



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Ghana

6 Ramsar Site(s) covering 205,162 ha

Densu Delta Ramsar Site

Site number: 564 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Greater Accra Region
Area: 5,893 ha | Coordinates: 05°31'47"N 00°19'39"W | Designation dates: 14-08-1992
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Densu Delta Ramsar Site is an estuary consisting of an open lagoon, salt pans, freshwater marsh, scrubland, dunes and scattered stands of mangroves. It hosts plant species such as the black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) and jointed flatsedge (*Cyperus articulatus*). About 57 species of waterfowl feed and nest in the area, including the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), the common ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), the curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), and the rare roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). The Site receives freshwater primarily from the Densu River, which supplies water to about half of the Accra metropolitan area. Furthermore, the entire Site is an important sediment trap and shoreline stabilizer for local communities who rely heavily on the lagoon for commercial fishing, firewood harvesting and salt mining.

Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site

Site number: 567 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Volta Region
Area: 136,000 ha | Coordinates: 05°56'21"N 00°50'E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site is the largest lagoon in Ghana and consists of a large area of open brackish water, floodplain and marshland. The Site falls within the coastal savannah ecological zone of Ghana and its boundaries follow a catchment boundary and the Volta River to the west, which borders another Ramsar Site, the Songor Ramsar Site ([no. 566](#)) and Biosphere Reserve. Keta Lagoon is dominated by scrubland and extensive mangrove forest and is home to several species of rodents, Nile monitor lizards, African royal pythons, species of sea turtles, manatees, and invertebrates such as crabs and molluscs. It is the most important coastal wetland for birds in Ghana and supports over 72 species of resident and migratory birds with an estimated population of over 100,000 individuals. The Site supports the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people, some of whom extensively use mangrove firewood to smoke fish for sale. It is threatened by sea erosion and pollution as well as excessive mangrove wood harvesting.

Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site

Site number: 563 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Central Region

Area: 9,461.1 ha | Coordinates: 05°22'36"N 00°40'09"W | Designation dates: 14-08-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Muni-Pomadze is a coastal lagoon characterized by dunes, degraded mangrove forests, scrubland, farmland, coconut plantations and marshes which are subject to tidal and seasonal flooding. The Site supports an estimated population of 23,000 migratory waterbirds and is home to three species of sea turtle, the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). It is also home to a rich and diverse range of butterflies, with around 75 species recorded. The Site plays an important role in the natural control and prevention of flooding in the area, in watershed protection and water purification, and attracts many birdwatchers and tourists. It is also a source of firewood, food (fish, bushmeat, fruit, snails) and medicinal herbs. The Site is part of the hunting grounds of the Effutu people during the annual Aboakyir festival. It is threatened by rapid urbanization, encroachment, commercial fishing and over-exploitation of firewood.

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site

Site number: 393 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Ashanti Region

Area: 1,310 ha | Coordinates: 06°44'03"N 01°41'10"W | Designation dates: 22-02-1988

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary and lake created after a dam was built across the Owabi River to supply drinking water to the city of Kumasi. The Site is centred around the reservoir and includes riverine forests and an important plantation of the exotic tree *Senna siamea*. It is rich in indigenous and migratory bird species: about 161 birds belonging to 29 families have been recorded, 13 of which are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Site provides habitat and food for a variety of wildlife including Mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus mona*) and African civets (*Civettictis civetta*), and an important diversity of butterfly species. It is used for educational and recreational purposes by both local communities and tourists, but is under severe pressure from the encroachment of human settlements and intensive agriculture.

Sakumo Ramsar Site

Site number: 565 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Greater Accra Region

Area: 1,364.4 ha | Coordinates: 05°38'23"N 00°02'27"W | Designation dates: 14-08-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sakumo Ramsar Site consists of a coastal brackish-saline lagoon and surrounding floodplains, freshwater marshes, coastal savannah grasslands with thicket vegetation, and a narrow dune linking them to the sea. The Site is the third most important waterbird site on the Ghanaian coast and provides nesting and breeding habitat for several bird species; it supports over 70 species with an estimated 30,000 individuals regularly relying on its resources during their migration and breeding. Notable birds include the spotted redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) and common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), little stint (*Calidris minuta*) and black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). The Site is also home to important marine and freshwater fish species, including the blackchin tilapia (*Sarotherodon melanotheron*), which makes up about 97% of the fish population. Hundreds of local communities depend on fishing for their livelihoods. The Site also provides flood control, storm regulation, water purification and salinity regulation. As an urban wetland, it is threatened by population growth, urbanization, pollution and developments such as agriculture and recreation.

Songor Ramsar Site

Site number: 566 | Country: Ghana | Administrative region: Greater Accra Region

Area: 51,133.3 ha | Coordinates: 05°51'40"N 00°32'09"E | Designation dates: 14-08-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Songor Ramsar Site is a closed lagoon adjacent to the Volta River estuary with submerged mudflats, islands, broad sandy beaches and floodplains, salt marshes, degraded mangrove stands and waterlogged grasslands. It features riverine woodlands, scattered shrub thickets and degraded coastal savannah characterised by farmlands and eroded areas invaded by neem (*Azadirachta indica*), fan palm, silk cotton and baobab trees. The Site is sandwiched between the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Flyways, and provides ideal feeding and roosting grounds for an estimated population of 50,000 herons, egrets, greenshanks, avocets, stilts and other small wading birds and terns. It serves as a breeding ground for fish species, while green, leatherback and olive ridley turtles frequently use its sandy beaches as nesting sites. Local communities depend on fishing, agriculture and intensive salt mining for their livelihoods. Tourism is also a growing economic activity. Potential threats include coastal erosion and siltation.