

From document compiled by ICONA, Madrid, Sept. 1994

TRANSLATION FROM ORIGINAL SPANISH TEXT (29 Nov 1994, BY DAVE FAWCETT)

[Square brackets indicate translator's notes. The direct translations of Spanish common names may not always equal the common name used in English. I have left the translation in quotation marks ("") where I felt that this may be the case. Spanish common names etc. that I could not translate have been left in italics.

~ Indicates text is present in the original but has not yet been translated.]

[Site ref:7ES031]

ALBUFERA DE ADRA

1. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

~not yet translated

2. CLIMATOLOGY

~not yet translated

3. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

~not yet translated

4. HYDROLOGY

~not yet translated

5. VEGETATION

Each lagoon of the Albufera de Adra is unique in some morphological characteristics and its chemical composition; for these reasons they each have more or less distinct macrophyte flora.

Albufera Nueva In this lagoon the number of macrophytes is considerably enriched.

The predominant helophytes on the shore of the lagoon *Phragmites australis*, *Arundo donax*, *Typha angustifolia*, *Scirpus litoral* & *Scirpus maritimus*. *T. latifolia* is the species which forms large patches of vegetation in the most peripheral part of the lagoons.

The hydrophytic vegetation observed is predominantly composed of *Naja marina*.

Albufera Honda. This lagoon has some slightly different characteristics to the Albufera Nueva, such as its lesser quantity of nutrients and chlorides [i.e. salts]. Its macrophyte vegetation is more rich than the Nueva, and in addition to the species given above for the Nueva, there is the presence of some plants which are not strictly aquatic, which spread into the reedbeds frequently, such as *Coniza bonariensis*. The presence of the ciperacea *Cladium mariscus* in its waters is noteworthy.

The truly hydrophytic vegetation which is present is currently dying back greatly.

6. FAUNA

~not yet translated

7. LAND USE

The area where the wetland is designated is the area of sedimentation of the delta of the río Adra. The most important traditional use which has been made, is irrigated cultivation.

Although from the 1930s the endorrheic complex of the lagoons ceased to form structurally, gaining nearly 200 ha from the sea, it was in 1954 when a grant was obtained to make agricultural use of area of invasion. It is at that time when large-scale exploitation began of the area for farmland, with mainly the crops under plastic being those of a more intensive form which are going to make use of the *humid terrain* [or perhaps= "wetland"], with the consequent loss of vegetation cover and the water sheet of the original area.

Fishing and hunting have also been traditional uses. Currently all type of activity, except those of a scientific or educational nature, is prohibited on the Albuferas Integrated Reserve.

8. LAND OWNERSHIP

~not yet translated

9. FORM OF PROTECTION

In the Subsidiary Regulations of the Municipal Area of Adra, the lagoons are classified as "Special Protection Area". In the same way, in the Environmental Protection Plan of the Province of Almería (Public Works Council) the locality is included in the group "Well Conserved Wetlands".

The Environment Agency of the Junta [autonomous government] of Andalucía, through the Law 2/89 of 18 July 1989 (B.O.J.A. of 23 August 1989), declared the area a Nature Reserve.

The management plans of the reserve are directed principally at scientific use of the area and the restoration of the original values of the area. For this in general terms, the following actions are being carried out:

- work to create observatories for scientific use
- getting into research work, such as analysis of water and monitoring the populations of aquatic birds, with the aim that this will direct the management of the protected area
- wardening [i.e. vigilance to protect the reserve] has been set up to enforce the regulations dictated for the reserve
- there are containers [bins] to collect expired phytosanitary products [perhaps from pollutant absorbing water plants] and packaging [cans etc. i.e. rubbish] from the cultivated [developed] areas at the edge of the reserve.
- the fence outside one of the lagoon has been started with the aim of impeding the environmental impact produced by adjacent cultivated [developed] areas
- currently starting with the cleaning-up of agricultural residues and the regeneration of marshland vegetation throughout the reserve
- it is intended, in an unspecified time, to negotiate the purchase of farmland which formed part of the original marshland, for its restoration

10. CRITERIA OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

10.1. Ornithological criteria

In general, the ornithological importance of the area lies in its being a wintering site for certain migratory and non-migratory waterbirds. Nevertheless for the white-headed duck *Oxyura leucophala*, the value lies as much in its nesting on the lagoons in recent years as in the wintering period, and it is that which meets a Ramsar criterion for International Importance.

Also outstanding is the presence of *Marmaronetta angustirostris* as a passage migrant on the lagoons.

10.2. Other criteria

The existence on the reserve of the species *Aphanius iberus*, with significant populations around the lagoons a high importance, since this fish is endemic to the Iberian peninsula and is currently in danger of extinction.

10.3. Botanical criteria

The Albuferas de Adra, to apply botanical wetlands criteria, are counted amongst the marshlands of national importance for the vegetation associated with this environment.

Designated through the value of its hydrophytic and heliophytic flora.