoostpolder dike was excluded. It is an internationally important area for wintering and foraging waterbirds such as purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and Savi's warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). In addition, the Site supports endangered species of mosses and plants which are important for maintaining the biological diversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. It plays an important role in flood control, and sediment and nutrient retention. Human activities include commercial fishing, shipping, nautical sports and water management. The main threats to the Site's ecological character derive from the construction of dykes and dams, from reed cutting and nutrient pollution. Ramsar site no. 749. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Zwin

Site number: 328 | Country: Belgium | Administrative region: West-Vlaanderen  
Area: 530 ha | Coordinates: 51°21'N 03°22'E | Designation dates: 04-03-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zwin. 04/03/86; Vlaamse Gewest; 530 ha; 51°21'N 003°22'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve, Classified Landscape. Sharing the border with the Netherlands the site, created as bird habitat in the 1960s, consists of saltmarsh, mudflats, creeks and artificial brackish pools connecting it to the North Sea. The mudflats support pioneer vegetation communities, the saltmarsh consists of numerous species of salt-resistant plants. An important area for staging, roosting, wintering and breeding various species of water birds. Ramsar site no. 328. Most recent RIS information: 1992.