



## PRESS TRIP TO ORISTANO (Sardinia, Italy) ONE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN MOST THREATENED COASTAL WETLANDS, IMMEDIATE SUBMERGENCE RISK

**Dates:** 25-27 October 2019

**Duration:** two days

**Proposed list of participants:** Senior environmental and scientific journalists from the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN) and representatives of professional associations of environmental journalists (eg: APIA and AECC in Spain, FIMA in Italy).



Whereas 50% of the Mediterranean population lives in coastal areas and over the last 100 years we've lost more than half of our Coastal Wetlands due to unsustainable development, tourism, urbanisation, industrial development, and unsustainable agriculture. Furthermore, climate change is increasing the urgency of implementing effective measures for wetland conservation.

**We are inviting journalists to a press trip to the area of Oristano (Sardinia, Italy), an area which is expected to be submerged by 2100.** Among the first areas threatened by flooding are the Gulf of Cagliari and Oristano in Sardinia. In the Oristano province, several studies suggest that the area of Marceddì, Oristano, Torre Grande and San Giovanni di Sinis, -, **will be the first spots to be submerged. These territory is currently home to about 35,000 people.**

Large areas of these territories and their ecosystems -mostly wetlands- would be wiped out. The impact on the local agriculture, fishery, infrastructures, transports and tourism could be dramatic.

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## OBJETIVE OF THE PRESS TRIP

- Increase awareness of the state on wetlands in the Mediterranean.
- Discover the benefits and values that wetlands provide to people and local economies across the region as nature-based solutions
- Interact with local actors (local authorities, fishers, farmers, artisan women...) from one of the most threatened coastal areas.

## CONTENT OF THE VISIT

### THE MAVA'S INITIATIVE

Nowadays, the economy, human health and natural ecosystems are facing one of the most pressing problems, that is: climate change. Wetland ecosystems are severely affected by climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, coral bleaching, hydrological effects, changes in water temperature, alterations in water availability and quality. **Mediterranean Wetlands play** an important role as **natural solutions** to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Several organizations have been working in the last years on different projects to build resilience in these fragile ecosystems and to enhance the conservation of coastal wetlands in different countries by restoring damaged habitats, encouraging sustainable water use, and reducing the impacts of water abstraction, pollution and coastal development on wetlands and related marine habitats.

Conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean wetlands are therefore a serious challenge, but of **increasing urgency** if we are sincerely concerned about human well-being in the Mediterranean basin.

### Some Coastal Wetlands to Put on Your Map

These actions are taking place in 4 pilot sites, which are representative of different and complementary Mediterranean contexts.



1 Coastal lagoons in ORISTANO (Stagno), Sardinia



2 Coastal Lagoons and dune system in GHAR EL MELAH, Tunisia



3a Salinas in ULCINJ, Montenegro



3b Lower Delta of BUNA RIVER, Albania

Additionally to the 4 pilot cases actions, other two initiatives to improve scientific knowledge and restore salt pans in Portugal, Spain and Turkey, and to disseminate information on wetlands in Mediterranean islands are completing an ambitious initiative implemented by 15 organisations with the support of MAVA Foundation.

#### The press trip includes:

- General presentation of latest information: outlook of Mediterranean wetlands + 4 pilot sites
- Overview of climate change scenarios for coastal areas in the Mediterranean, with a special focus on wetlands
- Field visit to know the Oristano area interacting with local stakeholders to get a closer view on how local populations face these climate change scenarios:
  - Wetland area – explanation with researches and experts
  - Fish farm and interviews with fishers
  - Local agriculture
  - Local artisanal women
  - Local politicians

This press trip is organised by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in collaboration with [Medsea Foundation](#) and [Medwet](#), and with the support from [Efeverde](#).



## PROGRAMME PRESS TRIP

Visit to ONE OF THE MOST THREATENED COASTAL AREAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, RAMSAR SITES OF ORISTANO (Sardinia, Italy)

	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October - Arrival to ORISTANO/Cabras</b>
14.00	Pick-up from the hotels in Cabras
	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> DAY</b>
15.00 – 15.30	Welcome and Reception of journalists in Marceddi at Museo dei Mare by a representative from the municipality of Marceddi, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and Medwet.
15.30 – 16.00	Outlook of the Mediterranean Wetlands and MAVA project By Alessio Satta, Executive Secretary of MedWet



16.00 – 17.00	<p>Situation of the Oristano coastal wetlands - impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Coastal systems and climate change: effect of sea level rise and ocean acidification on Mediterranean beaches - <b>Giovanni De Falco</b>, Researcher of the National Council of Research (CNR)</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The effects of climate change on marine organisms - <b>Giuseppe Andrea De Lucia</b>, Researcher of the National Council of Research (CNR).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The impact of climate change on the availability of water resources in the Oristano area – <b>Andrea Motroni</b>, ARPAS, Regional agency for the protection of the environment.</i></li> </ul>
17.00 – 17.30	Coffee-break
17.30 – 18.30	<p>Impacts - Actions and solutions on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Water requirements in agriculture and water resources management under climate change – <b>Simone Mura and Antonio Trabucco</b>, Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Adaptation to climate change in the municipality of Oristano, the ADAPT project – <b>Andrea Vallebona</b>, project manager, Società Rete Gaia.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Maristanis coastal wetland contract. A management model of the coastal wetlands of the Oristano gulf - <b>Gianluca Melis</b>, environmental engineer, Medsea Foundation.</i></li> </ul>
20.00 – 21.30	Dinner with the Maristanis team at Cabras (Hotel)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY</b>	
<b>FIELD VISIT</b>	
7.30 – 9.00	Departure from Cabras and visit to a fish farm in S'Ena Arrubia for a meeting with fishermen and IMC experts.

10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break in S'Ena Arrubia
10.30 – 12.30	Visit at the Orri's well. We discussed the site's characteristics and they're in line with coastal erosion and the issue of risk for archaeological sites to be submerged. Few hundred meters away from the sea. Barbara Sanna will introduce us to the well and follow us to the Reclamation Museum.
13:00 – 14.30	Traditional lunch at Gallo Bianco in Arborea, site of the famous swamp reclamation. Possible presence of the major.
15:00 – 19.00	<p>Visit to sustainable farm of Paolo Pinos, accompanied by Doc. Tamaro, agronomist of the Arborea producers cooperative, with which Maristanis has some projects going on regarding agriculture.</p> <p>Visit to S. Vero Milis, where we'll meet the ancient art of reed braiding and its old and new interpreters (artisans). Meet with representatives from the municipality.</p>
20:30	Dinner at the Peschiera Pontis in Cabras, "ittiturismo" of the fishers we met early in the morning.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> October – 3rd DAY</b>	
9:30 – 12.30	Bike trip on the Cabras-Mistras route: voyage through the beauties of these wetlands to show their role as nature-based solutions and activities put in place to make this area more resilience to climate change effects.
13.00	Lunch at Camminetto (Cabras)
Afternoon	<b>RETURN</b>



Organisations – MAVA initiative on wetlands:



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