



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

61 Ramsar Site(s) covering 78,385 ha

### Trapani and Paceco salt ponds

Site number: 2329 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sicily

Area: 971 ha | Coordinates: 37°59'18"N 12°30'56"E | Designation dates: 19-10-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in western Sicily, Trapani and Paceco Salt Ponds is one of the most important wetlands for millions of birds crossing the 140-kilometre-wide Strait of Sicily during their migration to and from Africa. Some 224 bird species have been recorded at the Site, with many of them threatened and protected including the endangered saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*. The Site is of great importance as a resting and feeding ground, and the number of breeding species has increased since the establishment of the Natural Reserve in 1995. The biodiversity of the area has benefited from the ancient traditional production of sea salt, as demonstrated by the high numbers of bird and plant species – some rare or unique – as well as insects and amphibians. The Site's ancient mills and unique landscape, which bear witness to the historical salt production, have remained intact despite the threats of urbanization and industrialization.

### Torbiere d'Iseo

Site number: 295 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia

Area: 325 ha | Coordinates: 45°38'53"N 10°01'42"E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Torbiere d'Iseo. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 325 ha; 45°38'N 010°02'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. A complex of artificial pools formed by peat cutting to the South of Iseo Lake. The pools support floating and emergent vegetation, wet meadows and woodland. The site is an important nesting area for a diversity of waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 295. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

### Valle Bertuzzi

Site number: 224 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 3,100 ha | Coordinates: 11°19'57"N 01°22'37"W | Designation dates: 04-09-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Bertuzzi. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 3,100 ha; 44°47'N 012°14'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park, Wildlife Sanctuary. A brackish, coastal lagoon separated from the sea by sand spits and including stabilized dunes with thickets, small islands covered by salt-resistant vegetation, and areas of reedbeds. Several species of waterbirds use the site for breeding, and large numbers of waterbirds occur in winter and during migration periods. Ramsar site no. 224. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valle Cavanata

Site number: 169 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Friuli-Venezia Giulia  
Area: 243 ha | Coordinates: 45°42'42"N 13°28'22"E | Designation dates: 10-03-1978

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Cavanata. 10/03/78; Friuli-Venezia Giulia; 243 ha; 45°43'N 013°28'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. The site, a fish pond, was created from coastal lagoons and wetlands. The freshwater parts of the site support reedbeds, salt-resistant vegetation and submergent flora, including *Zostera* beds. The area is important for breeding and passage birds, with up to 10,000 occurring during migration periods. Human activities include commercial fish farming and tourism. Tourism and fish farming are intensive. Ramsar site no. 169. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valle di Gorino

Site number: 223 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 1,330 ha | Coordinates: 44°48'06"N 12°21'01"E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle di Gorino. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 1,330 ha; 44°48'N 012°21'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park, State Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal lagoon separated from the sea by a dune system. Wetland vegetation consists of submergent and emergent communities. The area is important for several species of nesting birds, and large numbers of waterbirds stage and winter in the area. Human activities include tourism, fishing, commercial shellfish farming, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 223. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valli del Mincio

Site number: 294 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 1,082 ha | Coordinates: 45°10'16"N 10°41'53"E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valli del Mincio. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 1,082 ha; 45°10'N 010°42'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Park, Regional Natural Reserve. A complex of artificial pools created from marshland in the floodplain of the Mincio River. Vegetation consists of emergent, floating and submergent species and includes species rare in Italy. The pools support a rich fish fauna. A diversity of breeding and wintering birds occur, including the regionally rare *Acrocephalus melanopogon*. Human activities include reed cutting and commercial fishing. Dams in surrounding mountain valleys prevent the passage of migrating eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) and numbers are declining. Ramsar site no. 294.

## Valli residue del comprensorio di Comacchio

Site number: 225 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 13,500 ha | Coordinates: 29°50'37"N 115°20'E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valli residue del comprensorio di Comacchio. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 13,500 ha; 44°37'N 012°11'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. The remnants of an extensive complex of coastal lagoons and marshes drained in 1850 for agriculture. The site includes a shallow, brackish lagoon connected with the sea, sand banks and islands. Vegetation is dominated by salt-tolerant plants. The single most important wetland in Italy for breeding waterbirds, the area is also a valuable staging and wintering area. Birdwatching and conservation education facilities are available. Ramsar site no. 225. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Vendicari

Site number: 424 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sicilia

Area: 1,450 ha | Coordinates: 36°48'23"N 15°05'39"E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vendicari. 11/04/89; Sicilia; 1,450 ha; 36°48'N 015°07'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. A complex of five brackish lakes subject to marked seasonal variations in extent and salinity. Saline areas support typical salt-resistant vegetation, while freshwater areas give rise to a more varied flora. The site supports up to 20,000 waterbirds during the spring migration period, and is also important for wintering birds. Several notable nesting species as well as large numbers of shorebirds use the area. The site is subject to considerable tourism-related development. Ramsar site no. 424.

## Punte Alberete

Site number: 121 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 480 ha | Coordinates: 44°31'39"N 12°13'23"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Punte Alberete. 14/12/76; Emilia Romagna; 480 ha; 44°31'N 012°14'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park. An extensive wetland complex within the Po River floodplain consisting of alluvial woodland and relict sand dunes. Extensive reedbeds and submergent and floating vegetation are supported. An important area for breeding, nesting and wintering waterbirds. The area is supplied mainly with water from the polluted Lamone River. Nutrient-enrichment, sedimentation and vegetational succession are problems. Ramsar site no. 121. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Palude di Bolgheri

Site number: 123 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana

Area: 518 ha | Coordinates: 43°13'22"N 10°32'43"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude di Bolgheri. 14/12/76; Toscana; 518 ha; 43°13'N 010°33'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. Partly wooded marshland separated from the beach and sea by a double cordon of dunes covered with dry Mediterranean scrub. The dunes give way to a series of freshwater pools surrounded by typical marsh vegetation and areas of wet woodland. Surrounding areas consist of cultivated fields divided by hedgerows and trees. The site is important as a staging and nesting area for a wide range of migratory waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 123. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Stagno di Molentargius

