Enhancing the conservation of coastal wetlands

The Mediterranean has a coastline of 46,000 km which makes it the largest enclosed sea in the world and includes a large number of coastal wetlands that act as strongholds for biodiversity in the region, while having a history of traditional uses by man.

More than half of Mediterranean people live in coastal areas. The constant growth of the coastal population threatens coastal wetlands with unsustainable development caused by tourism, urbanisation and industrial projects. In addition, increasing water stress in the region and unsustainable agriculture divert yet more water from the wetlands.

Climate change also causes a serious threat that makes the need for effective wetland conservation to mitigate its impacts even more urgent.

“Proven technical wetland conservation approaches will be backed up by promoting effective planning, strong governance and targeted advocacy for ensuring the sustainability of wetland protection and management. This should provide for more integrated and sustainable solutions for wetlands, taking into account both biological and socio-economic considerations.”

Luis Costa, Programme Manager, Mediterranean Basin, MAVA

WHERE ARE OUR GEOGRAPHICAL INTERVENTION AREAS?

Our three pilot sites are representative of different and complementary Mediterranean contexts.

Various geopolitical and ecological conditions are represented with:
- one site set on an island in an EU country,
- another being transboundary between two European countries that are not part of the EU,
- and one more being located in North Africa.

1 Coastal lagoons in ORISTANO (Stagno), Sardinia
2 Coastal Lagoons and dune system in GHAR EL MELAH, Tunisia
3 Salinas in ULCINJ, Montenegro
3b Lower Delta of BUNA RIVER, Albania
HOW WE THINK CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The strategies and their key results, also called "results chain" in technical terms, were defined according to the Open Standards - a recognised methodology in the conservation field. A summary is presented below.

CAPACITY
built for management and planning processes

AWARENESS
on the importance and value of coastal wetlands

CAPACITY BUILDING
for the processes of management and planning

DEMONSTRATION
of local solutions in different contexts

WE AIM TO:
Significantly reduce the impacts of water abstraction on coastal wetlands
Significantly reduce the coastal development threats affecting wetlands and related marine habitats

Strategies and Expected Key Results

HOW IS THIS ACTION PLAN BEING IMPLEMENTED?

In Oristano, Sardinia, the activities are coordinated by MedSea Foundation working with local stakeholders including the Sinis MPA office and a network of governmental and civil society stakeholders, and with international actors including MedPAN, MedINA, MedWet and Plan Bleu. Work is coordinated with local partners, both governmental and non-governmental.

In Ghar el Melah, Tunisia, WWF North Africa is coordinating the projects in close partnership with Association Amis des Oiseaux (BirdLife Tunisie), GWP and PAP-RAC.

The activities in the Salina Ulcinj, Montenegro, are jointly implemented by CZIP, BirdLife, Tour du Valat with EuroNatur taking the coordinating role. CZIP is playing a strong role for the national and local coordination of the action plan.

In Velipoje, Albania, IUCN ECARO is ensuring the coordination and the implementation is done together with GWP, PAP-RAC and Tour du Valat.

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL BUDGET?

The annual budget of the action plan has been estimated at € 3'160'000 per year. MAVA will allocate an annual budget of € 2'140'000. The rest is partially covered by existing projects but co-funding still needs to be sought.

WHO ARE OUR MAIN PARTNERS?

[List of partners]

LINKS WITH OTHER MAVA ACTION PLANS

M4-M5, Marine and Fisheries: through conservation of coastal and adjacent marine areas and integration into the ICZM processes.

M6, Cultural Landscapes: through salt production in salinas an important practice with positive impact on biodiversity.

M7, Species: for migratory and threatened species of birds and sea turtles.

MAVA allocation
€ 2'140'000

Total budget
€ 3'160'000

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