



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Madagascar

20 Ramsar Site(s) covering 2,094,911 ha

Barrière de Corail Nosy Ve Androka

Site number: 2,285 | Country: Madagascar

| Administrative region: Région de Atsimo-Andrefana (Sud-Ouest), ainsi que les districts de Toliary II et d'Ampanihy
Area: 91,445 ha | Coordinates: 24°34'S 43°52'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site is a cluster of eight areas along the southern coast of Madagascar. It includes a network of coral reefs and marine habitats, such as deep shoals with deep coral reefs and beaches. It hosts about 140 species of corals, 240 species of fish, molluscs, echinoderms and marine phanerogams. There are also rare species such as the critically endangered coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*, five species of marine turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*), dugongs, dolphins and whales. There are three species of damselfish (*Pomacentrus sulfureus*, *Pomacentrus trilineatus* and *Abudefduf sparoides*) which are endemic to the western Indian Ocean. The Site is also the only breeding place for an endemic colony of red-tailed tropicbird. The ecological and economic values of the coral reefs support the human population of the south-western region, particularly through fishing and tourism. However, anthropogenic pressures threaten their integrity, as do droughts that have caused agro-pastoralists to take up fishing as an alternative livelihood.

Complexe des lacs Ambondro et Sirave (CLAS)

Site number: 2,224 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Menabe

Area: 14,481.5 ha | Coordinates: 20°54'S 43°56'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Complexe des lacs Ambondro et Sirave (Complex of Lakes Ambrondo and Sirave, or CLAS) features a variety of habitats including dune lakes, mangrove forests, intertidal zones and marshes. It supports a remarkable diversity of species such as the endangered Verreaux's sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*) and ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), and the near-threatened brown lemur (*Eulemur fulvus*). It also supports birds including the endangered Madagascar heron *Ardea humbloti*, Madagascar pond-heron *Ardeola idae* and Madagascar teal *Anas bernieri*, as well as the vulnerable black-banded plover *Charadrius thoracicus*, and is an important breeding and nesting ground for migratory waterbirds such as the curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, common greenshank *Tringa nebularia* and the common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Other species depending on the Site include the greater flamingo, which contributes greatly to its tourism value. The Site hosts the largest mangrove forest in the region and nourishes about 90% of the local population; human activities include agriculture, fishing and hunting.

Complexe des lacs de Manambolomaty

Site number: 963 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Le site se localise dans la région Melaky
Area: 7,491 ha | Coordinates: 19°02'S 44°24'E | Designation dates: 25-09-1998

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Complexe des lacs de Manambolomaty is located in the western centre of Madagascar and made up of four lakes (Ankerika, Soamalipo, Befotaka and Anerika) and part of the Manambolomaty forest. The entire Ramsar Site is included in the Tsimembo Manambolomaty protected area. The Site is home to about 9% of the world population of the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), and is known for other endangered water birds, namely the Madagascar heron (*Ardea humbloti*), Madagascar pond heron (*Ardeola idae*), Madagascar sacred ibis (*Threskiornis bernieri*) and Bernier's teal (*Anas bernieri*). The presence of the critically endangered Madagascar big-headed turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) and of precious woods such as rosewood enhances its importance for biodiversity conservation. The lakes also provide ecological services of vital importance for the economic development of the area and the local population.

Complexe des Zones Humides de Bemanevika

Site number: 2,287 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Sofia
Area: 10,000 ha | Coordinates: 14°20'S 48°34'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Sofia Region of north-western Madagascar. It is composed of blocks and fragments of dense mountainous tropical rainforest, grasslands, marshes and swamps, lakes, rivers and streams. The Site hosts a complex of ecosystems and provides refuge habitat for the survival and reproduction of many endemic and endangered species. 106 species of birds have been inventoried there. Waterbirds include the critically endangered Madagascar pochard (*Aythya innotata*) which was discovered in 2006 on this site only, the endangered Meller's duck (*Anas melleri*) and Malagasy pond heron (*Ardeola idae*), and the vulnerable Madagascar grebe (*Tachybaptus pelzelni*), Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*). Land birds include the endangered Madagascar serpent-eagle (*Eutriorchis astur*) and the vulnerable red owl (*Tyto soumagnei*), Madagascar marsh-harrier (*Circus macrosceltes*), red-tailed Newtonia (*Newtonia fanovanae*) and dusky greenbul (*Phyllastrephus tenebrosus*). In addition, seven species of lemur have been recorded. The Site and the river basin of which it is part also support irrigated rice production. Bemanevika's lacustrine and swampy ecosystems maintain the water regimes of the area and ensure the regulation of the microclimate.

