

## Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. **Date this sheet was completed/updated:** 17 February 1995
2. **Country:** PARAGUAY
3. **Name of wetland:** Reserva para Parque Nacional Estero Milagro
4. **Geographical coordinates:**

23°34'S  
57°22'W

5. **Altitude:** 100 metres above sea level
6. **Area:** 25,000 hectares
7. **Overview:**

The area is characterized by natural grasslands, low woodlands, wooded grasslands and small marshes with a large diversity of species of vegetation. There is a unique complex of small lakes on calcareous soils with their accompanying vegetation.

8. **Wetland type:**

riparian, mangrove, lake

9. **Ramsar criteria:**
10. **Map of site included? Please tick yes -or- no**
11. **Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

Centro de Datos para la Conservación  
Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page:**
13. **General location:**

This reserve is located in the Oriental region, department of San Pedro, district of Tacuatí, near the town of Puerto Milagro.

#### **14. Physical features:**

This area is defined by two important rivers: the Río Paraguay and the Río Ypané to the north. The topography is hilly, characterized by fluvisols that are sandy to sandy-loam soils, reddish in colour and with good drainage. The sedimentary rocks from the Tertiary and Quaternary form swamps and deposits of alluvion. The climate is of an average temperature of 24°C and an average annual precipitation and evapotranspiration of 1300 mm.

#### **15. Hydrological values:**

The Río Ypané basin covers 11,300 square kilometres of hilly topography forming streams and rapids in a beautiful landscape. The water in this area is high in calcium, chloride, magnesium and minerals owing to the alluvial deposits.

#### **16. Ecological features:**

In the southeast section of this area, there are wooded areas in a good state of conservation. This area is formed by isolated groves of trees and irregular and heterogenous coverage alternating with fields of edaphic and atrophic origin. The gallery forest is one of the vegetative formations characteristic of the region. It is considered an important habitat for migratory birds and animals associated with aquatic environments.

#### **17. Noteworthy flora:**

Among the threatened species found in this area are the *Bergeronia sericea*, *Laetia americana*, *Eugenia ilhensis*, *Enterolobium guaraniticum*, *Genipa americana* and *Sphinetanthus hasslerianus*. It is also in the range of the *Victoria cruziana* that is a threatened species in Paraguay.

#### **18. Noteworthy fauna:**

This area is the habitat of *Caiman latirostris*, *Lutra plantensis*, *Pteronura brasiliensis*, *Blastocerus dichotomus*, *Eira barbara*, *Coscoroba coscoroba*, *Neocrex erythrops*, *Ajaia ajaja*, *Bartramia longicauda*, *Cochlearius cochlearius*, *Sphiggurus spinosus*, *Cotupnicops notatus*, *Laterallus xenopterus*, *Ramphastos toco*, *Harpia harpyja* and *Ardea cocoi*. It is on an important flyway for migratory birds including *Pandion haliaetus*, *Ictinia mississippiensis*, *Tringa melanoleuca* and *Chordeiles minor*.

#### **19. Social and cultural values:**

The local inhabitants live from ranching, subsistence hunting and fishing. This area is visited by many sport fishermen.

#### **20. Land tenure/ownership of:**

In both the reserve and the surrounding area, land is completely private.

#### **21. Current land use:**

This area is currently used by the local population for ranching, agriculture and the extraction of forest resources.

**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:**

The greatest pressure on the area comes from the construction of roads and extensive ranching.

**23. Conservation measures taken:**

None

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

Several studies have pointed out the importance of protecting this area. In 1994, proposals prepared by the Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre of the Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería entitled "Plan Estratégico del Sistema Nacional de Areas Silvestres Protegidas (SINASIP)" suggested including this area in the Parque Nacional Estero Milagro as a component of the SINASIP.

**25. Current scientific research and facilities:**

None

**26. Current conservation education:**

None

**27. Current recreation and tourism:**

None

**28. Jurisdiction:**

Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

**29. Management authority:**

Dirección de Parques Nacionales y Vida Silvestre  
Subsecretaría de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

**30. Bibliographical references:**