

**Wetland Management in Ghana – The Impact of Human Activities on the Kpeshie  
Wetland, Greater Accra Region.**

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**ABSTRACT**

The sustainable development agenda has been promoted since the term was coined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987. Ghana has ratified several conventions relating to environmental responsibility and management in an effort to develop sustainably. The nation has gone further to pass the required laws to support this position. The consequences of several decades of degradation of the environment have been felt and have been found to have implication for socio-economic development. Bad practices interfere with optimizing the benefits (both tangible and intangible) of ecosystems. This is a challenge faced by the Kpeshie Wetland.

This study aimed at taking an inventory of shore-birds present in the Kpeshie wetland and to look at the human activities that impacted the wetland. The methodology involved ecological field studies, administration of structured questionnaires to the residents of La, a suburb of the Greater Accra Region, and interviews conducted at identified state agencies. The laws regulating the work of these agencies were studied in an attempt to identify limitations to management of wetlands. Individual shore-birds (1383) belonging to 31 species and 12 families were recorded. Their presence indicates the presence of other forms of biodiversity in the wetland. Their habitats are however threatened by reclamation for estate development and pollution. Residents interviewed showed some level of eagerness to support measures put in place to restore the integrity of the wetland.

Although Ghana showed some level of commitment to protecting her wetland, she is limited by the legalities which prevent control from being extended to wetlands contained within private property. It is recommended that an agency should be created solely for the management of wetlands and laws on resource management modified to capture wetlands privately owned. This is to allow management regimes to be put in place. The Accra Metropolitan Assembly must find

sustainable alternatives to the public toilet system and aggressively confront the issue of solid and liquid waste management.

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