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Exposición WE GO COOP

Proyectos y Casos de Estudio





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VRANSKO
JEZERO
Park prirode
Nature Park



Wetlands are globally endangered. In the Mediterranean, the intensification of agriculture, poor water management, and pollution, and increasing urbanization are among the most pressing threats. These challenges intertwine scientific-environmental aspects and governance concerns. Wetland management can be effectively faced only by overcoming sectoral and administrative borders, looking at the Mediterranean ecosystems as a whole. As a transfer project, WE GO COOP, started in January 2024, has the goal to assuring higher coordination between wetland preservation and local development but also to enhance cultural heritage and its values, working at two different levels. The first one is the creation of a Community of Practice at the Mediterranean level among actors engaged in Environmental Contracts at the Mediterranean level, capitalizing on the outcomes of previous

projects, sharing challenges and solutions. Furthermore, WE GO COOP will work on the creation of a virtual and collaborative platform for this Community of Practice, where experiences, practices, agent mappings, lists of useful indicators in wetland management, etc. will be uploaded and shared. The second one is the reinforcement of the tool of Wetland Contract at a local level in countries that have already tested it (Italy, Greece, Spain), and the transferring of the tool in new EU nations (Croatia, Portugal, and Albania) and in the South and the Middle East Med region. Transnational cooperation becomes the tool through which WE GO COOP forms the Community of Practice uniting diverse perspectives facing similar challenges, enabling the project to meet the needs of wetlands on a large scale, ensuring the transferability of its results.



Total budget
€ 999,784.00



Project duration
27 months



Interreg Funds
€ 799,827.20

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

ANATOLIKI S.A. (EL) (Lead Partner), MedWet (FR), Department of Architecture, Roma Tre University (IT), Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES), Public institution Nature Park Vransko Jezero (HR), Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (AL), RCDI – Development and Innovation Network (PT)



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Interreg Med WETNET - Coordinated Management and Networking of Mediterranean Wetlands

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The WETNET Project was co-funded by the MED programme and was developed from November 2016 to December 2019. It tackled the implementation of multilevel governance for MED wetlands to improve their ecosystems and surrounding landscapes. The project aimed at ensuring higher coordination between different levels of spatial planning and the stakeholders involved in site management, while limiting conflicts between conservation issues and economic activities. The project analysed, tested and disseminated new forms of institutional collaboration, including participatory tools to engage the local stakeholders, with a focus on the promotion of Wetland Contracts. It took different forms and

designations to be adapted to the local contexts and regulations in each of the participant countries, being defined as an agreement between public and private parties, implying real commitment by the signatories. Nine Wetland Contracts were outlined and subscribed by the local stakeholders, based on governance Action Plans, encompassing a total of 67,061 hectares of protected areas: Italy – Caorle Lagoon (Veneto) and Vercelli Lowplain (Piedmont); Slovenia – Ljubljansko barje Nature Park (Central Slovenia); Spain – Odiel Marshes (Huelva), Albufera de Valencia (Comunitat Valenciana) and Cañizar Lagoon (Aragon); France – Verdier Marshes (Rhone Delta); Portugal – Melides Lagoon (Alentejo); Malta – Gozo Island.



WETNET Partnership during the Final Conference



WETNET Pilot areas

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Veneto Region - Strategic Territorial Planning and Cartography (IT) (Lead Partner), Province of Vercelli (IT), ZRC SAZU - Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SL), FAMP - Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES), SEO/BirdLife - Spanish Ornithological Society (ES), CIRF - Italian Center for River Restoration (IT), SARGA - Government of Aragon (ES), RCDI - Development and Innovation Network (PT), GDA - Gozo Development Agency - Gozo Regional Committee (MT), TDV - Tour du Valat Foundation (FR)



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COASTING

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Interreg Med COASTING - Coastal Integrated Governance for Sustainable Tourism

