

Chart extracted from the “Report of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/Ramsar Convention mission to the World Heritage property of Doñana National Park, Spain (19-22 January 2011)”

5 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THREATS

5.1 Infrastructure projects

<p>La Rabida refinery and its expansion</p>	<p>Recommendation 1: The mission strongly recommends updating all risk preparedness and management plans in view of the expansion project and establishing direct communication lines in case of emergencies with the La Rabida refinery.</p>
<p>Pipeline construction project for the Balboa refinery in Extremadura</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: The mission strongly recommends that the State Party refrains from choosing any alternative route which impacts on the World Heritage property or its surrounding designated areas. The Balboa pipeline could have both direct and indirect impacts on the property’s values and integrity, and could constitute a direct and potential danger in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.</p>
<p>Road construction and future traffic projects</p>	<p>Recommendation 3: The mission noted the road construction underway for the El Rocio bypass and does not see major impacts on the World Heritage site. However the mission strongly recommends that the State Party does not encourage any enlargement of the road El Rocio – Coto Doñana/Matalascanas as this would create further disruption in ecosystem connectivity. The mission welcomed the wildlife bridge (especially created for the Linces which do not use tunnels) across the El Rocio-Matalascanas road close to the visitor centre El Acebuche</p>
<p>Proposed mining projects</p>	<p>Recommendation 4: The mission recalled the 1998 mining accident, and the subsequent development of policies concerning mining and protected areas, especially of high value such as World Heritage. It further recalls the Decision of the 22nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Kyoto 1998), which stated that “the State Party is encouraged to take into account the WCPA Position Statement on mining activities and protected areas, which was reviewed by this Committee.”</p>

	<p>The mission concluded that any mining activities with potential impacts on the World Heritage property, and the Guadalquivir River - constituting the eastern boundary - or its tributaries has to be avoided. The Committee should request the State Party to strictly adhere to best practice policies and to confirm that no mining projects with impacts on the World Heritage area are currently being considered.</p>
<p>5.2 Water issues and water quality</p>	
<p>5.2.1 Groundwater and irrigation</p>	<p>Recommendation 5: (Plan de la Fresa) Regarding the <i>Plan Especial de Ordenación de las Zonas de Regadío, ubicadas al Norte de la Corona Forestal de Doñana</i> (Special Management Plan of the Irrigation Zones Located to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana), the mission recommends:</p> <p>That every effort is made to produce the most consensus-based Plan possible, with the full participation of all the stakeholders, but without diluting the essential objectives of said Plan regarding the “protection of the exceptional natural values of Doñana and the rational use of water”;</p> <p>b) That the Government Council of the Junta de Andalucía approve the Plan before 31 December 2011 so that its implementation would commence by 1 January 2012 at the latest; and</p> <p>c) That in the final version of the Plan and in its implementation the following aspects be given a high priority</p> <p>The definitive definition of a maximum surface for irrigation within the Doñana region on the basis of the maximum recommendable extractions according to the current state of knowledge of the aquifer, taking into account the ‘precautionary principle’ and respecting the environmental flows of the entire watershed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of an annual plan for groundwater extraction that includes the effective control of legal extraction and the elimination of illegal extraction; • Restoration activities, in the framework of an extension of the Project Doñana 2005, that enable the recovery of surface water recharge of the aquifer; • The relocation of agricultural properties located in areas of high value for ecosystems to less sensitive areas to enable the improved functioning of ecological corridors, the elimination of wells close to rivers and the elimination of isolated properties; and the creation, where necessary of new, functional ecological corridors. <p>Recommendation 6: (calidad del agua, que entienden complicado de medir por ahora porque dicen que no hay muchos ni Buenos datos)</p>

