

# 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:

10th February, 1999

Date of designation: 11/05/99 (date of announcement at COP7)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY
11	05	99

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Bermuda (U.K. O.T.)

3. Name of wetland: HUNGRY BAY MANGROVE SWAMP

4. Geographical coordinates: 32°16'N 64°45'W

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) .0m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2.01 hectares

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

Atidal mangrove swamp (Bermuda's largest) in a shallow sea bay with a relatively narrow opening to the sea. Supports important populations of endangered native crabs.

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:

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: 1a

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:

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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9:**

The largest example of the most northerly mangrove swamps in the Atlantic and is the last Bermuda refuge for several crustacean species in addition to supporting wintering birdlife.

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13. **General location:**

On South Shore at Hungry Bay, Paget Parish, Bermuda. 2 km east of Hamilton.

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14. **Physical features:**

A tidal swamp up to 1m deep at high water, in a shallow sea bay with a narrow opening to the sea. Has the longest continuous sequence of mangrove peat layers in the Atlantic, and the first documented evidence of significant forest retreat caused by contemporary sea level rise.

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15. **Hydrological values:**

None.

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16. **Ecological features:**

Mangrove swamps with *Avicennia germinans*, *Conocarpus erectus*, and *Rhizophora mangle*. Some *Salicornia* sp.

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17. **Noteworthy flora:**

Bermuda is the most northerly location of Atlantic mangrove growth and this swamp contains good examples of *Avicennia germinans*, *Rhizophora mangle* and *Conocarpus erectus* with some *Salicornia* sp.

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18. **Noteworthy fauna:**

A wintering area for Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*, Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* and Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*. The swamp supports the only significant surviving populations on Bermuda of the Giant Land Crab *Cardisoma guanhumi* and Land Hermit Crab *Cenobita clypeata*. The mangrove crab *Goniopsis cruentatus* also occurs.

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19. **Social and cultural values:**

None

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20. **Land tenure/Ownership of:**  
Bermuda Government.  
Adjacent areas are privately held.
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21. **Current land use:**  
The tidal channels are used by boat traffic.
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22. **Factors adversely affecting the sites ecological character:**  
(a) Channels were cut through the mangroves to enable boats to reach private properties bordering the swamp, but are no longer being maintained.  
(b) Houses have been built close to the swamp on north west and south east sides.
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23. **Conservation measures taken:**  
Zoned as a nature reserve under the Development and Planning Act 1974 and the Development Plan 1983. A tree preservation order protects the mangroves.  
Designated as a nature reserve under the Bermuda National Parks Act, 1986.
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24. **Conservation measures proposed:**  
It has been recommended that this area be managed as a nature reserve, with acquisition of private properties on the seaward peninsula.
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25. **Current scientific research and facilities:**  
Site of research conducted by J. Ellison into effects of sea-level changes on mangrove swamps. Ellison J. 1993 Mangrove retreat with rising sea level. Estuarine and coastal shelf science 37:75-87.
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26. **Current conservation education:**  
None
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27. **Current recreation and tourism:**  
Some recreational boat traffic.
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28. **Jurisdiction:**  
a) Territorial – Government of Bermuda  
b) Functional – Conservation Section, Government of Bermuda
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29. **Management authority:**

Conservation Section  
Parks Division  
P.O. Box HM 834  
Hamilton HM CX  
Bermuda

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30. **Bibliographical references:**

Scott, D.A. and Carbonell, M., Compilers. 1986. A Directory of Neotropical Wetlands. IUCN Cambridge and IWRB Slimbridge.

Ellison J. 1993 Mangrove retreat with rising sea level.  
*Estuarine and Coastal Shelf Science* 37:75-87.

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