



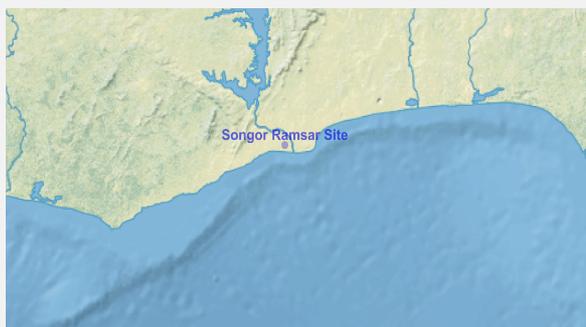
Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 8 May 2024

Update version, previously published on : 13 August 2015

Ghana

Songor Ramsar Site



Designation date	14 August 1992
Site number	566
Coordinates	05°51'40"N 00°32'09"E
Area	51 133,33 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The site lies on the western portion of the Volta River estuary with catchment area of about 510 km². It comprises a brackish water lagoon with extensive mud flats and a broad sandy beach in the south and flood plains with degraded mangrove and coastal savannah vegetation to the east and north. The lagoon is generally shallow – deepest part measures less than 2m with open water of about 115 km² behind a narrow coastal sand dune bar and has no direct outlet to the sea. The site also supports lagoon and marine fisheries, farming and commercial salt production, which serve as important and a major industrial employer from the communities. The vast floodplain provides fertile soils for arable farming and cattle grazing. Reed cutting and mat making are also major local occupation for women. In recent times, tourism in particular to turtle watch is growing along the beaches of the site.

The 51,000-hectare site was adopted as a Biosphere Reserve in June 2011 and consists of transition, buffer zone, and a core zone. The Biosphere Reserves is internationally recognised and set up to sustainably use and conserve the biological diversity of an area, as well as improve the relationship between people and their environment through community education and ecosystem restoration.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency

Postal address

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency

Postal address

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year

To year

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Unofficial name (optional)

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

The Site boundary was delineated, surveyed, pillared and map out as a new nature (wetland) conservation area in fulfillment of Ghana's commitment to the ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The southern boundary follows the shoreline of the sea (Gulf of Guinea). The western and northern boundaries follow the existing N1 Highway linking Togo while the eastern follows the river Volta which is adjacent to the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 51133.33

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 51956.392

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Udvardy's Biogeographical Provinces	Afrotropical

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

<no data available>

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

The site is also noted as the best breeding grounds for marine turtles, three of which are listed in the IUCN Red Data List and are protected in Ghana. These include; the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia myda*).

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The terrain is largely characterised by farms, secondary growth on abandoned farms, and eroded lands invaded by Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and isolated trees like Fan Palm (*Borassus aethiopum*), Mango (*Magnifera indica*), Silk cotton Tree (*Ceiba pentandra*) and Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*). There are no emergent plants in the lagoon. The flood plains are dominated by *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Cyperus articulatus*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, and *Eleocharis mutata*, and it is also home to two species of mangroves (*Avicennia africana* and *Rhizophora racemosa*), manatees and other fauna and flora.

Songor Ramsar site serves as grounds for feeding, roosting and nesting for migratory and resident birds. According to Dickson (1998), the ecosystem supports about fifty-seven species of migratory birds and the highest recorded numbers are for the terns considering that it is the most important area for terns along the coast of Ghana (Piersma & Ntiama-Baidu, 1995). The site is also noted as the best breeding and nesting grounds for marine turtles. Three species of globally threatened status. These are; Leatherback, (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

The site is also noted as the best breeding grounds for four globally threatened marine turtles. It has also been noted to support breeding populations of the Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*); Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and the Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information

The site supports at least 1% of the biogeographic populations of a number of migratory waterbird species.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Avicennia africana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	<i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	<i>Eleocharis mutata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Mangifera foetida</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rhizophora racemosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Serves as nesting grounds
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Serves as nesting grounds
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Serves as nesting grounds
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Ardea alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	120	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	787	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		serve as breeding and nesting grounds
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	781	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4417	2020-2023	1.84	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Supports at least 1% of the psammodomus , Canada, Greenland & Iceland/W & S Africa biogeographical population
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	204	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	156	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	118	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1002	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	637	2020-2023	2.9	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Supports at least 1% of the gularis, West Africa biogeographical population
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	607	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		serve as breeding and nesting grounds
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	160	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		serve as breeding and nesting grounds
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2932	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	801	2020-2023	3.64	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Supports at least 1% of the albifrons , Europe north of Mediterranean (bre)biogeographical population
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	870	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	769	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	994	2020-2023		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		serve as breeding and nesting grounds

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

The most popular birds species in the Songor Ramsar site are the Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) and the Black-Winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) which usually represent more than 1% of a biogeographic population of the congregatory waterbird species in the region.

