



UfM Blue Economy Task Force – 23rd March 2022

Protection, management and restoration of Mediterranean wetlands as Nature-based solution for climate mitigation and adaptation

Dr. Alessio Satta, MedWet



MedWet: The Mediterranean Ramsar Initiative



- **First regional initiative** of the **Ramsar Convention** established in 1991 (MedWet just turned 30!)
- **A unique cooperation platform** for sharing information and technical capacities between institutions, research and civil society
- Bringing together **three Ramsar regions** (Europe, Asia and Africa) and **27 Ramsar Contracting parties** and international organisations as **Tour du Valat, IUCN MED and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative,**
- **MedWet is coordinating the Mediterranean Ramsar Site Managers Network (MeRSiM-Net) to scale up the Ramsar convention and other biodiversity conservation policies** at the local level

Contracting Parties:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Albania | 14. Lebanon |
| 2. Algeria | 15. Libya |
| 3. Andorra | 16. Malta |
| 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 17. Monaco |
| 5. Bulgaria | 18. Montenegro |
| 6. Croatia | 19. Morocco |
| 7. Cyprus | 20. North Macedonia |
| 8. Egypt | 21. Portugal |
| 9. France | 22. Serbia |
| 10. Greece | 23. Slovenia |
| 11. Israel | 24. Spain |
| 12. Italy | 25. Syria |
| 13. Jordan | 26. Tunisia |
| | 27. Turkey |

We struggle to protect, manage and restore Mediterranean wetlands!

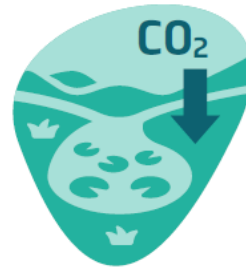


Why are Wetlands so important?

→ Biological Super Systems!

→ among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs...

