

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Main habitats are open lagoon with *Avicennia africana* at the eastern fringes. Flood plains consist mainly of *Sesuvium portulacastrum* and *Paspalum vaginatum*. Traditional hunting grounds dominated with thickets of *Azadirachta indica* (neem tree). Land use management area occupying the upper portion of the site for cattle grazing and farming activities. Adjacent forest reserve made up of *Cassia*, *Eucalyptus*, mahogany.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site: the lagoon area belongs to the Effutu traditional council, headed by paramount Chief, based in Winneba.

(b) surrounding areas: the lands in upper drainage basin belong to the Gomoa Traditional Council.

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Boundary of the site has been demarcated and pillared. Gazettement of site in advanced state. Wildlife Department working closely with wildlife society, Gomoa and Awutu/Effutu District Assemblies, Forestry Department, Agnz. Ext, the traditional authorities and the local communities in managing the site under the wise-use concept of the Ramsar Convention

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Establishment of greenbelt around the site to act as a firebelt. Restocking the hunting grounds with bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site:
fishing, crabbing, and fuelwood collection

(b) surrounding/catchments:
cattle grazing, farming and stone winning, hunting

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects: (factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site:
illegal hunting, over exploitation of live wood for firewood. Pollution from domestic waste (sewage). Over fishing and use of inappropriate fishing gears

(b) surroundings/catchment
Over grazing by cattle, improper farming practices, seasonal bushfires and erosion and

sedimentation.

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)

Two rivers which feed the lagoon, Aboaku and Pratu, are seasonal. The period of flooding coincides with periods of very heavy rainfall. At such times, the villagers dig a canal at the estuary to expel the excess water into the sea to prevent inundation of the houses. It is believed that there is underground seepage of marine water into the lagoon.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

There are about 200 local people from Winneba and Akosua village who fish and catch crabs from the lagoon every day except on Wednesdays (taboo day). The domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats depend largely on the grassland area for grazing. The site is also a source of fuelwood for the local communities. Provides grounds for live capture of deer by Effutu people during the Aboakyir festival.

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

The coastal wetland with high diversity of mammals makes it unique. It also serves as feeding, breeding and roosting grounds for waterfowl such as terns, waders, herons etc. The Muni lagoon supports an estimated population of 23,000 waterfowl, comprising 27 species of waders, 8 terns and 7 herons/egrets. The site is particularly important for terns. Supporting 17-5% of the total coastal count of five species of terns. A total of 21 mammal species occurs within the boundaries of the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site. Ten small mammal species (7 rodents, 1 shrew and 2 bats), and 11 large mammal species (5 antelopes, 1 mongoose, 2 primates and 2 rodents).

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

The vegetation in the seasonally flooded areas consists mainly of *Sesuvium* species and *Paspalum* species. The eastern fringes of the lagoon are marginally covered with *Avicennia africana*. The drier areas are predominantly grassland, the main species being *Imperata* species, *Cyperus* species, *Panicum* species. The degraded forests and semi-natural scrubland are dominated by a mixture of coarse grasses and sedges (*Vetiveria* species, *Brachiaria* species), herbs (*Cassia* and *Azadirachta indica*) and shrubs (*Bonnetia*, *Abutilon*). The vegetation on the narrow strip of sand dune which separates the lagoon from the sea is mainly *Sporobolus* and fringed by coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*).

24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Research Center for all the five Ramsar sites is under construction. Long term monitoring scheme in aquatic ecology, lagoon fisheries, aquatic and terrestrial birds, mammals, butterflies and reptiles.

25. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitor centers, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

Observation post for bird watching has been provided. Visitor/education center is under construction.

26. Recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

Recreation and tourism potential are quite great. Walking along the windy beach for recreation, witnessing Aboakyir festival, bird watching, on the increase. Data on the frequency not available now.

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Wildlife Department,
PO Box M239,
Accra, Ghana.
phone 23321 664654

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Wildlife Department
Managing Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site
within central region of Ghana

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Amatekpor, J.A(1995). Soil and land use degradation: Muni -Pomadze Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project. Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Biney, C.A (1995). Limnology. Muni- Pomadze Ramsar Site. CWMP-GWD, Accra-Ghana.

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Oteng- Yeboah. A.A (1994). Plant Ecology; Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site. CWMP-GWD, Accra-Ghana.

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-GWD, Accra-Ghana.

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Moutreux Conference - are applicable)

criteria 1a, 3a (annotation added by EH, Wetlands International, 08/02/99)

Water bird counts - Muni Pomadze Ramsar Site March-December

1996

Comments Total Highest Counts Recorded

Date	Waders	Terns	available waterlevel for the month in meters
March '96	553	2.368	0.3
April '96	630	1.854	1.6
May '96	215	423	2.2
June '96	207	173	3.2
July '96	375	448	0.2
August '96	190	751	0.2
September '96	409	1.662	0.3
October '96	506	2.980	0.2
November '96	414	1,460	0.3
Decernber '96	186	1.115	0.5