

Mexico

Islas Mariás

Declaration date: 2010

Surface area: 641,284.73 ha

Administrative division:

Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas

Human activities:

Since 1905 a Federal Penitentiary Colony has operated on Maria Madre Island, using the island's natural resources. The Colony is mainly engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, forest harvesting and fishing. In this respect, in order to protect and conserve the Reserve's natural resources and the ecological processes that take place there, it is important to promote sustainable resource use and guarantee ecosystem conservation and integrity to enable the population of the Penitentiary Colony to remain on the island in the long term.

One of the strategic lines established in the Reserve's Conservation and Management Plan is to include environmental conservation in the social re-adaptation process promoted by the penitentiary authorities, by involving the inhabitants of the penitentiary in natural resource protection and sustainable management activities.

Contact information:

Jorge Antonio Castrejón Pineda
Director RB Islas Marietas
Parque Nacional Islas Marietas
Condominio plaza Marina, Locales f-19 a F-22, Col. Marina Sol, Puerto Vallarta, C.P. 48354, Jalisco, México
Tel: 01 323 285 1003
Email: jacp@conanp.gob.mx

Ecological characteristics:

The Islas Marias Biosphere Reserve includes ecosystems with a great wealth of species of biological, economic, scientific and cultural relevance. Its biological wealth is to be found in the dry forests of its landscape, in the mangroves, the succulent rosette scrubland, the reefs, coasts and pelagic environments it harbours. Because of its isolation for over eight million years, its importance as an ecosystem is manifest in its function as a reservoir to Mexico of endemic species. Fifty-four species of land and marine fauna are protected under some risk category and of these, 19 are endemic. Regarding the flora, 11 endemic or restricted distribution taxa have been recorded, together with six species (one endemic) that are included in a risk category according to NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001. Furthermore, the Reserve is an important refuge, nesting and feeding site for large colonies of sea birds. The marine environment is highly productive, reflected in the great diversity of organisms to be found, such as coral reefs, reef-fish, sharks, rays, turtles and marine mammals.