

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: 14 January, 2002 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country: St. Lucia, West Indies

3. Name of wetland: Savannes Bay

4. Geographical coordinates: 1522000N, 516400 E (British West Indian Grid)

5. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.) 0 (sea level)

6. Area: 24.61 hec.

7. Overview: Contains three of the most valued tropical marine ecosystems; mangrove forest, sea grass beds, coral reef. It has long been utilized for subsistence based activities by adjacent communities. It is important to wildlife and erosion control.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types; in the present document, the "Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type" is found on page 9)

marine-coastal: (A) • (B) • (C) • D • E • F • G • H • (I) • J • K • Zk(a)

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

human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

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

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • (2) • (3) • (4) • 5 • 6 • (7) • (8)

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 2

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

(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: Lyndon John
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12. Justification: Savannes Bay wetland represents a significant endangered ecosystem in the Eastern Caribbean. An extensive inventory of fauna and flora needs to be conducted, however, the mangrove is currently recognized as a vital nursery for the local fishery. The Caribbean spiny lobster (*P. argus*) is one of the species that occupies the mangrove and seagrass as a nursery. In Savannes Bay, the juvenile lobster settle in the mangroves, sea grass beds and coral rubble. It is the single most valuable species in most of the islands of the Caribbean and in St. Lucia it supports our artisanal fisheries particularly during the “low period” for offshore pelagics. A listing of species identified in the area to date is included in this statement.

Savannes Bay : Fringe mangrove

Size: 24.61 hectares

13. General Location: Located on the southeast coast in the quarter of Vieux Fort, the closest administrative town carries the same name-Vieux Fort.

14. Physical features: Large bay at base of a drainage basin. The largest fringing mangrove on the island.

15. Hydrological values: Hillside run-off, confined to streams notably in rainy season, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization

16. Ecological features : Savannes Bay is a highly productive tropical marine ecosystem consisting of mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. These habitats provide nursery and feeding grounds for a wide variety of marine and coastal species. Two zones exist in the mangrove (1) an extensive fringe of red mangrove along the coast and (2) a broad zone of White and Black mangrove. The vegetation is very well developed; trees are 6-12 metres in height; Seagrass consists of a *Halimeda/Thalassia* zone, *Thalassia/Syringodium/Halodule* zone and the coral colonies consist mainly of *Diploria clivosa* and *Porites astreoides*. The offshore reef plays a vital role in protecting the seagrass beds and the mangrove.

17. Flora : Low in central portion; of average height in north and south, 10-12m

Mangrove: *Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicennia germinans*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Conocarpus erecta*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Acrosticum aureum*

Seagrass: *Thalassia testudinum*, *Halimeda opuntiaingodium*, *Syringodium filiforme*

Algae: *Caulerpa cymosa*, *Penicillus capitatus*, *Liagora sp.*, *Udotea sp.*

18. Marine Fauna:

Species	
<i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i>	Sargeant major
<i>Tripneustes ventricosus</i>	White sea egg
<i>Acanthurus bahianus</i>	Ocean surgeon
<i>Pomacentrus partitus</i>	Bicolor Damsel
<i>Pomacentrus fuscus</i>	Dusky Damsel
<i>Pomacentrus planifrons</i>	3 spot Damsel

<i>Millipora complanata</i>	Fire coral
<i>Halichoeres masculipinne</i>	Clown wrasse
<i>Panulirus argus</i>	Caribbean spiny lobster
<i>Siderastrea radians</i>	Starlet coral
<i>Porites asteroides</i>	Mustard hill
<i>Diploria clivosa</i>	Brain coral
<i>Stephanocoenia michilini</i>	Blushing star
<i>Porites divaricata</i>	Finger coral
<i>Gorgonia sp.</i>	Sea Fan

Fauna: Birds

Due to very few faunal studies conducted in the area the following list consists of species that have been recorded within the vicinity of the mangrove and adjacent wetlands (e.g. Mankote, Latourney ponds).

Migrant Species	
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbaris</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>

Fauna: Birds

Resident Species	
<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	Carib Grackle
<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	Zenaida Dove
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green back heron
<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	Bananaquit
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow warbler
<i>Elaenia martinica</i>	Caribbean elaenia
<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	Mangrove cuckoo
<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	Black whiskered vireo
<i>Saltator albicollis</i>	Streaked saltator
<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common ground dove
<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	Grey Kingbird
<i>Loxigilla noctis</i>	Lesser Antillean bullfinch
<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>	Black faced grassquit
<i>Margarops fuscus</i>	Scaly breasted Thrasher
<i>Orthorhynchus cristatus</i>	Lesser Antillean hummingbird
<i>Turdus nudigensis</i>	Bare eyed Robin

19. Social and cultural value: Savannes Bay supports a thriving fishing industry for the adjacent communities as it provides important habitat for fisheries generation. The Caribbean spiny lobster (*P. argus*) is one of the species that occupies the mangrove and seagrass as a nursery. In Savannes Bay, the juvenile lobster settle in the mangroves, sea grass beds and coral rubble. It is the single most valuable species in most of the islands of the Caribbean and in St. Lucia it supports our artisanal fisheries particularly during the “low period” for offshore pelagics.

20. Land Tenure: Crown lands (i.e. state owned), Savannes Bay declared a marine reserve under the Fisheries Act (1984) (Declared list in 15 Oct. 1986 and in 1990). As a marine reserve, no extractive activity is allowed and entry into the reserve is subject to the approval of the management authority. Proposed IUCN category: IV (Wildlife-Reserve like).

21. Current land Use: The mangrove remains in good condition. (Surroundings/catchment) Adjacent properties are developed and are occupied mainly with residential areas. There is a quarry to the south and an extensive open marsh pond (Eau Piquant).

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: There is some illicit harvesting of wood from the mangrove, primarily for charcoal production. The predominant factor which may adversely affect the mangrove is uncontrolled development of adjacent areas.

23. Conservation measures taken: Crown lands (i.e. state owned), Savannes Bay declared a marine reserve under the Fisheries Act (1984) (Declared list in 15 Oct. 1986 and in 1990).

As a marine reserve, no extractive activity is allowed and entry into the reserve is subject to the approval of the management authority.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Savannes Bay is included in the proposed Point Sable National Park complex in the System of National Parks by the St. Lucia National Trust.

25. Current scientific research and facilities; Recommendations have been made for detailed studies to be conducted on the fauna of the site. There is no permanent scientific field station established in the area. There is a structure used by the community group for vending fish.

26. Current conservation education: Conservation education in St. Lucia focused on the rainforests and the national bird, the St. Lucia parrot (*Amazona versicolor*) and achieved significant levels of success. Generally conservation education pertaining to wetlands has been limited.

27. Current recreation and tourism: The traditional recreation value of the mangrove has been fishing and crab hunting. No specific tourism activity conducted on site.

28. Jurisdiction: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Fisheries Department and the Forestry Department.

29. Management Authority:	Chief Fisheries Officer Department of Fisheries Castries St. Lucia	Chief Forestry Officer Forestry Department Union Castries St. Lucia
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30. Bibliography

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