

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:

21-04-1997

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Gabon

3. Name of wetland: Petit Loango

4. Geographical coordinates: 02°15'S 09°45'E

5. Altitude: (average, max., min.) sea level

6. Area: 480,00 ha

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

Petit Loango Ramsar site includes the Réserve de faune d'Iguela Petit Loanda (80,000 ha), the Domaine de la chasse d'Iguela (150,000 ha) and the Domaine de la Chasse Ngoué-Ndongo (250,000 ha). It comprises a slightly undulating plain with several lakes, dissected by a number of small rivers. The vegetation at the site is composed of open savannah, with thickets along the coast and rain forest. Some parts of the forest are subject to regular flooding. The site is an important area for several threatened species of mammals.

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: I W O D E F M

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: 2a

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:

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).

2a: The wetland supports an appreciable assemblage of rare and vulnerable species like the chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*, gorilla *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*, elephant *Loxodonta africana* and white pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*.

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

Petit Loango is situated on the coast, about 300 km south of the city of Libreville, and 150 km north-west of the town of Mayumba, south-west Gabon. It is situated just to the north of Setté Cama Ramsar site.

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)

The reserve holds a shallow brackish bay with some three or four islands. The fringes of the islands are overgrown with bushes, while the central parts are open and flat, with small streams, muddy sand and grass. More landward the wetland comprises a slightly undulating coastal plain with several lakes, dissected by a number of small rivers. The soils are largely a mosaic of hydromorphic clay-sand and sand-clay mixtures. Average temperature is 26°C, annual rainfall is 2200-2400 mm. There are two dry seasons, but during the long dry season from July till September, the sky is usually covered with clouds. Some parts of the mainland mangrove forest are subject to regular flooding.

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

no information available

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The vegetation at the site is composed of open savannah, with thickets along the coast and rainforest with mangroves.

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

no information available

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

Petit Loango supports several threatened species. The two most notable threatened mammal species in the park are the chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*, and the western race of the gorilla, *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*. Other mammals include elephant *Loxodonta africana*, African manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* and leopard *Panthera pardus*.

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

The site is used for tourism on a small scale.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: the reserve is state owned

(b) surrounding area: The Ramsar site Setté Cama is situated to the south. That area is also state owned. Otherwise, the land ownership around the reserve is not specified.

21. Current land use:

- (a) site: tourism
(b) surroundings/catchment: oil exploration (illegal)
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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: no information available
(b) around the site: Illegal oil exploration causes large scale environmental problems in the surrounding area.
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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)

The reserve used to be divided into three basic areas, one of which was declared a Wildlife Refuge, and two were declared as Hunting Areas (Domaine de la Chasse), all since 1966. There are guides permanently present in the reserve, but otherwise the protection appears to be minimal. There is no management plan.

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

Nicoll and Langrand (1986) made several recommendations for management of the site.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

In 1992, a coastal waterbird survey has been carried out in Gabon by WIWO.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

no information available

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

Several safaris are organised each year for tourists.

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

Ministère des Eaux et Forêts
Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse
BP 1128
Libreville
Gabon

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

Ministère des Eaux et Forêts, address as mentioned above (28)

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

IUCN (1987). *A Directory of Wetlands of International Importance*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. 460 pp.

Jones, T.A. (ed.)(1993). *A Directory of Wetlands of International Importance - Part I - Africa*. Ramsar Convention Bureau, Gland, Switzerland.

Nicoll, M. and Langrand, O. (1986). *The conservation of forest ecosystems in Gabon*. IUCN/WWF Project 3247, Systems review of protected areas in Gabon.

Schepers, F.J. and Marteiijn, E.C.L. (eds.). (1993). *Coastal waterbirds in Gabon, winter 1992*. WIWO-report nr. 41. Zeist.

Stuart, S.N. and Adams, R.J. (1990). *Biodiversity in Africa and its islands - Its conservation, management and sustainable use. Draft for comment*. IUCN, WWF and ICPB.

Tutin, C. and Fernandez, M. (1983). *Recensement des gorilles et des Chimpanzé's du Gabon*. CIRMF, Gabon.

World Bank (1993). *Ecologically sensitive sites in Africa. Volume I: Occidental and Central Africa*. Compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the World Bank, Washington DC, USA.

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

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org