

Ramsar Information Sheet

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ZimbabweMana Pools National Park



Designation date 3 May 2013
Site number 2106
Coordinates 15°58'16"S 29°27'32"E
Area 220 034,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2106 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 18 May 2020

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

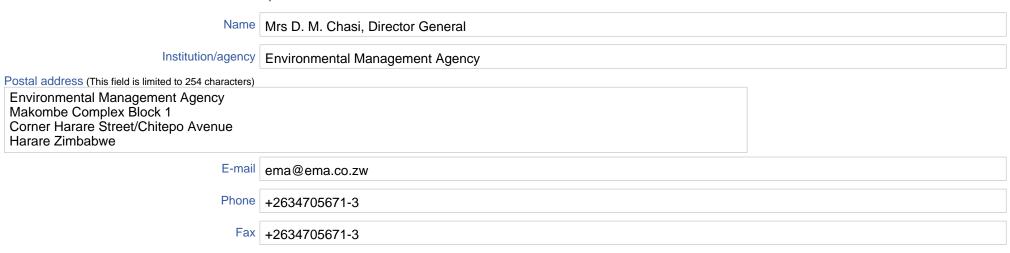
Summary (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The Mana Pools is dominated at its northern border by the large Zambezi River with its islands, bars and cliffs, and floodplains with pools. It stretches southwards to the lower reaches of the escarpment, where there are rugged features. The site is characterized by a large extent of riverine woodland (with the richest and highest vegetation community) and open water bodies that include the Zambezi River forming the boundary between Zimbabwe and Zambia. In terms of national ecological classification, the site falls under the Zambezi eco region 5 which is one of the two richest eco region in wildlife in the country.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS



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

From year 1960
To year 2010

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish) Mana Pools National Park

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 O 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 Not evaluated Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

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

The boundary follows that of an existing national Park named Mana Pools. Mana Pools shares the Zambezi River with Zambia at its northern boundary. The land rises up to the foothills of the escarpment on the south side and Safari Areas are on west and eastern borders. The site is located on the upper north-western part of Mashonaland West Province. The Administrative Centre is at Chinhoyi and the three nearest towns are Kariba, Karoi and Chirundu (a border town).

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Mashonaland West Province

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Chirundu, Kariba, Karoi

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
- 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): 220034

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 219578.98

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Afro-tropical
Other scheme (provide name below)	Zambezian biome (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 Zambezi River basin extends to 1.3 million km2. The southern belt of the Middle Zambezi Valley, rich in biodiversity, lies almost wholly in Zimbabwe except for a small stretch downstream in Mozambique to Cahorra Bassa Dam. Mana Pools represents the bio-geographic region of the Middle Zambezi Valley (MZV) in Zimbabwe. Its northern boundary with Zambia is the Zambezi River with water flowing over sandy islands with emergent trees, bars, banks and inlets, flanked by flood and/or terrace plains within riverine vegetation with several permanent pools. Much of this vegetation is also found on the drainage lines of the big tributaries. The water of the river and pools and floodplains attracts large numbers of big mammals and birds in the dry season many of which disperse along the valley floor to the foothills of the southern escarpment during the wet season. Drinking from dozens of ephemeral pans and springs and feeding within riverine and dry forest and thicket growing on deep sands and Mopane woodlands and scrub. They are big number of game animals in this habitat. The aquatic life along this stretch of the Zambezi support huge members of hippopotamus and Nile crocodile. With its rich biodiversity, extensive wetlands and splendid landscape, Mana Pools is a unique Wetland. Though other examples of these ecosystems are found along the river stretch (from Kariba Gorge exit to Cahorra Bassa in Mozambique), Mana is the best representative of its kind.

- ☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification (This field is limited to 3000 characters)

Large number of animals and of species are found at Mana Pools which act as a reservoir for replenishing neighbouring areas. The Zambezi River and pools (Mana Pools) support huge numbers of hippotamus (Hippopotamus amphibious) and Nile crocodile (Crocodylus niloticus) and healthy fish populations including the lung fish (Protopterus annectens brieni) the sporting Tiger fish (Hydrocynus vitattus). Good predator populations of Lion (Panthera leo) about 65 and spotted Hyena (Crocuta crocuta) feed on the many ungulates, young hippos and elephants and carcasses. The cliffs and banks support hundreds of migrant breeding Carmine Bee-eater Merops nubicoides that feed of large insects found near water bodies – dragonflies, grass hoppers and butterflies, beetles and cicadas. Mana Pools acts as a migratory staging area for migratory birds such as eagles, storks and warblers. The concentration of big game on the floodplain produces huge quantities of manure food for countless insects including dung beetles and also reptiles and small mammals provide food for the densest breeding population globally of Southern Ground – Hornbill, Bucorvus leadbeateri. The big ungulate population supports good numbers of Red-billed Oxpecker Buphagus erythrorhynchus.

