

DATA PRESENTATION

Each chapter contains a national overview of the status of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and their conservation, followed by a series of site accounts describing the IBAs in the country.

The national overviews have been written in a standard way, summarizing key information on IBAs in the country. The tables, maps and figures in each national overview summarize the data within the site accounts which have, in turn, been derived from the

BirdLife International IBA Database. Space for each site account is limited, given the inclusion of 3,619 sites in this publication, and the text has been restricted to key facts. More detailed information is contained within the IBA Database and, for several countries, has also been published in national IBA inventories (see Box 1, 'Data collection' chapter).

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

General introduction

This includes basic geographical information about the country, information on the number and distribution of IBAs, the percentage of the country's surface area covered by IBAs, and a comparison of

the current IBA inventory with the one presented 10 years previously (Grimmett and Jones 1989) and with any national IBA publications. This section is accompanied by a table listing all IBAs and the reasons for their importance, and a map displaying their location.

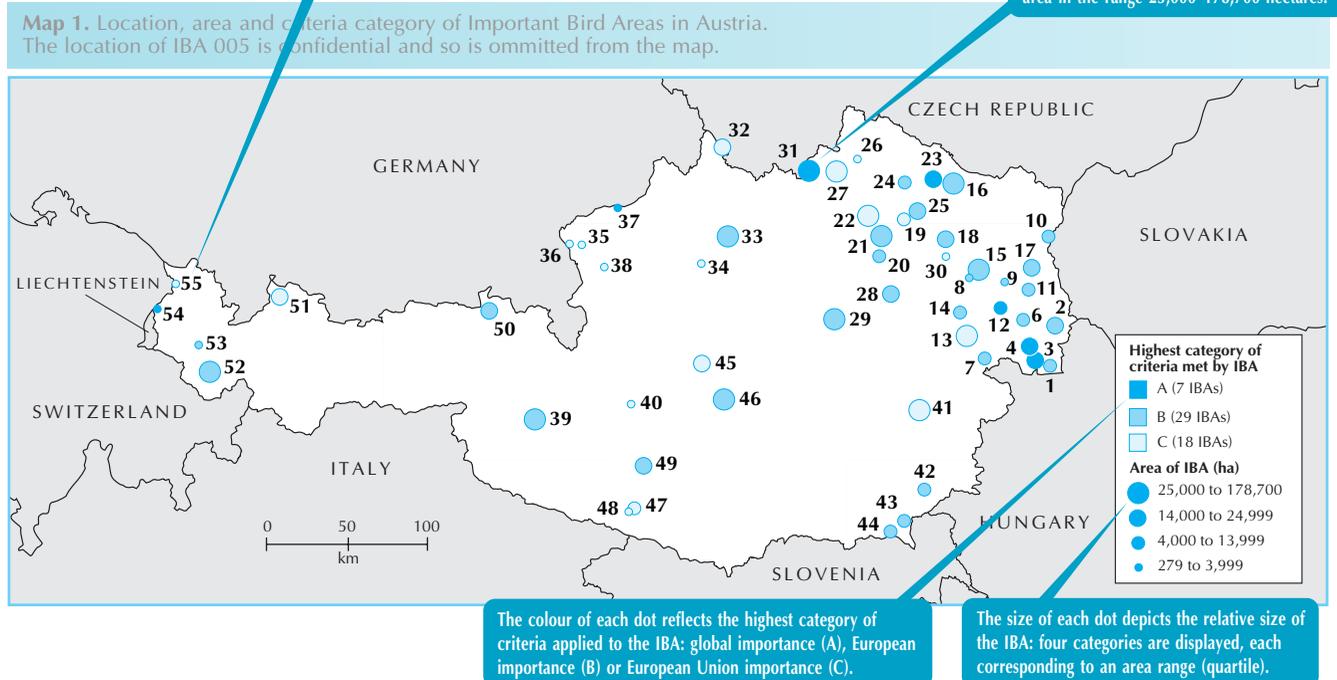
EXAMPLE TABLE 1

Table 1. Summary of Important Bird Areas in Austria. 55 IBAs covering 12,388 km²

IBA code	1989 code	International name	National name	Administrative region	Area (ha)	Criteria (see p. 11)
001	AT003	Austrian part of Hanság	Österreichischer Teil des Hanság	Burgenland	7,000	B2, C6
002	AT004	Parndorfer Platte	Parndorfer Platte	Burgenland	18,000	B3, C6
003	AT002	Southern Seewinkel and	Südlicher Seewinkel und Zitzmannsdorfer Wiesen	Burgenland	14,000	A4i, B1i, B2, C3, C6
				Burgenland	23,272	A1, A4i, B1i, B2, B3, C2, C3, C6
053	—	Slope forest				
054	—	Meadows on the lower Ill	Streuwiesen an der Unteren Ill	Vorarlberg	279	A1, C1, C6
055	AT020	Delta of the Rhine and Lauteracher Ried	Rheindelta und Lauteracher Ried	Vorarlberg	2,760	C6

Sites identified in the previous inventory of IBAs in Europe (Grimmett and Jones 1989) but no longer considered to be IBAs: AT006 Braunsberg-Friedsheimer Berg; AT014 Seetaler Alpen; AT019 Karwendel.

EXAMPLE MAP 1



Ornithological importance

This section summarizes the key facts about birds and IBAs in the country, giving special attention to species meeting IBA criteria and emphasizing those species for which the country is important in an international context, especially species of global or European conservation concern (Collar *et al.* 1994, Tucker and Heath 1994). This section includes up to three tables illustrating the importance of the IBA network for:

- species of global conservation concern
- congregatory species
