

# 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:

18. 08. 92

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

## 2. Country:

SENEGAL

## 3. Name of wetland:

Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj

## 4. Geographical coordinates: 16°20' N, 16°12' W

## 5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) Sea level

## 6. Area: (in hectares) 16,000 ha

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

The Parc du Djoudj is made up of lakes, tidal creeks and ponds linked by channels. The lakes are large, open expanses of brackish water with no vegetation, whereas the creeks and ponds are relatively enclosed and bordered by fairly thick vegetation.

## 8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

### Inland wetland

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:

## 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:

Seydina Issa SYLLA  
Directeur des Parcs Nationaux  
B. P. 5 135 Dakar-Fann

**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)

In the north-western corner of Senegal, 60 km from Saint-Louis, the regional capital.

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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)

The terrain in the park is generally flat, with Quaternary sediment dominated by sand, alluvium and clay deposits. There are relatively high lands (levees and delta formations) and lower-lying depressions, combining to form the last of the great decantation beds for flood waters on the Senegal River, controlled by dams built across outlets of the river. The park is watered by a large network of watercourses. All the watercourses which drain the park are equipped with sluice gates which are opened every year during the floods along the Senegal River, thus allowing the water levels to be controlled and the basins in the park to fill up.

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

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

Vegetation is Sahelian with shrub savanna (Tamrix and Acacia on grassland steppe). In the flooded areas there are colonies of *Typha australis*, *Sporobolus robustus*, *Phranites vulgaris*, *Nymphaea lotus*, etc, well represented in the open swamplands. *Pistia stratiotes* and *Paspalum vaginatum* have recently appeared, due to changes in water quality and incorrect use of the sluice gates.

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

*Nymphaea lotus* is a protected species in the park, because it is endangered by overharvesting for cooking. The local people also gather *Typha australis* and *Sporobolus robustus* to make mats.

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

Almost 3,000,000 birds (350 palaeartic and Ethiopian species) visit the park annually. Otis arab (term used in French original - possibly Arabian bustard *Ardeotis arab*) a species in danger of extinction, is starting to make discreet appearances in Djoudj. There is a large breeding colony of *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (15,000 individuals). During a census taken in January 1992, 182,977 palaeartic anatidae and 8,809 Afro-tropical anatidae were counted in Djoudj.

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

Substantial fish production (spawning ground)

Presence of *Sporobolus robustus* and *Typha australis* used for handicrafts (mats)

*Nymphaea lotus* used in cooking (for couscous)

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

(a) site: National Park

(b) surrounding area: Game reserve, rice fields

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**21. Current land use:**

(a) site: nature tourism

(b) surroundings/catchment: hunting, herding, rice growing

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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: Stray domestic animals. Navigable waterways overgrown and choked because of the commissioning in 1986 of the Diama salt dam on the Senegal River 20 km downstream from the park, and incorrect use of sluice gates.

(b) around the site: Intensive farming; land trampled by livestock.

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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)

Wetland of international importance and World Heritage site. There is an officially approved management plan, the Programme d'Aménagement du Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj, financed by Nord Rheinland-Westphalia.

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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.)

Repairing the protective dikes and dams. Dredging the mud from the Canal du Crocodile.

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

One basic feature of the management plan is the building of a biology station.

British project for ringing of palaeartic birds (EMBA), including building of a ringing centre. All the aforementioned projects are being implemented.

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

There is an information centre in the park. A larger centre covering the three northern parks is being set up in Saint-Louis, the regional capital. There are nine observation posts in the park. Schools groups make frequent visits. Brochures are available in French, English and German, and there is a large-capacity camp for tourists at the park's administrative centre.

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

One of the park's purposes is to serve as a location for nature tourism. The park's special status as a bird sanctuary and a delta wetland explains the impressive number of annual visitors (5,000). The park is open seven months a year from October to April.

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

Ministère du Tourisme et de l'Environnement  
Senegal

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

Direction des Parcs Nationaux  
B. P. 5 135 Dakar-Fann, Senegal

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only) Dénombrement des anatidés dans le Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj et ses environs (ONC et DPN janvier 1991 et janvier 1992).

Recherche sur le *Philomachus pugnax* hivernant dans le delta du Sénégal (ONC-DPN février 1990).

Observations ornithologiques dans le PNOD (ONC janvier-mars 1990)

Mission ornithologique au Sénégal (janvier-mars 1990).

Propositions d'aménagement du PNOD (UICN-DPNS-RIN).

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