

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: PAKISTAN 2. Date: 20-01-92 3. Ref: office use only ZPK006

4. Name and address of compiler:

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5. Name of wetland: KINJHAR (KALRI) LAKE

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 23 July 1976

7. Geographical coordinates: 24°56'N 68°03'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

19km north northeast of Thatta, 100km east of Karachi, Thatta District, Sindh Province

9. Area: (in hectares)

13,468 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

①, ⑥

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

70m a.s.l.

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics) The largest freshwater lake in Pakistan, with extensive reedbeds, particularly in the shallower western & northern parts. The lake is extremely important for breeding, passage and wintering waterfowl.

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The lake is 24km long by 6km wide (at its widest point) and has an irregular shoreline of 192km. It was created in the 1930s, through the creation of a dam and 12km bund, which joined lakes Kinjhar and Kalri. The lake is set in a stony desert, with the higher land often forming peninsulas. The rocks consist of alternating limestones and sandstones. The lake is fed by the KB feeder canal which enters in the northwest corner, and by many seasonal streams entering on the northern & western shores. The eastern shore is formed by the 12km bund. The lake's only outlet is at the dam at Chilia Bangla. Max. depth 8m. Average annual rainfall 175mm

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

av. min temp. Jan. = 1.5°C
av. max temp. July = 47°C

There are extensive reedbeds of Phragmites karka, Typha angustata & Juncus articulatus, whilst a rich submerged and floating aquatic vegetation includes Hydrilla verticillata, Potamogeton pectinatus, P. perfoliatus, Polygonum barbatum, Nymphaea lotus, Vallisneria spiralis and Zonitichellia palustris. The shoreline supports stands of Tamarix dioica. The natural vegetation of the surrounding area is tropical thorn forest

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

Government of Sindh

(b) surrounding area

Government of Sindh

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

declared a Game Sanctuary in 1971 and gazetted as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1977. Destruction of vegetation, trapping/hunting of wild animals in the Sanctuary (& its 4.8km-radius buffer zone) are prohibited. The lake is managed in accordance with a management plan drawn up by P.J. Conder in 1977.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

The Conder management plan included a number of proposals. The Ramsar Monitoring Procedure Mission of May 1990 recommended that special attention be given to finding a solution to the problem of disturbance of wintering ducks by fishing activities.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site commercial fishing nature conservation
water supply for Karachi rough grazing
public recreation
scientific research

(b) surroundings/catchment

grazing

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site The May 1990 Ramsar Monitoring Procedure Mission concluded that Kinjhar had suffered no major change in ecological character since Ramsar designation & that it should remain on the Ramsar list.

However, disturbance from fishing activities was reported to have increased, resulting in a decline in numbers of wintering ducks.

Some disturbance from recreational activities and encroachment by grazing cattle are noted in the Asian Wetlands Directory.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

serves a valuable flood control function

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

A major source of drinking water for the city of Karachi

Supports a major fishery

There are some 15 villages on the lake's shore which depend to some extent on the fishery function

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

An extremely important breeding, staging & wintering area for a wide variety of waterfowl. Mid-winter counts for the 4 winters 1986/7 - 1989/90 averaged 140,000 (max. 205,000 in 1987/8).

Breeding species include Nycticorax nycticorax, Nettion coromandelianus, Porphyrio porphyrio & Hydrophasianus chirurgus.

A list of wintering waterfowl in 1987 & 1988 is given in the Asian Wetland Directory p. 343.

The area is also important for raptors, Circus aeruginosus being especially common

There is a rich fish fauna and reptiles include cobra Naja naja

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

No special values known.

24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Annual mid-winter waterfowl counts have been conducted since 1971. There is excellent potential for further work, given the lake's proximity to Karachi. Included in IWRB waterfowl database

25. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Situated close to Pakistan's largest urban area, there could be excellent opportunities for developing this function at Kinghar.

26. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

A visitor centre is being constructed by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, at a nearby village.

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Provincial Government of Sindh

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Provincial Government of Sindh

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

The Ramsar Monitoring Procedure Mission of May 1990 concluded that the lake qualified under criteria 1a, 1c, 2b & 3a.

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)
