

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

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

1. **Country:** Spain
2. **Date:** -
3. **Ref:** **7ES025**
4. **Name and address of compiler:**
Xunta de Galicia
Conselleraria de Agricultura, Ganderia y Montes
Servicio de Medio Ambiente Natural
c/ Juan Montes, 3-1° - Lugo
5. **Name of wetland:** Laguna y arenal de Valdoviño
6. **Designation date:** 21-02-92
7. **Geographical coordinates:** 43°36'N 08°10'W
8. **General location:**
Province of Coruña, closest large town: Valdoviño
9. **Area:** 255 ha
10. **Wetland type:** E J
11. **Altitude:** 0-44 m
12. **Overview:**
Coastal lagoon separated from the sea by a dune system and an expanse of sand.
13. **Physical features:**
Basic materials with schists surrounded by amphibolites, orthogneiss and granite in the eastern sector and granite and migmatites in the western sector.
As the lagoon connects with the sea via a man-made channel, the water regime is artificially regulated.
The climate is of the Atlantic-European type. The average rainfall is 1,400 to 1,600 mm. The average annual temperature is 13.1°C. The prevailing wind is northerly for most of the summer.
14. **Ecological features:**
The belt of hydrophylic vegetation round the lagoon consists of *Phragmites communis* and *Juncus sp.*
The dune system is dominated by *Ammophila arenaria*, interspersed with plants of the genera *Euphorbia* and *Crassula*.
Riparian woods of *Salix sp.* and *Alnus glutinosa* are an interesting feature of the final stretches of the Castro and Lángara rivers.
Euphorbio-Agrophyretum, *Othanto-Ammophiletum* and *Scrophulario-Vulpietum* are well established on the beach.

15. Land tenure:

of site: Of the total 255 ha of the system, 100 ha are floodplains that are state owned, and the other 155 ha is private property.

16. Conservation measures taken:

Wildlife refuge (closed to hunting). The entire wetland is listed in Galicia's 'Rexistro Xeral de Espacios Naturales' as an Espacio Natural en Régimen de Protección General (nature site to which general protection provisions

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

A natural resources development plan is being drafted.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

of site: Tourism, fishing, cultivation of crops, harvesting of rushes.

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

at the site: Limited disturbance caused by tourism in summer. Solid urban waste. Temporary buildings in the beach area.

20. Hydrological and physical values:

The lagune has an oval shape, 1600 m wide at the longer side and 500 m wide at the shorter side.

Its depth is artificially maintained. When the volume of inflowing water is decreasing during summer and as a consequence the flow of water is decreasing, the channel between the Laguna and the sea is blocked periodically with accumulating sand as a result of the tidal variation and the winds from the north. At the moment the water level begins to rise, as a consequence the surface of the inundated area increases. This is a threat to the cultivated land around the Laguna. When the autumn rains start to fall, the farmers will re-open the channel and let the exceeding water flow out into the sea.

21. Social and cultural values:

-

22. Noteworthy fauna:

The wetland is particularly important as a refuge for migratory waterfowl: *Aythya ferina*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Fulica atra*, *Calidris alpina*, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, etc.

Species such as *Sula bassana*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Gavia sp.*, etc. are regularly sighted on the sea.

Noteworthy mammals: *Lutra lutra*.

23. Noteworthy flora:

Edge of lagoon: *Phragmites communis*

Riparian woods: *Salix sp.*, *Alnus glutinosa*

Submerged communities: *Ruppia maritima*

Rushes: *Juncus maritimus*, *Carex extensa*, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Cyperus longus*

Beach: *Corema album*, *Linaria caesia* var. *decumbens*, *Sedum arenarium*

24. Current scientific research and facilities:

-

- 25. Current conservation education:**
no education programme is currently existing
- 26. Current tourism and recreation:**
moderate pressure of tourism during in the eastern part
- 27. Management authority:**
Servicio Provincial de Medio Ambiente Natural.
Edificio Administrative Monelos, 5 Pta, 15008 A CORUNA
- 28. Jurisdiction:**
Territorial: Provincia de A Coruña. Municipio de Valdoviño.
Functional: Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Agricultura,
Gandería e Montes.
- 29. Bibliographical references:**
-
- 30. Reasons for inclusion:**
1(a), 3(b)