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Interreg Med COASTING project, is a transnational cooperation project based on the ICZM principles application, aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of a multilevel governance tool capitalizing the Coast Contract based on the *Contrat de Baie* experience, focusing it specifically on tourism sustainability and qualification. COASTING started on February 2018 and ended on January 2020. COASTING partners organized Roadshow events in 8 pilot areas (in Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Malta) engaging local target groups, both public and private key stakeholders, in a multi-agent participatory process to develop strategies for coastal integrated governance for sustainable tourism. The Roadshow is a

participatory process that aims at engaging all target groups (policy makers at local and regional level, environmental and tourism agencies, organisations, enterprises and general public) to accelerate the mainstreaming of the Coast Contract tool. Key stakeholders participate in the events discussing criticalities, objectives, and sharing good practices to specific problems with the final aim of enhancing their abilities to take action in the focused processes. The Roadshows resulted in a number of strategies or action plan developed by each partner jointly with their local stakeholders aiming at enhancing qualification and use of natural resources and creating social accountability through a participation process.



COASTING partnership



COASTING pilot areas

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

FAMP - Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES) (Lead Partner), Lazio Region - Regional Directorate for housing policies and territorial, landscape and urban planning (IT), Gozo Regional Committee (MT), Aix Marseille Provence Metropolis (FR), Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency DUNEA (HR), Region of Epirus - Regional Unit of Thesprotia (EL), Sicilian Region - Department of Cultural Heritage and of Sicilian Identity (IT), Sapienza University of Rome - PDTA Department (IT).



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Italy - Croatia
CREW



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Interreg Italy-Croatia CREW - Coordinated Wetland management in Italy-Croatia cross border region

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Interreg Italy-Croatia CREW implemented, from December 2018 to August 2021, the Wetland Contract in order to achieve overall effects on coastal wetlands ecosystems by overcoming fragmentations that are often jeopardizing the sustainable development and preservation of fragile wetland areas. It ensured higher coordination between different level of spatial planning and authorities in charge for wetlands management, whilst limiting conflicts between preservation issues and economic activities. Also, a cross border Observatory was set up in order to monitor best practices and data on Italian and Croatian coastal wetlands. A coordinated methodology Wetland Contract was implemented at the

mouth of the Ofanto river, the natural reserve of Sentina, the north lagoon of Venice, the lagoon of Marano, the ornithological reserve Palud, the island of Pag and the mouth of the Neretva river. It assured higher coordination among stakeholders and decision makers, limiting and absorbing raising conflicts between preservation issues and economic activities (farming, aquaculture, tourism) and enhanced the achievement of sustainable long-term results. The awareness of the wetland ecosystems value among policy makers, managers, professionals, and general public was raised while their active engagement in territorial governance was strengthened.



Interreg IT-HR Partnership



Pilot areas: 1) Ofanto River, 2) Sentina Nature Reserve, 3) Venezia Lagoon, 4) Marano Lagoon, 5) Palud Palù, 6) Malo i Veliko Blato, 7) Neretva River Delta

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

IUAV - University of Venice (IT) (Lead Partner), University of Camerino (IT), Inter-municipal Territorial Union of the Riviera - Bassa Friulana (IT), Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto (IT), Patto Territoriale Nord Barese Ofantino (IT), Natura Histrica – Pula (HR), Natura Jadera – Zadar (HR), Zastita Prirode – Dubrovnik (HR).



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Interreg Med TUNE UP - Promoting Multilevel governance for Tuning up biodiversity protection in marine areas

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Interreg Med TUNE UP project aimed at tackling the need for a strategic and collaborative approach for an effective management of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). TUNE UP started in November 2019 and ended in June 2022. The core idea of the project was to exploit the feasibility and flexibility of the Environmental Contract methodology in Med MPAs. The project was developed in 10 MPAs in 7 Mediterranean nations, where 10 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed, incepting the formal phase calling for public-private partnerships in binding arrangements in terms of liability, financing and timing. Indeed, the project ensured higher coordination among

stakeholders and decision makers, limiting raising conflicts between preservation and economic issues, and will enhance the goal of biodiversity protection. Thus, the project achieved the following results: (i) stronger, coordinated and proactive involvement of key stakeholders in MPAs management; (ii) improved effectiveness of MPAs management by integrating multilevel governance tools into national and regional policy instruments; (iii) more intensive transnational cooperation and networking between Med MPAs. The partnership involved different types of actors operating in MPAs management, thus allowing TUNE UP to ensure high transferability of main outputs to Med Countries.



