

Fichas Técnicas de Humedales Mediterráneos / Mediterranean Wetlands Technical Data



CRNA MLAKA (Zagreb, Croatia)

• LOCATION. HYDROLOGICAL / PHYSICAL NOTES

The site lies 25 km southwest of the city of Zagreb in central Croatia. It consists of an area of freshwater fishponds. The site is surrounded by flooded *Quercus* woodland and meadows. The freshwater fishponds are situated in the center of the Pokupsko Basin, a natural depression located south of the Zumberak Mountains and extending towards the River Kupa.

• BIOLOGICAL/ECOLOGICAL NOTES

The site is an international important migration and wintering area for 3,000-5,000 ducks *Aythya nyroca* (6-10% of the European population) and regularly supports more than 10,000 ducks, mostly *Anas platyrhynchos*. Furthermore, it is an important breeding site for a number of threatened species, such as birds of prey *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Pernis apivorus* and *Milvus migrans*, herons *Botaurus stellaris* and *Ixobrychus minutus*, the stork *Ciconia nigra* and the duck *Aythya nyroca*. The adjacent flooded common oak forests are rare in Europe.

There is a very rich and important flora, with 350 higher plant species, including representatives of marshland, forest and meadow vegetation. The site contains 232 bird species and 28 mammal species, such as otters *Lutra lutra*, badgers *Meles meles* and bats. Reptiles and amphibians include *Anguis fragilis*, *Emys orbicularis*, frogs *Rana sp.*, salamanders *Salamandra salamandra*, snakes *Vipera berus* and *Natrix natrix* and lizards *Lacerta vivipara*. Also large populations of commercial and wild fish species occur in the site's waters.



• HUMAN USES / CONSERVATION MEASURES

The fishponds are used for commercial and recreational fishing. Tourism, especially bird watching, is small-scale but increasing. There is exploitation of neighboring forests. The site is an ornithological reserve.

• ADVERSE FACTORS

Indiscriminate burning of *Phragmites* in early spring may possibly cause the decline of reptilians.

From: *A Directory of Wetlands of International Importance*.
Ramsar Convention Bureau and Wetlands International, 1999