

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 COP 7

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:

PAGET MARSH

4. Geographical coordinates: 32°16'N 64°46'W

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0.5m

6. Area: (in hectares) 11.35 hectares

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

The largest surviving remnant of Bermuda's pre-colonial swamp forest inclusive of marshy savannah, mangrove swamp and peat marsh forest showing all seral stages. The endemic palmetto, endemic sedge and endemic cedar occur.

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 · U · Va · Vt · W · Xf · Xp · Y · Zg · Zk · Up · Ts

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:**

Of importance as an undisturbed pre-colonial peat marsh inhabited by three endemic species. Also a relic mangrove swamp in a nearly non-tidal freshwater peat basin at the northern Atlantic limit of mangroves.

13. **General location:**

Located at Middle Road, Paget Parish. 1 km SSE of Hamilton.

14. **Physical features:**

A complex of peat marsh seral stages in which the water rises and falls slightly with the tides and heavy rainfall. There is a man-made perimeter ditch and pond.

15. **Hydrological values:**

16. **Ecological features:**

One of Bermuda's larger undisturbed peat basins with a complete representation of all seral stages of marshland ranging from land-locked non-tidal mangrove swamp to peat marsh forest.

17. **Noteworthy flora:**

The swamp forest contains the endemic Bermuda cedar *Juniperus bermudiana* and the endemic Bermuda palmetto *Sabal bermudana*; *Myrica cerifera* bushes with the endemic sedge *Carex bermudiana* and 11x species of fern, mainly *Osmunda* in the understorey; marshes with *Cladium jamaicensis*, *Typha augustifolia*, *Scirpus americanus*, and *Acrostichum exelsum*. There are also mangrove swamps with *Rhizophora mangle*.

18. **Noteworthy fauna:**

Of limited importance for waterfowl although Green Heron *Butoroides virescens(-striatus)*, Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, Sora Rail *Porzana carolina*, Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* occur on passage and in winter. Introduced amphibian species also occur. Yellow-rumped warblers over-winter in the wax-myrtle thickets.

19. **Social and cultural values:**

An important site for natural history and conservation education tours.

20. **Land tenure/Ownership of:**
Bermuda Audubon Society and Bermuda National Trust
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21. **Current land use:**
Nature-oriented education and recreation
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22. **Factors adversely affecting the sites ecological character:**
There was an incident of cedar timber theft in 1983 and the threat continues because of the scarcity and great value of cedar timber. There is an ongoing need to control invasive non-native species of flora by culling.
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23. **Conservation measures taken:**
Declared inalienable as a nature reserve under the Bermuda National Trust Act. The ditch has been widened to form ponds and islands. Close conservation monitoring involving neighboring residents as watch dogs.
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24. **Conservation measures proposed:**
A 350' nature trail (boardwalk) is being constructed in 1999.
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25. **Current scientific research and facilities:**
No facilities. Long term botanical monitoring on 5 10m x 10m quadrats, to measure the benefits of culling invasive species.
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26. **Current conservation education:**
The nature trail is used regularly for educational guided tours and self-guiding tours.
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27. **Current recreation and tourism:**
Nature-oriented recreation. Guided field trips for locals and tourists.
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28. **Jurisdiction:**
a) Territorial – Government of Bermuda
b) Functional – The Bermuda National Trust and the Government conservation section
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29. **Management authority:**
The Bermuda National Trust
P.O. Box HM 61

Hamilton HM AX
Bermuda

30. **Bibliographical references:**

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