

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

## 1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

1999

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

## 2. Country:

Italy

## 3. Name of wetland: Stagno di Mistras

## 4. Geographical coordinates: 39°54'N 008°28'E

## 5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.)

## 6. Area: 680 hectares

## 7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

It is a representative example of natural wetland, characteristic of Mediterranean biogeographical region. This wetland is a typical lagoon with one large connection to the sea. It includes a retry dune system. It supports a good assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species of plants and animals and important habitats.

## 8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . **J** . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts  
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

## 9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1a . 1b . 1c . 1d | **2a** . 2b . 2c . 2d | 3a . 3b . 3c | 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site:

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes*  -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

## 11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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**Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):**

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**12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

It supports an important number of rare or endangered species of animals (over 40 endangered bird species), with many specimens (over 3.000 birds), e.g., Glarola pratincola, Himantopus himantopus, Sterna hirundo, Sterna albifrons, Phoenicopterus ruber.

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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

It is located in the West of Sardinia, close to Oristano town. This land belongs to Cabras and Oristano villages.

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**14. Physical features:** (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

It is a lagoon, parallel to the sea, is separated from it via two littoral cordons. Between the two littoral cordons is placed an important artificial fish-shop. It has not any fresh water affluent, therefore its water is very brackish. It is 30 - 140 depth.

This wetland originated via erosion by sea regression-intrusion and after this depression is filled up by marine intrusion and separated from the sea by a littoral cordon.

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**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

The natural and artificial control on the of depth water change permitted to avoid the coastal erosion and the flood control.

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**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

- Embryonic shifting dunes. It represents the first stages of dune construction, constituted by raised sand surfaces of the upper beach. Plants: Agropyrum sp.
- Annual vegetation of drift lines. This is a formation of representatives of annuals and perennials plants, growing on drift material and gravels rich in nitrogenous organic matter. Plants: Cakile maritima and Salsola kali.
- Coastal lagoons. It is characterised by varying salinity and water volume, partially separated from the sea by sandbanks. Salinity may vary from brackish water to hypersalinity depending on rainfall, evaporation and the addition of fresh seawater. Plants: fresh water species: Potamogeton crispus, Cladophora sp., Myriophyllum spicatum e Zanichellia palustris; brackish and deep water species: Ruppia cirhosa, Potamogeton pectinatus, Ulva sp.; few brackish but not deep water: Potamogeton natans e Potamogeton crispus Chara sp.; many brackish and temporary water species: Ruppia maritima, Lamprotamnion sp.
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with endemic Limonium sp. It is a vegetated cliffs and rocky shores of the Mediterranean. Plants: Limonium sp.
- Mediterranean salt meadows. It consists of various Mediterranean communities: tall rush saltmarshes dominated by Juncus acutus, Aster tripolium; short rush, sedge and clover saltmarshes characterised by Hordeum marinum, and humid meadows behind littoral with Ranunculus aquatilis.

- Mediterranean halophilous scrubs. It is characterised by perennial vegetation of marine saline muds mainly composed of scrubs. Plants: Salicornia europaea, Suaeda maritima, Arthrocnemum glaucum, Hordeum marinum, Aeluropus litoralis.
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**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

Plagius flosculosus, important paleoendemism of Sardinia.

Stachys glutinosa, paleoendemism.

Limonium dubium, "tirrenico sardo-corso" endemic.

Limonium densiflorum, Corsica-Sicily-Algeria e Sardinia subendemism.

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**18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Hyla sarda: endemic specie.

Emys orbicularis: endangered specie.

Testudo hermanni: endemic specie.

Tachybaptus ruficollis: endangered specie, over 30 specimens.

Podiceps cristatus: very endangered specie, over 20 specimens.

Podiceps nigricollis: very endangered specie, over 20 specimens.

Phalacrocorax carbo: abundant specie, over 1000 specimens.

Phalacrocorax aristotelis: endangered specie, few specimens.

