

# 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 du Delta du Saloum

## 4. Geographical coordinates: 13°37' N, 16°42' W

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

Sea level

## 6. Area: (in hectares) 73,000 ha

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

The park is mainly composed of dry forest (the most northerly in the country), and islands and islets created by the countless small watercourses ("bolons") which weave around the ecologically remarkable clumps of mangrove.

## 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 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)

The park is 80 km from Kaolack, on the border with Gambia on the Atlantic coast. It straddles the administrative regions of Kaolack and Fatick.

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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)

Triassic secondary formations with characteristic salt lagoons. Hydromorphic soils predominate, with evolution determined by the excessive presence of water in at least some depressions and especially in the valleys, where there are also pseudogley and gleyed mineral soils. Around the large rias of the Saloum River there are mangroves interwoven with tidal creeks. There are uncultivated halomorphic soils (local name “tannes”) with salt content of 0.2% produced by the reflux of ocean waters into the estuary at low water.

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

The park is situated in the delta formed by the Sine and Saloum Rivers. About two years ago a heavy storm broke through the barrier beach and turned the Sangomar spit into an island. Since then erosion has worsened the situation and nothing has been done to stop it.

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

The park is part of the delta of the Sine and Saloum Rivers, a region with many sandy islets and lagoons. Most of the land area in the park is under mangroves, sand dunes and open forest on sandy soils. The delta watercourses are almost all salt water.

Mangroves predominate, mainly *Rhizophora racemosa*, *R. mangle*, *R. harrisonii*, and *Avicennia nitida*.

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

Inside the Parc National du Delta du Saloum, between the mangrove formations and the halophytic grasses, there exists a geomorphological formation typical of the Saloum, namely the “tannes”, sterile land with surface salt crystals. They are fossil mangroves on salty soils, some of which are worked as small salt farms.

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

There is a wide variety of fauna in the park. Rare species and species at the limit of their natural territory have been spotted there from time to time: *Rufilatus redunca* (could be Bohor reedbeek *Redunca redunca*), clawless otter *Aonyx capensis*, manatee *Trichechus senegalensis*. Recent observations of cetaceans have noted the presence of Cameroon river dolphin *Sotalia tentzi*, common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, and spotted dolphin *Stanella* sp.. The four turtle species likely to breed in the park are: leatherback *Dermochelys coriaca*, loggerhead *Caretta caretta*, hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. There is a wealth of birdlife, with large nesting colonies of Ardeidae, Laridae, and several palaeartic migratory species.

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

Herding, farming and fishing are all present in this MAB reserve. A feature of farming in the region is the integration of livestock with millet growing. Fishing, the main dry season activity, occurs in the bolongs along the coast or at sea. The villages of Djifère and Missirah which abut the park have up-to-date facilities for installing engines on dug-outs and for fish processing. The population also gathers dead

wood from the Fathala forest and the mangroves.

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

(a) site: National Park and Biosphere Reserve

(b) surrounding area: pluriactivity

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**21. Current land use:**

(a) site: Nature tourism; straw cutting; harvesting acacia pods

(b) surroundings/catchment: Herding, farming, fishing, hunting.

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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: gathering shellfish in the mangroves, collecting birds' and sea turtles' eggs, cutting grasses. These activities essential for the population's survival may constitute a real threat to the ecological balance of the region if not organised in a rational way.

(b) around the site: more intensive farming and grazing, and fishing in the bolongs and along the coast endanger the Saloum's delta ecosystem. Furthermore, some sectors of the MAB Reserve are managed by the Service des Forêts et des Eaux (Forests and Water) which issues logging permits without the approval of the National Parks Service, thus making monitoring and management there difficult.

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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 Biosphere Reserve. There is as yet no management plan for this national park. No changes have been made to its boundaries.

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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.)

A management plan for the park and its surroundings is being prepared.

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

In the medium term there is a plan to build a biological station to tackle all the concerns which may affect a wetland, including national research conducted by institutions involved in botany, zoology, ichthyology and geomorphology.

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

There is no reception centre in the park, but there are tourist camps and hostels in the surrounding villages. There are opportunities for visits by school groups. Observation posts have been strategically placed throughout the park.

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

The park is also used for recreation and tourism. Nature tourism and practical work for school children and students can be arranged. Almost 1,000 people visit the park every year.

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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) Identification, Establishment and Management of specially protected areas in the WACAF region (IUCN)-April 1992

Assistance à la Direction des Parcs Nationaux pour l'élaboration du plan d'aménagement intégré et de gestion des réserves naturelles de la Réserve MAB du Delta du Saloum (UNESCO-DPN)

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