

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7HX, England

IEG001
office use only

1. Country: Egypt

2. Date: 8/8/94

3. Ref: IEG001
office use only

4. Name and address of compiler: Arab Republic Of Egypt
Cabinet Of Ministers
Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency
Department of Natural Protectorates
23A Ismaeil Mohamed St., Zamalek, Cairo.

5. Name of wetland: BARDAWIL

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 9.9.88

7. Geographical coordinates: 31.10°N 33.08°E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) North Sinai, West of El Arish

9. Area: (in hectares) (km²)
XXXXXX
515 km²

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
Marine and Coastal Wetland (#10)

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
Sea level

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
Hyper Saline Lagoon, Shallow, with a sand Bar, and 3 sea connections.

13. 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)
Very shallow lagoon , about 75 km long by 22 km wide . Water depth never exceeds 3m . Three inlets connect the lagoon with the sea. An are shaped sand bar (300 - 1000 in wide) supports the lagoon from the sea. The bottom of the lagoon is sandy, and silty clay is found in its deepest parts.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
Open water , saline and hyper salineshallows and saltpans, Bare sand shores, Mud flats, Salt Marsh.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site State owned / Fisheries Authority control

(b) surrounding area State / Private

16. 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)

The eastern most part of lake Bardawil, has been declared a protected area in the rest of the site is not protected.

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

EC proposal to expand the protected area at Zaranik west wards, to include larger parts of Bardawil.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site Fishery, salt extraction

(b) surroundings/catchment Grazing, rain fed cultivation, tourism.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

- Over fishing.
- Increase in human population.
- Disturbance.
- Road construction on sand bar.
- pollution.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

- Urban encroachment.
- Tourist development.
- North Sinai development project and introduction of Nile water to the local Ecosystem.

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

Shore line fairly stable. Sea connections are dredged regularly to maintain low Salinity in the lake.

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

Important local fishery \pm 2,000 tons / annually of export quality fish.

Some archeological sites in east and west of the site .

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

Important for flamingo 13,000 counted in winter 1990, and Cormorant 30,000 counted in winter 1993/94. Internationally important numbers of Little tern and Kentish plover breed at site.

Some of the few remaining populations (world wide) of the endangered Egyptian Tortoise Testudo kleinmanni are found at the site, there are indication that the site is also ifimportance for breeding Loggerhead turtles Caretta caretta

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

none known

24. **Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)
Zaranik protected area administrative building has been completed recently.

25. **Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)
The above building includes a visitor center, but needs equipment and educational materials.

26. **Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)
Some recreational visits, but very limited potential is good through.

27. **Management authority:** (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)
Bardawil, Fishing resources Authority
Zaranik, Natural Protectorates Department

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

29. **Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)
Meininger, P.L, and Mullie, W.C, (1981). The significance of Egyptian wetlands for wintering waterbirds, HLCF.
Goodman, SM Meininger, P. L. (1989) The Birds of Egypt, Oxford University press. Varty, N. Baha Eldin, SM, Salama, W. (1990). Assessment of the importance of lake Bardawil for birds, and the likely impact of the NSADP on The region's bird populations and their habitats. Birdlife International.

30. **Reasons for inclusion:** (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

31. **Map of site** (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)
