

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: 14 January 2002

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country: St. Lucia, West Indies.

3. Name of wetland: Mankòtè Mangrove

4. Geographical coordinates: 1519700 N, 514850 E (British West Indian Grid)

5. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.) 0 (sea level)

6. Area: 60 Hec.

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
The largest contiguous mangrove in St. Lucia. It has significant social and cultural value for fishing, and charcoal production. Important to shoreline stabilization and wildlife.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types; in the present document, the "Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type" is found on page 9)

marine-coastal: (A) • (B) • (C) • D • E • F • G • H • (I) • J • K • Zk(a)

inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp
Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • (2) • (3) • (4) • 5 • 6 • (7) • (8)

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* × *π* -or- *no* π

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form: Lyndon John

Forestry Department
Union
Castries
St. Lucia,
West Indies

12. Justification: Mankòtè Mangrove is the largest contiguous wetland area in St. Lucia. This is a significant endangered ecosystem in the Eastern Caribbean. An extensive inventory of fauna and flora needs to be conducted, however, the mangrove is currently recognized as a vital nursery for the local fishery. A listing of species identified in the area too date is included in this statement.

13. General Location: Located on the southeast coast in the quarter of Vieux Fort, the closest administrative town carries the same name-Vieux Fort.

14. Physical features: Large bay at base of sloping drainage area

15. Hydrological values: Hillside run-off, confined to a stream notably in rainy season. Flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization

16. Ecological features : Mangrove type is a basin blocked by a sandbar. The vegetation is low along the shore; trees are 5-6 metres; behind the shore vegetation tree height is 10-11 metres.

17. Flora : Low in central portion; of average height in north and south, 10-12m

Mangrove; *Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, *Conocarpus erecta*, *Avicennia germinans*

Beach; *Cocos nucifera*, *Sophora tomentosa*, *Sporobolus virginicus*

Salt Marsh; *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Fimbristylis spathacea*, *Spartina patens*

18. Fauna: Fishes & Crustacea

Family	Species
Centropomidae	<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i>
Cichlidae	<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>
Cichlidae	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>
Diogenidae	<i>Paguristes erythrops</i>
Eleotidae	<i>Eleotris spp.</i>
Eleotidae	<i>Dormitator maculatus</i>
Gecarcinidae	<i>Cardisoma guanhumi</i>
Gobiidae	<i>Bathygobius soporator</i>
Grapsidae	<i>Sesarma spp.</i>
Megalopidae	<i>Tarpon atlanticus</i>
Mugilidae	<i>Mugil curema</i>
Ocypodidae	<i>Ucides cordatus</i>
Ocypodidae	<i>Uca mordax</i>
Ostreidae	<i>Crassostrea rhizophorae</i>
Penaeidae	<i>Penaeus (Farfantepenaeus) subtilis</i>
Poeciliidae	<i>Lebistes spp.</i>
Portunidae	<i>Callinectes danae</i>

Fauna: Birds

Migrant Species	
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Blue Winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Masked Duck	<i>Nomonyx dominica</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Tricoloured Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanolenca</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>

Fauna: Birds

Resident Species	
<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	Carib Grackle
<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	Zenaida Dove
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common gallinule
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green back heron
<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	Bananaquit
<i>Columba squamosa</i>	Scaly naped pigeon
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow warbler
<i>Elaenia martinica</i>	Caribbean elaenia
<i>Coccyzus minor</i>	Mangrove cuckoo
<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	Black whiskered vireo
<i>Saltator albicollis</i>	Streaked saltator
<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common ground dove
<i>Eulampis holosericeus</i>	Green throated Carib
<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	Grey Kingbird
<i>Loxigilla noctis</i>	Lesser Antillean bullfinch
<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>	Black faced grassquit
<i>Margarops fuscus</i>	Scaly breasted Thrasher
<i>Orthorhynchus cristatus</i>	Bare eyed Robin
<i>Turdus nudigensis</i>	

19. Social and cultural value: Largest mangrove on the island; currently being managed through a collaborative agreement among the Department of Fisheries, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Forestry Department and a group of local charcoal producers (Aupicon Charcoal Producers Group) who have been trained and educated on sustainable harvesting of wood from the mangrove areas; the same group conducts birdwatching tours on the site. The mangrove is also utilized for seasonal fishing mainly during the dry season.

