

# Ecological restoration of Fundu Mare Island

Aquatic bird fauna

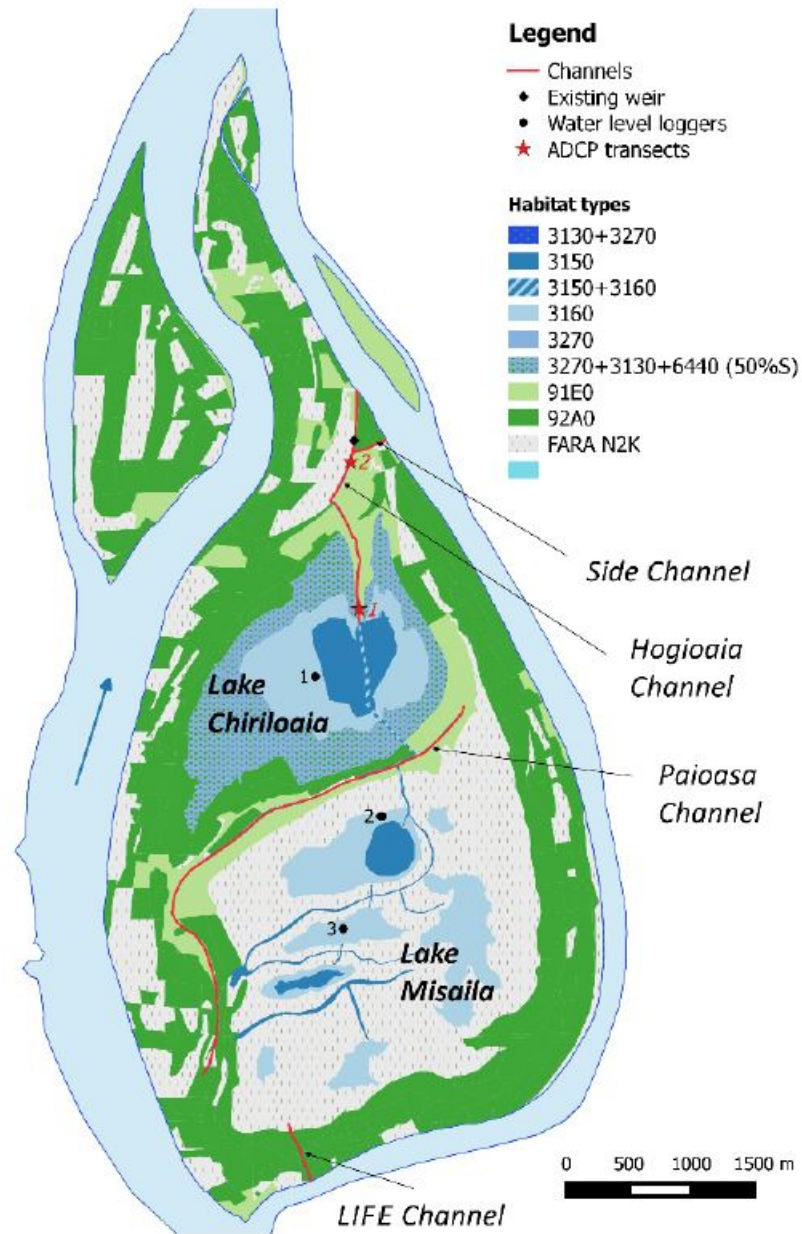
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# Chiriloaia Lake





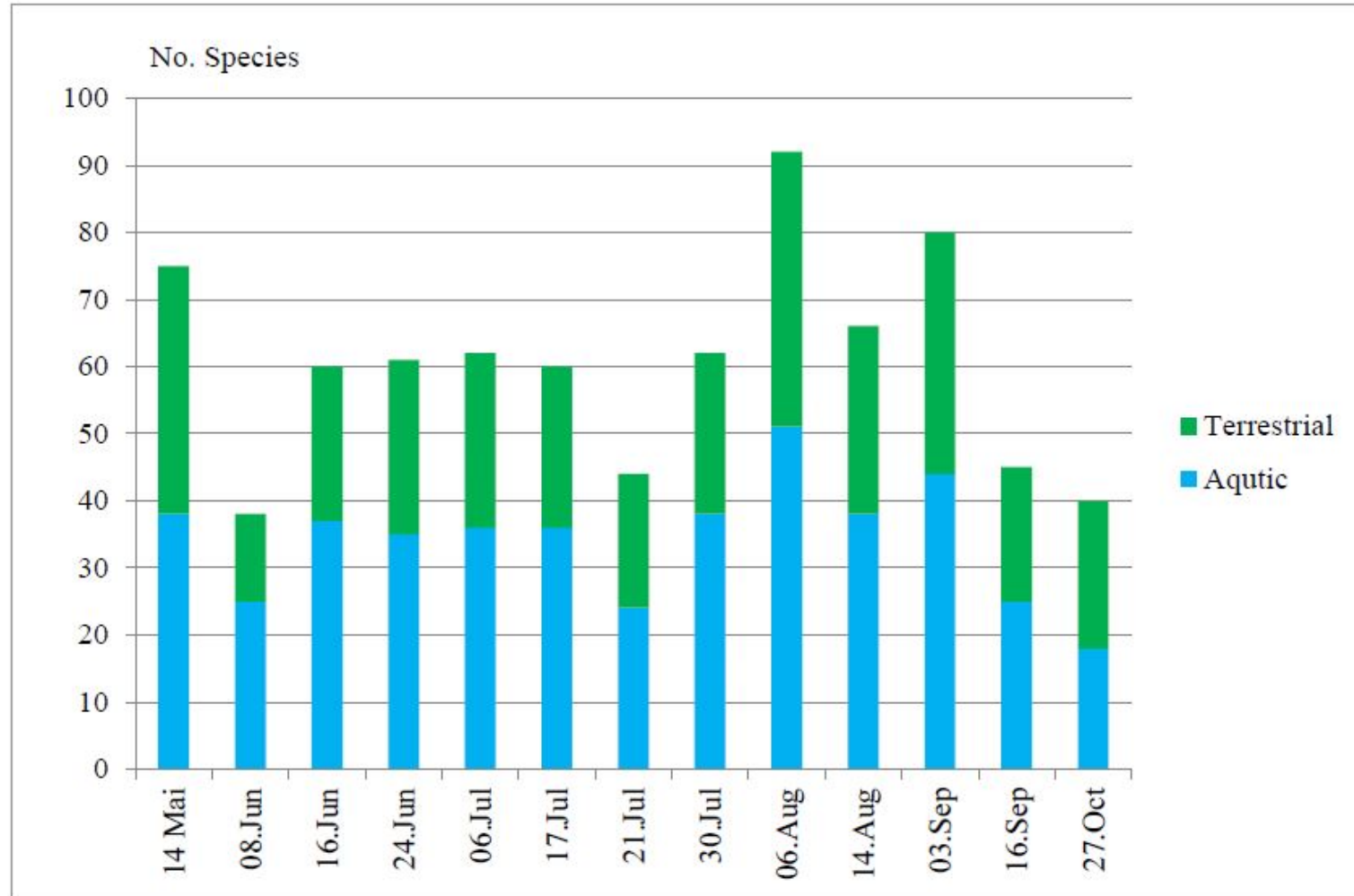








The bird fauna is very rich in Fundu Mare Island. In the period May-October 2015 there was observed 22943 individuals of 106 species of birds belonging to 40 families and 16 orders (Onea 2015).





Nine species of aquatic birds are nesting in mixed colonies in the Chiriloaia Lake



Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*  
Little Heron *Egretta garzetta*  
Great White Heron *Ardea alba*  
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*



