



Ulcinj Salina

(Montenegro)

Protecting, restoring and conserving a key wetland for nature and people

The Ulcinj Salina, in Montenegro, is one of the most important stopovers for migrating birds along the Adriatic Flyway and is also a major nesting, wintering and roosting spot. The salt works, set up in this manmade wetland in the 1920s, ensured a good life for local workers and birds alike. But, today, this treasure is under threat.

CONTEXT

As part of its strategy for Mediterranean coastal wetlands, the MAVA Foundation is supporting the project on “Ulcinj Salina – Protecting, restoring and conserving a key wetland for nature and people” led by EuroNatur Foundation. Ulcinj Salina is one of the four Mediterranean coastal wetlands highlighted by the MAVA Foundation to develop best practices that will serve as references for the Mediterranean region.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall goals of this project are to ensure the long term conservation of the Ulcinj Salina through achieving full legal protection, the definition and implementation of a new management plan, as well as the provision of incentives for the creation of

sustainable income options for the local population, incentives that are in line with the conservation goals for the salina.

The project primarily focuses on halting or significantly reducing unsustainable development, but also on demonstrating the effectiveness of concrete conservation actions for the benefit of species, habitats and people using the Ulcinj salina area.

It also focuses on valuing the ecosystem services provided and ensuring adequate networking and the sharing of best practices with other similar habitats occurring in the Mediterranean.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The project is implemented through three strategies:

- Develop an advocacy campaign and legal action to enable protection of the pilot site and law enforcement.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of conservation approaches by applying innovative management and restoration programmes.
- Create business models and incentives for the local population in order to mitigate threats to the biodiversity in the pilot site.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project aims to achieve the following results:

- Promoting the value of Ulcinj Salina and the threats facing it nationally and internationally by designing and implementing a broad media campaign and petitions.
- Prioritising the protection status of Ulcinj Salina for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (CMS/AEWA, Ramsar and Bern Conventions) and EU Institutions (European Council (EC), European Parliament (EP)) through lobbying actions and by maintaining a constant flow of information between actors.
- Exploring all legal means for the protection of the Ulcinj Salina and applying them appropriately.
- Endorsing and implementing a business and management plan for the Ulcinj Salina and employing it in the restoration of the site.
- Raising the awareness of the local population about the benefits of sustainable development and the risks of development that is unsustainable.
- Engaging the local population in preparing a municipal sustainable development plan (SDP), including the identification of opportunities for nature-based business models in a participatory process.
- Identifying and implementing opportunities for nature-based business models for family and small-scale businesses.

More information: <https://savesalina.net/>

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

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