

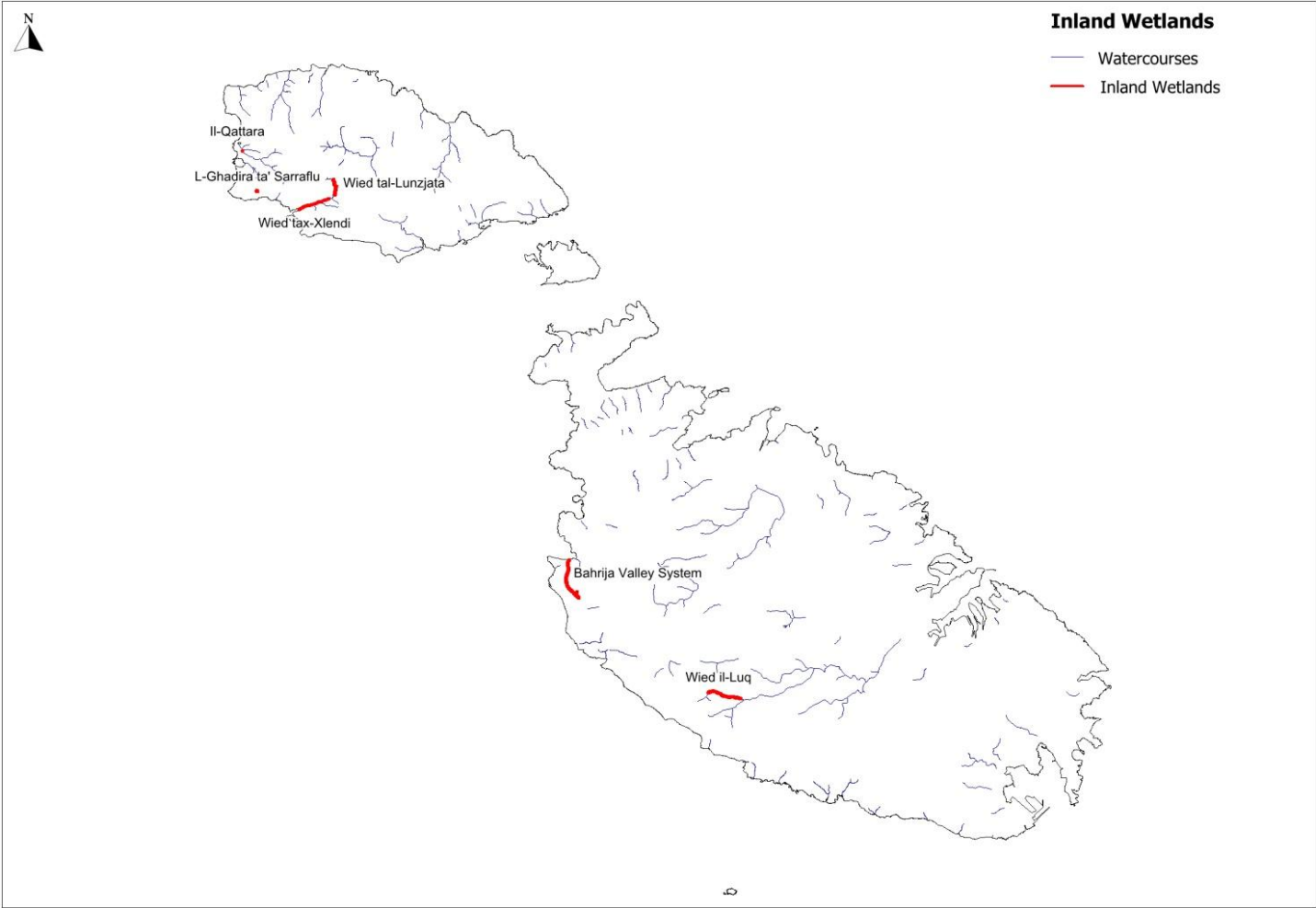
Conservation of the island wetlands of the Mediterranean Basin