- species of European conservation concern and species threatened in the European Union (listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive).

SPECIES OF GLOBAL CONSERVATION CONCERN

All species of global conservation concern in Europe are listed in Table 2 of the previous chapter.

For definition of A1 criterion, see the previous chapter.

Table 2. Important Bird Areas in Hungary that are important for species of global conservation concern (meeting criterion A1).

Species	IBA code
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> Pygmy Cormorant	032
<i>Anser erythropus</i> Lesser White-fronted Goose	032
<i>Aythya nyroca</i> Ferruginous Duck	004, 006, 007, 008, 011, 013, 026, 030, 032
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> White-tailed Eagle	007, 010, 026, 030, 032
<i>Aquila heliaca</i> Imperial Eagle	013, 015, 018, 032, 036, 040, 041, 042, 043
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	019, 035, 039, 043
<i>Otis tarda</i> Great Bustard	001, 022, 029, 031, 032, 036, 037
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> Slender-billed Curlew	032
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> Aquatic Warbler	032

Sites where species of global conservation concern meet the A1 criterion in Hungary (at some stage in their annual cycle).

CONGREGATORY SPECIES

Table 3. Important Bird Areas in Estonia that support important numbers of one or more congregatory species (i.e. meeting criteria A4 and/or B1). IBAs meeting both criteria A4 and B1 for the species are shown in bold. IBAs meeting only criterion B1 for the species concerned, and not A4, are shown in normal type. For key to 'Season', see p. 7.

Species	Season	IBA code
<i>Gavia stellata</i> Red-throated Diver	W	017
	P	027, 029
<i>Gavia arctica</i> Black-throated Diver	W	017
	P	027, 029
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> Cormorant	B	010, 019
	P	007, 027
<i>Cygnus olor</i> Mute Swan	P	007, 013
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i> Bewick's Swan	P	003, 006, 007, 008, 010, 023, 024, 026, 027, 028, 029, 030, 032, 036, 037, 038, 040
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> Whooper Swan	P	003, 007, 008, 010, 023, 024, 027, 028
<i>Anser fabalis</i> Bean Goose	P	010, 031, 040
<i>Anser albifrons</i> White-fronted Goose	P	031
<i>Anser anser</i> Greylag Goose	B	010
	P	002, 003, 005, 006, 007, 010, 012, 013, 016, 017, 018, 020, 023, 028

At least 1% of the biogeographic population of Red-throated Diver overwinters at site 017.

At least 1% of the flyway population of Whooper Swan stages at site 024 while on passage.

SPECIES OF EUROPEAN CONSERVATION CONCERN AND SPECIES THREATENED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Table 4. Species of European conservation concern and species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive with significant breeding populations at IBAs in Finland (meeting any IBA criteria).