Iles Barren

Site number: 2,303 | Country: Madagascar
| Administrative region: Districts de Maintirano et d'Antsalova dans la Région Melaky
Area: 463,200 ha | Coordinates: 18°16'S 43°47'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Barren archipelago extends between 15 and 65 kilometres south-west of the town of Maintirano in the Mozambique Channel, less than 500 km from the East African coast. It is composed of a large reef complex, extensive areas of sea grass beds, mangrove forests, estuarine marshes, coastal dunes and dense semi-humid forests. The wide range of preserved, healthy and productive habitats supports exceptionally rich ecosystems, which include 39 coral genera and 150 species of fish. The site is home to five threatened bird species such as the critically endangered *Haliaeetus vociferoides* and the endangered *Arenaria humbloti* and *Anas bernieri*. There are also five species of threatened sea turtles, eight threatened shark species, the critically endangered coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*, 13 species of dolphins, and the vulnerable dugong as well as several species of whales and rays. A new model of fisheries management promoting the human rights and protecting the fishing zones of a community of more than 4,000 traditional fishermen on the Site has been developed by Blue Ventures.

Lac Kinkony

Site number: 2,048 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Mahajanga
Area: 13,800 ha | Coordinates: 17°32'S 44°06'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2012
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lac Kinkony. 05/06/12; Mahajanga; 13,800 ha; 16°08'S 045°49'E. Within Protected Area, Important Bird Area. A permanent freshwater lake situated in western Madagascar in the Mahavavy basin that supports the livelihoods of several local communities that depend on fishery and rice agriculture carried out along the banks. The vegetation is dominated by *Phragmites mauritanus*, which acts as a nesting ground and refuge for several water fauna including 45 species of waterbirds, four of which are threatened, and the endemic and endangered Sakalava Rail (*Amaurornis olivieri*). The site is an important source of food and a spawning ground for 18 species of fishes, including the endangered *Paretroplus dambabe* and the vulnerable *Paretroplus kieneri* as well as freshwater tortoise. The lake is threatened by overfishing and the use of unregulated fishing techniques, the conversion of marshes into rice farms, and the destruction of the drainage basins for agriculture. The Ramsar Site is part of the Mahavavy Kinkony protected area; there is a management plan, and a community-based organization has been created to regulate fishing and agricultural activities and ensure sustainable management of the lake's resources. Ramsar Site no. 2048. Most recent RIS information 2012.

Lac Sofia

Site number: 2,301 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Dans la région de Sofia
Area: 1,650 ha | Coordinates: 14°36'S 49°01'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lake Sofia is located in Sofia Region, in the rural District of Marotolana. The Site consists of the permanent lake, cyperus swamps, and rivers and streams on the upstream and downstream sides of the Lake. The Site also contains ecosystems including introduced eucalyptus formations, dotted with guava, which are found in the vicinity of the lake. Lake Sofia supports 36 species of waterbirds including five endangered species: the endangered *Anas melleri* and *Ardeola idae*, and the vulnerable *Gallinago macrodactyla*, *Rallus madagascariensis* and *Tachybaptus pelzelinii*. 1,144 individuals of swamp bird species were recorded, the three most abundant being *Rallus madagascariensis* with 225 individuals, *Acrocephalus newtoni* with 209 and *Ardeola ralloides* with 132. About 50 aquatic and shoreline plant species have been recorded, grouped in 41 genera and 28 families. Swamps around the lakes have been transformed into rice paddies as rice farming is the most important agricultural activity. Conservation efforts involve the restoration of key habitats and the maintenance of their integrity.

Le Lac Alaotra : Les Zones Humides et Bassins Versants

Site number: 1,312 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région Alaotra Mangoro
Area: 722,500 ha | Coordinates: 17°35'S 48°20'E | Designation dates: 09-09-2003
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site includes the four surrounding watercourses (the Sahabe, Sasomanga, Sahamaloto and Anony) and their catchment areas. The wetlands are linked to the Indian Ocean by the Maningory River. The Site is an excellent representative example of the natural wetlands of the eastern Madagascar biogeographical region and includes nine of the twenty inland wetland types identified in the Ramsar system of classification, as well as seven of the ten human-made wetland types. The Site is the only natural habitat of the critically endangered Lac Alaotra bamboo lemur (*Haplemur alaotrensis*, known locally as bandro) which is the only primate species in the world that lives exclusively in reed beds. The wetlands surrounding the lake have local cultural significance.

Mangroves de Tsiribihina

Site number: 2,302 | Country: Madagascar

| Administrative region: District de Belo sur Tsiribihina, Région de Menabe

Area: 47,218 ha | Coordinates: 19°44'S 44°28'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Menabe Region, along the coast on both sides of the mouth of the Tsiribihina River. It includes lagoons, sandbanks, salt and mud flats, marshes and dry land, and about 20,000 hectares of mangrove forest (8.5% of the mangrove area of Madagascar). The Site is home to several species of rare and threatened fauna. The 44 listed waterbird species make up over 40,000 individuals. Several species live in large groups in mangroves, including *Sterna bengalensis* (9,505 individuals), *Phoeniconaias minor* (7,768 individuals), *Phoenicopus roseus* (5,080 individuals), *Dromas ardeola* (2,560 individuals), *Calidris ferruginea* (4,500 individuals) and *Calidris alba* (1,985 individuals). The six species of threatened birds including the critically endangered *Haliaeetus vociferoides*, the endangered *Anas bernieri*, *Threskiornis bernieri* and *Ardea humbloti*, and the vulnerable *Charadrius thoracicus* and *Glareola ocularis*. The Site is also home to the lemur *Propithecus verreauxi* and the flying fox *Pteropus rufus*, as well as the critically endangered hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Upstream deforestation, combined with significant landslides of alluvial land threaten to cause siltation of the estuaries and out to the coral reefs. The Site is managed by WWF Madagascar, which provides development support to local communities to ensure the sustainable management of resources.

Marais de Torotorofotsy avec leurs bassins versants

Site number: 1,453 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région Alaotra Mangoro

Area: 9,993 ha | Coordinates: 18°52'S 48°22'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Torotorofotsy Marshes with their watersheds (of the Mokaranana, Ankahelava, and Ambasimbavy rivers) are located in the east of Madagascar. The Ramsar Site includes a permanent marsh, temporary wetlands and primary forests fragmented by farming areas (mainly rice paddies) and secondary forests. A zone of sclerophyll forest lies to the west. The marshes and their surroundings are immensely rich in biodiversity, and the critically-endangered golden mantella frog (*Mantella aurantiaca*) is endemic to the locality. The Site supports 100 bird species, including in particular threatened aquatic and wetland species such as the endangered slender-billed flufftail (*Sarothrura watersii*), Madagascar pond heron (*Ardeola idae*) and Meller's duck (*Anas melleri*), and the vulnerable Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*), Madagascar snipe (*Gallinago macrodactyla*), as well as others from different zoological classes. The Site lies within the Ankeniheny-Mantadia-Zahamena forest corridor, a high-priority area for conservation in east-central Madagascar. The marshes play an important role in flood control in the area of Andasibe Commune and feed the valleys with their abundant rice fields. They also provide domestic water for the villagers of Maromahatsinjo.