Site number: 133 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 1,401 ha | Coordinates: 39°13'28"N 09°09'42"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Molentargius. 14/12/76; Sardegna; 1,401 ha; 39°14'N 009°10'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990, removed from the Record, 2 July 2008. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A heavily modified lagoon complex of varying salinity and extensive salt pans, separated from the sea by a fossil dune system. The site supports extensive reedbeds, submergent vegetation, and rich fish and invertebrate faunas. An important area for breeding, staging and wintering numerous species of waterbirds, including various protected species. Human activities include a salt industry, hunting, commercial fishing, and tourism. The site is subject to industrial and urban effluent and surrounding areas are rapidly becoming urbanized. Industrial and urban effluent, illegal dumping and poaching, and urban expansion have seriously damaged the ecology of the site. Coastal development has destroyed important nesting sites. As a result, the site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 and removed on 2 July 2008. Ramsar site no. 133. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Laguna di Orbetello

Site number: 124 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana

Area: 887 ha | Coordinates: 42°28'52"N 11°12'15"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna di Orbetello. 14/12/76; Toscana; 887 ha; 42°27'N 011°13'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 31 December 1993, removed from the Record, 21 March 2000. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A large, brackish lagoon of fringing reedbeds, extensive algae beds, salt-resistant vegetation, and an abundant invertebrate fauna separated from the sea by a dune cordon. The site is significant for numerous important species of nesting and wintering waterbirds, with wintering birds exceeding 10,000 individuals. Human activities include commercial fishing, ecotourism and hunting. The site suffers from nutrient-enrichment and siltation as a result of sewage effluent from the town of Orbetello. This and other anthropogenic impacts have decreased water circulation and created some anoxic conditions. These problems led to the site's inclusion on the Montreux Record in 1993. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1998. Ramsar site no. 124. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lake Barrea

Site number: 131 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Abruzzo

Area: 241 ha | Coordinates: 41°45'46"N 13°58'07"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This lake in the Apennine mountain range was formed by damming the Sangro River to generate hydroelectric power. Surrounded by riparian forests of willows (*Salix* spp.) and white poplars (*Populus alba*), the Site is especially important for nationally endangered migratory birds *Aythya ferina* and *Anas crecca*. The reservoir is a vital water resource for deer, wolves and the Marsican brown bear, a critically endangered subspecies of the Eurasian brown bear (*Ursus arctos arctos*). Fluctuations in water levels were formerly a threat to the Site, but they are now strictly regulated and this has led to the appearance of submerged vegetation and contributed to the return of the otter (*Lutra lutra*). In 2021 the Site boundary was extended to the west and the total area calculated more accurately. During the summer months, the lake is a popular destination for picnics, outings and nature observation.

## Busatello marsh

Site number: 2315 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto

Area: 443 ha | Coordinates: 45°06'37"N 11°05'15"E | Designation dates: 03-10-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Busatello Marsh is the only freshwater marsh remaining after the drainage of a vast system of marshes which, along with the wetlands of the Grandi Valli Veronesi, once extended over about 30,000 hectares. The Site consists of the part of the marshland located in the Gazzo Veronese municipality, together with the surrounding farmland and channels. The adjacent Palude di Ostiglia Ramsar Site ([Site no. 297](#)) covers the remaining part of the marshland. The Site is raised above the surrounding areas, which subsided after they were drained. It is therefore contained by dykes along its boundary and water is pumped in as necessary. The Site hosts an abundance of species particular to marshy ecosystems, including 226 plants, more than 170 birds, seven amphibians, six reptiles and numerous invertebrates. Rare plant species are present which are at risk of extinction in the local area. The Busatello Marsh is an important migration stop-over area and breeding ground for birds, including nationally threatened species such as the critically endangered sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, and the endangered Eurasian wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.

## Massaciuccoli lake and marsh

Site number: 2311 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Tuscany Region

Area: 11,135 ha | Coordinates: 43°45'46"N 10°18'10"E | Designation dates: 22-06-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large ecologically diverse wetland on the coast of northern Tuscany. It is a flat, mixed forest ecosystem, with soils formed by both sedimentation and erosion increased by wind and the hydrological interactions of the Arno and Serchio rivers and the sea. The Site includes the lower stretches of the two rivers, the wetlands of the old Arno delta, the lake of Massaciuccoli, and peatland floating on root mat islands. Wetlands of this size are extremely rare in coastal plains of the Mediterranean area. The Site hosts a great variability of communities and a wealth of species, including endemic subspecies such as *Artemisia caerulescens cretacea*, which is found only in central Italy, and *Centaurea aplolepa subciliata*, which is unique to the Tyrrhenian coast. The Site is an important migratory and wintering area for hundreds of bird species. It also contributes to carbon retention and is important for sediment retention, fresh water supply, and also recreation and nature-based tourism.

## Oasis of the Sele - Serre Persano

Site number: 1665 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Regione Campania

Area: 174 ha | Coordinates: 40°36'18"N 15°08'07"E | Designation dates: 07-08-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Oasis is an artificial basin along the Sele River consisting of inundated meadows, riparian woodland, flooded forest, fens and swamps. The reservoir was created by the damming of the Sele in the first half of the 20th century. The dominant vegetation comprises floating and emergent vegetation typical of the Mediterranean Region. The Site hosts one of the largest populations in Italy of the the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) and is important as a resting and nesting site for waterfowl including the threatened common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). It features a rich diversity of amphibians including the endangered Apennine yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina pachypus*). Small-scale agriculture is practiced by local residents, and there is a visitor's centre with nature trails and facilities for school visits. The Site is impacted by dam operation and invasive species.

