

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

1.- **Country:** Spain.

2.- **Date:**

3.- **Ref.:** 7ES009

4.- **Name and address of compiler:**

Dirección General de Montes, Caza y Pesca
Consejería de Agricultura
Junta de Comunidades de Castilla la Mancha
c/ Duque de Lerma 3
TOLEDO

5.- **Name of wetland:**

Laguna de la Vega o del Pueblo

6.- **Date of Ramsar Designation:**

5 December 1989

7.- **Geographical coordinates:**

39° 24' 40'' N and 0° 44' 30'' E

8.- **General location:**

Pedro Muñoz Municipality. Province of Ciudad Real.

9.- **Area:**

34 Has.

10.- **Wetland type:**

R.W.

11.- **Altitude:**

654 meters.

12.- **Overview:**

This is a steppe lagoon, endorreic in origin and situated on the edge of the upper catchment of the Zancara, a stream flowing to Guadiana river.

13.- **Physical features:**

Kidney shaped, its dimensions are roughly 1.000 m long and 600 m wide. Its average depth is 0'50 m. The lake bottom still contains a number of crevices, nearly 2 m deep, resulting from former gypsum mining.

HYDROLOGY: Semi-permanent lagoon located on the northern edge of a major aquifer, known as the system 23.

CLIMATE: Extremely continental. Hot summers and very cold winters. Maximum temperatures of 44 ° C are commonly registered, as well as minimum ones of -14° C. Average rainfall is less than 400 mm.

14.- **Ecological features:**

This is a lacustrine ecosystem where the organic material is abundant. Macrophytes surround the lagoon, and include reed

beds (short sized) as the most abundant species, followed by "castanuela" (*Scirpus sp.*). The banks are carpeted by grasses with small beds of rush (*Juncus sp.*).

15.- Land tenure/ownership of:

a) the site: The territory where the lagoon is located is owned by the Regional Government (Junta de Comunidades de Castilla la Mancha).

b) surrounding area: Small properties belonging to many private individual.

16.- Conservation measures taken:

Declared Hunting Refuge by the the Regional Government Decree 65/1988, dated 17 May.

A Public Use Plan is being implemented.

17.- Conservation measures proposed, but not yet implemented:

A fence is surrounding the perimeter. Visitors are limited. Hunting is forbidden.

18.- Current land use: principal human activities in:

a) site: Those related to aquatic habitat restoration.

b) surrounding/catchment: Traditional agricultural practices, vineyards, olives and unirrigated cereal crops.

19.- Disturbances/threats, including changes in the land use and major development projects:

a) at the site: Nearly 35 % of the waste waters from Pedro Muñoz drain into the lagoon, implying a negative ecological impact. There is a danger of botulism. A purifying plant could be installed in the future.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

20.- Hydrological and physical values:

It is located on the edge of the most important aquifer of the region, the so called System 23. Under natural conditions, its waters were hyper-saline in character, but today this has been modified by urban wastewaters supplied by Pedro Munoz. Nearby is the river Zancara, that flows to Guadiana river through Ciguela. The lagoon remains isolated from the fluvial system.

21.- Social and cultural values:

Under natural conditions, this lagoon, in common with other steppe lagoons in La Mancha, dried up every summer. Today, because of urban supplies, it remains wet, except in times of drought.

22.- Noteworthy fauna:

In recent years, different censuses have shown that at least 23 species of aquatic birds breed here. Hence, the ornithological importance of the site. Important nesting species are: black-necked grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), black

winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), as well as a number of anatidae.

It is also an important winter refuge for waterbirds, with high concentrations of Anatidae and coots.

23.- Noteworthy flora:

Vegetation is basically halophyllic, as usual in these hypersaline lagoons. The lagoon bottom is covered by species forming the community *Charetum conniventis*. In flooded areas, beds of macrophytes occur, especially *Phragmites australis* and *Scirpus maritimum*.

24.- Current scientific research and facilities:

Annual censuses of nesting and wintering waterbirds.
Restoration of original botanic communities.

25.- Current conservation education:

The Waterbird Refuge is completely fenced. The observatory holds 12 people with a good sight over the whole lagoon. Visitors are restricted. A booklet with a summary of La Mancha Lagoons, is available.

26.- Current recreation and tourism:

Visitors are under control and so that, long-term adverse impacts on natural resources, are avoided.

27.- Management authority:

Delegacion Provincial de la Consejeria de Agricultura en Ciudad Real.
c/ Alarcos 21.
Ciudad Real. (Tel. 926 213740).

28.- Jurisdiction:

Direccion General de Montes, Caza y Pesca
Consejeria de Agricultura.
Junta de Comunidades de Castilla La Mancha.

29.- Bibliographical references:

30.- Reasons for inclusion:

1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2c, 2d and 3b.

31.- Map of the site:

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