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. Ramsur Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England Completed sheets should be returned to:

1. Country: ZAMBIA

2. Date: 3/4/95 3. Ref: office use only

4. Name and address of compiler: ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA P.O. BOX 35131, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

5. Name of wetland: BANGWEULU SWAMPS

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 28TH AUGUST, 1991

12°00s 30°15'E 7. Geographical coordinates:

 General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) MPIKA DISTRICT, NORTHERN PROVINCE

9. Area: (in hectares) 250,000 ha.

 Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7) SHALLOW LAKE, SWAMP; FLOOD PLAIN

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

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics) IT RECEIVES THE HIGHEST RAINFALL IN ZAMBIA. THE SWAMPS LIE IN SHALLOW BASIN DRAINED TO THE WEST BY THE LUAPULA RIVER

 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)

BASIN LOCATED IN THE HEADWATER REGION ON THE ZAIRE RIVER. RECEIVES 21200mm - 1500mm RAINFALL TOTAL AREA OF INTERBASIN IS 57000km". IT IS THE TENTH LARGEST SWAMPS IN AFRICA. IT IS SHALLOW, SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS. DEPRESSION IN A PLATEU. CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF LAGOONS, FLOOD PLAIN, FLATS AND SWAMPS.

Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

ABUNDANT HABITATS EXIST FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE. VARIETY OF GRASS MOSTLY SUITABLY FOR LECHWE GRAZING. MUCH OF THE SLOPE IS DOMINATED BY BRACTIYSTEGIA WOODLANDS BUT TRANSITIONAL VEGETATION TYPES OCCUR TOWARDS THE WETLAND AREA.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

- (a) site BELONGS TO GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM THE SITE IS NOT IN A NATIONAL PARKS.
- (b) surrounding area THIS IS IN AN OPEN AREA WITHOUT ANY FORM OF PROTECTION, TRADITIONAL RULERS IN CHARGE
- 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)

THERE HAVE BEEN NO BOUNDARY CHANGES.

A MANAGMENT PLAN IS NOT IN EXISTENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE DIFFICULT DUE TO DIFFICULT ACCESSIBILITY TO THE AREA.

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:

hishing , tourism,

- (a) site FISHING, VERY LIMITED TOURISM, GAME VIEWING (LACK OF INFRACTRUCTURE)
 BLACK LECHWE INDIGENOUS TO THIS AREA.
- (b) surroundings/catchment MOSTLY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN FISHING AND ABIT OF AGRICULTURE.
- 19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:
- (a) at the site

OVERFISHING, UNDESIRABLE FARMING PRACTICES. POACHING AND INCREASING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ARE ALSO THREATS IN THIS AREA.

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(b) in the surroundings/catchment

0. Hydrologica	l and physi	ical values:	groundwater recharg	e, flood control, s	ediment trapping.	shoreline stabilis	ation etc.)
ALSO HAS	GOOD CA	APACITY F	OR GROUND	WATER RE	CHARGE At	ND FLOOD	CONTRO
		CONTRACTOR	lw Ha	Jea			
		Drouge	1000	CLEON			
		-4					
21. Social and	cultural val	ues: (e.g. fisher	ies production, fores	try, religious impe	ortance, archaeoloj	gical site etc.)	
THERE AL	DE ABOUT	86 SPECI	ES OF FIS	н			
			COMMERCIA		EVCECCTU	E ETCHIN	CAND
			HODS AND	DISTURBA	NCES TO	BREEDING	
AREAS AF	RE A THR	EAT.					
22. Noteworth	y fauna: (e.	g. unique, rare, one	langered, abundant of	r biogeographical	ly important speci	es; include count	data etc.)
NOTEWOR'	THY FAUN	A ARE BLA	ACK LECHWI	. SITATU	NGA, TSE	SSEBE,	
			NILE CROC				TTERS.
BIRDLIF	E IS ALS	O ABUNDAN	VT.				

THE COMMON VEGETATION TYPES ARE FOUND E.G PHRAGMITES SP TYPHA SP CYPERUS PAPYRUS. ALSO FOUND ARE THE COMMON FLOATING AND SUBMERGED HYDROPHYTES E.G. NYMPHAEA SP CERATOPHY-LLUM SP AND OTHERS. SWAMP FOREST ARE ALSO PRESENT.

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

- 24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)
 A WWF STATION EXISTS IN THE AREA. MAINLY PROMOTES AWARENESS PROGRAMMES.
- 25. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)
 THERE ARE NO PROPER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES EXCEPT FOR THE WWF WETLAND PROJECT.
- 26. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

 VERY LITTLE TOURISM OR RECREATION OCCURS HERE DUE TO THE DIFFICULT ACCESS TO THE SWAMPS
- 27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)
 WWF ZAMBIA WETLAND PROJECT, P.O. BOX 1 CHILANGA, ZAMBIA
- 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)

TAIT, CC. 1965 BANGWEULU. PAGES 69-75. IN M.A.E. MORTIMER, NAT. RES. HANDBOOK. THE FISH AND FISHERIES OF ZAMBIA, CHILANGA, ZAMBIA.

- 30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference are applicable)
 HAS VERY IMPORTANT ENDEMIC FAUNA AND IS A CHARACTERISTIC WETLAND.
- 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)

Please return to: Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England
Telephone: 44 - (0)453 890634 Telefax: 44 - (0)453 890827 Telex: 43 71 45 WWF-G

16/8/95