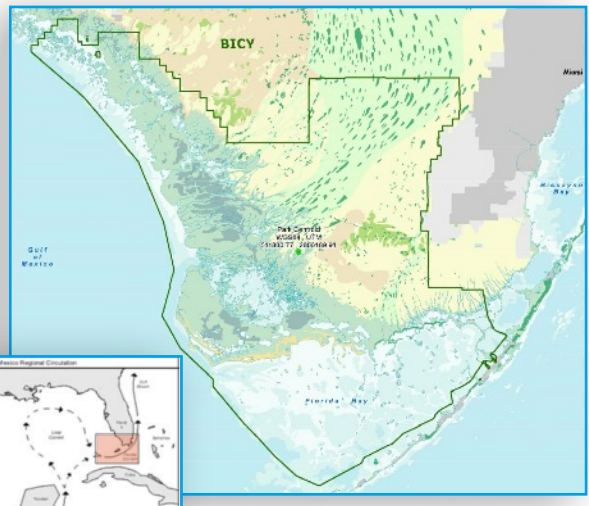




Factsheet

The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW): The Everglades National Park

- A SPAW listed site -



Identification

Country: USA
Name of the area: Everglades National Park
Administrative region: Southeast Region of the U.S. National Park Service
Date of establishment: 12/6/1947
Geographic location:
 Longitude X: -80.90332
 Latitude Y: 25.289405
Date of listing under SPAW: 23 October 2012

Contacts:
 Office of the Superintendent, Everglades National Park
 40001 State Road 9336
 Homestead, Florida 33034-6733, USA
 Website: www.nps.gov/ever
 Email address: bret_wolfe@fws.gov

Introduction

The Everglades National Park is one of the world's unique ecosystems. The park is located at the interface between temperate and tropical America; between land and sea; between fresh, brackish, and marine waters; between terrestrially influenced shallow embayments and deeper coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico; and between the urban sprawl and development of greater Broward, Collier, and Miami-Dade counties (2011 population of ~ 4.1 million) and quiet wilderness. Everglades National Park protects the southern 20 percent of the original Florida Everglades. In the United States, it is the largest subtropical wilderness, the largest wilderness of any kind east of the Mississippi River, and is visited on average by one million people each year. It is the third-largest national park in the lower 48 states after Death Valley and Yellowstone.

a fragile ecosystem. The Everglades are a network of wetlands and forests fed by a river flowing 0.25 miles (0.40 km) per day out of Lake Okeechobee, southwest into Florida Bay. From the Bay the water moves through the island passes into the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (a SPAW Site in 2010). The park is the most significant breeding ground for tropical wading birds in North America, contains the largest mangrove ecosystem in the western hemisphere, is home to 36 threatened or protected species including the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi* or *Puma concolor cougar*, current taxonomic status unresolved), the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), and the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), and supports 350 species of birds, 300 species of fresh and saltwater fish, 40 species of mammals, and 50 species of reptiles. The majority of South Florida's fresh water, which is stored in the Biscayne Aquifer, is recharged in the park.

Although most U.S. national parks preserve unique geographic features, Everglades National Park was the first created to protect

SPAW criteria met

- Ecological criteria**
- Representativeness
 - Conservation value
 - Rarity
 - Naturalness
 - Critical habitats
 - Diversity
 - Connectivity/coherence
 - Resilience

- Cultural and socio-economic criteria**
- Productivity
 - Cultural and traditional use
 - Socio-economic benefits

Site description

General features of the site

Size: 6110 sq. km

Terrestrial surface under sovereignty, excluding wetlands: 3824 sq. km

Wetland surface: 341 ha

Marine surface: 2416 sq. Km

National status of your protected area: National Park

Marine ecoregion: 70. Floridian

Management structure, authority

The Organic Act of 1916 (www.nps.gov/protect/) not only established the National Park Service, but also described the basic objectives of the Service in managing individual park units. The preservation objectives were interpreted to mean that humans should not interfere with these land areas.

Management plan

The Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) was completed in 1979. www.nps.gov. The park is currently engaged in a planning process to update the GMP that will guide park management for the next 20 years. The park anticipates release of the Draft GMP for public review and comment in 2013. The Final GMP is expected to be completed in 2014: www.nps.gov.

Main fauna populations and/or those of particular importance present (resident or migratory) in the area:

Everglades National Park contains a rich biodiversity and is home to

a) 36 threatened or protected species including the iconic Florida panther, American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*);

b) 350 species of birds including a variety of colorful waders such as herons, egrets, roseate spoonbills (*Platalea ajaja*), ibises and brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*);

c) 300 species of ecologically, recreationally, and/or commercially important fresh and saltwater fish such as the yellowtail snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*), black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*), and king mackerel (*Scomberomorus caualla*);

d) 40 species of mammals including the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*);

e) and 50 species of reptiles including 4 species of sea turtles. A Certified Species List for All Taxonomic Categories in Everglades National Park (Aug. 8, 2012) is attached as an annex for review.

Inhabitants inside the area or in the zone of potential direct impact on the protected area:

Everglades National Park is surrounded by Miami-Dade (~ 2.50 million residents), Broward (~ 1.75 million residents), and Collier (~ 0.32 million residents) Counties. The demands of these 4.5 million residents exert a significant impact on the resources of Everglades National Park, presumably mostly on air quality and water quantity and quality.

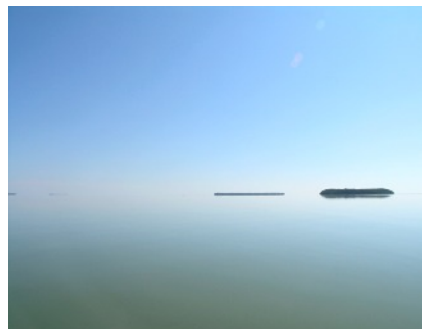
International status and Date of designation

Biosphere reserve 1/1/76

World heritage site (UNESCO) 1/1/79

Others: World Heritage Site in Danger 1/1/10

SPAW Site : 2012.



Links

PA LISTING : www.spaw-palisting.org

CaMPAM : <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>

UNEP-CEP : www.cep.unep.org/

SPAW-RAC : www.car-spaw-rac.org