

Documentation



- 824 island wetlands
- 79 islands
- ~800 field visits
- www.oikoskopio.gr/ygrotopio

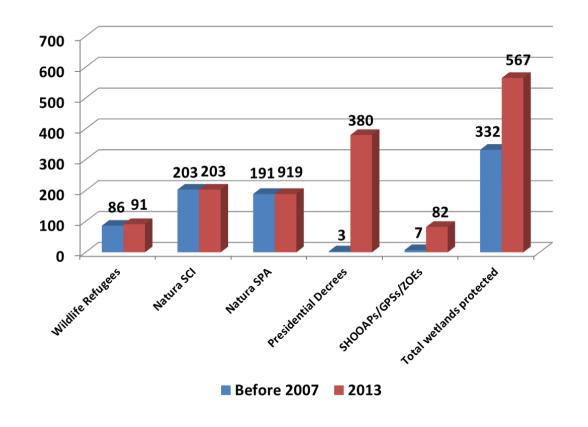




Conservation



- 5 wetlands included in a new Wildlife refuge
- > 80 wetland in spatial plans as protected areas
- 380 small natural wetlands protected in a new law





12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Resolution XII.14

Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands

- AWARE that the Mediterranean Basin is a global biodiversity hotspot and hosts one of the largest groups of islands in the world with a rich history and varied cultural values;
- ALSO AWARE that the Mediterranean Basin is one of the leading tourist destinations in the world and that its coastal and island ecosystems are facing intense and multiple pressures from this sector:
- 3. ACKNOWLEDGING the crucial role of Mediterranean island wetlands in protecting these islands against the impacts of climate change and desertification, and their critical significance for a variety of threatened and endemic species of flora and fauna and an important number of migratory species:
- 4. CONCERNED that Mediterranean island wetlands increasingly face serious pressures, such as the spread of urban and coastal developments that threaten to undermine their ecological character and lead to the increased degradation of wetland areas and, subsequently, to ecosystem fragmentation;
- AWARE of the fact that small island wetlands are extremely vulnerable and could be easily destroyed, including by non-intentional actions and/or lack of awareness of their significance;
- ALSO CONCERNED that several Mediterranean island wetlands have already been partly or fully
 drained, or are increasingly water-stressed, and AWARE that the demand for fresh water for
 human use on these islands continues to grow;
- RECALLING the commitments made by the Contracting Parties to achieving the wise use of all wetlands in their territories;
- ALSO RECALLING Recommendation 6.11, which encouraged continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands and urged all government and non-government organizations and individuals concerned with wetlands in the Mediterranean to commit their best efforts for the preparation and implementation of a concerted Mediterranean Wetlands Strategy;
- NOTING that the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) has successfully contributed to the protection of Mediterranean wetlands for more than 20 years and it is anticipated that it will continue to do so;
- ALSO NOTING the efforts made by organizations and initiatives directly focusing on the Mediterranean, such as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against

