

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:

19. 06. 92

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

SENEGAL

3. Name of wetland:

RESERVE SPECIALE DE FAUNE DE
GUEUMBEUL

4. Geographical coordinates: 15°57' N, 16°28' W

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

6. Area: (in hectares) 720 ha

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

Serves as a complement to the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj. It includes a vast chott (salt pan). Vegetation has undergone spectacular regeneration thanks to the prohibition of grazing. Experimental centre for Sahelian fauna. The reserve includes a broad expanse of water which provides a refuge for many palaeartic and Ethiopian birds.

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
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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):

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

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)
10 km south-west of the regional capital, Saint-Louis.

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 reserve includes a vast salt pan surrounded by Sahelian vegetation which has regenerated thanks to a ban on grazing. There is a broad expanse of water whose level depends on a bridging dam built on an arm of the Senegal River

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc) No information

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
The vegetation on the reserve is typical of the Sahel and has regenerated remarkably thanks to a grazing ban.
On the vast expanse of water there are breeding colonies of least tern and many other palaeartic and Ethiopian species.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)
Acacia, spectacularly regenerated thanks to the grazing ban on the site.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.) Dama gazelle are bred on the site: large concentrations of avocet.

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

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site: Special Wildlife Reserve (b) surrounding area: pluriactivity

21. Current land use: (a) site: Tourism (nature study); gathering acacia pods;
(b) surroundings/catchment: herding, farming, gathering fallen wood, fishing.

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, unauthorised fishing, illegal picking of acacia pods and harvesting of salt.
(b) around the site: Intensive salt farming, woodcutting, intensive farming and overgrazing.

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)
Special Wildlife Reserve and Wetland of International Importance. The reserve has a mission to act as an experimental breeding centre for Sahelian wildlife: Dama gazelle, Dorcas gazelle and tortoises. The fact that it serves to complement the Djoudj site justifies its Ramsar status. There is as yet no officially approved management plan.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially

proposed as a protected area etc.)

Including the park's management in the overall management and development planning process for the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj and the Ndiel Wildlife Reserve.

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

The reserve is an experimental research station. Paddocks for the gazelle brought in from Spain have been erected. A Studbook containing the animals' genealogy has been opened. Gazelles are given regular veterinary inspections. Ornithologists monitor birds annually, particularly avocets.

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

There is a reception centre 5 km from the park, and a watchtower has been built for tourists to observe wildlife. There are no brochures available, but visitors are given information. There are regular study visits by schools.

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

The Gueumbeul Special Wildlife Reserve is used for tourism (nature observation) and for practical field studies for schoolchildren and students. Almost 750 people visit it every year.

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

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

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only) Identification, Establishment and Management of specially protected areas in the WACAF region (IUCN-April 1992).

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**

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