



**Project “Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Wetlands”**

**Ramsar Culture Network Development in the Carpathian Region**

## Questionnaire

I.	<b>Name of the wetland site</b> with cultural aspect(s) In case of the designated Ramsar site or World Heritage Site (or part of it) please add its reference number from the relevant database
Ptačí park Josefovské louky (Josefov Meadows Bird Reserve)	
II.	<b>Location details</b> (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)
Czech Republic, Královéhradecký kraj County, Náchod District, Jaroměř 50.3421764N, 15.9509864E	
III.	<b>Time period</b> 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)
1902 – building of the irrigation system Závlahy Metuje (irrigation system with 110 km long network of channels) 1780 – building of the fortress Josefov	
IV.	<b>Typologies of cultural values and practices</b> x 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.

*Please select for each identified site*

- ☐ 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 Nature appreciation

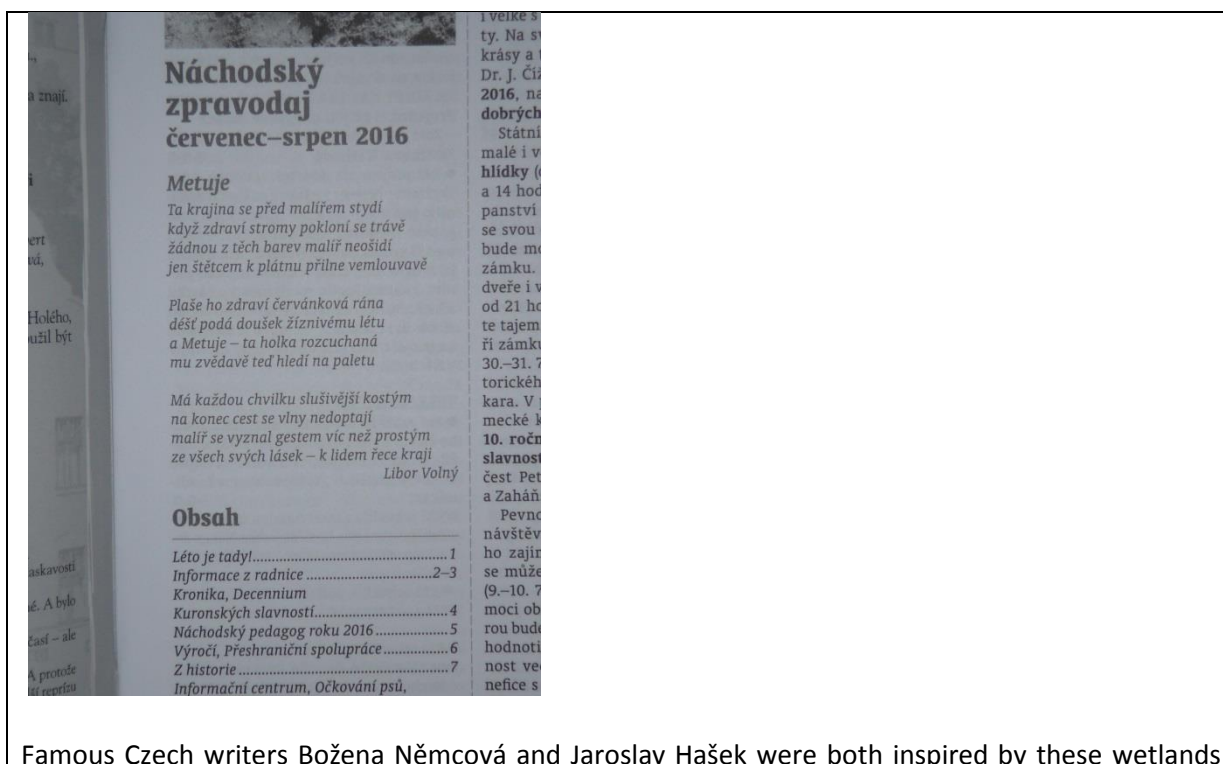
3.6.2 Hiking, climbing

#### **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.



Famous Czech writers Božena Němcová and Jaroslav Hašek were both inspired by these wetlands

and used to stay at this place at certain times.

