



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Dominican Republic

6 Ramsar Site(s) covering 225,173 ha

Humedales de Jaragua

Site number: 2,210 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Pedernales
Area: 32,978.6 ha | Coordinates: 17°47'12"N 71°29'32"W | Designation dates: 04-07-2014
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Humedales de Jaragua. 04/07/14; Pedernales; 32,978.6 ha; 17°43'47"N 71°32'0"W. The Site is made up of three sub-sites: Laguna de Oviedo, Bucán de Base – Canal Beata, and Pedernales Bucanye – Cabo Rojo – Bahía de las Águilas. It features different types of coastal wetland including permanent and temporary lagoons, vast mangroves, extensive sea grass beds and coral reefs. It is rich in biodiversity and supports threatened or endangered species such as the coral *Acropora palmate*, the Antillean manatee *Trichechus manatus manatus*, and the birds *Dendrocygna arborea* and *Corvus leucognaphalus*. The Site also supports the only known populations of the endemic Jaragua pupfish (*Cyprinodon nichollsi*) and is of utmost importance for the four species of sea turtle that nest and forage in the area. It has one of the largest populations in the world of juvenile hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and also supports populations of *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*. The wetlands are also essential to the local economy which is based on artisan fishing, as they support species of high commercial value such as the lobster *Panulirus argus* and the queen conch *Strombus gigas*. The threats to the Site are associated with different economic activities; among these are the storage and transportation by land and sea of Bauxite, the movement and anchoring of boats and the development of tourism in the area. Ramsar Site no. 2210. Most Recent RIS information: 2014

Lago Enriquillo

Site number: 1,179 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Suroeste
Area: 20,000 ha | Coordinates: 18°27'59"N 71°39'W | Designation dates: 15-05-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago Enriquillo. 15/05/02; Suroeste; ~ 20,000 ha; 18°28'N 71°39'W. Parque Nacional. A hypersaline lake formed by an ancient channel of the sea, at 35km in length the largest lake in the Caribbean, as well as the surrounding swamps, wet meadows, and irrigated cropland, with one large and two small islands. The site is significant for the biodiversity of the region, supporting three of the largest reptiles found on the island, all of them threatened. It also provides habitat for at least 65 species of domestic and migratory birds, of which five are considered threatened. Cave decorations with pictographs and petroglyphs from pre-hispanic Taínos people can be seen, of which the best example of taíno art can be found on an ancient coral reef called Las Caritas, an archaeological site frequently visited by tourists. Diversion of inflowing water for agricultural purposes is perceived as a potential threat to the ecological character of the site. A visitors' centre on the Isla Cabritos, the original core of the present National Park, has developed numerous educational activities. Ramsar site no. 1179. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

Los Humedales de Montecristi y la Línea Noroeste

Site number: 2,497 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Region Noroeste (Provincias; MonteCristi, Dajabon y Puerto Plata)

Area: 84,322.2 ha | Coordinates: 19°47'32"N 71°37'55"W | Designation dates: 13-10-2022

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The Site is composed of several protected areas and associated wetlands such as the Montecristi Underwater National Park, the Buen Hombre wetlands, the Cayos Siete Hermanos Wildlife Refuge, the Estero Balsa mangrove area and the Saladilla Lagoon. It encompasses a range of ecosystems including lagoons, mangroves, marshes, estuaries, swamps, dry shrub forests and coral reefs. In addition, the Site is home to a large proportion of the most representative coral reefs of the Dominican Republic. It hosts a considerable population of threatened marine turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Chelonia mydas*). Moreover, four important bird species use the site for breeding (*Anous stolidus*, *Onychoprion fuscatus*, *Thalasseus sandvicensis* and *Onychoprion anaethetus*). The Site supplies the local communities with fresh water and food, and supports flood control, groundwater recharge and climate change mitigation. Both the coral reefs and mangroves in the area support a local fishery that provides a livelihood for many of the local people. The major threats that affect the Site's ecological character are channelization and river regulation, proliferation of invasive species, the lack of garbage and solid waste management, agricultural and forestry effluents, and droughts.

