



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Cabo Verde

4 Ramsar Site(s) covering 2,300 ha

Curral Velho

Site number: 1,575 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Isla de Boa Vista
Area: 986 ha | Coordinates: 16°00'15"N 22°45'33"W | Designation dates: 18-07-2005
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Curral Velho Ramsar Site is located on Boa Vista Island. It is composed of a permanent coastal lagoon at the mouth of the Ribeira de Brito Cruzinha, temporary coastal lagoons, the surrounding dune ecosystems and beach, and the islet of Curral Velho. All these areas are of ecological and scientific interest due to their isolated location on an oceanic volcanic island. The Site plays a very important ecological role as it maintains specific vegetation (halophytes, tamarisks and palm trees including coconut palm) while the lagoons provide a feeding ground for migratory birds. It is also home to a number of reptiles, and water birds including the Cape Verde shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*) and the Cape Verde storm petrel (*Oceanodroma jabejabe*), two species endemic to the archipelago. It also includes the most important site for nesting loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in Cabo Verde. Among the activities developed in the area are farming of goats and cattle, artisanal and recreational fishing in coastal areas, tourist excursions using all-terrain vehicles, and bird watching.

Lagoa de Pedra Badejo

Site number: 1,577 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Island of Santiago
Area: 666.1 ha | Coordinates: 15°05'59"N 23°32'12"W | Designation dates: 18-07-2005
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoas de Pedra Badejo (Lagoons of Pedra Badejo) is located on Santiago Island. The Ramsar Site is made up of two coastal lagoons on the adjacent estuaries of two watercourses and the entire basin of one of the watercourses as far as and including the Poilão reservoir. The lagoons are of great ecological value for birds as they contain fresh or only slightly brackish water. Since it was flooded, the reservoir has also become an exceptional area for migratory waterbirds and species endemic to Cabo Verde such as the Cape Verde heron (*Ardea purpurea bournei*) and the Cape Verde warbler (*Acrocephalus brevipennis*). Waders such as black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) and the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) breed here. The beaches provide important nesting sites for loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and feeding grounds for seabirds. Between the beach and the lagoons, characteristic vegetation can be found, including *Zygophyllum* species, while inland the invasive mesquite *Prosopis juliflora* is predominant.

Lagoa de Rabil

Site number: 1,576 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Island of Boa Vista

Area: 113 ha | Coordinates: 16°09'N 22°53'57"W | Designation dates: 18-07-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa de Rabil (Rabil Lagoon) is located on Boa Vista Island. The Ramsar Site is made up of the Ribeira do Rabil permanent coastal lagoon, the dune ecosystems at the end of the watercourse and the associated tree and shrub formations. It is home to a large number of species typical of dune and arid regions, which are of great importance to the maintenance of the biological diversity of the Macaronesian ecoregion and the entire Palearctic region, including West Africa. Bird species include the greater hoopoe-lark (*Alaemon alaudipes*), the bar-tailed lark (*Ammomanes cinctura*), the black-crowned sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix nigriceps*), the sanderling (*Calidris alba*), the bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), the Spanish sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*) and the endemic lagoon sparrow (*Passer iagoensis*). The Site is currently used for leisure and tourism activities, above all birdwatching, quad bike tours, and windsurfing and kitesurfing in the lagoon.

Salinas of the English Port

Site number: 2,182 | Country: Cabo Verde | Administrative region: Maio

Area: 535 ha | Coordinates: 15°09'24"N 23°13'36"W | Designation dates: 03-07-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Salinas of the English Port (Salinas de Porto Inglês). 03/07/13; Maio; 535 ha; 15°09'16"N 023°13'33"W. Protected Landscape. Salt flats with a lagoon basin, sand dunes, rocky semi-desert areas and wooded areas (principally acacia trees). The site hosts important number of characteristic sand dune and semi-desert species, including the Greater Hoopoe-Lark *Alaemon alaudipes*, Black Crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*, Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cinturus*, and wetland species such as the Sanderling *Calidris alba* and the Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, all very important in maintaining the biological diversity of the Macaronesia ecoregion. It supports 10 to 13% of the global population of the Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* as well as the endangered Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*. The site supports the largest population of the Cape Verdean Kentish Plover in the Atlantic Ocean, 150-300 individuals, representing 50% of the Cape Verdean population. Current land use includes salt extraction, livestock grazing and small-scale recreation/tourism. Tourism is gradually developing with the on-going construction of the Salinas beach resort. There is a need for regulatory actions to prevent over-construction of touristic structures in the Ramsar Site. Ramsar site no. 2182. Most recent RIS information: 2013.