

## NEWS

### Argentina designates high altitude Ramsar site - Lagunas Altoandinas y Puneñas de Catamarca



Argentina has named a new Ramsar site, effective World Wetlands Day 2009 – Lagunas Altoandinas y Puneñas de Catamarca (1,228,175 hectares, 26°52'S 067°56'W) – that lies between 3,010m and 6,885m a.s.l. and is part of the Laguna Blanca MAB Biosphere Reserve. As summarized by Ramsar's Nadia Castro, it includes a complex of high Andean endorheic river basins representative of the Central Dry Puna: shallow meso- and hypersaline lakes, shallow and deep brackish lakes, and deep hypersaline lakes. 19,000 individuals of Puna flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) and 2,100 of Andean flamingo (*P. andinus*) gather in this site, which represents 18% and 6% of the worldwide population of these species, respectively. This High Andean wetland is a highly vulnerable and fragile ecosystem and is threatened by overgrazing, unregulated tourism, mining prospecting, and flamingo egg collection. The area is one of the 14 priority sites of the Wetland Network of Importance for Conservation of High-Andes Flamingos in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Preparations for the Ramsar site designation were assisted by WWF International's Freshwater Programme, the Danone Fund for Ramsar, and the Fundación Yuchán.

### Mexico names 113th Ramsar site - Humedales de Bahía Adair



The government of Mexico has designated Humedales de Bahía Adair (42,430 hectares, 31°35'N 113°53'W) in Sonora state, effective last World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2009, as its 113th Wetland of International Importance. As summarized by Ramsar's Nadia Castro, the site is composed of three types of habitats, including estuaries, artesian wells, and salt marshes, and is located in the Gran Desierto de Altar, one of the most arid and extreme deserts of North America. The site supports 12 fauna species found under special protection in Mexican law, such as the endangered Desert Pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) endemic to the region, and species listed in CITES such as the marine turtles *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia agassizi*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Lepidochelys olivacea*. Three fish species, *Gillichthys seta*, *Anchoa mundeoloides* and *Leuresthes sardina*, are endemic to the northern Gulf of California, as well as two endemic flora species: *Distichlis palmeri* and *Suaeda puertopenascoa*. The main hydrological value of these wetlands is the presence of the Sonoyta-Puerto Peñasco Aquifer of prehistoric formation. The main land uses include tourism and real estate in the coastal zone, conservation, salt extraction, scientific research, environmental education, subsistence fishing, oyster culture and ecotourism.

### Raising awareness about Turkish Ramsar Sites



The General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks within the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has recently published a full-colour, glossy brochure showing all 12 of Turkey's Ramsar Sites which cover over 179,000 hectares in total. The fold-out, eight-page leaflet includes beautiful photographs of each site as well as key information concerning coordinates, elevation, area, and designation date. Text on each site highlights the wetland type as well as the important species to be found there and also includes other significant facts, such as ongoing implementation of a management plan, interesting archaeological remains, artisanal use, and key threats. A map of Turkey identifies the location of each site. [Here is a low-res PDF of the leaflet](#). For further information, contact Serhan Çagirankaya ([c.serhan@gmail.com](mailto:c.serhan@gmail.com)).