Parc de Tsarasaotra

Site number: 1,464 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Antananarivo

Area: 10.4 ha | Coordinates: 18°52'S 47°31'E | Designation dates: 09-05-2005

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a lake of around ten hectares, with an islet, flood zones and wooded edge, within the capital city Antananarivo. The lake is surrounded by eucalyptus and camphor trees, as well as *Juncus* and *Cyperus* reeds. It plays an extremely important role in providing a refuge and nesting site amid the urban environment to waterbirds such as herons and ducks. Particularly during the hunting season, the Site is key to the survival of 14 threatened waterbird species and subspecies endemic to Madagascar. It is the only known site on the Malagasy highlands to host the endangered Madagascar pond heron (*Ardeola idae*), and it is also home to the endangered Meller's duck (*Anas melleri*) and the vulnerable Madagascar grebe (*Tachybaptus pelzelni*). The Site also hosts historical relics. The lake is privately owned, and a management plan is not yet available to address the eutrophication and erosion problems that are reducing the lake's surface area and degrading its water quality. Regular bird-counting and birdwatching trips take place at the Site.

Parc national Tsimanampesotse

Site number: 962 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Province de Toliara

Area: 203,740 ha | Coordinates: 24°23'S 43°59'E | Designation dates: 25-09-1998

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in south-west Madagascar, Tsimanampesotse is a unique natural reserve characterized by a shallow alkaline salty lake with open waters and mudflats surrounded by halophytic plants which support large breeding colonies of the vulnerable Madagascar grebe (*Tachybaptus pelzelni*). About 90% of the Site's flora and fauna are endemic. Huge baobabs and banyan trees and dense xerophilous thickets cover the calcareous plateau inside the park and offer ideal habitat for sizeable populations of migratory shorebirds, notably the greater and lesser flamingos which are the main attractions in the area. Aside from birds, globally threatened mammals such as the ring-tailed lemur, Verreaux's sifaka, and white-footed sportive lemur also inhabit the Site. Bats, birds, snakes and the emblematic blind fish (*Typhleotris madagascariensis*) are all supported by its underground networks of streams and limestone cave systems. The spiritual and historical ties between the park and its communities testify to its strong cultural importance as well as its natural beauty.

Rivière Nosivolo et affluents

Site number: 1,916 | Country: Madagascar

| Administrative region: districts de Marolambo et Mahanoro, Région Atsinanana, Province Autonome de Toamasina

Area: 358,511 ha | Coordinates: 20°07'S 47°59'E | Designation dates: 17-09-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises a 130-kilometre stretch of the Nosivolo River and almost 3,600 square kilometres of its river basin system. It includes a mosaic of flowing rivers, inland islets, lakes and marshes, vestiges of dense rainforests, highly fragmented gallery forests, secondary vegetation (savoka) covering cleared forest, and irrigated farm land. The near-natural ecosystem has the highest concentration of endemic freshwater fish species in Madagascar: it is home to 19 endemic fish species including the endangered *Oxylapia polli*. There are also six species of endemic birds: Madagascar rail (*Rallus madagascariensis*), Madagascar snipe (*Gallinago macrodactyla*), Madagascar sparrowhawk (*Accipiter madagascariensis*), rufous-headed ground roller (*Atelornis crossleyi*), Madagascar yellowbrow (*Crossleyia xanthophrys*) and Pollen's vanga (*Xenopirostris polleni*); ten species of lemurs; reptiles; and ten endemic plant species. Among other resources, the Site provides materials for handicraft production, as well as fish, rice and a unique range of medicinal plants. Threats within the Site include habitat destruction from rice cultivation, gold and precious stones mining, and poaching for local consumption. These activities cause water pollution and disruption of riverbeds.

Site Bioculturel d'Antrema

Site number: 2,286 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région de Boeny

Area: 20,620 ha | Coordinates: 15°46'S 46°07'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is on the north-western coast of Madagascar and consists of permanent and temporary lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and intertidal areas, and mangrove habitats. The wetland-forest complex supports 220 plant species indigenous to Madagascar, with an endemic rate of 76%; there are also five endemic lemur species, 18 species of reptile and three of amphibians. 70 bird species have been recorded including 23 species of waterbirds, of which three are endangered (*Ardeola idae*, *Threskiornis bernieri* and *Ardea humbloti*). The water bodies are home to 21 species of fish grouped in 16 families, of which two are endemic: *Pachypanchax arnoulti* and *Paratilapia polleni*. The Site provides food, water and non-food items, and multiple other services to local communities. It is also recognized for its cultural and spiritual importance. Lemurs are considered sacred by the entire indigenous community, and this helps ensure the sustainability of the Site and its ecosystems. However, the erosion of denuded land has caused lakes to dry up and has had adverse impacts on the functioning of wetland habitats.