Botaurus stellaris: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens.

Ixobrychus minutus: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens.

Bubulcus ibis: very endangered specie, over 10 specimens.

Egretta garzetta: endangered specie, over 50 specimens.

Egretta alba: endangered specie, over 10 specimens.

Ardea cinerea: endangered specie, over 30 specimens.

Plegadis falcinellus: endangered specie, few specimens.

Phoenicopterus ruber: very endangered specie (site very important for the migration of this), over 500 specimens

Anser anser: few specimens (site important for the migration).

Tadorna tadorna: very endangered specie, few specimens (site important site for nest building).

Anas penelope: endangered specie, over 500 specimens.

Anas crecca: endangered specie, over 100 specimens.

Anas platyrhynchos: over 200 specimens (site important for the migration).

Anas querquedula: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens.

Anas clypeata: endangered specie, over 10 specimens.

Netta rufina: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens.

Aythya ferina: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens.

Aythya fuligula: endangered specie, few specimens.

Circus aeruginosus: endangered specie, over 5 specimens.

Pandion haliaetus: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens.

Rallus aquaticus: endangered specie, few specimens.

Gallinula chloropus: few specimens.

Porphyrio porphyrio: rare in Europe, very endangered specie, few specimens (site important for nest building).

Fulica atra: abundant specie, over 100 specimens.

Himantopus himantopus: very endangered specie, over 30 specimens, (important site for nest building).

Recurvirostra avosetta: rare in Europe, very endangered specie, over 20 specimens (site important for nest building).  
Glareola pratincola: rare and very endangered specie, few specimens (site important for nest building).  
Charadrius hiaticula: endangered specie, over 30 specimens.  
Charadrius alexandrinus: endangered specie, over 300 specimens.  
Pluvialis apricaria: endangered specie, over 500 specimens.  
Pluvialis squatarola: endangered specie, over 30 specimens.  
Vanellus vanellus: over 100 specimens (site important for the migration).  
Calidris minuta: endangered specie, over 60 specimens.  
Calidris alpina: endangered specie, over 300 specimens.  
Gallinago gallinago: over 10 specimens (site important for the migration).  
Numenius arquata: endangered specie, over 100 specimens.  
Tringa totanus: very endangered specie, over 100 specimens (site important for nest-building)  
Tringa nebularia: endangered specie, over 20 specimens.  
Actitis hypoleucos: endangered specie, over 10 specimens.  
Larus ridibundus: abundant specie, over 300 specimens.  
Larus genei: endangered specie, over 100 specimens.  
Larus cachinnans: abundant species, over 1000 specimens.  
Sterna sandvicensis: rare and very endangered specie, over 100 specimens (site important for nest-building).  
Sterna hirundo: very endangered specie, over 20 specimens (site important for nest-building).  
Sterna albifrons: very endangered specie, over 20 specimens, (site important for nest-building).  
Alcedo atthis: endangered specie, few specimens.

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**19. Social and cultural values:** (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The site is very important for the fisheries production and for the tourism.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

a) The principal human activities in this wetland are: fishing, outdoor recreation, education and scientific research.

b). Around the site there is an important agriculture activity.

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**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site (b) around the site

a) The principal problems that affecting the site's ecological character are the human disturbance and the water supply for agriculture, domestic and industrial use.

b) The principal problems that affecting the ecological character of the area around the site is the used of chemical pollutants in agriculture activity.

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**23. Conservation measures taken:** (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

This wetland is considered by government of the Sardinian Region as a protected area for animals. It is

inspected by the "Ispettorato Forestale" of Sardinia Region administration's.

**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

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**25. Current scientific research and facilities:** (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

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**26. Current conservation education:** (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

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**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

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**28. Jurisdiction:** (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)  
"Ispettorato Forestale" of Sardinia Region administration's.

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**29. Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)  
"Ispettorato Forestale" of Sardinia Region administration's.

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

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