

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND WILDLIFE  
POST OFFICE BOX M.239  
MINISTRY POST OFFICE  
ACCRA  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

OWABI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

LOCATION:

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary lies about 10 Km north-west of Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city, in the Ashanti Region

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Covering an area of 7,260 hectares, Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary centres upon a reservoir formed by a dam constructed across the Owabi stream in the 1940's to provide a water supply for Kumasi.

About one third of the area consists of open water and inlets covered by aquatic plants (*Pistia*, *Nymphaea*, etc.) and encroaching reeds, ferns and other marsh plants. Surrounding the lake and marsh area is secondary forest (Celtic - Triplochiton association of the semi-deciduous tropical forest) with some areas of plantation (mainly *Cassia*).

The western extreme of the area, downstream from the dam, accommodates a water treatment plant presently used as a training school for waterworks technicians and a standby supply for Kumasi.

LEGAL STATUS

The area around the dam was initially protected as a catchment area for Owabi Waterworks. Protection was initially the responsibility of the Forestry Department.

Under L.I. 171 of the Wild Animals Preservation Act, 1961 (Act.43) Owabi Waterworks area became a game reserve in 1962. The area was expanded and re-designated Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary by L.I. 710 in 1971. The protection of the area has been the responsibility of Department of Game and Wildlife since 1962.

FAUNA.

The forest and woodland contain Mona monkeys, potto and Demidoff's galago, and small antelopes (bushbuck, various duikers and royal antelope). Small mammals such as mongoose, brush-tailed porcupine, genet and palm civet are also found. Reptiles include the Nile monitor lizard.

The forest birds include parrots (mostly West African greys) giant blue plantain-eaters, and a wide variety of other resident or locally migratory species.

Aquatic birds include large numbers of jacanas (lily trotters), pygmy geese and various herons, including squacco and, very occasionally, Goliath heron.

Dry season visitors include garganey (sometimes in very large numbers, especially during drought years, in their usual Sahelian wintering grounds).

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary is ideally located for educational and recreational use, being within easy reach of Kumasi.