



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 24 September 2015

## Iraq Hammar Marsh



Designation date: 7 April 2014  
Ramsar ID: 2242  
Coordinates: 30°48'22"N 47°1'1"E  
Official area (ha): 180 000,00  
Number of zones: 1

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

*Summary (This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

Hammar Marsh is part of the larger Mesopotamian marshlands in southern Iraq which are, in turn, part of the major Tigris-Euphrates river system in the region encompassing a number of riparian countries namely, Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Historically, Hammar Marsh comprised a wide area where the main features were large freshwater lakes that could extend to a total surface of up to 4,500 square km during periods of seasonal inundation.

Nowadays, as a result of the extensive drainage operations started in the early 1990s, the area is cross-cut by several small roads, canals, embankments that are altering and affecting the natural environment. The area is extremely important for a number of globally threatened species such as the endangered Basra reed warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*), the vulnerable Marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and the Greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) as well as biome restricted or range restricted bird species such as the White-tailed lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) and the Iraq babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*). The Site also host important fish species such as the globally vulnerable Barbus sharpeyi (*Mesopotamichthys sharpeyi*) as well as the regionally endemic Mesopotamian catfish (*Silurus triostegus*), Aspiux vorax, Golden Barb (*Barbus luteus*), and Abu mullet (*Liza abu*). There is no information currently available about the exact abundance of the registered endemic or regionally endemic species. It was reported by locals that the dominant fish species is *Tilapia zilli*, an invasive non-native species.

Main economic activities in and around the area are agriculture (date palms and rice), hunting and fishing (often unregulated and illegal), and oil exploration (West Qurna and Rumaila). The area is important for the local Marsh Arab communities that rely on the marsh environment and supports local rural economy.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Name Ms. Sameerah Al Shabeeb

Institution/agency Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshes and Wetlands

Postal address *(This field is limited to 254 characters)*

Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW)  
Ministry of Water Resource  
Al Tayaran Square  
Nedhal Street  
Baghdad  
Iraq

E-mail abed.samira2004@gmail.com

Phone 009647801631401

#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year 2014

To year 2015

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish) Hammar Marsh

### 2.2 - Site location

## 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

### b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional) *(This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

The boundaries of the Site take into account the administrative area under the authority of the Ministry of Water Resources, Center for the Restoration of the Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW) and represent the area that can be subject to re-flooding initiatives in order to restore the original wetland status as in the 1970's and in accordance with recent developments and land use changes.

The border along the north-western side follows the course of the main Euphrates River and of urban development on the western most side. On the eastern side the border reflects the current land use, excluding those areas where agricultural developments or oil fields are present.

The Hammar Marsh is located in south-eastern Iraq and fall under the two Governorates (Provinces) of Thi-Qar and Basrah. The area is approximately bounded by the four towns. These are Suq Al Shuyukh and Chibaish (Thi-Qar) at their north-western border; and Qurna and Basrah (Basrah) at their north and south-eastern end, respectively. The biggest city in the area is Basrah, located at the south-eastern end of the wetland.

## 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

Al-Nasyriah Province

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

Al-Hammar City

## 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes  No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes  No

## 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 180000

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 178802.1

## 2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Tigris Euphrates alluvial salt marsh

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme *(This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

WWF freshwater ecoregions (<http://worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/>)  
Ecoregion: Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh

## 3 - Why is the Site important?

### 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided *(This field is limited to 3000 characters)*











Hammar Marsh forms part of the much more extensive Mesopotamian marshes. It represents a typical fresh to brackish marshes in the Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh biogeographic region. The seasonal and permanent marsh wetlands of the Site form one of the larger areas of this wetland types in the biogeographic region. Hammar Marsh is also important to the biogeographic region for its regulating services. The marshes provide natural functions such as flood control and water purification and moderate the regional climate. The site also plays an essential function in supporting the hydrological cycle by acting as an important freshwater reservoir, vital in arid regions, where it can significantly contribute to decreasing drought and desertification.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

## 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

### 3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	Basra Reed Warbler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	300	as of 5 Jan 2014		EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		The Site provides a summer breeding habitat.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Aquila clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	as of 5 June 2014		VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		The Site provides a wintering habitat.
CHORDATA / AVES	 <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Duck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	800	as of 5 June 2014	1.6	VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: The Site provides a wintering habitat. Criterion 6: 1% threshold in South-west Asia is 480.
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	 <i>Mesopotamicharpeyi</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA / REPTILIA	 <i>Rafetus euphraticus</i>	Euphrates Softshell Turtle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		as of 5 June 2014		EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The Site is of international importance as a staging and wintering area for a number of waterfowl and birds of prey on their way between their breeding grounds in Western Siberia and their winter quarters in eastern and southern Africa. The site can be considered of international importance because it supports many summer breeding and wintering bird species, besides being a recovery and feeding area for passage migrants.

