

18 APR 1995

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to:

Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: ZAMBIA 2. Date: 3/4/95 3. Ref: office use only 17m001
4. Name and address of compiler: ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA
P.O. BOX 35131, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
5. Name of wetland: KAFUE FLATS: LOCHINVAR AND BLUE LAGOON
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 28TH AUGUST, 1991
7. Geographical coordinates: 16°00'S 27°15' E LONCHINVAR 15°30'S 27°20'E
8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) BLUE LAGOON
NEAR MONZE APPROX 180KM SOUTH OF LUSAKA
9. Area: (in hectares) 83,000 ha.

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

FLOOD PLAIN, FLATS, SWAMP

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

914 - 1218m

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

HAS DEEP BLACK CRACKING CLAYS, HAS HOT SPRINGS ALONG PERIPHERY

13. 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)

MEAN ANNUAL RAINFALL 800-900mm

Catchment is₃ between Itezhi tezhi dam₂ and Kafue gorge dam. (46,000km²)
Flow is 183m³/5 Area flats is 6,500km² and slope of 0.004%. Kafue river. Water is not at high tide during Jan - March. Water is quite deep near the main river.

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

Main features: Flood plain, Lagoon, back swamps levees and flats. *Brachystegia* woodland dominant. This is succeeded by SAVANNA with *Combretum* sp, *Albizia harvey*, *Acacia polycantha* and *Termitaria*. Grassland covers most of the area frequently flooded.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site BELONGS TO GOVERNMENT THROUGH MINISTRY OF TOURISM
THE SITE IS IN THE NATIONAL PARK

(b) surrounding area

THE AREA AROUND IS A GAME MANAGEMENT AREA. PEOPLE
LIVE IN THESE AREAS AND CONTROLLED BY CHIEFS.

16. 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)

MANAGEMENT PLAN EXISTS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO BOUNDARY CHANGES THE PROTECTED AREAS ARE
UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS. THE
MANAGEMENT PLANS HAVE BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

AS IN 16 ABOVE.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site FISHING, TOURIST ATTRACTION, GAME VIEWING SITE HAS ABUNDANT
LECHWE AND ZEBRA.

(b) surroundings/catchment FISHING, CONTROLLED CULTIVATION OF MAIZE,
SWEET POTATOES.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site OVERFISHING, LARGE NUMBERS OF TOURISTS,
TOO MANY LICENCES ISSUES TO SAFARI HUNTERS

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

POPULATION GROWTH OF BOTH PEOPLE AND ANIMALS. THIS MAY LEAD
TO LAND DEGRADATION AND STRAYING OF ANIMALS INTO THE NATIONAL
PARK IN SEARCH OF GREEN PASTURES FOR GRAZING.

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

HAS GOT CAPACITY FOR GROUND WATER RECHARGE AND FLOOD CONTROL AND SEDIMENT TRAPPING. CONTROLS THE FLOW OF WATER TO THE KAFUE GORGE DAM WHICH IS ABOUT 250 km DOWNSTREAM. DURING DROUGHT, RELEASES WATER SLOWLY INTO THE SYSTEM.

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

ABOUT 55 SPECIES OF FISH ARE KNOWN IN THE FLATS. OF THESE 23 ARE OF COMMERCIAL VALUE. FISH POPULATIONS HAVE DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS DUE TO OVERFISHING. AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE EXISTS - THE DRUM ROCKS, AND A BIG BAOBAB TREE WHICH WAS USED BY ANCIENT PEOPLE AS SHELTER AND PROTECTION FROM WILD ANIMALS AT NIGHT.

fishing, historic, tradition, research

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

THE KAFUE LECHWE. THIS IS ENDEMIC ONLY TO THIS AREA IN THE WHOLE WORLD. OTHER WILDLIFE FOUND ARE ZEBRA, WILDEBEAST, BUFFALO, STATUNGA, NILE CROCODILE, AND THE HIPPO.

THERE IS ABOUT 65,000 LECHWE IN THE PLAIN.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

NO NOTEWORTHY FLORA. MUCH OF THE VEGETATION HAS CHANGED STRUCTURE SUBSTANTIALLY DUE TO GRAZING, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, AGRICULTURE, FIRES AND DAM DEVELOPMENT.

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

FISHERIES RESEARCH STATION - CARRIES OUT RESEARCH ON FISHERIES.
WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT CARRIES OUT WORK ON BIRD POPULATIONS

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

MOST OF THE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE
WWF THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS.

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

WETLAND IS USED FOR TOURISM.
USUALLY THERE IS MORE PEOPLE AFTER THE RAINY SEASON (MARCH -
APRIL) WHEN MORE ANIMALS ARE VIEWED.

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

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE, P.O. BOX 1 CHILANGA

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

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- (1) D.H.V. 1980 KAFUE FLATS HYDROLOGICAL STUDIES
DHV CONSULTING ENGINEERS - AMERSFOOT,
THE NETHERLANDS.
- (2) PIKE, EGR AND T.G CAREY 1965 THE KAFUE FLOOD PLAIN PAGES
76-84 IN MAE MORTIMER NAT. RES. OF ZAMBIA

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

THIS WETLANDS IS UNIQUE AS IT HAS THE BLACK LECHWE WHICH
IS FOUND NOWHERE IN THE WORLD.

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

WWF

Please return to:

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