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LIFE + MC-SALT

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Project partners are: Regional Nature Park “Molentargius – Saline” (Italy), Regional Nature Park “Parco del Delta del Po – Emilia Romagna” (Italy), Green Balkans NGO (Bulgaria), Regional Nature Park “Camargue” (France), Biological Station “Tour du Valat” (France) and CSME of Salins Group (France).

Habitat types subject to conservation measures within the project include 1150* Coastal lagoons; 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*); 1510* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*); 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes, 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) and others.

Target bird species are: Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*); Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*); Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*); Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*); Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*); Little, Common and Sandwich terns (*Sterna albifrons*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna sandvicensis*); Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*); Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*) etc.

Photos: Minko Mihaylov, Hristo Nikolov, Pavlin Zhelev, archives of Green Balkans NGO and Regional Nature Park “Camargue” (France)



Project MC-SALT LIFE10 NAT/IT/000256
Environmental Management and Conservation
in Mediterranean Saltworks and Coastal
Lagoons is being implemented with the
contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of
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THE MAIN PROJECT GOAL IS

The main project goal is conservation and achievement of favorable conservation status in 10 protected sites from the pan-European ecological network Natura 2000 situated in Italy, France and Bulgaria. These are mainly habitats influenced and bound by human activities and namely the salt production.

Duration of the project is from 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2016. Total costs of the project are 4 949 869 euro, and EC co-financing amounts to 2 395 663 euro.

■ The activities of Green Balkans NGO (Bulgaria)

The activities of Green Balkans NGO (Bulgaria) include construction and maintenance of insular nesting habitats for the species Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*), Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), as well as construction and installation of nests for Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) in the **Pomorje Lake**. The project activities also include uprooting of invasive plant species as the False Indigo Bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) aiming at the improvement of the habitat conditions of the dunes and the native rare plants on the eastern bank of the saltwater lagoon of Pomorie.

■ The activities of Regional Nature Park “Parco del Delta del Po – Emilia Romagna” (Italy)

The activities include restoration of water circulation and new breeding islets in Cervia salt work. Restoration work will involve the removal of muddy material from the internal channels, repair and maintenance of draining pumps and dam-gates, etc. Construction of new islets for birds will also be implemented. As a measure against the disturbance from *L. michahellis* over the islets will be build a grid of cable, at the height of about 2.5 meters. To improve the nesting conditions will be buried 500 meters of electrical line. Within the project is also stipulated the elaboration and approval of the management plan for IT4070007 SCI “Salina di Cervia” as well as a number of information, educational and research activities.

■ The activities of Regional Nature Park “Molentargius – Saline” (Italy)

The activities are aiming at the improvement of the hydrological regimes of the lake Bellarosa Maggiore and hindering the process of eutrophication by repair of different installations which were earlier maintained for the purpose of salt production. Within the project are also stipulated: information and educational activities, research of the lake sediments, research of the zoobenthos and the population of *Artemima salina*; hydro-chemical monitoring of the waters, preparation of a check-list for the flora, monitoring and analyses of the fish population, improvement of the nesting habitats for a number of bird species, etc.

■ The activities of CSME of Salins Group (France)

The activities are aiming at the improvement of existing and construction of new islets for ground nesting birds in the salt marshes of Aigues-Mortes. A big part of the activities are focused in the repair of hydraulic

systems and pumping stations which enable the movement of water. The renovation works will contribute to the protection and restoration of the coastal lagoons used for salt farming and the habitat of common interest and will also improve the hosting conditions for a number of bird species such as the Flamingos, Slender-billed Gulls and Pied Avocets.

■ The team of Biological Station “Tour du Valat” (France)

The team of Biological Station “Tour du Valat” (France) will elaborate a management model for salt works and guidelines for *Larus michahellis* disturbance mitigation. Within the project are also stipulated communication and information activities as well as the elaboration of a project for the restoration of the hydrological regime of saltworks in Regional Nature Park “Camargue” (France).

■ The activities of Regional Nature Park “Camargue” (France)

The activities of Regional Nature Park “Camargue” (France) aim at the restoration of the natural hydrological regime of the Anciens Salins de Beauduc. The saltworks will no more be used for intensive salt production and this may lead to the draining and destruction of 1510* Mediterranean salt steppes. Thus, it is necessary that some dykes and other installations that served the salt production to be removed. There will also be implemented construction activities for improvement of the nesting habitats of colonial birds such as the Flamingos, Pied Avocets, Sandwich Terns, Slender-billed gulls, etc.

