



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Burkina Faso

25 Ramsar Site(s) covering 1,940,481 ha

Barrage de Bagre

Site number: 1,874 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Centre-Est et Centre-Sud

Area: 36,793 ha | Coordinates: 11°34'57"N 00°41'13"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bagré Dam, located in the northern Sudanian phytogeographic area, is composed of an artificial permanent freshwater lake and the irrigated lakeside land. The Site is very rich in biodiversity: it is home to trees and shrubs such as *Lannea acida*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Khaya senegalensis*, *Acacia albida* and *Acacia gourmaensis*, and to fish, amphibian, mollusc and aquatic reptile communities. The hippopotamus is the most notable species on the Site, with a total estimated number of 100 individuals. Their presence indirectly supports several valued species of fish in the lake, so they too are valued and protected. The Site is valuable not only for biodiversity conservation but also erosion control, sediment and nutrient retention, storm protection and groundwater replenishment. The stable waters of the lake enable numerous socio-economic and agricultural activities. Poor farming practices have led to soil erosion on the banks and resulting siltation.

Barrage de la Kompienga

Site number: 1,875 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: à cheval entre la Région de l'Est (en grande partie) et la région du Centre-Est

Area: 17,545 ha | Coordinates: 11°11'N 00°36'59"E | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated in the east of the country, the Site comprises a permanent freshwater lake, as well as human-made features including several irrigated land areas and a dam which is principally used for the production of hydroelectricity. The presence of the dam has allowed for diversification of income generating activities, to include fishing, and crop and livestock farming. The Site is also home to a variety of flora and fauna. Threatened animal species include hippopotamus, lion and black crowned crane. The site also hosts the vulnerable African mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*. It is known to support over 20,000 water birds; at least 7,000 waders and 15,000 from the Anatidae family have been recorded. The most frequent birds are *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Phalacrocorax africanus*, and Anatidae such as *Dendrocygna viduata*, *Dendrocygna bicolor*, *Sarkidiornis melanotos* and *Plectropterus gambensis*. Various threats affect the Site, including considerable erosion, declining fish yields, and increasing levels of eutrophication due to pollution from livestock and cotton cultivation. The fishery developed rapidly, following a strong demand for fresh fish linked to the growing needs in the big cities of Burkina Faso. This development led many fishers to set up around the lake. A management plan was drafted in 2005, but is not yet being implemented. Communication, education and awareness activities are carried out by the departments of water, forests and agriculture, and fisheries resources, village associations, and project stakeholders.

Barrage de la Tapoa

Site number: 1,876 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Tapoa

Area: 3,479 ha | Coordinates: 12°06'53"N 01°43'30"E | Designation dates: 10-07-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Tapoa dam, built in 1961 on the temporary Tapoa river, is in the northern Sudanian area (Sudanian domain) in the east of Burkina Faso. It is the principal water reservoir in the region and home to various flora and fauna, while providing income-generating activities to local communities. The Tapoa, a tributary of the River Niger, flows only six months a year between June and December, during and following the rainy season. At the end of the dry season, it is almost completely dry. The Ramsar Site is noted for its importance as a breeding area for numerous fish species, including *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Sarotherodon galilaeus*, *Lates niloticus* and *Hyperopisus bebe*. The Site contributes to the financial empowerment of local communities: it supports fishing, animal rearing and market gardening, and allows people and particularly women to generate income from non-timber forest products. As a result of its large water storage capacity, the reservoir is important for groundwater replenishment and flood control. The Site faces several threats including siltation of the reservoir, over-exploitation of fish resources, overgrazing, and bushfires. Despite the absence of a management plan, the participatory management of the Site by grassroots communities (groups of fishers and farmers) ensures conservation of the biodiversity.

