



Wetlands in Core of Global Economy

- Water Framework Directive 2000 / 60 / EC
- Floods Directive 2007 / 60 / EC
- Habitat Directive 1992 / 43 / EEC
- Birds Directive 1979 / 409 / EEC 2009 / 147 / EC



Wetlands Contract is a voluntary tool for inclusive governance of surface water bodies, based on the active participation of local actors and the integrated assessment of management options.

Project partners

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 2,252 M € Project budget	 1,914 M € ERDF / IPA	 30 Months Project duration
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WetNet

Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean Wetlands

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

11/2016-04/2019



The project

Wetlands in Europe are vulnerable interconnected environments, with important contributions to biodiversity. Their protection intertwines scientific-environmental aspects and governance concerns. WETNET tackles the issue of implementing multilevel governance for MED wetlands in order to improve wetlands ecosystems and their surrounding local systems.

The project aims at ensuring higher coordination between different levels of spatial planning and authorities in charge of their management, whilst limiting conflicts between conservation issues and economic activities. By defining common priorities for MED wetlands conservation, WETNET builds a common territorial strategy for their integrated management. Building on previous EU experiences (River Contracts), WETNET seeks to test and transfer 'Wetlands Contracts', acting through broad participatory processes where users, private and public entities are committed in mainstreaming wetland conservation into their daily activities. This project aims to:

- increase the knowledge of Wetlands Contracts effectiveness;
- strengthen existing transnational networks for sharing and disseminating information and good practices on wetland conservation.

The project partnership involves all authorities and typology of stakeholders operating in the target field. It will allow WETNET to meet the wetlands needs at a broad scale, ensuring the transferability of its results to other EU countries.

PILOTS AREAS • WETNET PROJECT

1 CAORLE LAGOON SYSTEM

LOCATION: VENETO (ITALY)
PARTNER: VENETO REGION (VR)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 5.119 ha
PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: about 33.358 ha (entire territorial system)
TYPE: Rivers and channels with fresh water, coastal lagoons with brackish water
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: Most of the area is part of the Natura 2000 network. It is also an area of natural-



environmental protection identified by the Regional Territorial Coordination Plan and subject to environmental constraints.

MAIN FEATURES: The area is characterized by a wide range of natural and artificial waterways (the latter linked to reclamation activities). The most important rivers are the Tagliamento, Livenza and Lemene. The Nicosolo and Lovi lagoon-channels cross and collect in the lagoons of Caorle and Bibione. As regards the settlement system, two distinct areas are distinguished: the densely urbanized coastline with large seaside resorts and the extensive reclaimed territory behind it, characterized by highly developed agriculture and fishery ponds toward the coast. One of them – Valle Vecchia (Old Valley) – is one of the few non-urbanized stretches of the Venetian coast, hosting a precious natural capital.

2 VERCELLI LOWPLAIN

LOCATION: PIEDMONT (ITALY)
PARTNER: PROVINCE OF VERCELLI (PV)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 7.192,73 ha
INFLUENCE AREA: 70.736,38 ha
TYPE: Paddy fields with fresh water
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: The pilot area includes 28 municipalities of the Province of Vercelli and corresponds to a portion of the “ambito 24” (ambit 24) defined by the Regional Landscape Plan and the thematic area “rural landscape systems of significant homogeneity and characterization of the crops”.
MAIN FEATURES: The area includes part of the Western floodplain of the river Sesia and part of the Northern floodplain of Dora Baltea and Po rivers. It is also characterized by a complex system of irrigation canals and artificial waterways

guaranteeing crops irrigation and rice cultivation. Today the agricultural system is industrialized and mainly dominated by rice paddies (submerged culture). The project area is also interested by three Natura 2000 sites, such as the Po River Park (riverine wetland), the “Bosco delle Sorti della Partecipanza di Trino” (forest wetland), the “Risaiè vercellesi”, “Fontana Gigante”, “Palude di San Genuario”, “Paludi di San Genuario e San Silvestro” (artificial wetlands).



3 LJUBLJANSKO BARJE NATURE PARK



LOCATION: CENTRAL SLOVENIA
PARTNER: RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE SLOVENIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS (ZRC-SAZU)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 13.505 ha
PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 13.505 ha

4 ODIEL MARSHES

LOCATION: HUELVA (SPAIN)
PARTNER: ANDALUSIAN FEDERATION OF TOWNS AND PROVINCES (FAMP)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 18.875 ha
PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 21.991 ha
TYPE: Coastal Marshes

MAIN FEATURES: In the south of Huelva (Spain), the confluence of Tinto and Odiel rivers has given rise to a complex of marshes influenced by the tides, known as the Odiel Marshes. A great variety of landscapes makes up this area. One of its main enclaves is the island of Enmedio, declared a Natural Reserve for housing one of the largest colonies of European breeding spatulas, a species in danger of extinction.

