Ecological Character of Indawgyi Ramsar Site

Lake habitats include: Open water, herbaceous marsh, floating mats, limited emergent beds and extensive areas of submerged macrophytes.

Due to the relatively high transparency of the water (c.3.5m), there are extensive beds of submerged and floating leaved macrophytes. In addition, there are extensive areas of herbaceous marsh grading into floating mats in certain parts, especially at the north end between Nyaungbin and the Indawgyi Chaung outflow, at the southern end and around the major Nanyinkha Chaung inflow. The floating mats are dominated by the genus Salvinia, Eichhornia, Polygonum and grasses. Beds of emergents are relatively few. The submerged macrophytes are dominated by the genus Vallisneria, with Ceratophyllum demersum most common. Around the drying margins of the lake, a species of Barringtonia is common which presumably gets inundated in the wet season.

The seasonally inundated and water logged plains surrounding the lake were probably covered by herbaceous marsh and scrub swamp and swamp forest/woodland but have been mostly converted to rice fields except for the herbaceous marsh which undergoes more prolonged inundation closer to the open water of the lake, and in the region of Nang Kwin Lake. Native vegetation in the surrounding catchment is moist broadleaf forest with many teak (Tectona grandis) individuals.