20. Land Tenure: Crown lands (i.e. state owned), Mankòtè mangrove declared a marine reserve under the Fisheries Act (1984) (Declared list in 15 Oct. 1986 and in 1990). As a marine reserve, no extractive activity is allowed without the written permission of the Chief Fisheries Officer and entry into the reserve is subject to the approval of the management authority. Proposed IUCN category: II (Park-like).

21. Current land Use: (site) Subsistence type activities are conducted by the residents of nearby communities (Aupicon, La Tourney, Pierrot), mainly fishing and charcoal production. Poles are also harvested for props in the construction industry. The Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group are an organized group and are active participants in the management of the mangrove, with sole access rights for extractive use of wood permitted as noted in 20 above.

(Surroundings/catchment) Adjacent properties are developed and are occupied mainly with hotels and restaurants. Within the peripheral area of the southern part of the catchment, properties are generally used for residential construction, cattle grazing and more importantly the current construction of a national stadium opposite to the mangrove.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: The predominant factor adversely affecting the mangrove was the uncontrolled harvest of mangrove wood for charcoal production. This situation has changed with the advent of the community group with the support of CANARI entering into an agreement with Department of Fisheries. There is also some illicit dumping of domestic solid waste in the mangrove. The hydrology of the site appears to be affected by the construction of the National Stadium opposite to the mangrove. This impact is yet to be assessed.

23. Conservation measures taken: Crown lands (i.e. state owned), Mankòtè mangrove declared a marine reserve under the Fisheries Act (1984) (Declared list in 15 Oct. 1986 and in 1990). As a marine reserve, no extractive activity is allowed and entry into the reserve is subject to the approval of the management authority. The Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers are now an organized group and are active participants in the management of the mangrove. Proposed IUCN category: II (Park-like).

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Mankòtè mangrove is included in the proposed Point Sable National Park complex in the System of National Parks by the St. Lucia National Trust.

25. Current scientific research and facilities; Current mangrove growth and charcoal production is monitored by CANARI and the Forestry Department in conjunction with the Aupicon Charcoal and agriculture producers. There is no permanent scientific field station

established in the area. There is a structure used by the community group for receiving visitors for tours of the mangrove. There's been a preliminary assessment of the basin conducted by an officer of the Fisheries Department in partial fulfillment of a Master of Science Degree that gives attention to the marine fauna.

26. Current conservation education: Conservation education in St. Lucia focused on the rainforests and the national bird, the St. Lucia parrot (*Amazona versicolor*) and achieved significant levels of success. Generally conservation education pertaining to wetlands has been limited. Some tours are conducted with schools from the nearby community. Students of the Vieux Fort Secondary School have used it in the past as part of their sociology and biological studies which are part of the school curriculum. The efforts on building awareness by CANARI have focused mainly on those utilizing the mangrove.

27. Current recreation and tourism: The traditional recreation value of the mangrove has been fishing and crab hunting. Recently the Aupicon Charcoal and Agriculture Producers have sought to develop a birdwatching component to encourage visitors to tour the mangrove with little success. There were some billboards established to inform visitors about the wildlife and a viewing tower enabling view above the treetops. These have since gone into disrepair. Financial support from SLHTP and technical support from STDC in developing tourism options, including infrastructure.

28. Jurisdiction: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Fisheries Department and the Forestry Department.

29. Management Authority: Chief Fisheries Officer
Department of Fisheries
Castries
St. Lucia

Chief Forestry Officer
Forestry Department
Union
Castries
St. Lucia

30. Bibliography

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