Parque Nacional Manglares del Bajo Yuna

Site number: 2,091 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Duarte, Sánchez Ramírez, Samaná, Maria Trinidad Sánchez

Area: 77,518.6 ha | Coordinates: 19°10'12"N 69°40'48"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parque Nacional Manglares del Bajo Yuna. 02/02/2013; Duarte, Sánchez Ramírez, Samaná, Maria Trinidad Sánchez; 77,518 ha; 19°10'12"N 69°40'48"W. National Protected Area (partially). A large subtropical coastal wetland, with estuarine characteristics, predominance of mangroves, and many watercourses. It is located in the Samaná Bay, the largest semi-closed bay in the Caribbean, which contains a specific salinity gradient capable of supporting a great mosaic of habitats. It is also important by being part of karst systems and springs. The area supports species at risk of extinction, like *Hypsiboas heilprini*, *Eleutherodactylus flavescens*, and *Eleutherodactylus schmidtii*, all of them endemic species. The site provides a refuge for seven endemic bird species: *Dulus dominicus* (Palmchat), *Melanerpes striatus* (Hispaniolan Woodpecker), *Todus subulatus* (Broad-billed Tody), *Phaenicophilus palmarum* (Black-crowned Palm-tanager), *Coccyzus longirostris* (Hispaniolan Lizard Cuckoo), *Corvus palmarum* (Palm Crow), and *Icterus dominicensis* (Hispaniolan Oriole). The site is closely related to the Samaná bay, an internationally important site for mating and reproduction of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaengliae*). Ramsar Site no. 2091. Most recent information: 2013.

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Cabral o Rincón

Site number: 1,936 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Barahona e Independencia

Area: 4,600 ha | Coordinates: 18°16'N 71°15'W | Designation dates: 02-02-2011

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Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Cabral o Rincón. 02/02/2011. Barahona e Independencia; 4,600 ha; 18°16'N 71°15'W. This Ramsar Site includes a freshwater lagoon, permanent and stationary rivers and inundated agricultural areas within the Laguna Cabral o Rincon Wildlife Refuge. The site provides habitat for species listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List such as the West Indian Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) and the Southern crested toad (*Bufo guentheri*). It has an important population of endemic plants (*Solanum microphyllum*), fish (Hispaniolan *Gambusia*) and birds such as the Hispaniolan Parrot (*Amazona ventralis*). The site is also important as a winter stop for migratory ducks where they have registered over 100,000 individual of different species like Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), White cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) among others. Main threats for this site include the hydrological changes caused by the water extraction and deviation for irrigation purposes, the introduction of invasive species and the overexploitation of fisheries. This Ramsar Site has an annual operational plan for its management activities and a management plan is currently being developed. Ramsar Site no. 1936. Most recent RIS information: 2011.

Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Redonda y Limón (Los Humedales del Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Redonda y Limón, Miches y Ria Maimón)

Site number: 2,498 | Country: Dominican Republic | Administrative region: Región Este de la República Dominicana, Provincia El Seibo, Municipio de Miches

Area: 5,754 ha | Coordinates: 18°59'48"N 68°54'30"W | Designation dates: 13-10-2022

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The Site is composed of two main lagoons: the Redonda lagoon, with brackish waters and access to the sea, and the Limón lagoon, which has fresh water and is surrounded by rice paddies and reed beds. The Redonda lagoon boasts extensive mangrove swamps of four species, with the red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) being the most abundant. The Limón lagoon is surrounded by swamps, with vegetation characterised by a large number of herbaceous and palustrine plants such as *Typha domingensis*, *Eleocharis interstincta* and *Gynerium sagittatum*. The Site hosts five species of amphibians endemic to the Dominican Republic and is a wintering site for migratory ducks, including the lesser scaup (*Aythya affinis*), ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*), ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), white-cheeked pintail (*Anas bahamensis*) and blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*). The Site provides important ecosystem services such as protection against erosion, natural bio-physical filters which maintain the quality of the water draining to the coast, and sustenance for people, mainly because of the area's fishing productivity and rice crops. The main threats are livestock farming and ranching, unsustainable fishing, and the destruction of forests surrounding the lagoons. This Site boasts various cultural records of ancient Taino civilizations.