

Ramsar Information Sheet

Text copy-typed from the original document into a new style RIS (from an old-style RIS).
Designation date: 10 January 1977

1. Date this sheet was completed: April 1993

2. Country: Hashimaite Kingdom of Jordan

3. Name of wetland: Azraq Wetland

4. Geographical co-ordinates: 31°49'N 36°48'E

5. Altitude:

From 500 m away from the Oasis playa and increases up to 900 to the west.

6. Area: 7,372 ha

7. Overview:

An example of the ecosystems characteristic of areas in semi-arid regions where surface water is available.

8. Wetland type: H R

9. Ramsar Criteria: not indicated

10. Map of site included: Yes

11. Name and address of compiler:

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
Amman - Jordan / PO box 6354

12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

no information available

13. General location:

Zarqa governed, nearest town is Azraq

14. Physical features:

The north-eastern half is dominated by basaltic lava originating from Miocene/ Oligocene volcanic activity. The south eventually gives away to a Rest landscape dominated by Palaeocene and Eocene limestones. The entire basin is dissected by an extensive network of wadis, floods through the years have curved large quantities of superficial deposits.

15. Hydrological values:

1. Groundwater recharge
2. Flood control (Old Roman Damp.)

16. Ecological features:

Marshy areas, mudflat and water pools are inhabited by *Nitraria* and *Tamarix* communities, some areas are fringed with *Halopeplis* and *Halocnemum*.

17. Noteworthy flora:

1. Atreplex
2. Tamarix
3. Cyperus
4. Palm

18. Noteworthy fauna:

1. Ichthyo fauna - 1 species of endemic fish extinct
2. Crustaceae - *Gammarus*, *Cyclops*, *Daphnia*, *Triops*
3. Reptiles - *Natrix tessellata* and other reptiles
4. Mammals - Red Fox, Rodents, Wild Hare
5. Avifauna - Ducks, cranes, etc., storks, herons and eagles

19. Social and cultural values:

1. Archaeological sites - Roman sites
2. Very high bioproductivity - vegetation
3. Fisheries production

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

- a. of the site: Governmental land ownership
- b. surrounding area: The ownership of wetland designated to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

- a. at the site: no land use
- b. surrounding area: 1. Fisheries, 2. Farms, 3. Extraction of water.

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

- a. at the site:
 1. Drying due to over pumping of water
 2. Overgrazing
- b. surrounding area:
 1. illegal wells by private farms
 2. fisheries
 3. salt extraction
 4. farms, the use of pesticides and other chemicals

23. Conservation measures taken:

Hunting control
Pollution control

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

no information available

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

None

26. Current conservation education:

None

27. Current recreation and tourism:

None

28. Jurisdiction:

None

29. Management authority:

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

30. Bibliographical references:

no information available