

## RAMSAR WETLANDS INFORMATION SHEET

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

1. **Country:** Ghana
2. **Date:** 22-9-98
3. **Ref** 1GH006
4. **Name and address of compiler:**  
RK Abrahame, Coastal Wetlands Management Project, Wildlife Department, PO Box M239, Accra, Ghana.
5. **Name of wetland:** Keta Lagoon Complex
6. **Date of Ramsar designation** June 1991
7. **Geographical coordinates:** 05°55'N, 000° 50'E
8. **General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)**  
Within four Districts: South Tongu, Akaisi, Ketu and Keta districts.
9. **Area: (in hectares)**  
  
38,110.86 hectares
10. **Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec. C.4.7)**  
  
Open lagoon with brackishwater influx, from Volta river.
11. **Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)**  
  
Sea level
12. **Overview: (general summary in two or three sentences of the wetland's principle characteristics)**  
  
The site falls within the coastal savannah region of Ghana. Grasses dominate the vegetation type, with patches of trees and shrubs.
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)**  
  
The site is a lowland area with sandy loam, clay and laterite constituting the main soil types. Water is permanent most of the year, due to numerous tributaries, the major ones are Tordzi and Volta rivers. The water is clear in the dry season to the bottom. The water depth varies between 0.005-2.5m. The salinity varies as one moves towards the seaward portion from the freshwater section. Temperatures are generally high. Rainfall patterns are erratic.
14. **Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)**

The brackish, saline and fresh water serves as the main habitat for the aquatic organisms. The catchment and the floodplain areas are dominated by *Andropogon gayanus*, and *Heteropogon contortus*.

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

(a) site:

Families or clans own the land

(b) surrounding areas:

These are owned by families and clans

**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)**

The area is yet to be gazetted. A management plan has been prepared and is yet to be fully implemented. Management practices include habitat improvement, biodiversity activities and community participation.

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

Wetland conservation by-laws to be sent to parliament

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

(a) site:

Fishing, farming, craft making, salt winning, and charcoal production.

(b) surrounding/catchments:

Fishing, farming, craft making, fuelwood harvesting

**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:

- improper farming practices
- erosion
- over exploitation of fisheries resources
- unapproved fishing methods
- sand winning
- disposal of liquid and solid waste into the lagoon

(b) surroundings/catchment

- as above

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

- 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 moult 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.)**

The noteworthy fauna of the site are indicated below:

Birds- abundant

Fish - abundant

Waterbuck - endangered

Butterflies- abundant

Rodents- rare

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

These are:

Mangroves – abundant

Other woody species – abundant

Grasses- abundant

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

- lagoon fisheries monitoring
- aquatic ecology monitoring
- ornithological monitoring
- Lower Volta Mangrove Project

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

Education/visitor centre is under construction.

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

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- 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)

criteria 1a, 2b [these were added by EH, Wetlands International, 08/02/99]