

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:

22-04-1997

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Gabon

3. Name of wetland: Setté Cama

4. Geographical coordinates: 02°40'S 10°05'E

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

6. Area: 220,000 ha

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

The Setté Cama Ramsar site includes the Réserve de faune de la plaine d'Ouanga (20,000 ha) and the Domaine de chasse de Setté-Cama (200,000 ha). It comprises a weakly undulating, sandy plain with several lakes, dissected by a number of small rivers. The small rivers mainly spring from the low Mayombe hills to the east of the reserve. The vegetation of the site comprises mainly open savannah and rainforest. 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 O W 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)

Setté Cama is situated on the coast, about 325 km south of the city of Libreville, and 125 km north-west of the town of Mayumba, south-west Gabon. It is situated just to the south of Petit Loango 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 wetland comprises a slightly undulating coastal plain with several lakes, dissected by a number of small rivers. The rivers mainly spring from the low Mayombe hills to the east of the reserve. The soils are largely a mosaic of hydromorphic clay-sand and sand-clay mixtures. The average temperature is 26°C. The annual rainfall varies from 2200-2400 mm, and there are two dry seasons. During the long dry season from July till September, the sky is usually covered with clouds. At some areas the rainforest that covers large parts of the wetland is regularly flooded.

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 consists of open savannah with along the littoral zone thickets, and of rainforest with large areas of 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.)

Setté Cama 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*. The site is visited regularly by several species of terns and waders.

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 Petit Loango is situated to the north. 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 in two basic areas, one of which was declared a Wildlife Reserve (Réserve de faune), and one as a Hunting Area (Domaine de la Chasse), both 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 Martejijn, 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.

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