

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK
(MINOR EXTENSION)

SPAIN



WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK (SPAIN) ID Nº 685 Bis (MINOR EXTENSION)

Background note:

Doñana National Park (50,720ha) in Andalusia, Spain, occupies the right bank of the Guadalquivir river at its estuary on the Atlantic Ocean. It was inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1994 mainly for the great diversity of its biotopes, especially lagoons, marshlands, fixed and mobile dunes, scrub woodland and maquis. It is home to five threatened bird species. It is one of the largest heronries in the Mediterranean region and is the wintering site for more than 500,000 water fowl each year. IUCN in its evaluation report (1994) stressed the need of incorporating appropriate portions of adjacent lands into the World Heritage property in order to enhance its integrity through a better design of the Park's boundaries.

Name of the area	Extension (ha)
West Traingle	723.7
Flood plain of the Partido stream	142.6
Los Caracoles	2,665.4
TOTAL	3,531.7

In this information note the State Party requested that three areas added to the National Park be considered as an extension of the World Heritage property in order to bring the boundaries of the World Heritage property in line with the extended National Park. This extension is requested on the basis of the following arguments:

- The nature and ecological characteristics of these three areas are similar to those that characterize the current World Heritage property, and contribute to maintain the hydrological processes that are vital to the integrity of the Park's ecosystems;
- The areas substantially contribute to enhance the boundaries of the Park by reducing the length of its limits, thus contributing to a more effective management and control of the Park; and
- The proposed areas will be managed by the same administration and under the same legal framework and management regime of that existing for the National Park.

2. IUCN COMMENTS

IUCN considers that the areas proposed for extension are of similar natural character to the rest of the World Heritage property and the extension will contribute to maintaining the integrity of the property. This is also in line with IUCN recommendations at the time of the evaluation of the property. IUCN considers that the World

1. NEW INFORMATION

On 1 February 2005 IUCN received an information note from the State Party noting that Doñana National Park was extended by Resolution 3371 of February 2004 adopted by the Autonomous Organization for National Parks, Ministry of the Environment. The extension incorporates into the Park three adjacent areas, all of them of public property. The three areas contain similar ecosystems to those of the rest of the Park, mainly Mediterranean bush, fresh water marshes, low basin tributary streams of the marshes and lagoons. The total area incorporated into the Park, as noted in the table below, is of 3,531.7ha.

Heritage property should be extended to include the three proposed areas.

3. DRAFT DECISION

IUCN recommends that the Committee adopt the following decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B
2. Decides to extend Doñana National Park to bring the boundaries of the World Heritage property in line with the extended National Park; thus the total area of the World Heritage property will be 54,251.7ha.
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to enhance the protection and management of the property.

Map 1: Boundaries of World Heritage property and proposed extensions

