Summary Description

GABON 1GA005

Site: Parc National Akanda		**Designation date:** 02-02-2007
Coordinates: 00°37'N 009°33'E	**Elevation:** 0 m - 60 m	**Area:** 54,000 ha

Summary description: Parc National Akanda. 02/02/07; Province de l'Estuaire; 54,000 ha; 00°37'N 009°33'E . National Park. Located about 15 km from Libreville, the capital city, this low-altitude zone is dominated by 35,000 ha of relatively undisturbed marine mangroves - it also contains swampy forests and grassy savannah that are home to several plant and animal species as well as a nesting zone for migratory birds, such as the 35 000 to 40 000 Palearctic Waders. It is an important feeding area for endangered marine turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea and Dermochelys coriacea), provides refuge for birds such as Calidris minuta, Pluvialis squatarola, the endemic Apalis flavida and Laniarius bicolor, and is a major habitat and breeding ground for fishes and crustaceans (Ethmalosa fimbriata and Mugil cephalus). Inputs from the Corisco and Mondah bays and significant annual rainfall of up to 3300 mm/yr leave the region constantly submerged and the resulting vegetation regulates the flow of rivers, important for the overall stability of the site. A variety of rites and dances are practiced due to the remarkable ethnic diversity present (Fang, Benga, Sékiani). Inhabitants benefit from fishing, agriculture, hunting, tourism and other recreational activities. Chief threats come from over-exploitation of mangrove plants (especially wood), over-fishing, disorganised tourism within the site, and increasing urbanization in the area. The on-going elaboration of a management plan for the National Park may provide solutions to these threats. Ramsar site no. 1652. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

Ramsar report for **Parc National Akanda**
Country: Gabon Ramsar Site No.: 1652
Region: Africa Wetlands International Site Reference No.: 1GA005

General and Geographical site information:

Subregion: Middle Africa
Geographical position: Marine & coastal wetlands
Designation Date: 02-02-2007
Coordinates of site center (degrees): 00°37'N 009°33'E
Coordinates of site center (decimal lat long):0,62 9,55

Information on Conservational Issues:

Restoration status:
- no information available

Management plan status:
- No site-specific plan exists at present

International conservation designation:
- Important Bird Area

Total site area: 54000 hectares
Minimum elevation: 0 meters
Maximum elevation: 60 meters
Transboundary: no
Boundary changes: no
Number of separate units: 1
Administrative region: Province de l'Estuaire and Noya, Komo Mondah, Cap Estérias

Ramsar criteria:

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Uses and Threats:

Current land use:
Within the site's surroundings/catchment:

- Shifting arable agriculture
- Orchard (generally small holdings)
- Collection of non-timber natural vegetative products: (unspecified)
- Sand/gravel extraction
- Mineral exploration
- Hunting (unspecified)
- Urban development

Within the Ramsar site:

- Commercial fishing
- Tourism (unspecified)

Threats:
Within the site's surroundings/catchment:

- Transport infrastructure development
- Forestry (unspecified)
- Mining exploitation/exploration impacts (unspecified)
- Impacts from extraction of rock, gravel, sand
- Domestic sewage pollution
- Urban development (unspecified)
- Loss of natural vegetation through slash & burn agriculture.
- Excessive hunting of species
- Illegal fishing methods

Within the Ramsar site:

- Over-fishing
- Illegal fishing methods
- Over-harvesting of natural forest products
- Recreational/tourist facilities development

Ecological Data:

Wetland Category:

- Marine & coastal wetlands

Wetland Type (dominant type in **bold**):

- **Intertidal forested wetlands; includes mangrove swamps, nipah swamps and tidal freshwater swamp forests (I)**
- Coastal brackish/saline lagoons; brackish to saline lagoons with at least one relatively narrow connection to the sea (J)
- Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats (G)
- Sand, shingle or pebble shores; includes sandbars, spits and sandy islets; includes dune systems and humid dune slacks (E)
- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs (D)
- Coral reefs (C)
- Marine subtidal aquatic beds; includes kelp beds, sea-grass beds, tropical marine meadows (B)
- Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits (A)

Biological Values:
Fauna type:

- important for fishes
- waterbird wintering/non-breeding/dry season area
- breeding area for waterbirds
- marine turtles present
- supports rare/endangered species
- important for reptiles
- crocodilians present
- aquatic mammals present

impacts

Social and cultural values:
- Archaeological/historical site
- Traditional cultural
- Commercial fishing
- Subsistence fishing
- Tourism

Land tenure/ownership:
Site's surroundings:
- Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc
- Commoners/customary rights

Within the Ramsar site:
- Provincial/region/state

Ecological Changes:
- No negative changes have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future

- important for mammals
- supports rare/endangered bird species
- supports rare/endangered reptile species
- supports endemic species
- supports endemic bird species
- staging area for migratory waterbird species
- outstanding range of fish species
- the wetland provides a critical link in a major food chain
- important for invertebrates

Flora type:
- outstanding example of a particular plant community
- outstanding variety of species present

Physical Data:

Salinity:
- Euhaline/Eusaline
- Fresh

Nutrients:
- no information available

Permanence:
- Usually permanent

Soil type:
- Predominantly mineral

Hydrological values:
- Flow regulation
- General hydrological balance

Soil PH:
- no information available

Water PH:
- no information available