Ramsar Resolution XII.14

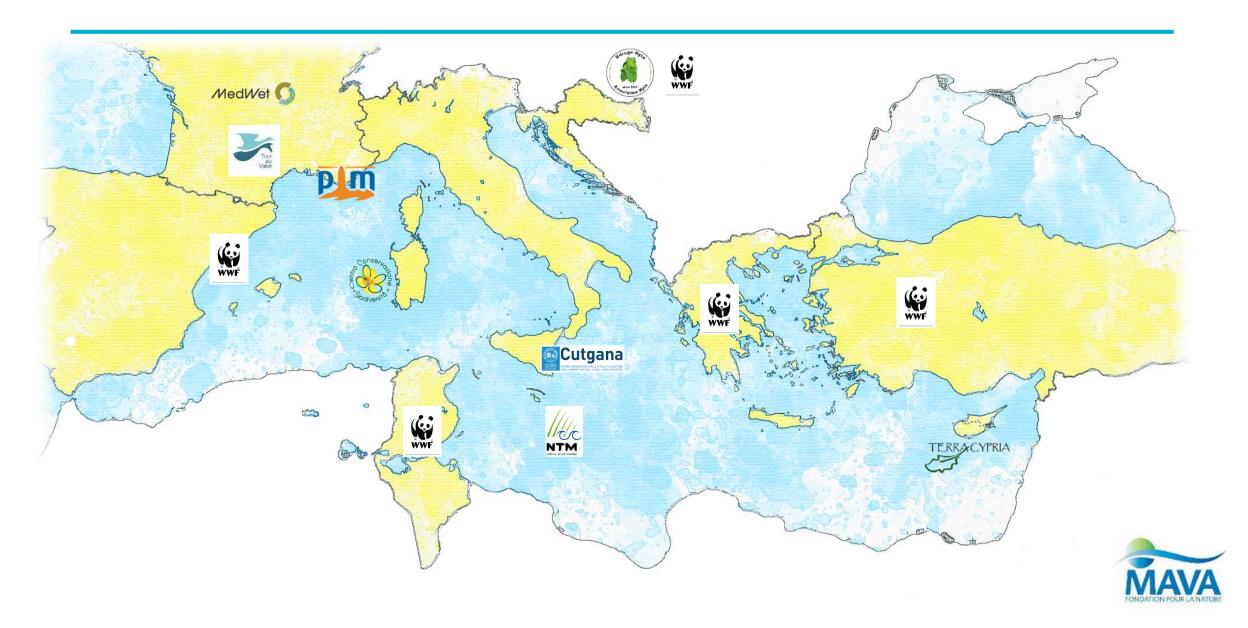


Calls upon the contracting parties, among others to:

- Inventory their island wetlands and share the data through databases, open to the public.
- Protect their island wetlands through national laws, spatial plans, water management plans, etc.
- Restore island wetlands.
- Designate under-represented types of wetlands as additional Wetlands of International Importance.

Mediterranean Island Wetlands





Documentation

- Indexing of relevant literature
- Record of all Mediterranean Island wetlands through satellite images interpretation
- Field visits to more than 2500 sites, in 91 islands
- 9 national databases
- Dissemination of knowledge to the public and the scientific community

Protection

- Proposals for legal framework improvement in each country.
- Advocacy at national level (position papers, presentations to the public authorities, meetings, etc.).
- Advocacy at E.U. scale

Restoration

 Restoration actions in – at least – one island wetland per member



^{*} Following the same approach as the one developed in the Greek project by WWF Greece



Search by...

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Explore by filters

Protection status Ramsar wetland type

Coastal / Inland

State (natural wetlands)

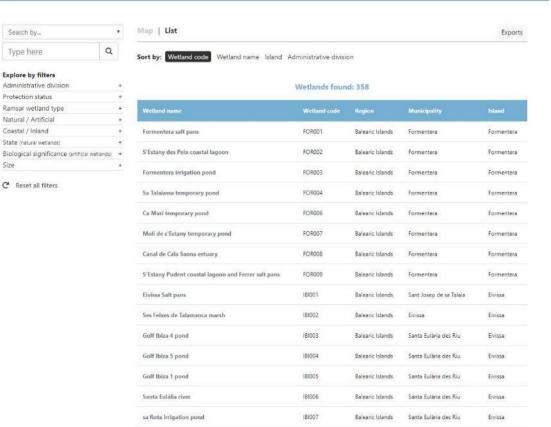
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Administrative division

Island wetlands of Spain

ESTEN

DATABASE STATISTICS ABOUT



Towards a common db

- 9 national databases
- Based on Ramsar Sites Information Service (https://rsis.ramsar.org/)
- Bilingual
- Data can be Exported
- Filter/criteria search; map search
- All 9 national databased will be unified through a common portal.



Cyprus

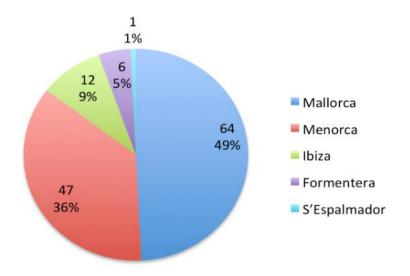


- Inventory completed in 2016
- 288 artificial (2614 ha) & 58 natural (5704 ha) wetlands
- Most of the artificial wetlands are
 < 8 ha (224 sites)
- The majority of the natural wetlands are degraded
- http://www.cypruswetlands.org/

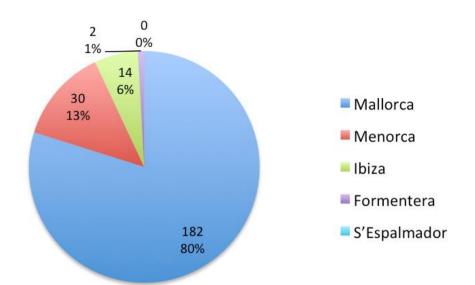




Natural wetlands in each island



Artificial wetlands in each island



Spain



- 228 artificial (1056 ha) & 130 natural (12425 ha) wetlands
- Field visits in 135 wetlands
- Database with all data will be published soon

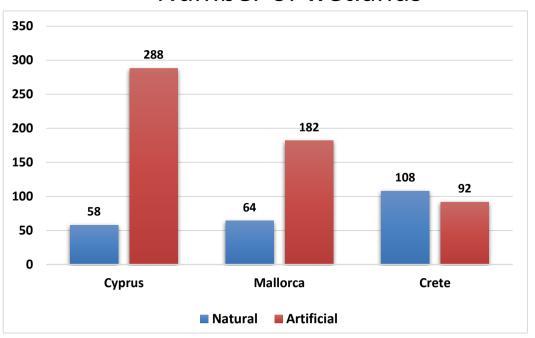
Mallorca

- Reservoirs from tertiary wastewater treatment and golf ponds
- Salinization in a distance of 5 km from the sea
- Degraded natural wetlands

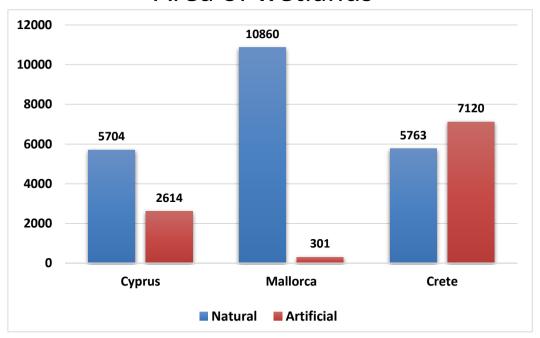


Crete-Cyprus-Mallorca

Number of wetlands



Area of wetlands





Turkey

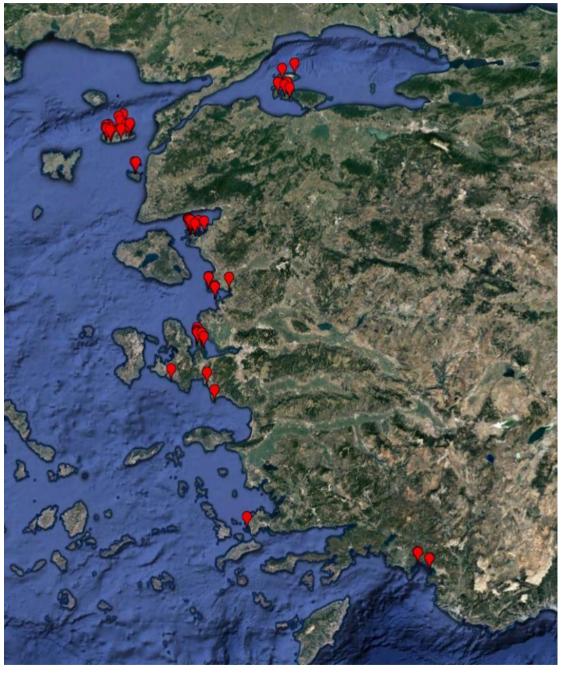


- 81 wetlands in 25 islands
- Field visits will be completed until June 2019
- Natural wetlands are in rather good shape

Gökçeada island

 Host the largest Turkish island wetland with big numbers of Flamingos (>1000 individuals)



















Croatia





- 216 wetlands in 32 islands
- Natural wetlands are in excellent condition
- Wetlands in karst areas

Krk island

- Tourism is not developed
- Abandoned countryside
- Wetlands, even natural ones, are shaped by human activities