## Posada River Mouth

Site number: 2452 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardinia (Italy)

Area: 736 ha | Coordinates: 40°38'22"N 09°43'28"E | Designation dates: 25-02-2021

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated in the north of Sardinia, the well-preserved Posada River Mouth is a rare example in the Mediterranean of a near-natural river delta. The Site comprises the final stretch of the Posada River, its alluvial plains, small side streams, oxbows and a sandy coastal lagoon. Typically for a river mouth with a gradient of fresh, brackish and salt water, there are *Phragmites australis* reedbeds, riparian tamarisk and willow communities and saltwater species such as glassworts (*Sarcocornia* spp.), seepweeds (*Suaeda* spp.) and sea purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*). The Site's network of waterways, temporary ponds and continuously shifting dunes provides a variety of breeding and wintering grounds for regionally and nationally protected animals including the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis orbicularis*), the common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and the little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). During floods the entire plain can become inundated, mitigating the upstream impact and distributing fertile soils along the alluvial plain. Some sheep and cattle graze within the Site, while orchards and horticultural crops are cultivated at its margins. During the summer months the coastal area is a popular tourist destination.



## Oasis of Castelvoturno - Variconi

Site number: 1664 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Campania Region  
Area: 195 ha | Coordinates: 41°01'15"N 13°56'03"E | Designation dates: 07-08-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site lies on the left bank of the Volturno delta in southern Italy and includes freshwater ponds surrounded by marshes and a saline lagoon separated by an artificial levee which connects the riparian strip with the mainland. It belongs to the last remaining portion of a formerly vast complex of swamps which was drained between the 17th and 18th centuries. Many bird species use the Site as a migration stopover or for wintering, including protected species such as the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), the knot (*Calidris canutus*) and the near-threatened ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*). River regulation and tourism are seen as a potential threat. There is a bird observation hut and a nature trail as well as educational activities for schoolchildren.

## Biviere di Gela

Site number: 397 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sicilia  
Area: 256 ha | Coordinates: 37°01'17"N 14°20'41"E | Designation dates: 12-04-1988

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Biviere di Gela. 12/04/88; Sicilia; 256 ha; 37°01'N 014°20'E. National Park, Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal, freshwater lagoon at the mouth of the Torta River backed by hills and separated from the sea by a dune system. Vegetation consists of submerged aquatic plants and emergent species. The site is used for commercial fishing and as a water source for irrigation of surrounding cultivated land. The area is important as a staging area for numerous species of migratory birds, including important numbers of *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. The site also supports the highest diversity of nesting waterbirds of any wetland in Sicily. Ramsar site no. 397. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Isola Boscone

Site number: 425 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia  
Area: 201 ha | Coordinates: 45°02'31"N 11°14'24"E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Isola Boscone. 11/04/89; Lombardia; 201 ha; 45°03'N 011°14'E. Natural Reserve. A fluvial island on the Po River, connected to the shore by an artificial isthmus. The area supports a diverse aquatic vegetation. The site supports an important heronry and large numbers of several species of nesting birds. Human activities include angling and conservation education, while the surrounding area is used intensively for agriculture, *Populus* forestry, and fishing. Ramsar site no. 425. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lago di Caprolace

Site number: 129 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio  
Area: 229 ha | Coordinates: 41°21'02"N 12°58'18"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Caprolace. 14/12/76; Lazio; 229 ha; 41°20'N 012°58'E. Special Protection Area under EC Directive; National Park. A brackish, coastal lagoon and associated saltmarsh separated from the sea by a dune system. The vegetation includes reed and sedge beds and various salt-tolerant plants. A varied fish fauna is supported and numerous species of breeding, migrating and wintering waterbirds use the site. Human activities include commercial fishing, semi-intensive aquaculture, shellfish farming and tourism. Ramsar site no. 129. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lago dei Monaci

Site number: 128 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio

Area: 94 ha | Coordinates: 41°22'37"N 12°56'21"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago dei Monaci. 14/12/76; Lazio; 94 ha; 41°22'N 012°55'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. The smallest of a series of brackish, coastal lagoons and associated saltmarshes and separated from the sea by a dune system. Vegetation includes fringing reedbeds, submergent plants, algae and salt-tolerant plants. The lagoon and its feeder canals support a varied fish fauna. A wide variety of waterbirds use the site during migration and in winter. Human activities include commercial fishing and mass tourism. Ramsar site no. 128. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lago di Sabaudia

Site number: 130 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio

Area: 1,474 ha | Coordinates: 38°10'22"N 33°11'11"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Sabaudia. 14/12/76; Lazio; 1,474 ha; 41°16'N 013°01'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. A chain of brackish, coastal lagoon, a lake and associated saltmarsh separated from the sea by a dune system. The vegetation includes reed and sedge beds and various salt-tolerant plants. A varied fish fauna is supported and numerous species of breeding, migrating and wintering waterbirds use the site. Human activities include commercial fishing, semi-intensive aquaculture, seasonal shell-fish harvesting, and intensive summer tourism. Ramsar site no. 130. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Lago di Tovel

Site number: 210 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Trentino Alto Adige

Area: 37 ha | Coordinates: 46°15'39"N 10°56'58"E | Designation dates: 19-09-1980

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Tovel. 19/09/80; Trentino Alto Adige; 37 ha; 46°16'N 010°57'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Park. An alpine, freshwater lake, surrounded by forested mountains. The lake supports an endemic species of unicellular algae, *Glenodinium sanguineum*, which reddens the water seasonally. The area supports a rich mammal fauna. Human activities include camping and hiking. Ramsar site no. 210. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Laguna di Marano: Foci dello Stella

Site number: 190 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Area: 1,400 ha | Coordinates: 45°44'20"N 13°07'13"E | Designation dates: 14-05-1979

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna di Marano: Foci dello Stella. 14/05/79; Friuli-Venezia Giulia; 1,400 ha; 45°44'N 013°08'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. Part of the Laguna di Marano, lying within the vast lagoon complex formed by the deltas of the Tagliamento and Isonzo rivers. The site includes a fossil dune complex and tidal waters of varying salinity with extensive intertidal mud and sand flats. The intertidal flats support beds of *Zostera* spp. and *Ruppia maritima* and submerged halophytic plants and are fringed by extensive reedbeds. The area is internationally important for several species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include hunting, tourism, and conservation education. The lagoon environment is changing due to rising sea level. Ramsar site no. 190. Most recent RIS information: 1999.