☑ 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
Acacia galpinii	acacia			✓				undisturbed breeding sites for birds of prey and vultures.
Adansonia digitata	baobab			√				undisturbed breeding sites for birds of prey and vultures.
Khaya senegalensis	mahogany			√	VU ⊚ tsp			undisturbed breeding sites for birds of prey and vultures.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species 2	s qualifie	s under o	criterion 9	Species 3	contribut 5	es under	criterion 8	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Acinonyx jubatus	Cheetah	✓	✓										VU ⊚ tsp	~	Ø		Important source of food and refuge
CHORDATA / AVES	Anastomus lamelligerus	African Openbill	~											LC © TEP				
CHORDATA / AVES	Ardea goliath	Goliath Heron		✓										LC offer				undisturbed breeding sites
CHORDATA / AVES	Ciconia ciconia Ciconia	White Stork		✓										LC offsp				migratory staging area
CHORDATA / AVES	Ciconia episcopus	Woolly-necked Stork	✓	√										VU ⊚ NET				refuge and breeding ground
CHORDATA / AVES	Ephippiorhyn senegalensis	Saddle-billed Stork	✓	✓										LC 画際		LC		refuge and breeding ground
CHORDATA / AVES	Falco fasciinucha	Taita Falcon	✓											VU la regi				
CHORDATA / AVES	Haliaeetus vocifer	African Fish Eagle		✓										LC THE				undisturbed breeding sites
CHORDATA / AVES	Leptoptilos crumeniferus COL	Marabou Stork	✓	✓												LC		refuge and breeding ground
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Loxodonta africana	African Bush Elephant	✓	✓										VU ⊚ LEY	✓			Important source of food and refuge

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species 2	qualifies	s under o	criterion 9	Species 3	contribute 5	es under	criterion 8	Pop. Size Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Lycaon pictus COLL	African wild dog	√										EN ⊚ tsp				
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Manis temminckii	Ground Pangolin;Cape pangolin	√										VU (a) ter				
CHORDATA / AVES	Mycteria ibis	Yellow-billed Stork	√	√									LC offer			LC	refuge and breeding ground
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Panthera leo	Lion	√	√									VU ⊚ REP				Important source of food and refuge
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	Panthera pardus	Leopard	√	✓									NT ⊚ ttst	✓			Important source of food and refuge
CHORDATA / AVES	Polemaetus bellicosus	Martial Eagle	√										VU (a) Tier				
CHORDATA / AVES	Rynchops flavirostris	African Skimmer	√										NT @ IST			NT	
CHORDATA / AVES	Scotopelia peli COL	Pel's Fishing Owl		√									LC offer				undisturbed breeding sites
CHORDATA / AVES	Terathopius ecaudatus	Bateleur	√	√									NT o ttp			NT	undisturbed breeding sites

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Mana Pools Park acts as an important refuge for diverse plant and animal species. The Zambezi River and Floodplains and inland springs and seeps at Mana attract large numbers of game animals and birds during the 4-5 months of the dry season providing food and shelter. The park also help with mitigation processes in times of droughts. Elephants and buffalo populations form discrete groups moving either to the Zambezi or inland to the springs in the dry season. Water to drink is critical during this period and is always found in the river and springs.

At these water points in the hot dry months, trees bearing flowers and young fruit form an important food – source for sun-birds, weavers, bulbuls and lovebirds as well as primates and herbivores such as kudu, waterbuck and impala. Faidherbia albida pods sustains elephants. The reduced range for wildlife elsewhere in Zimbabwe means that places like Mana are important for their survival.

Birds of prey and vultures nest undisturbed by people in this extensive area. Mana and the whole Middle Zambezi Valley offer undisturbed breeding sites in large baobab, acacia and mahogany trees for these sensitive slow breeders. The ecovative Fish Eagle – Haliaeetus vocifer along suitable Zambezi banks, have a nesting pair every 3 kilometres. The secretive Pels 'Fishing-Owl Scoptelia peli nests in dense riverine forest. Also nesting are water birds such as the Goliath Heron in F.albida or Raintrees Philenoptera violacea and Saddlebilled Stork on sites on the riverine trees and islands.

Waterbird species numbers are as high as 90 species while at least 52 species of raptors (including owls occur) are found in the area – so Mana is a good refuge with high biodiversity levels. This section of the Zambezi Valley is the only known site

for Shelley 's Sunbird Nectarinia shelleyi. Mana is a migratory staging area providing safe sites such as wet sandbars for white storks and secluded spots for Barn Swallows and certain Warblers.

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
Vegetation		Many tall tree species like Kigelia africana (sausage tree), Tamarindus indica, Ficus bussei (Zambezi fig), baobab and woody shrubs Indigotera (Indigo bush), acacia species are rampant in the site.	provide food and shelter for large herbivores and some birds of prey
Animal communities		It includes Hippopotamus, elephants, lions, zebra, baboons, monkeys, hyaena and buffalo species, waterbirds, reptiles and insects	

