

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:

2. Country: Chad

3. Name of wetland: Lac Fitri

4. Geographical coordinates: 12°50' N, 17°30' E

5. **Altitude:** (average and/or max. & min.) 250-300 metres
195,000 ha.

6. **Area:** (in hectares)

7. Overview:

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

Lac Fitri reserve is centred on a large lake. Activities include farming, animal husbandry and fishing . The biotope is greatly appreciated for its wildlife, particularly birds.

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: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . Q . 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: O

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:

BEHERA COMMANDA, Service Ecobiologie et capture, Direction des Parcs Nationaux et Réserve de Faune, BP 905, N'Djamena

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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) 300 km east of N'Djamena in Batha Prefecture

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 lake is a relict of the Chad inland sea, now reduced to Lake Chad, and is fed by the floodwaters of the Bahr Ba Tha. The wetland slopes gently down to the lake. Climate type is tropical semi-arid with average rainfall of 900 mm per annum. Soils are tropical ferruginous sandy clay to clay. There are rich grazing lands in the catchment which attract herders, as well as farmers and fisher folk. Water levels vary greatly, because of the intermittent flow of feeders.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc) No studies have been conducted, although the revival of the multiple aspects of the now dormant integrated management project could well provide the necessary information.

Translator's note: please compare sections 16, 17 and 18 with French original in case Latin names seem incorrect

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types) The wetland is important for its rich grazing land, fish, and fertile soil. Vegetation in and around the lake is varied, including grasses growing at areas of different depth in the lake, eg. *Oryza*, *Phragmites*, *Polygonum*, *Cyperaceae*, etc... tree species include *Acacia* sp. *Mitragyna*, *Enertraea*, *Balamites aegyptiaca*, *Bborassus aethiopum*, *Hyphaene thebaica* etc....

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc) *Acacia nilotica* and seyal (?) predominate, but other species are frequently encountered, such as *Mitragyna inermis* and other widely used species such as *Borassus aethiopiens*, *Hyphaene thebaica*, *Balamites aegyptica*. Species encountered in the lake are generally *Oryza* spp, *Aeschynamen* spp, *Phragmites mauritiana*, *Polygonum* sp, *Echinochloa stagmina*, *Vossia cuspidata*, *Nyaphea aquatica* etc.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.) The variety of wildlife used to be one of the richest in the Sahel, but has recently declined. Some rare species observed include: *Gazella rufifrons*, *Ourebia O*, *Laxodonta africana*. Fish include *Protopterus annectus*, *Tilapia galilea*, *Tilapia nilotica*, *Schilbe mystus*, *Entropius niloticus*, *Synodontis* sp, *Alestes* sp, *Claria* sp, *Mormyrus*, etc. The site is home to a wide variety of waterfowl, e.g. *Anseriformes*, *Balearica pavomina*, migratory species, and many others too numerous to mention.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.) Animal husbandry, farming and fishing are widespread in the area. The ecosystem is still relatively undisturbed. The mainly Moslem population lives on lands subject to a management system under the authority of the sultan at Yao. The site is of importance for recreation, education, scientific research and conservation.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: State-owned public land

(b) surrounding area: State-owned; although settled by farmers, herders and fisherfolk.

21. Current land use:

(a) site: (apart from conservation) traditional farming, grazing and fishing activities

(b) surroundings/catchment: farming and herding development project being implemented.

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: the present continuous increase in total population, especially farmers, herders and fishers, could well have an impact on the environment in the future.

(b) around the site: here too, there is concern at a possible imbalance {between population levels?- the original French text is unclear} and the farming and livestock development projects.

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) Classified as a Biosphere Reserve since 1989 by Decree 773/PR/MTE/8, 2 October 1989. An integrated management plan for the wetland had earlier been initiated jointly by the Government and IUCN but is now dormant.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.) AS planned in the national conservation strategy, conservation measures will be drafted and their introduction could be speeded up if the now dormant IUCN project could be revived.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.) No scientific facilities, but expert missions have taken place:

IUCN identification mission report (J Skinner)

Census mission report (F Roux and Guy Jarry)

Report on the creation of a Biosphere Reserve (IUCN)

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.) Very important for education and conservation. No current educational programme.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity) none

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

Republic of Chad

Ministry of Tourism and the Environment

Batha Prefecture

Ati Subprefecture

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

ORSTOM

IUCN mission reports

Census report: Francois Roux and Guy Jarry

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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

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