

Vasière des Badamiers //



RAMSAR SITE
NUMBER
2002



FRANCE

Area :
115 ha

Date of designation :
October 27th 2011

Coordinates :
12° 47' S 45° 16' E

Summary

The site is a shallow mudflat closed on a large part by a silted rocky strip, vestige of an old reef, separating it from the lagoon. The foreshore is partially colonized by sectors of mangrove. The only Ramsar site in Mayotte, the mudflat is home to greatest diversity of water birds recorded in Mayotte and is part of the ecological corridor of the Comoros Islands. It has the particularity of being both an urban site, in the continuity of the town of Labattoir, and a biodiversity reservoir.

International importance

The site is recognized as being of international importance because it is home to many water birds, such as the thousands of passenger terns that gather on the sandbanks during the southern summer. The mudflat is also an essential breeding and feeding area for the globally endangered Humblot's heron. A total of 56 bird species frequent this site. The mosaic of habitats is home to countless crustaceans, fish, mollusks and insects, including one of the three species of mygales in Mayotte.

General location

The site is located west of Petite-Terre, between the towns of Dzaouzi and Labattoir, in Mayotte, in the Mozambique Channel.



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Services provided by wetlands

The Badamiers mudflat is a unique lagoon area in Mayotte, with a strong heritage and ecological interest: it is a diversified ecosystem with high productivity, serving as a refuge, reproduction and feeding area for many water and marine birds, but also for fish (juveniles), turtles, etc. It also plays an important role as a receptacle and purifier of land and urban effluents, ensuring a filtering of water before it arrives in the lagoon, reducing the sedimentation that could affect it. It also plays an important role as a receptacle and purifier of terrestrial and urban effluents, ensuring a filtering of water before its arrival in the lagoon, reducing the sedimentation likely to affect it. The site is integrated into the economic and social fabric of the commune of Dzaoudzi-Labattoir (market, offices, restaurant, etc.). Easy to access, bordered by the road, the mudflat is frequented all year round by the inhabitants of Mayotte and visitors. A discovery trail has been developed for this purpose in 2010 by the Conservatoire du Littoral.



Adverse factors

The mudflat is a real receptacle for potential sources of environmental disturbance: rainwater and wastewater discharges, especially in its southeastern part. Overall, the main environmental risk is related to the progressive silting, mainly related to the extension of urbanization along the sea and the phenomena of coastal erosion of natural or anthropogenic origin. Finally, the uses of this environment (artisanal fishing, traditional agriculture) remain limited, but certain leisure activities (kayaking, sailing, fishing on foot) are increasing significantly. The management plan for the site integrates these problems with the objective of controlling these new pressures.

Four species representative of the site



IDIOCTIS INTERTIDALIS
(*Idioctis intertidalis*)

It is one of the three species of mygales in Mayotte, the only one living in the intertidal zone of the Badamiers mudflat. It occupies holes in the friable rocks, which it seals with an operculum during high tide.

This species is found in Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles.



CRAB-PLOVER
(*Dromas ardeola*)

Also known as the crab-plover, this bird measures about 40 cm. It is a very characteristic black and white wader with a large beak disproportionate to the head. It has long blue-gray legs. Possible breeder, it winters in Mayotte in small numbers. Its worldwide distribution being restricted, it deserves a particular attention, its population here could represent 1 % of the world population.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD
(*Phaeton lepturus*)

The only sedentary breeding marine bird of Mayotte, its population does not exceed a few tens of individuals on the whole island.

The adult has an immaculate white body. It is recognizable with its broad black line in the shape of inverted comma, which surrounds its eyes. Its long and pointed wings allow a very good aerodynamism in sea. Its vernacular name "white-tailed" is due to its long caudal feathers.



HUMBLLOT'S HERON
(*Ardea humbloti*)

With a size that can reach one meter, this heron is distinguished by its uniformly dark gray color, without the white areas that can have the grey heron. Rare and very localized, it is endemic to Madagascar. This species is endangered, with a world population estimated between 1 000 and 3 000 individuals.



Biodiversity

Habitats mosaic (marine phanerogam meadows, mangrove, mudflats, beach rocks) favors the presence of many species: twenty-two species of birds have been recorded, including eight sedentary, fourteen migratory and five breeding. Among them, let's mention the little straw-tailed (*Phaeton lepturus*) or the Humblot's heron (*Ardea humbloti*).

The site is also home to *Pteropus comoriensis*, a subspecies of dogfish endemic to the Comoros, as well as one of the three species of mygales of Mayotte, (*Idioctis intertidalis*). Finally, the mangrove areas are characterized by important and dense populations of fish, crustaceans and bivalves.



Management and conservation

The site is owned by the Conservatoire du littoral, a public institution whose mission is to acquire fragile and remarkable areas of the French coastline, in order to protect them from urbanization and open them to the public.

Daily management is provided by the Department of Mayotte. The site is subject to a management plan whose main objectives are to complete the naturalist, historical and cultural knowledge of the site, to improve the environmental and sanitary qualities of the mudflat and to make the public and local actors aware of the fragility of this exceptional wetland.



The Ramsar Convention

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, commonly known as the Ramsar Convention, is a global inter-governmental treaty that provides the frame-work for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only global treaty to focus on one single ecosystem.