Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 1 February 2016
Update version, previously published on : 1 December 2014

Zimbabwe

Monavale Wetland

Designation date	3 May 2013
Site number	2107
Coordinates	17°48'22"S 31°00'26"E
Area	507,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a ' full ' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The Monavale Ramsar Site is an urban seasonally flooded short grassland wetland ecosystem situated in northwest Harare, close to the City centre. Harare itself is located within the headwaters of the Upper Manyame catchment basin. These vleis or wetlands are the primary water source for the City. The feed water into the streams and rivers which flow down to the City's supply dams 32 km downstream to the south west, with that water being pumped back up to the City for its needs. Monavalei Vlei is an outstanding example of the once extensive headwater wetland or vlei ecosystems of Zimbabwe supporting a diverse range of plants and animals many of which are unique and of international importance.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Name: Mrs D. M. Chasi, Director General

Institution/agency: Environmental Management Agency

Postal address (This field is limited to 254 characters)

Environmental Management Agency
Makombe Complex Block 1
Corner Harare Street/Chitepo Avenue
Harare Zimbabwe

E-mail: ema@ema.co.zw

Phone: +2634705671-3

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year: 1984

To year: 2015

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish): Monavale Wetland

Unofficial name (optional): Monavale Vlei

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional) (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Monavale Wetland is surrounded by the following suburbs;
• the north – Sherwood Park
• north east - Avondale West and Strathaven,
• east - Strathaven, Kensington, Milton Park,
• south - New Milton Park, south the National Sports Stadium, Westlea
• west - Meyrick Park and St Andrews Park.
• The Sherwood Golf Club forms the upper part of the north western wing of the wetland.
Monavale Vlei Protected area:
• north east– Monavale
• east – Mayfield Estate
• south – New Milton Park
• west – Meyrick Park
• north west - Sherwood Golf Club
The site is an urban wetland located in the western part of the city of Harare in the Harare Metropolitan Province. The wetland falls under the Belvedere and Mabelreign Urban Districts.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Harare Metropolitan Province
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Harare

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No ◉

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 507

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 507.7

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Afro-tropical

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Zambezian Biome, Moist Savanna / Miombo Woodland / Central Watershed / Headwaters / Vleis / Dambos. Monavale Vlei is representative of the mafic / clayey soils of the Mashonaland Plateau watershed. (Chenje 2000)

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided (This field is limited to 3000 characters)

The Monavale Vlei is an intact remnant of the once undisturbed vlei systems which follow the river courses on the Mashonaland Plateau watershed and thus the catchment basins of its major river systems. These vleis are unique natural wetland type in that they are seasonally inundated and situated in open grassland, which leads to their often being overlooked as they are not immediately apparent or visible. They have become threatened and are rapidly being destroyed. These vleis are the primary source of water storage, recharging aquifers, streams and river systems. In addition, their extensive and highly specialized biodiversity is considered to be amongst the richest in the world.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Acalypha caperonioides		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Aeschynomene mimosifolia		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Alysicarpus zeyheri		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Blumea axillaris		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Combretum platypetalum		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Gazania krebsiana		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Hygrophila mutica		☐	☐	☐		☐		
Hygrophila pilosa		☐	☐	☐		☐		

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	Aenigmatolim marginalis	Striped Crake	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding habitats
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Aonyx capensis	African Clawless Otter	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		residence habitats
CHORDATA / AVES	Circus ranivorus	African Marsh Harrier	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		refuge and breeding habitats
CHORDATA / AVES	Crex crex	Corn Crake	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		residence habitats
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	Pyxicephalus adspersus	Giant Bullfrog	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		residence habitats
CHORDATA / AVES	Sarothrura boehmi	Streaky-breasted Flufftail	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		breeding habitats
CHORDATA / AVES	Turnix nanus	Black-rumped Buttonquail	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		refuge and breeding habitats
CHORDATA / AVES	Tyto capensis	Grass Owl	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		refuge and breeding habitats

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The wetland supports birds, that include intra-African migrants like the Striped Crake (Amaurornis marginalis) and Streaky-breasted Flufftail (Sarothrura boehmi) through their breeding season as they move with the rains from Cameroon, Zaire and Kenya to breed in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa. As these marshy breeding habitats are fast declining these birds are also declining. Corn Crakes (Crex Crex) from Europe regularly take up residence in the austral summer and a whole suite of Palaearctic reed / sedge marsh warblers and harriers are regular visitors. In addition, the African Marsh Harrier (Circus ranivorus), which has become almost extinct in Zimbabwe, has bred in this site along with other species whose numbers are very low and whose distribution is very sparse which include the Black-rumped Buttonquail (Turnix nanus) and the Grass Owl (Tyto capensis). Giant Bullfrog and Clawless Otter

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Habitat	☐	Monavale Vlei is a grassland that holds an amazing array of plants and animals, 36 species of grass and more than 80 species of other plants with their trillions of kilometres of roots which remove toxic chemicals and hold the spongy clays together.	
Species	☐	The Vlei ' s waters support flowering plants lilies, gladioli, blue irises and a highly diversified fauna. Over 240 bird species breed in the pools and squelch zones.	