## Laguna di Venezia: Valle Averso

Site number: 423 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto

Area: 500 ha | Coordinates: 45°21'06"N 12°09'05"E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Laguna di Venezia: Valle Averso. 11/04/89; Veneto; 500 ha; 45°21'N 012°09'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. The site consists of a complex of coastal lagoons, modified by the creation of fishponds. It exhibits a full range of wetland habitats, progressing from freshwater marsh and reed swamp to open saline water with intertidal sand flats. The complex supports an extremely rich fish fauna, including freshwater species. The area is internationally important for numerous species of nesting, staging and wintering waterbirds. Human activities within the site include extensive fish farming and conservation education. Ramsar site no. 423. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Le Cesine

Site number: 168 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Puglia

Area: 620 ha | Coordinates: 40°21'04"N 18°20'25"E | Designation dates: 06-12-1977

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Le Cesine. 06/12/77; Puglia; 620 ha; 40°20'N 018°21'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A coastal, wetland complex, separated from the sea by a dune system. Habitats include open brackish pools, reedbeds and associated saltmarsh, bordered by Mediterranean scrub and woodland. The site is important for the nesting, staging and wintering of numerous species of waterbirds. Several rare plant species occur. The site is important for conservation education and cultivation. Ramsar site no. 168. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Ortazzo e Ortazzino

Site number: 227 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 440 ha | Coordinates: 40°01'N 83°01'W | Designation dates: 04-09-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ortazzo e Ortazzino. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 440 ha; 44°20'N 012°19'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary, State Natural Reserve. A large, partly flooded depression, once used for rice cultivation, consisting of numerous large, well-vegetated, brackish pools lying behind a system of coastal dunes. Water levels are artificially regulated. The area supports salt-resistant vegetation, dune communities, woods, and Mediterranean scrub. The variety of habitats in the area gives rise to a rich avifauna which includes large numbers of breeding and staging waterbirds. Human activities include intensive tourism and fishing. Ramsar site no. 227. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Palude Brabbia

Site number: 296 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia

Area: 459 ha | Coordinates: 45°47'04"N 08°43'06"E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude Brabbia. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 459 ha; 45°44'N 008°40'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. The site is situated in a valley of glacial origins and includes areas of marsh, open water, and wet meadows dissected by channels. It is fed by the Brabbia canal and surrounded by heavily built-up hills. The marsh vegetation consists of various species of aquatic plants that include a number of rare species. The area is important for diverse species of breeding wetland birds. Birdwatching and conservation education facilities are available. The wetland depends on an elaborate system of water management. Ramsar site no. 296. Most recent RIS information: 1998.



## Palude del Brusà - Le Vallette

Site number: 1929 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto

Area: 171 ha | Coordinates: 45°10'27"N 11°13'03"E | Designation dates: 27-09-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude del Brusà - Le Vallette. 27/09/10. Veneto Region, Verona, Cerea. 171 ha; 45°10' N 011°13' E. Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Strict Nature Reserve. Located in the municipality of Cerea in the southern part of the Verona Province and one of the largest wetlands remaining after drainage and reclamation of most of the surrounding area. The Menago River runs for 42 km from north to south through the region and flows into the Tartaro-Canal Bianco River. This site is an alluvial area originating from the accumulation of sediments transported by Quaternary glaciers and rivers that have filled the existing lagoon over the years. The habitat mainly consists of freshwater marshes and pools and constitutes one of the best preserved examples of its kind in the Padano-Veneta plain. The site supports three species of amphibians and reptiles named in the EU Habitat Directive, the *Triturus carnifex*, *Rana latastei* and *Emys orbicularis*. Moreover, the site has an important role as a resting, breeding and wintering area for many rare species of the Pianura Padana wetland system and several birds are mentioned in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, including *Aythya nyroca*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ardea purpurea* and *Circus aeruginosus*. Approximately 150 species of birds are seen in the site throughout the year. Human activities in the wetland include harvesting of marsh plants (reeds and sedges), although this activity is gradually declining, and tourist activities which are slowly developing. Ramsar Site no. 1929. Most recent RIS information: 2010.

## Palude della Diaccia Botrona

Site number: 522 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana

Area: 2,500 ha | Coordinates: 42°46'15"N 10°55'33"E | Designation dates: 22-05-1991

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude della Diaccia Botrona. 22/05/91; Toscana; 2,500 ha; 42°48'N 010°57'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 31 December 1993, removed from the Record, 21 March 2000. Communal Protected Area, Natural Reserve. A brackish coastal marsh connected with the sea by canals from the Bruna River but separated from the sea by a dune system. The vegetation is dominated by *Juncus* spp. and *Salicornia* spp., and includes Mediterranean scrub and woodland. The area is important for feeding, nesting and staging up to 300 species of migratory waterbirds. A small observatory is maintained. The site was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to serious degradation resulting from intensive fish-farming, salinization, and poor water circulation. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1998. Ramsar site no. 522. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Piallassa della Baiona e Risega

Site number: 226 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 1,630 ha | Coordinates: 44°30'06"N 12°15'06"E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Piallassa della Baiona e Risega. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 1,630 ha; 44°30'N 012°15'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park. A coastal basin of extensive areas of open water dissected by a network of canals. Vegetation includes submergent vegetation, reedbeds, grasses, and salt-tolerant plants. The area is particularly important for various species of staging, wintering and breeding waterbirds. Human activities include fish farming and hunting. Ramsar site no. 226. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Palude di Ostiglia