### 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>



## 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

### 4.1 - Ecological character

*(This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

Hammar Marsh is situated south of the Euphrates River, extending from near Nasiriyah City in the west to the outskirts of Basrah City in the east. To the south it is bordered by saline lakes, sabkhas, and the sand dune belt of the Southern Desert.

During the 1970s, the area of permanent marshes and lakes used to cover approximately 2,800 square km and expanded to over 4,500 square km during periods of seasonal and temporary inundation. Hammar Marsh, which dominated the marshlands of southern Iraq, was the largest water body in the lower Euphrates. It was approximately 120 km long and 25 km wide. Maximum water depth in the lake ranged from 1.8 to 3 m. Hammar Marsh was fed primarily by seasonal flooding and tributaries of the Euphrates River. A considerable amount of water from the Tigris River, overflowing from the Central Marsh, also nourished Hammar Marsh in addition to groundwater recharge.

The lake tended to be oxygen-deprived and brackish. Sediments within the lake were generally gray calcareous silts. During summer, large parts of the shoreline would dry out, and banks and islands emerged. The lake was surrounded on the north and northeast by freshwater marshes characterized by more terrigenous and organic-rich sediment and extensive reed beds.

Nowadays, as a result of the massive drainage operations started in 1990s the once continuous marshland complex of Hammar is cross-cut by a number of drainage canals and embankments. In addition, the presence of the oil fields of North Rumaila and West Qurna between the towns of Chibaish (Thi-Qar) and Qurna (Basrah) has created a physical barrier between the western and eastern Hammar marshes. For this reason Hammar Marsh can be presently described as two separate units, West Hammar and East Hammar.

For more description about the East and West Hammar marshes please refer to the attachment IQ\_lit1508.docx under Additional reports and documents.

### 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		2		Rare
Q: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline lakes		0		Rare
R: Seasonal/ intermittent saline/ brackish/ alkaline lakes and flats		4		Rare
Sp: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools		1		Rare
Ss: Seasonal/ intermittent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools	Ahwar	1	178800	Rare

## Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
3: Irrigated land		2		
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		3		

## 4.3 - Biological components

### 4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	
<i>Potamogeton lucens</i>	shining pondweed	
<i>Schoenoplectus litoralis</i>	Bulrush	
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Bulrush	

### 4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	Malachite Kingfisher				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Gray Heron; Grey Heron				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret; Western Cattle Egret				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Golden Jackal				

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Canis lupus</i>	gray wolf;Wolf				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Pied Kingfisher				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>					
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Felis chaus</i>	Jungle Cat				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	White-throated Kingfisher				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Herpestes javanicus auropunctatus</i>					
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Isabelline Shrike				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Bluethroat				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European Otter				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail				

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Graceful Prinia				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>	White-eared Bulbul				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Silurus triostegus</i>					
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove; Eurasian Collared-Dove				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	wild boar				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Tilapia zillii</i>					
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>	Iraq Babbler				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox				



## 4.4 - Physical components

### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
B: Dry climate	BWh: Subtropical desert (Low-latitude desert)

*(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

The climate type of the catchment area is the same as that of the larger Mesopotamian marshlands in southern Iraq which are, in turn, part of the major Tigris-Euphrates river system in the region encompassing a number of riparian countries namely, Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Annual rainfall is in the order of 120 mm. Average annual air temperatures ranges from 13 to 36 °C. Humidity is about 43% during the year. Annual evapotranspiration is in the order of 3,000 mm/year.

### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

2

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

19

Lower part of river basin

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

*(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

Euphrates river basin

### 4.4.3 - Soil

Organic

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes  No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional) *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

Marsh soils are hydromorphic soils, developed on fluvial sediments, mostly clay or silty clay, highly calcareous and

containing some gypsum, that underlie both temporary and permanent marshlands. Their salinity varies. The upper layers seem to form an “organic” cover of about 30 cm thick, formed by the decaying reed vegetation.