Species ¹	Minimum national breeding population (pairs) ²	Proportion (%) of national population breeding at all IBAs in Finland
<i>Gavia stellata</i> Red-throated Diver	900	11
<i>Gavia arctica</i> Black-throated Diver	7,000	5
<i>Podiceps auritus</i> Slavonian Grebe	3,000	5
<i>Buteo borealis</i> Bittern	100	84
<i>Perisoreus infaustus</i> Siberian Jay	30,000	11
<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i> Parrot Crossbill	10,000	9

It is estimated that at least 11% of the breeding population of Red-throated Diver in Finland breeds within IBAs.

Red-throated Diver is a species:

- which is of European conservation concern and /or is listed in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive
- for which one or more IBAs have been identified in Finland.

1. Only those species of European conservation concern (see Box 1, p. 12) that meet IBA criteria in Finland are listed, together with those species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive that fulfil criterion C6 in IBAs in Finland.
 2. Data are taken from the BirdLife/EBCC European Bird Database 1998 (Heath and Borggreve 2000).
 3. The percentage of the national population in IBAs exceeds 100%. Usually this is because the national population estimate has not been updated recently whilst the IBA population estimate has been recently updated with new data as a result of comprehensive surveys of IBAs themselves. Also, the individual site count for a species may be the maximum or average over recent years, and summing these may record more birds than are present nationally in any single year.

Habitats

This section gives a brief outline of the predominant habitat-types in the country. It examines the most widespread and common habitat-types found within IBAs and discusses the representativeness of IBA coverage from a habitat perspective in a national context.

A bar chart illustrates the occurrence and coverage of different habitat-types within IBAs. For a fuller explanation of the habitat classification used, see Appendix 3.

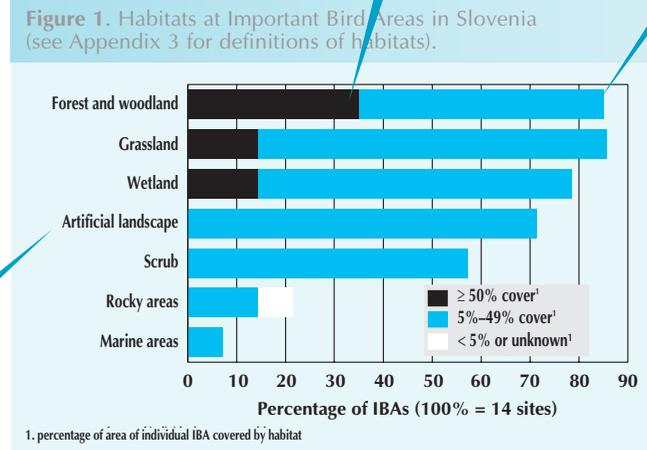
For some sites, and some countries, the percentage cover of habitat-types has not been estimated; in these cases the bar chart indicates only the frequency of occurrence of habitats at IBAs.

Habitat-types are listed and described in more detail in Appendix 3.

HABITATS AT IBAs

At 35% of IBAs in Slovenia, forest/woodland covers at least 50% of the area of the individual IBA.

At 85% of IBAs in Slovenia, forest/woodland covers at least 5% of the area of the individual IBA.



Impacts on IBAs—land-use and threats

The most widespread and common land-uses within IBAs are described and presented in a bar chart. For a fuller explanation of the land-use classification, see Appendix 3.

For some sites, and some countries, the percentage cover of land-use has not been estimated; in these cases the bar chart indicates only the frequency of occurrence of land-uses at IBAs.

Key factors threatening the sites, and their level of impact, are described and summarized in a bar chart. For a fuller explanation of the classification of threats, see Appendix 3.

For some sites, and some countries, the impact of threats has not been estimated; in these cases, the bar chart indicates only the frequency of occurrence of threats at IBAs.

