



Saltpans Initiative

for coastal wetland conservation
and restoration in the
Mediterranean Region

Saltpans are often part of larger wetland complexes and host many flora and fauna species that have become increasingly dependent on this manmade landscape. They are also home to artisanal practices of salt extraction that are mutually beneficial for both humans and nature. But saltpans are now often mismanaged or simply abandoned.

CONTEXT

As part of its strategy for Mediterranean coastal wetlands, **MAVA Foundation** is supporting the project “Overarching activities addressing Wetland Conservation in the Mediterranean Region” led by BirdLife International.

The project addresses the threats affecting three pilot sites: Ghar el Melah (Tunisia), Oristano (Italy), and Ulcinj Salina (Montenegro). It also seeks to minimize the impact at other key Mediterranean saltpans in need of better management, restoration and monitoring.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To support sharing of best practices and restoration measures applied at the pilot sites and others where appropriate.
- To coordinate efforts with other existing saltpan restoration and promotion initiatives.

- To create the capacity within the partnership to define a multi-year saltpan recovery project which can be submitted to an external donor during the 2018-2019 period, one which can leverage funds and catalyze further action and cooperation in other Mediterranean priority wetlands/saltpans such as the Gediz Delta (Turkey), Cabo de Gata (Spain) and others.

- To support priority Mediterranean wetlands, and especially saltpans, to develop them as functional natural habitats that support healthy populations of migratory and non-migratory birds in association with responsible economic activities and in a manner that can be replicated throughout the region.

- To promote the uptake of best practices through communication actions in the Mediterranean and international targeted advocacy.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

This project contributes to the following broad strategies:

- Knowledge (ecological analysis, valuation of natural capital, economic values of ecosystem services, analysis of traditional uses, and benefits, goods and services).
- Demonstration projects on water resources/wetland/coastal zone management.
- Capacity building for relevant stakeholders (through knowledge sharing, training and demonstration projects).

EXPECTED RESULTS

At the end, the project should achieve the following results:

- To identify biodiversity rich and sensitive areas.
- To identify environmental impact studies and solutions for mitigating problems.
- To develop convincing evidence for the need to take the environment into account in development planning and to communicate this effectively.
- To develop the civil society skills and knowledge needed to address wetland conservation issues.
- To ensure that traditional resource use and governance of the sites are understood, including access rights.
- To raise awareness of local communities and/or farmers about best practices in water management.
- To involve relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes.
- To implement effective sustainable development plans.
- To support saltpan restoration actions to improve their functioning and the knowledge about them.

Duration: 2017 - 2020

Budget: € 513 120

Contact: Iván Ramírez

Project Manager, BirdLife International

Email: ivan.ramirez@birdlife.org



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

MedWet.org @MedWetOrg

FUNDING



PARTNERS