Barrage de Samandéni

Site number: 2,439 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région des Hauts Bassins

Area: 68,202 ha | Coordinates: 11°23'12"N 04°42'58"W | Designation dates: 27-10-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the West Sudanian savannah in southern Burkina Faso, the Barrage de Samandéni benefits from a wetter and cooler climate than the rest of the country, and its least disturbed forest formations due to the relatively low human population density of the region. The dam and associated wetlands provide water for electricity, agriculture and human consumption, while the sparse population plays a major role in enabling the maintenance of biodiversity levels. The vegetation consists of wooded savannah and open forests, combined with dense semi-deciduous gallery forests with trees of up to 40 metres in height. The Site hosts internationally threatened tree species like the kosso *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and the mahogany *Azelaia africana* and *Khaya senegalensis*. It also features a diverse range of mammals, waterbirds, fish and reptiles. Globally threatened mammals such as the hippo *Hippopotamus amphibius* and the African elephant *Loxodonta africana* also feature. The increasing human population downstream of the Site, the increased spread among local communities of water-related diseases, the dispersal of hippopotamus herds, the impacts of climate change and the lack of stakeholder consultation in its management and development are among the more urgent threats facing the natural resources in the Site.

Barrage de Tougouri

Site number: 2,253 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre-Nord

Area: 1,221 ha | Coordinates: 13°19'11"N 00°32'06"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2016

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Barrage de Tougouri is a permanent freshwater reservoir characterized by a thick forest reserve of hygrophilous plant species including *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, *Kaya senegalensis*, *Mitragyna inermis* and *Ficus gnaphalocarpa*. It hosts an important population of Nile crocodiles, herons, ducks, teals and spotted-backed weaver, and serves as a breeding ground for the cattle egret. Fish species in the Site include tilapia, sardines and catfish. The reservoir supplies groundwater for most wells in the communities and so plays an important role in the area's hydrological cycle. The main human activities include crop farming, fishing and cattle rearing. The Site is facing current threats from droughts which are exacerbated by overgrazing and the unsustainable management of many wetlands.

Barrage de Yalgo

Site number: 2,258 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre-Nord

Area: 4,522.4 ha | Coordinates: 13°35'20"N 00°19'09"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2016

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Barrage de Yalgo is the province of Namentenga's most important reservoir in terms of its water capacity and contribution to the local economy. It is a unique inland wetland characterized by dense savannah vegetation dominated by trees including *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Guiera senegalensis*, *Acacia pennata*, *Anogeissus leiocarpus* and *Mitragyna inermis*. The wetland is home to different turtle species, the Nile crocodile, royal python, savannah monitor, goliath heron, hammerhead stork, African grey hornbill and the pied crow, which are threatened by hunting and loss of breeding areas. Fish commonly recorded in Yalgo include the Nile tilapia, catfish of the genus *Clarias*, and the West African lungfish *Protopterus annectens*. These are of a high nutritional and commercial value to the local communities. The main hydrological functions of the Yalgo include surface and groundwater supplies for wildlife, human consumption and irrigation.

Bassin du Nakanbé-Mané

Site number: 2,254 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre-Nord

Area: 19,477 ha | Coordinates: 12°58'12"N 01°25'46"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2016

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bassin du Nakanbé-Mané is a seasonal inland wetland featuring an artificial water reservoir and a unique forest reserve of 1,000 hectares composed of *Acacia nilotica* and savannah grasslands. It follows a stretch of the Nakanbé River, the second-largest and most important watercourse in Burkina Faso after the Mouhoun River. The Nakanbé supplies water to major cities in the country and feeds thousands of people who rely on it for agriculture and fishing. The forest reserve offers ideal habitat for monkeys, rabbits, bats, weavers, pythons and Nile crocodiles, which are found in large numbers. The main threats to the ecological integrity of the Site include the excessive unregulated abstraction of water and chemical pollution caused by illegal gold mining.

Complexe d'Aires Protégées Pô-Nazinga-Sissili

Site number: 2,366 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Le CAP/PONASI est situé sur les limites territoriales de trois régions administratives et que sont : - la Région du Centre-est (chef-lieu Tenkodogo); - la Région du Centre-ouest (chef-lieu Koudougou); - et la Région du Centre-sud (chef-lieu Manga).

