

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2006-2008 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

February 13, 2007

3. Country:

Liberia

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Lake Piso

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

- a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** **Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or Arc View image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The delineation was an on screen digitising using 250k topography base map taking into consideration geographical and catchments boundaries. This site lies on the coast of Liberia at the end of a split of land that separates Lake Piso from the Atlantic Ocean. The southern boundary of the site falls along the Liberian shores of the Atlantic Ocean, along Cape Mount bay in the northwest up along to the Liberian-Sierra Leone international boundary, and then along the shores of lake Piso in the North. Lake Piso wetland community falls within the jurisdiction of Grand Cape Mount County. The wetland is shared by four political subdivisions of the county, namely: Tewor District (northwest bordering Sierra Leone,) Tallah Township (in the north), Garwular district (in the northeast to southeast and Tombey Chiefdom (in the south).

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

Latitudes 06°30' – 7°00' and Longitudes 10°55' – 11°30'.

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

Lake Piso is located in Gawulu- Tombe District in Grand Mount County about 72km west of Monrovia. There is one main road that connects Monrovia to Robertsport; the provincial capital of Grand Cape Mount. The community is connected around the lake by smaller farm-to-market roads.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

0-322 m above sea level

11. Area: (in hectares)

76,091 hectares

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland

Lake Piso is the largest lake in Liberia. It is wide and contains diverse life forms. It is northwest of Liberia and west of Robertsport, the provincial capital of Grand Cape Mount County. The area consists of 4 village communities of Dia, Madina, Maveima and Sowe, surrounding Lake Piso on its western side. It has a total population of 1,750 inhabitants. The Lake was originally called Fishermen Lake because of the abundance of fish and fish blooming activities. The Vai and Mende tribes are the main inhabitants; and their activities are mainly fishing, although they also carry on fuel wood cutting, sand mining and hunting. Lake Piso consists of five proposed nature reserve vegetation types namely; Tropical evergreen rain forest, Mangrove Swamp forest, Freshwater Swamp Forest, Coastal Savannah Grassland and Coastal Savannah Woodland. It is also one of the nine proposed Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Liberia identified by SCNL and BirdLife International on the basis that it supports a significant assemblage of biome-restricted (Guinea-Congo forest biome) bird species (Fishpool & Evans, 2001).

The population of Lake Piso is generally involved in subsistence farming. Subsistence farming is a system of farming that produces a minimum and is usually done for family consumption. They mainly produce rice and cassava. A minute percentage of the population produces cassava, which is processed into farina and fufu for sale. They are also involved in fishing, petty trade, and off-farm employment. Lake Piso is known for its scenic beauty as the Lake enters the Atlantic Ocean demarcating Robertsport and Sarwilor (a town west of Lake Piso). An MOU was signed between the Government of Liberia GOL and Conservation International (CI) for the conservation of Lake Piso. (Moved from section 7)

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 8 • 9

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1

Lake Piso contains mangroves, and rocky and sandy shorelines together with small areas of lowland forest. It lies on the coast of Liberia at the end of a split of land that separates Lake Piso from the Atlantic Ocean. The name “Piso” is pronounced “*pehnso*”, a Vai word meaning pigeon hole. It is believed that some hundred years ago pigeons lived in caves on the bank of the lake, thus the name pigeonhole in Vai. . Four main vegetation groups characterize the Lake Piso wetland: tropical evergreen forest, mangrove swamp forest, freshwater swamp forest, and coastal savannah woodland. Coastal sand covers most part of the area (up to about 8 to 10 km from the seacoast inland). Beyond this range, sandy clay, clayish loam and sandy loam soils can be found.

Lake Piso is the largest lake in Liberia. It is wide and contains diverse life forms.

Criterion 3

The lake harbors a wide range of aquatic life forms (crocodile, fish, lobsters, crabs, crawfish, etc.). The shores and sand dunes of the lake are attractive to waders and herons during the dry season. Migratory birds from Europe are common during the dry season. The Lake Piso area is one of nine proposed Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Liberia identified on the basis that it supports a significant assemblage of biome-restricted (Guinea-Congo forest biome) bird species that are typical of the coastal habitats, un- or under-represented elsewhere.. Fifty one out of the 184 species of this biome that occur in Liberia have been recorded at , or in the vicinity of this site. This includes examples like African White-crested Bittern (*Tigriornis leucolophus*), Red-thighed Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter erythropus*), Blue-headed Wood Dove (*Turtur brehmeri*), Yellow-billed Turaco (*Tauraco macrorhynchus*), Black-throated Coucal (*Centropus leucogaster*), Black Bee-eater (*Merops gularis*), Piping Hornbill (*Ceratogymna fistulator*), Speckled Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*), Red-rumped Tinkerbird (*P. atroflavus*), Yellow-throated Tinkerbird (*P. subsulphureus*), Yellow-spotted Barbet (*Buccanodon duchaillui*), Hairy-breasted Barbet (*Tricholaema hirsuta*), etc. In addition, the near threatened and restricted-range Copper-tailed Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis cupreocauda*) which is restricted to the upper Guinea forests Endemic Bird Area has been recorded in this site (Fishpool & Evans, 2001). Manatees (*Trichechus senegalensis*) are reported to visit the lake when they breed in the Moffa River, especially in the dry season. The diversity of vegetation and landscape make the area especially important in terms of biological diversity and aesthetic values. Rapid assessment report and information gathered from local communities show that the forest consists of a diversity of flora and fauna. The vegetation type can be describes as secondary forest, mangrove forest and grassland. The mangrove is chiefly composed of Rhizophora species or *Avicennia Africana*. Other important global conservation species are: endangered Olive colobus, (*Procolobus verus*) and the Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*).

