

## RAMSAR WETLANDS INFORMATION SHEET

*please note: This has been typed out from handwritten forms without any grammatical corrections.*

1. **Country:** Ghana
2. **Date:** 21-9-98
3. **Ref** 1GH005
4. **Name and address of compiler:**  
Dickson Agyeman, Coastal Wetlands Management Project, Wildlife Department, PO Box M239, Accra, Ghana.
5. **Name of wetland:** Songor
6. **Date of Ramsar designation** 22 June 1988
7. **Geographical coordinates:** Between 05°45'N, -06°00'N and between 000° 20'E and 000° 35'E
8. **General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)**  
Dangme east District, Ada- Foah ( greater Accra region)
9. **Area: (in hectares)**  
  
28,7404 hectares
10. **Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec. C.4.7)**  
  
Closed lagoon (filled by seepage, runoff, creeks and streams)
11. **Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)**  
  
75m above sea level in the north, and 15 m near the coast.
12. **Overview: (general summary in two or three sentences of the wetland's principle characteristics)**  
  
A closed lagoon with high salinity. Also a large mudflat with *Sesuvium* and scattered mangroves.
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 areas; downstream area; climate)**  
  
Unconsolidated sand, clay and gravel occur in the deltaic and lagoon areas/ Very smooth coast without cliff and 15m below seas level. [???? NJS query above or below sea level]. Creeks of the Volta supply freshwater to the closed lagoon. Typical soils found around the lagoon are tropical grey earth and songor association. The water is generally clear to the bottom with maximum depth of 80cm. Water totally dries off during the months of Dec-Feb if rainfalls are low. At highest tide of 1.98m water from the creeks get to lagoon.

The lowest tide is 0.11m. The area is in south eastern coastal plain, temperature being between 23-33°C, rainfall 750mm, and humidity 60%

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

The closed lagoon and the inundated mudflats forms the main habitats. the vegetation composition is made up of *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Cyperus articulatus*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum* and *Elocharis mutata* that dominate the floodplains. The catchment areas are dominated by *Adropogon gyanus*, *Heteropogon contortus* and *Azadirachta indica* (neem tree). *Rhizophora racemosa* and *Avicennia africana* are found along the creeks.

**15. Land tenure/ownership of:**

(a) site:

The lagoon is owned by the Tekpe bia weh clan

(b) surrounding areas:

These are owned by Kodragbe and Zdangme biaweh clan

**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)**

Area yet to be gazetted. Management plan prepared and yet to be implemented. Management practices include habitat improvement, biodiversity activities and community involvement in implementation of work plans.

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

Byelaws on wetland conservation.

**18. Current land use: principal human activities in:**

(a) site:

Fishing, and salt winning, reed harvesting, infrastructural development.

(b) surrounding/catchments:

Farming, cattle grazing, infrastructural development

**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:

- over-fishing,
- over exploitation of mangroves
- blocked creek channels
- trampling of nest sites/eggs by cattle
- over-grazing

- refuse dumping in lagoon to reclaim lands
- over population
- poverty
- conversion of ecological habitats into salt pans and farms

(b) surroundings/catchment

- over-grazing
- use of pesticides/herbicides for farming
- building across river channels
- damming of freshwater channels

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

- desynchronisation of flood peaks
- dissipating of erosive forces
- retaining and removing nutrients
- purifying ground water
- serving as a habitat for wildlife and fishes
- supporting the food chain
- important for allowing passage of breeding birds and migrants which molt and roost.

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

- fisheries activities
- farming
- sacred groves
- fuelwood production
- salt winning
- hunting

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

Marine turtles      -leatherback  
                               - Olive Ridley  
                               - Green turtle

Migratory birds    -Avocet  
                               -terns  
                               - green shanks etc

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

*Avicennia africana*, *Rhizophora racemosa*.

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

-lagoon fisheries , (CPUE, sex etc) monitoring  
-aquatic ecology monitoring  
- birds (identification and counts) monitoring

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

2 brochures, education centre, hides. Visitor centre is under construction.

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

Estuary for recreation and tourism. (birds, marine turtles, boat cruising at weekends.

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

Ghana 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.)**

Ministry of lands and forestry

**29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)**

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