Area: 301,972.6 ha | Coordinates: 11°19'57"N 01°22'37"W | Designation dates: 27-10-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, within the West Sudanian Savannah, is one of the largest ecological regions of biodiversity conservation in Burkina Faso. The diverse flora and fauna of its different types of savannah include mammals, birds and reptiles. The complex, which is also known as "CAP/PONASI", hosts large herbivores such as elephant, buffalo, sable antelope and waterbuck. It is also a habitat for threatened species such as the African bush elephant *Loxodonta africana* and the trees *Azelia africana* and *Vitellaria paradoxa*. The Site serves as an ecological corridor enabling large mammals such as the elephants to migrate from similar ecosystems in northern Ghana (namely the Morago River area and Mole National Park). During the European winter, it is a milestone in the migration routes of some Western Palearctic migratory birds such as storks. The Ramsar Site includes many cultural sites. Despite the absence of a management plan, it has some tourism facilities such as watchtowers and observatories to improve the conditions for visitors. The complex is threatened by the fragmentation of its ecosystem due to livestock and arable farming activities, logging, charcoal burning, poaching, and conflicts between people and elephants. These conflicts have a negative impact on the food security and livelihoods of the affected populations, leading them to have a hostile attitude towards wild animals around their communities.

Complexe du Parc Urbain Bāngr – Weoogo et du lac des trois barrages

Site number: 2,367 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Centre

Area: 945 ha | Coordinates: 12°23'28"N 01°31'07"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located in the heart of Ouagadougou, covers 945 hectares including two linked areas: the Bāngr – Weoogo Urban Park and the three reservoirs and dams of the city. This urban wetland hosts a remarkable biodiversity with its diverse habitats including savannah, forests and ponds. The Ramsar Site features a protected forest that provides a hotspot of plant biodiversity and a refuge for diverse animal species. The fauna mostly comprises introduced species, including turtles of the genera *Trionyx* and *Cyclanorbis* and roan antelope *Hippotragus equinus*. Among the threatened plants are dry zone mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*) and shea butter trees (*Vitellaria paradoxa*). Restored and protected, this Ramsar Site is currently managed by the Municipality of Ouagadougou. It is a tourist site visited by approximately 25,000 visitors per year, and a training and scientific research centre hosting a number of environmental education activities as well as training programmes for students. The Ramsar Site also has socio-cultural value, as its river (the Kugri-suingo) is considered sacred and home to sacred animal species. In a context of rapid urbanization around the park, pollution by solid and liquid waste and market gardening affect the Site. However, a monitoring plan is being implemented to maintain its social and scientific value, focusing on plant species, birds and water quality.

Cône d'épandage de Banh

Site number: 1,877 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Loroum

Area: 10,003 ha | Coordinates: 14°09'48"N 02°33'04"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an alluvial fan formation close to the border with Mali, which features seasonal rivers and lakes, and also artificial wetlands such as seasonally flooded agricultural land and water storage areas. The ecosystem is dominated by dry forests occupying closed micro-depressions, connected by channels which ensure their water supply. The temporary water bodies spread in winter and are absorbed into the soil when the dry season starts. The landscape is notable because of the size of the floodplain and the dense vegetation dominated by spiny shrub and Combretaceae. The vegetation also extends as gallery forest upstream beyond Banh. The vegetation hosts species such as warthog, crocodile and jackal. It is a refuge for thousands of birds including francolin and guinea fowl, and migratory birds coming (according to the farmers) from the inner delta of the Niger River. The Site also attracts livestock farmers; the end of the rainy season and the drying up of the temporary ponds leads to a convergence of herds towards the wetland. The customary regulation put in place by the stockbreeders prohibits agricultural activities in the endorheic basin of the Sourindou-Mihity, as it constitutes their refuge in case of drought.

