



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Uruguay

3 Ramsar Site(s) covering 435,837 ha

Bañados del Este y Franja Costera

Site number: 290 | Country: Uruguay | Administrative region: Rocha, Treinta y Tres, Cerro Largo
Area: 407,408 ha | Coordinates: 33°48'S 53°49'59"W | Designation dates: 22-05-1984

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Bañados del Este y Franja Costera. 22/05/84; Rocha, Treinta y Tres; 407,408 ha; 33°48'S 053°50'W. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990. Biosphere Reserve. Sharing the border with Brazil, this vast complex of coastal wetlands includes lagoons and parts of several rivers. An important wetland for locally nesting shorebirds and migratory shorebirds (17 species) which breed in the Nearctic realm and winter in Uruguay; generally supporting at least 25 species of birds. The region supports an endemic palm, various mammals, endangered plants and animals, and an economically important fishery (80 species). Human activities include agriculture (especially rice), forestry, and livestock rearing. Subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988 and 1993. Ramsar site no. 290. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

Esteros de Farrapos e Islas del Río Uruguay

Site number: 1,433 | Country: Uruguay | Administrative region: Río Negro
Area: 17,496 ha | Coordinates: 32°52'59"S 58°04'59"W | Designation dates: 10-12-2004

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Esteros de Farrapos e Islas del Río Uruguay. 10/12/2004; Río Negro; 17,496 ha; 32°53'S, 058°05'W. Located in the lower stretch of the Uruguay River, downstream from the Salto Grande Dam on the border with Argentina, the site consists of alluvial areas on the river's eastern bank as well as 24 islands, flooded during surges and exposed at low water levels. The system is important for the control of floods and erosion of the river banks. Elevated sand bars along the islands and alluvial plain are populated with forests and allow permanent and intermittent freshwater pools to be present in this dynamic environment. There are records of the near threatened Maned Wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus*, as well as of several endangered birds: the Saffron-cowled Blackbird, *Xanthopsar flavus*, and the Seedeaters *Sporophila cinnamomea*, *S. palustris* and *S. zelichi*, the latter critically endangered. The larger part of the area is owned by the State, and its most abundant use is extensive cattle grazing in the summer, although there is coal, horticulture and citrus production as well. The principal problem affecting the site is soil erosion due to bad agricultural practices in adjacent areas. Ramsar site no. 1433. Most recent RIS information: 2004.

Laguna de Rocha

Site number: 2,236 | Country: Uruguay | Administrative region: Departamento de Rocha

Area: 10,933 ha | Coordinates: 34°37'43"S 54°16'51"W | Designation dates: 05-06-2015

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The Ramsar Site is entirely within the Laguna de Rocha Protected Landscape. It is part of a complex of coastal wetlands on the Atlantic coast, linked to the Atlantic Ocean by a dynamic system of closing and opening sandbars, which contributes to the Site's high productivity and biodiversity. It hosts 220 bird species, 29 species of amphibians, 40 species of reptiles, 46 species of fish, and 42 species of mammals, including emblematic species such as the capybara and the coypu. The Site plays an important role as part of the migratory route of several species and is an important nesting site of resident bird species, and it holds crustacean species of important commercial value such as the pink shrimp and the blue crab. The main threats to the Site's ecological character include alterations of the hydrological regime caused by artificial opening of the sandbars in order to stop flooding in adjacent areas or to favour local fishing practices, eutrophication caused by upstream organic effluents, and lack of urban planning.