



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Gabon

9 Ramsar Site(s) covering 3,001,769 ha

### Bas Ogooue

Site number: 1,851 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Moyen Ogooue/l'Ogooue Maritime  
Area: 1,370,000 ha | Coordinates: 00°41'48"N 10°09'41"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bas Ogooue (lower Ogooue basin) comprises a vast alluvial plain (some 200 kilometres long and 70km wide), with marshes, lakes and rivers in the west of the country. Luxuriant vegetation covers half of the Site in dense forest, riparian marshes and savannah. It supports several threatened species such as gorilla, chimpanzee, elephant, buffalo, mandrill, African manatee and hippopotamus. Other noteworthy species include waterbirds such as herons, African cormorant and falcons, and fish populations including tilapia and carp. The rich natural resources of the Site are commonly used by local populations for various purposes, some of which are uncontrolled and may threaten the ecosystems. There is no specific management plan, but local regulations aim to protect and maintain the natural resources and ecosystems. A National Park and Biosphere Reserve are being developed.

### Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo

Site number: 1,852 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ivindo/Mvounou  
Area: 103,333.7 ha | Coordinates: 00°05'05"N 12°22'09"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo ("Waterfalls and rapids of the Ivindo river"), within the Ivindo National Park, is a wide peneplain with valleys in the centre that maintain a dense hydrographic network, with representative example of the rivers, waterfalls, rapids and marshes of Gabon. Three out of five endemic waterbirds found in Cameroon and Gabon, such as *Batis minima*, have been recorded in the Site. Several populations of fish (including *Nannocharax* and *Labeo* species, *Atopochilus savorgnani*, and *Doumea typica*) have adapted to the specific conditions caused by the heavy currents. A wide variety of flora is also supported, such as velvet tamarind, African satinwood and African greenheart. The site is used by local communities as well as the inhabitants of the urban centres of Makokou, Booué and Ovan; this has led to over-exploitation of the forest resources, over-fishing and pollution from the towns and from iron-ore mining activities at Belinga. A management plan for Ivindo National Park was being prepared in 2016, to also cover the Ramsar Site. The art and sculpture of the area are of cultural and ritual importance, while neolithic remains and stone-age tools dating back between 60,000 and 120,000 years have been discovered.

## Parc National Akanda

Site number: 1,652 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Province de l'Estuaire  
Area: 54,000 ha | Coordinates: 00°35'15"N 09°33'15"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National Akanda is located a few kilometres from Libreville, the capital city. This low-altitude zone is dominated by 35,000 hectares of relatively undisturbed marine mangroves, swampy forests and grassy savannas that provide a nesting zone for migratory birds, among them between 35,000 and 40,000 Palearctic waders. It is an important feeding area for endangered marine turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Dermodochelys coriacea*), provides refuge for birds such as little stint (*Calidris minuta*), grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), the endemic yellow-breasted apalis (*Apalis flavida*) and swamp boubou (*Laniarius bicolor*), and is a major habitat and breeding ground for crustaceans and fish including bonga shad (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*) and flathead mullet (*Mugil cephalus*). Inputs from the Corisco and Mondah bays and significant annual rainfall of up to 3,300 millimetres leave the region constantly submerged and the resulting vegetation regulates the flow of rivers, ensuring the stability of the site. The local Fang, Benga and Sekiani communities benefit from fishing, agriculture, hunting, tourism and other recreational activities. Chief threats come from over-exploitation of mangroves (especially for wood), over-fishing, uncontrolled tourism within the site, and increasing urbanization in the area. The ongoing preparation of a management plan for the National Park may provide solutions. Its proximity to Libreville enables the Park to play a leading role in environmental education and recreation.

## Parc National Pongara

Site number: 1,653 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Province de l'Estuaire  
Area: 96,302 ha | Coordinates: 00°07'19"N 09°37'50"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National Pongara is located to the east of the Congo Basin forest, on the southern shores of the Gabon estuary. The Site includes a wide range of mangroves and riverine, swampy, littoral and flooded forest types, grassy savannas. There are several rivers, notably the Remboué, Igominé and Gomgoué. It is an important breeding ground for the critically endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), and provides shelter for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmodochelys imbricata*), endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), as well as gorillas, elephants, an important population of migratory birds and up to 10,000 hibernating Palearctic waders. Plant species such as the mangrove trees (*Avicennia* and *Rhizophora* species) and the herbaceous *Acrostichum aureum* help to regulate and stabilize the water flow. The Site has been inhabited since the neolithic era and now hosts Fang, Benga and Sekiani communities. The inhabitants exploit forest wood, and practice hunting, cultivation of banana, cassava and pepper, and especially fishing - the Site is considered a source of food for the whole region. However, non-selective fishing, hunting and forest exploitation within and around the Site pose a threat to the equilibrium of the ecosystem. The National Commission for National Parks has carried out awareness-raising activities, and a management plan has been implemented since 2007.