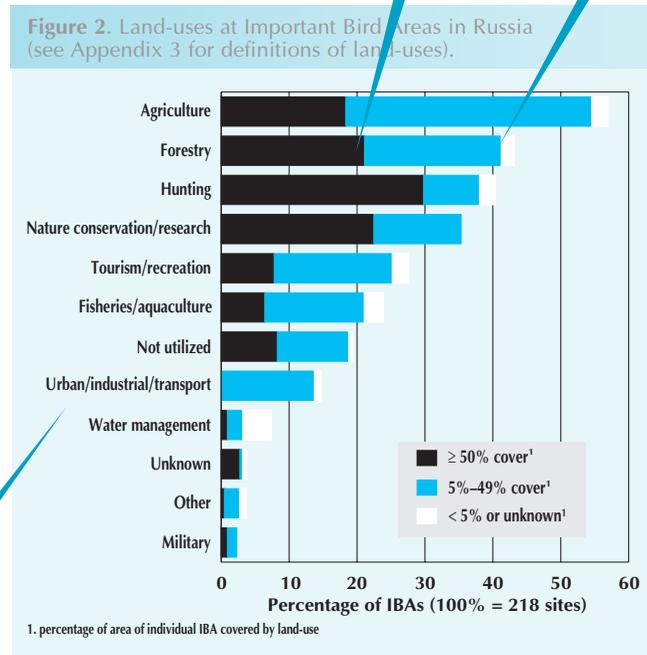
Any links between land-uses, threats and land-ownership are addressed and the key species or habitats affected are described. Those IBAs considered most threatened are highlighted and any relevant national trends in land-uses and threats are outlined and contrasted with trends at IBAs.

Land-uses are listed and defined in Appendix 3.

LAND-USES AT IBAs

At 20% of IBAs in Russia, at least 50% of the area of the individual IBA is used for forestry.

At 40% of IBAs in Russia, between 5% and 49% of the area of the individual IBA is used for forestry.

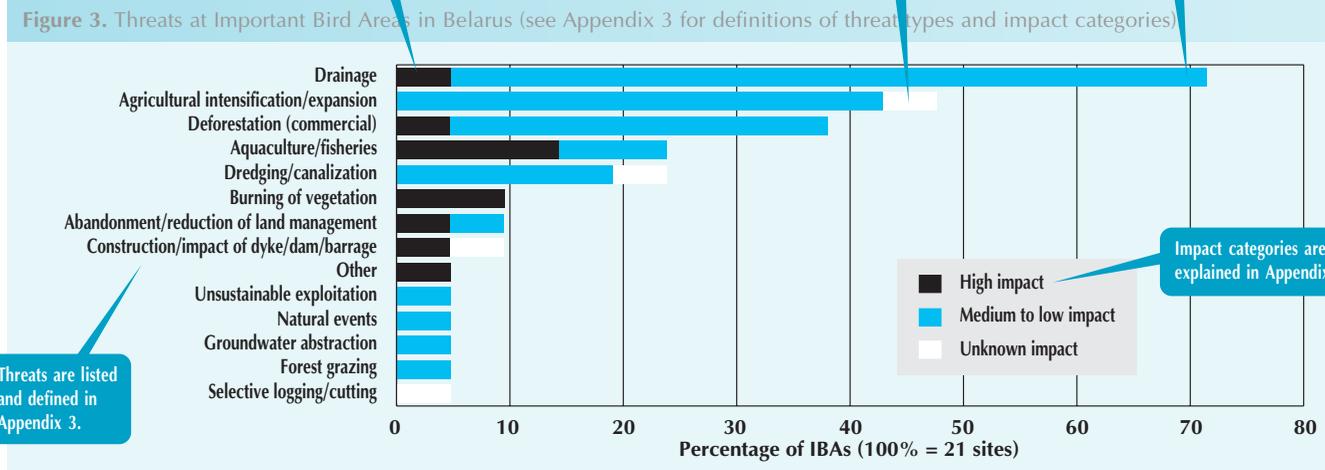


THREATS AT IBAs

Ongoing drainage is having (or planned drainage will have) a high impact at about 5% of IBAs in Belarus.

Agricultural intensification/expansion poses a threat at 48% of IBAs in Belarus: at 42% of IBAs in Belarus, the impact is considered to be medium or low, while at 6% of IBAs in Belarus, the degree of impact is not known.

Over 70% of IBAs in Belarus are threatened, to some extent, by drainage.



Threats are listed and defined in Appendix 3.

