Ramsar Information Sheet

United Arab Emirates

Al-Zora Protected Area

Designation date	27 September 2016
Site number	2309
Coordinates	25°25'33"N 55°28'58"E
Area	195,00 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

Al-Zorah Protected Area supports a diversity of natural wetland habitats such as sand beaches, sabkha, intertidal mudflats, lagoons, creeks and mangrove forests with the latter occupying almost 51 per cent of the area which covers 100 hectares. It is one of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) in the region, supporting a total of 87 species including the globally vulnerable greater spotted eagle (Aquila clanga) and Socotra cormorant (Phalacrocorax nigrogularis) according to the IUCN Red List. The waterbirds that use Al-Zorah during their annual migration include the broad-billed sandpiper (Limicola falcinellus) during passage and the greater flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus) in winter. The site is the only protected area in Ajman city and the Emirate of Ajman. It is one of the most important wetland sites in the UAE for the species listed above which have a favourable conservation status in the Middle East but with its global range concentrated in the Middle East, and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

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

From year	2012
To year	2015

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Al-Zora Protected Area
Unofficial name (optional)	Al-Zora

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The site is located at the end of the 1 km long Ajman creek that originates from the Gulf, and its boundary follows that of the Al-Zora Protected Area. The core zone is enclosed by a buffer area that is bounded by the Al-Itihad Road on the south.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Ajman Emirate
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Jurf 1, Safia

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):	195
Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries	195.53

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Udvardy's Biogeographical Provinces	Palearctic Realm - Warm deserts and semideserts - Arabian Deserts

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification: Al-Zora is a natural wetland. Because of its unique location Al-Zora gathers sea water, sand and mud. As a result, the Site provides a variety of habitats and food sources for resident and migratory birds. Many species depend on the particular types of wetland within the Site for refueling and resting during their long migrations between wetlands. Some of the semi-permanent, permanent and coastal wetlands at Al-Zora can provide refuge for species when wetlands in other regions are dry for long periods. Also, the area provides nursery for a variety of marine species. Al-Zora is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). A total of 87 species is recorded in Al-Zora out of which two are Vulnerable, three are Near Threatened, and the rest are Least Concern according to the IUCN Red List.

☑ 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

<no data available>

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 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aquila clanga*	Greater Spotted Eagle	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012			☐	☑		Wintering-small numbers
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ardeola grayii*	Indian Pond Heron	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2010		LC	☐	☐		Uncommon to rare at the Site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Arenaria interpres*	Ruddy Turnstone	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2012		LC	☐	☐		Migrating
CHORDATA / AVES	*Butorides striata*	Striated Heron	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2010		LC	☐	☐		Common resident; uncommon to rare inland.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calandrella brachydactyla*	Greater Short-toed Lark	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2010		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant, mid-February to early April and mid-August to November; May breed.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris alba*	Sanderling	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	4	2014		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant, marked peaks April - May and September, scarcer in winter; recorded all months.

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris alpina*	Dunlin	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	200	2012		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris ferruginea*	Curlew Sandpiper	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	10	2013		NT	☐	☐		Wintering
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris minuta*	Little Stint	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2013		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, August to May; some oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Caprimulgus aegyptius*	Egyptian Nightjar	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2010		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common to common migrant and winter visitor, September to early May.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ceryle rudis*	Pied Kingfisher	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2008		LC	☐	☐		Vagrant or very rare visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	Kentish Plover; Snowy Plover	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2014		LC	☐	☐		Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius dubius*	Little Ringed Plover	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012		LC	☐	☐		Common breeding visitor and migrant, February to October, some overwinter.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius hiaticula*	Common Ringed Plover	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	50	2012		LC	☐	☐		Very common migrant and winter visitor, peak passage mid-August to October, some oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Chroicocephalus genei*	Slender-billed Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	8	2014			☐	☐		Common to very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some birds oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	Black-headed Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	11	2014			☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some birds oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cinnyris asiaticus*	Purple Sunbird	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2011		LC	☐	☐		Common breeding resident; nomadic in summer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Columba livia*	Common Pigeon; Rock Dove; Rock Pigeon	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	4	2012		LC	☐	☐		Very common. Pure individuals now deemed unlikely to occur.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Coracias garrulus*	European Roller	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2010		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common migrant, April to early May and mid-August to October.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Dromas ardeola*	Crab-plover	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	4	2011		LC	☐	☐		Locally common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Egretta garzetta*	Little Egret	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	4	2012		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and winter visitor, some oversummer
CHORDATA / AVES	*Emberiza hortulana*	Ortolan Bunting	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2010		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common spring migrant mid-March to mid-May, uncommon September to early November.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Eremopterix nigriceps*	Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	5	2010		LC	☐	☐		Common resident; nomadic in flocks in autumn and winter.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Falco subbuteo*	Eurasian Hobby; Northern Hobby	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2010		LC	☐	☐		Uncommon spring and common to fairly common autumn migrant.

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CHORDATA / AVES	*Galerida cristata*	Crested Lark	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	20	2014		LC	☐	☐		Very common to abundant resident; numbers and range increasing.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	Gull-billed Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common passage migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Himantopus himantopus*	Black-winged Stilt	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	10	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and breeding resident.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Hirundo rustica*	Barn Swallow	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2011		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and winter visitor; occurs all months.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Hydroprogne caspia*	Caspian Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common passage migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months; has bred.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Ichthyaetus hemprichii*	Sooty Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	12	2014			☐	☐		Very common migrant visitor to East Coast, often scarce in winter; breeds on Arabian Gulf islands.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Lanius collurio*	Red-backed Shrike	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2010		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant- April to May; Uncommon September to October, rare November.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus cachinnans*	Caspian Gull; Yellow-legged Gull	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2013		LC	☐	☐		Uncommon to locally fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limicola falcinellus*	Broad-billed Sandpiper	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012			☐	☐		Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, rare May and June.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa lapponica*	Bar-tailed Godwit	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	12	2014		NT	☐	☐		Common to very common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2014		NT	☐	☐		Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Luscinia svecica*	Bluethroat	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2014			☐	☐		Red-spotted bluethroat - common migrant and winter visitor. Part of the Svecica species group.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Motacilla alba*	White Wagtail	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2009		LC	☐	☐		Very common migrant and winter visitor, mid-September to April.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Motacilla citreola*	Citrine Wagtail	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2011		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and winter visitor, mid-August to April, rare other months.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Muscicapa striata*	Spotted Flycatcher	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2009		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant late March to June and late August to October, rare other months.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Numenius arquata*	Eurasian Curlew	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012		NT	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Numenius phaeopus*	Whimbrel	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	14	2014		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant with peak passage August to September, less common in winter; a few oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Oenanthe deserti*	Desert Wheatear	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2014	100	LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and winter visitor, September to early May, rarely other months.

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			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Oenanthe isabellina*	Isabelline Wheatear	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2014	100	LC	☐	☐		Very common migrant and winter visitor, recorded all months. Peak migration in March/April and August/September.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Oenanthe pleschanka*	Pied Wheatear	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	8	2010		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant, February to April and August to November, rarely other months. The rarer white-throated morph vittata is recorded annually in small numbers.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Passer domesticus*	House Sparrow	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012		LC	☐	☐		Indian House Sparrow (Passer domesticus indicus) is an abundant resident, range expanding.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Great Cormorant	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	120	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and winter visitor, some immatures oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*	Socotra Cormorant	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	5	2012		VU	☐	☐		Common resident; breeds on Arabian Gulf islands, September to April. Uncommon visitor to East Coast.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phoenicopterus roseus*	Greater Flamingo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	200	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common migrant and winter visitor. Ringing recoveries mainly from Iranian colonies.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phylloscopus collybita*	Common Chiffchaff	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2008		LC	☐	☐		Very common migrant and winter visitor, end September to early April.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	Willow Warbler	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	10	2010		LC	☐	☐		Late spring migrant, rare to common with variable numbers annually, late March to early June, rare mid-August to October.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Platalea leucorodia*	Eurasian Spoonbill	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	6	2013		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common to common migrant and winter visitor, flocks regularly oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Plegadis falcinellus*	Glossy Ibis	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2009		LC	☐	☐		Locally common migrant and winter visitor, regularly oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Rallus aquaticus*	Water Rail	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2011		LC	☐	☐		Rare to very uncommon migrant and winter visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	Pied Avocet	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	5	2008		LC	☐	☐		Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, September to March, occasionally other months.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	Common Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	20	2013		LC	☐	☐		Both nominate S. hirundo hirundo and S. hirundo minussensis occur. Very common passage migrant and common winter visitor; recorded all months.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sternula albifrons*	Little Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	20	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common passage migrant (some inland) March to May, uncommon or rare in autumn (but then separation from Saunders's Tern problematic); no definite records January or February.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Eurasian Collared Dove; Eurasian Collared-Dove	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	20	2012		LC	☐	☐		Locally abundant; few records prior to 1977.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Streptopelia senegalensis*	Laughing Dove	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	10	2012			☐	☐		Abundant and widespread resident.