Site number: 297 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia

Area: 123 ha | Coordinates: 45°06'13"N 11°05'58"E | Designation dates: 05-12-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude di Ostiglia. 05/12/84; Lombardia; 123 ha; 45°04'N 011°06'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. A marshy area lying between the Po and Tione rivers, forming an artificial, raised basin dependent entirely on the inflow of agricultural runoff. Most of the site is covered by reedbeds that are harvested on a commercial basis. Several species use the site for breeding. Facilities for birdwatching and conservation education are available. Ramsar site no. 297. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Pian di Spagna - Lago di Mezzola

Site number: 117 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lombardia

Area: 1,740 ha | Coordinates: 46°10'31"N 09°25'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pian di Spagna-Lago di Mezzola. 14/12/76; Lombardia; 1,740 ha; 46°13'N 009°26'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Natural Reserve. The site, an alluvial floodplain in the Alp foothills, lies between the Lakes Mezzola and Como and is formed by the confluence of the Mera and Adda rivers. A diverse aquatic vegetation is supported in the associated marsh. The area is important for numerous species of breeding and wintering waterbirds and nesting raptors. The lake supports a rich fish fauna, is intensively fished, and provides fish spawning and nursery areas. Human activities include boating and intensive agriculture in the surroundings. Ramsar site no. 117. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Saline di Cervia

Site number: 228 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 785 ha | Coordinates: 44°15'07"N 12°19'43"E | Designation dates: 04-09-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Saline di Cervia. 04/09/81; Emilia Romagna; 785 ha; 44°15'N 012°20'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; State Natural Reserve, Provincial Wildlife Sanctuary. An extensive complex of salt pans, dissected by a network of channels and embankments linked to the sea by an artificial canal. Vegetation includes submerged aquatic flora and salt-tolerant plants. The area is important for nesting waterbirds and staging migratory birds. The principal land use is salt production; other human activities include hunting. Ramsar site no. 228. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Stagno di Mistras

Site number: 233 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 680 ha | Coordinates: 39°54'03"N 08°27'23"E | Designation dates: 03-05-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Mistras. 03/05/82; Sardegna; 680 ha; 39°54'N 008°28'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A brackish, coastal lagoon connected with the Gulf of Oristano by means of a wide channel, but separated from the sea by a dune system. Virtually all of the wetland's fresh water comes from rainfall and runoff, thus salinity varies seasonally. Vegetation consists of submergent species while the fringing vegetation is typically halophytic. The lagoon is rich in bivalve molluscs and fish. The site is important for a range of staging, breeding and wintering waterbirds. Human activities include commercial fishing and shell-fish harvesting. Ramsar site no. 233.

## Sacca di Bellocchio

Site number: 119 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 223 ha | Coordinates: 44°37'05"N 12°16'14"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sacca di Bellocchio. 14/12/76; Emilia Romagna; 223 ha; 44°37'N 012°16'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; State Natural Reserve, Regional Park. An inter-dunal lagoon fed with fresh water via a canal from the Reno River and connected to the Adriatic Sea. Water level is subject to seasonal variation, and the brackish environment is artificially maintained. Vegetation includes submergent flora, salt-tolerant plants, emergent reedbeds, and damp grassland cut for animal fodder. The area is important for several species of fish and for breeding, staging and nesting numerous species of waterbirds. Part of the site is used as a firing range and is subject to use by heavy military vehicles. Ramsar site no. 119. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Stagno di Cagliari

Site number: 134 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna  
Area: 3,466 ha | Coordinates: 39°13'05"N 09°02'26"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Cagliari. 14/12/76; Sardegna; 3,466 ha; 39°12'N 009°03'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990; removed from the Record, 26 November 2008. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A large, coastal lagoon, converted to 2,000 ha of salt pans, and a dune system. The lagoon is fed with fresh water by the Cixerri and Mannu rivers. Vegetation consists of extensive reedbeds and salt-tolerant plants. The lagoon supports rich fish and invertebrate faunas and is critical habitat for numerous important species of breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds. The ecology of the site has been seriously damaged by thermal, industrial and urban effluent from the city of Cagliari, resulting in nutrient-enrichment. Additionally, major port development projects have caused substantial changes in the ecological character of the site. The site was added to the Montreux Record in 1990 due to these factors and removed from the Record on 25 November 2008 following successful remedial efforts. Ramsar site no. 134. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Valle Santa

Site number: 120 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna  
Area: 261 ha | Coordinates: 44°34'16"N 11°50'15"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Santa. 14/12/76; Emilia Romagna; 261 ha; 44°33'N 011°50'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park, Wildlife Sanctuary. An artificial, freshwater impoundment at the confluence of the Sillaro and Idice Rivers. Various aquatic plants are supported and reedbeds fringe the site. There is a rich fish fauna. The area is particularly important for numerous species of nesting, passage and wintering waterbirds. The site is used for intensive fish farming, angling and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 120. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Torre Guaceto

Site number: 215 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Puglia

Area: 940 ha | Coordinates: 40°42'57"N 17°47'32"E | Designation dates: 21-07-1981

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Torre Guaceto. 21/07/81; Puglia; 940 ha; 40°43'N 017°48'E. Added to the Montreux Record, 31 December 1993, removed from the Record, 21 March 2000. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary, Marine Nature Reserve, State Natural Reserve. A small, brackish marsh dissected by a network of canals and separated from the sea by a dune system. The site includes adjacent shallow seas and several small islands. Vegetation associations of particular interest are supported, including a diverse aquatic community and areas of Mediterranean scrub. The marsh is an important staging area for several species of migratory birds and provides habitat for various endangered waterbirds. The site is of archaeological interest, owing to the presence of the remains of a Neolithic village. The site, subject to inputs of sewage and industrial effluent, was added to the Montreux Record in 1993 due to the various anthropogenic disturbances. Subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission in 1998. Ramsar site no. 215. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Valle Campotto e Bassarone

Site number: 181 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Emilia Romagna