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The Monavale wetland is an important breeding and foraging ground for a number of migratory birds and also a source of water for Harare's main water supply, lake Chivero. The wetland host an important species of birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, mammals and a recorded 36 different grasses species interacting in the site. With over 80 different plants species the site provide food and refuge for the rich and varied fauna.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils		1		Unique

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
grassland	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Eulophia tanganyikensis		
Habenaria schimperiana		
Ipomoea oenotherae		
Launaea rarifolia		
Pulicaria scabra		
Scabiosa columbaria		
Senecio randii		
Sphaeranthus flexuosus		

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Canis adustus	Side-striped Jackal				
CHORDATA/AVES	Coturnix adansonii	African Blue Quail;Blue Quail				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Cricetomys gambianus	Gambian rat				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA						

Cryptomys hottentotus

Southern African Mole-rat

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Galerella sanguinea	Slender Mongoose				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Herpestes ichneumon	Grey Mongoose				
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Hyperolius nasutus					
CHORDATA/AVES	Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern				
CHORDATA/AVES	Ixobrychus sturmii	Dwarf Bittern				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Lepus saxatilis	Scrub Hare				
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	Phrynomantis bifasciatus					
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Potamochoerus porcus	red river hog				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Rattus rattus	black rat				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Redunca arundinum	southern reedbuck				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Rhabdomys pumilio					
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Sylvicapra grimmia	bush duiker				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Thryonomys swinderianus	Greater Cane Rat				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
A: Tropical humid climate	Aw: Tropical savanna (Winter dry season)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 1461

Lower part of river basin ☑

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall	☑	No change
Water inputs from groundwater	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Feeds groundwater	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Unknown	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology: (This field is limited to 1000 characters)

Water table fluctuate

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Unknown ☑

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown ☑

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☑

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above: (This field is limited to 1000 characters)

Harare sits on the catchment area of Chivero and Manyame dams which are the major sources of water to the capital city of Zimbabwe – Harare. This site provides a critical ecological function in the hydrological system of this catchment

Outside the site: 80000

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commercial (company)	☑	☑
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified mixed ownership	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional): (This field is limited to 1000 characters)

Harare Metropolitan Province
City of Harare Municipal area

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: (This field is limited to 1000 characters)

City of Harare

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Engineer Pfukwa, Area manager

Postal address: (This field is limited to 254 characters)

Cleveland House
Box 1583, Harare

E-mail address: pmpfukwa@hararecity.co.zw

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site ' s ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas	High impact		☑	increase	☑	increase

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Annual and perennial non-timber crops		Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion		Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species		Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact		☑	unknown	☑	unknown
Garbage and solid waste	Medium impact		☑	unknown	☑	unknown

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Habitat shifting and alteration	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional): (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Infrastructural development, cultivation, solid waste and dumping

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Protected wetland area (GN380, 2013)	MonavaleWetland		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☑

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented

Other: (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Ecologically sensitive area protected under section 113 of the principal environmental Act of the country - the Environmental Management Act. Monavale Local Environmental Plan on Harare Master Plan (City of Harare, Urban Planning Services)

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site: (This field is limited to 1000 characters)

COSMO is a local community based organisation which is spearheading the management of the wetland and offers training in wetland rehabilitation, restoration, compost making from solid waste and worm farming. The organisation has developed its own website, and information booklets, facilities for all clients interested in wetland awareness, preservation and conservation. Education and awareness activities are frequently carried out by COSMO

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): http://www.monavalevlei.com/

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Monitoring of birds, reptiles and animals. Research ongoing on water quality monitoring, soils, comparative studies on biodiversity improvement as a result of conservation

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

1. Geological Aspects Pertaining to the Monavale Vlei, Marimba Catchment, Harare / Tim Broderick. Saving the Wetlands for People and the Environment: a case study from Monavale Vlei, Zimbabwe. September 2006

2. SUSAN L. CHILDES AND PETER J. MUNDY. 2001. Zimbabwe. Pp. 1025 -1042. In L.D.C Fish pool and M.I. Evans, eds. Important Bird Areas in Africa and associated islands: Priority sites for conservation. Newbury and Cambridge, UK: Pisces Publications and BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No.11).

3. Saving the Wetlands for People and the Environment: a case study from Monavale Vlei, Zimbabwe, September 2006. Compiled by T Mpala and C Davies. Ed. S Chari and D Wakeling

4. Permission to reproduce this illustration has been granted by the author A N Masterson.
Hopkinson, G & Masterson, A. N. 1984 The occurrence and ecological preferences of certain Rallidae near Salisbury, Zimbabwe. Proc. V Pan-Afr. Orn Congr. P. 432
5. Environmental Management Plan for Monavale Vlei Biodiversity Project, Harare, Zimbabwe, June 2007. Prepared by Conservation Society of Monavale, Birdlife Zimbabwe and Environment Africa.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

COSMO Kids Club at Monavale Vlei (COSMO, 02-02-2015)

Abdim Stork at Monavale Vlei (COSMO, 02-02-2015)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2013-05-03