

Cultural approaches to WISE USE OF WETLANDS – past, present and future

المناهج الثقافية للاستخدام الحكيم للأراضي الرطبة - الماضي والحاضر والمستقبل

Approches culturelles de l'UTILISATION RATIONNELLE DES ZONES HUMIDES - passées, présentes et futures

Enfoque cultural al USO RACIONAL DE LOS HUMEDALES- pasado, presente y futuro

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MAVA Foundation: Supporting Biodiversity and Local Cultures

MAVA'S SUPPORT TO CULTURAL VALUES IN WETLANDS

MAVA supported the Ramsar Secretariat to implement the project “**Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Wetlands**”, which ended in March 2018. This Side Event is the final activity of that project, and MAVA is pleased to be part of it.

MAVA welcomes the Draft Resolution for Ramsar COP and supports its encouragement to Contracting Parties to **further integrate cultural values of wetlands into wetland protection and management**.



APPROACHES AND OUTCOMES

Local communities and local actors are supported to enhance their **stewardship of the land, the water and the ecosystems** under their customary use. This approach generates greater conservation and livelihood outcomes.

Civil society, including communities and associations, are supported to **expand their capacities for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**. MAVA actively invests in organisations and people, respecting their own cultures, values and approaches.



EXAMPLES OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF MAVA IN CONSERVATION OF SITES WITH CULTURAL VALUES AND TRADITIONS

MAVA actively supports conservation of coastal wetlands that integrate cultural values and practices, such as salt pans for traditional salt making in places like Ulcinj in Montenegro, the Gediz Delta in Turkey and the Cadiz Bay in Spain.

As part of its Mediterranean Programme, MAVA works with a range of partners to implement 13 projects for the conservation of cultural practices in Mediterranean landscapes.

The five most iconic wetland areas where MAVA has engaged through its history are all places with strong cultural values and cultural and historical heritage:

- Camargue in southern France
- Prespa Lakes in Albania, Greece and Macedonia
- Doñaña National Park in Spain
- Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania
- Bijagós Islands in Guinea Bissau



SERVING PEOPLE AND NATURE

MAVA was born of the passion, vision and adventure of our founder, Dr Luc Hoffmann. At MAVA we believe that conservation success is rooted in respecting local cultures and strengthening local organisations.

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“ For over 20 years, MAVA’s mission has been the conservation of biodiversity. Now more than ever before, our work must serve both people and nature.”

André Hoffmann, MAVA President