Colombia

9 Ramsar Site(s) covering 760,340 ha

Complejo de Humedales de la Estrella Fluvial Inírida (EFI)

Site number: 2,217  |  Country: Colombia  |  Administrative region: Guainía
Area: 250,158.9 ha  |  Coordinates: 03°49'18"N 67°51'29"W  |  Designation dates: 08-07-2014

This Ramsar Site is located in the Orinoco – Amazon transition zone. It comprises the confluence zones of the rivers Inírida- Guaviare, Guaviare-Atabapo and Guaviare-Ventuari which join the Orinoco River. This is a unique area as its flooded forests belong to the Amazon biome while its ‘whitewater’, ‘blackwater’ and ‘clearwater’ hydrological ecosystems are characteristic of the Orinoco River. Because of its unique location, the Site supports numerous species. Among these are threatened or endangered species such as the military macaw (Ara militaris), the giant otter (Pteronura brasiliensis) and the giant anteater (Myrmecophaga tridactyla) as well as endemic species of the Orinoco basin such as Sorubim lima, Pseudoplatystoma metaense and P. orinocoense among others. It is also supports 476 fish species (50% of the fish species of the Orinoco Basin and 34% of the country's species), 200 species of mammals, 903 of plants and 324 species of birds. The Site also has important cultural values for the indigenous communities that live there and depend on it for their livelihoods. The threats to the Site include gold mining and the increase in the extent of land used for agriculture.

Complejo de Humedales del Alto Rio Cauca Asociado a la Laguna de Sonso

Site number: 2,403  |  Country: Colombia  |  Administrative region: Departamento del Valle del Cauca
Area: 5,525 ha  |  Coordinates: 03°55'52"N 76°19'49"W  |  Designation dates: 14-02-2017

Consists of 24 wetlands. It is of great national and international importance because of its biological diversity. Thirty-nine plant species are identified, 25 of them on the IUCN Red List, and 162 bird species including the horned screamer (Anhima cornuta) whose populations are found only in Sonso and in the Cienaga del Conchal, also in Colombia. The Site presents a high level of endemism with five endemic fish species; the boquiancha (Genycharax tarpon); the roño (Callichthys fabricii); the micudo (Pimelodella macrocephala); and two sardines (Hyphessobrycon poeciloides and (Gephyrocharax caucanus). The complex has outstanding ecological values due to its landscape, its biodiversity, and its considerable tourism and recreational potential. It is a source of food and water for the locals, while also providing educational opportunities through an environmental education and research centre. Threats include the growth of the population and the increase in the extent of land used for agriculture, especially sugar cane cultivation.
Complejo de humedales Lagos de Tarapoto
Site number: 2,336 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Municipios de Puerto Nariño y Leticia, departamento del Amazonas
Area: 45,464 ha | Coordinates: 03°46′35″S 70°32′23″W | Designation dates: 28-09-2017
View Site details in RSIS

The Site, located on the River Amazon in the far south of the country, consists of several lakes interconnected by rivers and creeks. The Lakes of Tarapoto sustain plant and animal species including the ceiba tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), 136 species of fish including the largest known freshwater fish, the pirarucu (*Arapaima gigas*), and more than 153 bird species. Grey and pink dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*) use the Site as a habitat to teach their calves to fish. It also hosts threatened mammals such as the tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), the giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*), the Amazonian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*). This great biodiversity, and in particular the fish resources, supports the 22 indigenous communities of the TICOYA (Ticuna, Cocama and Yagua) indigenous reservation. The ecosystem also provides important functions such as flood and erosion control, waterways for transportation, recreation and tourism. The designation of the Lagos de Tarapoto Wetlands Complex as a Wetland of International Importance was achieved after a consultation process was completed and indigenous, national and regional authorities agreed to protect the Site.

Complejo de Humedales Laguna del Otún
Site number: 1,781 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Risaralda
Area: 6,579 ha | Coordinates: 04°45′N 75°25′W | Designation dates: 25-06-2008
View Site details in RSIS

Complejo de Humedales Laguna del Otún. 25/06/08; Risaralda; 6,579 ha; 04°45′N 075°25′W. National Park. A complex of wetlands located within the Los Nevados National Natural Park in the Central Andes of Colombia. It includes lagoons, swamps, peatlands interconnected or functionally related with one another and influenced by glaciers and páramo vegetation. The site is home to 52 species of birds, of which the most vulnerable are the aquatic species *Oxyura jamaicensis andina* and *Podiceps occipitalis juninensis*, with reduced populations and very localized distribution in Colombia this makes them more susceptible to the degradation of their habitats, generated mainly by agricultural and livestock expansion. Other endangered bird species include Vultur gryphus, Hapalopsittaca fuertesi and Ognorhynchus icteriotes. Among the important flora species found in the site are *Espeletia hartwegiana centroandina*, *Podocarpus oleifolius* and *Polylepis sericea*, which are also found under special protection. In July 2006, the site suffered a fire that damaged more than 3,000 ha. A restoration plan is ongoing. Ramsar site no. 1781. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Complejo de Humedales Urbanos del Distrito Capital de Bogotá
Site number: 2,404 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Bogotá Distrito Capital, Colombia
Area: 667.4 ha | Coordinates: 04°43′07″N 74°06′40″W | Designation dates: 06-08-2018
View Site details in RSIS

Complejo de Humedales Urbanos del Distrito Capital de Bogotá
Site number: 2,404 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Bogotá Distrito Capital, Colombia
Area: 667.4 ha | Coordinates: 04°43′07″N 74°06′40″W | Designation dates: 06-08-2018
View Site details in RSIS