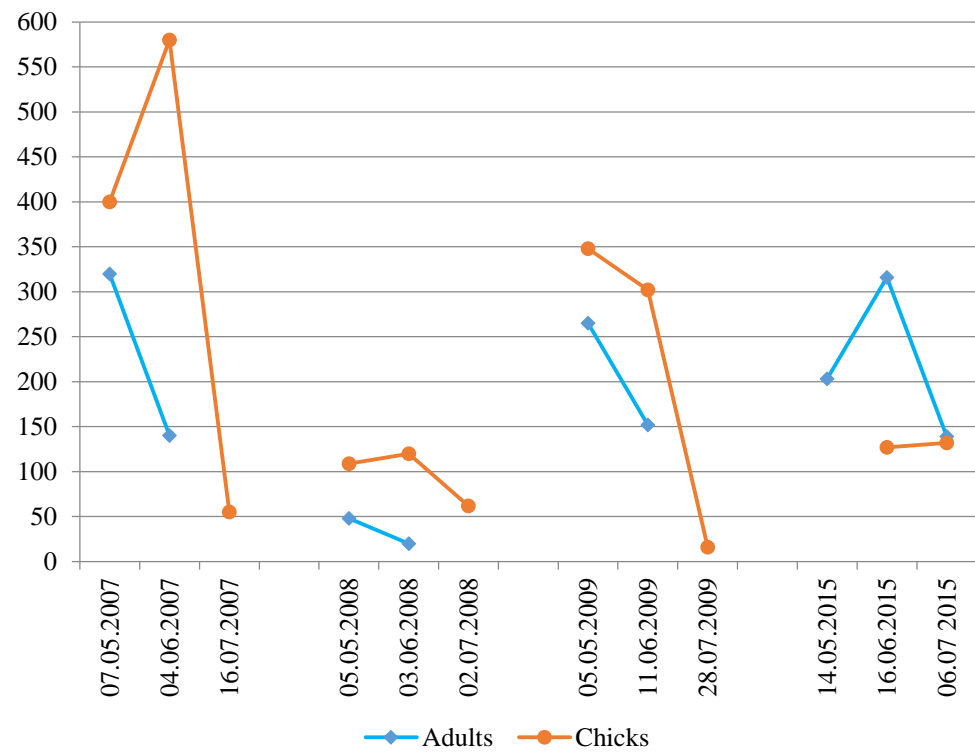
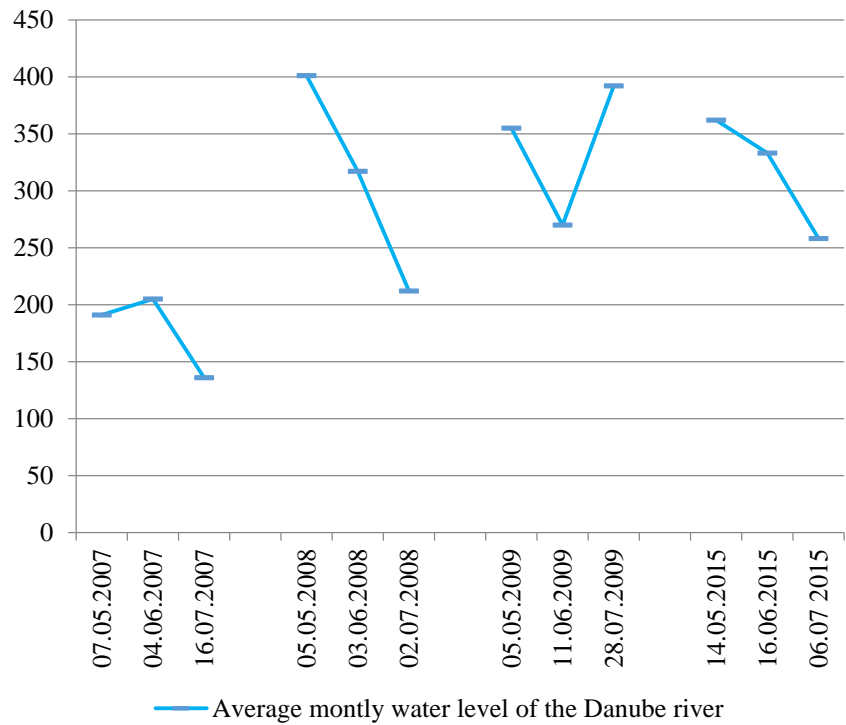




Previous observations (Onea 2002, 2011) have shown that the water level of the two wetlands of Fundu Mare Island (Chiriloaia and Misaila) is so much reduced in some years, that the amount of aquatic bird species is also reduced.

This is due to a lowering in the Danube's water level and the increased evaporation caused by high summer temperatures







In 2007 and 2008, high temperature with prolonged drought during the summer months led to a rapid drying of Chiriloaia Lake. The population of Great Cormorant was reduced from 320 nesting pairs in 2007 to only 51 pairs in 2008 (Onae 2011).



The mortality of chicks were also high (14,3 %) in 2008



In 2009 some hydromechanical actions were applied for preventing the water to flow from the Chiriloaia Lake. It reduced the extreme effects caused by drought and had beneficial effects on the birds

The population of Great Cormorant increased to 265 pairs (from 51 in 2008), and they produced 348 chicks (Onae 2011).





In 2015 the water from the lake was also artificially maintained at an acceptable level until August by some operations for bloking the water flow. The bird populations were at a normal level.





It is important for our project that Nicolae Onae can continue the bird monitoring in the coming years, so the effects of the restoration work at Fundu Mare Island can be documented.