Corridor forestier de la Boucle du Mouhoun

Site number: 2,314 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région de la Boucle du Mouhoun et région du Centre-Ouest

Area: 134,553 ha | Coordinates: 12°10'09"N 02°56'07"W | Designation dates: 27-10-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of nine gazetted forests that follow both sides of the Mouhoun River in the Central West region of the country. The forests constitute a reservoir of plant biodiversity; among the predominant trees are *Parkia biglobosa*, *Lannea microcarpa*, and the vulnerable *Vitellaria paradoxa* and *Khaya senegalensis*, which are threatened globally and nationally. Local communities use the fibres, wood and tannins of some of these plants to dress masks and to make their hairstyles. The forest corridor provides refuge for a rich and diversified range of animal species, including African elephant, hippopotamus, roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus koba*) and waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*). Some of these species are essential to the survival of local populations as sources of protein, and for health-related and cultural values. The area is experiencing fairly aggressive erosion which affects its capacity to store water for exploitation during the dry season.

Forêt Galerie de Léra

Site number: 1,879 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Cascades
Area: 542 ha | Coordinates: 10°35'52"N 05°18'19"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located in the Comoé river basin, consists of a seasonal river as well as a gallery forest comprising semi-deciduous and deciduous trees that form periodically flooded wildlife corridors. The Site is home to *Cola cordifolia* and *Elaeis guineensis*, and the noteworthy orchid *Nervilia umbrosa*. Nationally protected animal species include the Nile crocodile and the kob antelope. Large colonies of bats colonize the undersides of the highest leaves. As well as maintaining biological diversity, the Site is also important for groundwater replenishment, control of flooding, stabilization of the microclimate, and storm protection. Thanks to these services, the local communities are able to farm cashew nuts and other crops. They have banned hunting and grazing, but threats such as siltation due to activities being carried out upstream on the Leraba tributary, local population growth and poaching still affect the Site. The Site does not have a management plan but the local communities consider it as a forest village which is therefore subject to other conservation measures.

Lac Bam

Site number: 1,880 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Bam
Area: 5,300.4 ha | Coordinates: 13°24'06"N 01°31'08"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Bam is in the transition zone between the southern Sahelian and northern Sudanian phytogeographic areas. The Site hosts a rich and varied biological diversity; the wooded savannah is dominated by *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Parkia biglobosa*, *Tamarindus indica* and *Bombax costatum*. The Site also hosts birds such as *Bubulcus ibis* and *Motacilla flava*. There are several fish species in the lake such as *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Schilbe mystus*. The Lake is also home to a large population of Nile crocodiles. The Site gives livelihoods to thousands of people in Bam Province in market gardening, fishing (there are nearly 800 fishermen) and arboriculture. Its ecological character therefore depends on the degree of exploitation of the lake by local populations. The lake is also slowly drying up, putting at risk fish stocks and water supply for crops and cattle.

Lac Dem

Site number: 1,882 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Centre Nord (Province de Sanmatenga)
Area: 1,354 ha | Coordinates: 13°12'01"N 01°08'27"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Dem is in the sub-Saharan sector of the Sahelian phytogeographical domain, and shrub savannah dominates. The Site is made up of permanent freshwater lakes and seasonal rivers, which serve as a refuge for numerous species during periods of drought, and especially for migratory birds on the lake's shores. The Site is important for stabilization of the microclimate, groundwater replenishment, flood control, river bank stabilization, sediment and nutrient retention, and storm protection. It provides other major ecosystem services which support the livelihoods of local communities. The Site hosts threatened species such as the vulnerable African mahogany *Khaya senegalensis* and the shea butter tree *Vitellaria paradoxa*, and thousands of migratory birds (including *Anas querquedula*, *Anas acuta* and *Anas clypeata*), waders (*Actophilornis africana*, *Ciconia nigra* and *Ardea goliath*), savannah birds (*Ptilopachus petrosus* and *Numida meleagris*) and reptiles (*Crocodylus niloticus* and *Varanus niloticus*). Wind and water erosion, extreme temperatures, and unsustainable water demand all constitute significant threats. The presence of the gazetted forest and protection mechanism established around the Site support its conservation. A management plan was drafted in 2014 and is being implemented.

