

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:** 17 February 1995

2. **Country:** PARAGUAY

3. **Name of wetland:** Parque Nacional Ypoá

4. **Geographical coordinates:**

26°30'S

57°33'W

5. **Altitude:** 150 metres above sea level

6. **Area:** 100,000 hectares

7. **Overview:**

An area of marshes and ponds among woodlands, grasslands, rocky outcroppings and several interconnected lakes. There are also mangroves, lakes and riparian vegetation.

8. **Wetland type:**

9. **Ramsar criteria:**

10. **Map of site included? Please tick yes -or- no**

11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

Centro de Datos para la Conservación
Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page:**

13. **General location:**

This park is found in the Oriental region of Paraguay in the departments of Central, Itapúa, Embucú and Paraguari in the districts of Caapucú, San Roque González de Santacruz, Villa Oliva and Quiindy near the city of Quiindy.

14. **Physical features:**

This area forms part of a sump that is flooded during most of the year. The topographic features and several hills are created by Precambrian outcroppings. The soil is hydromorphic, a latosol containing reddish-yellow sand. The soil is of organic origin which facilitates the growth of vegetation in the region. In the flooded areas, there are black-clay soils and various types of rocks, but reddish to grey quartz-rhyolite predominates, with a porphyritic rock characterized by pink quartzitic feldspars with other rocks intruding in the porphyritic rhyolite as dikes and as small stocks. They are of dacitic composition consisting of fine crystals of quartz, plagioclase and feldspars in a aphanitic grey mass. Fine lutite and sand sediments surface in some areas of the reserve. Lake Ypoá is a shallow body of water with several islands. The average depth of the water in the swamps is 35 centimetres with an average annual precipitation of 1450 mm and an average annual potential evapotranspiration rate of 1200 mm.

15. Hydrological values:

The Ypoá lake basin is almost 150 kilometres long by 40 kilometres wide drained by the Río Tebicuary, a tributary of the Río Paraguay through the Río Negro. No agreement has been reached on the use of water. The extent to which the basin is flooded will determine the flow of water through the tributaries of the Río Paraguay and the Ypoá, Cabral and Vera lakes. The river basins begin in large areas of mangroves growing on subsurface rises, without defined canals on the upper courses. Only in the lower reaches are channels well defined.

Lake Ypoá is a body of permanent water (28 square kilometres) and a basin of 302 square kilometres including the lake. There is no technical data available on this area.

16. Ecological features:

This area forms excellent habitats for wildlife and is considered as one of the most important aquatic environments in the country. There are large swamps and ponds alternating with woodlands in water-logged soil, streams, semi-deciduous forests, island groves, gallery forests, natural grasslands and rocky outcroppings. Several of the lakes are joined together.

17. Noteworthy flora:

Among the threatened species of plants are *Cedrela fissilis*, *Tabebuia heptahylla*, *Enterolobium contortisiliquum*, *Holocalyx balansae* and *Peltophorum dubium*. The most important species found in the swamps and ponds are *Cyperus gingantum*, *Ludwigia* spp., *Erythrina crista-galli*, *Thalia geniculata*, and *Ipomea carnea* ssp.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

This is an important habitat for the *guasupucu* (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), *lobopé* (*Lutra longicaudis*), *arirai* (*Pteronura brasiliensis paranensis*), *jacu jhu* (*Penelope obscura*), broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), *ñandu* (*Rhea americana*), *Rhynchotus rufescens*, *Polyborus plancus*, *Celeus lugubris*, *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*, *Ozotoceros bezoarticus*, *Aloatta caraya*, *Eira barbara*, all requiring conservation measures. In addition, this is an important flyway for migratory birds such as the *Pandion haliaetus*, *Ictinia mississippiensis* and others.

19. Social and cultural values:

Human occupation is very old in this region and there are the remains of activities and settlements of primitive inhabitants. The Mbyá Guaraní ethnic group has been in this area since before the Spanish colonization. There are tipples of mollusc shells of primarily *Ampullaria* and *Diplodonson* (called sambaquíes) eaten by the original inhabitants 9,000 years before the present in Brazil. There are also bones of ancient fauna. The Ñeembucu region is one of the areas of most intense ranching in the country.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

Most of this area and the surrounding land is private property.

21. Current land use:

The cutting of trees and ranching are the two principal activities inside the park. In the surrounding area, there is extensive ranching, subsistence hunting, agriculture and tourism.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

Within the park, there are farmers who wish to drain part of the wetland for growing rice. Uncontrolled tourism can greatly affect the area. Urbanization and an increase in ranching can also negatively affect this area.

23. Conservation measures taken:

This area was just recently made a national park and there is not yet an administrative framework. There is no management or operational plan.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Several activities have been initiated in order to establish an institutional presence, but no conclusive results have been obtained.

25. Current scientific research and facilities:

"Contribución al Conocimiento de la Avifauna del Lago Ypoá y Regiones Adyacentes del Departamento Paraguari, Republica del Paraguay, 1986."

"Evaluación Ecológica Rápida del Area Lago Ypoá en el Marco del Proyecto Areas Prioritarias para la Conservación en la Región Oriental del Paraguay, 1986."

26. Current conservation education:

None

27. Current recreation and tourism:

There are tourist activities in this region, but they are not coordinated with the government. This area has a large tourist and recreational potential.

28. Jurisdiction:

Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre
Subsecretaría de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

29. Management authority:

Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

30. Bibliographical references: