



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE, DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK (SPAIN). JANUARY, 2015**

The conservation status of the World Heritage Site and Ramsar site, Doñana National Park, is satisfactory. The values that led to the site being included in the lists of the Ramsar and World Heritage conventions are still present.

- In terms of fauna and bird life, Doñana is still an exceptional site. Not only has the reproduction been maintained of at least the same bird species that were mentioned in the act of inscription of Doñana as a World Heritage Site in 1994, but there currently exist more species than in that year.
- In the last twelve years, on five occasions the census number exceeded half million birds, established as a reference point in Doñana's World Heritage qualification, and on two occasions, it exceeded a total of 600,000.
- Some aquatic species have shown spectacular trends of population growth and positive results in environmental conservation.
- Since 2002, the Iberian lynx population has maintained a positive trend, which is also true for territorial females, cubs and area occupied.
- The state of conservation of the habitats within the national park is considered overwhelmingly positive.
- Data related to vegetation in the Doñana National Park demonstrates the extraordinary diversity of flora. Since 1994, no taxon of flora has been reported to have disappeared in the national park, and new species have been found that had so far been unknown.

In relation to the threats that are worrying the World Heritage Committee:

- It has been clearly stated that the Spanish authorities wish to impede deeper dredging of the Guadalquivir river for as long as the environmental conditions in the estuary do not change substantially.
- A strategic environmental evaluation has been integrated for the Guadalquivir basin in the hydrological planning of this river and a specific working group has been created, with involvement of the competent authorities, which shall encourage the development of the Guadalquivir estuary
- The Doñana surface waters are not currently significant problems, maintaining a growing hydroperiod in the last decades, with acceptable quality levels and having progressed since the Reactive Monitoring Mission of 2011 with the recovery of water levels in the Travieso.



- There is evidence of significant progress made in relation to groundwater and management of agricultural activity in the surrounding area of the site and there is a current high degree of consensus for the special plan for management of the irrigated land situated to the north of the Forest Crown of Doñana.
- Measures to replace the aquifer abstractions with surface waters with an approximate volume of 20 hm<sup>3</sup> are being carried out and other water-transfer initiatives are being processed, in addition to other water transfer initiatives and an increase in regulations in order to continue with the replacements with an approximate value of another 30 hm<sup>3</sup>.
- Maximum legal and technical guarantees are being applied to the evaluation procedures of the environmental impact of mining or exploitation and storage of gas projects, that are being promoted in areas of influence of the Site. In this regard, the rapid elimination of the possibility of building a new sludge reservoir should be pointed out.