

## Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

1LY001

<b>Site:</b> Ain Elshakika		<b>Designation date:</b> 05/04/2000	
<b>Coordinates:</b> 32°46'N 021°21'E		<b>Elevation:</b> 0-4 m	<b>Area:</b> 33 hectares
<b>Location:</b> North eastern of Kouf national park (KNP), about 5-7 km south-west town of Al-Hnaya.			
<b>Criteria:</b> 2-3-4-8			
<b>Importance:</b> important wetland for migratory and resident waterbirds (Laridae, Anatidae, Sternidae, Ardeidae)			
<b>Wetland Types:</b> H.K.F.N.Q.O.			
<b>Biological/Ecological notes:</b> Hyper saline coastal Sebkha with limestone rock formations from the south, dunes and mud flats with extensive shrubs from the west to the east. Small semi-close natural sebkha. It is apparently separated by other sebkha to the north, which stays dry most of the year. Biologically, the sebkha in addition to waders and some falconiforms is supporting good fish fauna including: <i>Salaria pavo</i> , <i>Gobius fallax</i> , Amphibians <i>Rana saharica</i> . Flora consists of good submerged beds of <i>Ruppia</i> sp. Mediterranean salt shrubs <i>Salicornia</i> sp., <i>Tamarix</i> sp., <i>Juniperus</i> sp., <i>Scirpus maritimus</i> , <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> and <i>Typha</i> sp and other wetland flora.			
<b>Hydrological/Physical notes:</b> the site have two connections with sea water, which is much lower and high tide sea water reaches the sebkha during winter and increases water level to about one meter.			
<b>Human Uses:</b> Tourism impact is still so limited; the site has great potential for ecotourism and other eco-friendly activities such as bird watching. Currently it is used by local community as recreational place during spring and summer seasons. It also represents a good example of natural heritage of Libya.			
<b>Conservation Measures:</b> The site is protected through it's location inside the boundaries of Kouf national Park. More conservation actions are needed to maintain specificity and diversity of the site.			
<b>Adverse Factors:</b> Closure of the connections with sea by sand bars, leads to hyper salinity (24 ‰) however the freshwater springs that feeds the Sebkha are contributing to limited degree in decreasing of salinity. Unsustainable hunting poses serious threat. Destruction of vegetation and fires (cutting-fire woods) especially during summer.			
<b>Site Management:</b> The directorate of KNP, Agricultural development Agency, Environment General Authority.			
<b>Compiler:</b> Mr. A. Hamza and Dr. A. Halisse			