Criterion 8

The lake harbors a wide range of aquatic life forms (crocodile, fish, lobsters, crabs, crawfish, etc.) which is an important source of food for the inhabitants.

Lake Piso fish species is not yet available. However, there are surely many of them and they depend on the wetland for food, breeding and passage from one water body to the other, (from the ocean to lake to rivers/streams and the other way around). Some of these fish species travel from the Atlantic Ocean to breed in the mangrove swamps. They use the mangrove in Lake Piso for a hiding place for their young ones from the bigger fishes. Fish of the lake and some rivers also move in the mangrove swamps for breeding.

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant bio geographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the bio geographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) Bio geographic region:

Upper Guinea Bioregion. This comprises the Southern Upper Guinea fresh water eco-region with the main biomes being coastal rivers and streams.

b) Bio geographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Fresh water eco-regions of Africa and Madagascar: A Conservation Assessment by Michele L. Thieme *et al.*, 2005).

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Lake Piso is the largest lake in Liberia. It is wide and contains diverse life forms.

Lake Piso is a coastal and brackish water body. The lake covers an area of approximately 100km² (c. 40sq miles) and has a maximum depth of approximately 4-5m (Gatter, 1997). The area falls within Liberia's maximum rainfall zone receiving up to 6000 mm, annually. Coastal sand covers most part of the area (up to about 8 to 10 km from the seacoast inland). Beyond this range, sandy clay, clayish loam and sandy loam soils can be found. Lake Piso is characterized by five main vegetation groups namely: tropical evergreen forest, mangrove swamp forest, freshwater swamp forest, and coastal savannah woodland and coastal savannah. Highland forest caps the Cape Mount Mountain which over looks Lake Piso and Robertsport, the Headquarters of Grand Cape Mount County. An interesting feature of the lake is the famous Massatin Island with an area of about 3.6 km. More besides, it has interesting plants species that attract migratory birds and mammals that come from near and far in search of food and habitat during certain season of each year.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

Lake Piso is an important water catchment area with rivers and streams flowing into

It. (eg. Maffa and Moffe Rivers flows into.) The area falls within Liberia's maximum rainfall zone receiving up to 6000 mm annually. The daily temperature falls between 27 and 32⁰C and the daily humidity may rise up to about 80% during the dry season. Lake Piso, is surrounded by rivers, creeks/streams, lakelets and lagoons. Mano, Maffa, Mawua, Manii, Moffe, Maa and Lofa Rivers are rivers and creeks in the area. The Lofa River, one of Liberia's major rivers, is in the southeast and forms the boundary between Grand Cape

Mount and Bomi Counties. In the northwest is the Mano River, another major river of Liberia; it forms the border of Liberia with Sierra Leone. The other rivers are minor but important for navigation and traveling in the Lake Piso region. Lake Piso is a most prominent feature of the region with Cape Mount the next. The daily temperature falls between 27 and 32°C and the daily humidity may rise up to about 80% during the dry season.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Hydrological values of this site include ground water recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization etc. The area is drained by four main rivers and several creeks/streams. The ground water of the wetland is maintained/ sustained by rivers and streams/creeks draining into the lake. The wetland probably hosts the largest percentage of the mangrove forests in Liberia. A significant amount of the mangrove can be found along the banks of the rivers and creeks/streams although the bulk is around the lake itself. The mangrove forests regulate the water level and control sediments that tend to run into the lake and stabilize shorelines. Generally, the hydrological system has been efficient in sustaining the mangrove and aquatic life forms in the area.

