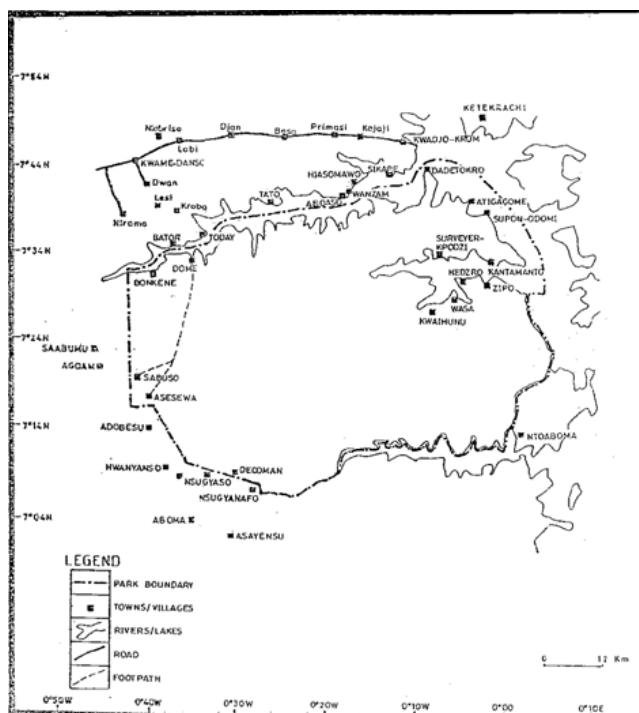


# DIGYA NATIONAL PARK

Map:



Source: 1995-2005 management plan

**Size of the PA:** 347 850 ha

**IUCN category:** II

**International label:** none

**Protected area's values**

Type of values	Protected area's values
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riparian forest</li> <li>• Boval and aquatic vegetation</li> <li>• Fish spawning grounds</li> <li>• Endangered species (Elephant, Manatee, Black and White colobus)</li> </ul>
Cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• royal mausoleum at Sabuso belonging to one of the Chiefs of Kumawu,</li> <li>• Apapasu shrine and the Kafimosia shrine for the people of Nsugyanafu</li> </ul>

**Main pressures**

- **Poaching** of antelopes for bush meat and elephants for ivory trade. The bush meat is smoked and sold in the cities far away from Digya. There is also over fishing activities by local people who use inadequate nets that trap every kind of fish even the small ones.
- **Illegal grazing** by Fulani cattle
- **Bush fires** initiated for hunting purposes
- **Logging** for fuel wood

## 1. Context : from where are we starting ?

### Legal status and date of establishment

Digya was gazetted as National Park in 1971 under the Wildlife Reserves Regulations, 1971 LI. 710.

**Land owner:** State

### Management institution

Wildlife Division department of the Forestry Commission is responsible for the management of Digya national park.

### On-going projects

No project has ever been implemented in Digya.

### Neighboring stakeholders

There is no private stakeholder or NGO settled around the park and local population density is quite low in this area.

### Protected area boundary demarcation

The uniqueness of the park also presents it with a problem of locating specific boundaries. Some parts of the boundaries are separated from the communities with water. Therefore it becomes difficult to give an accurate and specific line of demarcation between the park and the communities on the side of the river. The people become bitter in the sense that they are not allowed to fish within the whole length and breadth of the river. The communities along those areas of conflict are not allowed to set their nets beyond the middle line of the river. But in practice they overpass these rules. On the land, boundaries are demarcated thanks to Acacia trees but there is also illegal settlement of people on the East side of the PA.

### Protected area regulation

Regulation is detailed in the wildlife regulation but it is sometimes outdated (especially regarding to the sanction rates that are too low to dissuade offenders).

This regulation precise that hunting, animal or plant capture, fires and pollution are prohibited in the PA.

## 2. Planning : where do we want to be how will we get there ?

### Management plan objectives

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The management plan currently is under development mentions the following management objectives:

- To ensure the protection and maintenance of the physical, biological and aesthetic features of Digya National Park;
- To enhance the park's enormous potential for tourism based on its interesting features and Lake Facilities for recreation;
- Integrate the development of the park into that of the local communities to ensure co-operation and wider acceptance of the park values;
- Improve the welfare, morale and capabilities of staff.

### Protected area design

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The previous management plan proposed five management zones within and outside Digya National Park based on the character and distribution of the park's biophysical resources and the level of use that they could sustain. Where possible, natural features and road lines have been used to mark the boundaries of the various zones for easy orientation by both GWD staff and the local people.

