



8.03.2023

La Baule



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The active salinas Atanasovsko lake and coastal habitats management

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Where is Atanasovsko Lake?



The richest in birds place in Bulgaria



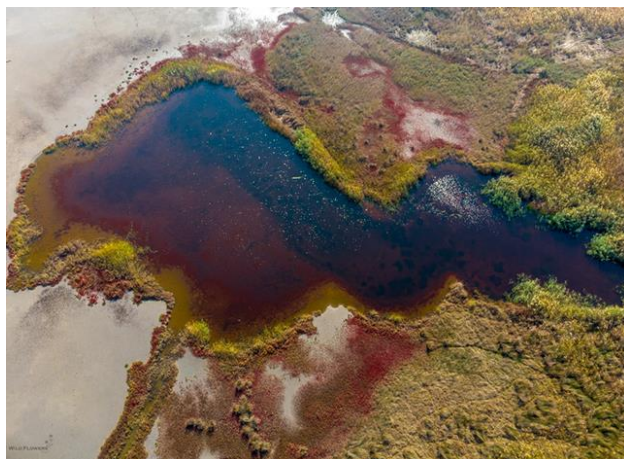
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Coastal habitats in Atanasovsko Lake



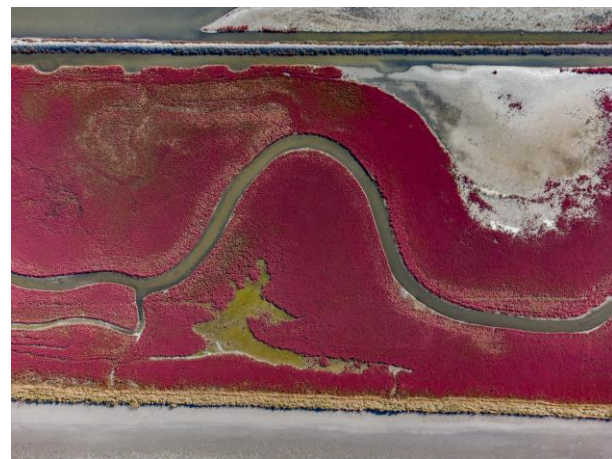
- 1150* Coastal lagoons (20%)

Unfavorable bad status



- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (0.2%)

Unfavorable bad status



- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand (1.5%)