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CHORDATA / AVES	*Tadorna tadorna*	Common Shelduck	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2013		LC	☐	☐		Localised winter visitor, usually in small numbers (but a recent increase in the number noted), October to mid-April with peak from January to early March.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Thalasseus bengalensis*	Lesser Crested Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	7	2013		LC	☐	☐		Common breeding visitor, very common passage migrant and winter visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Thalasseus bergii*	Great Crested Tern; Greater Crested Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	10	2013		LC	☐	☐		Rare breeding visitor; common passage migrant and winter visitor.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*	Sandwich Tern	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	108	2013		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, some over summer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa nebularia*	Common Greenshank	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	40	2012		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, August to April; a few oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa ochropus*	Green Sandpiper	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	2	2008		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; late June to April.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa stagnatilis*	Marsh Sandpiper	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; a few oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa totanus*	Common Redshank	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	8	2013		LC	☐	☐		Very common passage migrant and winter visitor; some oversummer.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Upupa epops*	Common Hoopoe; Eurasian Hoopoe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012		LC	☐	☐		Very common migrant and local resident; widespread in winter.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Vanellus indicus*	Red-wattled Lapwing	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	1	2012		LC	☐	☐		Very common breeding resident.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Xenus cinereus*	Terek Sandpiper	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3	2012		LC	☐	☐		Fairly common to common passage migrant and winter visitor; recorded all months.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Avicennia marina	☑	Mangrove covers about 52 %, which accounts for 90 hectares of the Protected areas	The mangroves support a range of wildlife species by providing nursery habitats, shelter in the roots/branches and rookeries. Many migratory species depend on mangroves for part of their route migrations.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The entire area of the Al-Zorah Protected Area used to be shallow and connected to the Gulf by a 5 km long creek (Ajman creek), intersecting Ajman city. The shallow creek is still in its original state. Birds do not generally use the creek which instead, use the sabkha, intertidal muds, sand flats, mangroves and lagoons. Sabkha is the low-lying saline flat subject to periodic inundation. The coastal sabkha is flat with most of the surface above the level of normal high tides and is flooded only by heavy rain. A total of 50 per cent of the area contains the grey mangrove (Avicennia marina) which is now well-established and flourishing, producing seedlings and spreading in the upper mid intertidal zone of the wetland. Currently, a mangrove survey is being conducted to determine its density, area and rate of expansion to appropriately manage the mangrove forest and limit its encroachment to the nearby mudflats. The lagoon is surrounded by flat sabkha and low sandy parts and overgrows with salt tolerant flora. In the north-eastern part of the wetland older mangrove stands are present. Mangroves have been planted below high tide level, but several parts of the area are suitable for natural mangroves. The site is a coastal wetland of brackish water influenced by tides, located in the north of the emirate. This aspect, together with its physical and ecological characteristics, makes it unique in the Arabian deserts biogeographic region. This site supports the largest area of mangrove in the Ajman City. Al Zorah only one protected area in Ajman city, and have mangroves.

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

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores	AL Zora	4	13.7	
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	Sabkha	2	81.3	
I: Intertidal forested wetlands	Grey mangrove	1	100	Representative

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
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Lakes >> Q: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline lakes	-	3	97.5	Representative
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Marshes & pools >> Sp: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools	Al Qarm	3	97.5	Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Cenchrus ciliaris	Al sabat	
Cistanche tubulosa		
Cynomorium coccineum		
Cyperus rotundus		
Hammada elegans	Ramath	
Heliotropium ramosissimum	Ramram	
Moltkiopsis ciliata		

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
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	Dosinia alta					
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	Gecarcinus quadratus					
MOLLUSCA/GASTROPODA	Planaxis sulcatus	tropical periwinkle				
MOLLUSCA/GASTROPODA	Potamides conicus	gastropod mollusks				
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	Scopimera crabicauda	brachyuran crabs				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
B: Dry climate	BWh: Subtropical desert (Low-latitude desert)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres) 1

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres) 5

Entire river basin ☐
Upper part of river basin ☐
Middle part of river basin ☐
Lower part of river basin ☐
More than one river basin ☐
Not in river basin ☑
Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Arabian Gulf, Ajman Creek .

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑
Organic ☐
No available information ☐

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

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The natural intertidal sediments in the Al-Zora area consist mainly of fine sand with some gravel, silt and clay.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Marine water	☑
Water inputs from groundwater	☑

Water destination

Presence?
Marine
Feeds groundwater

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

The Site recharged by groundwater coming from the eastern mountains of the United Arab Emirates . Ajman creek's overall length is 5 km and its width varies between about 156 m at its mouth and about 357 m at the centre. The depth of the creek is influenced by tidal variation and fluctuates between 5.0 and 7.0 m, with a maximum tidal range of about 2.1 m. The maximum tidal difference between neap ebb and spring flood is -0.18 to 2.27 meter (G.H.Q Armed forces, Military Services).

