United Arab Emirates
Wasit Nature Reserve

Designation date: 9 May 2019
Site number: 2386
Coordinates: 25°21'57"N 55°27'51"E
Area: 86,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2386
Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 28 June 2019
### 1 - Summary

Located some 15 km from the coast and the city of Sharjah, this reserve is a complex of natural inland lake and wetland habitats with total area of 86 hectares. It is a unique lake which represents a part of the remaining endangered coastal habitats (Hellyer & Aspinall, 2005). The lake and wetland habitats support a rich diversity of wetland species. According to the archaeological surveys done by Hellyer and Aspinall the reserve was formerly a tidal lagoon which provide important evidence of the evolution of the coastline of Sharjah over past two thousands year (2005). The lake within the protected area is the last remaining lake of a large network of the former Ramtha inland lakes and lagoons that existed before the cities of Ajman and Sharjah expanded to their current extent. This network encompasses of wetland, mudflats, one large lake, several small lakes, a sand dune area, dense reed beds and woody thickets, supporting more than 20 species of plants. To date 144 species of bird have been observed in the reserve (eBird, 2018), and more than 76 migratory species have been observed. The most abundant resident wader species in the reserve are the Black winged stilts (Himantopus himantopus) and Kentish plovers (Charadrius alexandrinus), both breed in the reserve. Other breeding wetland birds include Red-wattled lapwings (Vanellus indicus) and White tailed lapwings (Vanellus leucurus). The site supports several near threatened species like Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea), Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica), Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa), Eurasian Curlew (Numenius arquata) and a vulnerable species Socotra Cormorant (Phalacrocorax nigrogularis). Notable migrant wader visitors are Pacific golden plovers (Pluvialis fluvia), Greater flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus) and common ringed plovers (Charadrius hiaticula). The reserve, owned by the government of Sharjah Emirate, was declared as a National Protected Area in 2004. A visitor centre was established in November 2015 for the purpose of education, public awareness and eco-tourism.
2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Fatima Ahmed Hassan, Brendan Whittington-Jones, John Frederick Pereira</th>
</tr>
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<td>Environment and Protected Areas Authority</td>
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<td>Postal address</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
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<tr>
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Compiler 2

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

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<th>From year</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Official name (in English, French or Spanish)</th>
<th>Wasit Nature Reserve</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unofficial name (optional)</td>
<td>محمية واسط الطبيعية</td>
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

<table>
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<th>Former maps</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boundaries description</th>
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<tr>
<td>The boundaries of the site are the same as the existing boundary for Wasit Nature Reserve, a proclaimed protected area in the Emirate of Sharjah within the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Wasit Nature Reserve is situated in a residential suburb of Sharjah, approximately 15 km from the city of Sharjah. The boundary of Wasit Nature Reserve is fully fenced. There is a large power station, and large traffic intersection on the northern boundary of the reserve. The western and southern borders of the reserve border on the residential suburb of Wasit. The North-eastern boundary of Wasit Nature Reserve is on the border with the Emirate of Ajman.</td>
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2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Sharjah City

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Ajman City

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only
a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ☐ No ☑

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ☐ No ☑

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 86

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 85.911

2.2.5 - Biogeography

<table>
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<td>WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions</td>
<td>the Southwestern Asia (Palearctic PA 1303)</td>
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Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The site lies within two terrestrial ecoregions of the world among the WWF’s Global 200 Ecoregions, the Southwestern Asia (Palearctic PA 1303) and the Arabian Peninsula (AT1306). The Southwestern Asia ecoregion contains most of Saudi Arabia, extending into Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria. Located on the Arabian Peninsula, the Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands.
3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

CHECKED Criterion 2: Rare species and threatened ecological communities

CHECKED Criterion 3: Biological diversity

Wasit Nature Reserve supports more than 20 species of plants and to date there have been 144 species of birds observed in the reserve, with more than 76 migratory species have been observed. The most abundant resident wader species in the reserve are Black winged stilts (Himantopus himantopus) and Kentish plovers (Charadrius alexandrinus). Both breed in the reserve. Other breeding wetland birds include Redwattled lapwings (Vanellus indicus) and White tailed lap wings (Vanellus leucurus). Notable migrant wader visitors are Pacific golden plovers (Pluvialis flava) and Greater flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus) and common ringed plovers (Charadrius hiaticula). In habitats surrounding the lake notable breeding and visiting birds are; Graceful prinia (Prinia gracilis), reed warblers (Acrocephalus sps). Southern red bishops (Euplectes orix), several species of weaver and Blue throats (Luscinia svecica). Bee eaters (Merops spp), Crested larks (Galerida cristata), Durian and Turkestan shrikes (Lanius isabellinus) are common in other terrestrial habitats. Western Marsh harriers (Circus aeruginosus) breed in the reserve, they are joined by several visiting migrant raptors during the spring and summer periods. Several species of snakes and small mammals are known to live in the reserve; namely, Afro-Asian sand snake (Psammophis schokari schokari), Arabian horned vipers (Cerastes gasperetti), Saw scaled vipers (Echis carinatus sochureki) and Ethiopian hedgehogs (Paraechinus aethiopicus) a near threatened species in the UAE.

