

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 18 November 2016 Update version, previously published on 18 July 2005

Cabo Verde Curral Velho



Designation date
Site number
1575
Coordinates
16°00'15"N 22°45'33"W
Area
986,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1575 Created by RSIS V.1.7 on - 1 December 2016

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

The wetland of Curral Velho is composed of: permanent coastal lagoon at the mouth of the Ribeira de Brito Cruzinha; Temporary coastal lagoons Curral Velho, João Barrosa and Ponta Cosme; dunes surrounding ecosystems; Curral Velho islet; temporary Ervatao lagoon and beach. All these areas have a high ecological and scientific interest for its great isolation in an oceanic volcanic island.

- 1. This Ramsar area includes the most important nesting loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) in Cape Verde beaches.
- 2. The coastal salt ponds are ecologically very important for migratory birds feeding on transatlantic flights, as well as for maintaining specific vegetation (halophytes plants, tamarisks, palm and coconut).
- 3. The Kentish plover (Charadrius alexandrinus) and black-winged stilt (Himantopus himantopus) are the only shorebirds that nest in the coastal strip and areas surrounding the lakes. They are also in the nest area kestrel (Falco alexandri), and desert-crow (Corvus ruficollis). They are common two species of sparrows or tits, lago Sparrow (endemic) and Passer hispanolensis. Some steppe birds like lark lark (Ammomanes cinctura), lark bold (Eremopterix nigriceps), lark ibis (Greater Hoopoe-Lark), quail (Coturnix coturnix) and the runner (Cursorius cursor) also nest in the designated area. There are also two nests osprey (Pandion haliaetus), who have not been active in the last 15 years.
- 4. Five of the nine species of marine birds nest on the Cape Verde island of Curral Velho: Fregata magnificens, Sula leucogaster, Phaethon aethereus, Calonectris edwardsii and Oceanodroma jabejabe. The last two are endemic species of the archipelago.
- 5. Among terrestrial reptiles include chioninia spinalis boavistensis and Hemidactylus boavistensis, both endemic species.
- 6. Among the activities developed in the area include livestock (goats and cattle), artisanal and recreational fishing in coastal areas, tourist excursions terrain vehicles and bird watching.
- 7. The Ramsar designated area overlaps with some natural areas of the complex of protected areas of eastern Boa Vista, specifically the Protected Landscape Curral Velho, the Tartarugas Nature Reserve and the Integral Reserve Curral Velho Islet.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

| Name | Samir Martins |
|--------------------|---|
| | |
| Institution/agency | BIOS.CV - Association for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development. |
| | |
| Postal address | Sal Rei, Boa Vista, Cabo Verde |
| | |
| E-mail | bios.cv.ong@gmail.com |
| | |
| Phone | +238 9773070 |
| | |

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

From year 2013

To year 2014

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Curral Velho

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

| (Update) A Changes to Site boundary Ye | es No O |
|--|------------------|
| ^(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately ✓ | |
| (Update) The boundary has been extended □ | |
| (Update) The boundary has been restricted □ | |
| (Update) B. Changes to Site area N | o 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?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

The boundary coincides with the coastline on its southern side and rock formations in much of the rest of the perimeter. They have identified six special protection areas whose boundaries coincide with the usual edge of flooded areas in 5 areas (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) and a marine area around the island of Curral Velho at a distance of 50 meters. The table below shows the surface area in hectares of the total proposed area and the special protection area.

NAME SURFACE AREA (HA) TYPE

Curral Velho 985,8 Ramsar site

- 1. Ribeira de Cruzinha Brito 13,8 Special Protection Area
- 2. Ilhéu de Curral Velho 11,1 Special Protection Area
- 3. Lagoa de Curral Velho 46,6 Special Protection Area
- 4. Lagoa de João Barrosa 63,2 Special Protection Area
- 5. Lagoa de Ponta Cosme 12,8 Special Protection Area
- 6. Ribeira de Ervatão 4,2 Special Protection Area

2.2.2 - General location

| a) In which large administrative region does | Isla de Boa Vista |
|---|-------------------|
| | |
| b) What is the nearest town or population centre? | Town of Sal Rei |

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes O No \odot

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 986

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 985.7 GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

| 2.09009.400.09.00 | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Regionalisation scheme(s) | Biogeographic region |
| Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) | Macaronésica Region |

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Tropical Atlantic, West African Transition Zone - Ramsar COP10 DR 20)

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

Important wetlands of great rarity found in the oceanic volcanic islands characterized by very porous rock materials. Retains sediments from major eroding processes associated with the aridity and the excessive and uncontrolled goat foraging in the nearby mountains. Stabilizes the coastline exposed to strong tides and subtropical storms.

