

## 9. REGISTRY OF PROTECTED AREAS

The protected areas are subject to special protection by virtue of a specific regulation on surface or groundwater protection, or on the preservation of habitats and species directly dependent on water.

The international conventions signed by Spain, the European guidelines and the national and autonomy regulations establish different categories of protected areas, each of which with their specific protection objectives, their legal basis and the corresponding requirements in terms of appointment, delimitation, follow-up and provision of information.

The following types of protected areas are differentiated:

- a) Water catchment areas for current and future supply
- b) Areas of economically significant aquatic species
- c) Water bodies of recreational use
- d) Vulnerable areas
- e) Sensitive areas
- f) Areas of habitat or species protection
- g) Mineral and thermal water protection perimeters
- h) Natural river reserves
- i) Special protection areas
- j) Humid areas appointed under Ramsar Convention

Most water bodies of the District are associated with some protected area. Over 73% of the bodies in the case of rivers, 89% in lakes, 98% in groundwater bodies and 100% in coastal and transitional water.

In the Information System of the JRB Water (SIA-Júcar), which may be accessed through the website [www.chj.es](http://www.chj.es), all the protected areas and their information associated may be referred to through the geographical viewer.



River-type surface water bodies with protected area associated





Image: Natural river reserve in Guadalaviar River in Albarracín.

The declaration of natural river reserves aims to preserve, with no alterations, those river sections with scarce or no human intervention.

In such sections it will not be possible to grant or modify authorisations or concessions in the public hydraulic domain that put at risk the maintenance of the naturalness status and the hydromorphological characteristics that motivated the declaration.

In the District there are currently 10 open natural river reserves, most of which are located at the heads of the main rivers or their tributaries (Mijares, Turia and Júcar).