Lac de Tingrela

Site number: 1,881 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: région des Cascades

Area: 580 ha | Coordinates: 10°38'38"N 04°50'20"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a permanent freshwater lake in the west of Burkina Faso which serves as an important refuge for a variety of fauna and flora, including during the dry periods for wetland plants such as *Andropogon africanus* and *Vetiveria senegalensis*. The wooded area around the lake is characterized by *Isoberlinia doka*, *Burkea africana*, *Parkia biglobosa* and *Terminalia* spp. The lake is noted as a reproduction site for various species of fish, including *Clarias gariepinus*, *Lates niloticus* and *Heterotis niloticus*, and it is also home to birds such as African cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), common egret (*Egretta intermedia*) and common sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*). Hippopotamuses and crocodiles are present. The lake plays an important role in the region's hydrological cycle through groundwater replenishment, flood control, and nutrient retention. Through the stabilization of the microclimate it allows for the maintenance of the region's biodiversity and supports income-generating activities such as tourism and farming of maize, rice and fruits including guava and mango. Lake Tingrela is facing threats related to desertification, pollution from chemical fertilizers and increasing levels of siltation.

Lac Higa

Site number: 1,883 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Sahel

Area: 1,514 ha | Coordinates: 13°36'50"N 00°43'23"E | Designation dates: 10-07-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated on the Yali River in the north-east of the country, Lac Higa (Higa Lake) is composed of permanent freshwater lakes, seasonal rivers and water storage areas. The Lake is one of the most important water resources in Burkina Faso's Sahel and a favourable ecosystem for many plant and animal species. Of the 121 known fish species in Burkina Faso, 27 are found in the Lake; an inventory carried out between 2012 and 2014 identified 98 species of savannah birds, including 81 African species and 17 which migrate from Europe. Some of these are waterbirds such as pelicans, ducks and cranes, which use it to nest. These species are threatened primarily by the destruction of their habitat due to human activities and climate change. The Lake provide benefits such as drinking water supply, groundwater replenishment, flood control, storm protection, sediment and nutrient retention, and stabilization of the microclimate. It represents an economic asset for local people, who use it for farming and fishing. Potential threats to the sustainability of the Lake are related to climate change and the increased pressure of crop and livestock farming, which is leading to greater erosion and siltation, and possible degradation of the ecosystem.

La Forêt Classée et Réserve Partielle de Faune Comoé-Léraba

Site number: 1,878 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région des Cascades

Area: 124,510 ha | Coordinates: 09°50'02"N 04°40'37"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which is adjacent to the border with Côte d'Ivoire, is a transition zone between the savannah and rainforest, which is made up of permanent rivers and seasonal freshwater marshes, and also dense dry forests, shrubby savannah and grassland. The Site is part of the ecological block of Comoé-Léraba, which is composed of about ten protected areas in the Cascades region and forms, with the National Park of Comoé in Côte d'Ivoire, one larger ecological complex. The Site supports endangered species such as cheetah, elephant and lion, and various animals at critical life stages. The Site is important for groundwater replenishment, flood control, micro-climate stabilization, sediment and nutrient retention and export, and storm protection. It is used for hunting, tourism and fishing. While a management plan is available, the Site faces several challenges, including the illegal exploitation of protected areas, unsustainable harvesting and wood collection, poaching, and water pollution.

La Mare aux hippopotames

Site number: 491 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région des Hauts-Bassins
Area: 19,200 ha | Coordinates: 11°36'11"N 04°08'36"W | Designation dates: 27-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the province of Houet some 60 kilometres north of the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. The reserve benefits from a great diversity of landscapes and habitats. The Site is famous for its hippos that live permanently in the pond which gives the Site its name; there are also other mammals such as elephant, warthog, kéwel (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) and roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*). The local residents use the Site to gather edible fruits and leaves as well as mushrooms, dead wood, barks and roots of various plant species for medicinal purposes. The reserve also hosts bee-forage plants which favour revenue-generating beekeeping. The Site is regarded as a sacred source of protection and abundance by its local communities, who practice rites to protect them from all misfortune and also to ensure peace, health, and good rainfall. They also avoid any action that could compromise the integrity of the Site.

