



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

4 Ramsar Site(s) covering 11,906,617 ha

### Bassin de la Lufira

Site number: 2,318 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo | Administrative region: Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami et Lualaba

Area: 4,470,993.2 ha | Coordinates: 09°20'57"S 26°54'51"E | Designation dates: 31-10-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The vast Site in the south-east of the country consists of rivers and their floodplains, natural and artificial lakes and ponds, waterfalls, papyrus and other marshes, and marshy forests. The main river feeding it is the Lufira. The prevailing soil and climatic factors ensure the maintenance of the Site's unique biological diversity. Many endemic species are present: 16 bird species including the Lufira masked weaver, the Upemba masked weaver and the black-faced waxbill; 15 reptile species including the Upemba mud turtle, the lined water snake and the Mulanje water snake; and at least two endemic amphibians, the Katanga thick-toed gecko and the frog *Afrixalus upembae*. The Lufira Basin remains the only biotope for rare mammals such as the Grant's zebra and the greater kudu, and it is also home to populations of giant sable and roan antelope. The lack of control and regulation of mining activities and the related hydrometallurgical treatment plants presents a real threat to the Site.

### Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe

Site number: 1,784 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo | Administrative region: Le site est à cheval entre quatre provinces de la RDC notamment Equateur, Maindombe, Sud-Ubangi et Mongala

Area: 6,569,624 ha | Coordinates: 00°39'28"N 18°00'52"E | Designation dates: 24-07-2008

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The Site is located around Lake Tumba in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The transboundary area containing the Site and the adjacent Lake Télé in Republic of Congo contains the largest continental freshwater body in Africa, making it one of the most important wetlands in Africa and one of the largest freshwater bodies in the world. Situated at the heart of the Congo basin system, the Site contains several rivers and nine lakes that support a diverse range of biodiversity and resources which in turn support the wider populations of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the neighbouring Congo. The Site hosts one of the huge African carbon sinks through its peatland soils. It is home to the endemic bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) and other primate species, and it provides natural habitat of forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*). The Ngiri area – Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) CD003 – is known to regularly hold at least 1% of waterbird species such as purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) with more than 1,000 pairs of spawning individuals making up over 2% of the biogeographic population. Diversified agriculture and artisanal fishing are the main activities of the local populations and generate the majority of their income. The Site also provides communities with vital non-timber forest products for housing, food and health care.

## Parc national des Mangroves

Site number: 788 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo | Administrative region: Bas-Zaïre  
Area: 66,000 ha | Coordinates: 05°45'S 12°45'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc national des Mangroves. 18/01/96; Bas-Zaïre; 66,000 ha; 05°45'S 012°45'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 11 April 2000. Two plateaus bordered by swamplands along the Zaire River, including coastal and riverine waters, inland ponds, and swamps. Vegetation consists of wet grassland interspersed with forest savanna, grassland savanna, swamp and mangroves. The site supports important fish and crustacean reserves for local fisheries. Nine species of rare or endangered mammals occur, including the manatee; six bird and eight reptile species, including marine turtles, are at risk from habitat destruction. Human activities include fishing, the gathering of medicinal plants, and subsistence cropping. Threats include extensive fuelwood cutting, refinery pollution, and uncontrolled urban development. Ramsar site no. 788.

## Parc national des Virunga

Site number: 787 | Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo | Administrative region: Nord-Kivu  
Area: 800,000 ha | Coordinates: 01°15'S 29°30'E | Designation dates: 18-01-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc national des Virunga. 18/01/96; Nord-Kivu; 800,000 ha; 01°15'S 029°30'E. World Heritage site. Lying astride the equator and situated in the African Rift Valley, the site contains most tropical biotopes and boasts some of the most substantial concentrations of wild mammals in Africa, or indeed in the world. The Park fringes several biogeographical regions, includes volcanoes recent in origin and still active, and two large lakes. The area is important feeding and wintering ground for migratory birds and is one of the few places where mountain gorilla can be studied in their natural environment. The large mammals include endangered and endemic species. Archaeologically important, the oldest stone tools in the world have been discovered along the lake shores. Human activities include tourism, conservation education, fishing, hunting, subsistence farming and agroforestry (fuelwood). There is a research center in the park. Ramsar site no. 787.