

The List of Wetlands of International Importance

15 January 2014

The Ramsar List was established in response to Article 2.1 of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), which reads: “Each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance, hereinafter referred to as “the List” which is maintained by the bureau [secretariat of the Convention] established under Article 8.”

Wetlands included in the List acquire a new status at the national level and are recognized by the international community as being of significant value not only for the country, or the countries, in which they are located, but for humanity as a whole.

The Convention establishes that “wetlands should be selected for the List on account of their international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology.” Over the years, the Conference of the Contracting Parties has adopted more specific criteria interpreting the Convention text, as well as an *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands* and a *Classification system of wetland type*.

All issues pertaining to the Ramsar List were encapsulated in Resolution VII.11 adopted by the Conference of the Parties in May 1999 and entitled ***Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance***¹, which has been frequently updated.

Everything in the Strategic Framework is founded upon this “Vision for the Ramsar List”: “To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform.”

Full data submitted by the Parties for each of their Ramsar Sites are entered in the Ramsar Sites Database, which is maintained by Wetlands International under contract with the Convention and searchable from the Ramsar Sites Information Service (<http://ramsar.wetlands.org>). The basic Ramsar List is also available, with one-paragraph descriptions of each site, as the ***Annotated Ramsar List*** on the Convention’s website (www.ramsar.org/anno-list).

Coordinates:

Geographical coordinates provided in this List are merely notional “centre points” for quick reference and are not intended to be legal specifications; for Sites with complex shapes or multiple parts, the centre points may not even lie within the Sites’ boundaries. For detailed information on Ramsar Site boundaries, consult the Ramsar Information Sheets submitted by the Parties (Ramsar Sites Information Service).

Abbreviations:

MR: Sites included in the **Montreux Record**, “a record of Ramsar Sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur” maintained by the Secretariat in consultation with the Contracting Party concerned (Recommendation 4.8). www.ramsar.org/montreux-record

TRS: **Transboundary Ramsar Site**, where “an ecologically coherent wetland extends across national borders and the Ramsar Site authorities on both or all sides of the border have formally agreed to collaborate in its management, and have notified the Secretariat of this intent” (*Ramsar Manual*). www.ramsar.org/trs.

¹ The current Strategic Framework is available in print form as No. 17 in the Ramsar Handbooks series on the Ramsar website at www.ramsar.org/pdf/lib/hbk4-17.pdf

Status of the Convention

GLOBAL

**Number of Contracting Parties / Nombre de Parties contractantes /
Número de Partes Contratantes:**
168

**Number of Sites designated / Nombre de Sites désignés /
Número de Sitios designados:**
2,171

Total area / Superficie totale / Superficie total:
207,291,271 hectares

(edited)

DUTCH CARIBBEAN

**Number of Contracting Parties / Nombre de Parties contractantes /
Número de Partes Contratantes:**
2

**Number of Sites designated / Nombre de Sites désignés /
Número de Sitios designados:**
10

Total area / Superficie totale / Superficie total:
6,283 hectares

NETHERLANDS (Aruba) / PAYS-BAS (Aruba) / PAISES BAJOS (Aruba)

* Het Spaans Lagoen	23/05/80	Aruba	70 ha	12°30'N 070°00'W
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NETHERLANDS (Netherlands Antilles) / PAYS-BAS (Antilles néerlandaises) / PAISES BAJOS (Antillas Neerlandesas)

* De Slagbaai	23/05/80	Bonaire	90 ha	12°16'N 068°25'W
* Het Gotomeer	23/05/80	Bonaire	150 ha	12°14'N 068°22'W
* Het Lac	23/05/80	Bonaire	700 ha	12°06'N 068°14'W
* Het Pekelmeer	23/05/80	Bonaire	400 ha	12°02'N 068°19'W
* Klein Bonaire Island & adjacent sea	23/05/80	Bonaire	600 ha	12°10'N 068°19'W
* Malpais/Sint Michiel	05/02/13	Curaçao	1,100 ha	12°10'N 069°00'W
* Muizenberg	05/02/13	Curaçao	65 ha	12°09'29"N 068°55'07"W
* Northwest Curaçao	05/02/13	Curaçao	2,441 ha	12°21'11"N 069°05'00"W
* Rif-Sint Marie	05/02/13	Curaçao	667 ha	12°12'16"N 069°03'16"W

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