Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: SRI LANKA
2. Date: 17.05.1991
3. Ref: office use only

4. Name and address of compiler: C.D.S.K. Jayawardene
   DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
   No 82, Rajamalwatte Road,
   Battaramulla, SRI LANKA

5. Name of wetland: Bundala

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 31.05.1990

7. Geographical coordinates: 6091-612°N, 81091-8115°E -16km east of Hambantota

8. General location: Lies on the South coast in Hambantota District, in the Southern Province in the vicinity of Hambantota Town ship.

9. Area: (in hectares) 6,210 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7) 059069081,09 91509

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum) Near sea level

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics) Comprises a group of four shallow brackish lagoons with some salt pans. Characterised by inter-connecting channels, marshes and the adjacent sea coast surrounding terrain is generally flat with sand dunes and sparse dry evergreen scrub. Internationally important wintering area for migratory sea birds. Regularly accommodates over 15,000 sea birds during the migratory season.

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; migratory season; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate) Comprises 4 shallow brackish lagoons with some salt pans interconnecting channels marshes sand dunes and sparse evergreen scrub vegetation. Embilikala lagoon 450 ha: 1-2mtrs in depth connected to Malala lagoon by a narrow natural canal through which Malala lagoon receives excess overflow from Embilikala lagoon. Malala lagoon is about 650 ha in extent. Embilikala lagoon about 1.2 mtrs in depth. Water is fresh -brackish. Receiver a source of fresh water from Malala Oya. Koholankala lagoon is about 390 ha: in extent drains to Mahalewaya lagoon which is about 260 ha. Both Malala and Koholankala lagoons are fully developed for salt production. Climate is of tropical monsoon type. Annual temperature 27°C Rainfall 900 mm - 1300 mm with a dry season from May to September. Salinity is around 30 ppt.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types) Habitats sea beaches Intertidal mud flat sand flats brackish and saline lagoons sand dunes, Artificial salt pans fresh water springs in the sand dunes, Rice paddies, Information available on aquatic plants is scanty. Hydrilla sp found in some lagoons, dominated with blue green algae such as Microcystis Nostoc Osilillatoria marshes and streams with water hyacinth pista salvinia, reeds including Typha javanica

ARID VEGETATION: Acacia scrub Pandia dumetorum, Zizphes sp, Carissa Spinarum, Bauhinia racemosa, Salvadoria persica, Drypetes sepiaria, Manilkara hexendra, Azadirachta indica, Pefonia limonia and also Cassia sp.
15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site Kohalankala lagoon is owned by the salt Corporation of Sri Lanka, a state agency.
Rest of land in the Bundala Sanctuary including the lagoons are state owned.

(b) surrounding area
Comprises both private as well as state owned (crown) land.

16. 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)

Declared a sanctuary under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapt.469) by Government gazette No 14844 of 5.12.1969. At the moment the sanctuary is directly under the supervision of a Senior Game Ranger, a staff of 4 officers are stationed in the sanctuary itself in a permanent building.

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

To upgrade to the status of a National Park.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site Salt production subsistence fishing Wildlife Tourism, cattle grazing collecting of fire wood.

(b) surroundings/catchment Some area have been cleaned and developed under the Kirindi Oya Irrigation settlement Project (KOISP)

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects: (factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site Being sanctuary the protection given is limited. Major disturbances are subsistence, fishing grazing of cattle salt production and collection of molluscs shells for lime kilns. Uncontrolled tourist visitation.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment Illicit felling and poaching, Encroachment on state land, collection of molluscs shells for lime kilns. Major Irrigation projects.
20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Controlling of floods by the interconnected network of canals and the existing the marshes. Also being a sanctuary the site accords shore line stabilisation and protect the sand dunes as well.

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

Salt Production
Small scale subsistence fisheries
Wildlife tourism

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

Bundala Sanctuary is most important wetlands outside the Northern province for wintering shore birds (migrating). The area regularly accommodates over 15000 shore birds at one time. Peak counts in recent years (1983–1988) have indicated the following numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recurvirostra Avoseta</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Squatarola</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Alexandrinus</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limosa Limosa</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Strignatulas</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Clareola</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calidris Minuta</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philomachus Pugnax</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limicola Falcinellus</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluvialis Dominica</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charadins Dubius</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Mongolus</td>
<td>1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Totanus</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Nubularia</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arenaria Interpres</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Ferruginea</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

No Information
24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Numerous water fowl surveys and shore bird census have been conducted in this sanctuary.

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

Nil

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

Local tour guides conduct wildlife tours (bird watching) into the sanctuary.

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, SRI LANKA

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

Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, SRI LANKA

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

(i) Directory of protected areas - Sri Lanka (Final draft)
World Conservation monitoring centre (1988)


30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)