

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

I	Z	M	0	0	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

ZAMBIA

3. Name of wetland:

BANGWELU SWAMPS.

4. Geographical coordinates:

12°00'S 30°15'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.)

1100m

6. Area: (in hectares)

250,000HA

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

IT RECEIVES THE HIGHEST RAINFALL IN ZAMBIA, THE SWAMPS ARE IN SHALLOW BASIN DRAINED TO THE WEST BY THE LUAPULA RIVER

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:

1c

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:

MR. LLOYD S. TADLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA
P.O. BOX 35131, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
TEL (260-1) 257130/1 FAX 26254164.
Email: NEC@ZAMNET.ZM

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)

LAKE BANGWEULU SWAMPS RAMSAR SITE

12. This wetland is unique in that it has some species of the Crane and the Black Lechwe which is endemic.
13. This wetland is in Mpika district of the northern province of Zambia about 500km from the capital city of Zambia (Lusaka)
14. The basin is located in the headwater region on the Zaire river in the new Democratic Republic of Congo. It receives 1200mm - 1500mm rainfall per annum. The total area is 57000km². It is the tenth largest swamps in Africa. It is shallow and is surrounded by mountains. It is a depression in a plateau and consists of a series of lagoons, flood-plain, flats and swamps.
15. This swamp has a good capacity for ground water recharge and flood control.
16. It has good habitats for fish and wildlife. The swamp has a variety of grasses suitable for animal grazing. Much of the slope is dominated by *Brachstergia* woodlands but transitional vegetation types occur towards the wetland area.
17. There is a number of vegetation types found in the area. Some of these are *Phragmites* sp., *Typha* sp and *Cyperus papyrus*. Also found are the common floating and submerged hydrophytes eg *Nymphaea* sp *Ceratophyllum* sp and others swamp forest are also present.
18. Black Lechwe, Sitatunga, Tsessebe, Reedbuck, Oribi, Hippo, Nile crocodile, Zebra, Buffalo, and otters. Birdlife is also quite abundant.
19. There are no archaeological sites in the area. There are about 86 species of fish in the swamp but only 33 of these are of commercial value. Excessive fishing and use of wrong fishing methods and disturbances to breeding areas are some of the threats to the swamp. There are no religious areas of importance.
20. (a) The site belongs to the government but is in an open area. (b) The surrounding area belongs to the traditional rulers and the chiefs are responsible for the allocation of land to the local people for various uses.
21. (a) The major land use of the site is fishing game viewing and limited tourism. (b) Agricultural activities take place in the surrounding catchment. These include animal grazing.

22. (a) Over-fishing, poaching, and over harvesting of some resources. (b) Undesired farming practices such as overstocking of animals, etc.
23. The area is not under official government protection although plans are underway to bring this area under protection. A project sponsored by WWF Zambia is in existence and this has helped to protect the area.
24. Plans are underway to declare this area as a protected area and efforts are being made to produce a management plan for management of this area.
25. A WWF station exists in the area and research and outreach activities are being conducted
26. Conservation initiatives are being conducted in the area by the WWF and the Environmental Council of Zambia through the Wetlands programme.
27. Very little tourism or recreation takes place here due to the difficulty in accessibility.
28. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
29. WWF-Zambia wetland project, Environmental Council of Zambia, P.O. Box 35131, Lusaka.
30. Tait, CC, 1965 Bangweulu, Pages 69-75 in M.A.E. Mortimer, Natural Resources Handbook. Fish and Fisheries of Zambia, Chilanga, Zambia.