

# 1. La Mare d'Oursi

**Geographical Coordinates** approx. 14°30'N 0°30'W

**Area** 45,000ha

**Location** Approximately 50km north-west of the town of Saouga and 275km north-east of the city of Ougadougou, northernmost Burkina Faso.

**Date of Ramsar Designation** 27 June 1990.

**Other International Designations** None.

**National Designations** Ornithological Sanctuary (Sanctuaire ornithologique; established by decree no. 70/302 of 9 December 1970).

**Principal Features** A permanent freshwater lake, at 290m a.s.l. set in a basin surrounded by a hilly landscape to the south and west and by dune plains to the north and east. The lake itself supports reedbeds of *Phragmites* and *Juncus*, while the vegetation of the surrounding area consists of degraded Sahelian woodland and scrub (woody species include *Acacia senegal*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Calotropis procera*, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Commiphora africana*, *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Guiera senegalensis* and *Maerua crassifolia*) with a herbaceous layer dominated by *Schoenefeldia gracilis*, *Aridtida mutabilis*, *A. funiculata*, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Brachiaria xantholeuca* and *Zornia glochidiata*. The area is internationally important for water birds, many of which are trans-Saharan migrants which breed in the Palearctic realm. Species include *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Ardea cinerea*, *A. purpurea*, *Egretta alba*, *E. garzetta*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Anas acuta*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Porphyrio porphyrio*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Charadrius dubius*, *Tringa erythropus*, *T. stagnatilis*, *T. nebularia*, *T. glareola*, *Calidris minuta* and *Philomachus pugnax*. (1a,2c,3b)

**Conservation Issues** No hunting is carried out by local people.