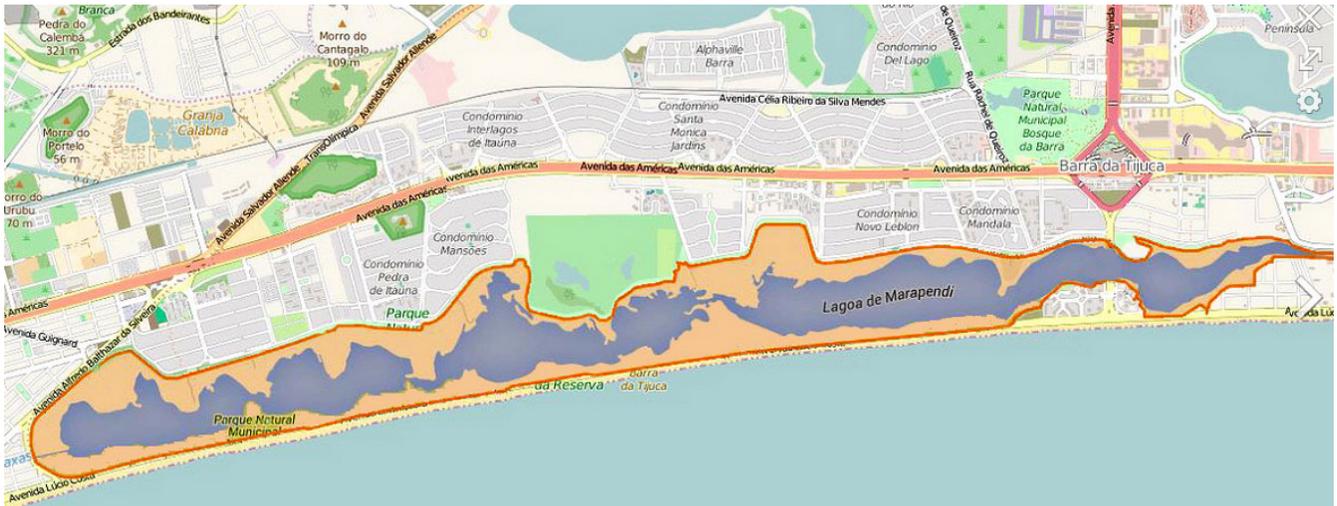


# Surfers for Wetlands



## What is Threatening Marapendi Natural Reserve?



## What and Where is Marapendi Natural Reserve?

The Marapendi Natural Reserve is a coastal wetlands of approximately 665.62 hectares, located in the Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, established for the preservation of native plants and animals. In addition, the fourth stop of the World Surfing League Championship tour happens at Barra da Tijuca. This coastal wetlands provides a huge filter to cleanse the water before it empties out into the beaches of Barra da Tijuca.

## What is Threatening Marapendi Natural Reserve?

- The Rio government built a \$60R million golf course, which includes a 22-story high rise infringed on the sandbank habitat.
- Environmentalists unsuccessfully fought the construction of the new Rio golf course that the city claimed was required to put on the 2016 Olympics.
- Rio officials countered critics by commissioning a report that denied habitat damage, noting that Brazil's EPA designation legally allows for human development within this type of protected area.
- A group of specialized experts on the environment released a report showing the golf course caused serious detrimental environmental impacts: including suppression and fragmentation of native vegetation, and reduction of local biodiversity, resulting in the loss of habitat and native species of fauna and flora, including endangered species.

## What Can You Do to Help?

Let the World Surf League ([southamerica@worldsurfleague.com](mailto:southamerica@worldsurfleague.com)) know that they need to pressure the City of Rio to preserve these critical wetlands because without them, water quality for surfers will be directly impacted.



For more information visit [www.surfersforwetlands.org](http://www.surfersforwetlands.org)



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