

[Unofficial translation of text by J. Jenkinson, 28/9/95]

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. **Country:** Spain
2. **Date:** -
3. **Ref:** **7ES020**
4. **Name of compiler:**
 Direccion General de Montes, Caza y Pesca
 Consejeria de Agricultura de la Junta de Comunidades de
 Castilla-La Mancha
 c/ Duque de Lerma No 3 - 45004 Toledo
5. **Name of wetland:** Laguna de Manjavacas
6. **Date of Ramsar designation:**
 26-03-1993
7. **Geographical coordinates:**
 39°25'35''N ; 02°50'W.
8. **General location:**
 Cuenca region, near the municipality of Mota del Cuervo
9. **Area:**
 230 ha
10. **Wetland type:**
 R W
11. **Altitude:**
 670 m
12. **Overview:**

The largest lake of endoreic origin in the eastern sector of La Mancha Húmeda.

13. **Physical features:**

The lake rests on undifferentiated Quaternary and Pliocene strata and an amalgam of conglomerates, sands, marls and gypsums.

Hydrology: Lake situated on edge of large La Mancha aquifer (SYSTEM 23).

Climate: Extreme climatic conditions as lake lies within cold zone of the meso-Mediterranean bioclimatic belt. Rainfall 430 litres per annum.

Maximum depth: One metre.

14. Ecological features:

Very saline water with an abundance of organic matter. The endoreic basin has an area of over 6,000 hectares and has a distinctly elongated and eccentric shape compared with the shape of the lake itself. The vegetation is typical of a salt-laden lake. Macrophytic plants, *Phragmites communis*, *Scirpus maritimus*.

15. Land tenure:

(a) of site: The Junta de Comunidades of Castilla La Mancha has acquired the grounds of the Laguna in 1989.

(b) surrounding area: small farms in private property

16. Conservation measures taken:

Designated a wildlife refuge (closed to hunting) by Decree 120 of 3 October 1989 of the Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha. There is a public utilization plan.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Perimeter fence
Visiting restrictions
Ban on hunting

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site: Activities aimed at restoring the aquatic habitat.

(b) surroundings/catchment: Traditional agricultural activities; vineyards and olive plantations; garlic and cereals production.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(a) site: Sewage from the nearby town of Mota del Cuervo is continuously discharged into the lake at an estimated rate of 12.8 litres per second.

(b) surrounding area: no information available

20. Hydrological and physical values:

The release of sewage has changed the vegetal composition of the zone where the sewage waters are released.

At the edge of the site, SISTEMA 23 has weak connections to this aquifer that are of some influence.

21. Social and cultural values:

No production of fish.

Nearby the Laguna there is a chapel, dedicated to the virgen of Manjavacas, patron saint of Mota de Cuervo.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Of considerable ornithological importance, the lake is a rich feeding ground for waders, Anatidae and coots. It is frequented by an impressive variety of waterfowl species and is used by five Anatidae species for nesting. It is particularly important for the

number of species it supports during the spring migrations.

23. Noteworthy flora:

The vegetation falls into one of two categories: hydrohalophytic and xerohalophytic. The first includes the submerged plants occupying the greater part of the permanently inundated area, as represented by the genera *Ranunculus*, *Utricularia* and *Lamprothamionium*, the rushes occupying the temporarily flooded areas, as represented by the genera *Rumex*, *Puccinellia*, *Althaea* and *Litrum*, and the reeds to be found close to the Mota del Cuervo effluent, as represented by *Typho-Scirpetum tabernaemontani*. The second includes *Microcnemetun coralloidis* and *Limonietum latibracteato-tourneforti*.

24. Current scientific research:

There are programmes and research projects at the site, run by the Ecological Department of the University of Valencia. They cover limnological subjects, and feeding capacity of the Laguna, amongst other subjects.

25. Current conservation education:

The Refuge for Waterfowl is completely enclosed. Visits are restricted and controlled. There are observatories.

26. Current recreation and tourism:

There are visits for educational purposes. There are no touristic facilities, and there are no negative effects on the Laguna caused by tourism.

27. Management authority:

Delegación Provincial de la Consería de Agricultura en Cuenca
c/ Colón 2, Cuenca. Teleono 966 228022

28. Jurisdiction:

Dirección General de Montes, Caza y Pesca
Consejería de Agricultura, Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha

29. Bibliographical references: none given

30. Reasons for inclusion:

1a; 1b; 1c;
2a; 2b; 2c;
3b.