La Mare d'Oursi

Site number: 490 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Sahel
Area: 35,000 ha | Coordinates: 14°38'53"N 00°27'27"W | Designation dates: 27-06-1990

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes an endorheic freshwater lake surrounded by a hilly Sahelian woodland and scrub to the south and west, and by dune plains to the north and east. It is a perennial lake in years of normal rainfall. The Site supports reed beds and is internationally important for waterbirds, supporting trans-Saharan migrants which breed in the Palearctic region. The Site constitutes an important wildlife reserve and hosts a wide range of plant species. Mammal species such as the hare *Lepus capensis aegyptius*, the red-tailed gazelle (*Gazella rufifrons*), the ratel (*Mellivora capensis*) and the side-striped jackal (*Canis adustus*) are also reported. The Site is home to about 150 bird species including about 50 species of Palearctic migrants. There are several species of (endemic and migratory) geese and ducks specific to the Sahel, various raptors and vultures. In addition to natural factors, unsustainable levels of extensive farming in the region have had a negative impact on the environment. The Site has also faced an increase in high temperatures and high winds, and a decline in rainfall.

La Vallée du Sourou

Site number: 1,885 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Boucle du Mouhoun
Area: 21,157 ha | Coordinates: 13°00'51"N 03°27'44"W | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sourou is a tributary of the largest river in Burkina Faso, the Black Volta, and is found in the Sudano-Guinean region where water is often scarce. As a result, it is important for its support of threatened species such as the hippopotamus and the African mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*. A total of 39,669 birds have been counted on the Site, including 60 bird species belonging to 18 families. These included the goose and duck species *Plectropterus gambensis*, *Sarkidiornis melanotos*, *Alopochen aegyptiacus*, *Nettapus auritus*, *Dendrocygna bicolor* and *Dendrocygna viduata*. As the only large water body in the region, the Sourou replenishes groundwater and stabilizes the temperature, allowing for cultivation. Cotton production was originally planned for the valley, but the riverside land has been turned over to vegetable crops, notably green beans as well as maize, rice and onions. With continual growth in the human population, the pressure on its resources is increasing, leading to excessive cutting of wood, water pollution due to overuse of fertilizers, and over-irrigation. The current agricultural practices are threatening the Site's provision of ecological services including flood control, biodiversity conservation and climate regulation; however economic valuation of the goods and services provided by the Sourou valley's ecosystem has revealed that crop production is not the major economic asset, despite the important investments since 1970.

Mare de Darkoye

Site number: 2,400 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Sahel, Province de l'Oudalan

Area: 1,716 ha | Coordinates: 14°41'38"N 00°05'10"W | Designation dates: 27-02-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site in the semi-arid Sahel region in the north of Burkina Faso features wet meadow, alluvial forest, aquatic vegetation and open water habitats. The flora consists of herbaceous and woody vegetation of variable density, including *Acacia seyal* and *Ziziphus mauritiana*, as well as species which are protected in Burkina Faso, such as *Pterocarpus lucens*. The wetland provides a refuge for many species including breeding and migratory birds. The 106 bird species recorded include about 50 Palearctic migrant species, while 14 representative resident species, such as the Northern gray-headed sparrow (*Passer griseus*), have been observed around the Site. Some are threatened, such as the endangered hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) and the vulnerable black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*). Livestock and arable farming and fishing are the main activities for local communities. However, overlogging and other human activities threaten the natural regeneration of the Site and increase soil degradation. The wetland is part of the Sylvo-Pastoral and Partial Faunal Reserve of the Sahel, the largest protected area of Burkina Faso. It does not have yet a management plan but key conservation measures are being implemented as well as monitoring of bird species.