Carbon sinks



Inland and coastal Flood defences



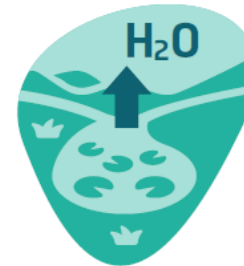
Protection from rising seas



Biodiversity



Water provision & purification

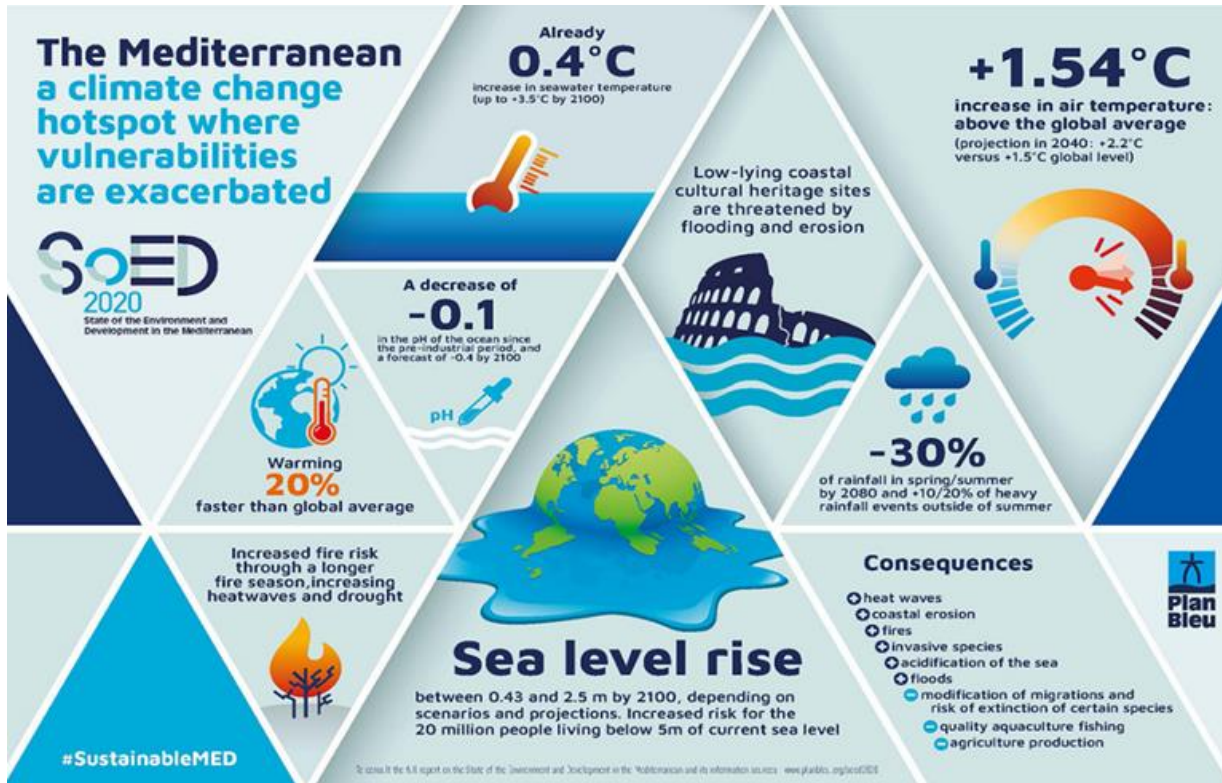


Food provision



Why promoting wetlands restoration as NbS?

*In line with the UfM
2030 GreenerMed*



The Mediterranean Basin is currently facing the most severe ecological and climatic crisis of its history

➔ We call to accelerate large-scale wetland restoration effort to upgrade climate change adaptation and mitigation in a region at risk



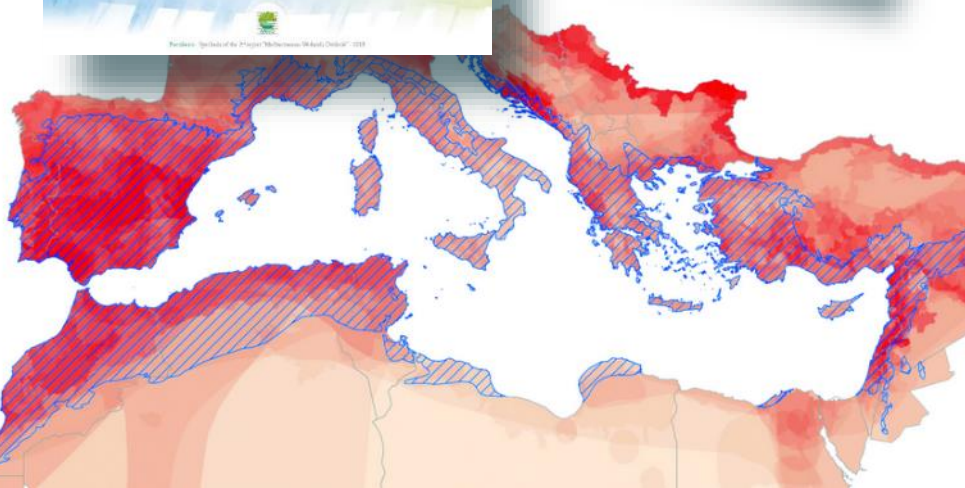
The alarming state of Mediterranean wetlands



Trends and key Messages

Indicator	Indicator fact sheet number	Long-term trend	Recent trend	Key messages
State of the wetlands				
Wetland loss (km ²)	1	↘	↘	The destruction of wetland species has been a long-term decline. Wetland loss peaked in the mid-1980s, largely due to increases in agricultural production.
Wetland loss (km ²)	2	↘	↘	The reduction in wetland loss is expected to continue over the long term, but the loss of wetland productivity has not stopped.
Wetland loss (km ²)	3	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	4	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	5	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	6	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Drivers and pressures				
Wetland loss (km ²)	7	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	8	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	9	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	10	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	11	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland-based solutions				
Wetland loss (km ²)	12	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Wetland loss (km ²)	13	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.
Policy, governance and implementation				
Wetland loss (km ²)	14	↘	↘	Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s. Wetland loss has been significant in the Mediterranean region since the 1970s, with a peak in the mid-1980s.

- 48% lost since 1970 in the Mediterranean
- Major water abstraction → drop of river flows (-25 à -75 %)
- 36% of wetlands species threatened with extinction
- National economies and well-being strongly affected



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But also GOOD NEWS !



In Albufera de Valencia, Spain

- the restoration of 100 ha of marshlands has brought about a significant improvement in water quality both inside the restored areas and in their surroundings.
- the economic value of the ecosystem services provided in one restored area has been estimated at more than €20 million, including 50,000 visits to the restored site.