Zone Humide de Mandrozo

Site number: 2,049 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Melaky
Area: 15,145 ha | Coordinates: 17°32'S 44°06'E | Designation dates: 05-06-2012
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zone humide de Mandrozo. 05/06/12; Mahajanga; 15,145 ha; 17°32'27"S 044°05'47"E. A permanent freshwater lake surrounded by marshes, irrigated rice farms, and portions of dried forests, as well as savannah lands. Forming part of the western continental waters of the country, it is the fourth largest lake in Madagascar. It supports diverse species throughout their life cycles, including the IUCN Red-Listed Madagascar Big-headed Turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) and the Madagascar Fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), as well as the Sakalava Rail (*Amaurornis olivieri*) and a diversity of threatened reptile species. The site is also an important spawning ground and source of food for fishes; it is important for irrigation as well and serves as a source of livelihood for hundreds of dependent families. It also has a cultural value as it is inhabited by typical communities that promote the sustainable management of resources by traditional agricultural and fishery practices. There is an ongoing project for the classification of the site as a protected area, which would also increase its eco-tourism potential. Ramsar Site no. 2049. Most recent RIS information 2012.

Zones Humides Ankarafantsika (CLSA)

Site number: 2,289 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Dans la Région de Boeny
Area: 33,145 ha | Coordinates: 16°17'S 46°53'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Ramsar Site covers 33,200 hectares in two separate areas of the Ankarafantsika National Park. It consists of a complex of six permanent lakes, rivers and streams, and raffia palm swamps. Some of the lakes are considered sacred. Dense dry forests around the lakes present endemic and endangered plants, including members of the *Diospyros*, *Dalbergia* and *Adansonia* genera. In addition to their cultural values, these lakes are home to threatened waterbird species and endemic and endangered fish species. Of 823 species recorded, more than 90% are endemic to Madagascar. The lakes are a particularly critical habitat for the critically-endangered Madagascar big-headed turtle *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*. There are also abundant Nile crocodile, 15 species of fish of which five are endemic and threatened, and 22 waterbird species. The site is very close to Madagascar's second most important area of rice cultivation, where agricultural use has become more intensive. Other factors currently affecting the Site include the presence of invasive plants and illegal net fishing in the case of Lake Ravelobe.

Zones humides d'Ambondrobe

Site number: 2,300 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Dans la Région de Menabe
Area: 13,000 ha | Coordinates: 19°14'S 44°32'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is on the west coast of Madagascar, on the plain of the lower Manambolo River in Menabe Region. It lies between the villages of Ankaivo and Aboalimena and includes the Ambondrobe permanent lake, temporary satellite lakes, and swamp and transitional forest ecosystems. The Site is home to approximately 10,000 water bird individuals, with egret and heron species present in large numbers. It is a conservation area for endemic and endangered species such as the Madagascar heron *Ardea humbloti*, Madagascar pond-heron *Ardeola idae* and Madagascar sacred ibis *Threskiornis bernieri*, and the critically endangered Madagascar fish-eagle *Haliaeetus vociferoides* and Madagascar big-headed turtle *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*. Approximately 110 nests of this last species were recorded, with an average of 18 eggs per nest. Other endemic species include lemurs, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. The Site hosts a large population of the Madagascan flying fox *Pteropus rufus*. The dry deciduous forest, which is typical of Madagascar's western coastal plain, features some evergreen formations. The characteristic species are *Commiphora guillauminii*, katrafay (*Cedrelopsis grevei*), mpanjakabenitany (*Baudouinia fluggeiformis*), amaninomby (*Terminalia ruffovestita*), and farafatsy *Givotia madagascariensis*. The Site's management plan establishes standards of social behaviour to harmonize conservation measures among local communities, and ensure compliance with regulatory measures by empowering communities to apply sanctions.

