



the water quality of the lake, the quantity of fish caught and could also affect the health of community members. Some of these activities occur along the banks of the lake and they include;

- The use of agro-chemicals for farming
- Rearing of pigs
- Dumping of refuse
- Defecating by people along the lake
- Washing of clothing and cooking utensils with soap and other detergents close and in the lake
- Burning of vegetation and cutting/ felling trees along the banks of the lake resulting in erosion
- Bathing with soap in the lake

What Communities Can Do To Protect The Lake

- Plant trees along the lake to control erosion
- Farmers should employ contour planting techniques on hills to control erosion
- Avoid the use of agro-chemicals by planting

crops such as groundnut, cowpea, soyabean.

- Avoid bush burning and felling of trees that are planted along the banks of the lake
- Avoid washing and bathing with soap and other detergents in and close to the lake
- Avoid the use of small-sized nets as well as mosquito nets for fishing
- Stones and sandbags should be used to check erosion
- Chiefs must enforce existing community bye-laws

WATER IS PRECIOUS; SAVE IT!

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LAKE BOSOMTWE

WHAT COMMUNITIES MUST KNOW



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH-GHANA

This leaflet seeks to raise awareness on Lake Bosomtwe



the communities surrounding Lake Bosomtwe on its importance and the need to make conscious efforts to manage it in a sustainable way.

What Communities Must Know

Water exists in three states (Liquid, solid and gas) and it covers more than 70% of the earth's surface. Freshwater distribution in rivers, lakes, ice caps and

groundwater etc in the world is known to be 2.59% and the remaining 97.41% being salt water in oceans and seas. The following are some basic facts about Lake Bosomtwe:

- Lake Bosomtwe is a freshwater lake
- Lake Bosomtwe is the only natural freshwater lake of significant size in Ghana
- The surface area of Lake Bosomtwe is about 49 km²
- No river flows out of the lake.
- The lake has an average depth of about 45 m and a diameter of 8 km.

Importance Of Lake Bosomtwe

Water is very important to a developing economy like Ghana and without water there will be no life. Lake Bosomtwe serves several important functions and there is the need to make conscious efforts to conserve it. Among the various functions of the lake

are:

- Water for Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Flood control
- Drinking water
- Transport
- Tourism
- Recreation/Swimming

Introduction

Water bodies in Ghana are being polluted at an alarming rate. If the problem is not addressed soon, health problems such as cholera will become much worse in the near future. Water scarcity is another major problem already being faced by many societies and, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), is set to become one of the most critical problems facing the world in the 21st century.

Communities can only play active roles in the management of water bodies when they understand the importance of water to their daily existence and to national development. It is hoped that this leaflet on water will enhance the knowledge of people in



Practices That Affect The Lake Negatively

There are several bad practices going on around the lake which affects the lake negatively. If these activities are not checked they will continue to affect