PROTECTION STATUS OF IBAS

Table 5. Protection status of Important Bird Areas in the Czech Republic. A tick (✓) indicates that an IBA overlaps with a protected area (to any extent).

IBA code	International name	National Park	National Nature Reserve	National Nature Reserve	National Natural Monument	Natural Monument	Protected Landscape Area	Temporary Protected Area	Ramsar Site	International Biosphere Reserve
001	Krkonoše mountains (Giant mountains)	✓							✓	✓
002	Žehuňský rybník pond		✓			✓				
003	Křivoklátsko (Křivoklátsko region)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
004	Doupov hills		✓	✓						
005	Šumava mountains (Bohemian forest)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
006	Řežabinec pond		✓							
007	Delšíž pond							✓		
008	Třeboňsko (Třeboň region)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
009	Nové Mlýny middle reservoir			✓					✓	
010	Pálava		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
011	Lednické rybníky ponds (Lednice fish-ponds)		✓						✓	
012	Confluence of the Morava (March) and Dyje (Thaya) rivers		✓						✓	
013	Beskydy mountains		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
014	Poodří		✓	✓			✓		✓	
015	Heřmanský stav pond–Stružka wetlands			✓						
016	Jeseníky mountains		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Total number of IBAs		2	12	10	3	7	7	1	7	5

'Pálava' IBA overlaps partly or wholly with one or more National Nature Reserves (see individual site-account for more details).

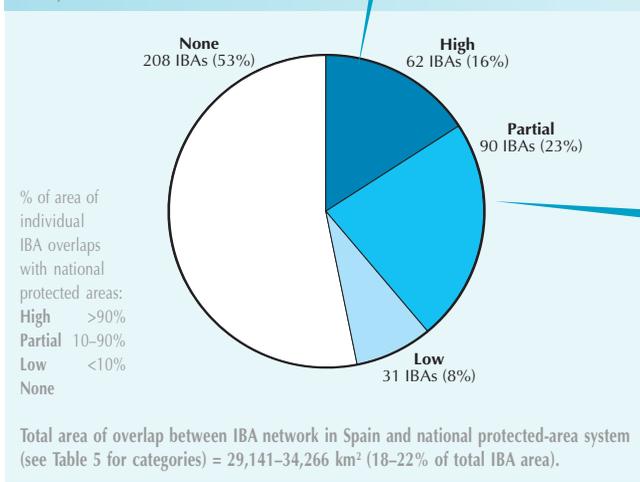
The types of protected area are further described in the 'Overview' text. In this table, as far as possible, protected-area types are listed from left to right in order of IUCN management category, from I to VI (IUCN 1994).

12 IBAs in the Czech Republic overlap to some extent with National Nature Reserves.

16% of IBAs in Spain (62 IBAs) have more than 90% of their individual area covered by the national system of protected areas.

NATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS

Figure 4. The national protection status of Important Bird Areas in Spain.



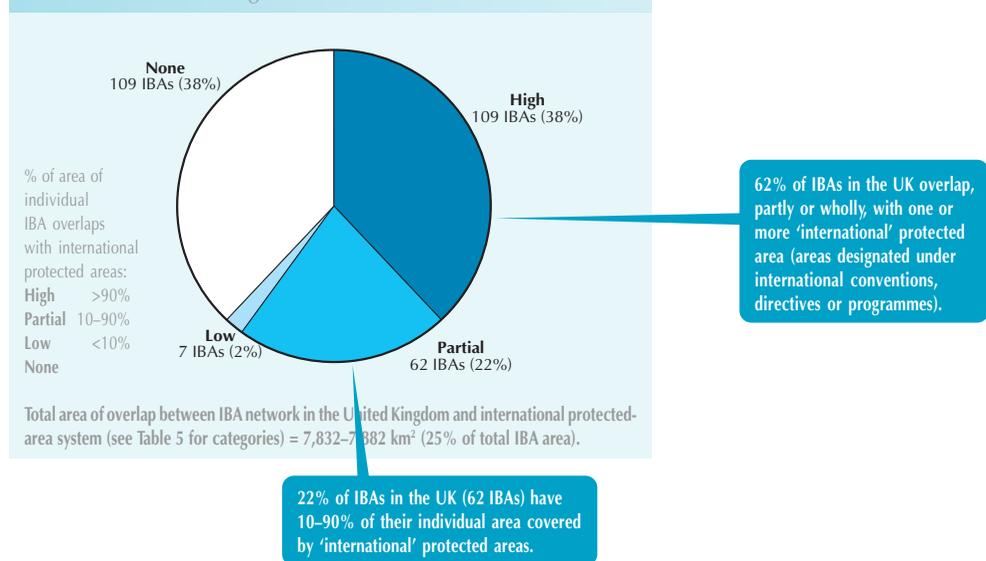
47% of IBAs in Spain overlap to some extent with the national system of protected areas.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES

Box 1. International legislation and initiatives that are relevant to site conservation in Greece (see Appendix 1 for a general description of these agreements).	Global	Biodiversity Convention	✓
		Ramsar Convention	✓
		Bonn Convention	✓
		World Heritage Convention	✓
		MAB Programme	✓
	Pan-European	Bern Convention	✓
	Regional	EC Birds Directive	✓
		EC Habitats Directive	✓
		Barcelona Convention	✓
		✓ Convention ratified/initiative supported	
		✓ Convention signed	

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS

Figure 5. The international protection status of Important Bird Areas in the United Kingdom.



■ Protection status

This section analyses the extent to which IBAs are legally protected, through their overlap with areas protected by national law and by international agreements.

The overlap (or not) of each IBA with national and international protected areas is recorded in a table.

The main protected-area types in the country are described, together with their legal status, type of management and the authority responsible for implementing protection. In many countries, this list of national designation-types has been limited to those of truly national standing with legally binding status. Therefore most sub-national, local or non-statutory categories of protected area have not been discussed, analysed or otherwise covered, in these countries.

The extent of overlap between individual IBAs and national protected areas is summarized in a pie chart, and the total area of IBAs under national protection is stated. It is possible that the total areas of IBAs under protection is underestimated due to incomplete data on area of overlap between protected areas and IBAs.

Regarding international protection, the main international legislation and initiatives relevant to site-based biodiversity conservation in the country are described.

A box summarizes all of the international legislation and initiatives that can give international recognition or protection to sites in the given country, and indicates whether the country has ratified or signed such conventions or takes part in such initiatives.

The extent of overlap between individual IBAs and internationally designated areas is summarized in a pie chart, and the total area of IBAs under international protection is stated. It is possible that the total area of IBAs under protection is underestimated due to incomplete data on area of overlap between protected areas and IBAs.

■ Conservation

This section summarizes key research, monitoring, site-conservation or site-management initiatives that affect IBAs in the country, drawing together any national trends or conservation issues (e.g. the coverage of IBAs by management plans), as well as any relevant information that is otherwise oft-repeated in the individual site-accounts.

■ Analytical methods

This section provides important information on the preparation of the national inventory and the methodology followed in collecting and analysing the data. It includes information on:

- bird counts, especially the conventions used in counting or estimating numbers of birds at sites at different seasons, and the conventions used in presenting such information, as well as the units used;
- important species in the country that are not adequately covered by the IBA network, either because of their dispersed nature or because of inadequacies in data or observer coverage;
- dates and main sources of the information on IBAs;
- any difficulties encountered in obtaining or categorizing data or in assigning criteria, and how these problems were addressed, as well as any standards or conventions that were followed (if different from, or expanding on, the IBA project guidelines).

■ Glossary

This gives explanations of technical or non-standard terms or abbreviations used in the chapter.

■ Acknowledgements

This section acknowledges all contributors to the IBA review in the country, including financial contributors if appropriate.

SITE ACCOUNTS

EXAMPLE SITE ACCOUNT

Internationally recognized site name.

Altitudinal range of IBA, in metres above/below sea level (a minus sign indicates that the site is below sea level).

Habitats are defined in Appendix 3; percentages refer to proportion of IBA area that is covered by primary level habitats. Lack of a percentage indicates either (a) lack of relevant knowledge, or (b) cover is less than 5%.

Land-uses are defined in Appendix 3; percentages refer to proportion of IBA area that is utilized. Lack of a percentage indicates either (a) lack of relevant knowledge, or (b) cover is less than 5%.

