



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Guinea-Bissau

4 Ramsar Site(s) covering 1,189,633 ha

### Archipel Bolama-Bijagós

Site number: 2,198 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Bolama Region  
Area: 1,046,950 ha | Coordinates: 11°14'20"N 16°02'26"W | Designation dates: 14-01-2014  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Archipel Bolama-Bijagós. 21/01/14; Bolama Region; 1,046,950 ha; 11°14'N 16°02'W. Biosphere Reserve. The archipelago has the only active delta islands in the Atlantic Coast of West Africa. The intertidal mudflats host one of the largest populations of migratory shorebirds in the world (with over 870,000 recorded in 2001) on the East Atlantic flyway. Visitors include the Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). The influence of coastal upwelling and estuaries and the large areas of mangrove support the reproduction and early growth of a large number of fish species. The site hosts the largest colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Africa, and provides a habitat for over 15 vulnerable species including the Hippopotamus, West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), Timneh Parrot (*Psittacus timneh*), Atlantic Humpbacked Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Green Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The archipelago is also a source of livelihoods for over 32,000 inhabitants, who use some areas for rice farming, palm plantations and subsistence fishing, and the others for cultural and spiritual purposes. The main threats facing the site are overfishing, tourism and ongoing offshore oil exploration and bauxite mining in the neighbouring regions. Ramsar Site no. 2198. Most recent RIS information: 2014.

### Lagoa de Cufada

Site number: 469 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Quinara  
Area: 39,098 ha | Coordinates: 11°43'N 15°01'59"W | Designation dates: 14-05-1990  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagoa de Cufada. 14/05/90; Quinara; 39,098 ha; 11°43'N 015°02'W. Protected Area. A large, permanent, freshwater lake, with abundant aquatic vegetation and adjoining river floodplain. Includes two smaller lakes, seasonally flooded marshes, fringing mangroves, and extensive mudflats. A dozen small villages of several hundred people live within the site practicing traditional fishing and rice production. The site also supports crocodiles and hippopotamus. Surrounding areas have been cleared for banana and cashew production or exploited for wood. Large expanses of vegetation are burned annually to facilitate hunting and shifting rice cultivation. Ramsar site no. 469. Most recent RIS information: 1990.

## Lagune de Wendu Tcham

Site number: 2,230 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Région de Gabú, secteur administratif de Boé

Area: 14,970.2 ha | Coordinates: 11°51'40"N 14°09'34"W | Designation dates: 22-05-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Lagune de Wendu Tcham (Lagoa de Wendu Tcham) is a unique water reservoir fed by many tributaries and surrounded by a series of hills with flat peaks and open valleys. It is the largest freshwater zone in Guinea-Bissau after the Cufada Lagoon. The impermeable rocks on which it lies allow for a large water retention making Wendu Tcham the only lake of its kind which does not dry up all year round. The main hydrological functions of the Site include ground water recharge and discharge, erosion reduction and flood control. The fauna of Wendu Tcham is abundant and very diverse, with about 34 mammal and 200 bird species. Located right inside the migration corridor of the greatest concentration of large mammals along the coast, Wendu Tcham is home to many vulnerable and protected species including the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), lion (*Panthera leo*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), red-fronted gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*), the endangered African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), and the near-threatened leopard (*Panthera pardus*). The aquatic vegetation also provides safe habitat for many species of fish, shellfish and reptiles. Subsistence agriculture developed on the slopes of some hills and banks of the lake coupled with traditional fishing are the only noticeable human activities in the Site. Because of the low human population density, the anthropogenic pressures on the Site are not high; as a result its ecological balance is relatively well maintained.

## Parc Naturel des Mangroves du Fleuve Cacheu (PNTC)

Site number: 2,229 | Country: Guinea-Bissau | Administrative region: Région administrative de Cacheu

Area: 88,615 ha | Coordinates: 12°17'40"N 16°11'38"W | Designation dates: 22-05-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Parc Naturel des Mangroves du Fleuve Cacheu (PNTC) is an outstanding representative intertidal forested wetland considered as the largest area of mangrove forest in West Africa. Surrounding the tidal Rio Cacheu which gave its name to the park, PNTC is a safe haven for over 248 bird species including the black crowned-crane (*Balearica pavonina*), greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), pink-backed pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*), royal tern (*Sterna maxima*) and the African fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*). Aside from its very rich and varied avifauna, PNTC has a remarkable landscape characterized by a mosaic of forests, palm groves and savannah, which provide food and refuge for many protected or rare species such as the hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), West African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), common bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and humpback dolphins (*Sousa teuszii*), African clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*), Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and the dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*). Six of the world's 50 mangrove species have been recorded in PNTC, namely *Avicennia germinans*, *Rhizophora racemosa*, *Rhizophora mangle*, *Rhizophora harrisonii*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erectus*. Their density offers an ideal spawning and nursery habitat for a significant population of fish and shellfish. Aside from its natural beauty and rich biodiversity, PNTC has a significant cultural value for the numerous ethnic groups living within its borders which have practiced agriculture and artisanal fishing for generations.