

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:

April 24, 2001

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

PAKISTAN

3. Name of wetland: Jubho Lagoon

4. Geographical coordinates: 24°20'N, 68°40'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) approx. 50 metres

6. Area: (in hectares) c. 706

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

A large shallow brackish lagoon with associated mudflats and marshes, situated in Thatta District, Sindh province. It is important for the wintering waterbirds and for the commercial fisheries.

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 . O . 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: Sp/Q, J

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1

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:

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

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

Criterion 1: The site is a good representative example of a natural wetland, featuring a combination of brackish coastal and inland lagoons and mudflats.

Criterion 5: The site regularly supports an average of 60,000 to 100,000 migratory waterfowl per annum, based upon the census data compiled by the Zoological Survey Department during 1997.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located in Jati subdivision of Thatta District, Sindh Province, which is about 138 km Southeast from Karachi.

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)

The *Kara Gungro* outfall drain falls into this wetland near *Golarchi*. The current site is inter-connected with *Pateji*, *Cholri* and *Nurri* wetlands. *Pateji* and *Choli* are connected to the Tidal Link, which ultimately drains into *Shah Samando* creek. This is a very shallow and brackish wetland. The climate is maritime and summer monsoon starts from June-July every year.

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

Not known.

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

It is a system of shallow wetlands and associated marshes. Very little aquatic vegetation is present. The shallow wetlands provide food and shelter for the migratory waterbirds. The fishes and crustaceans are also part of it. Few salt tolerant plants and aquatic plants are also found in wetland.

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

Tamarix and some salt-tolerant bushes can be found in the high lying areas of the wetland. *Typha* occupies the low-lying areas as it receives freshwater inputs from the adjoining areas and outfall drains. Both above mentioned species of plants are dominant and colonizer.

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

Large populations of Greater and Lesser Flamingos 40,000 – 50,000 have been recorded as well as a sizeable number of Dalmatian Pelicans as many as 6,000 (Ghalib *et al* 1997). Such large numbers of these birds are not found in other wetlands in Pakistan.

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

The site is source of livelihood for surrounding villages, primarily through fisheries. It is also a sanctuary for migratory birds and a breeding point for local species.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

The site is privately owned by local inhabitants.

21. Current land use:

The land is used primarily for fishing and livestock grazing purposes, while illegal hunting also takes place mostly during winter.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

Large-scale hunting during winter has diminished the number and diversity of migratory birds, which regularly flock to the area to feed. As a result of the construction of the tidal link canal, saltwater intrusion has taken place, which has stunted the growth of freshwater vegetation. This condition has been aggravated by increasing levels of industrial and agricultural pollution.

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 site is not explicitly protected under any environmental legislation, nor has a management plan prepared.

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

None, at present.

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

The Zoological Survey Department (ZSD) has undertaken a project on the survey of the avifauna of the Tidal Link area. The National Institute of Oceanography has also been conducting similar studies in this area.

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

While there is no site-specific conservation education programme, IUCN's Coastal Ecosystem Unit routinely carries out awareness and environmental sensitisation activities, largely through accompanying students, local, and foreign visitors to various coastal mangrove sites in the vicinity of Karachi. Public awareness of environment, and particularly of national wetlands has been steadily increasing in the national media through contacts with a number of interested and competent environmental journalists. WWF for example, had inaugurated a Wetland Visitor Centre in the same week as World Wetland Day (February 2, 1999), which is due to be operational by the end of June 1999. Provincial government agencies such as the Sindh Wildlife Department and the Sindh Environment

Protection Agency also carry out selected awareness campaigns, related to turtle conservation or coastal pollution. Although, environmental awareness and conservation education activities occur throughout the year, it should be noted that such activities tend to be clustered around specific occasions, such as World Wetlands Day, World Water Day, or World Environment Day.

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

None at present.

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

1. Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA)
 2. Rangers of Border Security Force
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29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

1. Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA)
WAPDA House, Lahore, Punjab.
Tel.: (92-42) 9202532, Fax: (92-42) 9202631
 2. Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department,
Molana Din Mohd. Wafi Rd., Saddar, Karachi, Tel.: (92-21) 9204952.
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30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Ghalib, S.A., Hasnain, S.A., and Razzaq, A. (forthcoming) Survey of the Avifauna of the Tidal Link Area 1998.

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