

## INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

**1.- Country:**

Spain

**2.- Date:**

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**3.- Ref.:**

7ES021

**4.- Name and address of compiler:**

Dirección General de Montes, Caza y Pesca  
Consejería de Agricultura de la Junta de Comunidades de  
Castilla La Mancha  
c/ Duque de Lerma no. 3. 45004 Toledo.

**5.- Name of wetland:**

Lagunas de Alcázar de San Juan.

**6.- Date of Ramsar Designation:**

26-03-1993

**7.- Geographical coordinates:**

39°24'50''N; 3°15'55''W.

**8.- General location:**

Municipality of Alcázar de San Juan, Ciudad Real Province.

**9.- Area:**

240 Has.

**10.- Wetland type:**

R.W.

**11.- Altitude:**

**12.- Overview:**

Camino de Villafranca lagoon (160 Has.) is communicated to Las Yeguas lagoon (80Has.), and both are located in a slight depression of the land. They have an enclosed drainage origin and the water is very saline.

**13.- Physical features:**

The site is located in western La Mancha, in the southern sub-plateau. The lagoons are located on the northern edge of the aquifer 23, whose exploitation by pumping is quite higher to the natural recharge.

HYDROLOGY. This is an enclosed drainage basin, with seasonal hydrology.

CLIMATE: Extreme continental, with max. higher than 40 ° C and min. in winter sometimes about -14 ° C. Annual rainfall is scarce and unequally spread. Average about 428 l.

**14.- Ecological features:**

Waters are very saline and with high organic matter contents. This is an excellent nesting site for birds, especially gulls, terns and shorebirds. The basin extends over 6.600 Has.

The vegetation is typically halophyllic. The lagoon have several islands with Chenopodiaceae vegetation, that constitute an ideal nesting habitat to waterbirds.

**15.- Land tenure/ownership of:**

a) site: Alcazar de San Juan Council is the owner of the site, although it is very likely to be exchanged with the Regional Government.

b) surrounding area:

**16.- Conservation measures taken:**

The site was declared Hunting Refuge by the Regional Government Decree 128/1988, dated on 10 October.

A Public Use Plan is being developed.

**17.- Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

The most sensitive areas, with nesting birds, have been fenced. Hunting has been forbidden. Visits are free. There are some observatories.

**18.- Current land use: principal human activities in:**

a) site: Activities related to the restoration of the aquatic habitat are being performed.

b) surroundings/catchment: Traditional agriculture: vineyards, olive trees and cereals.

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

The lagoon holds the wastewaters from Alcazar de San Juan, after being purified by a conventional plant. Daily supplies are about 7.500 m<sup>3</sup>.

The negative impacts due to non purified wastewaters have been eliminated.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

**20.- Hydrological and physical values:**

Purified wastewater supplies, allow stable hydric levels in the lagoon, having at present flows enough to complete the breeding period to a number of waterbirds.

**21.- Social and cultural values:**

There is not fish production.

**22.- Noteworthy fauna:**

The site holds important flocks of birds during the cold winter monts, as well as to a number of nesting *Gelochelidon nilotica* (500 nests), *Larus ridibundus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Himantopus himantopus*, being the only wetland in La Mancha where all these species are nesting. Also *Anas strepera* and *Netta*

*rufina* breed here.

**23.- Noteworthy flora:**

The original vegetation was seriously affected by a severe water contamination in past times. At present, the islands are covered by Chenopodiaceae, that stand the high salinity of the soils. North of Camino de Villafranca Lagoon, some beds of *Phragmites communis* and *Scirpus sp.* may be found, although in general, the vegetation is very conditioned by the high salt contents in the area. The lagunar bottoms have carpets with several species of *Chara*.

**24.- Current scientific research and facilities:**

Nesting and wintering waterbird censuses are made periodically.

Some limnological research are being performed, as well as the restoration of the original plant communities.

**25.- Current conservation education:**

Two hides are available for booked visitors.

A general brochure dealing with La Mancha Lagoons is also available.

Visits are promoted.

**26.- Current recreation and tourism:**

At present there aren't touristic facilities in the area. However, there is a project for building a golf course near the Camino de Villafranca lagoon.

**27.- Management authority:**

Delegacion Provincial de la Consejeria de Agricultura en Ciudad Real.

c/ Alarcos 21. Ciudad Real. Tel. (9) 26 213740

**28.- Jurisdiction:**

Dirección General de Montes, Caza y Pesca

Consejeria de Agricultura de la Junta de Comunidades de Castilla La Mancha.

**29.- Bibliographical references:**

**30.- Reasons for inclusion:**

1 a, 1 b, 1 c.

2 a, 2 c, 2 d.

3 b.

**31.- Map of the site:**

OK.