Mare de Yomboli

Site number: 2,401 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région du Sahel, Province de l'Oudalan

Area: 834.5 ha | Coordinates: 14°38'36"N 00°20'18"W | Designation dates: 27-02-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is in the semi-arid Sahel region in the north of Burkina Faso. It is among the biggest water bodies in this part of the country, and one of a string of lakes in the transition zone between the Sahel and the Sahara. It is a hotspot for wildlife with its gazelles, wildcats, elephants and reptiles. It is also a prime area for seasonal rest, breeding, and passage of over 13 palearctic or afro-tropical migratory bird species. Threatened species include the vulnerable black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*) and the critically endangered white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*). These species are among the nine bird species which are fully protected in Burkina Faso. Plant species such as *Adansonia digitata*, *Celtis ehrenbergiana* and *Dalbergia melanoxylon* are listed in the national protected plant species list; however, the floral diversity of the area is decreasing due to the gradual replacement of many of these species by drought-resistant species as *Acacia raddiana*. Poaching is the biggest threat to wildlife resources, as well as livestock farming which is gradually destroying habitat. Conservation activities are mainly focused on soil protection and restoration through the recovery of degraded land, dune fixation, and reforestation.

Parc National d'Arly

Site number: 1,884 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région de l'Est

Area: 795,289 ha | Coordinates: 11°34'01"N 01°03'13"E | Designation dates: 07-10-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located on Burkina Faso's eastern border with Benin, adjacent to Benin's Pendjari National Park to the south and Burkina Faso's Singou Reserve to the west. It is part of the most important wilderness of Burkina Faso and covers a wide variety of habitats, ranging from the gallery forests of the Arly and Pendjari rivers to savannah woodland and the sandstone hills of the Gobnangou chain. Its seasonal rivers and flood plains host the largest concentration of wildlife in the country. Parc National d'Arly is home to elephant, lion, buffalo, warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*), and various antelope species. The seasonal pools which are dotted around the plains are frequented by a wide variety of birds, including great herons, storks and ducks. Along the Pendjari river, Borassus palm trees break the plains and form groves that provide a habitat for birds such as speckled pigeon (*Columba guinea*). The hills, rocks and lateritic cuirass land formations provide important habitat for cheetah and raptors. The hills also add to the landscape values of the Site.

Parc National du W

Site number: 492 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: La Région de l'Est
Area: 311,471 ha | Coordinates: 11°52'23"N 02°06'54"E | Designation dates: 27-06-1990
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National du W is Burkina Faso's part of the W Regional Park, a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve which is also in Niger and Benin. The Regional Park, one of the major National Parks in West Africa, takes its name from the W-shaped meanders of the River Niger on the Nigerien side. The Ramsar Site is part of the River's vast floodplain, and is composed of shrubby and wooded savannah supporting various bird species, ungulates, carnivores and a gallery forest along the River. The floodplain in the Park is home to the largest concentration of wildlife in Burkina Faso. The Park is among the last refuges in West Africa of four of the big five mammals, specifically the African elephant, African buffalo, lion and leopard. As well as supporting this rich biological diversity, the Ramsar Site provides important wetland services including the promotion of nutrient retention and protection against storms and soil erosion.

Zone de confluence Mouhoun-Sourou

Site number: 2,292 | Country: Burkina Faso | Administrative region: Région de la Boucle du Mouhoun
Area: 23,300 ha | Coordinates: 12°41'07"N 03°19'01"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2017
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is at the confluence of the Mouhoun and Sourou rivers in the "Boucle du Mouhoun" region. The larger Mouhoun river forms, with its tributary the Sourou, a complex with a particular hydrological regime. The Site is important as a sanctuary for endangered plant and animal species: it is home to nationally or globally threatened species such as hippopotamus, and the trees *Khaya senegalensis*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Vitellaria paradoxa* and *Parkia biglobosa*. It also has a great diversity of fish with over 40 species recorded, of which the most important for fishing are various tilapia (*Sarotherodon galilaeus*, *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Tilapia zillii*), the catfish *Clarias gariepinus*, the African arowana *Heterotis niloticus* and the aba *Gymnarchus niloticus*. The wetland provides many ecosystem services to riparian populations, including fertile land, water for agricultural production, and resources for fishing, medicinal plants and livestock. A significant part of the Site corresponds to the gazetted forests of Say and Sourou which are zoned as hunting and game-viewing concessions, and so benefit from additional protection. This limits the degradation of the Site's resources relative to those of the surrounding areas. Local communities live in symbiosis with the wetlands because of their awareness of the important role that they play in their survival.