5 ALBUFERA DE VALENCIA

LOCATION: COMUNITAT VALENCIANA (SPAIN)
PARTNER: SPANISH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (SEO/BirdLife)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 21.120 ha

TYPE: Floodplain with fresh water.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: Extended protected area – Protected Landscape (IUCN Category V), 2 Ecologically Important Areas, Natura 2000 site.
MAIN FEATURES: The Ljubljansko barje Nature Park is the Slovenia's largest complex of wet grasslands with hedges and forests, shrubs and watercourses located in the area of Ljubljana Marsh, in Central Slovenia. The area is well-known for its rich biodiversity, which is the result of specific cultivation practices (extensively-mowed meadows). Most of the protected, classified animals, plant species and habitat types are vitally dependent on the preservation of the wetland character of the Ljubljana Marsh ecosystem and on the maintenance of extensively-managed meadows (rational fertilization, late mowing).

A walk along this natural site will allow you to observe cormorants, flamingos, various species of seagulls and waders. Salt production is one of the most interesting natural resources in the area. Activities traditionally carried out in this natural setting include pine gathering, beekeeping, livestock, fishing and shellfish.



PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 21.120 ha
DEPTH: 1,5 - 0,5 m
TYPE: Coastal wetland with brackish and freshwater

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: Natura 2000 site (SCI and SPA), RAMSAR site and Natural Park.

MAIN FEATURES: L'Albufera is one of the most important coastal wetlands for birds in the Mediterranean. Their main habitats are the coastal lagoon (30 km²), rice fields (140 km² with different uses throughout the year-cycle), coastal pine forest, dunes and brackish, permanent lagoons. The pressures on biodiversity are related mainly to water management, volume and quality of



the water entering the wetland system. The main activities carried out are agriculture (specifically linked to biodiversity conservation), fishing, gastronomy and tourism.

6 CAÑIZAR LAGOON

LOCATION: ARAGON (SPAIN)
PARTNER: SARGA - GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 1.130 ha (before drying)
PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 22.500 ha



DEPTH: 2,8 m
TYPE: Inland lagoon with fresh water
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: Included in “Inventory of unique wetlands of Aragon”, in the typology of seasonal freshwater lagoon.

MAIN FEATURES: Is the fifth most extensive wetland in the interior of Spain and the second most important for fresh water habitats. In XVIII century the site was drained. Restoration activities were implemented in the site between 2008 and 2012. The area dedicated to the lagoon now exceeds 524 ha with 411 ha of flooded areas and the rest are wet meadows of great ecological value.

7 MELIDES LAGOON

LOCATION: ALENTEJO (PORTUGAL)
PARTNER: DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK (RCDI)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 400 ha
PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 6.500 ha
DEPTH: average 2 meters and a 6 meter tidal channel along the lagoon south bank
TYPE: Coastal lagoon system with brackish water
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: classified as part of the Comporta/ Galé Site (PTCON0034) included in the Natura2000 network.

MAIN FEATURES: A coastal lagoon with 40 hectares of permanent water bodies and an adjacent dune system on the Alentejo ocean coast. The lagoon is periodically opened to the ocean, either naturally or artificially, for water and sediments renewal. Tourism and agriculture (rice fields) are the main economic activities.



8 GOZO ISLAND

LOCATION: GOZO (MALTA)
PARTNER: GOZO Regional Committee - Gozo Development Agency
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 1.207,42 ha
PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 6.915,82 ha
TYPE: Inland lagoon

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: The water catchment district of the Maltese Islands was established by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) under Article 3 of the WFD for the purposes of the implementation of the WFD (see sub regulation 3 (1) of LN 194/2004). This water catchment district consists of all hydrological sub-catchments, coastal waters up to one nautical mile from the baseline and all ground waters.

MAIN FEATURES: The Gozo part of the Maltese water catchment district include: (i) three coastal water bodies, whose boundaries were determined on the ba-

sis of the predominant physical and ecological characteristics, as well as on the nature and magnitude of pressures on the coastal water environment; (ii) small inland surface waters systems linked to the dynamics of dry river valleys, locally called “widien” and their associated catchments, and transitional waters linked to coastal processes: they are small streams, water courses or standing waters that flow or receive water flow for limited periods of time during the year; (iii) three protected Natura 2000 sites related to water-dependent habitats, for a total extension of 1.207,42 ha.



9 VERDIER MARSHES



LOCATION: RHONE DELTA (FRANCE)
PARTNER: TOUR DU VALAT FOUNDATION (TDV)
PROTECTED WETLAND SURFACE: 120 ha

PILOT AREA INFLUENCE SURFACE: 120 ha
TYPE: Coastal marshes with a mosaic of fresh water and salty step habitats
ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES: Included in Nature2000 and part of the Natural Regional Park of the Camargue.
MAIN FEATURES: The Verdier Marshes were fish ponds that were restored to natural wetlands in 2004 as part of a community based wetland project. Today the site is managed between the local association “les Marais du Verdier” in collaboration with the Tour du Valat Research Institute. The site is open to the public and hosts a variety of socio-cultural activities including livestock grazing, hunting, fishing and bird watching.