

RAMSAR WETLANDS INFORMATION SHEET

1. **Country:** Ghana
2. **Date:** 22-9-98
3. **Ref:** 1GH003
4. **Name and address of compiler:**

Charles C Amankwah, Coastal Wetlands Management Project, Wildlife Department, PO Box M239, Accra, Ghana.
5. **Name of wetland:** Densu Delta Ramsar site
6. **Date of Ramsar designation** 14 August 1992
7. **Geographical coordinates:** 05°31'N, 000°20'W
8. **General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)**

West of Accra , Greater Accra Region, Ghana
9. **Area: (in hectares)**

5,892 hectares
10. **Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec. C.4.7)**

Estuarine / salt pan complex
11. **Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)**

Highest point: 500 ft asl (= 152 m asl)
12. **Overview: (general summary in two or three sentences of the wetland's principle characteristics)**

River delta with open lagoon salt pans complex.
13. **Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level: tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)**

Temperatures 25-30°C: rainfall, average 656.82 mm; water depth maximum- 2 m, minimum 0 m; lagoons fed by River Densu which is dammed upstream
14. **Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)**

Wetland comprises sand dunes, lagoons, salt pans, marsh and scrub. Coconut trees fringe dunes; scattered stands of mangrove with extensive areas of open water interspersed with *Paspalum vaginatum*.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

- (a) site: government and private
- (b) surrounding areas: privately and communally owned

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. Process of gazettelement progressing steadily. Site is managed on the wise-use principle 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.)

Officially approved as a conservation area by the government

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

- (a) site:
fishing, salt winning and farming
- (b) surrounding/catchments:
Human settlement and commercial related activities

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:
Fish and mangrove resource over-exploitation
- (b) surroundings/catchment
Urban encroachment and pollution

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

The site is fed mainly by the River Densu which is dammed upstream (Weiija Dam). The pattern of water release from the dam is a major factor affecting the dynamics of the ecosystem as well as the salt production industry.

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

Important fisheries and salt production area.

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

A total of 15 fin fishes belonging to 14 genera and 9 families with *Seratherodon melanotheron*, *Tilapia zillii* being the dominant species

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

Mangrove vegetation with *Avicennia africana* as the main vegetation in the saltmarsh. Flood plains associations of *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Paspalum vaginatum*, and various combinations with *Sporobolus virginicus*, *Cyperus articulatus* and *Imperata cylindrica*.

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

A Research Center with four other Ramsar sites is under construction. Long term monitoring scheme in aquatic ecology, lagoon fisheries, ornithology has been instituted.

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

Observation post for visitor use and bird watching has been provided.

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

Currently, there is very little recreational or touristic use of the site.

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

Wildlife Department,
PO Box M239,
Accra, Ghana.
tel 233 21 664654

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

Wildlife Department

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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

Biney, C.A. (1995). *Limnology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Dadson, J.A. (1995). *Socio-economic status of local communities: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Gordon, C. (1995). *Aquatic ecology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Koranteng, K.A. (1995). *Fisheries: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Oteng-Yeboah, A.A. (1994). *Plant Ecology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Tumbulto, J.W. and R.R. Bannerman (1995). *Hydrology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, 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, 2b (annotation added by EH, Wetlands International, 08/02/99)