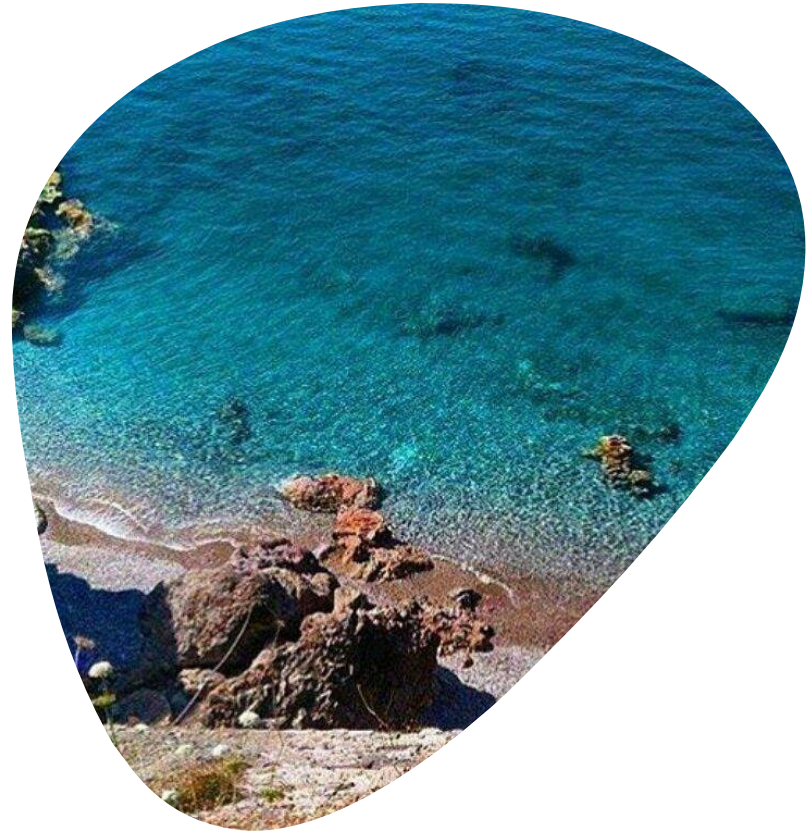
In the Venice Lagoon, Italy

- the creation of 220 ha of new wetlands is mitigating flood risks with increased water storage capacity of some 1,800,000 m³. In addition, the long-term restoration programme retains and dissipates agricultural pollutants before they enter the Lagoon
- the restoration programme has improved recreational opportunities for approximately 520,000 inhabitants.



In Tyre, Lebanon

- the TCNR wetlands provide freshwater with an estimated annual value of US\$2 million.
- agrochemical water and soil pollution was greatly reduced after wetland restoration activities.



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#ActforWetlands





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Wetland restoration as Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean

Almost 200 participants!