Year of population estimate. In cases where the population estimate is derived from a multi-year series, the year given here is the last in the series, and a footnote may give more details of the period covered, if this aspect has not been dealt with already in the 'Analytical methods' section of the national overview.

Season in which species meets criterion/criteria:

- R Breeding resident
- B Breeding visitor
- W Winter visitor
- P Passage visitor
- N Non-breeding visitor
- U Status uncertain.

Overlap between IBA and protected area(s), measured as a percentage of the IBA's area, is 'Partial' at the national level and 'Partial' at the international level:

- High >90% overlap
- Partial 10%–90% overlap
- Low <10% overlap
- None No overlap

Area of IBA in hectares (100 ha = 1 km²) that overlaps with protected area. If the entire IBA is covered by the protected area this figure will equal the area of the IBA given in the header.

Threats are defined in Appendix 3.

Primary administrative region(s) in which IBA is located.

Central coordinates of the IBA (latitude/longitude; Greenwich).

Criteria under which the site qualifies as an IBA (see the previous chapter for definitions).

IBA code: number which identifies this site in this publication.

Thumbnail map showing location of the IBA.

Area of the IBA in hectares (100 ha = 1 km²)

40% of the area of the IBA comprises steppe/dry calcareous grassland habitat.

90% of the area of the IBA is affected by agricultural activities.

Minimum and maximum population estimate (see 'Analytical methods' section of national overview for more details on conventions followed).

Quality of population data (see 'Data collection' chapter for more details):

- A Reliable
- B Incomplete
- C Poor
- — Unknown

Breeding population data (season code 'R' or 'B') are given in pairs unless stated otherwise in a footnote or in the 'Analytical methods' section of the national overview.

If population figures are unavailable, a qualitative assessment of abundance may be given (see 'Data collection' chapter for further explanation).

Species are listed in taxonomic order. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (Cramp et al. 1977–1994).

Area of protected area (in hectares; 100 ha = 1 km²).

Official name of protected area.

Type of protected area (further described in national overview).

Importance score: Calculation of the score is explained in Appendix 3. Lack of a score implies that impact is unknown, and does not imply minimal impact.

- A High impact
- B Medium impact
- C Low impact
- U Unknown impact

Danube plain
 Admin region Bács-Kiskun, Pest
 Coordinates 46°49'N 19°15'E
 Altitude 93–103 m Area 82,000 ha

A1, A4i, B1i, B2 **022**

Site description
 A flood-plain lying between natural levees and overlain by *leess* soils, situated adjacent to the River Danube and main Duna-völgyi canal between Kiskunlacháza and Szakmár. Human activities include cattle- and sheep-grazing, arable farming, angling and hunting. This area includes two sites that were treated as separate IBAs in the previous international IBA inventory (Grimmett and Jones 1989): 'Kiskunsági szikes-tavak' (former site HU021) and 'Harta-Akasztói puszta' (former site HU042).

Habitats Grassland (40%; steppe/dry calcareous grassland), Wetland (5%; standing brackish and salt water; water-fringe vegetation), Artificial landscape (55%; highly improved reseeded grassland; arable land)

Land-use Agriculture (90%), Nature conservation/research (60%), Tourism/recreation (5%), Water management (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
¹ <i>Ardea purpurea</i> Purple Heron	P	1996	50	50	C	B2
² <i>Anser albifrons</i> White-fronted Goose	P	1996	2,000	15,000	A	B1i
² <i>Anser anser</i> Greylag Goose	P	1996	200	5,000	A	A4i, B1i
¹ <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> Pintail	P	1996	260	260	A	B1i
¹ <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Common Kestrel	B	1996	85	85	B	B2
¹ <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Common Kestrel	B	1996	85	85	B	B2
¹ <i>Otis tarda</i> Great Bustard	R	1996	190	290	A	A1, B2
² <i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit	B	1996	50	80	B	B2
³ <i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit	P	1996	150	8,000	A	A4i, B1i
² <i>Numenius arquata</i> Curlew	P	1996	Common	—	—	A4i, B1i
¹ <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> Whiskered Tern	B	1996	—	175	A	B2
¹ <i>Chlidonias niger</i> Black Tern	B	1996	40	40	B	B2

Protection status
 National Partial International Partial
 21,200 ha of IBA covered by National Park (Kiskunsági, 53,429 ha).
 3,903 ha of IBA covered by Ramsar Site (Kiskunság, 3,903 ha). The IBA also overlaps with the Kiskunság Biosphere Reserve (22,095 ha).

Conservation issues
Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (A), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Natural events (B), Recreation/tourism (C)

The main threats are changes in habitat composition and quality caused both by the abandonment of grazing and by drought. A *Perdix perdix* recovery project has begun in Apajpuszta, and the National Park Authority is working to increase the breeding success of *Otis tarda*. MME/BirdLife Hungary provides artificial nesting-sites, and a management plan exists for the area. Wildfowl shooting is banned, and the enlargement of the National Park is in process.

■ Header

Each site account has a boxed header which gives key information about the site, including international site name, site code, administrative region(s), central coordinates, altitudinal range, surface area, a thumb-nail map showing the location of the site within the country, and a list of the criteria under which the site qualifies as an IBA.

■ Site description

This section includes a short general description of the site covering relevant information on location and topographical features.

The section includes a table listing the habitats and land-uses at the site, and the percentage cover of each where this is known. Two levels of habitat are listed, e.g. 'Forest/woodland' at the primary level, and 'broadleaved deciduous forest', or 'native coniferous forest' at the secondary level. The percentage cover is given for the primary habitats only. Primary habitats which cover less than 5% of the IBA are usually not listed. If habitat-types are rare or otherwise difficult to classify, they may be listed at the primary level only.

■ Birds

A table presents data on all species meeting IBA criteria at the site. Much more information on these species, and on species not meeting IBA criteria at each site, is contained within the IBA database but, because of space constraints, it has not been possible to publish these extra data.

The table may be supported by additional text summarizing the overall reasons for the site being important, and including non-specific data, for example listing total counts for a group of species such as waterbirds or migrating raptors. If the relevant criteria have been met, reference is also made to the site's occurrence within a biome or an Endemic Bird Area. All species of global conservation concern that occur at the site but which do not meet IBA criteria (sometimes due to lack of data rather than due to insufficient numbers) are also mentioned in the text. Additionally, for some countries, all species that are listed in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive and that breed at the site have also been listed in the text. For some countries, species present at the site in nationally important numbers (e.g. with at least 1% of the national population occurring) are also listed, especially if this factor is relevant to the national application of the EC Birds Directive.

■ Protection status

This section indicates the national and international protection status (High, Partial, Low, None) of the site. This has been calculated as follows:

- High More than 90% of the area of an individual IBA overlaps with national/international protected area(s)
- Partial 10–90% of the area of an individual IBA overlaps with national/international protected area(s)
- Low Less than 10% of the area of an individual IBA overlaps with national/international protected area(s)
- None No overlap with national/international protected area(s)

This provides an indication of the coverage of each IBA by protected areas (in this publication, 'protected area' usually refers only to statutory areas, with official recognition of their purpose) and is summarized from the more detailed information on the degree of overlap between each individual protected area and the IBA. Where details of overlap are unknown, the 'Partial' category has usually been assigned as a default since it presents the broadest range of overlap. Where this applies, it has been explained in the country overview. It is important to note that the terms 'High', 'Partial' or 'Low' protection do not refer to the strictness of protection prescribed by law, only to the spatial extent of protection, nor do they refer to the success or otherwise of management authorities in implementing protection.

This is followed by details of the protected areas and the extent of their overlap with the IBA. The 'Protection status' portion of the national overview gives more details on each protected-area type, its status in national law, management regime, etc.

■ Conservation issues

This section includes a table summarizing the main threats (actual and potential) impacting on the site and a score of the importance of each (as explained in Appendix 3). Additional text concerning these threats may be given, as may further detail on protection status, including any proposed designations. Key research/monitoring activities and conservation issues may be mentioned, as well as the existence or otherwise of any management plan(s) for the IBA or associated protected areas. This section should be read in conjunction with the 'Conservation' section of the national overview, at the start of the chapter, which summarizes any common conservation issues that would otherwise be repeated across several or many IBAs.

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