

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:

1. October. 1999

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country: Islamic Republic of Iran

3. Name of wetland: Deltas of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin and Rud-e-Minab

4. Geographical coordinates: 27° 05' N, 56° 45' E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) Sea level

6. Area: (in hectares) 45,000 ha.

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

A large area of inter-tidal mudflats, estuaries, mangrove swamps and sandy beaches in the contiguous deltas of five rivers on the northern shore of the straits of Hormoz at the entrance to the Persian Gulf; important for wintering waterfowl, specially shorebirds and gulls.

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: F, G, I, A, M, N, L

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, 2a, 2c, 3c, 4b

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)

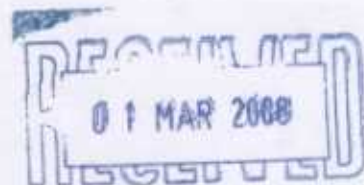
11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Revised by: Sadegh Sadeghi-Zadegan

Wildlif and Aquatic Affairs Bureau

Department of the Environment

Po Box: 15875-5181, Tehran, I.R. Iran.



12 – Justification of the criteria:

1a: The wetlands of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin and Rud-e-Minab are good representative examples of the mudflat/mangrove ecosystem characteristic of the coasts of the southern Persian Gulf and the adjacent of Oman Sea.

2a: The wetland supports a wintering population of the globally threatened *Pelecanus crispus*, *Namenius tenuirostris* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

3c: In winter, the mudflats support over 1% of the regional populations of the waterbirds *Hematopus ostralegus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea goliath* and *Limosa lapponica*.

4b: The site provides important spawning and nursery grounds for shrimp and many fish species.

13-General location

Site is situated in the province of Hormozgan, on the northeast shore of the Strait of Hormoz, 7-77 Km east and southeast of Bander Abbas. It reach from the region of Bander Abbas in the west to Khor-e-Kolahi in the southeast. There are a few small human settlements and fishing ports in the area.

14-Physical features:

The deltas of Rud-e-Shur, Rud-e-Shirin and Rud-e-Minab form a continuous strip of coastal wetlands/mudflats extending for some 70 Km along the northern shore of the strait of Hormoz. The wetlands include extensive intertidal mudflats of over 1 Km wide at low tide. There is also about 300 ha of mangroves at the river mouths and along adjacent creeks, long sandy beaches, low sand bars and sand spits, and two large shallow bays, Khor-e Tiab and Khor-e Kolahi, near the mouth of the Rud-e-Minab. The rivers are dry for most of the year, flowing only after heavy rainfall in the interior (usually in winter). The waters of the Rude-Minab and Rud-e-Shirin are fresh, but that of the Rud-e-Shur is somewhat brackish. The sediments consist of alluvial deposits, silt sand and mud, with a certain amount of algal growth. Arid, sandy plains with open thorn woodland stretch inland from the coast. The settlements in the area usually have small date gardens.

Summer temperatures are reaching up to 45°C. Annual rainfall is about 100-300 mm, mainly between November and April.

15-Hydrological values:

No information available.

16-Ecological features:

Mangroves occur at the mouths of the rivers, and along the tidal creeks. The mudflats are barren of vegetation except for some characteristic salt marsh species. The mangroves and shallow inshore waters provide important breeding and nursery grounds for many species of crustaceans and fishes important in the local fishery. The adjacent coastal plain supports a sparse woodland with some date palms, and there are large areas of bare sandy flats.

17-Noteworthy flora:

The site contains extensive stands of relatively undisturbed mangrove forests consist of *Avicennia marina*. The thorn forest on the coastal plain comprises *Acacia*, *Prosopis*, *Ziziphus* and *Tamarix*, with some date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*).

18-Noteworthy fauna:

The site is an extremely important wintering area for shorebirds and gulls, notably Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) (up to 3,500), Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (up to 5,000), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) (up to 1,500) and Yellow-legged gull (*Larus cachinnans*) (up to 3,000), along with smaller numbers of Dalmation pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) (up to 19), Great egret (*Egretta alba*) (up to 250), Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) (up to 140), white spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) (up to 50) and Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) (up to 386).

The site may also be important for breeding Ardeidae including Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*) and Indian pond heron (*Ardeola grayii*), but this has never been investigated (they have been recorded at the site). Wintering raptors include Greater spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), White-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) Shikra (*Accipiter badius*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron pernopterus*) and peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) (all maximum 3 individuals). White-throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) is a fairly common resident in the area.

The adjacent sandy plains and thorn woodland support a typical Balchi avifauna with several species of Indo-Malayan origin occurring here or near the western extremity of their ranges, notably White rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Grey francolin (*Francolinus pondiceranus*), Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse (*Pterocles*

exustus), Spotted owlet (*Athene brama*), Sind pied woodpecker (*Dendrocopus assimillis*) and common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*). There are some evidences in order to observation of wintering Hubara bustard (*Chlamidotis undulate*) at the site.

19-Social and cultural values:

Fishing is an important activity at the site.

20-Land tenure /ownership of

- (a) site: Governmental
- (b) surrounding area: Governmental

21-current land use:

- (a) Site: Subsistence fishing along the coast.
- (b) Surrounding/catchment: Grazing by domestic livestock on the adjacent plains, some settlements with date gardens.

22-Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

- (a) Site: Some areas of mangrove have been degraded by cutting for fuel and browsing by camels.
- (c) Around the site: extensive shrimp ponds near Khor-e Kolahi, and Khor-e Tiab may pose a potential threat.

23-conservation measures taken:

The site is not a Protected Area but any permission for activities should be issued by the Department of the Environment.

24-conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

None known

25-Current scientific research and facilities:

Access to the area is very difficult, and therefore only a few bird surveys have been carried out by the Ornithology Unit of the D.O.E (at various times of the year). There is a marine research station on the island of Hormoz to the southwest.

26-Current conservation education:

No information available.

27-Current recreation and tourism:

No information available.

28-Jurisdiction:

Department of the Environment
PO BOX 5181
15875 Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

29-Management authority:

Department of the Environment.
Address as mentioned above.

30-Bibliographical references:

-Carp, E. (1980). A Directory of Western Palearctic Wetlands. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

-Evans, M.I. (1994). Important Bird Areas in the Middle East. BirdLife International, Cambridge ,United Kingdom.

-Sadeghi-Zadegan,S (1997). Field survey in relation with the identification of threats and ecological changes at Khor-e Tiab and Khor-e Kolahi.Internal Report. Department of the Environment, Tehran, Iran

-Scott, D.A. (1976). A List of the Wetlands of Iran. Internal Report. Department of the Environment, Tehran, Iran.

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-WCWC (1990) .Iran. In: Spagnesi, M(ed), proceedings Conference on the conservation of wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Cagliari, Italy, 24-29 November 1980.Supplemento alle Richerche di Biologia delle solvaggina .Vol III(1):741-747