



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Vanuatu

1 Ramsar Site(s) covering 8,248 ha

Lake Letes

Site number: 2,524 | Country: Vanuatu | Administrative region: Torba Province

Area: 8,248.1 ha | Coordinates: 14°16'47"S 167°31'46"E | Designation dates: 15-09-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site encompasses the caldera of Mount Garet, an active stratovolcano on the island of Gaua, and is a representative geothermal wetland system of the biogeographic region. It comprises a permanent freshwater lake, which is the largest in the Pacific Islands region excluding New Guinea, and the entire catchment of the Solomul River which connects the lake to the sea. The caldera of the volcano also features a rainforest with secondary closed scrub vegetation and harbours a threatened tree species, the whitewood (*Endospermum medullosum*). The Site supports 15 crustaceans and 18 fish, among which two are endemic to Vanuatu, the gobies *Schismatogobius vanuatuensis* and *Stiphodon astilbos*. The giant mottled eel (*Anguilla marmorata*) and the Pacific long-finned eel (*A. megastoma*) migrate to the lake from the sea for spawning. The Site falls within a Community Conservation Area and is under customary ownership of the indigenous communities which harvest eels and prawns and run small-scale eco-tourism businesses in Gaua. There is also a management plan for the Site.