Area: 1,363 ha | Coordinates: 44°35'12"N 11°49'32"E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Valle Campotto e Bassarone. 28/03/79; Emilia Romagna; 1,363 ha; 44°35'N 011°50'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Regional Park. An artificial, freshwater impoundment at the confluence of the Idice and Reno rivers. The site is supplied by flood water from the Idice and drains into the Reno. The open water area is colonized by various aquatic plants, and fringed by reedbeds and areas of wet forest. A rich fish fauna is supported and the area is important for numerous species of nesting waterbirds. A wide variety of passage and wintering birds also occur. The site is used for intensive fish farming, angling and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 181. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Trappola Marshland - Ombrone River Mouth

Site number: 2284 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Tuscany Region

Area: 536 ha | Coordinates: 42°40'14"N 11°01'03"E | Designation dates: 13-10-2016

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Trappola Marshland - Ombrone River Mouth, located on the Tyrrhenian coast of Tuscany, represents one of the last remnants of a partly salty and partly freshwater complex of wetlands and sandy dunes. The landscape includes the mouth of the Ombrone River and coastal wetlands bordered by the sea. The Site is a relict example of wetlands which maintains a remarkable biodiversity value. The dunal-interdunal system generates a mosaic of different habitats, including an alternation of permanently and seasonally flooded areas. It is a semi-natural landscape which has been modified by variations of the coastline and by anthropogenic reclamation activities such as water canalization, pastoral use, reforestation and tillage. The Site also includes a pine forest of anthropogenic origin and is characterized by sporadic non-intensive agriculture such as free-ranging cattle grazing. It has a very important ecological role because its diverse habitats support rare plant species and a large number of animal species, particularly birds, with many of international, national and regional importance. The Site is also very important for maintaining the biological diversity of Tyrrhenian coastal wetlands, especially concerning birds, of which more than 150 species are present or migrate to the area.

## Lago di Fogliano

Site number: 127 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio

Area: 395 ha | Coordinates: 41°24'03"N 12°54'08"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Fogliano. 14/12/76; Lazio; 395 ha; 41°23'N 012°54'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; National Park. A brackish lagoon, separated from the sea (except for narrow openings) by dunes. Vegetation consists of fringing reedbeds, submergents, and salt-tolerant plants. Diverse species of waterbirds occur in winter and during migration. Various species nest at the site. Ramsar site no. 127. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Stagno di Cábras

Site number: 178 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 3,575 ha | Coordinates: 39°57'17"N 08°29'41"E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Cábras. 28/03/79; Sardegna; 3,575 ha; 39°57'N 008°29'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. The site is the largest freshwater lake in Sardinia. It is supplied mainly by the Mare Foghe River, together with runoff from adjacent agricultural land, and is connected with the sea by a narrow channel. Vegetation consists of various salt-tolerant plants, submergent species and emergent reedbeds. The site is important for numerous species of breeding, staging and wintering waterbirds, with *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus* occurring in large numbers. Human activities include commercial fishing, agriculture and tourism. Ramsar site no. 178.

## Stagno di S'Ena Arrubia

Site number: 132 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 223 ha | Coordinates: 23°00'S 14°27'E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di S'Ena Arrubia. 14/12/76; Sardegna; 223 ha; 39°50'N 008°34'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary. A freshwater lagoon, representing the last remnant of a once extensive complex of marshes and lagoons, converted to agriculture in the 1930s. The site is fed with runoff from irrigated agricultural land and is connected with the sea via a channel and sluice gate. The vegetation consists of submergent species, extensive fringing reedbeds and salt-tolerant plants. The area is important for the breeding, staging and wintering of several species of waterbirds. The lagoon supports a commercial fishery, although runoff is enriched by agricultural chemicals. Ramsar site no. 132.

## Lago di Nazzano

Site number: 126 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Lazio

Area: 265 ha | Coordinates: 42°12'46"N 12°36'30"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Nazzano. 14/12/76; Lazio; 265 ha; 42°12'N 012°36'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve. An artificial reservoir formed by the damming of the Tevere River, fringed by reedbeds with patches of wooded swamp and woodland which pre-date the lake. Numerous species of waterbirds use the site for nesting, wintering, or passage. The reservoir is used for hydroelectric generation and recreation. Water levels vary dramatically due to regulation which adversely affects vegetation and nesting birds. Ramsar site no. 126. Most recent RIS information: 1999.



## Lago di San Giuliano

Site number: 1663 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Basilicata

Area: 2,118 ha | Coordinates: 40°37'26"N 16°29'10"E | Designation dates: 07-08-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di San Giuliano. 13/12/06; Basilicata; 2,118 ha; 40°38'N 016°29'E. Site of Community Importance EU Directive, Important Bird Area, Regional Nature Reserve. A lake and stream situated in a depression of the Bradano river basin. The wetland originated after the spontaneous return to natural conditions of an artificial basin created when a dam was built for irrigation purposes in the 1950s. The area is characterised by three different habitats: the natural lake, the riparian fringe, and a rocky ravine. A broad temporarily flooded meadow extends between the planted woodland and the lake edge. The site supports overwintering animal populations, in particular wildfowl, and provides refuge to one of the rarest mammals in the country: the otter *Lutra lutra*. The fish community of the Bradano river was profoundly altered by the building of the dam and by indiscriminate fishing practices; currently there are a number of common species and some endemic ones like the Italian bleak (*Alburnus albidus*) and rovello or South European roach (*Rutilus rubilio*). Around the lake there are old farms breeding mainly sheep and cattle; typical local products of agriculture and animal husbandry have also attracted tourism enterprises. Conservation education is part of a major WWF programme within the Reserve, and educational facilities have developed over the past ten years to address the public, school groups, and educators. Ramsar site no. 1663. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Bacino dell'Angitola

Site number: 426 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Calabria

Area: 875 ha | Coordinates: 38°44'02"N 16°14'37"E | Designation dates: 11-04-1989

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bacino dell'Angitola. 11/04/89; Calabria; 875 ha; 38°44'N 016°14'E. Wildlife Sanctuary. An artificial irrigation reservoir and the only freshwater wetland along a substantial stretch of the Tyrrhenian Sea coast. Vegetation is characterized by emergent species with the banks supporting typical riparian vegetation giving way to Mediterranean scrub. Up to 6,000 waterbirds of numerous species occur in winter and during migration periods. The area has an important conservation education function. Ramsar site no. 426. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Saline di Margherita di Savoia