- Protected zone: the aims in these areas are to protect the natural qualities of the sites, to provide appropriate opportunities for propagation of the manatee and places for fish spawning. Law enforcement will be intensified. Squatter farmers and fishermen will be evacuated. Tourism activities will be developed.
- Multi use zone: the main objective in this zone is the sustained production of wild resources. Law enforcement will be intensified. Fire regime will be implemented to avoid late burning. Game viewing activities will be developed.
- Wilderness zone: this area is dedicated to serve as a buffer to the southern end of the protected zone, to provide adequate protection to the riparian forest and its associated fauna, and to provide facilities for visitors to be able to experience the Wilderness.
- Development zone will be used to provide administration and visitor support services in the Park.
- Game management area (GMA) outside the PA. The concept of the GMAs is to integrate the management of the Park into the surrounding areas by devolving authority for the wildlife in these areas to the local communities. The GMAs will also provide an effective network of buffer zones.



## 4. Management processes: how do we go about it ?

### Natural resource management

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There is no fire management activity or other kind of natural resources management. Ecological monitoring is performed during the law enforcement patrols and data are analyzed thanks to Hugo method.

### Law enforcement

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84 people are in charge of law enforcement but some of them remain too old to be efficient on the field. 13 permanent camps are settled along the PA boundary. Law enforcement staff has made 26 arrests in 2011. Collaboration with the district policy and justice seems to be adequate. As no road are available within the park all patrols are performed by foot what consequently minimize the area of surveillance covered.

### Resource inventory

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Some inventories have been carried out in the past but they are outdated (inventory of birds and butterflies in the 1990s) or focused on one species (inventories on elephants in 1995 and in 2005). But park manager highlighted that there is no data available on manatees and on migratory birds on this wetlands PA.

### Management of staff

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Law enforcement staff is well trained thanks to the annual training of the Mobile Training Unit of wildlife Division.

Even though there has been some improvement in the last couple of years, camp accommodation continues to be a major problem facing staff.

Uniforms and other accoutrements for staff are most of the time in short supply. Fire arms for anti-poaching patrols are not adequate for effective anti-poaching operations.

### Management of budget

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The annual budget is not sufficient as it only covers the maintenance and current management costs (fuel, etc.).

### Infrastructure and equipment

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The head office of the PA is located in the nearest city (2 hours drive from the PA). Many base camps exist in the PA but most of them are in bad conditions. However some of them have already been renovated.

Equipment is very poor: no GPS and no communication tools \_VHS radio\_ available. But the PA should soon benefit from a speed boat that will facilitate the law enforcement activities.

There is no road within the park.

### Education and awareness

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There is no proper education and awareness activity but park staff organized some meetings with chiefs and district assembly representatives of surrounding villages to explain why it is important to conserve the PA.

### Interactions with the users of the surrounding land (public and private stakeholders)

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There is no private society settled around the park. Communication exists between PA staff

and local communities and relationships are quite good still many offences are done within the PA.

### **Role of communities regarding to management decisions of the PA**

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Communities don't have any role in PA management decision at the moment. The advisory board mentioned in the 1995-2005 MP doesn't exist yet.

### **Tourism**

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There is tourism activity in the PA at the moment.

## **5. Outputs: what did we do and what products and services were produced ?**

### **Visitor facilities**

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There is no visitor facility within or close to the PA. Moreover road access to PA is in bad condition but improving access by boat could be an alternative to promote tourism visits.

### **Fees and taxes**

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All entrance fees and taxes fees are transferred to Wildlife Division headquarter.

### **Condition of values**

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As there is no recent data available (except on elephants – survey conducted in 2005), condition of values is unknown. It seems that some manatees remain as some of them are caught by fishermen's nets but no one knows if this population is still viable. Data on specific wetlands species are sorely lacking.

### **Access control**

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Control of access of the PA is very low because there are virtually no roads within the park. This makes patrolling very difficult. The reserve can be reached from Atebubu by a second-class road to Kwame Danso, then by a third class road from Kwame Danso to Akyeremade Bator on the shores of the Sene River. The base camp at Dome is then reached by crossing the river by canoe. A tractor road can reach the southern part of the park from Atebubu to Saabuso. This river becomes flooded during the rainy season making that part of the park inaccessible. The southern and Kwahu parts of the park are inaccessible from the park headquarters. Those sections can be reached through Kumasi and Nkawkaw.

### **Economic benefits for communities**

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Communities don't benefit from any direct income from the PA (no resources harvesting \_unless they perform it illegally\_, and ecotourism activities are not developed yet). They only benefit from employment of staff coming from surrounding villages.