RAMSAR WETLANDS
INFORMATION SHEET

please note: This has been typed out from handwritten forms without any grammatical corrections.

1. Country: Ghana **2. Date**: 22-9-98 **3. R**ef 1GH004

4. Name and address of compiler:
Charles C Amankwah, Coastal Wetlands Management Project, Wildlife Department, PO Box M239, Accra, Ghana.

5. **Name of wetland:** Sakumo

6. Date of Ramsar designation 14 August 1992

7. Geographical coordinates: 05°30'N, 000° 08'W

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)
West of Tema

9. Area: (in hectares)

1,364 hectares

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec. C.4.7)

Coastal brackish saline lagoon

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

Highest point: 86.9m (285 ft) Average elevation 45.7m

12. Overview: (general summary in two or three sentences of the wetland's principle characteristics)

Brackish lagoon with narrow connection to the seas

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level: tidal variations; catchment areas; downstream area; climate)

Brackish water lagoon of 3.5 sq.km with surrounding alluvial plain of about 7 sq km. Mean annual rainfall of about 800mm, mean atmospheric temperatures 26.7°C; average salinity of 30-40% dry season, 10% or below in the wet season. Catchment underlain basically with Pre-Cambian acidic schists and gneisses.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Main habitats are the open lagoon, surrounding flood plains, freshwater marsh, and coastal savanna grasslands.

15. Land tenure/ownership of:

(a) site:
state owned (Wildlife Dept)

(b) surrounding areas:
privately or communally owned

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Boundary of the site has been demarcated and pillared. Process of gazettement is far advanced. Site is managed on the wise-use principle of the Ramsar Convention.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

Officially approved as a conservation area by the government

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site:
fishing, and farming

(b) surrounding/catchments:
Human settlement and industrial related activities

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects: (factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site:
Over-fishing, agricultural impact including devegetation, soil erosion and deposition and pollution.

(b) surroundings/catchment
Human settlements, industrial related impact, water and pollution

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc.)
Catchment area of the site is drained by four principal streams flowing into a brackish water lagoon- catchment also has a limited groundwater potentials due to low rainfall and the impermeability of the parent rock.. Stream valleys are covered by alluvium with marine sand deposits. There is free interchange of lagoon and sea water through a breakdown sluice.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The lagoon fisheries is the main source of livelihood to the local folks. The lagoon also has a

significant traditional value to the local people.

22. **Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)**

Important for over 40 species of birds including spotted redshanks, greenshanks, curlew sandpiper, little stint, black-tailed godwit and black-winged stilt. The site also receives migratory birds which are rare and endangered. eg the Roseate tern [note EH. Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* is not globally threatened]

Thirteen fish species belonging to 13 genera and eight families occur with *Sarotherodon melanotheron* constituting about 97%

23. **Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)**

Mangrove vegetation associated with the floodplain with *Avicennia africana* as the main element. *Paspalum veginatum , Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *and Philoxerus vermicularis* are the associating elements of the saltmarsh while *Typha australis* is mainly associated with the estuarine brackishwater/freshwater marsh.

24. **Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)**

A Research Center for all five Ramsar sites is under construction. Long term monitoring scheme in aquatic ecology, lagoon fisheries, ornithology has been instituted.

25. **Current conservation education: (e.g. visitor centers, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)**

Visitors/education centre is under construction. Observation posts for bird watching has been provided.

26. **Recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)**

Currently, there is very little recreational or tourists use of the site.

27. **Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)**

Wildlife Department,
PO Box M239,
Accra,
Ghana.
tel 233 21 664654

28. **Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)**

Wildlife Department

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Amatekpor, J.A. (1995). *Soil and land-use degradation: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Biney, C.A. (1995). *Limnology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Dadson, J.A. (1995). *Socio-economic status of local communities: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Gordon, C. (1995). *Aquatic ecology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

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Oteng-Yeboah, A.A. (1994). *Plant Ecology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies Report for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project.* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Tumbulto, J.W. and R.R. Bannerman (1995). *Hydrology: Sakumo Ramsar Site. Environmental Baseline Studies for the Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project* Ghana Wildlife Department, Accra-Ghana.

Kpelle, D.G. (1996). M.Sc Thesis: *The use of Geographical Information Systems in Coastal Wetlands Management in Ghana.* Centre for Tropical Coastal Management Studies; University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Moutreux Conference - are applicable)