Other ecosystem services provided

The rocky island of Curral Velho is one of the most important points for birds at country level and in the region of West Africa by Bird Life International (2014).

- ☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- ☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- ☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

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 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|---|---------------|
| Tamarix senegalensis | | | V | | | | wilnerable species on the Red List of Cape Verde | |
| Tetraena fontanesii | sea grape | | V | | | | | |

The surrounding vegetation is composed of species characteristic by arid and dune sites. The most representative species are the agglomeration of Taraje (Tamarix senegalensis), vulnerable species on the Red List of Cape Verde, sea grape (Zygophyllum fontanesii), Z. waterlotii, Phoenix dactylifera, Asparagus squarrosus (endemic to Cape Verde) and Lotus brunneri (endemic to Cape Verde).

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

| Phylum | Scientific name | Common name | Spec qualif und criter 2 4 | ies er ion | Species contribute under criterion 3 5 7 | Size | Period of pop. Est. | % occurrence 1) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendix I | CMS Appendix I | Other Status | Justification |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|--|------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---|
| Birds | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | edvardsii | Cape Verde Shearwater | Z | | | 100 | | | NT ●\$* ●®# | | | | especie endémica de Cabo Verde. en Peligro en la Lista Roja de Cabo Verde. La populación en el islote es menos de que 100 parejas y es la única zona de reproducción en la isla. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Fregata magnificens | Magnificent Frigatebird | | 2 0 | | 3 | | 1 | LC Sign | | | | Especie en Peligro Crítico segundo la Lista Roja de Cabo Verde. Es la única populación de esta especie en toda el Continente Africado. Su reproducción actualmente está reducido al islote de Curral Velho, con un tamaño de populación reducido a 2 individuos: una hembra y un macho. |
| / AVES | Oceanodroma jabejabe | Cape Verde Storm Petrel | | | | | | | | | | | – Especie catalogada como raro pela Lista Roja de Cabo Verde. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Passer iagoensis | lago Sparrow | V O(| | | | | | LC Single | | | especie endémica | |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Phaethon aethereus | Red-billed Tropicbird | | | | | | | LC Single | | | | Especie catalogada en Peligro Crítico en la isla de Boa Vista pela Lista Roja de Cabo Verde. |
| CHORDATA / AVES | Sula leucogaster | Brown Booby | | | | | | 20 | LC | | | | Vulnerable segundo la Lista Roja de Cabo Verde. Cerca de 20% de toda la populación nacional anida en el islote. |
| Others | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHORDATA / REPTILIA | Caretta caretta | loggerhead turtle | | | | | | 65 | EN ●¥ ●₩ | Ø | V | | Es la principal zona de desove de la tortuga boba (Caretta caretta) de todo el Atlántico Oriental, población considerada como una de las más amenazadas del mundo. Representa cerca del 60- 65% de la anidación de esta especie en el Archipiélago de Cabo Verde y todo el Atlántico oriental. |

Nesting area of five species of seabirds, all of them belonging to the Red List of Cape Verde: Cape Verde Shearwater (Calonectris edwardsii), an endemic species of Cape Verde and ethereal rabijunco (Phaethon aethereus) both classified in Danger; Magnificent frigatebird (Fregata magnificens) listed as critical; brown booby (Sula leucogaster) Vulnerable species and petrel Cape Verde (Oceanodroma jabejabe), an endemic species by Cape Verde, classified as rare. It is also an important nesting area for endemic species of the archipelago of Cape Verde as lago Sparrow and Falco alexandri.