Consists of 11 urban wetlands designated as District Ecological Parks. These permanent freshwater marshes provide shelter and habitat to endemic species from the High Andean region of Colombia, such as the Bogotá rail (*Rallus semiplumbeus*) and the Apolinar's wren (*Cistothorus apolinari*). There are also records of 196 bird species, 42 of them aquatic and 65 migrant. This wetland complex regulates the supply of water from the rivers of the Bogotá savannah, providing flood control in the rainy season and in summer allowing for conservation of groundwater levels. It is a crucial ecological connector between the rural and urban territories of the Bogotá River basin, crossing the city of Bogotá from east to west. In addition, it is the first urban complex of High Andean wetlands in Latin America to be added to the List. The site has also been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Among the main threats to the site are rainfall and climate variability associated with El Niño and La Niña events.
**Delta del Río Baudó**

Site number: 1,387 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Chocó
Area: 8,888 ha | Coordinates: 04°52'59"N 77°22'W | Designation dates: 05-06-2004

View Site details in RSIS

Delta del Río Baudó. 05/06/04; Chocó; 8,888 ha; 04°53'N 077°22'W. The estuary of the Baudó river on the Pacific coast, comprising flood banks, sand beaches, shrub-swamps and swamp forests. Outstanding vegetation includes nato mangroves (Mora oleifera, Mora megistosperma), with trees reaching 35 m or more in height; mangrove forests (Pelliciera rhizophorae, Avicennia germinans), and giant reeds. Noteworthy fauna include the Spotted Paca (Agouti paca), the peccaries (Tayassu pecari and Tayassu tajacu), Jaguar (Panthera onca) and Neotropical Otter (Lontra longicaudis). The wetland is habitat and reproduction site of numerous species of fish such as the cichlid Cichlasoma kraussii, the Trahira (Hoplias malabaricus) and the Flathead mullet (Mugil cephalus). Uses of the site by human communities include forest exploitation, fishing, subsistence agriculture, hunting and basket-making. Potential threats include mangrove felling, overfishing, uncontrolled hunting, boat transportation with off-board engines, and clearing for rice cultivation. Surrounding areas are the collective property of black communities.


**Laguna de la Cocha**

Site number: 1,047 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Nariño
Area: 39,000 ha | Coordinates: 01°03'N 077°12'W | Designation dates: 08-01-2001

View Site details in RSIS

Laguna de la Cocha. 08/01/01; Nariño; 39,000 hectares; 01°03'N 077°12'W. Wildlife sanctuary. Largely made up of a volcanic lake and the surrounding highland Andean peatlands and forest, the site support a diverse range of associated flora and fauna, mammals such as the endangered tapir (Tapirus pinchaque), near-threatened Northern pudu (Pudu mephistotels), and the endangered spectacled bear (Tremarctos ornatus). Important bird species such as Grebe (Podiceps occidentalis), the golden peck duck (Anas georgica spicauda), several species of snipes (Gallinago gallinago paraguaiae, Gallinago nobili), Gallinago gallinago delicata) and the endemic ducks (Anas cyanoptera borreroi, Oxyura jamaicensis ferruginea). Regarding plants there are two important endemic species of frailejon (Espeletia cochensis, Espeletia schultesiana) and Totora (Scirpus californicus, Juncus bogotensis). Human uses include agriculture and aquaculture. The breeding of "cuyes" (Cavia porcelus) generates about 23% of the agricultural product in the Department. The site also has an important cultural value as the indigenous groups of the area, which consider it sacred, use it for purification and fertility. The archaeological values of the site are also considerable, as it was inhabited by Precolombian communities. Ramsar site no. 1047. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

**Sistema Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta**

Site number: 951 | Country: Colombia | Administrative region: Magdalena
Area: 400,000 ha | Coordinates: 10°45'N 74°28'59"W | Designation dates: 18-06-1998

View Site details in RSIS

Sistema Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta. 18/06/98; Magdalena; 400,000 ha; 10°45'N 074°29'W. The site is a coastal estuarine system with 20 lagoons of varying salinity, with several rivers running through the area and extensive zones of mangroves. The site is important for its mangrove ecosystem, which is the largest on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. It also serves as habitat and winter breeding ground for several bird species, has at least two endemic bird species, and is also a spawning ground for many fish species. Part of the site is state-owned, while a large area is privately-owned and commercial fishing is important for the community around it. Shellfish and crayfish are also harvested in the area, while the higher zones are used for agriculture. Ecotourism is being developed in the protected area. Ramsar site no. 951. Most recent RIS information: 1998.
Sistema Lacustre de Chingaza. 25/06/08; Cundinamarca; 4,058 ha; 04°30'N 073°45'W. Parque Nacional. A complex of lagoons and wetlands that supply water to the capital city, Bogotá. Located in the Northern Colombian Andes between 3,050 and 3,950m a.s.l., this region supports one of the dampest páramos of the country and is a center of particular endemism which has been the refuge for more than 400 flora species and 500 fauna species, some of them endangered and others which have not yet been totally identified. The complex is formed by 20 lagoons and is of great importance for migratory birds. Among the species found under special protection, at national as well as international levels, the following mammals are noteworthy: Tremactus ornatus, Mazama rufina bricenni, Tapirus pinchaque and Tapirus terrestris, and among the flora: Espeletia grandiflora, Podocarpus oleifolius, and the palm genus Xeroxilum. The site is within the boundaries of the Chingaza National Natural Park, designated in 1977. The high andean lakes also have great pre-columbian ceremonial significance. Ramsar site no. 1782. Most recent RIS information: 2008.