

# 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:

02. 04. 93

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY
18	11	92

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

## 2. Country: Guinea

## 3. Name of wetland: Iles Tristao

## 4. Geographical coordinates: 10° 45' -11° 06' N, 14° 53' -15° 08' W

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

## 6. Area: (in hectares) 85,000 ha

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

The site is located in the North Kompony region at the mouth of the Cogon. The area is mainly covered with mangroves, especially Katarak and Kapken Islands which are crossed by old barrier beaches settled with villages.

## 8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

5: Sandy islets; 6: Estuary; 9: Mangrove forest

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:

10. Map of site included? Please tick **yes**  -or- **no**  Map attached, based on CCE/SECA 1990, scale 1:200,000

(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:

Abdel Kader BANGOURA

Division Protection de la Nature DNE

Ministère des Ressources Naturelles, des Energies et de l'Environnement

BP 4665 (P)

Telex 22 350 Mine Geo G. E Conakry -Guinea

**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). Possibility of establishing a transboundary protected area together with Guinea-Bissau. This would include Khoni Benki (nesting grounds), part of the Tristao Islands (hippopotamus on Katarak Island), and part of the mainland round Bansalé (large mammals).

---

**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region) The area is situated between the northern frontier of the country and the Rio Kompony; and between the baraban to the east and the Atlantic to the west. (cf. attached map).

---

**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 area is in tidal waters at the estuarine mouth of the River Cogan., which has its source in the same region as the Fatala. Situated on the border with Guinea-Bissau, the catchment covers an area 40-50 km wide. The flats uncovered at low tide are relatively sandy on the seaward side. Opposite Katchek (on Ile Katarak) is a sandy islet, Khoni Benki, which has been formed by dynamic tidal movements.  
The climate in this part of the country is semi-humid tropical, with a rainy season from May to November and a dry season from November to April. Rainfall averages are 2,500 mm.

---

**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc) **no information.**

---

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

- large area of well-developed mangroves
  - presence on Khoni Benki of a nesting colony of *Flatalea alba*, *Thrietskiornis aethiopica*, *Sterna caspia*, and gray-headed gull *Larus cirrocephalus*.
  - presence of rare species such as *Hippopotamus amphibius*
  - possible nesting presence of *Ciconia episcopus*, *Scopus umbretta*, *Haliaetus vocifer*, *Ardea goliath*, and *Balearica pavonica*
  - wintering site for *Pandion haliaetus* and *Phoenicopterus ruber*
  - presence of *Trichechus senegalensis* in the tidal creeks
- 

**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc) **no information.**

---

**18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.) African spoonbill, sacred ibis, Caspian tern, gray-headed gull, hippopotamus, white-necked stork, hammerhead stork, fish eagle, goliath heron, crowned crane, ruff, osprey, lesser and greater flamingo, manatee.

---

**19. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)  
Prime area for small fisheries with fisher camps established.

---

**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site and (b) surrounding area: : State-owned

---

**21. Current land use:** (a) site: The local people earn a living from small-scale fishing, rice-growing and horticulture.

(b) surroundings/catchment: Cows pastured on Katarak. Mangroves untouched by outside forest

operators.

---

**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 and (b) around the site: Poaching, hunting, stealing eggs from nesting colonies and capture of migratory birds.

---

**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)

Classified state-owned land.

---

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

Establishment and management of large regulated forest tracts (including Konkouré-Soumba region).  
Delimitation and use of village mangrove forests. The government of Guinea is considering the creation of a transboundary reserve jointly with Guinea-Bissau.

---

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

Plan for the creation of a transboundary area comprising the Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau, and the Iles Tristao on the initiative of the Guinean government, possibly on the basis of Ramsar Convention criteria.

---

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

The site is a good example of the Guinean coastal ecosystem. An awareness, education and training programme could be developed for the local population and for other people interested in the subject.

---

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

Possibility of small-scale ecotourism.

---

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

Ministère des Ressources Naturelles, des Energies et de l'Environnement

B.P.295 Telex 22 350 Mine Geo Ge

Conakry Guinea

---

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

Direction Nationale de l'Environnement

Direction Nationale des Forêts et de la Chasse

B.P.3118 Telex 22 350 Mine Geo GE

Conakry Guinea

---

**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Altenberg W et J van der Kamp. 1989. Etude ornithologique préliminaire de la zone humide côtière de Guinée. Joint report of WIWO and ICBP. WIWO report 23, Zeist and ICBP study report 30, Cambridge

---

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](mailto:ramsar@hq.iucn.org)