TUNE UP partnership



TUNE UP pilot areas

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

ANATOLIKI SA (EL) (Lead Partner), Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES), Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (FR), Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation (IT), Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SL), Tour du Valat Foundation (FR), Amvrakikos Gulf - Lefkada Management Agency (EL), Department of Architecture, Roma Tre University (IT), AQUAPROGRAM srl (IT), Spanish Ornithological Society (ES), Ministry of Tourism and Environment (AL), University of Montenegro - Institute for marine biology (ME)



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The MPA contract of the Thermaikos Gulf-Axios Delta (Region of Central Macedonia, EL)

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Axios Delta MPA is one of the most important ecosystems in Greece. The landscape features rice paddies, diverse fauna and flora, islets, and a striped coastline, all contributing to its positive impression. However, activities such as agriculture, livestock breeding, and shell aquaculture strain the environment and pose pollution risks. Within the framework of the Interreg Med TUNE UP project, a stakeholder mapping process identified several key stakeholders, including business support organizations, private SMEs, higher educational institutions, and local authorities. These stakeholders completed a questionnaire focused on the critical aspects of the pilot area, with the results assessed during three territorial

labs held during the project's implementation. The main outcome of this effort was the establishment of communication and interaction among public bodies, users, and organizations active in the area, addressing critical issues of the Axios Delta MPA. Specific problems by sector were identified, and concrete actions were proposed to resolve them, balancing local development with environmental protection. Finally, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), stakeholders agreed to collaborate and form a local contract for the Axios Delta MPA, complete with a specific action plan and timeline.



First Local Conference at the Municipality of Delta City Hall



Final Conference of the TUNE UP Project

ANATOLIKI S.A. – ORGANISATION FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

ANATOLIKI SA is operating as an Organization for Local Development, supporting the Municipalities of Eastern Thessaloniki's Local Authorities in the implementation of activities related to sustainable development, addressing all the different sub-sectors of Sustainability. ANATOLIKI has built an exceptional experience in successfully implementing several projects funded by EU, addressing many different topics related to sustainability, along with the development of a big number of Regional and Municipal Action Plans



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MedWet 

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The Governance of Coastal Wetlands in the Mediterranean: A Handbook

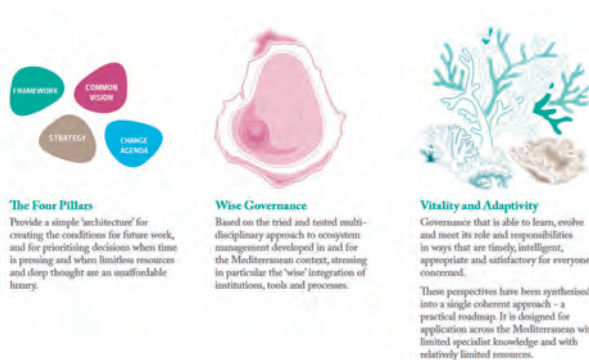
D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

This Handbook is designed as a practical guide for the governance of coastal wetlands around the Mediterranean, whether they are formally protected as Ramsar Sites, those designated under national or local legislation, or those lacking any formal protection. It takes into account the principles and practice of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and the tools offered by the two relevant conventions: the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP). Valuable insights and reflections for the preparation of this Handbook were also provided by the following Mediterranean wetlands:

- Oristano Gulf (Maristanis project), on the western Sardinian coast, Italy;
- Ghar el Melh Lagoon, 30 km southeast of the town of Bizerte in Tunisia;
- Lower Delta of the Bojana-Buna River, with pilots in Ulcinj Salina, Montenegro;
- The Buna River-Velipoje Protected Landscape, Albania,
- The Transboundary 'Prespa Park', a protected area including the Prespa Lakes and their surroundings extending over the boundaries of Greece, Albania, and the Republic of North Macedonia.