Groundwater level fluctuates because of a number of factors. The focus here is the variation in groundwater recharge level that effectively affects groundwater level. Because the prevailing climate in the UAE and the Gulf region, the severe drought probability evaporative transpiration rate is usually much higher than the rate of rain . (But this does not prevent the existence of months and days during which the rain is fall with a suitable amount It may change the equation) and lead to the existence of a water surplus contributes part of it in natural reservoirs recharge groundwater.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☐
Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☐
Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☑
Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☐
Sediment regime unknown ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Through low and high tides

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5) ☐
Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☐
Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☑
Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

PH is 7.7

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☐
Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ☐
Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑
Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l) ☐
Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

Salinity is 39.260 mg/l

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water

Dissolved oxygen is 5.7 mg/l

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☐
Mesotrophic ☐
Oligotrophic ☐
Dystrophic ☐
Unknown ☑

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Dissolved Oxygen is 5.7 mg/l
Ammonia Nitrogen is 2.1 mg/l
Nitrate is 1.7 mg/l
Nitrite is 2 mg/l
Phosphate is 1.15 mg/l

(ECD) Water conductivity: Conductivity is 54 ms/cm

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 higher human population density ☑
Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐
Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Low
Biological control of pests and disease	Support of predators of agricultural pests (e.g., birds feeding on locusts)	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	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	High

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Some of the ecosystem services that the area provides for human consumption include a variety of marine species such as fish and shell fish. This is due to the mangroves being able to support a number of species in their critical stages of life. it is estimated that approximatly 100s of people are able to benefit from the site.

Within the site: 1000

Outside the site: 1000

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

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☑

Description if applicable

The site is already protected by Ajman Amiri decree, and all activities are forbidden in the area unless permit has been provided.

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

4.6 - Ecological processes

(ECD) Primary production	Wood, food, water, etc.
(ECD) Nutrient cycling	Phosphorus cycling, sulfur cycle
(ECD) Carbon cycling	Large quantity of Carbon
(ECD) Animal reproductive productivity	Birds and fishes
(ECD) Vegetational productivity, pollination, regeneration processes, succession, role of fire, etc.	Mangroves
(ECD) Notable species interactions, including grazing, predation, competition, diseases and pathogens	Between birds and marine species
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning migration	Large number of migratory birds during autumn and winter seasons
(ECD) Pressures and trends concerning any of the above, and/or concerning ecosystem integrity	Climate change and invasive species

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
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☐	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

The Ramsar site is under local municpality (Municpality and Planning Department - Ajman)
The surrounding area is under Al-Zora Development company and Private Property Org.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:
Municaplity and Planning Deaprtment - Ajman
Ministry of Environment and Water

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:
Environment Protection Section - Health and Environment Department

Postal address:
P.O. Box 3, Ajman, UAE

E-mail address:
shalshehhi@am.gov.ae

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	In the surrounding area
Housing and urban areas	High impact	Medium impact	☑	☑

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Drainage	Low impact	Low impact	☐	☑

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Roads and railroads	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	☑

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☐

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	☑

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Garbage and solid waste	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☐
Excess heat, sound, light	Medium impact	Medium impact	☐	☑

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The biggest threat is the development of resorts and villas in the areas surrounding the Al-Zora Protected Area. Controlling of the impact of these developments needs concerted efforts from Municipality and stakeholders.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Reserve (Protected Area)	Al-Zora		whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Al Zora Protected Area		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

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

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☑

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Proposed

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

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:

Many different educational programs are conducted in the Al-Zora including lectures and planting of mangroves. The last activity was the celebration of the World Wetland Day on 2 February 2016 and was attended by 60 students (Pictures are attached).

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but restoration is needed

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Water regime monitoring	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

1. Alzorah Development, marine works and site development consultancy services, environment Impact Assessment Report, Report No. P-68182-PR-03, June 2008)
2. Al zora project, (XSV/07-0161-2,2007)
3. ERWDA. 2003. Breeding Birds in United Arab Emirates. Abu Dhabi Environmental Resource and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA).
4. Ras Al-Khor Ramsar Information sheet https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/RISrep/AE1715RIS.pdf
5. Tide Table ,United Arab emirates 2014,G.H.Q Armed Forces, Military services
6. WWF Global Ecoregions http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot
7. Pedersen, T. and Aspinall, S.J. (comp.) 2015. EBRC Annotated Checklist of the birds of the United Arab Emirates. Emirates Bird Records Committee.

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)
<3 file(s) uploaded>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<1 file(s) uploaded>

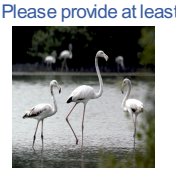
iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<2 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



He was the winner of best photo for site area, during competition held by Municipality (*Saif Ahmed, 11-03-2014*)

Waleed was responsible for the Ramsar Site in 2012 (*Waleed Abdullah, 05-03-2012*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2016-09-27