#### 4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Water inputs from surface water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Water destination

Presence?
To downstream catchment

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology: *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

For more information please refer to the attachment IQ\_lit1508.docx under Additional reports and documents.

#### 4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

Please provide further information on sediment (optional): *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

The flood plain and the delta consist mainly of silty clay, silts and muddy sands. In general, the Mesopotamian Plain was, from the Plio-Pleistocene to the present, a vast subsiding sedimentary basin in which relatively thick Quaternary sediments accumulated. This area of Southern Mesopotamia was a wide lagoon or embayment 3000 years ago. Low energy depositional conditions are indicated by laminated mud units in the basal parts of most pit-sections and of cores in the surface marshes.

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour from 10 NTU to 60 NTU

(ECD) Water temperature 12.3 C

#### 4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

Please provide further information on pH (optional): *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

Average pH value is 7.4

#### 4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

Please provide further information on salinity (optional): *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

In West Hammar salinity is around 3.5 ppt while in East Hammar, salinity is around 5.5 ppt

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

In West Hammar DO value is around 4.7mg/l while in East Hammar it is 9.01mg/l.

#### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Mesotrophic

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional): *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

9.90-3.40 mg/l

(ECD) Water conductivity 16.48- 4.43 ms/cm

#### 4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different

### 4.5 - Ecosystem services

#### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High

## Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Medium

## Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Low
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium

## Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above: *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

For more information please refer to the attachment IQ\_lit1508.docx under Additional reports and documents.

Within the site: 10000s

Outside the site: 100000s

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes  No  Unknown

## 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

- i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The marshes in southern Iraq, before the drainage, were entirely populated by the Marsh Arabs, who used to build their floating islands and reed houses inside the marshes, developing entire villages linked by a network of main and minor channels.

As described by W. Thesiger in his book "The Marsh Arabs": It is a large village in the heart of the Marshes where the reeds for mudhif came from At Qabáb. You will see how the Madan live; nothing but buffaloes, reeds and water. You can only go about in a canoe. There is no dry ground anywhere. "

At present, the inhabited villages are located along the edges of the re-flooded areas, mostly along the Euphrates River, but also on the northern and western edges of the marshland. The typical features that characterize the Madan culture and villages are the numerous channels with well-maintained mud banks that enter the Central Marshes. The Madan people moved around using the mashufhs, traditional boats. The mashhufhs enable women, young people and those who do not possess other means of transport to travel around. Herds of water buffaloes travel up to 10 kilometers from the villages. With their day by day walking they contribute to maintaining the minor channels free from vegetation over-growth.

Grass and reed are harvested daily to regulate the growth of reeds preserving ponds and lakes that are used for fishing and populated by waterfowls. For these reasons the presence of the Marsh Arabs in this area is a wonderful example of wetland wise use and application of traditional knowledge practices to maintain the ecological character of the wetland.

- ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The region is characterized by its proximity to many ancient civilizations, some of which are still visible in the local population's cultural customs and traditions as well as in daily lives.

- iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

Description if applicable (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

During the drainage program most of the Marsh Arabs (M'adan) who lived inside the marshes were forced to leave. After the re-flooding, new settlements (with reed and mud houses) were established on numerous embankments. During 2008-2010, the Hammar Marsh was not receiving enough water supply and was drying up again. Most of the residents were forced to leave the area again. A large canal was dug near Al-Khamissiya to bring water from the MOD (Main Outfall Drain) northwards to flood the north-western parts of the site.

In the Hammar Marsh the villages are scattered mainly along the northern edge where the Euphrates flows, numerous villages are also found on the western side of the marsh (near Suq Ash Shuyukh) and in the south-eastern end of the marsh (on the Shatt Al Arab). On the contrary, very few villages are present in the southern end of the marshland along the MOD canal.

In the villages on the northern side of the marsh, along the Euphrates River, the main economic activities of the villages'

inhabitants are dependent on fishing, buffalo rearing and agriculture; with a prevalence of fishing. On the western side the prevailing economic activity is agriculture, but both fishing and agriculture play an important economic role in the income of the villages' inhabitants. On the other hand, the villages around the Shatt Al Arab River, to the eastern side of the Hammar Marsh, are characterized by a prevalence of economic activities which are not related to the marshland resources. It is assumed that the villages that are closer to Basrah City have more opportunities for livelihood diversification, thus are less dependent on the wetland environment.