Handbook edited by B. Shipman et Ž. Rajković



The three main ingredients of governance

MEDWET

The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative is a regional intergovernmental network dedicated to promoting and supporting multi-stakeholder policies and actions for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of Mediterranean wetlands. Over the past 30 years, MedWet has united government representatives, scientists, NGOs, and advocates committed to enhancing wetland conservation, supporting the effective conservation of Mediterranean wetlands and the sustainable use of their resources and services.



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The Agro Pontino Coast Contract (Latina Province, IT)

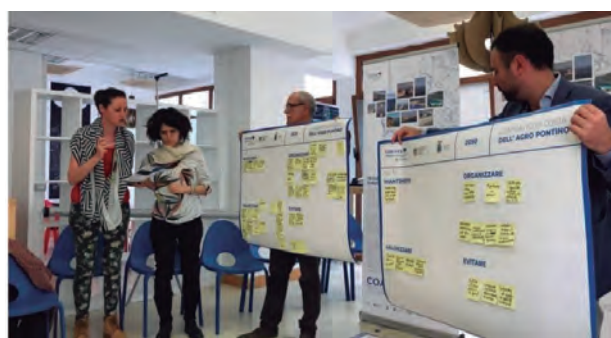
D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Agro Pontino Coast Contract process is the result of coordination activities among local actors that began in March 2019 as part of the European funded project Interreg Med Coasting, coordinated by the Lazio Region (Directorate for Housing Policies and Territorial, Landscape, and Urban Planning). The organization of a series of participatory thematic workshops led to the signing of Memorandum of Intent by 20 stakeholders in July 2019, formally assigning the role of coordinating entity to the Province of Latina. Additionally, the Coasting project outcomes included the drafting of the Integrated Preliminary Knowledge Analysis and the definition of the Strategic Document, which identifies the

medium to long-term development shared scenario (strategic axes: 1) water quality, nature and biodiversity, 2) climate change and coastal protection, 3) landscape quality and sustainable tourism). The process of engagement and negotiation among territorial key actors was then continued and coordinated by the Province of Latina within the scope of regional funding and led to the definition of the first Coast Contract Action Program 2022-2025 and the signing of the Negotiated Programming Agreement on February 23 2022. The Action Program includes 82 actions promoted by the 22 signatories of the Agreement and a financial commitment of approximately 100 million Euros.



Thematic workshop



Thematic workshop

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE - ROMA TRE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Architecture is based in Rome (Italy) and carries out education and research activities regarding territories, cities and buildings, in all their humanistic, technical and scientific forms. The Department has a multi-disciplinary and multi-scalar approach, on environmental and landscape quality, urban and regional planning, and collaborative governance addressing the relationship between development programs, involvement of civil society and management of territorial resources and environment.



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Tiber River Contract from Castel Giubileo to the Mouth (Rome, IT)

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Tiber River Contract is the outcome of a five-year collaborative process that involved institutions, research centers, local associations, and other relevant stakeholders, marking an unprecedented effort in the history of Tiber River governance in Rome. The process was promoted and coordinated by Agenda Tevere Onlus, an association of associations and citizens devoted to retraining collaboratively the urban trait of Tiber River. In 2017, the process led to the Manifesto of Intent, defining a basis for shared objectives that recognized the potential social, environmental, and economic impacts of balanced interventions on the river and its shores. A year later, following the start of a Preliminary Context Analysis,

a Strategic Document was defined and signed. The process continued with the engagement of stakeholders in the construction of the first three-year Action Program, supported by regional funding. On February 22, 2022, the Negotiated Programming Agreement was signed by 86 stakeholders (55 associations, 18 public institutions, 7 research centers and universities, and 6 private sector entities). The Action Program consists of 39 actions promoted by 30 signatories of the Agreement, with an overall value of approximately 80 million Euros. The signing of the agreement also marked the formal assignment of the Metropolitan City of Rome Capital as the coordinating entity, in cooperation with Agenda Tevere Onlus.



