



Don't let coastal wetlands be wiped off the map.

Press release - 18th October 2018 - Arles (France)

A consortium of 11 international organisations (1) launched “Off Your Map”, a new campaign to raise awareness on the value of coastal wetlands. The campaign aims to influence key regional and national processes in favour of preserving and restoring coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean.

Through the key message “Life Begins In Wetlands”, the campaign focuses on the critical role played by coastal wetlands in ensuring the livelihoods of millions of people living in these areas, and also in protecting their homes by reducing disaster risks such as flooding and storms. Coastal wetlands are nature based solutions, as they improve water quality and are a source of fresh water. Wetlands are also an important destination for tourism, and generates incomes for local economies. They also provide suitable habitat for diverse native plants and animals, many of which are endangered.

Over 50% of the Mediterranean population live in coastal areas and yet over the last 100 years we've lost more than half of our Coastal Wetlands due to unsustainable development tourism and climate change.

During the last 40 years our consumption of natural resources has tripled. Without changing our approach to how we manage development in Coastal Wetland areas, these natural wonders will be wiped off the map.

It's time for each of us to see Coastal Wetlands for the rich natural resource they are and consciously put them back on our maps of responsibility, before they are lost forever, and with them all the benefits they provide to our societies.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands organizes the thirteenth session of its Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP 13) in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from 20 to 29 October 2018, with a focus on the theme “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”, which highlights the important role played by wetlands in making cities livable.

offyourmap.org
#OffYourMap
#LifeBeginsInWetlands

Off Your Map is a collaboration between the following partners with the funding and support from the MAVA Foundation.





#LifeBeginsInWetlands



The conference brings together representatives of the member governments to the Convention (170), a large number of international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as experts on wetlands-related issues.

Off Your Map is organizing a Mediterranean presence at the Ramsar COP 13, via side events, and a booth. To know more about it contact us or follow us on the social medias.

Together we can turn the tide for Mediterranean Coastal Wetlands.

(1) BirdLife, DiversEarth, IUCN Med, GWP Med, MedINA, MedPAN, MedWet, UNEP PAP/RAC, UNEP/ Plan Bleu, Tour du Valat, Wetlands International. With the funding and support of the MAVA Foundation.

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Just released!

New Policy Brief on Water, Wetlands and Nature-based Solutions in a Nexus context.

Read it here: <http://bit.ly/Water-Wetlands-Nexus>