16 November 2021

10:00 – 13:00 CET

On-line Conference

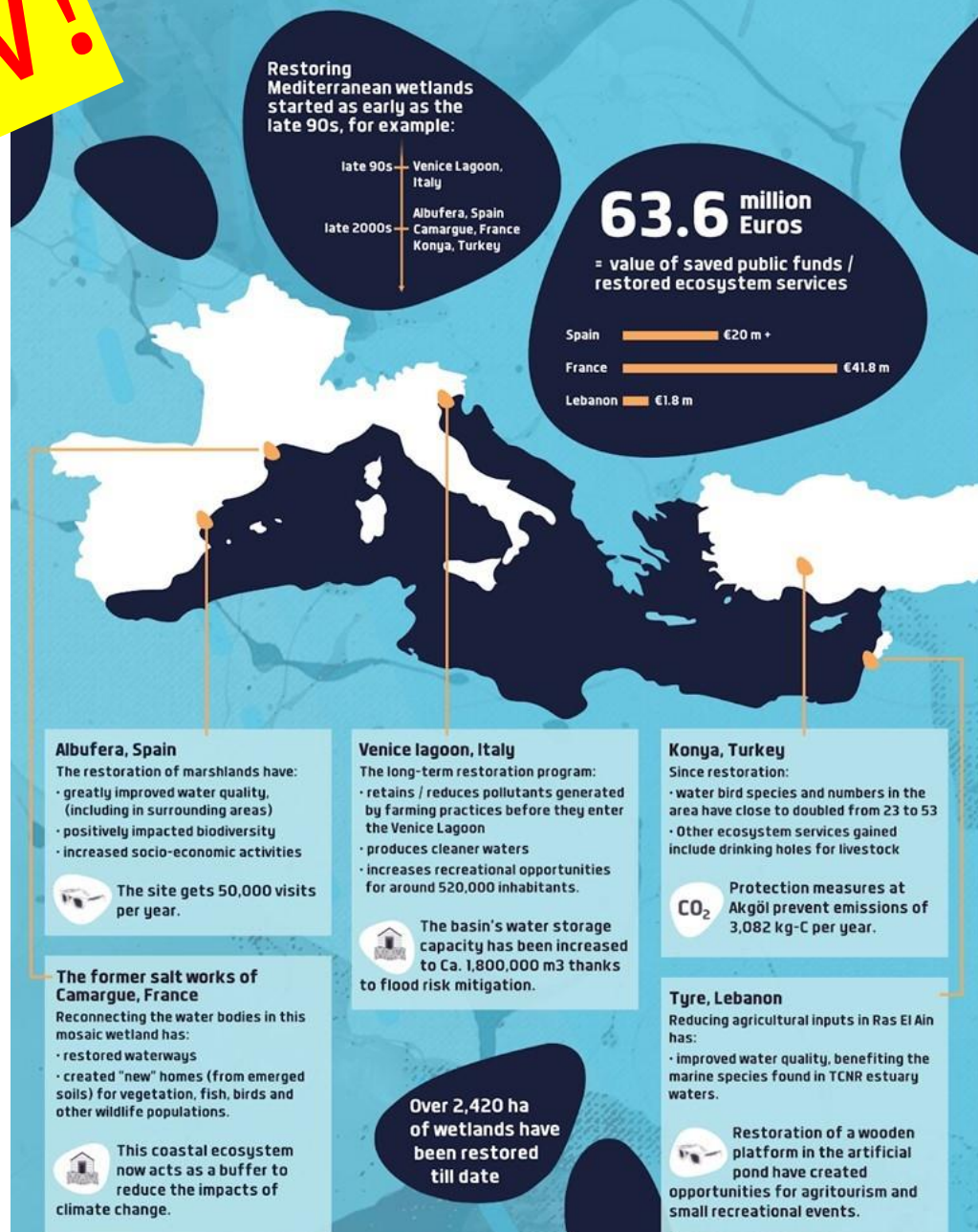
NEW!

RAMSAR RESOLUTION

for consideration by the Parties at COP 14
in November 2022

prepared jointly by MedWet, Tour du
Valat and ETC-UMA on behalf of the
Interreg Mediterranean Biodiversity
Protection Community”.

The Multiple Benefits of Wetland Restoration in the Mediterranean



Mediterranean wetland restoration: an urgent priority

Restoring Mediterranean wetlands: the urgent and essential Nature-based Solution to the region's most pressing challenges

NEW!

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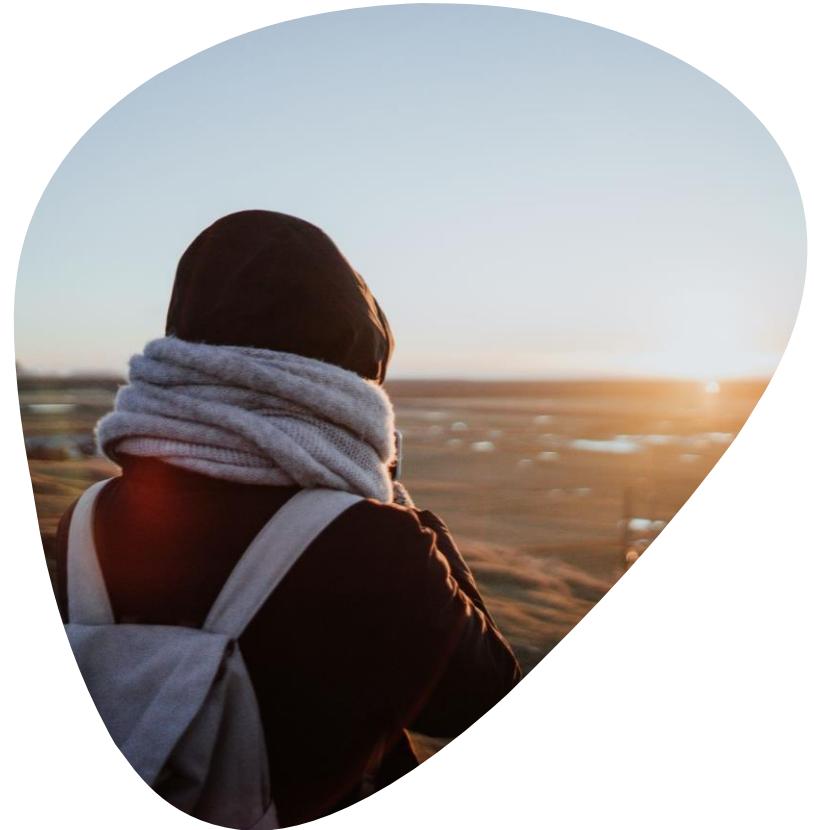
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Key messages

