

## Information Sheet on Ramsar wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7. of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

**1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

August 8, 1997

**2. Country:**

Suriname

**3. Name of wetland:**

Coppenamemonding Nature Reserve

**4. Geographical coordinates:**

Latitude: between 05°53' and 06° 00' N

Longitude: between 55° 29' and 55° 58' W

**5. Altitude:**

Up to 5m above sea level

**6. Area:**

12,000 ha

**7. Overview:**

The reserve is part of the estuarine zone of Suriname. It has a high biological productivity, and consequently harbours large numbers of several bird species, especially waterfowl, shrimps and fishes.

**8. Wetland Type:**

- Marine-coastal: F. G. H. I. J. K

**9. Ramsar Criteria:**

2c. 3a. 4b

**10. Map of site included?**

Yes

**11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

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**12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.**

The reserve is an important roosting and feeding area for Scarlet Ibises, egrets and herons. It is also a wintering station for thousands of migratory birds, especially waders. Roosting and feeding populations of the Scarlet Ibis may reach more than 20,000 pairs. The area serves also as an important nursery ground for many marine fish and shrimp species.

**13. General location:**

The reserve is situated on the right bank of the mouth of the Coppename River, approximately 86 km west of Paramaribo, the capital city of Suriname.

The nearest city is the fishermen village of Boskamp, located along the Coppename River south of the reserve.

The reserve falls under the Administration of the Saramacca District.

**14. Physical features:**

The soil consists of very poorly drained unripe and practically unripe saline to brackish clay.

The reserve is being influenced by the tide, and there is also inflow of fresh water from the inland. The water is saline to brackish, with a depth of no more than 2m.

Parts of the reserve may dry up in the long dry season.

**15. Hydrological values:**

Not applicable

**16. Ecological features:**

The area consists of:

- mudflats
- mangrove forests with *Avicennia germinans*, *Rhizophora mangle*, and *Laguncularia racemosa*
- brackish water lagoons

**17. Noteworthy flora:**

None

**18. Noteworthy fauna:**

- Scarlet ibis; roosting and feeding populations may reach 20,000 pairs
- migratory shore birds: population may reach more than 1.2 million

**19. Social and cultural values:**

The area is nursery for many marine fish and shrimp species

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

- a. Site: the entire area is public land
- b. Surrounding area: there are private lands south of the reserve for rice cultivation, however, not reaching the border of the reserve.  
The State Oil Company has also concession for oil exploration and exploitation south of the reserve, as well as offshore

**21. Current land use:**

- a. Site: none
- b. Surroundings/catchment: rice cultivation and oil drilling ( on land as well as offshore)

**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: none
- b. Around the site: - use of pesticides in the rice cultivation  
- Oil spill may adversely affect the area

**23. Conservation measures taken:**

The Government has been petitioned not to allow rice fields to expand beyond the watershed, which guarantees no fresh water withdrawal from the site.

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

A Management Plan will soon be developed for the so called North Saramacca Area, including the Coppenamemonding Nature Reserve. The North Saramacca Area will then be proposed to be declared a Multiple-use Management Area.

**25. Current scientific research and facilities:**

None

**26. Current conservation education:**

In the seventies, the Foundation for Nature Preservation in Suriname (STINASU), had produced several films on nature conservation issues. One of them deals with threats, and with the conservation of waterfowl, in particular scarlet ibis, herons, and shore birds. The Coppename Nature Reserve has been highlighted in the film, which is regularly being shown to the general public, in particular school children.

**27. Current recreation and tourism:**

The reserve is occasionally being used for tourism, in particular for bird watching.

**28. Jurisdiction:**

The reserve is situated in the District of Saramacca. The management, however, falls under the Head of the Suriname Forest service, within the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**29. Management Authority:**

The Nature Conservation Division of the Suriname Forest Service.

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**30. Bibliographical references:**