



## What is Threatening Barcelona's Llobregat Delta?



### What and where is the Llobregat Delta?

The Llobregat River is located in the North East of Spain. It runs for 165km to discharge at the delta south of Barcelona and covers an area of 100 km<sup>2</sup>.

### What are the benefits of the Llobregat Delta?

The Llobregat Delta offers so many important benefits, but they often get overlooked. The wetlands play a critical role in providing wintering habitat for migratory birds. The delta aquifer is an important freshwater resource for the people that live in Barcelona, with a groundwater capacity of 100 hm<sup>3</sup>. The fertile delta farmland supports intensive agriculture and provides local fish markets.

### What is Threatening the Llobregat Delta?

Due to increasing human pressure on the Llobregat River and Delta by the end of the 1980s, it is one of the most polluted and degraded river in Western Europe. The exploitation of underground water has led to salinization of the delta aquifer, making 30% of it unusable. Since then wastewater treatment plants have been built along the basin to treat waste water. There are other infrastructures designed to prevent excessive pollution to enter the river, such as channels to collect treated urban waste water and those collecting brine from salt mine sites.

There have been improvements to improve water quality on the Llobregat Delta, but with increasing population and tourism the threat to the Llobregat Delta remains.

### Where to get more information about the Llobregat Delta?

For more information visit: [www.globalnature.org/35297/Living-Lakes/Europe/Llobregat-Delta/resindex.aspx](http://www.globalnature.org/35297/Living-Lakes/Europe/Llobregat-Delta/resindex.aspx)



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