It is the main spawning ground of the loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) around the eastern Atlantic population considered to be one of the most threatened in the world. They represent about 60-65% of the nesting of this species in the archipelago of Cape Verde and around the eastern Atlantic.

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 |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Asparagus squarrosus | | endémica de Cabo Verde | |
| Lotus brunneri | | endémica de Cabo Verde | |
| Tamarix senegalensis | | | especie vulnerable en la Lista Roja de Cabo Verde |

¹⁾ Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

RIS for Site no. 1575, Curral Velho, Cabo Verde

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The island lacks vegetation because of the hard soil structure. Five species of sea birds Red List nest in high density on the island. The lagoons have frequent population explosions of red algae and Artemia sp. which serve as food for waterfowl. The banks hold important centennial forests of tamarisk (Tamarix senegalensis).

highly evolved complex dune systems with abundant halophile vegetation dominating species of Zygophyllum.

There are frequent foot isolated from the native palm Phoenix atlantica.

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 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| D: Rocky marine shores | ilhéu de Curral Velho | 2 | 0.6 | Unique |
| E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores | | 1 | | Representative |
| J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons | | 3 | | Representative |

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

| Scientific name | Common name | Position in range / endemism / other |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Asparagus squarrosus | | endemic |
| Lotus brunneri | | endemic |
| Phoenix dactylifera | | |
| Tamarix africana | Tamarix senegalensis | scientific name not correct, it is not on the list |

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

| Climatic region | Subregion |
|-----------------|--|
| B: Dry climate | BSk: Mid-latitude steppe (Mid-latitude dry) |

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

| a) Mnimum elevation above sea level (in metres) |
|--|
| a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres) |
| Entire river basin |
| Upper part of river basin |
| Middle part of river basin ☐ |
| Lower part of river basin 🗹 |
| More than one river basin \Box |
| Not in river basin ☐ |
| Constal 🗸 |

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.

| Atlantic Ocean | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| | | |

4.4.3 - Soil

No available information \Box

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

rocky bottoms from ancient volcanic outcropping in outlying areas of lagoons and on the islet. Spacious very flat flood areas with sedimentary red clay soils with important contributions from erosion of adjacent mountains and plenty of water retention. Most lakes (Curral Velho, João Barrosa and Ponta Cosme) have accumulation of salt water of marine origin with shallow access high tides with salt accumulation in surface during dry periods. The extensive white sand dune systems have very varying depths that can reach more than 10 meters. Harbor abundant amorphous volcanic rock formations and tubular formations compacted sedimentary materials of biological origin.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Source of water that maintains character of the site

| Presence? | Predominant water source | Changes at RIS update |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water inputs from rainfall | | No change |
| Marine water | | No change |

Water destination

| Presence? | Changes at RIS update |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Marine | No change |

Stability of water regime

| oldbinity of mator roginino | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Presence? | Changes at RIS update |
| Water levels fluctuating (including tidal) | No change |

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

The majority of lakes have a natural origin with a maximum depth in Curral Velho, about 40 cm. 1.5 meters Lacacão Lagoon and 50 cm in Ervtão. They have a very important contribution of red clay surface erosion by deforested mountains nearby. There are temporary hydroperiods 4-5 months.

The westernmost lake (Cruzinha Brito) receives artificial saltwater and continuous form of a desalination plant near tourist resort. The beaches have very low slope with frequent flooding. The tides vary regularly between 0.8 and 2.2 meters.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

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 i) broadly similar ii) significantly different iii) significantly different iii) site itself:

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

| . To thorothing doct those | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
| Wetland non-food products | Livestock fodder | Low |

Regulating Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Erosion protection | Soil, sediment and nutrient retention | High |

Cultural Services

| Ecosystem service | Examples | Importance/Extent/Significance |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Recreation and tourism | Water sports and activities | Medium |
| Recreation and tourism | Picnics, outings, touring | High |
| Recreation and tourism | Nature observation and nature-based tourism | High |
| Scientific and educational | Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site) | High |
| Scientific and educational | Type location for a taxon | High |

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 |

| Within the site: | 0 |
|-------------------|------|
| | |
| Outside the site: | 5000 |

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?

