

Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 13 August 2015 Update version, previously published on : 1 January 1998

GhanaKeta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site



Designation date 14 August 1992
Site number 567
Coordinates 05°55'N 00°49'59"E
Area 101 022,69 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/567 Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 8 May 2020

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.

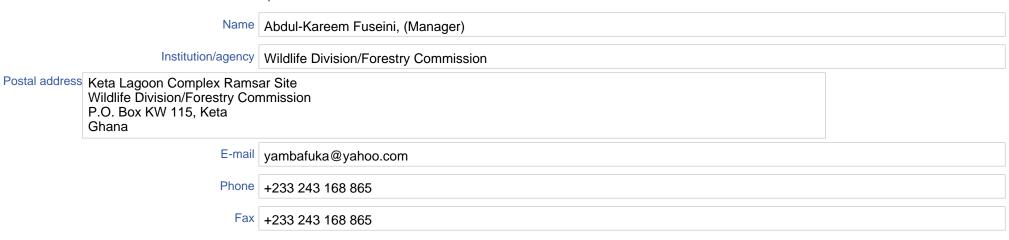
1 - Summary

Summary The Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site consists of a large expanse of open lagoon with brackish water, flood plain, marshland and extensive mangrove stands. The site falls within the coastal savannah ecological zone of Ghana. Grasses dominate this vegetation type with patches of trees and shrubs. Fifteen families of fin fishes comprising 18 genera and 20 species have been recorded in the lagoon. The wetland is also home to several species of rodents, Nile monitor, African/royal python, 3 species of marine turtles, manatees and macro-invertebrates such as crabs, molluscs. The site also supports large numbers of water birds The site has numerous settlements with fishing (both marine and lagoon), salt mining, vegetable farming, craft making and mangrove exploitation for fuelwood are the main sources of income for the local people.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS



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



2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish) Keta Lagoon Complex 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 Keta Lagoon Complex lies in the far south-east of the country, near the international frontier with Togo. The southern and eastern boundary follows the shoreline of the sea (Gulf of Guinea). The rest of the boundary line follows a catchment boundary and the Volta River.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?
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b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Ketu, Keta, South Tongu, Akatsi

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

- a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes O No
- b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	101022.69
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Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 0

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

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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 6 : >1% waterbird population

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
Allophylus africanus						
Aloe tenuifolia						
Andropogon gayanus						
Avicennia africana						
Brachiaria mutica						
Ceiba pentandra						
Cocos nucifera						
Ludwigia hyssopifolia						
Mangifera foetida						
Nymphaea lotus						
Paspalum dissectum						
Paspalum scrobiculatum						
Rhizophora mangle						
Sesbania sesban						
Sesuvium portulacastrum						
Sporobolus virginicus						

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

51.1	0 : ""		Species	s qualifie	s under o	criterion	Species	contribut	es under	criterion	D 0:	5	0.4		OITEO A III I	0140 A II I	011 011	1 00 0
Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCIN Kea List	CITES Appendix I	Civio Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA / AVES	Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron			✓						1170	1991	0.11	LC off				
CHORDATA / AVES	Calidris alba	Sanderling			✓						580	1991	0.58	LC (a) (Tight				
CHORDATA / AVES	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper			>						14810	1991	3.29	LC org				
CHORDATA / AVES	Calidris minuta COL	Little Stint			✓						5790	1991	2.75	LC offer				
CHORDATA /	Charadrius hiaticula	Common Ringed Plover			>						2860	1991	1.43	LC of the				
CHORDATA / AVES	Charadrius marginatus	White-fronted Plover			✓						50	1991	0.5	LC off				
CHORDATA /	Charadrius pecuarius	Kittlitz's Plover			√						390	1991	1.11	LC 會體				
CHORDATA / AVES	Chlidonias niger	Black Tern			√						1870	1991	0.9	LC 會體				
CHORDATA / AVES	Egretta garzetta	Little Egret									3980	1991	1.13					

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species 2	qualifie	s under	criterion 9	Species 3	contribut	es under	criterion 8	Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
CHORDATA AVES	Glareola pratincola	Collared Pratincole			V						1010	1991	5.31	LC TEP				
CHORDATA AVES	Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt			~						12080	1991	1.2	LC @ REP				
CHORDATA AVES	Pelecanus rufescens	Pink-backed Pelican			~						690	1991	0.92	LC (a) REP				
CHORDATA AVES	Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover			~						1390	1991	0.92	LC (a) REP				
CHORDATA AVES	Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet			~						1560	1991	2.22	LC (a) REP				
CHORDATA A	Sternula albifrons	Little Tern			✓						810	1991	32.4	LC © LET				
CHORDATA A	Thalasseus maximus COLL	Royal Tern			✓						290	1991	0.58	LC ⊚ ľSP				
CHORDATA AVES	Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank			✓						8330	1991	6.9	LC © TEP				
CHORDATA AVES	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank			✓						6910	1991	2.22	LC @ ISP				
	Tringa																	
hybridu: duck (D	The site supports regularly 1% of the biogeographic population of the tern species namely the Whiskered tern (Chlidonias hybridus) and the Caspian tern (Hydroprogne caspia). Other congregation of waterbirds species such as White-faced tree duck (Dendrocygna viduata), Great white egret (Ardea alba), Wood sandpiper (Tringa glareola), Ringed Plovern (Charadrius hiaticula), Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea), Little Stint (Calidris minuta) are also supported by the resources of the										Э							

