INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

1.- Country: Spain

2.- Date: April 1992

3.- Ref.: 7ES008

4.- Name and address of compiler:
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5.- Name of wetland: S'Albufera de Mallorca (Natural Park).

6.- Date of Ramsar designation: 5.December.1989

7.- Geographical coordinates: 39º47'36''N  3º6'26''E. U.T.M. EE090040

8.- General location: Mallorca Island. Municipalities of Muro and Sa Pobla.

9.- Area:
   Wetland: 1.800 Has.
   Natural Park: 1.708 Has.
   Special Interest Natural Area: 1.900 Has.

10. Wetland Type: Coastal wetland (11): freshwater lagoons and marshes.

11.- Altitude:
    Average 0 m.Range 9'9m to -1 m.

12.- Overview:
    A littoral sand dune bar separates the sea from a highly
    sedimented coastal marsh which is very densely covered by
    emergent macrophytes and drained by canals and irrigation
    channels, remaining from older agricultural activity, now
    abandoned.

13.- Physical features:
    This alluvial, argillaceous and muddy zone, is isolated
    from the sea by a very recent sand bar of inter-glacial origin.
    S'Albufera took its shape during the Riss glaciation (above the
    miocenic sedimentary basin). Hydromorphic soils, scarcely
    developed.
    20 - 40 Hm³/year drain into the Albufera, half of this is
    surface runoff and the remaining half derives from phreatic
    groundwater. The catcment covers 654'5 km².
    Mediterranean climate. Average rainfall 712 mm. Average
    temperature 18° C.
14.- Ecological features:
Submerged macrophytes in lagoons and canals. Well developed reedbeds and Cladium mariscus beds, are dominant reaching high density and covering extensive areas. Rushes and Salicornia beds also occur. Riparian woods and tamarisc scrub, quite reduced.

15.- Land tenure / ownership of:
a) site: 80 % are Public properties (State, regional and municipal). Remaining 20 % are private.
b) surrounding area: private

16.- Conservation measures taken:
Natural Park (Decree dated 28.1.1988)
Hunting sanctuary (refuge) (Decree dated 20.5.86)
Special Interest Natural Area: Law 1/91 Balearic Parliament.
Bird Special Protection Area (EEC)

17.- Conservation measures proposed but yet not implemented:
Some parts of the Management Plan have not yet been developed.

18.- Current land use: principal human activities in:
a) site: Conservation. Eco-tourism. Limited fishing under control measures.
b) surroundings/catchments: Agricultural practices inland. Touristic uses on the coast.

19.- Disturbances / threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:
a) at the site: None.

20. Hydrological and physical values:
S'albufera works as an important hydraulic cushion, preventing saline groundwater intrusion in the whole region.

21.- Social and cultural values:
Very important for eco-tourism.
Traditional uses: eel fishing and natural fibers (Typha and Arundo) collecting.

22.- Noteworthy fauna:
Wintering anatidae and coots: nearly 7,000 birds.
Nesting species: Tachybaptus ruficollis (+ 150 pairs), Ixobrychus minutus (+ 50 pairs), Botaurus stellaris (2 pairs), Ardea purpurea (30-50 pairs), Himantopus himantopus (100 pairs), Acrocephalus (Luscinia) melanopogon (500 - 1.000 pairs), Circus aeruginosus (9 pairs), etc. Regularly, is being registered Pandion haliaetus and in summer Falco eleonorae.

23.- Noteworthy flora:
Dunes: Juniperus oxycedrus macrocarpa, Thymedae velutina,
Ophrys sps., Orchis sps.
Marsh: Orchis palustris.

24.- **Current scientific research and facilities:**
- Ornithological monitoring
- Ecological monitoring by Earth-Watch
  The "Casa del Parc" building is being used as a residence and working area for scientific teams.

25.- **Current conservation education:**
- Visitors centre with interpretative exhibition.
- 5 birdwatching hides.
- School visits (5,000 students per year).

26.- **Current recreation and tourism:**
- Seaside and recreative tourism in the beach.
- Eco-tourism in spring and summer.

27.- **Management authority:**
- Conselleria d'Agricultura i Pesca.SECONA.
  c/ Foners 10.07006 Palma de Mallorca.
  tel. (9) 71 176100

28.- **Jurisdiction:**
Territorial: Regional Government. Comunidad Autonoma de las Islas Baleares - Comunidad Autonoma de les Illes Balears (CAIB).

  Functional: Conselleria d'Agricultura i Pesca.

29.- **Bibliographical references:**
- Estudio ecologico de S'Albufera de Mallorca.Universitat de les Illes Balears.
- Pla d'Us i Gestio de S'Albufera.SECONA, 1990.

30.- **Reasons for inclusion:**
- 1c / 2b and 3b
  Criterios 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3c for H. himantopus (Regina 1987).

31.- **Map of the site:**
- OK: 1/25.000
- 1/50.000