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 |
|--|
| 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 |

<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 |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| N | ational/Federal government | 2 | / |

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):

Within the Ramsar site: The site belongs to the state of Cape Verde, however there are small private properties within the site. Formerly there were small communities living there.

In the surrounding area: The surrounding site belongs to the state of Cape Verde, but there are also small plots that are privately owned.

5.1.2 - Management authority

| Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: | National Directorate of Environment / Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning |
|---|---|
| Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: | Ana Veiga - Ramsar Focal Point |
| Postal address: | C.P-332-A, Ciudad da Praia, Isla Santiago, Cabo Verde Tel: +238 261 8984, Fax: +238 261 7511 |
| E-mail address: | ana.m.veiga@mahot.gov.cv |

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Agriculture and aquaculture

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | Changes | In the surrounding area | Changes |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| Livestock farming and ranching | Medium impact | Medium impact | | No change | ✓ | unknown |

Human intrusions and disturbance

| Factors adversely affecting site | Actual threat | Potential threat | Within the site | Changes | In the surrounding area | Changes |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Recreational and tourism activities | Medium impact | Medium impact | 2 | increase | 2 | increase |

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:

- Capture of seabirds (Shearwater and Alcatraz) and chickens used for local consumption.
- Illegal hunting of sea turtles for local consumption and domestic trade
- Use and uncontrolled circulation of all forms of rovers in the dunes and beaches turtle nesting.

Activities illega and uncontrolled watching turtles and seabirds.

In the surrounding area:

- Free grazing goats and cows that degrades the surrounding vegetation
- Uncontrolled tourism

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

| Designation type | Name of area | Online information url | Overlap with Ramsar Site |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Paisaje Protegido | Paisaje Protegido de Curral Velho | | partly |
| Reserva Natural | Reserva Natural das Tartarugas | | partly |

| 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008) | 5.2.3 - IUCN | protected | areas ca | tegories | (2008) |
|--|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
|--|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|

| la Strict Nature Reserve |
|--|
| lb 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 |
| |

<no data available>

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

| Legal protection | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Measures | Status |
| Legal protection | Implemented |

Species

| Measures | Status | |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Threatened/rare species management programmes | Partially implemented | |

Human Activities

| Tidifiditi/ buvidoo | |
|--|-------------|
| Measures | Status |
| Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities | Implemented |
| Research | Implemented |

Other

The national plan for the conservation of wetlands in Cape Verde is under review and is awaiting approval.

- Overlaps with the Nature Reserve ofTartarugas on all the beaches of the proposed zone and a marine area adjacent to the beaches that are outside the proposed RAMSAR area.
- Overlap with the Protected Landscape of Curral Velho in Cruzinha Ribeira ofBrito, the lagoon from Curral Velho beaches Pesqueiro Grande Curral Velho and surrounding areas.

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 O

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

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

No.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

| Monitoring | Status |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Animal species (please specify) | Implemented |
| Birds | Implemented |

- Monitoring of shorebirds within the stripped salt beds NGOs BIOS.CV.

Monitoring of magnificent frigate bird population (Fregata magnificiens) Peel BIOS.CV and Naturalia.

- Conservation and scientific studies on the nesting loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) pelas BIOS.CV NGOs, Natura 2000 and Fundação Tartaruga.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Marco, A., E. Abella, A. Liria-Loza, S. Martins, O. López, S. Jiménez-Bordón, M. Medina, C. Oujo, P. Gaona, B.J. Godley, L.F. López-Jurado, (2012). Abundance and exploitation of loggerhead turtles nesting in Boa Vista island, Cape Verde: the only substantial rookery in the eastern Atlantic. Animal Conservation; 15(4):351-360.

López-Suarez, P. y Martins, S. (2013). Bird Population Monitoring Report: Boavista 2013. Informe no publicado, Cabeólica y BIOS.CV.

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

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Laguna de Curral Velho in the dry season (*Aquiles Oliveira, 20-11-2012*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<no file available>

Date of Designation 2005-07-18