CHECKED Criterion 4: Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

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<th>% occurrence</th>
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| CHORDATA / AVES | Charadrius alexandrinus | Kentish Plover, Snowy Plover | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | The site is important for Kentish Plover (Charadrius alexandrinus) breeding.
| CHORDATA / AVES | Charadrius dubius | Little Ringed Plover | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | The site is important for Common Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) breeding.
| CHORDATA / AVES | Charadrius hiaticula | Common Ringed Plover | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Charadrius leschenaultii | Greater Sand Plover, Greater Sand-Plover | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Charadrius mongolus | Lesser Sand Plover, Lesser Sand-Plover | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Cinnyris asiaticus | Purple Sunbird | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Circus aeruginosus | Western Marsh Harrier | 2014-2017 | ✔✔✔✔✔✔✔✔ | LC | | | | | | The site is important for western marsh harrier (Circus aeruginosus) breeding.
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<th>CITES Appendix</th>
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<td>Green Bee-eater</td>
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<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>The site is important for Green Bee-eater (Merops orientalis) breeding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA</td>
<td>Muscicapa striata</td>
<td>Spotted Flycatcher</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA</td>
<td>Ninox arquata</td>
<td>Eurasian Curlew</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA</td>
<td>Oenanthe deserti</td>
<td>Desert Wheatear</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA</td>
<td>Pernis ptilorhynchus</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA</td>
<td>Phalaropus lobatus</td>
<td>Red-necked Phalarope</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA</td>
<td>Phalaropus pygmas</td>
<td>Ruff</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ ☐</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Scientific name</td>
<td>Common name</td>
<td>Species qualifies under criterion</td>
<td>Species contributes under criterion</td>
<td>Pop. Size</td>
<td>Period of pop. Est.</td>
<td>% occurrence 1)</td>
<td>IUCN Red List</td>
<td>CITES Appendix</td>
<td>CMS Appendix</td>
<td>Other Status</td>
<td>Justification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Phoenicopterus roseus</td>
<td>Greater Flamingo</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</td>
<td>Common Redstart</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Phylloscopus collybita</td>
<td>Common Chiffchaff</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Platalea leucorodia</td>
<td>Eurasian Spoonbill</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Plagadis falcinellus</td>
<td>Glossy Ibis</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Pluvialis apricaria</td>
<td>European Golden Plover; European Golden Plover</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Pluvialis fulva</td>
<td>Pacific Golden Plover</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Pluvialis squatarola</td>
<td>Grey Plover; Black-bellied Plover</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Pycnonotus cafer</td>
<td>Red-vented Bulbul</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Pycnonotus leucotis</td>
<td>White-eared Bulbul</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Recurvirostra avosetta</td>
<td>Pied Avocet</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Saxicola rubetra</td>
<td>Whinchat</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Sterna hirundo</td>
<td>Common Tern</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Sterna albifrons</td>
<td>Little Tern</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Streptopelia decaocto</td>
<td>Eurasian Collared Dove; Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2014-2017</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Sylvia atricapilla</td>
<td>Menetries’s Warbler</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Tachybaptus ruficollis</td>
<td>Little Grebe</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA / AVES</td>
<td>Tringa erythropus</td>
<td>Spotted Redshank</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why is the Site important?, S3 - Page 4
### Phylum | Scientific name | Common name | Species qualifies under criterion | Species contributes under criterion | Pop. Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix | CMS Appendix | Other Status | Justification
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
CHORDATA / AVES | Tringa nebularia | Common Greenshank |  |  |  |  | 2014-2017 | 2 | | | | | The site is important for Red-wattled Lapwing (Vanellus indicus) breeding.
CHORDATA / AVES | Tringa ochropus | Green Sandpiper |  |  |  |  |  | | | | | | |
CHORDATA / AVES | Tringa totanus | Common Redshank |  |  |  |  | 2014-2017 | 3 | | | | |
CHORDATA / AVES | Upupa epops | Common Hoopoe; Eurasian Hoopoe |  |  |  |  | 2014-2017 | 2 | | | | |
CHORDATA / AVES | Vanellus indicus | Red-wattled Lapwing |  |  |  |  | 2014-2017 | 17 | | | | |

