

# 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:**

05. 10. 92

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

**2. Country:**

MOROCCO

**3. Name of wetland:** SIDI BOUGHABA

**4. Geographical coordinates:** 34°15' N, 6°40'W

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

0-77 m

**6. Area:** (in hectares) 650 ha

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

Sidi Boughaba reserve is a coastal site in a red juniper forest near Kénitra, and is one of the permanent natural expanses of fresh water on the north-west coast of Morocco. It has been classified in accordance with provisions relating to the conservation of historic monuments and sites, and works of art and antiques.

**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 . Q . 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:

**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:

**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:**

Direction des Eaux et Forêts et de la Conservation des Sols  
Rabat-Challah

**Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):**

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**12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region) Kénitra is 14 km north-east of the site

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**14. Physical features:** (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

There are three soil types:

- fine sandy soils on the east shore
- sandy limestone on the west shore
- organic soils in the interior of the Merja.

Climate: The reserve is located in the sub-humid (bordering on the arid) Mediterranean belt. Winters are temperate.

Annual rainfall: 596 mm

Mean maximum temperatures in the hottest month (August): 31.6° C

Mean minimum temperatures in the coldest month (January): 4.8° C

Water depth may vary from 0.5 m in the south to 2.5 m in the north. Water input comes from ground water .

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**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

Water input is from ground water, and , to a lesser extent, directly from precipitation. There is no direct outlet to the sea.

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**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

Juniper scrubland *Juniperus phoenicea* and rtem ( apparently a local name) *Retama monosperma* with *Chamerops humilis* and *Olea europa*

Hygrophilous vegetation on the fringes of the site, notably *Juncus acutus L.*, *Juncus maritimus L.*, *Cyperus longus L.*, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Panicum repens*

Algae at the site, particularly benthic characeae-based vegetation and diatomite-rich macro- and microscopic algal flora. Abundant phytoplankton.

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**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

*Juniperus phoenicea*, *Olea europa*

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**18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Animal species: *Anas angustirostis*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Pandion haliaetua*, *Fulica cristata*, *Porphyrio porphyrio*.

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

Most of the people on the reserve are small farmers and fishers.

The nearby kasbah in Mehdiya is of archaeological importance.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:**

- (a) site: State-owned land; State forests; hablous land (religious trust property).  
(b) surrounding area: Collectively owned and private land.
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**21. Current land use:**

- (a) site: No activity, except for environmental education in the ecomuseum and leisure activities for the population in Kenitra, mainly in spring.  
(b) surroundings/catchment: farming and herding.
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**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:**

(a) at the site: Provincial authorities have set up a system to monitor the state of the coastal wetlands. To date there have been no notable changes or adverse effects. The authorities of the rural commune with responsibility for the Sidi Boughaba site have built a pumping station upstream from the lake to provide drinking water to a camp site on the beach at Sidi Boughaba. This has not had an impact on the lake water

(b) around the site: Increasing numbers of people have been using the beach in the summer in recent years.

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**23. 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)

The whole of the Sidi Boughaba forest canton including the listed wetland was classified as a Natural Conservation Site by decree on 15 September 1951. No building is allowed on the site. Fencing is planned around the sensitive parts of the site to strengthen protective measures there. Public awareness measures are being considered.

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

Machinery for the introduction of an integrated and pluridisciplinary approach to be used when planning future action is now under consideration, particularly with the intention of ensuring appropriate management for the site. The programme undertaken with ICBP and the Peace Corps (USA) is continuing with the aim of producing suitable management plans.

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**25. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Apart from a small library Sidi Boughaba has no research facilities. However, research related to the aims of the reserve is being conducted by the Directorate of Forests and Water, the Forest Engineering School, the Agronomy Institute, the Science Institute and the Faculty of Science, all of which are located in

Rabat  
Library

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

Several school groups, tourists and nature enthusiasts are received by the staff and visit the ecomuseum. The education centre in Sidi Boughaba has reception facilities for visitors.

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**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Sidi Boughaba is used for tourism and recreation by the public.

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

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Réforme agraire  
Morocco

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**29. Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Kénitra forest service, Morocco

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

ATBIB Mohamed: Etude phytoécologique de la réserve biologique de MEHDIA (LITTORAL ATLANTIQUE, Maroc) 2 tomes, thèse de doctorat de spécialité - 1977.

MICHEL THEVENOT (1976): Les oiseaux de la réserve de Sidi Boughaba, Bulletin de l'Institut scientifique no. 1, 32 pages.

Various reports and accounts from the Direction des Eaux et Forêts et de la Conservation des Sols

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Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@hq.iucn.org](mailto:ramsar@hq.iucn.org)