	<p>The mission, having considered impacts of intense agriculture in the region recommended to examine how such impacts can be mitigated and reduced in the future, including through the increase of organic agriculture in the surrounding areas of the World Heritage property.</p>
<p>5.2.2 State of the Guadalquivir River and dredging project</p>	<p>Recommendation 7: With regards to the project for dredging the Guadalquivir River, the Mission recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs paralyze the proceeding related to the project “Actions to improve the maritime access to the Port of Seville” of 1999, and therefore any work related to the latter, and that it definitively deny the authorization of the dredging of the Guadalquivir River contemplated in said project; and b) That in case that the authorization is not denied, the aforementioned project be submitted to a new, rigorous and complete Environmental Impact Assessment, that takes into account the agreements and decisions of the former Board of Trustees of the Doñana National Park and the results of recent studies, including the scientific report entitled “Methodological Proposal to Diagnose and Forecast the Consequences of the Human Activities in the Estuary of the Guadalquivir” carried out by the Superior Council of Scientific Research (<i>Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas</i>, CSIC) and the Universities of Córdoba and Granada. <p>Regarding the state of conservation and management of the Guadalquivir River, the Mission recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The management of the Guadalquivir River watershed be undertaken with an integrated approach, using the “ecosystem approach” promoted by the Convention on Biological Diversity; b) That as part of this integrated approach a high priority be placed on the restoration of the river estuary; and c) That for this, in line with the Framework Directive for Water of the European Union, a body be created to guarantee, in coordination with the management of the Doñana Natural Space, the preservation, maintenance and integrated management of the Guadalquivir River and its estuary, given the singularity of its geomorphology and landscape; its indisputable value for the conservation of biodiversity; its interest for fishery resources of the entire Andaluz Atlantic coastline; and its high agricultural productivity
<p>5.3 The Doñana 2005 Project</p>	<p>Recommendation 8: The Mission recommends that the Doñana 2005 Project be completed as soon as possible, with the reactivation and input of the Scientific Commission, based on the following actions recommended by the Coordination of the Doñana 2005 Project and the administrations involved:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Execution of the second phase of the restoration of the Arroyo del Partido (from the Matanza northward); 2. Recovery and restoration of the Rocío marsh; 3. Restoration of the vegetation of the streams and banks of the Comarca de Doñana; 4. Restoration of the northern stretch of the Caño Guadiamar (from the Caño del Pescador to Veta Hornito); 5. Study of the situation of the streams and banks that feed into the marsh and demarcation of the public domains, ecological state of the banks, restoration proposals and actions to avoid erosion; 6. Expropriation of private properties of the Caño Guadiamar; and 7. Acquisition of the properties Garrido and Cerrado Garrido (1,400 ha) and restoration of the expanse with the aim of connecting the Caño Guadiamar with the El Lobo and Caracoles zone. <p>The Mission recommends that to give continuity and complete the positive results of the Doñana 2005 Project, a <i>Doñana 2013-2027 Project for the Integral Restoration of the Hydrosystem within the Context of its Socio-Ecosystem</i> be developed starting immediately and be approved before the 31st of December 2012. The project should be based on an ecosystem approach and on the state-of-the-art scientific knowledge and ecosystem restoration practices, including the application of the precautionary principle</p>
5.4 Conservation of the habitat and ecosystems of Doñana	
5.4.1 Conservation of the Iberian Lynx: development of population and threats	Recommendation 9: The mission acknowledges the excellent progress achieved in the programme for the conservation of the Iberian Lynx. The mission recommends requesting the National Park authority and the Regional Government to give high priority to develop and effectively implement the proposed plan for reassessing and reorganizing the existing access routes and roads in Doñana and its area of influence.
5.4.2 Landscape connectivity and ecological corridors	Recommendation 10: The mission strongly recommends the local and regional government to define ways and means to ensure the effective implementation of the territorial planning and management plan and to use it as the basis for enhancing and developing ecosystem connectivity through biological corridors and other effective means.
5.4.3 Linkages between the different designations natural and national park:	Recommendation 11: The mission recommends that the revision of the management plan for Doñana National Park should carefully consider and include the key conservation, management and integrity

<p>5.4.3 Linkages between the different designations natural and national park: World Heritage property, Ramsar site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve</p>	<p>Recommendation 11: The mission recommends that the revision of the management plan for Doñana National Park should carefully consider and include the key conservation, management and integrity requirements to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for which the park was inscribed in the World Heritage List and should explore: (a) options for expanding the property to other areas of potential OUV including marine areas and (b) a communication strategy that highlight and clearly communicate the OUV of this property.</p>
<p>5.4.4 Scientific programmes</p>	<p>No recommendation</p>
<p>5.5. Coastal and marine areas</p>	
<p>5.5.1 Pollution risks, increase of maritime traffic and risk preparedness:</p>	<p>Recommendation 12: The mission strongly recommends updating all risk preparedness and management plans in view of the expansion project and having direct communication lines in case of emergencies with the La Rabida refinery.</p> <p>The mission strongly recommends that the State Party refrains from choosing any alternative route which impacts on the World Heritage property or its surrounding designated areas. The Balboa pipeline could have both direct and indirect impacts on the property's values and integrity, and could constitute a direct and potential danger in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.</p> <p>The mission recommends that the resources required for the effective implementation of the <i>Auto-protection Plan for Doñana and other areas of the Natura 2000 Network</i>, including for training and acquiring the specialized equipment required, are granted as a matter of urgency and, if feasible, in 2011.</p>
<p>5.5.2 Status of the Estuary of the Guadalquivir</p>	<p>No recommendation, although the point refers to the dredging</p>
<p>5.5.3 Potential marine extension (national and international level)</p>	<p>Recommendation 13: The mission recommends that the different institutions involved in the initiative for establishing and managing a large Marine Protected Area (MPA) associated to the park prepare a consolidated proposal and further propose it for approval by the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs. Once this MPA is established the State Party may wish to consider the possibility, to expand the World Heritage property to include this MPA.</p>
<p>5.6. Boundaries and buffer zones</p>	<p>Recommendation 14: The mission welcomes the 2005 extension of the World Heritage property which made the boundaries more consistent. Concerning future extensions the authorities need to carefully evaluate the values of these areas and whether they are of outstanding universal value and integrity as required under the World Heritage Convention. Concerning the marine area, the</p>

<p>5.7 Governance and management</p>	<p>Recommendation 15: The mission recommends that State Party ensures, working with relevant regional and national authorities, that the new management plan be prepared in 2011 guaranteeing an adequate balance between local social and economic interests and the requirements for conservation and management defined by the different international designations that have been granted to Doñana.</p>
<p>5.8 Sustainable development</p>	<p>Recommendation 16: The Mission welcomes the launch of the II Plan for Sustainable Development of Doñana while expressing its concern regarding the complexity of the document and the real possibilities of its application as an instrument that could lead to a real change in the development model for Doñana. Therefore, the Mission recommends that: a) The II Plan for Sustainable Development of Doñana be submitted to an integral independent evaluation of its objectives and <i>modus operandi</i> by a group of impartial and prestigious experts designated by the Board of Trustees of the Doñana 21 Foundation in consultation with the Council for Participation of the Doñana Natural Space and the Department of Environment of the Junta de Andalucía. The evaluation should, among other, ensure that the II PDS can be the instrument that leads to a real change of model in so far as the social, economic and environmental development of Doñana (the three pillars of sustainability) are concerned, especially with regards to key issues such as the use and management of water, the permeability of the natural spaces; and the sustainability of transportation, tourism and agriculture. The terms of reference and a budget for the group's work should be agreed upon by the experts and the Board of Trustees of the Doñana 21 Foundation in consultation with the Council for Participation of the Doñana Natural Space and the Department of Environment of the Junta de Andalucía; and b) The results of the application of each triennial Operational Program of the II PDS be submitted also to the evaluation of the group of independent experts mentioned above.</p>
<p>5.8.1 Public Use</p>	<p>Recommendation 17: While the Mission recognizes and commends the quality of the public use being carried out in Doñana, it considers advisable to carry out an exhaustive independent technical evaluation of said public use, including of the sectoral and management plans for traditional uses. The evaluation should: a) Establish the adjustment of the public and current uses with regards to the conservation objectives and potential risks these may imply; and b) Make recommendations for possible changes in the public and traditional uses with the goal of ensuring that these can better meet the objectives for which they were established.</p>

5.9 Climate change impacts**Recommendation 18:**

The mission recalls the report on "Predicting and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage" and the "Strategy to assist States Parties to implement management responses", endorsed by the World Heritage Committee in 2006 as well as the Policy Statement on World Heritage and Climate Change adopted by the 16th General Assembly of States Parties. The mission welcomes the research network established to monitor climate change impacts. The mission encourages the authorities to share this research with other States Parties and relevant World Heritage sites along the flyways. As Doñana constitutes a key site in Europe and along the western flyway routes early alert systems could assist other site managers in better addressing adaptation and climate change impacts on the values and integrity of World Heritage properties