



# Africa's Lakes

## Songor Lagoon, Ghana

Songor Lagoon is one of the major lagoon systems, associated with the Volta river estuary, with a surface area of about 115 km<sup>2</sup> (44 square miles). These two images show a conspicuous reduction in the surface area of Songor Lagoon—and the environmental health of the wider region. The deep blue open-water area is dramatically reduced in the 2000 image with large

areas of bare ground exposed. Although some of these changes may reflect seasonal or annual rainfall variability, closer analysis indicates a more permanent and significant decline in the lagoon's surface area. The two main reasons for this appear to be salt extraction at the western end of the lagoon and diversion of feeder streams for irrigation.