

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:

28. 05. 92

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

TUNISIA

3. Name of wetland: ICHKEUL

4. Geographical coordinates: 37°10' N, 9°40' W

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0-50m (lake and marsh), 511m (mountain)

6. Area: (in hectares) 12,600 ha (lake 8,500 ha; marsh 2,737 ha; mountain 1,363 ha)

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

Lake 8,500 ha; marsh 2,737 ha; mountain 1,363 ha.

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 . 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:

Direction Générale des Forêts
30 rue Alain Savary
1002 TUNIS

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). Site of international importance for wintering waterfowl

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region) Parc National de l'Ichkeul
Arrondissement des Forêts de Bizerte, CRDA de Bizerte

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)

Natural permanent wetland, freshwater in winter, saltwater in summer, with access to the Lac de Bizerte and the sea through the Canal de Tinja. Summer water level in lake: 40 cm NGT*; winter water level in lake: 200 cm NGT*

Mean temperature: 18° C

Average rainfall: 600 mm

Geology of lake: Cretaceous clay and gypsum.

*National reference level

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

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

Low summer water level with high salinity, high winter water level with low salinity. This fluctuation helps the development of pondweed and bulrushes, which form the staple diet for wintering waterfowl.

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

-*Potamogeton pictinatus*, *Phragmites australis*, *Scirpus maritimus*.

-500 plant species counted in the park.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.) Wintering ground of international importance (200,000-400,000 birds):

coot, common pochard, graylag goose, white-headed duck, etc...

otter, water buffalo,

fish.

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

Fish production: 200,000 kg/annum.

Information, education and public awareness: 20,000 visitors/annum

Scientific research.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site: State-owned land (b) surrounding area: private holdings

21. Current land use: (a) site: fishing (b) surroundings/catchment: grazing

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: International call for tender, October 1991, for "Study to safeguard the Parc national d'Ichkeul". The technical and financial offers are under consideration.

(b) around the site:

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)

National Park with information centre (ecomuseum)

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.) The park is now being managed.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)
Scientific monitoring by the National Research Foundation

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)
Fully equipped information centre (ecomuseum)
French- and Arabic-language brochures about the park.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)
20, 000 visitors annually, half of them school children.

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

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

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

-The Modelling and Management of the Internationally Important Wetland of Lac Ichkeul - Ted Hollis - 1986

-Critères de fonctionnement d'une zone humide dans son exploitation par un peuplement d'oiseaux d'eau - Alain Tamisier - 1990

-Parc National de l'Ichkeul - Dir. Générale des Forêts - 1988

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