Workshop «Towards the first three-year Action Program of the Tiber River Contract»



Participatory event «River dialogues, the territory encounters Institutions»

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Action Plan for Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park (Andalusia, ES)

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

As part of the Interreg MED TUNE UP project, the Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FAMP) held a series of participatory events in the form of territorial labs to identify and target local needs regarding marine and coastal ecosystems preservation, sustainable socio-economic development for the area of the project and how to develop a better multilevel governance for the protection, conservation and development of the area. The participative processes included technicians and politicians from the city councils of the area (Almería, Níjar and Carboneras), representatives of the regional government, the responsible person for the management and conservation of the park and other entities

of the civil society (SMEs, NGOs, etc.).

The main result of the multilevel governance process and the territorial laboratories was the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Action Plan, which described the main necessities and difficulties in the area and proposed a series of actions and projects to be carried out. This Action Plan and its projects identified the need for much closer collaboration between all actors to achieve the objectives. This is why, after the Memorandum of Understanding, it was necessary to articulate these agreements and wills through tools that were better adapted to the Spanish regulatory context, such as land stewardship agreements, which are widely used throughout the country.



Signing of the MoU and the Action Plan



Representatives of all the Andalusian Natural Parks, governance meeting

FAMP – FEDERACIÓN ANDALUZA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

FAMP is an association formed by the Andalusian Local Bodies (municipalities, provinces and associations) that voluntarily decide to do so, for the defence and promotion of local autonomies, and the defence of culture, socio-economic development and the values of Andalusia as an Autonomous Community, in the exercise that the Constitution recognises for any nationality. The territorial scope of FAMP is the territory of Andalusia.



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Wetland contract of Veliko i Malo blato (Island of Pag, HR)

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

Veliko i Malo blato on the island of Pag is a special ornithological reserve, especially important for the nesting, migrating, and wintering birds that use the dense wetland vegetation as a habitat. According to the deep analysis of threats, pressures, and activities, "Natura Jadera", a public institution for the management of the protected areas in the County of Zadar, identified the key stakeholders and implemented the Wetland Contract. It was signed between the hunting alliance of Zadar County, the tourist board of the Povoljana Municipality, the NGO "Volim Vlasici", and "Natura Jadera" in order to improve the management of the site by implementing the activities collaboratively developed in the

Action Plan. It promotes the sustainable development and protection of the site by improving the visibility of the area as an ornithological reserve and Natura 2000 habitat, strengthening cooperation and networking among the stakeholders, stimulating tourism development without jeopardizing the site's values by investing in the patrolling and monitoring equipment and promoting birdwatching activities, encouraging the active participation of the broader public, reducing poaching in the area, and fostering intersectoral dialogue between the competent institutions. The target area directly benefited from the cooperative approach, resulting in a better conservation status of the natural ecosystems.



Promotion of the birdwatching activities



Research and monitoring

Public Institution Nature Park Vransko jezero

The public institution Nature park Vransko Lake was established in 1999 for the management of the Mediterranean wetland Ramsar and Natura 2000 sites and protected areas, through conservation, maintenance, and promotion of natural and cultural values protected. It manages species and habitats, facilitating scientific interdisciplinary research for a better understanding of the lake ecosystem functions, threats, and designs management actions for nature conservation.



