



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 13 August 2015

Update version, previously published on : 22 February 1988

Ghana

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site



Designation date	22 February 1988
Site number	393
Coordinates	06°43'59"N 01°40'59"W
Area	7 260,00 ha

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 The Owabi Ramsar Site and Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Kumasi. The Site consists of associated reed beds and marshland, surrounded by secondary woodland and plantation areas. It protects the catchment area of one of the dams use for water supply to the Kumasi metropolis. Until the construction of the Barekese Dam in 1971, Owabi was the only source of water to Kumasi - Ghana ' s second largest city. The site area is 7260 ha and is surrounded by a lake, formed by the damming of the Owabi River in 1928. A plantation of an exotic species, Cassia siamea, covers about 10% of the area. The rest consist of secondary vegetation and small areas of riverine forest and aquatic vegetation. Two hundred species of vascular plants have been identified. These include 91 tree, 19 shrub, 40 herb, 14 grass, 1 parasite, 6 ferns, and 29 climber species.

The avifauna is relatively rich with indigenous birds and some migrants. 161 birds consisting of 29 families have been recorded, 13 of which are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Though small, the Site is highly significant as it explicitly demonstrate the fundamental linkages between conservation and preservation of vital ecological processes such as continuous water production and maintenance. The site is used for educational and recreational purposes.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Name Charles C. Amankwah

Institution/agency Wildlife Division/Forestry Commission

Postal address P. O. Box M239
Accra, Ghana

E-mail ccamankwah@yahoo.com

Phone +233244262467

Fax +233244262467

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

From year 1988

To year 1992

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish) Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

The Site boundary was delineated, surveyed, pillared and map out of an existing Wildlife protected area in fulfillment of Ghana ' s commitment to the ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The boundary line follows a catchment boundary and limits defined by natural features and adjoining land owned by other entities.

2.2.2 - General location

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

Ashanti Region

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

Kumasi

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

7260

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

0

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Afro-tropical

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

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary protects a chunk of unique forested wetlands around the Owabi Reservoir. Habitats include open water, rocky stream, marsh vegetation (grass, Typha reedbeds and Raphia swamps), semi-evergreen rain forest and secondary growth along the edges of the dam. The understorey is fairly open; Culcasia creepers are common around trunks and part of the forest floor near the lake is rather moist or even swampy.




Other reasons

The Site exhibits hydrological importance by playing a major role in the natural control and prevention of flooding in the area; important for seasonal water retention for wetland conservation, water production and supply, and also important for the recharge of local aquifer. The surrounding forests of the site also serve as safe haven for different birds and animal species. There are about 161 kinds of birds found in Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary ranging from raucous pied, hornbill and pygmy goose and purple heron, giant blue plantain eaters among others. Aquatic birds include jacanas, pygmy geese, herons, squacco and occasionally, Goliath heron. There are varieties of butterflies, the reclusive bush pigs, bushbuck and antelopes, black and white Colombos and Mona monkeys.

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
Pistia stratiotes 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Senna siamea 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	Ardea purpurea 	Purple Heron	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
CHORDATA / AVES	Jacana jacana 	Wattled Jacana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
CHORDATA / AVES	Nettapus auritus 	African Pygmy Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

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
Bird species	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relatively rich with indigenous birds and some migrants species.	161 birds consisting of 29 families have been recorded, 13 of which are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	A plantation of an exotic species, Cassia siamea, covers about 10% of the area. The rest consist of secondary vegetation and small areas of riverine forest and aquatic vegetation.	Two hundred species of vascular plants have been identified. These include 91 tree, 19 shrub, 40 herb, 14 grass, 1 parasite, 6 ferns, and 29 climber species.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Habitats include: open water, rocky stream, marsh vegetation (grass, Typha reedbeds and Raphia swamps), semi-evergreen rain forest, secondary growth along the edges and the power-line which passes through the reserve. The accessible section of the forest has a low canopy with a clump of exotic bamboo *Bambusa vulgaris* and can be considered as seriously degraded or secondary. The under-storey is fairly open; *Culcasia* creepers are common around trunks and part of the forest floor near the lake is rather moist or even swampy. The forest on one side of the lake looks better developed and taller but presently inaccessible.

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
Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1		Unique

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
6: Water storage areas/Reservoirs		2		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

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/AVES	Bradypterus baboecala	Little Rush Warbler				
CHORDATA/AVES	Porphyrio porphyrio	Purple Swamphen				

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

Lower part of river basin

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Feeds groundwater	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

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

Unknown

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

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	High
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Low
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Provides a micro climate environment for surrounding communities

Within the site: 350,000

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

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>

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
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commoners/customary rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Wildlife Division/Forestry Commission, Accra
Ghana Water Company Limited (Regional Office), Kumasi
Atwema-Nwabiagya District Assembly, Akropong

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Nana Koffi Adu-Nsiah (Chief Executive Director)

Postal address: PO Box M.239 Accra

E-mail address: adunsiah@yahoo.com

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	In the surrounding area
Housing and urban areas	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial and industrial areas	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Water abstraction	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logging and wood harvesting	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Increasing human settlements and commercial/industrial activities including assemblage of mechanic workshops that release used oil that ultimately drains and pollutes wetlands.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
wildlife sanctuary	Owabi wildlife sanctuary		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Improvement of water quality	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

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

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but restoration is needed

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Dei-Amoah, C. (1988). Resource Identification and zoning of Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary. B.Sc. thesis, Univ. Science & Technology, Kumasi, (IRNR, Dept. of Range Wildlife Management). 61pp.
Dowsett-Lemaire, F. & Dowsett, R. J. (2005). Ornithological Surveys in Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary. Wildlife Division Support Project Report no. 50-p. IUCN.
Ghana Wildlife Department, (1994). Management Plan of Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary.
Grimes L.G. 1987. The birds of Ghana. London: B.O.U. Check-list no. 9.
Wilson V.J. & Kpelle D. (1992). Zoological survey of the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumasi, Ghana. Wildlife Department/IUCN Project 9786: Accra, Ghana. 24 pp.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<1 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

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

<2 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary and Ramsar Site (Wildlife Division, 12-04-2010)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<no file available>

Date of Designation 1988-02-22