Zones humides de Bedo

Site number: 1,686 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Région MENABE

Area: 1,962 ha | Coordinates: 19°56'S 44°33'E | Designation dates: 12-05-2007

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Bedo Ramsar Site is located in the west of Madagascar in the centre of the Menabe region, between the Morondava and Tsiribihina rivers, at the western end of the Marandray and Analabe forests. It is an important site for birds and hosts migratory species such as the endangered Bernier's teal (*Anas bernieri*) and Humblot's heron (*Ardea humbloti*) and the vulnerable Madagascar plover (*Charadrius thoracicus*). The forest is a habitat of lemur species and endemic land tortoises, while the Mandroatse river which feeds the Site is home to endemic and threatened species such as the Marakely fish (*Paratilapia polleni*) and the Nile crocodile. The natural resources of the Site are significant for the surrounding communities; the lesser bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*, known as vondro in Madagascar) is the main raw material for basketry and roofs of houses of all the coastal villages and even further afield. The wetland provides all the fish for local consumption and the fish products are also sold in the market of Morondava city, the main town. The nearby Baobab forest increases the potential for ecotourism.

Zones humides de l'Onilahy

Site number: 2,304 | Country: Madagascar | Administrative region: Sud-Ouest

Area: 42,950 ha | Coordinates: 23°31'S 44°03'E | Designation dates: 22-05-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Amoron'i Onilahy Protected Area in the south-west of Madagascar. It covers a 75-kilometre stretch of the lower Onilahy River, and features the adjacent valleys, rivers and channels, lakes, marshes and swamps, as well as gallery forests from the Mahafaly Plateau and the Belomotra Plateau on each side of the river. The Site is notable for the high degree of heterogeneity of its habitats as well as the rate of endemism of its unique flora and fauna. It provides key habitats for a wide range of animal species: 27 mammals are listed, including six endemic lemurs such as the endangered *Lemur catta* and *Propithecus verreauxi*; 56 reptile species including crocodiles, amphibians and two species of freshwater turtles; 79 bird species including the endangered *Ardeola idae* and *Ardea humbloti*; and the recently identified toadfish *Allenbatrachus meridionalis*. The wetlands are directly threatened by the expansion of agriculture and indirectly by the production of charcoal upstream, which promotes erosion. WWF supported the establishment of the Protected Area and has helped local resource-dependent communities identify alternative sustainable livelihoods.

Zones Humides de Sahamalaza

Site number: 2,288 | Country: Madagascar

| Administrative region: A cheval entre la Région SOFIA et Région de DIANA, ainsi que les Districts d'Analalava et d'Ambanja

Area: 24,049 ha | Coordinates: 14°12'S 47°54'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Sahamalaza wetlands consist of a number of coastal and marine areas in the estuaries of the Maetsamalaza, Berondra and Manambara rivers, which separate the peninsula of Sahamalaza and the coast of Maromandia. They include forests which host around 220 plant species, coral reefs covering approximately 12,800 hectares, and mangroves which cover about 10,000 hectares and feature eight mangrove species. More than 40 species of endemic birds have been recorded. Globally threatened water birds include the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) and the endangered Malagasy sacred ibis (*Threskiornis bernieri*), Humblot's heron (*Ardea humbloti*) and the Malagasy pond heron (*Ardeola idae*). The coral reefs provide very diverse sub-habitats, including shallow reefs, seagrass beds and reef slopes within Ramanetaka Bay, and the deep reefs of the outer bank, all dissected by channels. The mangroves provide important ecosystem services for local communities in protecting the coast and enabling the regeneration of fish stocks. Reforestation activities and steps to ensure the secure land ownership of local communities have helped to protect the Site against unplanned development. All parts of the Site have cultural attractions including spiritual sites, royal tombs and talismans.