

# 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: PAKISTAN 2. Date: 20-01-92 3. Ref: office use only 2PK001

4. Name and address of compiler:

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5. Name of wetland: THANEDAR WALA GAME RESERVE

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 23 JULY 1976

7. Geographical coordinates: 32°37'N 71°05'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

15km east of Lakki, Bannu District, N.W.F.P.

9. Area: (in hectares)

4,047ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

P, R, T N, R, T

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

303m above sealevel

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics) A 10km stretch of the Kurram river and its associated floodplain from its confluence with the Gambila river downstream almost to the border with Punjab Province. Most of the area consists of a complex of braided river channels and sandy or muddy islands up to 4km wide. Tall stands of *Typha* & *Phragmites* occur in places along the river banks and there are large areas of *Tamarix* thickets. A wintering site for herons, *Anas* & shorebirds.

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)

Dry sub-tropical climate with average annual rainfall of 250mm and relative humidity of 45% - 65%. Temperatures range from 4°C to 18°C in winter and from 25°C to 47°C in summer.

Water depth fluctuates from 0.1 - 1.5m, according to flood water supply in the rivers, with levels rising in March and July - Sept.

pH is 7.0

Surrounding areas mostly saline. Because of frequent shifts in the course of the main river channels, much of the area is unstable, difficult to access & unsuitable for cultivation.

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

Marsh vegetation includes *Tamarix dioica*, *Typha angustata*, *Phragmites karka*, *Cyperus laevigatus*, *Koeleria indica*, *Desmostachya bipinnata*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Chenopodium* sp., *Laurelia* sp., *Phoenix* sp., *Potamogeton* sp., *Ranunculus* sp. and *Saccharum* sp.

The natural vegetation of the surrounding area is tropical thorn scrub.

## 15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

Communal ownership

(b) surrounding area

owned by local villagers

## 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)

declared a Game Reserve (4,047 ha) in 1976

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

- The 1990 Ramsar Monitoring Procedure recommended: - improved control of hunting
- detailed survey of the entire area
- identification of 'key' 'sanctuary' areas for roosting/feeding birds  
→ establishment

## 18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

cutting of Typha & Saccharum for local weaving industry  
waterfowl hunting (shooting & trapping)  
recreation

(b) surroundings/catchment

livestock grazing; agriculture

## 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

disturbance from hunting; <sup>especially crane hunting on the reserve periphery</sup> the surrounding areas are prone to excessive grazing but this appears to be a limited problem in the Game Reserve itself.

The Ramsar Convention Monitoring Procedure mission (May 1990) concluded that no major changes in ecological character are known to have occurred since designation and that Thanebar Lake should be retained on the Ramsar list on the basis of criteria 1b, 3b and, possibly, 2b.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

construction of a barrage upstream on the Kurram River has caused changes to the hydrology of the system (e.g. reduced flooding)

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

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

- support to local weaving industry
- recreational value

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

The Kurram valley is known as an important migration route. The reserve supports wintering Egretta alba & Anabidae especially Tadorna ferruginea, Anas crecca, A. platyrhynchos, A. cygnata, Ardeya ferina & A. nigra. 1,550 Waterfowl were counted in January 1989.

The mid-January censuses of 1987 & 1988 recorded up to 600 shorebirds of 8 species, small numbers of Ardeidae (3 species), 3 species of Anabidae & Porphyrio porphyrio. Breeding birds include Clarecta rubicunda & Sterna albifrons. Other fauna includes Uromastix sp. & Varanus marmoratus.

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



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

mid-winter waterfowl counts are undertaken by the  
Zoological Survey Department. Included in IWRB database

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

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

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

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

N.W.F.P. Wildlife Department

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

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

1a, 3b

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**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)

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