



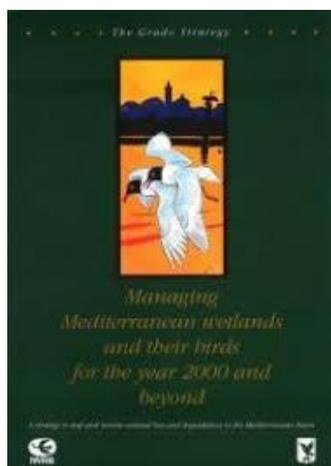
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Gland, 13 February 2019

In memoriam Fabio Perco

It is with great sadness that I learn of the passing away of Fabio Perco whom I remember well from the very seminal Grado Conference twenty-eight years ago in February 1991. He made a stark impression on the participants from all parts of the Mediterranean basin and beyond, when he guided them during a cold spell with Arctic temperatures to discover the freezing Grado–Marano lagoons and particularly the estuary of the transboundary Isonzo/Soča river. He showed them proudly the new observation centre to allow school children and the general public experience life above and underneath the water surface of the coastal marshes. Some years later in 1996, the efforts by Fabio and his friends culminated in the formal recognition of the restored and the wild parts of the river mouth as a Regional Nature Reserve. And in May 2016, Mediterranean experts gathered again in the Cona Island Visitor Centre under Fabio's direction to focus on sustainable tourism in the coastal wetlands of the North Adriatic region and to prepare the designation of the Isonzo River Mouth for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. We hope to conclude this designation process now rapidly with the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea as a tribute to Fabio and his legacy.

Fabio's name remains linked to the Grado Conference that launched the vision of a Mediterranean Wetland Forum which was subsequently encapsulated in the MedWet Initiative, that was formally established a few months later with support by the Italian Authorities, the European Commission and others in the Circeo National Park and Ramsar Site near Rome. Fabio's vision and his technical support were essential for this. We are thankful to him and also remember his artistic skills that illustrated in an unforgettable way the Grado Conference, its Proceedings and Strategy, as well as many other documents. Our thoughts are with his family and many friends.



Tobias Salathé