

# MARISTANIS

## Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Habitats of the Oristano Gulf (Sardinia, Italy)



The Gulf of Oristano, in Sardinia (Italy), boasts 7,700 hectares of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), which stretch along 200 km of coastline from Capo Mannu to the lagoon of Marceddì. These wetlands are rich in biodiversity and provide significant economic, social and cultural benefits to the local population.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The coastal wetlands of the Gulf of Oristano, with six Ramsar Sites, suffer from the absence of a shared, common and long-term management strategy. The Maristanis project is aimed at defining an integrated management system that can serve as a model for other coastal regions of the Mediterranean.

The project is co-financed by the MAVA Foundation and coordinated by the MEDSEA Foundation, in collaboration with the Marine Protected Area "Sinis Peninsula – Mal di Ventre Island" and the FLAG "PESCANDO".

*"The realization of the MARISTANIS project represents an important milestone for us. We will work hard to achieve, by 2022, the ambitious goals that we are setting."*

*Alessio Satta, President of MedSea*

highlighted by the MAVA Foundation to develop best practices that will serve as references for the Mediterranean region.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness and improve knowledge of wetlands and coastal and marine habitats involving local and international stakeholders.
- To establish an effective governance for coastal wetland management.
- To ensure the restoration of the optimal hydraulic conditions of the Ramsar Sites.
- To improve the conservation of coastal habitats, including dunes and Posidonia meadows, and to reinforce the resilience of the coast to climate change.
- To reduce water consumption, abstraction, pollution, and other forms of contamination.
- To reinforce traditional fishing methods and to safeguard fish species with a high trophic interest.
- To give the highest priority to protecting the endangered species such as sea turtles and migratory birds.
- To protect the historical-architectural heritage linked to wetlands and to enhance the cultural landscapes of high ecological value.
- To support new economic and cultural activities linked to a more sustainable value chain.

The Gulf of Oristano is one of the four Mediterranean coastal wetlands



## EXPECTED RESULTS

- To have identified biodiversity rich and sensitive areas.
- To have established relative vulnerability and risk maps that allow us to prioritize the “hotspots” and coastal ecosystems more at risk to climate-related impacts.
- To have evaluated ecosystem services, including traditional uses.
- To have designed an Integrated Information System to monitor wetland resources with a uniform data management.
- To have created the Oristano Wetland Observatory to guarantee a continuous monitoring of the Oristano wetlands.
- To have created and implemented an Interactive WebGIS with all the metadata to guarantee a clear, intuitive, immediate and updated understanding of the area status.
- To have updated the Ramsar Information Sheets of the six Ramsar Sites.
- To have in place proper governance systems to implement the resulting integrated plans.
- To have reinforced the local administration with a technical assistance team to provide continuous support to the municipalities.
- To have established a Local Forum involving relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.
- To have raised the awareness of local and international stakeholders, including citizens and students.
- To have established the Legislative Framework and assessed its application.

**Duration:** 2017 - 2020

**Budget:** € 4 637 499,00

**More information:** [www.maristanis.org](http://www.maristanis.org)

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This work was carried out by MedWet as part of the portfolio of Mediterranean wetland projects.

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