

Our wetlands at risk: Help us conserve their natural beauty and ecological value

Esteros are known by both locals and visitors to Puerto Peñasco as places for relaxation and recreation with family and friends. We enjoy their beauty and natural riches in a tranquil atmosphere, hearing only the ebb and flow of the tide and shorebirds calling.

Who hasn't enjoyed a beautiful evening on the bank of the estero, a cruise in a kayak through its channels filled with life, or delicious fresh oysters cultivated by the local oyster farmers? Just realizing that none of this may be possible in the near future should be enough to motivate our concern and action.

Esteros are at risk because of uncontrolled and irresponsible development happening in Puerto Peñasco. Construction of mega-developments on our shorelines threatens many of the ecological, economic and social services that the esteros provide. The projects planned over the coming months and years will cause the loss of a place for recreation and enjoyment of nature. We will also lose nursery grounds for species such as shrimp and blue crab. These wetlands harbor a level of biodiversity, especially of birds; they mitigate flooding and generate sources of sustainable employment through the cultivation of oysters and through ecotourism. It is essential that the authorities enforce the laws that protect these ecosystems, their species and the services they provide.

To protect these resources, CEDO has established partnerships and developed strategies for the conservation of estuaries. But to carry them out, we need your support.

For all of these reasons we have decided to create the Peñasco Estero Conservation Fund and establish an advisory council. This fund will allow us to implement and amplify these urgently needed actions for the conservation of the biodiversity and the beauty of our estuaries.

The protection of this ecosystem will not be possible without your help. To contribute to the Peñasco Estero Conservation Fund, send a check to:

CEDO, attn: Estero Fund,
P.O. Box 44208, Tucson, AZ 85733.

If you want to contribute by credit card, call CEDO at 520-320-5473.



ESTEROS

You'll find the words 'estuary', 'estero' and 'wetland' throughout our site. A wetland is a fresh or salt water habitat which is inundated with water at least once year. An estuary is a coastal wetland where salt and fresh water mix. Scientifically speaking, all of the wetlands we work with in the Northern Gulf are 'negative estuaries' or 'hypersaline lagoons' because they receive no freshwater influx. Negative estuaries are called 'esteros' in Spanish, so that's how we often refer to them.