

KEY NUMBERS WETNET PROJECT

Wetland Name-Location (Project Partner) COUNTRY	Designation of the Plan / contract	Current Situation	Stakeholders mapped	Number of actions in Plan	Surface protected (ha)
Caorle Lagoon System -VENETO (VENETO REGION) ITALY	Negotiated Planning Agreement "Wetland Contract of the Caorle lagoon system"	To be digitally subscribed after project conclusion (signature phase started on October 30, 2019) (expected 31 subscribers)	49	55	5119 ha (protected SCIs and SPAs)
Vercelli Lowplain-PIEDMONT (Province of Vercelli) ITALY	Memorandum of understanding for the realization of the wetland contract for the Vercelli rice plain	Subscribed on October 30, 2019 by 33 stakeholders	52	19	6729 ha (protected SCIs and SPAs)
Ljubljansko barje Nature Park- CENTRAL SLOVENIA (ZRC SAZU) SLOVENIA	Memorandum on Participation in Wetland Conservation in Ljubljansko Barje Nature Park	Subscribed on October 23, 2019 by 15 stakeholders	81	16	13.505ha
Odiel Marshes-HUELVA (FAMP) SPAIN	Odiel Marshes Wetland Contract and Action Plan	Subscribed on February 13, 2019 by 4 stakeholders	32	9	18.875ha
Albufera de Valencia-COMUNITAT VALENCIANA (SEO/BIRDLIFE) SPAIN	Albufera de València Memorandum of Cooperation	To be subscribed before project conclusion (expected 20 subscribers)	77	15	21.200ha
Cañizar Lagoon-ARAGON (SARGA) SPAIN	Management Plan for the Laguna Cañizar Wetland.	On discussion	89	44	795,02ha (436,29ha a core+358,73ha protected area)
Verdier Marshes-RHONE DELTA (TOUR DU VALAT) FRANCE	Membership card with the shared vision	Subscribed on June 20, 2019 by 45 stakeholders	10	5	100ha
Melides Lagoon-ALENTEJO (RCDI) PORTUGAL	Melides Lagoon Environmental Agreement	Subscribed on June 17, 2019 by 17 stakeholders	72	18	400ha
Gozo Island (GRC) MALTA	Memorandum of Cooperation towards a Wetlands Contract for the island of Gozo	Memorandum signed by 5 local actors and it will be open to be signed by other actors by the end of the 2019.	18	16	338,43ha

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WetNet Lessons Learnt

Coordinated Management and Networking of Mediterranean Wetlands

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

WETNET LESSONS LEARNT



WETNET has tackled the issue of implementing multilevel governance for MED wetlands in order to improve their ecosystems and surrounding local systems.

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.

WETNET LESSONS LEARNT: WETLAND CONTRACTS

WETNET promoted the Wetland Contract, which 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 commitments by the signatories.

There were 9 Wetland Contracts promoted as governance plans, with the following specifications:

Italy: The regulatory framework is advanced and well defined even if not quite homogeneous in all Italian regions.

Spain: Environmental Agreements (with an attached Action plan), in agreement with the Water Framework Directive.

Portugal: Innovative tool to be developed in the framework of the “negotiated environmental agreements” mentioned in Annex VI of the Water

Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000).

Slovenia: Simplified to Memorandum on participation in wetlands conservation of Ljubljansko barje Nature park.

France: The regulatory framework on River/Wetland Contracts is advanced and well defined.

Malta: The Memorandum of Collaboration is the first step, of many necessary, towards a Wetlands Contract for the island of Gozo.

Wetland Contracts include an Action Plan, its implementation being a critical factor. They take into account the resources necessary for implementing the action plans, but the wetland contracts in the pilot

sites have not guaranteed all of the financial commitments by the signing parties.

ACTIONS

- Defining territorial planning tools and legal regulations;
- Protecting biodiversity and water quality and quantity;
- Restoring habitats and wetland natural dynamics;
- Developing green infrastructures;
- Developing territorial branding and marketing;
- Promoting sustainable tourism (year-round tourism, providing new infrastructures,...);
- Promoting joint monitoring (database, water quality);
- Environmental education;
- Sustainable development

(economic activities, farming, eco innovation).

STAKEHOLDERS involved in the process are:

Public bodies: Municipalities, Environmental agencies, Ministries or national departments and regional authorities competent on rural development, agriculture, livestock, environment, infrastructure, territorial planning, cultural heritage and research centres/universities.

Private entities: land reclamation/irrigation consortiums, farmers’ associations, sectorial associations, Local Action Groups for rural development, tourism institutes, environmental associations.

DIFFICULTIES FOUND:

- The methodology used for developing the processes and the Wetland Contract must be adapted to each specific site. It is essential to take into account the heterogeneity of the actors and the multiplicity of positions linked to the territorial complexity.
- Difficulty engaging the appropriate stakeholders.
- Public bodies have some troubles in taking on new financial commitments related to the action plan.
- Need to provide adequate communication documents to increase the understanding and acceptance of Wetland Contracts.
- Long duration of the process.