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

4.1 - Ecological character

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The Zambezi River system has deep channels and shallower waters backwaters, beaches and cliffs, which are ever changing. Over 64 species of fish live in this river. The terrestrial ecosystems support large number of big games mainly herbivores such as the elephant, hippopotamus, buffalo, waterbuck and impala. Micro and macro aquatic organisms are well represented and form food for the fishes. Crocodile populations, a protected species continue to increase but more eggs and adults are on license to crocodile farmers. Big crocodiles are a threat to canoeists and fisher folks. There are marked wet season and dry season differences in the river catchment region. Heavy rainfall upstream in Zambia 's Barotse floodplains and many tributaries in the huge catchment keep the Zambezi River flowing. As few people live in the Middle Zambezi Basin, the water is generally clean and poor in nutrient. The river water has a cooling effect on the vegetation. Air pollution is not a problem unless fires occur. The Mana Pools are silting up and may need dredging. The springs and seeps inland function well but how much water is delivered by springs is unknown

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
M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		1		Unique
N: Seasonal/ intermittent/ irregular rivers/ streams/ creeks		2		
P: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater lakes		4		
Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		3		

Other non-wetland habitat

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

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Faidherbia albida		
Ficus bussei		
Khaya anthotheca		
Kigelia africana		
Tamarindus indica		

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	Aepyceros melampus	impala				
CHORDATA/AVES	Agapornis lilianae	Lilian's Lovebird				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Crocuta crocuta					
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Kobus ellipsiprymnus	waterbuck				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Nycteris grandis					
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Papio ursinus					
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Phacochoerus aethiopicus	warthog				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Syncerus caffer	African buffalo				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Taurotragus oryx oryx					

RIS for Site no. 2106, Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe

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

RIS for Site no. 2106, Man	a Pools National Park, Zimbabwe
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a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)	413
a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)	600

Lower part of river basin <a>Image: Image of the control of the co

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral 🗹

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

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?		Changes at RIS update
	Usually permanent water present	unknown

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall		unknown
Water inputs from surface water		unknown

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	unknown

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	unknown

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site <a>Image: Image of the site <a>Image of the si

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown 🔽

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

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 i) broadly similar \bigcirc ii) significantly different \bigcirc Site differ from the site itself:

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different: (This field is limited to 1000 characters)

Surrounding areas are woodlands.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Food for humans Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium
Fresh water	Water for energy production (hydro-electricity)	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance	
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	Medium	

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	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

Outside the site: 10000

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

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

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

(ECD) Notable species interactions, including pathogens

grazing, predation, competition, diseases and Tilapia nilotica will probably affect natural fish populations

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
National/Federal government	✓	
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.		✓

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

Mana Pools is part of a huge protected area within the Middle Zambezi Valley. It is a state land administered by Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife estates (within the Ministry of Environment). In the surrounding southern border Mukwichi communal land is administered by the Hurungwe Rural District Council (Karoi)

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)

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Mr Samson Chibaya, Area manager

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

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

POBOX: CY140 Causeway, Harare

schibaya6@gmail.com

E-mail address: info@zimparks.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	
Tourism and recreation areas		Medium impact	✓	unknown	✓	unknown	

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage		Medium impact	✓	No change		No change

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		Low impact	✓	No change	✓	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	Medium impact		✓	unknown	✓	unknown

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Medium impact		✓	increase		No change
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources		Low impact	✓	No change		No change

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	✓	No change	✓	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact		✓	No change	✓	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Droughts	Medium impact		✓	No change		No change

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Global legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
World Heritage site	ParkandSapiandCheworeSafariAreas(1983		whole
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	MiddleZambeziValley(2010)		whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Game Reserve	ManaPoolsGameReserve(1963)		whole

Non-statutory designations

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

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation <a>I

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Faunal corridors/passage	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status	
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented	

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other: (This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The following laws and conservation bodies help protect Mana Pools:

Mana Pools comes under the control of ZPWLA which operates under the Parks and Wildlife Act 19 of 2001 with effect from 1st June, 2002.

1963 Mana Pools Game Reserve was declared. Several boundary changes produced boundaries established in 1975.

1983 the Park and Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas was declared a World Heritage Site.

1998 Mana Pools became an Important Bird Area (IBA) within the Middle Zambezi Valley

2010 Most of the Middle Zambezi Valley with Mana Pools as one of the core sites was proclaimed a UNESCO Biosphere. Support groups assist Parks Authorities in improving anti-poaching activities and improving the lot of staff. The Zambezi Society is one such group.

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

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

No

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
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Research on Lion, Flore and fauna, leopard, wild dogs

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

ADE B., 1985 Storks at Mana Pools. Honeyguide, 31 (1):50

ASPINWALL D.R., 1975, The middle Zambezi Valley and lower Luangwa Valley, Honeyguide, 83:19

ATTWELL R.I.G., 1970, Some effects of Lake Kariba on the ecology of a floodplain of the mid-Zambezi Valley of Rhodesia, Biol. cons., 2:189-196

BENNET J.G., ANDERSON I. & BRINN P.J., 1985, Soils at Mana Pools National Park, Soils report A517, Chemical and Soil Research Institute Zimbabwe, 58pp.

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)

<1 file(s) uploaded>

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

<3 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Mana Pools National Park (Christopher Scott, 02-05-2012)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Transboundary Designation letter

<no file available>

Date of Designation 2013-05-03