

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

1.- **Country:** Spain

2.- **Date:** April 1992

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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:**

39°47'36''N 3°6'26''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 18⁰ 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)

Management Plan launched in July 1989.

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.

b) in the surrounding/catchment: Excessive growth in tourism. Aquifer overexploitation. Pesticide and fertiliser inputs.

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 (Luscinola) melanopogon* (500 - 1.000 pairs), *Circus aeruginosus* (9 pairs), etc. Regularly, is being registered *Pandion haliaetus* and in summer *Falco eleonora*.

23.- Noteworthy flora:

Dunes: *Juniperus oxycedrus macrocarpa*, *Thymedaea 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.
- A monitoring program for S'Albufera.U.C.L. London 1990.
- Pla d'Us i Gestio de S'Albufera.SECONA, 1990.
- Guia de passeig de S'Albufera.1991.(English version available).

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