Site number: 191 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Puglia

Area: 3,871 ha | Coordinates: 41°24'N 16°02'37"E | Designation dates: 02-08-1979

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Saline di Margherita di Savoia. 02/08/79; Puglia; 3,871 ha; 41°24'N 016°04'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. A complex of salt pans connected with the sea, supporting salt-resistant vegetation and scattered reed and sedge beds. Up to 30,000 waterbirds of numerous species winter at the site. Human activities include commercial salt extraction, fish rearing and ecotourism. Ramsar site no. 191. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Palude di Colfiorito

Site number: 122 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Umbria

Area: 157 ha | Coordinates: 43°01'19"N 12°52'24"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Palude di Colfiorito. 14/12/76; Umbria; 157 ha; 43°01'N 012°53'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Wildlife Sanctuary, Hunting Reserve. An area of spring-fed freshwater marsh exhibiting considerable seasonal variation set in the Apennines. Aquatic vegetation consists of submergent and floating vegetation, reedbeds and various notable plants. The site is an important staging area for several species of migratory waterbirds. Human activities include commercial fishing, agriculture, hunting, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 122. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Stagno di Corru S'Ittiri, Stagni di San Giovanni e Marceddì

Site number: 179 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 2,610 ha | Coordinates: 39°43'45"N 08°31'15"E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Corru S'Ittiri, Stagni di San Giovanni e Marceddì. 28/03/79; Sardegna; 2,610 ha; 39°44'N 008°30'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive. A series of three interconnected coastal lagoons of varying salinity, partly separated from the sea by a dune system. Vegetation consists of extensive reedbeds and halophytic plants. The lagoons support a rich fish fauna and are used for commercial fishing and shell-fish harvesting. The area is important for numerous species of breeding and wintering waterbirds. Ramsar site no. 179.

## Stagno di Pauli Maiori

Site number: 180 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 287 ha | Coordinates: 39°52'09"N 08°37'26"E | Designation dates: 28-03-1979

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Pauli Maiori. 28/03/79; Sardegna; 287 ha; 39°52'N 008°37'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Hunting Sanctuary. A small freshwater lagoon surrounded by extensive reedbeds and connected to a second lagoon. The only inflow consists of waste water runoff from agricultural irrigation. The lagoon supports submerged vegetation, and the site is important for several species of breeding waterbirds. A major road and railway line pass between the two wetlands. Ramsar site no. 180.

## Stagno di Sale Porcus

Site number: 232 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Sardegna

Area: 330 ha | Coordinates: 40°00'41"N 08°26'05"E | Designation dates: 03-05-1982

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Stagno di Sale Porcus. 03/05/82; Sardegna; 330 ha; 40°01'N 008°21'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Natural Reserve, Wildlife Sanctuary. An extensive complex of seasonal, saline lagoons that dry out in summer, leaving a hard salt crust. The vegetation is typically halophytic. When full, there are three small islets that are important nesting sites for birds. The site is one of the most important wetlands in the Mediterranean for staging flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*). Various other migratory waterbirds stage and nest at the site. There are facilities for birdwatching and conservation education. Ramsar site no. 232.

## Vincheto di Cellarda

Site number: 118 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Veneto

Area: 99 ha | Coordinates: 46°01'04"N 11°58'33"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Vincheto di Cellarda. 14/12/76; Veneto; 99 ha; 46°01'N 011°58'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Nature Reserve. Part of the periodically inundated floodplain of the Piave, a highly braided river rising in the Alps and emptying into Venice Lagoon. The area includes many oxbow lakes and other riverine wetlands. Vegetation includes deciduous woodland, thickets, permanent meadows and marshes supporting reedbeds. The site supports many nesting birds, as well as numerous species of wintering and passage waterbirds. The site is used for grazing and general recreation. Ramsar site no. 118. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Pantano di Pignola

Site number: 1666 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Basilicata

Area: 172 ha | Coordinates: 40°35'18"N 15°44'50"E | Designation dates: 07-08-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Pantano di Pignola. 13/12/06; Basilicata; 172 ha; 40°36'N 015°45'E. Site of Community Importance EU Directive, Important Bird Area, Regional Nature Reserve. The wetland originated as a muddy pool collecting the contribution of a few springs. During the 1930s and '40s, under the fascist regime, the area was drained for farming development and to reduce the incidence of malaria. Towards the 1960s nearby fields were partially converted into a storage reservoir and now the site is currently undergoing a gradual return to natural conditions. This semi-natural basin of 2.5m depth is characterised by a varied and well-structured botanical community; fringe vegetation includes *Phragmitetum communis*, *Typhetum angustifoliae* and *Scirpetum lacustris*. Well represented are perennial grasses and sedge formations typical of the alluvial banks of large Mediterranean rivers. The lake also represents an important transit and nesting site for a number of residential and migratory bird species. Several farm tourism centres are developing in response to a growing demand for cultural tourism, as the area is renowned for its typical products like cheeses, wines and beans. WWF operates an active programme of conservation education. Ramsar site no. 1666. Most recent RIS information: 2006.

