



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Lesotho

1 Ramsar Site(s) covering 434 ha

Lets'eng-la-Letsie

Site number: 1,388 | Country: Lesotho | Administrative region: Quthing District
Area: 434 ha | Coordinates: 30°19'59"S 28°12'E | Designation dates: 01-07-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lets'eng-la-Letsie. 01/07/04; Quthing; 434 ha; 30°20'S 028°12'E. A highland wetland about 200 km southeast of the capital city Maseru, part of the Lets'eng-la-Letsie (not yet gazetted) protected area, which was designated in 2001 as a component of the Conserving Mountain Biodiversity in Southern Lesotho (CMBSL) project. It consists of a human-made lake with a mean depth of about 1 m and its associated catchment area. The main vegetation types are Afromontane and Afroalpine formations that are dominated by grasses and show high biodiversity and endemism levels. A number of vulnerable species occur among the 110 bird species recorded at this site, including the Wattled and Blue Cranes, the Lesser Kestrel and the Bald Ibis. The site is currently used as grazing land and is important for provision of grass for thatching, as a source of water, medicinal plants and wood, and for fishing. Given the free access/open property nature of the site it suffers from overstocking, overgrazing and erosion, as well as overexploitation of its natural resources. No management plan exists as yet for the Ramsar site, although there are plans, which have raised controversy, to fence off the area for the re-introduction of large mammals and development of tourism facilities. Ramsar site no. 1388. Most recent RIS information: 2006.