- Wetland ecosystems have been proven to be amongst the most socio-economically valuable habitats.
- It is vital to take wetland ecosystem services into account in decisionmaking.
- It is important to raise awareness among the society, local and regional authorities and national decision-makers regarding the role wetlands play in sustaining a healthy human environment, society and economy.



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National and local governments

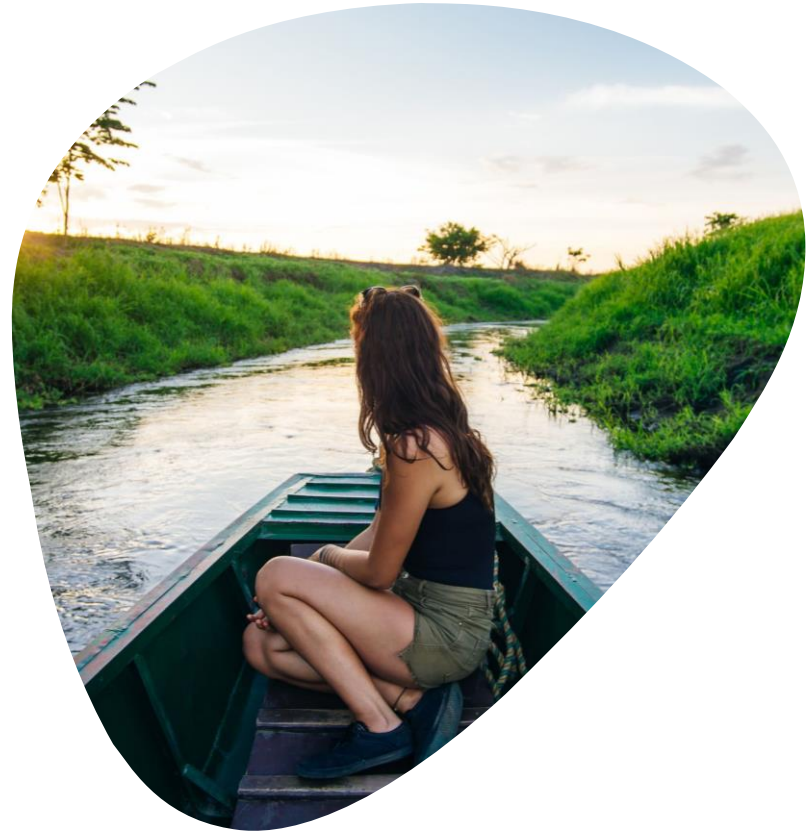
- To develop and implement government programmes or public-private partnerships to protect and restore wetlands that also support the achievement of water, energy and food security objectives along with the related UN 2030 SDGs.
- To adopt programmes that give incentives to companies to quantify their financial and non-financial contributions to the natural capital and ecosystem services from which they benefit, and introduce fiscal tools which favour companies investing in wetland restoration
- To promote strong wetland governance involving all local stakeholders to effectively support conservation management and implementation, including capacity-building.



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The Private Sector

- To operate more sustainably and create socio-economic opportunities which help bend the curve of loss and degradation by restoring wetlands and the relationship between humans and nature for future generations.
- To sustainably manage resources and reinvest significantly into wetland conservation and restoration.



Thank you!

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