Tunisia



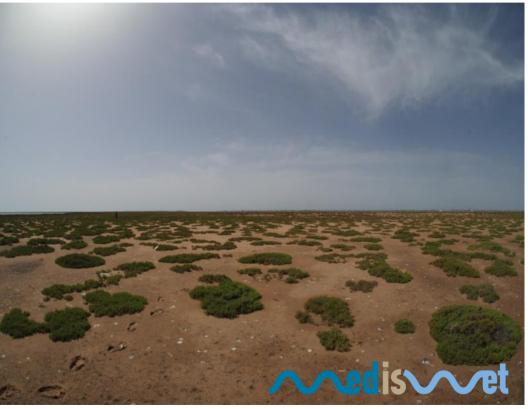
- 93 wetlands in 9 islands
- Flatted areas, sebkhas (saltmarhes)
- Intense salinization problems →
 Sebkhas are expanding













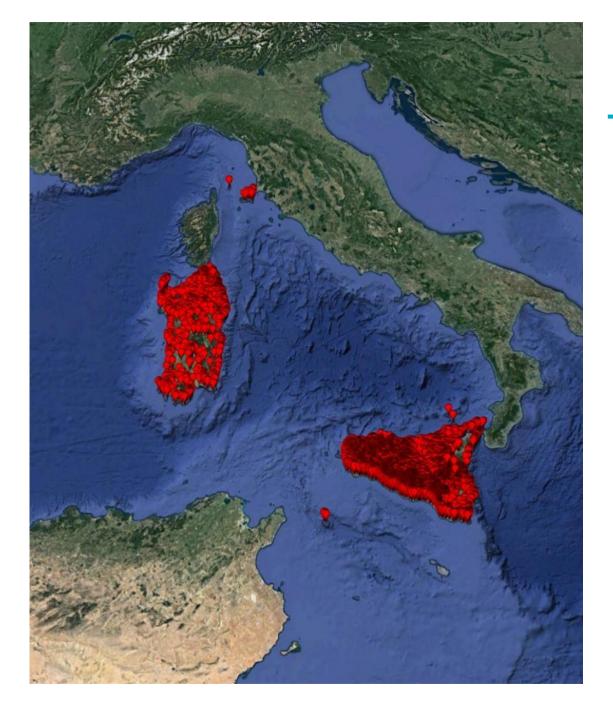
Malta



- 126 potential wetland areas in 3 islands
- Field visits will be completed within 2019
- 2 Ramsar sites (117 ha)
- Small and intensively altered







Italy







- 14 islands
- Sardinia: 2422 wetlands (689 natural)
- Sicily: 11984 wetlands
- Field visits to all natural and to selected artificial wetlands

Sardinia (estimation)

- Natural wetlands are in good shape
- Construction is prohibited in a distance of 300m from the coast

Sicily (estimation)

~11500 artificial wetlands (small ponds for agriculture)



France



- 930 wetlands in 9 islands
- Field visits will start within 2019
- Previous inventory already existed; lack of data

An estimation

- Natural wetlands are in good shape
- Many wetland types





Legal Framework study

- The importance of the Resolution is different in each country
- The legal framework for wetlands is not equally developed in all Mediterranean countries

France	Italy	Cyprus
Mediterranean Islands are a small proportion of the territory – difficult to draw the attention of the central administration	National inventory disregards the great majority of wetlands	Implementation of the Resolution means implementation of Ramsar Convention
Complet but complex legal framework	Difference in the level of protection of wetlands in each Region because of sharing of competencies between State and the Regions	No legal framework for wetlands to this day



France

- Adopt a strategy for the conservation of islands in the Metropolitan area
- Adopt a large definition of wetlands
- Include the smallest wetlands in national inventories and planning documents

Italy

- Include a maximum of wetlands in the national list of protected areas
- Update the legal framework in the national level

Cyprus

- Approve the inventory of wetlands
- Adopt a list of protected wetlands
- Include wetlands as a zoning category in planning documents

Conclusions - Discussion

- ✓ The implementation of the Mediterranean Island wetlands resolution is ongoing and we expect to present the full result in COP14
- ✓ Inventories will be completed the following years while we are in close contact with the ministries/national governments and local authorities to share the results and explore ways to protect them
- ✓ We are exploring ways of making the island wetlands known at a E.U. scale
- ✓ We are strengthening our partnership for implementing restoration activities.
- ✓ Island wetlands are important. In the next COP, a resolution on the global island wetlands should be supported























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