



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)
Site of European importance SKUEV 0289 Chmúra	
II.	Location details (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)
County: Žilinský; District: Čadca, Nová Bystrica; protected area made of two single wetlands (Chmúra I. and II.) is placed in the area of open air museum Múzeum Kysuckej dediny.	
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)
Natural processes related to the beginnings of settlement of Kysuce area and its use for agricultural purposes.	

IV.	Typologies of cultural values and practices
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Grassland scything to produce fodder. There was a brook which runs through the site Chmúra I., the brook was diverted to another area, probably to increase management effectiveness. Now it runs along the border of the site from east to the south.

Please select for each identified site

The site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland.

The site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilisations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland.

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

The site where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland.

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.

Torchbearers (fen fires): wetlands released gases, that produced light and people have thought that it is torchbearers, mystical creatures, who do it.
 Literature sources of wetland legends: Gilániová-Rozprávania Alojza Kováča z Riečnice (1983 vydalo Kysucké Múzeum Čadca), Národopisné informácie II - výlety národopisného ústavu SAV (around 1986)

V.	The main exponents, practitioners or beneficiaries of the documented values and practices.
	Local inhabitants, who managed the area during the season (used seasonal buildings - cholvarky). There was a time when a family lived near the site and looked after it permanently.
VI.	Specialised or vernacular terms used locally (including in local languages) to refer to the values and practices concerned
	Sihla (Chmúra I.), bažina (Chmúra II.)
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)
	Protected Site Chmúra is frequently visited by tourists from all over the world. The wetland has a great potential for environmental education, not only as an area of European importance with

	valuable habitats and species, but also as a typical example of landscape management within historical exposition of folk architecture in the nature.
	The hay was used especially as a fodder. The hay with sedge and horsetail was mostly used as bedding. Grasslands were scythed later on (after yielding the fodder from richer grasslands), which helped to maintain their species diversity – even later flowering species, such as marsh hellebores or marsh fragrant orchid, managed to seed. Nationally important plant species, even though not being the primary reason of protection, are important for biodiversity and habitat quality, and these are in a relatively good shape. Many of them are of rare occurrence in the region (<i>Hippochaete variegata</i> or common butterwort <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>).
VIII.	Transcription of any pertinent officially-adopted descriptions of the values and practices concerned , specifying the source in each case
	Grassland scything to obtain animal bedding was typical, as this is the area of strongly waterlogged fens. Flysh bedrock rich in minerals together with strong alkaline springs create conditions for existence of fens with higher base content. From the non-forest habitats of European importance there are habitats of Hygrophilous tall-herb fringe communities, continental tall-herb communities of humid grasslands dominated by meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>).
IX.	Conservation implications of the cultural values/practices for the wetland(s)
	Manual scything with biomass removal was an ideal management of this area in the past. It contributed to preservation of species diversity of both animals and plants.
X.	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.
	After regular scything had ceased, the area was not looked after regularly. This led to a growth of self-seeding fast-growing tree species in the border areas. Scything was done in cooperation with the Museum staff, approximately every three years. The plan is to restore the site by regular mowing.
XI.	Current touristic use and potential for sustainable tourism development in the area, tourism influence in the area
	The site is placed in the open air museum, which is visited all year round even by visitors from abroad, apart from winter season. Forest educational trail leads around the area of Chmúra II site.
XII.	Suggestions for conservation actions (for example to address threats, restore or enhance values, improve integrated management or strengthen policy) – see 4.1 above
	Restoration management on both sites, stop the negative effects from forestry management on the area (timber left at the site).
XIII.	Ongoing management activities at the site (if any)
	None at the moment. Approval for tree cutting is issued for the site Chmúra II., planned to be realised in 2018.
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
	Management plan of protected site Chmúra, Administration of PLA Kysuce, Pietorová 2017; telephone conversation with Mgr. Helena Kotvasová, ethnograph of Kysucké museum in Čadca.

Name of compiler	Ing. Zuzana Václavová
Organization / Address	SNC SR, Administration of PLA Kysuce, U Tomali 15 11 022 01 Čadca, Slovakia
E-mail	zuzana.vaclavova@gmail.com
Phone number	+421 903 298 287



Chmúra II., upper meadow, Photo: Eva Pietorová



Gymnadenia densiflora, Photo: Zuzana Václavová



Open air museum, Photo: Zuzana Václavová



Lower meadow Chmúra I., Photo Zuzana Václavová