## Lagustelli di Percile

Site number: 1812 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Municipality of percile

Area: 256 ha | Coordinates: 42°04'42"N 12°56'47"E | Designation dates: 27-08-2008

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lagustelli di Percile. 27/08/08; Latium; 256 ha; 42°06' N 012°55' E. Natura 2000 SPA; Regional Natural Park. In the hills of the province of Roma, two closed Apennine lakes, Marraone (the smaller with only 40 m diameter) and the wider Marrone also called Fraturno (118 m diam, depth 14 m), and their surroundings. The two basins constitute one of the most interesting areas of karstic origin of central Italy and their circular morphology witness their origin as dolines. The main habitats are large reed beds, built up by *Phragmites australis* associated with *Scirpus* spp. and *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, riparian vegetation with *Salix* spp., *Populus* spp., typical aquatic vegetation river-side, such as *Potamogeton* spp. and *Myriophyllum* sp., and important population of orchids growing on the calcareous grasslands around the lakes. The site also supports several species protected at European level such as: *Salamandra terdigitata*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Bombina variegata*, *Euplagia quadripunctata*, *Euphydryas (aurinia) provincialis* and *Lanius collurio*. Cow grazing and tourism are the main threats in the area. Ramsar site no. 1812. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

## Lago di Burano

Site number: 125 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Toscana

Area: 410 ha | Coordinates: 42°24'02"N 11°22'41"E | Designation dates: 14-12-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Burano. 14/12/76; Toscana; 410 ha; 42°24'N 011°23'E. Special Protection Area EC Directive; Integrated Natural Reserve. A saline lake separated from the sea (except for a narrow connecting channel) by a double line of dunes covered by dry Mediterranean scrub. The lake supports submergent and emergent vegetation. The area is important for staging and wintering up to 10,000 waterbirds of various species, and is an important refuge from hunting. Land use includes recreation, fishing and agriculture. Natural vegetational succession requires management. Ramsar site no. 125. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

## Foce dell'Isonzo – Isola della Cona

Site number: 2569 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Friuli Venezia Giulia

Area: 2,340 ha | Coordinates: 45°44'50"N 13°31'27"E | Designation dates: 10-07-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site stretches along the downstream 15 kilometres of the River Isonzo, including the river mouth at the far north of the Adriatic Sea and a considerable area of shallow sea. This wetland lies at the northernmost end of a system of about 100,000 hectares of coastal lagoons, which includes the mouth of the River Po and Venice lagoon, where it reaches the limestone uplands of the high calcareous coasts of the Western Balkans. This convergence contributes to the notable biodiversity value of the Site. Its geomorphological setting, as a junction between low and high shores, further adds to the Site's value as a biogenetic reserve in an area which is significantly altered by human activity. Foce dell'Isonzo – Isola della Cona regularly hosts significant numbers of waterfowl and other rare animal and plant species, and is a reproduction site for fish such as the marbled trout *Salmo marmoratus* and birds including the greylag goose *Anser anser*. It is important for ecotourism, especially birdwatching, with over 50,000 visitors a year, and for environmental education and research. The main threat to the Site is canalization and river regulation.

## Padule Orti-Bottagone

Site number: 2571 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Italia, Regione Toscana, Provincia di Livorno, Comune di Piombino

Area: 151 ha | Coordinates: 42°57'56"N 10°36'04"E | Designation dates: 21-10-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Orti-Bottagone marshes lie on the site of historic marsh areas of the lower Val di Cornia, themselves remnants of the ancient lake of Piombino, which disappeared from 1940 due to land reclamation. They are among the most important elements of a network of coastal wetlands along the Mediterranean flyway, due to their considerable size and position relative to other wetlands. The Site is composed of two contiguous but hydrobiologically different wetland areas: the brackish marsh of Orti, dominated by *salicornia*, and the freshwater marsh of Bottagone, characterized by reed beds, open water areas and flooded meadows. Despite being surrounded by industrial plants and divided by the busy road connecting Piombino to Follonica, the Site is an important biodiversity hotspot and habitat, especially for aquatic birds during their autumn and spring migrations and during nesting, moulting, and wintering periods. It serves as a stopover site for accidental species and hosts internationally endangered birds. The wetland also features an important population of greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). It is also a Special Area of Conservation under the European Union Habitats Directive, among other designations.

## Ex Lago e Padule di Bientina

Site number: 2570 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Italy, Tuscany Region, Province of Pisa and Lucca

Area: 1,784 ha | Coordinates: 43°46'34"N 10°38'06"E | Designation dates: 21-10-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site, the second-largest inland wetland in Tuscany, extends over a vast agricultural plain which was created by the reclamation in the 19th century of a large lake and marsh system that stretched for about 40 square kilometres between the Monti Pisani range to the west and the Cerbaie hills to the east. Despite the reclamation works and cultivation, the area still preserves residual natural and semi-natural marsh habitats, with zones of temporary, seasonal or permanent flooding. Due to its size and its position relative to other wetlands such as Lago di Sibolla and Padule di Fucecchio, it is a biodiversity hotspot. The Site plays a crucial role as a stopover for migratory and wintering birds, and despite water regulation and pollution from agriculture and industry threatening the ecosystem, many wetland plant and animal species are found, including the giant snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) and the Italian crested newt (*Triturus carnifex*). The Site is also a Special Area of Conservation under the European Union Habitats Directive, among other designations.

## Lago di Sibolla

Site number: 2572 | Country: Italy | Administrative region: Italy – Tuscany Region – Province of Lucca – Municipality of Altopascio.

Area: 128 ha | Coordinates: 43°49'27"N 10°42'15"E | Designation dates: 21-10-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lago di Sibolla is a small natural lake surrounded by a much larger marsh area and some meadows and woods. It is an integral part of a larger network of wetlands which also includes the Padule di Fucecchio and the Ex Lago e Padule di Bientina. The Site is important both for its plants, with relict species such as the water violet *Hottonia palustris* and habitats of conservation interest including forests of Italian oak *Quercus pubescens*, and for its animals, with notable species including the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*). The nuclei of hygrophilous tree-shrub vegetation in the marsh area have been colonized by an increasing number of nesting species of herons and ibises, recently joined by the pygmy cormorant (*Microcarbo pygmaeus*). The lake now hosts the most important population of herons in peninsular Italy. The wetland is also important for wintering waterbirds, particularly the common teal (*Anas crecca*). It features a wealth of insect species and noteworthy reptiles such as the European pond terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*). Pollution and droughts, as well as weather extremes, are among the main threats. The Site is also a Special Area of Conservation under the European Union Habitats Directive, and a Regional Reserve.