V.	<p><b>The main exponents, practitioners or beneficiaries of the documented values and practices.</b></p> <p>Particular values may be held in common by a particular community of stakeholders or a social group who derive benefits (tangible or intangible) from the wetland systems (or stories) concerned. In the case of cultural practices, there may be details to record concerning roles played by particular members or groups in the community</p>
The farmers benefit from higher production quota of the meadows due to the existence of a historic irrigation system.	
VI.	<p><b>Specialised or vernacular terms used locally</b> (including in local languages) to refer to the values and practices concerned</p>
Podhánění (meadow irrigation), náhony (irrigation canals)	
VII.	<p><b>Relative significance of the values and practices concerned</b> (e.g. in terms of rarity, magnitude, degree of formal recognition, or diversity in combination with other values)</p>
Probably the only original irrigation system functioning in the area of the whole Czech Republic. This irrigation system using the power of gravity is protected (according to the Královéhradecký kraj County Decree) is now used for the needs of nature conservation.	
VIII.	<p><b>Transcription of any pertinent officially-adopted descriptions of the values and practices concerned</b>, specifying the source in each case</p>
<p><b>Ptačí park Josefovské louky</b></p> <p>This non-state reserve of the Czech ornithological society <a href="#">Česká společnost ornitologická (ČSO)</a> is placed at the northeast of Josefov. Since 2006, this organisation creates here the environment suitable for wetland bird species and other related animal and plant species since 2006. Restoring deep pools, bringing the water to areas by repaired historical irrigation system and the reduction in vegetation cover lead to nesting of rare, threatened or elsewhere dramatically declining bird species (e.g. common snipe, northern lapwing, water rail, spotted crane). Up to 2017, over 160 bird species were observed here, annually spotted common crane, or wintering rare owls short-eared owl. Saturating the surface with water supported the great abundance of amphibians. Marsh frog and common frog can be found here. Species like common toad and European green toad or European fire-bellied toad can also be found there, even though rarely. Abundant numbers of northern crested newt and smooth newt can be spotted. Wetland restoration had a positive effect on the diversity of dragonflies, beetles and other animal species. The world's biggest water beetle (<i>Hydrophilus piceus</i>) was found here. Bird park is open to public. There is an educational trail and observatory and there are excursions organised as well. The area of 76 ha is being gradually purchased by the organisation for the money kindly provided as gifts.</p> <p><b>Stará Metuje Nature Monument</b></p> <p>The south part of the park is brimmed by the nature monument <a href="#">Stará Metuje</a>, the channel of which as well as the surrounding area has been declared a site of European importance for the dragonfly species green snake tail. This species requires relatively clean water, gravel-sand streambed and a natural character of the river. Over 30 fish species were recorded in the river Metuje, as well as European beaver, European otter and non-native American mink, coypu or muskrat.</p> <p><a href="https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josefov_(Jarom%C4%9B%C5%99)">https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josefov_(Jarom%C4%9B%C5%99)</a></p>	
IX.	<p><b>Conservation implications of the cultural values/practices for the wetland(s)</b></p>

