

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the Official Respondent:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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City Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
UK
Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948
Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Updated by UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, 102 Broadway, Peterborough,
PE1 4DG, UK

(with assistance from Bermuda Dept. of Conservation Services)

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 10 May 1999

3. Country:

UK (Bermuda)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Somerset Long Bay Pond

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Bermuda / mid-North Atlantic Islands

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	sand, peat
Geomorphology and landscape	coastal
Nutrient status	
pH	
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Subtropical; mild, humid; gales, strong winds common in winter.

General description of the Physical Features:

This pond is separated from the ocean only by low sand dunes, therefore the storm or tidal surge experienced during hurricanes, such as Hurricane Emily in 1987, can flood it with sea water, destroying or disrupting the freshwater ecosystem of the pond for many months. The sea flooding experienced during Emily disrupted the breeding of water birds such as gallinules and American coots. It was many months before the salt water seeped out of the pond.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Low-lying sandy/peaty back-beach area.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

19. Wetland types:

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
K	Coastal fresh lagoons	50
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	50

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Open pond with beds of *Ruppia maritima* and mangrove islets.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Red mangrove *Rhizophora mangle*, black mangrove *Avicennia germinans* and widgeon grass *Ruppia maritima*.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds

Species Information

Top-minnows *Gambusia holbrookii* are present in the pond. Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, American coot *Fulica americana* and pied-billed grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* breed in the pond. Important stopover and wintering site for migrant ducks, herons and egrets.

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Environmental education/ interpretation

Tourism

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? **No**

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	
Recreation	+	
Urban development		+

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

Explanation of reporting category:

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Pollution – unspecified	1	There is a potential threat of pollution from rain run-off, from Long Bay Lane, for pollutants such as diesel, transmission oil, etc. Also, because of former use of pond area as a garbage dump, metal pollutants such as lead and iron may be present as leachate in pond. Increased residential and tourism development in area poses potential for cesspit seepage of nutrients into the pond, although there is no significant evidence for this at this time.	+	+	
General disturbance from human activities	2	Recently, illegal activities (such as long-term camping, motor cycle/ motor-cross 'scrambling', dumping, and digging for antique bottles) have taken place on the reserve in close proximity to the pond. Trash has occasionally been blown or dumped into the pond in small quantities from the camping while the motor-cross usage carries the potential for fuel or oil leaks or spill that could pollute the pond. Stolen motorcycles have also been occasionally dumped in the pond resulting in small spills of gasoline; however these normally disperse quickly.	+		

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Management plan in preparation	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

Drainage/land-claim: (unspecified) - Previously had been infilled as garbage dump site.

Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation - Bermuda Audubon Society.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation - It would be desirable to extend the boundaries as the seagrass bed in the area outside but adjacent to the present Ramsar site is particularly large and healthy.

Introduction/invasion of non-native animal species - No information provided.

Drainage/land-claim: (unspecified) - No information provided.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Records of breeding/migratory waterfowl using the Pond have been kept since 1980s.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Neighbourhood schools use the site for environmental education on wetlands.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

The local population and tourists utilize the beach area while there are occasional ecotourist visits to the pond.

Regular use by local and visiting birdwatchers.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Ministry of the Environment

Government of Bermuda, Government House,
Hamilton, Bermuda

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Bermuda Audubon Society, P.O. Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX, Bermuda
Dept. of Conservation Services, P.O. Box FL588, Flatts FLBX, Bermuda
Dept. of Parks, Botanical Gardens, 169 South Shore Rd, Paget DV04, Bermuda

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

Bermuda Audubon Society newsletters. www.audubon.bm/Newsletters.htm

Hayward, SJ, Gomez, FH & Sterrer, W (eds.) (1981) *Bermuda's delicate balance: people and environment*. Bermuda National Trust, Paget

Pienkowski, M (ed.) (2003) *A sense of direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Bermuda 22nd–27th March 2003*. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, Peterborough. www.ukotcf.org

Pienkowski, MW (ed.) (2005) *Review of existing and potential Ramsar sites in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies*. (Contractor: UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, Peterborough.) Final report on Contract CR0294 to the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Bristol. www.ukotcf.org

Proctor, D & Fleming, LV (eds.) (1999) *Biodiversity: the UK Overseas Territories*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

Wingate, DB (1984) *Taking stock of Bermuda's wetland heritage*. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hamilton

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