



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Kuwait

1 Ramsar Site(s) covering 50,948 ha

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve

Site number: 2,239 | Country: Kuwait | Administrative region:

Area: 50,948 ha | Coordinates: 29°53'51"N 48°07'48"E | Designation dates: 05-05-2015

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Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve is located on Boubyan Island on the western side of the Shatt Al-Arab in the north-western Gulf. The Site is flat and low, featuring shallow salt marshes and small lagoons. It is important as a staging post for migrating birds, as well as for hosting populations of breeding waterbirds. These include the world's largest breeding colony of crab plover (*Dromas ardeola*) and colonies of swift terns (*Thalasseus bergii*), slender-billed gulls (*Larus genei*), herons, egrets and spoonbills. Cetaceans frequent the murky waters around the Site, including Indo-pacific humpback dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) and finless porpoises (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*). The island is a major nursery area for many commercial fish species such as silver pomfret (*Pampus argenteus*), nagoor (*Pomadasyss kaakan*) and croakers (*Sciaenidae*). The water channels are nursery grounds for shrimps and sea snakes such as the blue-banded sea snake (*Hydrophis cyanocinctus*), which visit in summer and feed on mudskippers.