

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:

10TH SEPTEMBER 1997

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY
28	08	91

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

ZAMBIA

3. Name of wetland: KAFUE FLATS; LOCHINVAR AND BLUE LAGOON

4. Geographical coordinates: 16° 00' S 27° 15' E (LOCHINVAR) 15° 30' S 27° 20' E (BLUE LAGOON)

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 914m - 1218m **6. Area:** (in hectares) 83,000 Ha

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

HAS DEEP BLACK CRACKLING CLAYS (VERTISOLS). HAS HOT SPRINGS ALONG THE PERIPHERY.

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: 3b

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:

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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)

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)

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

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

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

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

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

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

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

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 (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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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KAFUE FLATS: LOCHINVAR AND BLUE LAGOON

12. This is a unique wetland as it has the Kafue Lechwe which is endemic to this wetland
13. The wetland is located near Monze in the Southern province of Zambia about 180 km from Lusaka
14. Mean annual rainfall is 800-900mm. Catchment is between Iteshiteshi dam and Kafue gorge dam (46,000km²). Flow is 183m³/s. Area of flats is 6,500 km² and slope of 0.004%. Kafue river water is not at high tide during January to March. The river is quite deep near the main river
15. Has got capacity for groundwater recharge and flood control and sediment trapping. The flats control the flow of water to the Kafue gorge dam which is about 250 km downstream. During the drought, the flats release water slowly into the system.
16. Main features: Flood plain, lagoon, back swamp levees and flats. *Brachystegia* woodland is dominant. This is succeeded by Savanna with *Combretum sp.*, *Albizia harveyi*, *Acacia polyacantha* and *Termitaria*. Grassland covers most of the area flooded
17. No noteworthy flora. Much of the vegetation has changed structure subsequently due to grazing, human settlements, agriculture, fires and dam development
18. The Kafue Lechwe is a noteworthy species of fauna. It is endemic only to this area in the whole world. Other wildlife found are Wildbeest, Buffalo, Sitatunga, the Nile Crocodile and the Hippo. Birds found in this wetland are the Kingfisher, Maroub Stork, Pelicans, Wattled and Crown crested cranes, the Fish Eagle, Shoebill and Spoonbill, amongst others.
19. About 55 species of fish are known in the flats. Of these 23 are commercial value These include the Tilapia, Bulbous and Catfish. Fish populations despite having been on the decline in recent years have started improving because of good management plans which have been introduced. An archaeological site exists-the Drum Rocks and a big tree which was used by ancient people for protection from wild animals at night. The forests have remain relatively pristine because of the protection offered by the National Parks department and the forestry department. Charcoal burning which has been the main cause of deforestation in many areas is done on a very small scale on domestic basis.
20. Land tenure/ownership: The land on which the site is belongs to government through the Ministry of Tourism, department of National Parks and wildlife Service. The site is in a National Park. The surrounding area is a Game Management Area in which people are allowed to live and in which permitted hunting of animals is allowed.

21. Current Land use: (a) Fishing, tourist attraction, game viewing and grazing of livestock by the local people. Site has abundant Lechwe and Zebra. (b) Fishing, controlled cultivation of maize, sweet potatoes, vegetables and rearing of livestock including poultry.
22. (a) Overfishing, large numbers of tourists, too many licences issued to Safari hunters. (b) Population growth of people and wildlife. This may lead to land degradation and straying of animals into the national park in search of green pastures for grazing.
23. Management plan exists under the ministry of Tourism. There have been no boundary changes. The protected areas are under the department of national parks and wildlife service. The management plans are fully implemented and the national policy for wetlands is about to be completed. This will assist in further strengthening of the management of this site.
24. As in 23 above.
25. Fisheries research station carries out research on fisheries. Wildlife department carries out work on bird and animal populations.
26. Most of the conservation works were carried out by WWF Zambia through the department of national parks and wildlife service until recently when the Environmental Council of Zambia has started running a wetlands conservation project with the help of WWF Zambia.
27. Wetland is used for tourism and research work. Usually there is more people after the rain season (March to April) when there are more animals to view
28. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, The Environmental Council of Zambia.
29. The Ministry of Tourism, Department of national Park and Wildlife Services, P.O. Box 1, Chilanga, Lusaka.
30. (1) D.H.V.(1980), Kafue Flats Hydrological studies, DHV Consulting Engineers - Amersfoot, The Netherlands.
(2) EGR Pike and Carey T G (1965) The Kafue Flood plains, Pages 76-84 in MAE Mortimer Natural Resources of Zambia