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

### 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>
4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

As a small wetland and urban conservation area, the site acts as an island of habitats within the limits of Sharjah City. Wasit Nature Reserve is an important habitat for a high diversity of wetland species and migrant visitors to the Arabian Peninsula. With 111 recorded bird species in the Area the past ten years from 2008 till 2018 (ebird, 2018), which makes the reserve an important area for bird conservation. Small terrestrial habitats are an important refuge for small mammals and reptiles from the surrounding suburban infrastructure. The landscaping, planting, vegetation management and natural maturation of the location has led to the formation of a complex matrix of small habitats. These include low dunes vegetated with halophytic succulents and scrubland, dense stands of mixed-species woodlands. The water’s edge is in part sparsely vegetated, densely vegetated with halophytic species or fringed by dense stands of reed beds (Phragmites australis). In addition to the water levels of the surrounding landscape, the primary water inflow is fresh water from inland, underground drainage. Water levels at the wetland fluctuate seasonally and are lowest at the end of the summer months, corresponding with an increase in salinity concentrations. Increased salinity can adversely impact the populations of the only resident fish species, Arabian toothcarp (Aphanius dispar dispar) although their resilience and tolerances for change have enabled their persistence.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wetland types (code and name)</th>
<th>Local name</th>
<th>Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)</th>
<th>Area (ha) of wetland type</th>
<th>Justification of Criterion 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saline, brackish or alkaline water &gt; Lakes &gt;&gt; Q: Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline, brackish or alkaline water &gt;&gt; Marshes &amp; pools &gt;&gt; Sp: Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline, brackish or alkaline water &gt;&gt; Marshes &amp; pools &gt;&gt; Ss: Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wetland types (code and name)</th>
<th>Local name</th>
<th>Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)</th>
<th>Area (ha) of wetland type</th>
<th>Justification of Criterion 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2: Ponds</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Position in range / endemism / other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phragmites australis</td>
<td>The Phragmites australis are important for small passerines and act as a natural filtration system, keeping the water in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Pop. size</th>
<th>Period of pop. est.</th>
<th>% occurrence</th>
<th>Position in range / endemism / other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGI</td>
<td>Aphanius dispar dispar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/REPTILIA</td>
<td>Carasius gosperi</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Euplectes orix</td>
<td>Southern Red Bishop</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Galerida cristata</td>
<td>Crested Lark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Lanius isabellinus</td>
<td>Isabelline Shrike</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Luscinia svecica</td>
<td>Bluethroat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Palaearctia alpina</td>
<td>Desert Hedgeshong</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Prinia gracilis</td>
<td>Graceful Prinia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/REPTILIA</td>
<td>Pisonops ochotleri</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHORDATA/AVES</td>
<td>Vanellus leucurus</td>
<td>White-tailed Lapwing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climatic region</th>
<th>Subregion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B: Dry climate</td>
<td>BWh: Subtropical desert (Low-latitude desert)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)
   5

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)
   20

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The Arabian Gulf

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral
- Organic
- No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?
- Yes
- No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The site is comprised of fine grained sand and inter-bedded sandstone layers. In the eastern and western portions of the site the sands are underlain by clay.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

| Presence? | Usually-seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present | No change |

Source of water that maintains character of the site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence?</th>
<th>Predominant water source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water inputs from groundwater</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water inputs from rainfall</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water destination

| Presence? | Feeds groundwater | No change |

Stability of water regime

| Presence? | Water levels fluctuating (including tidal) | No change |

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

The hydrogeology of the site was determined on an investigation of the site conducted in 2006 (Barsch et all, 2006). Using borehole investigations throughout the area the study determined that groundwater plays a vital role in maintaining water in the lake. Groundwater flow in the Reserve and surrounding areas has been determined based on information from the onsite groundwater monitoring from 10 observation wells and on a general understanding of regional groundwater flow (Barsch et all, 2006) Ground water flows from East to West at approximately 0.5 m below the surface. The source of this water originates from a large aquifer with its source below the Hajar Mountains which collects additional water from seepage on dune sheets.

The water in the lake fluctuates seasonally. It is usually at its fullest after the winter rains (March) and at its lowest at the end of summer (September/October). The water in the lakes is brackish with normal salinity levels below 30 ppt. During extremely hot and dry periods when the water level in the lake decreases salinity has reached 100 ppt.

