

NAMIBIA - 1NA001

1. Country: Namibia
2. Date: 24/7/95
3. Ref: 1NA001
4. Name and address of compiler:
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Ministry of Environment & Tourism
Private Bag 13306
Windhoek
Namibia
5. Name of wetlands: Walvis Bay Wetland
6. Date of Ramsar designation: 19 June 1995
7. Geographical coordinates: 23°00'S 14°27'E
8. General location: On the west coast, just south of Walvis Bay.
9. Area: 4000 ha
10. Wetland type: A1, A7, A10
11. Altitude: Sea level
12. Overview: The site consists of the natural areas of Walvis Bay lagoon, Pelican Point up to its extreme northern tip and the adjacent intertidal areas. It also includes the Walvis Bay saltworks and the area to the south of it.
13. Physical features: The underlying geology is of the Damara sequence covered by the Namib sand sea of Quaternary origin. The lagoon is in one of several old channels of the Kuiseb river; it is tidal in its entirety. The climate at the site is that typical of arid coasts. Annual precipitation ranges between 2 and 38mm.
14. Ecological features: The most important feature of the site is the mudflats exposed at low tide. There are several sandbars which serve as roosting sites. Very little natural vegetation occurs, but the town of Walvis Bay adjacent to the site is well vegetated.
15. Land tenure/ownership of:
(a) site: State land, town lands.
(b) surrounding area: State land
16. Conservation measures taken: The entire wetland and surrounding area have been proclaimed as a nature reserve.
17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: no information available
18. Current land use:
(a) site: Recreation, salt production.
(b) surroundings/catchment: no information available
19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:
(a) at the site: Residential development along the edge of the lagoon may have a slight effect on the bird populations. Natural siltation may eventually lead to the infilling of the site.
(b) in the surroundings/catchment: no information available

20. Hydrological and physical values: no information available

21. Social and cultural values: no information available

22. Noteworthy fauna: Regular bird counts have shown that numbers of wetland birds vary from 37 000 to 79 000 individuals. Significant numbers of several red data species occur; about 6 900 chestnut-banded plovers *CHARADRIUS PALLIDUS*, 33 000 lesser flamingos *Phoeniconaias minor* and 23 000 greater flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Eleven red data species are regularly found.

23. Noteworthy flora: no information available

24. Current scientific research and facilities: Wetland bird counts are done twice a year.

25. Current conservation education: Several boards showing the diversity of birds in the lagoon have been erected.

26. Current recreation and tourism: The lagoon is used by windsurfers and dinghy sailors. There is a pedestrian walkway along the eastern shore of the lagoon. Many tour operators bring tourists to photograph the masses of flamingos.

27. Management authority: Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia.

28. Jurisdiction: As above.

29. Bibliographical references: See attached list.

30. Reasons for inclusion: 1b, 1d, 2a, 2c, 3a, 3c