

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

1LY002

Site: Ain Elzarga		Designation date: 05/04/2000	
Coordinates: 32°47'N 022°21'E		Elevation: 0-2m	Area: 50.0 hectares
Location: North eastern of Kouf national park (KNP), about 6-8 km south-west town of Al-Hnaya.			
Criteria: 2-3-4-8			
Importance: The site is one of the most important wetlands in the area of KNP for migratory waterbirds, i.e. (Phonicopteridae, Laridae, Anatidae, Sternidae, Ardididae)			
Wetland Types: H.K.F.N.Q.O.			
Biological/Ecological notes: Hypersaline coastal Sebkhah dunes and mudflats, salt marsh community. Vegetation is typical Mediterranean shrubs, mainly <i>Juniperus</i> sp, <i>Tamarex</i> sp. <i>Phragmites</i> sp. And <i>Ruppia</i> sp. beds on the bottom. Fauna includes: Amphibians <i>Rana saharica</i> , <i>Bufo viridis</i> , Fish: <i>Salaria pavo</i> , <i>Gobius fallax</i> , <i>Blennius</i> sp. and some other indigenous fish species. Feeding site for wintering and migratory flyway for waterfowls. Mollusca <i>Hydrobia acuta</i> , <i>Ventrosia ventrosa</i> , <i>Cerastoderma jonica</i> , <i>Spondyllus spectrum</i> , <i>Cerastoderma glaucum</i> ,			
Hydrological/Physical notes: small natural Sebkhah (depression) which have at least one natural connection with sea, it is wet all year around, but water level and salinity are increasing during summer. The Sebkhah is surrounded with dunes from east to west, and rocky hills from south to east.			
Human Uses: Tourism impact is still so limited; the site has great potential for ecotourism and other eco-friendly activities such as bird watching. Currently it is used by local community as recreational place during spring and summer seasons. It also represents a good example of natural heritage of Libya.			
Conservation Measures: The site is protected through its location inside the boundaries of Kouf national Park. More conservation actions are needed to maintain specificity and diversity of the site.			
Adverse Factors: Closure of the connections with sea by sand bars during summer leads to hyper salinity (95 ‰). Unsustainable hunting poses serious threat. Destruction of vegetation and fires (cutting-fire woods) especially during summer.			
Site Management: The directorate of KNP, Agricultural development Agency, Environment General Authority.			
Compiler: Mr. A. Hamza and Dr. A. Halisse			