A negligible volume of water enters the lake from irrigation systems. This water is treated sewerage water from the city of Sharjah. Otherwise there is no direct anthropogenic water contribution to the lake.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

- Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site
- Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site
- Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site
- Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually
- Sediment regime unknown
4.4.6 - Water pH

- Acid (pH < 5.5)
- Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)
- Alkaline (pH > 7.4)
- Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

- Fresh (<0.5 g/l)
- Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)
- Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)
- Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)
- Unknown

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):
The water in the lakes is brackish with normal salinity levels below 30 ppt. During extremely hot and dry periods when the water level in the lake decreases salinity has reached 100 ppt.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

- Eutrophic
- Mesotrophic
- Oligotrophic
- Dystrophic
- Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):
Total phosphorus: Wasit wetland habitats fell within the range of phosphoros concentrations associated with eutrophic conditions.
Nutrient enrichment with respect to nitrogen is at a relatively low level at Wasit wetland reserve as a whole, with total nitrogen concentration for most sites falling within the range expected systems for oligotrophic systems and only few sites being classified as mesotrophic.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself:
- Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development
- Surrounding area has higher human population density
- Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use
- Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:
The physical features of the area surrounding Wasit Nature reserve area similar to what has been described above. The site is surrounded by urban and industrial development with completely transformed landscapes.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecosystem service</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Importance/Extent/Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of hydrological regimes</td>
<td>Groundwater recharge and discharge</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emission protection</td>
<td>Soil, sediment and nutrient retention</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution control and detoxification</td>
<td>Water purification/waste treatment or dilution</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate regulation</td>
<td>Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climatic processes</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate regulation</td>
<td>Local climate regulation/buffeting of change</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological control of pests and disease</td>
<td>Support of predators of agricultural pests (e.g., birds feeding on locusts)</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard reduction</td>
<td>Flood control, flood storage</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and tourism</td>
<td>Nature observation and nature-based tourism</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and educational</td>
<td>Major scientific study site</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and educational</td>
<td>Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and educational</td>
<td>Educational activities and opportunities</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Biodiversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecosystem service</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Importance/Extent/Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>they form a part</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?  
Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown [ ]

#### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) 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

<no data available>

#### 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>
5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Within the Ramsar Site</th>
<th>In the surrounding area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

a) Within the Ramsar site:

The land is owned by the Government of Sharjah.

b) in the surrounding area:

Land surrounding Wasit Nature Reserve is owned by several different entities. The Road way on the Northern Boundary of the site is owned by the Government of Sharjah. The surrounding urban housing is privately owned by individuals and adjacent roadways are owned by the Government of Sharjah.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi – Chairperson

Postal address: P.O. Box Sharjah 2926
Phone: 0097165311501
Fax: 0097165311419

E-mail address: hana@epaa.shj.ae

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site’s ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors adversely affecting site</th>
<th>Actual threat</th>
<th>Potential threat</th>
<th>Within the site</th>
<th>In the surrounding area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing and urban areas</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation and service corridors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors adversely affecting site</th>
<th>Actual threat</th>
<th>Potential threat</th>
<th>Within the site</th>
<th>In the surrounding area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft flight paths</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors adversely affecting site</th>
<th>Actual threat</th>
<th>Potential threat</th>
<th>Within the site</th>
<th>In the surrounding area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invasive non-native/ alien species</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pollution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors adversely affecting site</th>
<th>Actual threat</th>
<th>Potential threat</th>
<th>Within the site</th>
<th>In the surrounding area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess heat, sound, light</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>Medium impact</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National legal designations</th>
<th>Designation type</th>
<th>Name of area</th>
<th>Online information url</th>
<th>Overlap with Ramsar Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protected Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>whole</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ia Strict Nature Reserve</td>
<td>Protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ib Wilderness Area</td>
<td>Managed area managed mainly for wilderness protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II National Park</td>
<td>Managed area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Natural Monument</td>
<td>Managed area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Habitat/Species Management Area</td>
<td>Managed area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V Protected Landscape/Seascape</td>
<td>Managed area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI Managed Resource Protected Area</td>
<td>Managed area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

### Legal protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal protection</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threatened/rare species management programmes</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Human Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.5 - Management planning

- Is there a site-specific management plan for the site?  **Yes**
- Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site?  **Yes**
  **No**
- If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party?  **Yes**
  **No**

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

- Is there a site-specific restoration plan?  **No**, the site has already been restored

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references


6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
   - [1 file(s) uploaded]
ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
   - [no file available]
iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
   - [no file available]
iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
   - [no file available]
v. site management plan
   - [1 file(s) uploaded]
vi. other published literature
   - [no file available]

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

(John Pereira, 03-04-2013)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

| Date of Designation | 2019-05-09 |