



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Papua New Guinea

2 Ramsar Site(s) covering 594,924 ha

Lake Kutubu

Site number: 961 | Country: Papua New Guinea | Administrative region: Southern Highlands Province

Area: 4,924 ha | Coordinates: 06°26'S 143°20'E | Designation dates: 25-09-1998

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Lake Kutubu. 22/09/98; Southern Highlands; 4,924 ha; 06°25'S 143°20'E. Wildlife Management Area. The second largest lake in PNG. A freshwater lake in limestone karst country in PNG's remote and isolated Southern Highlands at 800m above sea level, the site includes approximately 1,000 hectares of swamp forest. The lake's extraordinary level of endemism (10 of the 14 fish species found there are endemic to the lake itself) exceeds that of any other lake in the entire New Guinea-Australian region. The development of oil and gas in the region has increased access with the development of road links and regular flights. The villages around the lake rely principally upon sago subsistence agriculture. Probably the first Ramsar site to be listed in the Wetland Type added to the Ramsar Classification System by Resolution VI.5 (1996) on subterranean karst wetlands. Ramsar site no. 961. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

Tonda Wildlife Management Area

Site number: 591 | Country: Papua New Guinea | Administrative region: Western Province

Area: 590,000 ha | Coordinates: 08°45'S 141°22'59"E | Designation dates: 16-03-1993

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Tonda Wildlife Management Area. 16/03/93; Western Province; 590,000 ha; 08°45'S 141°23'E. Wildlife Management Area; Shorebird Network Site. Flat, coastal plains subject to seasonal, freshwater flooding. The site, bordering Indonesia, includes tidal river reaches, mangrove areas, grassland, and savannah woodlands. An important wetland for over 250 species of resident and migratory waterbirds and as a refuge during drought. Most of the world population of *Numenius minutus* stage on the plains during migration. Sixty-three species of fish are supported. About 1,500 subsistence gardeners and hunters live in the area. Visitors come for fishing, birdwatching, and deer or *Lates calcarifer* hunting. The site is contiguous with the Wasur National Park Ramsar site in Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Ramsar site no. 591. Most recent RIS information: 1993.