



Djibouti joins the Convention

13 February 2003

Djibouti



Djibouti joins the Convention. The Bureau is delighted to announce that UNESCO has sent

notification that on 22 November 2002 Djibouti deposited its instrument of accession with the Director-General to the Convention and the 1982 Paris Protocol. The Convention will therefore enter into force for Djibouti on 22 March 2003. The 136th Party's first Ramsar site is Haramous-Loyada (3,000 hectares, 11°35'N 043°09'E), a coastal site comprising intertidal sand and mud flats, islands, sandy shores, coral reefs, and shallow marine waters extending from just south of the capital, Djibouti city, to the Somalian frontier. No fewer than seven wadis issue into the sea, favoring the creation of mini-deltas suitable for mangroves. The site meets both of the waterbird Criteria, and a number of species, both wintering and staging, can be seen; the Ile de Haramous and its satellite islets provide places for nesting, rest, and refuge for more than 70 waterbird species. The marine waters also provide habitat for *Dugong dugon*, and the turtles *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta* frequent Haramous. The surrounding area provides agricultural and pastoral livelihoods to a considerable human presence, and the marine parts provide fish and crustaceans to local communities. Port extensions from the nearby city, as well as over-grazing, over-collection of wood for heating, and sand extraction are viewed as potential threats, as is the progress of two alien invasive species, the common crow *Corvus splendens* and the "chilean mesquite" tree *Prosopis chilensis*. Proposals to create an ornithological reserve are in the works. [11/02/03]

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