## 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

## 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

### 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

#### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provincial/region/state government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: *(This field is limited to 1000 characters)*

Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW); Ministry of Water Resources.

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Samira Abed

Postal address: *(This field is limited to 254 characters)*

Ms. Sameerah Al Shabeeb  
Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW)  
Ministry of Water Resource  
Al Tayaran Square  
Nedhal Street  
Baghdad

E-mail address: abed.samira2004@gmail.com

### 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

#### 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

## Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Drainage	Low impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Oil and gas drilling	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Dams and water management/use	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Climate change and severe weather



Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Temperature extremes	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please describe any other threats (optional): *(This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

For more information please refer to the attachment IQ\_lit1508.docx under Additional reports and documents.

## 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

<no data available>

## 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

<no data available>

## 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

### Habitat

Measures	Status
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented

### Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Partially implemented

### Human Activities

Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Partially implemented

Other: *(This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

The most recent and comprehensive inventory on biodiversity of Iraq is the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Project – the result of widespread and comprehensive surveys conducted from 2005 to 2010 in the framework of the New Eden Project (Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Nature Iraq (NI), with support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea).

The goal of the KBA programme was to identify the areas of outstanding global or regional importance in terms of their biodiversity and to provide a foundation for developing a protected area network in Iraq.

The KBA surveys began in southern Iraq in the winter of 2005 and were extended to Kurdistan, northern Iraq, in 2007, and to Central and Western Iraq in 2009. Over 220 individual survey sites throughout Iraq's governorates (except for Nineva) were visited, often over several years, with a particular focus on wetland and marshland environment. The surveys covered birds, other fauna and plants/habitats and threats.

The most recent and comprehensive inventory on biodiversity of Iraq is the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Project – the result of widespread and comprehensive surveys conducted from 2005 to 2010 in the framework of the New Eden Project (Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Nature Iraq (NI), with support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea).

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The Hammar Marsh, being an important portion of the once huge complex of Iraqi southern marshlands, have been one of the top sites to be surveyed in the framework of the KBA project.

### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes  No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes  No

### 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Status</b>
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Birds	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

*(This field is limited to 2500 characters)*

Coad, Brian W., 2010, "Freshwater fish of Iraq", Pensoft Series Faunistica No 93, Pensoft Publisher.

Garstecki, T & Amr, Z, 2011, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management in the Iraqi Marshlands: Screening Study on Potential World Heritage Nomination, International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Evans I., 1994, Important Bird Areas of the Middle East, BirdLife International, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Iraqi Marshlands - Integrated UNAMI – UNCT White Paper, 2011.

Ministry of Environment, 2010, Iraqi fourth national report to the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Nature Iraq, Draft Inventory of KBA sites, available at <http://www.natureiraq.org/draft-inventory-of-sites.html>.

New Eden master plan for integrated water resources management in the marshlands area – Volume I – Book 4 – Marshlands, September 2006, Iraqi Ministries of Environment, Water Resources, Municipalities and Public Works.

New Eden master plan for integrated water resources management in the marshlands area – Volume II – Book 5 – Marshlands, September 2006, Iraqi Ministries of Environment, Water Resources, Municipalities and Public Works.

Saad Z. Jassim and Jeremy C. Goff, 2006, The Geology of Iraq, published by Dolin, Prague and Moravian Museum, Brno.

Scott D., 1995, A Directory of Wetlands in the Middle East, International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, Slimbridge, United Kingdom.

Thesiger W., 2007, "The Marsh Arabs", Penguin Classics Publisher.

World Wildlife Fund, 2006, WildFinder: Information about Ecoregions, available at <http://worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/>.

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<5 file(s) uploaded>

### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



West Hammar/ Kurmashyah marsh/Al-Nasisiryah ( *CRIMW*, 11-01-2014)



AL-Hammar marsh/ Al-Mashab/ Basra ( *CRIMW*, 14-01-2014)



AL-Hammar marsh/ Al-Kermashyah/ Al-Nasisiryah ( *CRIMW*, 12-01-2014)

### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation