



Project “Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Wetlands”
Ramsar Culture Network Development in the Carpathian Region
Questionnaire

I.	Name of the wetland site with cultural aspect(s)
	Kakvica – branch of the Morava River by Hochštetno (Vysoká pri Morave); part of Morava Floodplains Ramsar Site (Site number 604)
II.	Location details (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)
	Záhorie region, Bratislava county, Vysoká pri Morave – remnants of some wetlands can be still seen at the northwest of the village.
III.	Time period to which identified value or practice relates (historical dates/earliest known origins, date at which it ceased to be present, or specify that it is still of continuing relevance if this is the case)
	This is an old site, first information appear already in 1271, the name Hochštetno meant village at „a high place“, meaning the village was built on higher area.

IV.	Typologies of cultural values and practices
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Please select for each identified site

- The site where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities.

Please describe of what type is the site (Wetland related human activities)

1. Habitation

1.1 Cultural landscapes

1.2 Cultural heritage sites (including religious heritage – monasteries, sanctuaries, hermitages, chapels)

1.3 Settlements and structures

1.3.1 Ancient sites and structures (up to 1599)

1.3.2 Traditional and modern settlements and structures

1.4 Wetland archaeology

1.5 Infrastructure

1.5.1 Terrestrial transportation networks

1.5.2 Water management and facilities and networks

2. Primary uses of wetland resources

- 2.1 Wetland related agriculture
- 2.2 Stock-breeding
- 2.3 Fishing and aquaculture
- 2.4 Management of forest wetland types
- 2.5 Hunting
- 2.6 Salt extraction, mineral extraction, mining
- 2.7 Water use
 - 2.7.1 Irrigation
 - 2.7.2 Domestic use
 - 2.7.3 Water transfer infrastructure
 - 2.7.4 Energy production
 - 2.7.5 Other water uses (water mills, saw mills etc.)
- 2.8 Use of other wetland natural resources
 - 2.8.1 Biomass extraction
 - 2.8.2 Sustainable use of medicinal plants

3. Secondary use of wetland resources

- 3.1 Food processing
 - 3.1.1 Traditional methods of food preservation
 - 3.1.2 Culinary heritage
- 3.2 Craftsmanship
 - 3.2.1 Artefacts (of ancient origin – up to 1599 / traditional and modern artefacts)
 - 3.2.2 Handicrafts and tools (of ancient origin / traditional and modern)
 - 3.2.3 Transportation means (boats etc.) (ancient / traditional and modern)
- 3.3 Traditional building construction
 - 3.3.1 Dwellings
 - 3.3.2 Utilitarian buildings
 - 3.3.3 Public buildings
- 3.4 Wetland-based traditional marketing
- 3.5 Tourism – eco-tourism and cultural tourism
- 3.6 Leisure and sports
 - 3.6.1 Having pleasure from being in the nature
 - 3.6.2 Hiking, climbing
 - 3.6.3 Rafting and kayaking
 - 3.6.4 Sailing and boating
 - 3.6.5 Diving
 - 3.6.6 Speleology
- 3.7 Social practices and methods
- 3.8 Festivals, fairs, celebrations and events

4. Knowledge, belief systems and social practices

4.1 Scientific research and education

4.2 Traditional knowledge

4.2.1 Oral traditions and expressions, sayings

4.2.2 Languages, dialects and special terms

4.2.3 Relevant place names and their etymologies

4.2.4 Practice of traditional medicine

4.3 Spirituality and belief systems (including processions, pilgrimages, nature rituals and ceremonies)

4.4 Sacred natural sites or landscapes (e.g. caves, islands, rivers, springs, mountains...)

4.5 Artistic expression

4.5.1 Dances and traditional rural games

4.5.2 Music and traditional songs

4.5.3 Nature photography

4.5.4 Literature of wetlands nature, traditional legends and stories*

4.5.5 Movies and TV shows

4.5.6 Painting landscapes and nature

Please provide details and comments if necessary.

* Please send the text of legend/story identified relevant to the aims of this project in English (Word format) to be published in the final publication.

Mythical water creatures are usually known as **water nymphs / Rusalkas**. Water nymphs are closely connected to the place they guard, care for it and into which they breathe the life. They look after the water in all its forms – the lakes, rivers, brooks, paddles or even the rain-filled clouds. Water nymphs, which can be met in the nature, are usually very similar in looks. In almost all the cases they take on female image and are presented as a very fine and ethereal little women created of water or water vapour. The cleaner the water, the more beautiful form of life they choose for themselves. They can also be seen with human eyes if they choose to come in the form of an animal. For this they usually choose the fish, dragonflies or some other type of water-bound insect. Occasionally they appear as a kind of amphibian – frogs or newts. Some of them take on an image of swans or waterlily. Freshwater water nymph is the most gentle and soft creature, her power is as big as is the water area they dwell in. They often live near tree roots, they help them with the moisture. They can be seen dancing in the fog near muddy peatlands. Water nymphs lure travellers to dancing and the one who gives in, will be torn alive to pieces.

There lived water nymphs at Kakvica and they used to dance during summer nights. In his pool on the river Morava there lived a waterman. Young boys from Hochštetno wanted to capture one water nymph and they spied on here every night. Eventually, one of them managed to capture her. However, after receiving a human touch she melts away as a sundew drop.

V.	The main exponents, practitioners or beneficiaries of the documented values and practices.
Inhabitants of Hochštetno and its surroundings, there was a saw-mill in the past, as well as mill.	

VI.	Specialised or vernacular terms used locally (including in local languages) to refer to the values and practices concerned
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bačorina – bog • Bogdáu – a stork • Buato - mud • Príkopa - a ditch
VII.	Relative significance of the values and practices concerned (e.g. in terms of rarity, magnitude, degree of formal recognition, or diversity in combination with other values)
	xxx
VIII.	Transcription of any pertinent officially-adopted descriptions of the values and practices concerned , specifying the source in each case
	xxx
IX.	Conservation implications of the cultural values/practices for the wetland(s)
	xxx
X.	<p>Status of the cultural values/practices Clarify whether the values or practices relate to a former period of history or whether they are continuing. If they relate to a former period of history, the time of their cessation and the reasons of it (if known) should be noted. If they are continuing, it should be clarified whether any changes have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in relation to the values or practices concerned.</p> <p>The village was a place of ancient settlement and cemetery. There are Slavic casket graves from 6th – 7th century, as well as from times of Great Moravia. The first information recorded about the village dates back to 1271, when it was called Znoyssa. Croatian colonisers have settled here in 16th century. The Morava River in the vicinity of the village provided a source of livelihood and income from toll collections (transport across the river). The fishermen’ guild was set up here in 1697. Local inhabitants practiced the fishing, agriculture and apiculture. They produced utility products from reeds and cattail.</p> <p>German name of the village was Hochstetten, another German name used in 19th century – Hochstädten points out that the village had a character of little town. There was a distillery there, refinery and later on steam-mill. Despite that, part of population used to leave for seasonal agricultural work to Lower Austria.</p> <p>Important nature reserves Dolný les and Horný les are there, designated to protect rare alluvial forest habitats and the reserve Rozporec with humid oak – ash forests gradually turning into sand habitat with typical vegetation. Large water bodies originating after gravel extractions from nearby areas also occur in the vicinity of the village.</p>
XI.	Current touristic use and potential for sustainable tourism development in the area, tourism influence in the area
	The area is suitable for cycling as there are many cyclo-trails. Tourism, birdwatching and fishing are popular.
XII.	Suggestions for conservation actions (for example to address threats, restore or enhance values, improve integrated management or strengthen policy) – see 4.1 above
	See 4.1.
XIII.	Ongoing management activities at the site (if any)

The protected area is in charge of the State Nature Conservancy of SR. Questionnaire and the theme would require more in-depth terrain research (ca 1-3 years).	
XIV.	Please include reference sources (and links to them where relevant), images, illustrations, maps, data tables, interview results, further detail on case examples, useful contacts and anything else deemed appropriate
http://www.vysokaprimorave.sk/index.php?pg=7 http://www.malacky.sk/index.php?page=clanok_cely&id=7709	

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Dolný les, Photo: Rudlof Jureček



Kakvica – Horný les, Photo: Rudolf Jureček