

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Guinea

3. Name of wetland: RIO PONGO

4. Geographical coordinates: 10° 02' -10° 13' N, 14° 04' -14° 12' W

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

6. Area: (in hectares) 30,000ha

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

A broad expanse of almost virgin mangroves. On the seaward side there are old barrier beaches with a few small villages almost permanently occupied by traditional fisherfolk and ricegrowers.

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

type 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 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:

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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).

Refuge for manatee, crocodile, otter, and uncommon nesting birds such as heron, white-necked stork, fish eagle.

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

The site lies south-south-west of the Boffa region between the Rio Pongo and the Bangura.

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 site is an almost virgin extension of the Fatala (Boffa) mangrove forest, with freshwater watercourses. The catchment lies approximately between the Fria, Téliimélé and Cape Verga regions. The climate is semi-humid tropical, with 7 months' winter and 5 months' dry season. Mean annual temperatures are 25.5°C. Annual rainfall nearby (Boffa) affecting the Ramsar site is 3,360 mm.

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

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

The site comprises an area of virgin mangrove containing some highly important species, and is one of the best examples of the key coastal habitat in Guinea.

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

Almost intact mangrove forest. No other information.

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

The Hunting and Forest Service reports sightings of hippopotamus and deer. In any case, the site is home to both common and rare species which probably nest there: large isolated nests were reported during the CIPO/WIWO/Guinea mission. Species include: white-necked stork *Ciconia episcopus*, Goliath heron *Ardea goliath*, hammerhead stork *Scopus ombretta*, yellow-billed stork *Tantalum ibis ibis* and fish eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*. The site is also a wintering ground for osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

The presence of manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* has been reported in the tidal creeks.

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

Small-scale fishing; ceremonial rites of the Boga tribe.

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

21. Current land use: (a) site and (b) surroundings/catchment: The villagers on and around the site mainly live on small-scale fishing and/or irrigated rice-growing, as well as logging (their main source of income). All these activities are small-scale for subsistence.

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: hunting, poaching, disturbance of possible nesting sites.

(b) around the site: logging by outside operators.

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 property, restrictions on timber removals under the forest code.

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

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

Research: Altenberg and J van der Kamp/ Abdel K Bangoura/ M. Ly 1991 (CIPO/WIWO report)

No scientific facilities.

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

The proposed site is a good example of Guinea's coastal ecosystem. An awareness and education programme could be elaborated for the local population and the population in Boffa (e.g. school programmes).

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

The virgin mangrove area is extremely impressive. There is as yet no tourist infrastructure: ecotourist campsites could be set up in Boffa and near the rias of the Pongo, Motéba and Bangara rivers.

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

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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 Chasse

BP 3118

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30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Altenberg W and J van der Kamp 1991 The ornithological importance of coastal wetlands in Guinea.

A and J. rapport 91.02/ICBP Study report no. 47/WIWO report no.35 Veenwouden/Cambridge/Zeist

CCE/SECA/90 Etude et élaboration du SDAM. CCE, Bruxelles/SECA, Montpellier

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