



## **URBANS LAGOONS – Ways to urban development**

**by Matheus Serra**

**Report 2 of 3**



## Report 2

### Ways of the present

These ecosystems, despite their importance, are complex, fragile areas and face a large number of problems such as contamination, linked to human settlements, eutrophication, infrastructure installations and the absence of adequate territorial planning to maintain their balance, changing the environmental dynamics and affecting biodiversity.

Disorganized real estate expansion seriously threatens the lagoons and will be catastrophic for the forests and for many species (endemic and visitors) that inhabit these areas. Because even though they are in protected areas, limits are often not respected.

But urban advances not only threaten biodiversity, but also directly affect the lives of traditional communities

- JOSÉ IGNÁCIO: The José Ignacio coastal lagoon, which is within the department of Maldonado. With varied landscapes, alternating between sandy beaches, wetlands and pastures. Like all coastal lagoons in Uruguay, it is separated from the ocean by a bar that opens very frequently. Here it is possible to observe a large number of birds, a paradise for ornithologists. It has been a conservation area since 1977, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT PART of the National System of Protected Areas of Uruguay.

- GARZÓN: One of the most interesting coastal lagoons, measuring approximately 1,416 hectares, marks the jurisdictional line between the departments of Maldonado and Rocha. In addition to the diversity of species, it is formed by wetlands, surrounded by forests with high resistance to salinity. Today they suffer great human pressure. It became part of the National System of Protected Areas of Uruguay in 2014, in the category “habitat and species management area”.

-ROCK: One of the largest lagoons, with approximately 7,200 hectares, is located in the department of Rocha, it has a unique characteristic with its large sandy mountains on the coast, high biological and landscape diversity. It

became part of Uruguay’s National System of Protected Areas in 2010, in the “protected landscapes” category.



**This Darwin Leader project was made possible by:**



**2021** United Nations Decade  
**2030** of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

**[www.oceandecade.org](http://www.oceandecade.org)**



**<https://lagunascosteras.org.uy/en/home-flc/>**

Thanks to all partners and sponsors that made the DARWIN200 2023-25  
Global Voyage Possible.

[www.darwin200.com/sponsors](http://www.darwin200.com/sponsors)



zero  
six  
zero