



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

2 Ramsar Site(s) covering 13,472 ha

Fifa Nature Reserve

Site number: 2294 | Country: Jordan | Administrative region: Karak Governorate
Area: 6,100 ha | Coordinates: 48°10'42"N 21°56'14"E | Designation dates: 04-12-2016
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Fifa Nature Reserve lies in the Jordan Rift Valley to the south of the Dead Sea, in south-western Jordan. Its lowest point stands at 420 metres below sea level. The Site is fed by water from various sources, which include natural permanent springs to the south, a permanent artificial irrigation and drainage canal to the east, and seasonal water which drains from four wadis. The drained water forms large swamps and marshes which last to the end of the winter season. The Site is important for the livelihoods of people living around it, as it provides water for irrigation, drinking water for people and livestock, and habitat to many species. It supports two globally vulnerable species, Macqueen's bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) and dabb lizard (*Uromastyx aegyptia*). As the Site lies along the Rift Valley migration pathway, it also supports a large number of wintering waterfowl each year. The Site supports the hydrological balance of the Valley, controlling floods by receiving a large amount of rain water which flows onwards to the Dead Sea or recharges the aquifer, and controlling the land's salinity by receiving salts washed off the soil.

Azraq Oasis

Site number: 135 | Country: Jordan | Administrative region: Zarqa Governate
Area: 7,372 ha | Coordinates: 31°48'59"N 36°48'E | Designation dates: 10-01-1977
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Azraq Oasis. 10/01/77; 7,372 ha; 31°49'N 036°48'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Waterbird Reserve. A formerly permanent, spring-fed wetland and extensive (6,127ha) seasonally-flooded mudflat of a large drainage basin. Under natural conditions, the lush oasis supported reed and sedge communities restricted to Jordan and Azraq. It is a valuable staging area for migrating birds and serves as an important water supply for local communities, as well as the main water source for the capital city, Amman. Placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 because unsustainable groundwater extraction led to the almost complete desiccation of the site. In February 1998 it was reported that phase one of the physical rehabilitation was almost complete, and the next phase involving addressing the social and economic concerns of the people living in the site vicinity would begin. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1990. Ramsar site no. 135. Most recent RIS information: 1998.