

OASI DI BOLGHERI

7IT007 designation date 14/12/1976

1. **Date:** August 20, 1998
2. **Country:** Italy
3. **Name of wetland:** Oasi WWF Palude di Bolgheri
4. **Geographical coordinates:** 43° 13' N - 10° 33' E
5. **Altitude:** 0 m
6. **Area:** 518 ha
7. **Overview:** this area is formed by the most typical environments of the Maremma: the beach and the dunes, the freshwater wetland with its own vegetation, the flooded meadows, the cultivated fields with long hedges and some old oaks and helms, and what remains of a larger Mediterranean forest. The wetland hosts more than 2,000 waterfowl in winter.
8. **Wetland type:** Coastal E, K. Inland Ts. a) K, b) E, c) Ts
9. **Ramsar criteria:** 1D - 2B - 3B. Most significant criterion: 2B
10. **Map of site included:** Yes Cartographv: IGMI 119 IV SO.
11. **Name and address of the compiler:** Dr. Paolo Macedone, Via G. Bresadola 54, 00171 Roma, Italy.
12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9.** The wetland biotope is one of the few left along the Tyrrhenean coast. The site is of special value also because of its natural dune vegetation and its high diversity of waterfowls and other birds (thousands of *Columba palumbus* rest here between October and March) (see point 18).
13. **General location:** LIVORNO; Regione TOSCANA
14. **Physical features:** the origin of this typical coastal pond (once very common along the Tyrrhenean coast) is due to the scarce tides in the Mediterranean and consequent rarity of estuaries drained by the sea. Besides, the summer dry weather and the violent rain periods, in different seasons, produce an irregular water flow and consequent formation of marshes; at the same time the strong winds and the waves bring great quantities of sand which form bars in front of the estuaries. This site has survived to the great drainage works. It presents a variation in the water level and, due to the steep banks, it is surrounded by temporary ponds. The wetland covers a surface between 70 and 150 ha, depending on the season. In winter there are also 200 ha of flooded meadows and 200 ha of sand bars, covered by evergreen plants. No control is operated on the water level.
15. **Hydrological values:** See point 14
16. **Ecological features:** The beach is still natural and colonized by pioneer plants and by the rhizomes of the *Posidonia oceanica*; the dune is covered by *Juniperus phoenicea*, *J. oxycedrus macrocarpa*, and broadleaved evergreen bushes. Behind the recent dune the old "tombolo" (the large sand bar) is covered by *Pinus pinea* and *P. maritima* altogether with *Quercus ilex*, *Myrtus communis*, *Phyllirea angustifolia*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Smilax aspera*, *Erica scoparia* and the typical Mediterranean underwood. The wetland is colonized by *Fraxinus oxycarpa*, *Populus alba*, *Salix* spp., *Phragmites australis*, *Typha latifolia*, *Potamogeton* spp. and other hygrophytic plants all around the pond. Over it, inland, the cultivated fields and the isolated trees.
17. **Noteworthy flora:** *Scirpetum-maritimum*, *Euphorbia paralias*, and *Pancreatium maritimum*.
18. **Noteworthy fauna.** Mammals: *Capreolus capreolus*, *Dama dama* and *Hystrix cristata*. Reptiles: *Testudo hermanni* (protected under Washington Convention), *Emys orbicularis*,

and *Triturus cristatus* (vulnerable). Waterfowl (some notable species): *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Egretta alba*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Anser anser*, *Anas penelope* (more than 200 specimens in winter), *A. crecca*, *A. acuta*, *A. querquedula*, *A. clypeata*, *Aythya ferina*, *A. fuligula*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Grus grus* (occasionally), *Charadrius hiaticula*, *C. dubius*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Tringa totanus*, *Calidris minuta*, *C. alpina*, *C. ferruginea*, *Philomachus pugnax* (sometimes more than 700 specimens in April), *Vanellus vanellus* (most important population in Tuscany), *Himantopus himantopus*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Chlidonias niger*, *C. leucopterus*, *Gelochelidon nilotica* (along the coast); Rarely: *Phoenicopterus ruber* and *Tadorna tadorna* have been observed. Fishes: *Anguilla anguilla* and *Mugil cephalus*.

19. **Social and cultural values:** traditional agriculture; historical importance (an ancient road used by soldiers to guard the area from the pirates still persists in the dunes).
20. **Land tenure/ownership of:** a) Family Incisa Della Rocchetta, Family Antinori, Baronessa De Banfield (owners), management: CITAI Society (Incisa) and WWF Italy.
b) Family Antinori and other private owners
21. **Current land use:** a) Wildlife preservation, extensive agriculture, cattle grazing
b) hunting, intensive agriculture.
22. **Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character:** a) insufficient water supply
b) hunting, touristic areas.
23. **Conservation measures taken.** No hunting since 1959; the central part of the site is deputed to fauna conservation since 1963; Rifugio faunistico (Dept. Of Agriculture) since 1970; Ramsar site (1977), hydrogeological protection,
24. **Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented.** It has been proposed a Provincial Natural Reserve (legge regionale 49/95).
25. **Current scientific research and facilities:** waterfowls census studies every winter, bird ringing, researches on the flora and the mammals.
26. **Current conservation education:** guided visits (WWF), birdwatching hides, nature trails, survey towers, touristic brochures.
27. **Current recreation and, tourism:** summer camps for conservation purposes, naturalistic tourism.
28. **Jurisdiction:** Regione Toscana, Province Livorno, Municipality Castagneto Carducci.
29. **Management authority:** Agreement between private owners and WWF Italy.
30. **Bibliographical references:**
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