The island wetlands of Malta

Krista Farrugia / Nature Trust

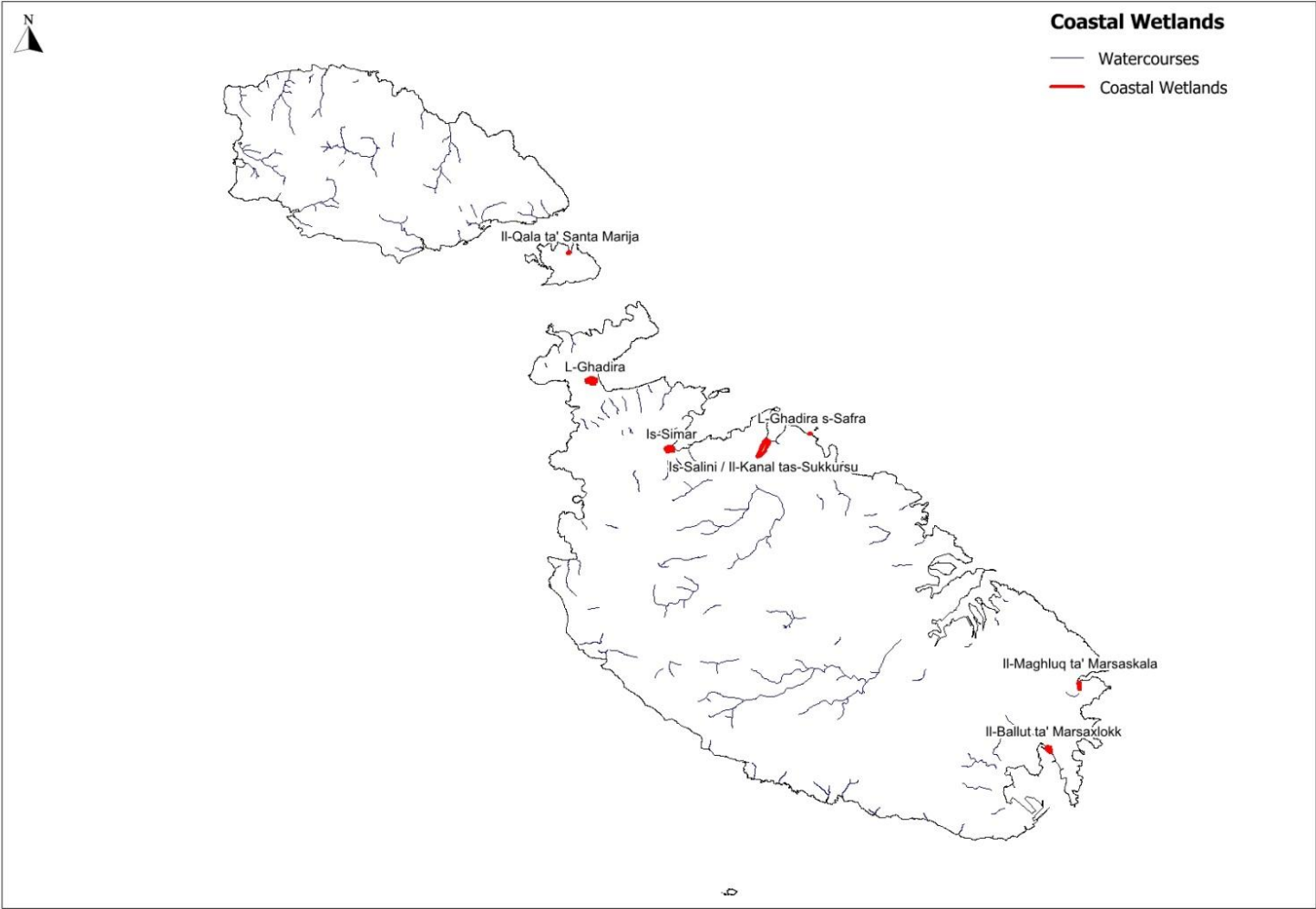
**Kick off meeting – MedisWet project
Iraklion, Crete, 7-9 November 2017**

Inland Wetlands



Source: Environmental Resources Authority

Coastal Wetlands



Source: Environmental Resources Authority

- ✓ Hydromorphological characteristics
- ✓ Physico-chemical characteristics - not enough trend data, high fluctuations short-term
- ✓ Biotopes and habitats known
- ✓ Conservation status

Maltese Coastal Wetlands



Source: Natura 2000 Management Plans

Main problems wetlands are facing

- ✓ Deliberate introduction of alien species
- ✓ Pressures from large number of visitors
- ✓ Physical restriction
- ✓ Changes in hydrologic conditions by human activity largely related to agriculture
- ✓ Illegal hunting
- ✓ Pollution
- ✓ Natural processes – erosion, siltation, drying out of watercourses and marsh areas

- ✓ Ramsar
- ✓ Special Areas of Conservation & Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000)
- ✓ Water Framework Directive
- ✓ Spatial Planning:
 - Areas of Ecological Importance
 - Sites of Scientific Importance
 - Tree Protection Areas
 - Areas of High Landscape Value
 - Bird Sanctuary

- ✓ Management plan
- ✓ Commitment from Authorities
- ✓ Constraint - Land availability to extend wetland habitats and improve conservation status
- ✓ Studies
- ✓ Funds

Potential for restoration – Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk



NATURA 2000 SITES
MALTESE ISLANDS

II-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk (SAC) Site boundary



Map Information	
Project:	NATURA 2000 Management Plans
Project Contract:	CT 3101/2011
Production Date:	15 / 02 / 2014
Coordinate System:	WGS84 (EPSG: 4326)
Scale:	1 : 3,500
Copyright:	MEPA
Status:	Final Draft



Source: Management Plan for II-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk

Potential for restoration – Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk



Source: Management Plan for Il-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk

Potential for restoration – Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk



Source: Management Plan for Il-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk

Potential for restoration – Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk



Source: Second Water Catchment Management Plan for the Malta Water Catchment District

- ✓ Environmental Resources Authority Environmental Fund
- ✓ Planning Authority Fund
- ✓ Structural funds
- ✓ Norway European Economic Area Fund
- ✓ Local business adjacent to the SAC

Processes before initiating restoration

- ✓ Depending on intervention certain studies may be required e.g. Appropriate Assessment
- ✓ Re-acquisition of fields behind marshland
- ✓ Restoration Method Statements
- ✓ Planning permission
- ✓ Work with / raise awareness amongst stakeholders

Time schedule of the project



Action	Timeframe(Years)				Deliverables	Year of Delivery
	1	2	3	4		
Inventory, documentation and data publication					Inventory report Database Field visits Meeting participation	1 st year 1 st year 1 st year From 1 st year on
Restoration studies and financing opportunities mapped					For Ballut ta' M'xlokk	2 nd year
Restoration interventions (halting / slowing down erosion) (improved hydrological conditions) (habitat expansion) (reintroduction of Annex II species)					Implementation of restoration action/s	From 2 nd year on
Promotion of conservation measures locally & nationally					Promotional material Increased site protection	2 nd & 3 rd year
Engaging local communities					Promotional material Publication of results Outreach education sessions Promotional events	2 nd year 3 rd & 4 th year 2 nd year on 3 rd year on

Thank you



Source: *Adi Associates Ltd*