19. Wetland Types

a) Presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

L,M,F,G,I

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Four ecosystems are identified in the region; they include wetlands (including coastal wetlands dominated by mangrove vegetation and inland wetlands), marine, savannah woodlands, and tropical highland montane forest. Vegetation types reported in the area are the tropical evergreen high forest, mangrove swamp forest, freshwater swamp forest, and coastal savannah. . It is also one of the nine proposed Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Liberia identified by SCNL and BirdLife International on the basis that it supports a significant assemblage of biome-restricted (Guinea-Congo forest biome) bird species (Fishpool & Evans, 2001). The coastal ecosystem which stretches from the southeast through the south to the north-west is characterized by the Atlantic Ocean, beautiful beaches, and varieties of plant species, estuaries and lagoons. The coastal wetlands lie adjacent to the beaches. These

wetlands consist of mangrove swamps, the Mawua River (which runs parallel to the Atlantic Ocean from the Mano River and empties into the ocean at a point near Lake Piso), streams, creeks and ponds. The water bodies in the area taste salty most of the time.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Flora species recorded were mainly trees. A total of 19 common tree species were recorded in the region: two recorded in the north-western strip, eleven in the central part and six in the south-eastern strip. Some examples are: *Haplormosia Monophylla*, *Laguncularia Racemosa* and *Uapaca Guineensis*

In the Lake Piso area, 173 vascular plant species were collected in Lake Pico area.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The Olive colobus, (*Procolobus verus*) and the Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) are two endangered species that are of global conservation importance. Monkeys dominate the record with Red colobus monkey, Sooty mangabey, Mona monkey and Olive monkey, Local informants mentioned abundance of monkeys (particularly Red Colobus monkey) in the mangrove stands at four main sites of the proposed Lake Piso NR. The sites include (1) the north-western strip, (2) the mangrove stands within the communities of the towns of Sawilor, Keba, Falie, Fomba and Bombojah in the north of the middle portion, (3) the Cape Mount Forest and (4) the community forest reserve shared by Bombojah and Fomba in the southern strip of the area. Two dead bodies of Mona monkey were seen in the hands of two children near a village called Maveima just about three kilometers east of the village (Sowei Beach) where the Sooty mangabey was seen. The dead monkeys were being carried for sale at a price of L\$ 225.00 each. The monkeys are said to live in mangrove communities mainly. This environment was reportedly secure for them.

Forest buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*) was reported in the communities of Sowei Beach where the Sooty mangabey was seen in captivity and in the community of Tallah (north of the central part of the region and near Lake Piso).

Maxwell's duiker (*Cephalophus maxwellii*) was the only antelope species recorded, although informant hunters report of the presence of Black duiker, yellow-backed duiker and Ogilby's duiker. Other fauna species recorded in the area were Black & white-tailed hornbill, Iguana, White-faced whistling-, and white-breasted Guinea fowl.

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

Concerning the socio-cultural aspects of the population, survey results show that the Muslim religion is the dominant religion in the area, social- cultural practices include the women's traditional society (Sande), the Men's traditional society (Poro), the practice of polygamy in which a man marries more than one wife, the practice of capitalism in which individual ownership exists, and that the women are by legal traditions, laws and customs are often barriers to women owning properties such as land.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The present proposed Lake Piso Nature Reserve is shared by four sub-political and administrative sections of the county (Tewor District, Tallah Township, Garwular District, and Tombey Chiefdom) and contains 38 settlements. The land in the proposed lake piso protected area is community owned, although in some places such as north, few individuals own deeded lands. By Liberian Law, all lands not deeded are owned by the Liberian government and therefore, logically speaking, community lands not deeded in the area are government lands.

b) in the surrounding area:

Dia, Madina, Maveima and Soweï are villages that surround the Lake Piso on its western side. Currently the land in the area is controlled by the local administration and local inhabitants. However, other situation may arise based on the decisions resulting from the land reform process (on-going).

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The current use of the land (including water) use is fishing followed by farming. However an individual or a family may engage in two or more livelihood activities (fishing, farming, petty trade etc). The population of the surrounding Lake Piso area is about 1,750 persons. The average weekly income of the local people based on all their livelihood activities was estimates at US\$ 14.29. About 58% (US\$8.24) of this amount is spent on weekly family food

alone. The balance income is spent on family health, equipment/tools, children school requirements, clothing for the family, and other needs of the family.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

The catchments areas are used for navigation and traveling in the Lake Piso region.

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Some of the factors that are adversely affecting the area are the burning of vegetation (savannah grass and patches of bush), which takes place constantly during the dry season, fishing with very small sieve nets (locally known as half-finger and one finger size nets), thereby fishing out the very small species of fish, dumping of rotten fish in the lake, hunting of animals and capturing of birds with snares, mining of sand for a long period, intensive fuelwood harvesting sometimes in mangrove stands, excessive farming activities, dumping of garbage and human waste in Lake Piso, and power-chain sawing (commonly known as pit sawing).

b) in the surrounding area:

Some factors of adverse effect in surrounding areas are dumping of rotten fish (known as herrings or in our Liberian terms as boney) on the beach, sand mining on the bank of Lake Piso, both on the Robertsport-Monrovia motor road, and intensive fuel wood harvesting.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

This site is officially designated as the Cape Mount Nature Conservation Unit from the 1 st of January 1977.

