

WE NEED TO PRESERVE OUR DELTA

I live in the wonderful area of the Delta of the River Ebro in the south of Catalonia. It has been a natural park since the decade of the 1980s. It is the third biggest water natural area in Europe, after the Camargue in France and the Doñana park in Spain. We are home to hundreds of different species of birds and a midway of a great deal of these species on their way south when winter approaches.

People from this area are so proud of our river and its surroundings because the river has provided us with life for centuries and so we have to be grateful for its richness and health.

However, danger is always close, especially on the side of the mankind. Why do I say this? Simply because we have been fighting against the different Spanish governments who have been trying to transfer part of the water of the river to other parts of the state without keeping in mind the terrible ecological disaster and consequences that these policies would bring about to this land and its inhabitants. As well as this, the level and surface of the Delta has decreased in the last fifty years due to the fact that the level of water the river is carrying has been reduced after the building of several dams in the Spanish state, which has also

damaged the flora and fauna of the area.

Moreover, the fact that the sea level is rising is also affecting the quality of the water, for instance, you can fish sea fish inland up to forty kilometres from the mouth of the river, which is a result of the global environmental issues.

In addition to this, several foreign species of fish have been introduced in the river, and these are attacking and destroying the autoctone species, and not only this, but the sadly famous apple snail is also destroying lots of rice crops in the Ebro Delta.

If we pay attention to history, the Delta has meant an extremely important source of raw materials and richness for the area and its people, for example the trade of salt in the medieval times meant a means of exchange like currency. Our land is so rich in the primary sector but the individual interests of all the government and private companies are getting rid of our source of income.

To sum up, it is so sad to see the erosion and degradation of the delta year after year without being able to do much to solve it. So let's keep to preserve our Delta!

I invite you all to visit our Delta because it is a natural paradise on the Earth!

