

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

06.11. 94

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Zaire

3. Name of wetland:

Parc National des Mangroves (PNdM)

4. Geographical coordinates: 5°45'-6°05' S, 12°45'-13° E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.)

0-110m

6. Area: (in hectares) 66,000 ha, including 20%

sea.

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The Parc National des Mangroves is located in climate type AW5 (Köppen). It consists of two plateaux, one at 20-30 m elevation, the other at 110 m. The plateaux are bordered by swamplands washed by the Zaire River.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a . 1b . 1c . 1d | 2a . 2b . 2c . 2d | 3a . 3b . 3c | 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form: see original, box 4

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching

extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

Representative example of a wetland which plays an important ecological role in the coastal system. It contains an assemblage of vulnerable or endangered plant and animal species. There are also a number of bird species.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The PNdM lies at the mouth of the Zaire River on the Atlantic coast, in the Bas-Zaire region. Moanda administrative district, 120 km from the port of Boma, the former capital of Belgian Congo (now Zaire).

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Geologically, the PNdM lies on strata dating from the Upper Cretaceous, topped with Tertiary strata covered in turn with more recent soil deposits. The coastal belt has Holocene deposits producing poor clay and yellowish clayey-sandy soils. The park land includes both sea and river waters, as well as ponds in the inland habitats, some of which are swampy to varying degrees. Mean annual rainfall is 746 mm. Normally, rainfall is irregular, and varies greatly from month to month. There are two periods of heavy rains (March-April and November), separated by a period of less rain (January-February). The tropical climate is mitigated by the sea and the influence of the cold Benguela current.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

Important mangroves, mainly for their:

- biological role: feeding and wintering grounds for migratory birds;
 - physical and chemical role: protection against erosion of coasts, chemo-regulation of waters; air purification.
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16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Moving inwards from the coast the following vegetation species predominate:

Rhizophora racemosa and *R. mangle*;
Avicenia nitida and *A. tomentosa*;
Longucularia racemosa;
Hibiscus tiliaceus;
Acrostichum aureum.

The park also includes wet grassland formations with *Heteropogon contortres* and *Andropogon schirensis*. These formations are interspersed with forest savanna and strips of forest under *Corynanthe paniculata* as well as grassland savanna under *Annona arenaria* and *Anisophylla pogeii*. Also present are swamp vegetation, *Canavalia maritima*, *Ipomea pescaprae* and *Alternanthera maritima* formations.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

cf. Section 16 above (mangroves)

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

a) Large mammals:

pangolin (giant -, tree dwelling -)
dwarf buffalo,
manatee,
sable antelope

b) birds:

white pelican, grey pelican,
goliath heron, gray heron, purple heron,
wigeon, geese, guinea-fowl,
oiseau serpent*, butous*, grand male*, African jaribou *, anocette moineau*, cormorant,
hammerhead stork, plover, snipe, sandpiper, wood lark, black-winged stilt, lesser flamingo, partridge,
bustard, Latham's francolin, etc....

c) reptiles:

snakes, turtles

d) aquatic fauna:

fish: (shark, barracuda, sole, capitaine*)

crustacea: (shrimp, crab)

shellfish: (oyster).

*Translator's notes:

oiseau serpent could be either secretary-bird or Congo snake-eagle,

butous could be a misprint for butors (bittern),

grand male is obviously a local name, but for what?

Jaribou = jabiru?

Anocette moineau = misprint for Avocette, Moineau (avocet, sparrow)?

Capitaine (fish) again, obviously a local name - could be *Eleutheronema tetradactylum* or *Polynemus quadrifilis*.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Important fish and crustacean reserves for local fisheries.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site; State-owned land (b) surrounding area: public lands held by local authorities or rural communities, and private holdings.

21. Current land use:

(a) site: fisheries

(b) surroundings/catchment: subsistence crops, hunting and wild harvesting.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

(a) at the site: decline in biodiversity caused by human activities (gathering medicinal plants)

(b) around the site:

- deforestation caused by fuelwood cutting;
- pollution from refinery;
- major deposits of mud in the estuary due to inadequate dredging of river;
- production of subsistence crops, despite poor soil quality;
- uncontrolled urban development in one of the sectors of the park (coastal strip);
- nine species of rare or endangered mammals, including manatee; six bird and eight reptile species, including marine turtle, at risk from destruction of habitats in the Maritime Park and from irrational resource utilisation.

POTENTIAL FACTORS AROUND THE SITE:

- Development work in the Zaire River estuary and the Moanda region;
- Development by the Regie des Voies Maritimes (Seaways Board) of transshipment infrastructures for

lighterage;

- Development of the Banana deep water harbour which already threatens the integrity of the park and the preservation of the mangrove ecosystem.
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23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Creation of the Reserve Naturelle des Mangroves or Parc Marin by Ministerial Decree 044/CM/ECN/92, 2 May 1992

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Management plan being prepared.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.) none

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.) none

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

The mangrove ecosystem is the only international selling-feature of the Bas-Zaire tourist circuit (Kinshasa- ocean), providing incomparable opportunities for ecotourism, game fishing, water skiing, bathing, etc....

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Territorial jurisdiction:

Région du Bas-Zaire

Sous-région de Bas-Fleuve

Zone de Moanda

Operational jurisdiction

Ministère de l'Environnement, Conservation, de la Nature et Tourisme

B. P. 12.348 KINSHASA 1, Zaire

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Institut Zairois pour la Conservation de la Nature (IZCN)

13, avenue des Cliniques

B.P. 868, KINSHASA-GOMBE

Zaire

Tel: 243-12-31.401

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only) cf. French original section 29

Please return to: Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland

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