

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

1.- Country:

Spain.

2.- Date:

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3.- Ref.:

7ES022

4.- Name and address of compiler:

Dirección General de Montes, Caza y Pesca.
Consejería de Agricultura de la Junta de Comunidades de
Castilla la Mancha.
c/ Duque de Lerma 3. 45004 Toledo.

5.- Name of wetland:

Laguna del Prado.

6.- Date of Ramsar designation:

26-03-1993

7.- Geographical coordinates:

38°55'13''N; 3°49'58''W

8.- General location:

Pozuelo de Calatrava Municipality (Ciudad Real).

9.- Area:

51'55 Has.

10.- Wetland type:

R.W.

11.- Altitude:

640 m above sea level.

12.- Overview:

This is an enclosed drainage lagoon, with very saline waters. It is on the edge of Jabalón basin, flowing to Guadiana river.

13.- Physical features:

With an oval shape, the lagoon measurements are about 1.000 m length and 600-700 m width. Average depth is 0'50 m. There was a gypsum mine in past times.

HYDROLOGY: It is located in an enclosed drainage basin without run-off to surrounding areas. It belongs to Jabalón basin.

CLIMATE: Extremely hard. Maximum registered temperature is 45° C and the lower minimum is -14° C. Average rainfall is about 400 mm.

14.- Ecological features:

This is a lacustrine ecosystem and its waters are rich in organic matter. The banks have a typically halophyllic

vegetation and an old *Pinus halepensis* plantation in the western bank is very typical. *Phragmites communis*, *Scirpus maritimus* and *Tamarix gallica* were successfully planted.

15.- Land tenure/ownership of:

a) site: The Regional Government (Junta de Comunidades de Castilla La Mancha), purchased in 1987 the lagoon area (51'55 Has.).

b) surrounding area: Small properties belonging to many owners.

16.- Conservation measures taken:

The site was declared Hunting Refuge (Refugio de Caza) by the Regional Government Decree 65/1988, dated on 17 May.

17.- Conservation measures taken but not yet implemented:

A fence is surrounding the site. Visitors are under control. A Public Use Plan is being implemented. Hunting is forbidden.

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

a) site: Aquatic habitat restoration activities.

b) surroundings/catchment

Traditional agriculture: vineyards, olive trees and unirrigated cereals.

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

a) at the site: Several private owners filled with rubble some parts of the lagoon. Very recently this impact has been eliminated by purchasing these properties.

b) in the surrounding/catchment.

The fence surrounding the site has been very useful, since predation by dogs and disturbances by livestock on waterbird nests, have been controlled.

There is a risk of pollution by wastewater pouring into the lagoon from the near village.

20.- Hydrological and physical values:

Groundwater in depression of evaporites (***?) is producing a collapse and gives rise to a beach-shaped basin.

This is an enclosed drainage basin without run-off inputs.

In past times, there was a gypsum exploitation in the area. The land is very compacted and very affected by siltation through natural evolutive serials processes, increased by the unprotection of banks.

21.- Social and cultural values:

There is not fish production.

22.- Noteworthy fauna:

In recent years the following colonial waterbirds bred in the site: *Himantopus himantopus* (70-75 pairs in 1988), *Recurvirostra avosetta* (40 pairs in 1988), *Charadrius alexandrinus* (20 pairs in 1988), *Sterna albifrons* (2 pairs). Acceptable results in wintering waterbird censuses.

23.- Noteworthy flora:

There is an interesting halphyllic plant community. In lagoon bottoms *Charetum conniventis* combines with *Ruppia drepanensis*. In flooding areas appears *Scirpus maritimus*. In the edges there is an association of plants with *Suaeda splendidis* -*Salicornietum ramosissimae* (*Suaeda splendens*, *Salicornia ramosissima*, *Spergularia marina*, *Sphenopus divaricatus*, etc), forming ribbons about 20-25 m width in the wet banks.

24.- Current scientific research and facilities:

Nesting and wintering waterbird censuses are carried out yearly.

The restoration of the original plant communities is being performed.

25.- Current conservation education: The waterbird refuge is totally fenced. A hide for 12 birdwatchers is available. A divulgative brochure about the site is also available.

26.- Current recreation and tourism:

Visitor aims are educating. There are not touristic facilities at the site. Negative impacts due to visitors have not been registered.

27.- Management authority:

Delegación Provincial de la Consejería de Agricultura en Ciudad Real.

c/ Alarcos 21 Ciudad Real. Tel. (9) 26 213740.

28.- Jurisdiction:

Dirección General de Montes, Caza y Pesca
Consejería de Agricultura de la Junta de Comunidades de Castilla la Mancha.

29.- Bibliographic references:

30.- Reasons for inclusion:

1 a, 1 b, 1 c.

2 a, 2 c, 2 d.

3 b.

31.- Map of the site:

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