## Petit Loango

Site number: 352 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ogooué Maritime  
Area: 150,868.6 ha | Coordinates: 02°07'04"S 09°35'41"E | Designation dates: 30-12-1986  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Petit Loango is part of the lagoon complex of Iguela. It is a slightly undulating coastal plain with several lakes, dissected by small rivers and temporary and permanent swamps, set in a savanna, mangrove and rainforest environment. The Site supports rare and vulnerable species such as the hippo, gorilla and elephant, and provides a nesting site for the three threatened turtle species: the leatherback (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmodochelys imbricata*). Birds, mainly terns of the *Sterna* genus, use the sandbanks for breeding. The Site plays an important role in flood control, sediment capture and bank stabilization through riverside vegetation. Given the very low population density and the area's classification as a wildlife reserve, the Site is very scarcely used. The surroundings are used for tourism and for oil exploitation, which could constitute a threat in the future, especially if expanded. As the Site opens out to the Atlantic Ocean, permanent communications paths are envisaged. The overlapping Loango National Park was established in 2002.

## Rapides de Mboundou Badouma et de Doume

Site number: 1,853 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Haut Ogooué/l'Ogooué Lolo

Area: 53,883 ha | Coordinates: 01°04'52"S 13°09'20"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2009

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a system of permanent and intermittent rivers and permanent marshes along the course of the Ogooué River. Its 140 kilometres of rapids form part of a large hydrographical network, and act as a spillway for several rivers. The Site supports a vast array of fauna and flora. The existence of certain vegetation as a source of food, refuge, and habitat maintains the presence of certain animals: for example, the buffalo in the savannah and the gorilla in the forest. Some of the animal species, such as elephants, monkeys, tilapia and carp, are severely threatened by the over-exploitation of forest resources, pollution of the waters by effluents from the surrounding towns, and manganese and uranium mining activities. While there is currently no specific management plan, the Site is protected by a number of national environmental laws and regulations.

## Setté Cama

Site number: 353 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ogooué Maritime

Area: 240,000 ha | Coordinates: 02°44'10"S 10°11'15"E | Designation dates: 30-12-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located a few kilometres south of Petit Loango, the Site comprises a wildlife reserve and a hunting concession. The landscape consists of a slightly undulating sandy plain with several lakes (in particular the Ndougou lagoon), marshes and swamps, interspersed with patches of savannah. The area hosts significant biodiversity, with 15 species of bats, approximately 75 of amphibians and reptiles, and more than 450 of birds. It is also important for several endangered mammals, including elephants, duikers and hippopotamus. Several fish species use the wetland as spawning, feeding and breeding grounds, while turtles nest along the coast. The Site is used by local populations for agriculture and traditional fishing, while water is pumped from the lagoon to supply the town of Gamba. Oil exploitation has taken place at the lagoon for the past 50 years, with the company putting in place regulatory measures against hunting, as well as other environmental regulations. The area is also used for tourism and for scientific research on turtles and mammals including whales. An office of the Wildlife Brigade of the Ministry of Water and Forest in Setté Cama is responsible for controlling poaching in the region.

## Site Ramsar des Monts Birougou

Site number: 1,654 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Ngounié, Ogooué-lolo

Area: 536,800 ha | Coordinates: 01°58'S 12°16'59"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2007

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Site Ramsar des Monts Birougou. 02/02/07; Ngounié, Ogooué-lolo; 536,800 ha; 001°58'S 012°17'E. National Park. Comprising forests, swamps, savannah, falls, caves, valleys, and mountainous zones between 800 and 900m, which are the source of the Nyanga and Ngounié rivers and their main tributaries. The woody and non-woody products of the forest provide resources for feeding, building, clothing and construction of artistic objects. The diversity of this ecosystem gives it a rich flora as well as one of the most remarkable faunas in Africa. Primates are dominant, with about 20 different species found in the Birougou Mountains. The endangered Gorilla (*Gorilla g. gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), the vulnerable sun-tailed monkey (*Cercopithecus solatus*), mandril (*Mandrillus sphinx*), the West African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), the forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) and the savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*), amongst others, are found here. The area is noted for its cultural and religious value in the country. Fishing with chemical products, over-exploitation of forest and mining practiced on the outskirts pose a threat. In the absence of a management plan, the Advisory Council for National Parks in Gabon is making plans for putting in place certain management activities such as evaluation of land use zones by the population and sensitization of local administrative authorities and the population on national parks. Ramsar site no. 1654. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Wonga-Wongué

Site number: 351 | Country: Gabon | Administrative region: Estuaire / Moyen Ogooué / Ogooué Maritime

Area: 396,581.6 ha | Coordinates: 00°32'11"N 09°30'54"E | Designation dates: 30-12-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Wonga-Wongué (also known as Wongha-Wonghé) is an extensive coastal region composed of plains, rolling hills and plateaus dissected by numerous small coastal rivers, swamps and marshes. There are also impressive erosional amphitheatres and cliffs. The Site comprises a wildlife reserve and two hunting concessions. Vegetation varies from humid tropical forest to stunted woodland, savanna and thickets. The Site supports notable mammals including chimpanzees, gorillas, elephants, buffalos and hippos, as well as important numbers of waterbirds, with *Pelecanus onocrotalus* dominating. Any type of land utilization is forbidden due to the Site's status as a presidential reserve, giving it a very important conservation potential. In the surrounding areas logging occurs, but this does not constitute a threat to the Site as yet. Tourism also occurs in the surroundings, with the main activities consisting of wildlife viewing and beach recreation.