Migrant birds begin to arrive on the site in late August, and their numbers peak in September-November. The birds start to leave the area at the onset of the dry season, when large sections of the lagoon dry up; by January, the bird population is less than 5% of the autumn peak (Piersma & Ntiamoa-Baidu, 1995). These population estimates of waterbirds are however from IWC bird counts done in January 2020,2021,2022 and 2023.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Characterized by saline marshes, mud and salt flats, mangroves, water logged grassland and riverine woodland	
Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rich in nutrients, it contains Amphipods and Gastropods. Oligochaetes and Polychaetes are also abundant in the mud. Bird species including migratory and resident species. Turtles and reptiles species are also found in the site.	
mangrove	<input type="checkbox"/>	consist of red and black mangroves	

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The wetland is associated with the Volta River estuary and comprises a brackish water lagoon with extensive mudflats and islands, a narrow sandy beach in the south and extensive flood plains with degraded mangroves and coastal savannah vegetation. The lagoon is shallow and closed. Five main vegetation types can be described within the site. They are: saline marshes in the mud and salt flats; waterlogged grassland; scattered thickets of shrubs, climbers and small trees on higher ground; riverine woodland along the streams; and stunted mangroves along lagoon margins. The vegetation composition is made up of *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Cyperus articulatus*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum* and *Elocharis mutata* that dominate the floodplains. The catchment areas are dominated by *Adropogon guyanus*, *Heteropogon contortus* and *Azadirachta indica* (neem tree)

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		0		
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		0		
F: Estuarine waters		0		
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		0		
H: Intertidal marshes		0		
I: Intertidal forested wetlands				
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons		0		

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> N: Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks		0		
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Marshes & pools >> Ss: Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools				
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/pools				
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils				

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
3: Irrigated land			
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		0	
5: Salt exploitation sites		0	
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		0	

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Cyperus articulatus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Paspalum dissectum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>				
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>				
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>				

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
A: Tropical humid climate	Aw: Tropical savanna (Winter dry season)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

4.4.3 - Soil

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	
Usually seasonal, ephemeral or intermittent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

(ECD) Water temperature

4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Fuel wood/fibre	
Wetland non-food products	Timber	

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium

Within the site: 523,180

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

RIS for Site no. 566, Songor Ramsar Site, Ghana

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commoners/customary rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

1. Traditional Land Owners (Ada traditional Council)
2. Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission)
3. Dangme East Municipal Assembly

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Nana Koffi Adu-Nsiah (Chief Executive Director)

Postal address: c/o Wildlife Division, Accra

E-mail address: adunsiah@yahoo.com

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tourism and recreation areas		Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Logging and wood harvesting			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities		Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Vegetation clearance/land conversion	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Garbage and solid waste	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Global legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Songhor Biosphere Reserve		whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Songor Ramsar Site		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Re-vegetation	Implemented
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

Monitoring of sea turtles

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Agyepong, G. T., Awadzi, T. W. & Abbiw, D. K. (1993). Songor Lagoon Salt Project: Environmental Impact Study, soils, flora and land-use. Final Report. Dept. of Geography and Resource Development, University of Ghana, Legon. 23pp.

Carr, T. & Campbell, C. L. (1995). A Management Strategy for Marine Turtle Conservation in Ghana. CWMP/Wildlife Department.

Dangme East District Assembly, (1994). Medium Term Management Plan. A report prepared for the DEDA, pp. 9-23.

Dickson, Y. A., (1998). Draft Management Plan for the Songor Ramsar Site, Ada-Foah. A report submitted at the International Course on Wetland management, Institute for Inland Wetland Management and Waste Water Treatment, RIZA, The Netherlands.

Ntiamoa-Baidu, Y. & Gordon, C., (1991). Coastal Wetlands Management Plans: Ghana. Report to World Bank, Department of Zoology, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra., Ghana.

Ofori-Danson, P. K., Entsua-Mensah, M. & Biney, C. A., (1999). Monitoring of Fisheries in five coastal lagoon Ramsar Sites in Ghana. A report prepared for the Department of Wildlife, Government of Ghana. Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project. 116pp.

Ofori-Danson P. K. (1999). Songor Ramsar Site. Management Plan, CWMP, Wildlife Department.

Piersma, T. & Ntiamoa-Baidu, Y. (1995). Waterbird Ecology and the Management of Coastal Wetlands. Ghana Coastal Wetlands Management Project. Netherland Institute for Sea Research (NOIZ)/Ghana Wildlife Society Report. No.6.

Wildlife Department, (1971). Wildlife Conservation Regulations. In: Consolidated Wildlife Laws of Ghana, 1998. Pp.36.

World Bank (1997) Towards an Integrated Coastal Management Strategy for Ghana. World Bank, Washington & Environmental Protection Agency, Accra. 137pp.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<2 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Eco tourism on site (Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission), 06-04-2013)



Birds (Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission), 21-11-2014)



Restored mangrove site (Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission), 26-09-2011)



Leatherback turtle (Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission), 11-11-2013)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation