



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: NEPAL
2. Date: 20-3-95
3. Ref: 2 NP 001
office use only
-
4. Name and address of compiler: Mahendra K. Shrestha
Dept. of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
P.O. Box 860
Kathmandu, Nepal
-
5. Name of wetland: Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve
-
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 17 December 1987
-
7. Geographical coordinates: 26°39' N, 86°69' E
-
8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) Sunsari District.
14 km west from Inarwa town.
-
9. Area: (in hectares) 17 500
-
10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
(M) NST
-
11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
75 m - 81 m
-
12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
Wetland formed by Koshi River. Dam on the south (7 km from reserve) near Nepal-India border. Seepage water forms an ideal habitat for resident as well as migratory waterfowl.
-
13. 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)
Natural river system. A dam has been constructed to contain water during monsoonal flood and irrigation in Nepal and India. This has also increased the inundated area. Soil is sandy to silty loam. Water depth is variable and is upto 5m deep. Permanent water with some fluctuation in water flow. Catchment area is very extensive as the Koshi river is formed by 7 rivers some of which origin in Tibet, autonomous region of China. Downstream area is the land (private) of Nepal and India. Climate is subtropical.
-
14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
River, mudflats, sand banks, grassland, savannah, ox-bow lakes, marsh, riverine forest.
Grassland: *Saccharum* sp., *Phragmites* sp., *Typha* sp., *Imperata* sp.,
Riverine forest: *Bombax ceiba*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Acacia catechu*
Aquatic vegetation: *Valisneria*, *Eichornia*, *Hydrilla*, *Azola*, Lotus.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site State owned

(b) surrounding area: privately owned cultivated lands. Area south of the reserve is under lease to Govt. of India for Koshi Dam Project.

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)

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve with an area of 17500 ha has been established in 1976. No hunting and development activities are permitted in the reserve. No management plan.

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

Management plan under preparation. Possibilities of the reserve extension is being studied.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site irrigation, livestock grazing, fishing

(b) surroundings/catchment Population of surrounding area \approx 84000.
Farming and livestock rearing.

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

Internal: siltation, overgrazing

External: over fishing, grazing, human disturbance

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

Over fishing, overgrazing, deforestation, fish and bird poisoning, trapping, hunting.

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Flood control, sediment trapping, maintenance of food chain for wildlife.

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

Religious bath, Crematory, tourism, outdoor recreation, education and scientific research.

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

Wild water buffalo, crocodiles (gharial and mugger), gangetic dolphin, swamp partridge, Bengal Florican, Black-necked stork, Greater and Lesser Adjutant Storks, Spot-billed Pelican, Spoonbill, Bar-headed Goose.

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

Bombax, thicket grass, Acacia, reeds.

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

Biodiversity Database, Tall Grassland Research, Wise use of wet lands.

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

Brochure, School program, essay competition.

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

Boating, rafting, Bird watching. Frequency/intensity of recreation is not much at present but gradually increasing.

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

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Office
Kusaha, Sunsari
Nepal

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

Dept. of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Dept. of Forest (outside the reserve)

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Heinen, J. T. 1988. Checklist of Birds of Koshi Tappu.

~~Shandari~~
Sawal R. N. 1993. Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Conservation Issue and Management Measures. IUCN, Nepal.

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

1, 2 and 3.

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)

Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

Telephone: 44 - (0)453 890634

Telefax: 44 - (0)453 890827

Telex: 43 71 45 WWF-G