Lake Piso is considered internationally and locally as one of the many biodiversity 'hotspot' sites in Liberia. Vegetation found around Lake Piso is mainly of lowland Savanna with mangrove species. However, a remaining piece of forest block is directly overlapping the city of Robertsport. Lake Piso is known for its scenic beauty as the Lake enters the Atlantic Ocean demarcating Robertsport and Sarwilor (a town west of Lake Piso). Due to the beauty of sand doom, migratory birds' species are often found around this site. It is also one of the nine proposed Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Liberia identified by SCNL and BirdLife International on the basis that it supports a significant assemblage of biome-restricted (Guinea-Congo forest biome) bird species (Fishpool & Evans, 2001).

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Several management plans have been put in place to maintain the ecological character of the Lake Piso wetland. These plans were put in place during field trip organized by bird international in 2006 and other organizations such as FACE, UNEP are:

- Awareness meetings in various communities around the site.
- Field visits by local environmental groups
- Formation of local action group called the Piso Conservation Forum PCF (which carried on regular monitoring of the mangrove swamps)
- Establishing alternative source of fuel wood
- Trial of alternative sources of livelihood (such as the honey production project.)
- Trial of various fish drying/smoking methods (UNDP built fish smoking structures, solar fish drier was provided, provision of energy efficient drier.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Some current management practises are seen in 27c above.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

In 2002, an MOU was signed between the Government of Liberia GOL and Conservation International (CI) for the conservation of Lake Piso. Other management plan put in place is that which was done during the field trip organized by Bird Life International on the Lake Piso region as seen in 27c above.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Three organizations, the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), and the Society Against Environmental Degradation (SAED) conducted a training funded by the Darwin Initiative through BirdLife International for nine (9) local persons from four Towns including Robertsports, Sembehum, Bendu and Latia around the Lake Piso Nature Reserve in Grand Cape Mount County. This training was done to build the capacity of individuals around Lake Piso who will serve their communities by creating awareness in their area of study on mammals, birds and Plants. The main objective of the training was to train, survey, collect and identify as well as help to update data on mammals, plants and birds species in the Lake Piso Nature Reserve.

PCF, SCNL, FACE, UNEP and the local authorities of Grand Cape Mount County and Robertsport City carried on an awareness and training workshop” held on July 15-18, 2006, to discuss the threats associated with the area. Other activities are seen in 23b above.

The 19 common tree species recorded in the region during FACE rapid biodiversity inventory is quite an interesting figure and which is a substantiated claims of high concentration of flora diversity in the area. This indicates that the site is rich in flora species some of which have great conservation values and are endemic.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors’ centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The World Wetland day was organized by CEPA, which brought together students, civil society, representatives from the Bureau of fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, SCNL and carried on a tour to messurado wetlands and also showed a power point presentation of Lake Piso. The presentation revealed the threats of Lake Piso, actions taken to help the situation and etc.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Lake Piso is known for its scenic beauty as the Lake enters the Atlantic Ocean demarcating Robertsport and Sarwilor (a town west of Lake Piso). Due to the beauty of sand doom, migratory birds' species are often found around this site. Presently, intense fishing and hunting of birds along the coastal line of Lake Piso and the Atlantic Ocean are at its high peak. Lake Piso's scenic beauty (e.g., lakelets, lagoons, river tributaries, mountain range, and waterfalls) plus the additional attraction of charismatic species close to Monrovia, make it a valuable recreational and tourism resource.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Gawulu- Tombe District in Grand Mount County, Robertsport/Monrovia. Liberia. Environmental Protection Agency is the Environmental Agency Responsible for the Wetland.

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency (ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

EPA is the responsible institution for the wetland through the focal point below:

Cecelia Kollie

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

4th Street Sinkor

Monrovia, Liberia

Cell #02316-832666

Email: cekollie@yahoo.com

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

- 1) A Survey Report and Economic Characteristics of the Lake Piso Region
 - 2) Report Prepared for the Project "Taking Biodiversity Conservation To the Proposed Lake Piso"
 - 3) 3rd Darwin National Training-Mammal Trainees report
 - 4) Report Prepared for the Liberia Forest Re-assessment Project" Addendum on the rapid Faunal surveys to
 - 5) Assess Biological Integrity of Forest Areas of Proposed Lake Piso
 - 6) Michele L. Thieme, Robin Abell, Melanie L.J. Stiassny, Paul Skelton, Bernhard Lehner, Guy G. Teugels, Eric Dinerstein, Andre Kamdem Toham, Neils Burgess and David Olson, 2005. Freshwater Ecoregions of Africa and Madagascar: A Conservation Assessment. World Wide Fund-United States.
-