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
Species		Marine turtles, Manatees, Nile monitors, Migratory and resident birds species are found in their numbers in the area	
Habitats		Reed, mangrove swamps, coastline	

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The lagoon is an extensive, brackish water-body situated to the east of the Volta river estuary comprising the open water of the lagoon and the surrounding flood-plains and mangrove swamps. Key species include waterbirds. The lagoon is bordered by numerous settlements and the surrounding flood-plain consists of marsh, scrub, farmland and substantial mangrove stands, which are heavily exploited for fuelwood. Occupational activities include lagoon fishing, salt extraction and crop farming.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
F: Estuarine waters				
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		0		
H: Intertidal marshes		0		
I: Intertidal forested wetlands				
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		1		
K: Coastal freshwater lagoons		0		

Inland wetlands

mana wonanao				
Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
N: Seasonal/ intermittent/ irregular rivers/ streams/ creeks		0		
Q: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline lakes		0		
R: Seasonal/ intermittent saline/ brackish/ alkaline lakes and flats		0		
Sp: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools		0		

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
2: Ponds		0		
3: Irrigated land		0		
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		0		
5: Salt exploitation sites				
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		0		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Other noteworthy plant species										
	Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other							
	Adansonia digitata									
	Azadirachta indica									
	Phoenix reclinata									
	Typha domingensis									

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/REPTILIA	Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle				
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Sea Turtle				
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	Lepidochelys kempii					
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Tragelaphus spekii	sitatunga				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	Trichechus senegalensis	West African manatee				

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

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)	0
a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)	lack

Lower part of river basin <a>Image: Image of the control of the co

Coastal 🗹

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral 🔽

Organic 🗹

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)?

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from rainfall		No change
Water inputs from surface water		No change
Marine water		No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update	
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change	

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown <a>V

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

4.4.7 - Water salinity

- Fresh (<0.5 g/l)
- Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0 .5-30 g/l) ✓
 - Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)
 - Unknown 🗹

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

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development <a>Image: Image of the control of the c

Surrounding area has higher human population density <a>V

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use <a>

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types <a>Image: Image of the cover of the

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)		High
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	High
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	High
Wetland non-food products	Fuel wood/fibre	

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance		
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium		
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution			
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Medium		

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium

Within the site: 506,980

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site?

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

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Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	✓	

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	✓	✓

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Unspecified mixed ownership	✓	✓
Commoners/customary rights	✓	✓

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) Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site P.O. Box KW 115, Keta, Ghana

Contact person: Abdul-Kareem Fuseini (Manager)

Email: yambafuka@yahoo.com

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Nana Koffi Adu-Nsiah (Chief Executive Director)

Postal address: P.O. Box KW 115, Keta, Ghana

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	Medium impact		✓
Commercial and industrial areas	Medium impact			✓
Unspecified development				✓

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	Medium impact		✓	

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	✓	
Gathering terrestrial plants		Medium impact	✓	✓
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources			✓	✓

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	✓	

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion	Medium impact		✓	✓
Unspecified/others			✓	✓

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Problematic native species		Medium impact	✓	

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Garbage and solid waste	Medium impact		✓	✓

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Keta Lagoon Complex		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

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

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented
Research	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

RIS for Site no. 567, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site, Ghana

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

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 need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Ameyaw-Ekumfi, C., Attuquayefio, D.K., Amakye, J.S., Dankwa, H.R. and Nyame, S.K. 1998. Ghana National Wetlands Strategy: Wetlands Faunal Diversity Information Study. Coastal Wetland Management Project Report. 66pp.

Finlayson, C.M., Gordon, C., Ntiamoah-Badu, Y., Tumbulto, J. And Stors, M. 1998. Hydrobiology of the Songor and Keta Lagoons: Implications for Wetland Management in Ghana. Ghana Coastal Wetland Management Project. 135pp.

Hall, J.B. and Śwaine, M.D.(1981). Distribution and Ecology of Vascular plants: In Gordon C. (Ed). Hydrology of the Lower Volta Mangrove Project. Technical Report No. 7. DFID/GWD/EPA. 56pp.

Ntiamoah-Badu, Y. And Gordon, C. 1991. Coastal Wetland Management Plans of Ghana Report to World Bank. Dept of Zoology, University of Ghana, Accra

Ryan, J. And Ntiamoah-Badu, Y. (1997). Studies on the Terrestrial Fauna of Coastal Ramsar Sites. Ghana Coastal Wetland Management Project. Tuffour.K 1999. Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site Management plan. Ghana Coastal Wetland Management Project. 65pp.

World Bank (1997) Towards an Integrated Coastal Management Strategy for Ghana. World Bank, Washington & Énvironmental Protection Agency, Accra. 137pp.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

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

<no file available>

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:



picture of the site (Wildlife Division (Foresty Commission), 16-01-2015)



picture of the site (Wildlife Division (Foresty Commission), 16-01-2015)



picture of the site (Wildlife Division (Foresty Commission), 16-01-2015)



picture of the site (Wildlife Division (Foresty Commission), 16-01-2015)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<no file available>

Date of Designation | 1992-08-14