	Saturation of the area of the bird park with water with the help of irrigation system Metuj creates suitable living conditions for wetland fauna and flora.
X.	<p><b>Status of the cultural values/practices</b></p> <p>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><b>The origin of „Irrigation system Metuj“</b></p> <p>In 1902 there was an organisation called Central water management company Metuj established with its residence in Krčín (today a part of the town Nové Město nad Metují). Its aim was to build a meadow irrigation system to safeguard higher yields from the meadows. This construction, built during the years 1902 and 1912 between Krčín and Josefov, has represented a very important water management construction with its 110km long network of channels. The physical work was done by builders from Austro-Hungarian Empire and the engineering mostly by Italians. The original area covered by the irrigation channels was 1007 ha and it spread on both sides of the river Metuje. The construction was equipped with necessary number of hatches, tailboards, siphons, bridges and mini-aqueducts. The project has been finalised during the years 1930–1932. The approval for water collection in order to run the irrigation system ceased in 1999 for lack of interest from local agricultural stakeholders. New approval was gained by the NGO in 2012.</p>
XI.	<p>Current <b>touristic use</b> and potential for <b>sustainable tourism</b> development in the area, tourism influence in the area</p> <p>Josefovské louky, as the first and only bird park in the Czech Republic, is becoming still more searched for place by nature lovers from the whole country for its birdwatching and recreational opportunities. It is becoming still more usual that the excursions are visited by people from Prague or Morava region. Some of them stay few days longer and visit the Fortress Josefov situated right at the edge of the reserve or other places interesting from tourism point of view. This brings financial income to county of Královéhradecký kraj. Bird park project has a potential to multiply the visitors numbers in the future and therefore it is necessary to support its development. Its existence contributes to environmental education and awareness rising among the public.</p>
XII.	<p><b>Suggestions for conservation actions</b></p> <p>(for example to address threats, restore or enhance values, improve integrated management or strengthen policy) – see 4.1 above</p> <p>The area is being gradually purchased by the NGO Česká společnost ornitologická. The activities of other subjects as well as the ownership of some of the area by people with developing or harmful intentions are a threat to the area. The fortress Josefov is a well-known neglected historical monument with great potential.</p>
XIII.	<p><b>Ongoing management activities</b> at the site (if any)</p> <p>ČSO carries out various types of management here, especially to support the wetland bird species. Creation of pools, regular irrigation, tree cutting, ungulate grazing, denudation of original surface, water retainment, etc.</p>
XIV.	<p>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</p> <p><a href="http://www.birdlife.cz/co-delame/vyzkum-a-ochrana-ptaku/ochrana-lokalit-a-prostredi/josefovskie-louky/">http://www.birdlife.cz/co-delame/vyzkum-a-ochrana-ptaku/ochrana-lokalit-a-prostredi/josefovskie-louky/</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:michalek@birdlife.cz">michalek@birdlife.cz</a> - the manager of the Bird park Josefovské louky</p>

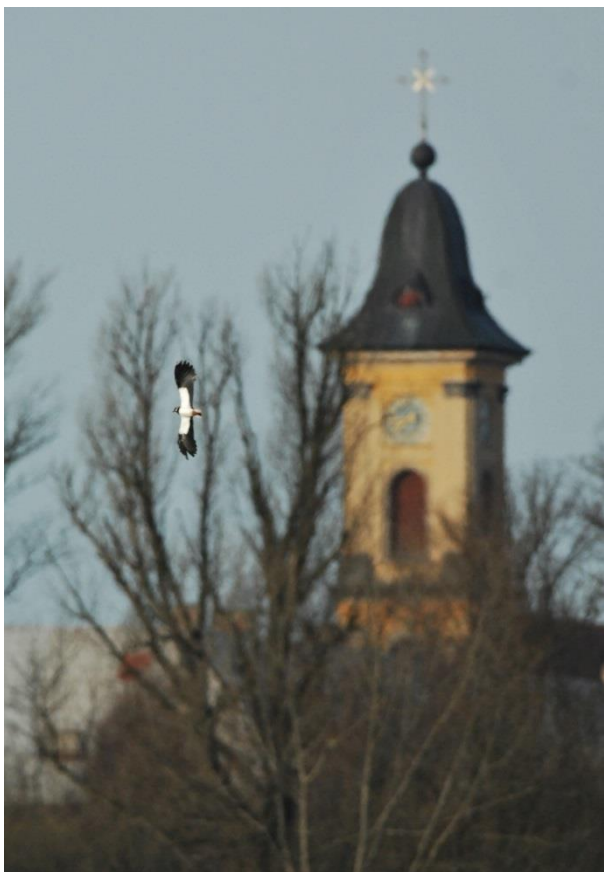


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Josefovské louky, Photo: Marián Polák





*Vanellus vanellus*, Photo: Břeněk Michálek



Photo: Luděk Klíž



Photo: Luděk Klíž