

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Niger

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Ref: 1NE001

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Name of wetland: Parc national du "W" du Niger (PNW)

Date of Ramsar designation: 30 April 1987

Geographical coordinates: Latitude 11°54' - 12°35'N
Longitude 02°04' - 02°50'E

General location: 150 km from Niamey (capital of Niger) - District Tillabery

Area: 220.000 ha

Wetland type: M N Y X* W

Altitude: Maximum = 300 m; minimum = 170 m; mean = 170 m

Overview: Of semi-arid character; but many permanent and semi-permanent ponds. Important nesting sites.

Physical features: The PNW is a young laterite plain with precambrian and tertiary formations. It is crossed by an extension of the Atakor (quaternary) chain, which creates gorges along the main water channels. The soils are laterite, and clayey-sandy deeper in the valleys of the actual or fossil waterflows. The hydrographic network is composed by the river Niger (permanent), by the tributaries Tapoa and Mekrou (temporary), by seasonal waterways, and by more than 30 artificial and natural ponds. Rainfall varies between 500 and 800 mm and the temperature between 42° maximum and 10° minimum.

Ecological features: The PNW is in the biogeographical region of the wooded Savannah of Sudan. The wooded Savannah alternates frequently with the herbal Savannah, where some reed species are found along the waterways. The dry, rocky or eroded soils are dominated by the yearly gramineae and the woody, lignious plants of the "conbotacées" (cannot find this or a similar word in the dictionary) family: *c. glutinosum*, *Garcia senegableuris* ??? On the deeper soils there are perennials: *Andropogon spp.* On the very deep soils are perennials which reach up to 3 M; hard semi-green wood grows along the watercourses.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: Area classified by the state.

b) surrounding area: Reserves: total wildlife reserve of Tamou and partial reserve of the catchment. Area classified by the

state.

Conservation measures taken: The site is entirely protected. It has not undergone any changes in its status. Therefore the use of neighbouring areas has to be authorised, and is limited. A practical management plan does really need reactualising (probably means 'is in the process of being defined'); no official administrative management plan has been approved.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: At the moment information is being collected and certain data is in the process of being analysed.

Current land use: principal human activities in

- a) **site:** - Fishing
- irrigation (cultivation sites out of season)
- b) **surroundings/catchment:** - agriculture; cattle raising

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

- a) **at the site:**
- Construction of a barrage has been proposed at Gambon (destruction of wicker forest and flood plains).
 - Fishing with banned products
 - Trapping and interference with arms of the river (nesting sites)
- b) **in the surroundings/catchment:**
- travelling (nomadic) agriculture
 - extensive cattle raising
 - clearing and destruction of habitats

Hydrological and physical values: The water in the river is directly consumed by the riverine inhabitants (domestic consumption and use). On the other hand, the physical characteristics are such that the recharge of groundwater level is too weak.

Social and cultural values: Very important for food and economy of the area (principal source of drinking water; fish production). This (fish production) plays an important role in the agro-pastoral activities.

Noteworthy fauna: See enclosed list.

The enclosed list shows 75 to 85 % of the bird fauna of the park. Migratory species of the palearctic are also listed. Large fauna characteristic for the Savannah region are also present: Elephants (some hundreds), buffalos, lions, antilopes.

Noteworthy flora: See enclosed list.

Current scientific research and facilities: - inventory of the avifauna (framework USAID-PCU)

Current conservation education: - possibilities to visit

Current recreation and tourism: - used by observation tourists

Management authority: Parc national du "W" S/C (= c/o?)

Management Service of Fauna and Agriculture with the Directorate
of Fauna, Fish and Fishculture

Jurisdiction: Directorate of Fauna, Fish and Fishculture
Ministry of Hydrology and Environment of Niger

Bibliographical references: See enclosed list

Reasons for inclusion: 1c, 2c, 3b

Map of site: enclosed