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PrespaNet – A network of three NGOs working for Prespa

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

Established in 2013, PrespaNet aims to strengthen transboundary cooperation between NGOs (PPNEA, MES, SPP), as well as with Protected Area management authorities. It works closely with all authorities for the Protected Areas in the basin, towards ever closer cooperation and coordination between those responsible for the remarkable nature, landscape, and culture in Prespa. The partners have produced the Transboundary Strategic Framework, a 10-year plan for protecting Prespa's unique nature and cultural values. Since 2018, PrespaNet partners supported by PONT and Euronatur Foundation, are implementing four main conservation Programs: i) water, wetlands, and waterbirds, ii) environmental

education and Prespa Field Laboratory, with its transboundary annual summer schools, iii) species monitoring and ecological corridors protection, as well as iv) transboundary cooperation. The establishment of local offices on all three sides of the basin (Albania, Greece, and North Macedonia) was a milestone achievement for the network, securing closer cooperation amongst the three NGOs and creating a collaborative ground with local communities. Recognizing the importance of strengthening civil society participation in the transboundary governance of Prespa Park, PPNEA and its PrespaNet partners participate in the Prespa Park Management Committee, advocating for nature conservation policies.



Celebrating a decade of PrespaNet of transboundary (2023)



Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Prespa National Park, Albania. (2021)

PPNEA – BirdLife Albania

Established in 1991, the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) is Albania's pioneering environmental NGO. PPNEA engages in scientific research, community involvement, strategic partnerships, and collaboration with decision-making institutions. Focused on species conservation, biodiversity preservation, wildlife research, education, and institutional development, PPNEA's core pillars include youth investment, innovative approaches, and fostering strategic alliances.



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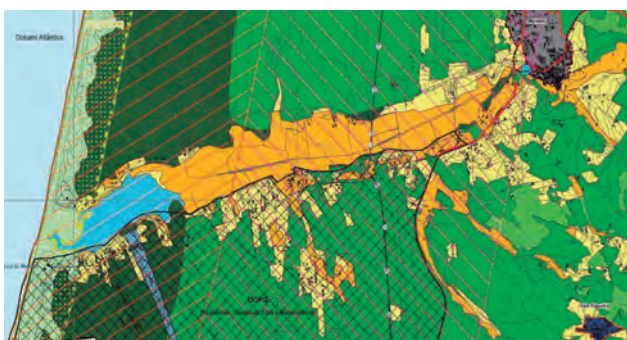


Wetland contract of Melides Lagoon (Alentejo Region, PT)

D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

In the scope of the WETNET Project, the Melides Lagoon was addressed as a pilot area for the outlining and implementation of a Wetland Contract, by the Portuguese partner of the project. The Melides Lagoon is located in Grândola Municipality, in Alentejo region and it is protected under the Nature 2000 Network, included in the Comporta/Galé site of community importance (PTCON0034). To engage the stakeholders in the conservation, management and sustainable development of the ecosystems and landscapes of the Melides Lagoon, a collaborative process was developed involving regional and local public bodies, academia and private companies. Some factors were found to be critical for

the success of the process: i) Adoption of a mixed approach based on general, sectoral and individual meetings; ii) Keeping a frequent presence in the area and showing results along the process; iii) Inviting "neutral" experts to present the technical vision on the most controversial issues. The stakeholders agreed on an Action Plan that allocates responsibilities for the achievement of 18 measures covering environmental protection, economic development and governance. A Wetland Contract under the form of an Environmental Agreement for the implementation of the Action Plan was subscribed on June 2019 by 17 stakeholders and is being implemented.



Land-use planning in Melides Lagoon



Study Visit to Melides Lagoon

RCDI – DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK, the Portuguese partner of WETNET project

RCDI is a non-profit association that gathers a network of experts converging on innovation, sustainable development, and territorial cohesion. With a focus on territorial cooperation, the mission of RCDI is to promote initiatives and activities to support the development of local resources and the improvement of individual and collective capacities. Providing advice and technical support to public and private entities and to citizens, RCDI aims to contribute to the development of a creative, sustainable, and inclusive society.



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