Favorable status

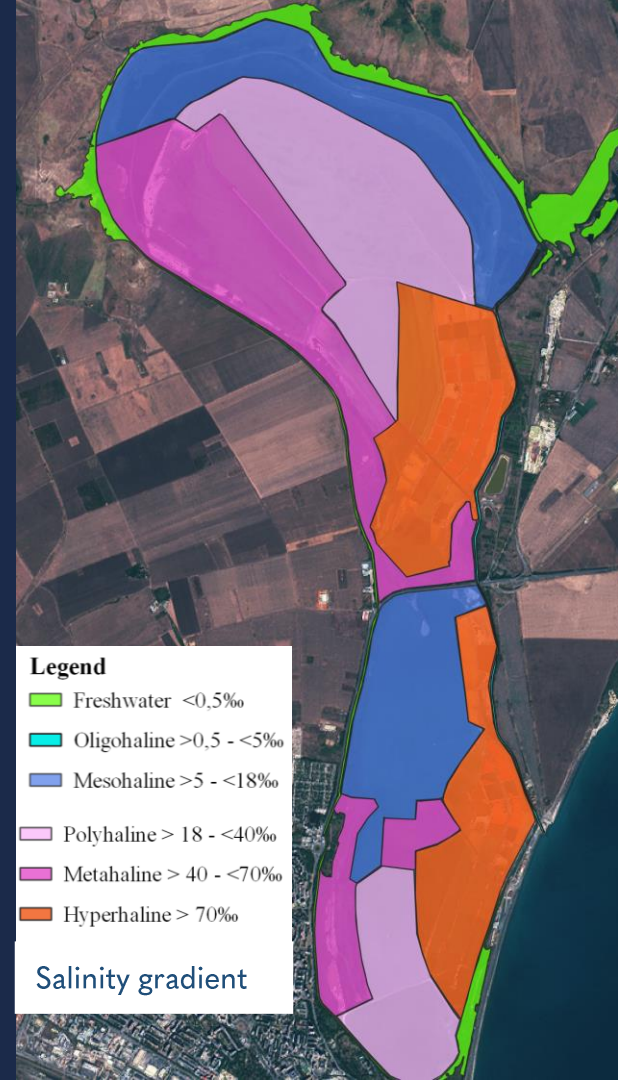
Atanasovsko Lake salinas

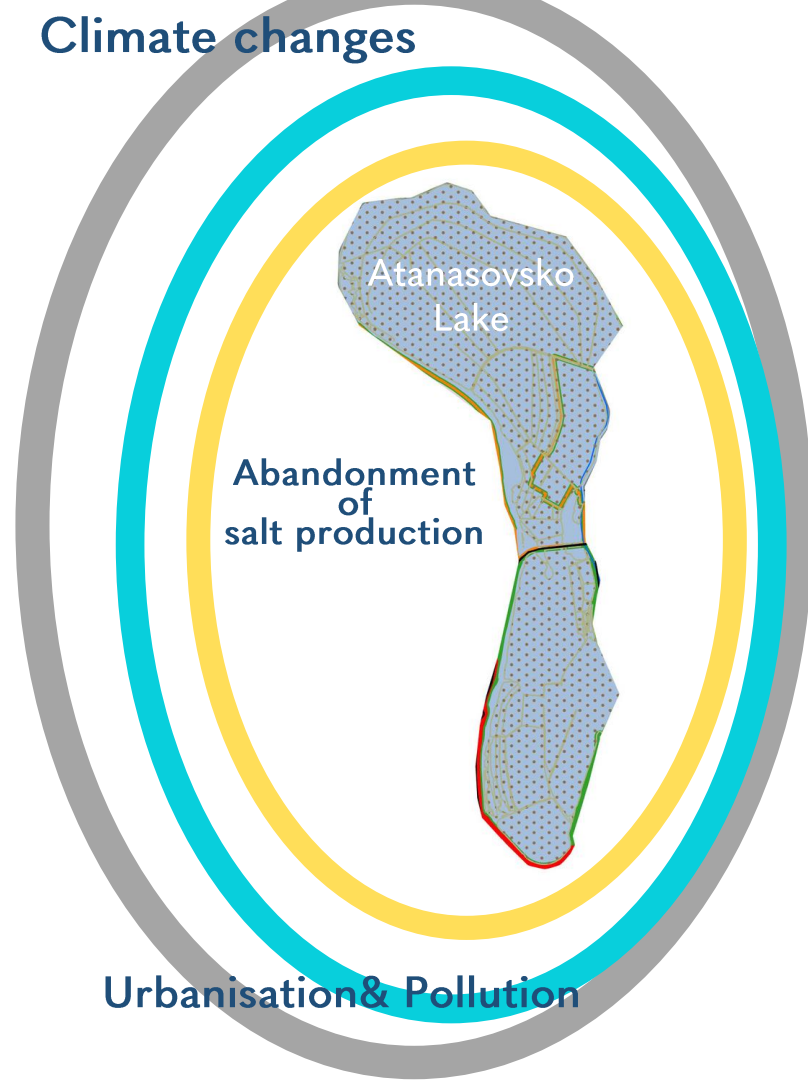
- Traditional salt extraction since 1906.
- 170 basins separated by 151 km earthen dykes, wooden barriers and 50 km internal salt channels.
- Salt layer 3-5 cm. Harvesting is once per year still by hand.



Water conditions in the salinas / coastal lagoon/

- The Bypass channel collects all the surface water flow from the catchment area $\sim 250\text{km}^2$ - two parts drainage (18 km) and sea channel (5 km).
- Water levels and salinity are controlled in each basin -high in summer and low in winter.
- Controlled supply of sea water in spring and summer.
- No connection between the northern and southern part.





Threats and impacts

- **Effects of climate change and Abandonment of traditional salt production** -> disturbance of the water regime and destruction of the traditional salt production infrastructure
- **Urbanization of the adjacent territory** -> habitat loss, water and noise pollution and increased human pressure.
- **Pollution from the agricultural land** -> negative influences in trophic chains.

Restoration actions for coastal habitats for limiting the threats



Improve protection against floods and decrease pollution from surface water inflow



First ever complete cleaning of the bypass channel (23 km).

Repairing the protective dyke and forming a road for quick access in a case of emergency situations.



Restoring the sluice gate to control seawater supply, water levels and salinity and to protect the coastal lagoons from floods.



Restoration of the optimal water regime



clearing the silt from
the bottom of internal
salt channels (14 km)

restoration of small dykes (19km)



repairing three completely
damaged earthen dykes
(6 km) to prevent formed
“dead water volumes” and
to ensure favorable
conditions for nesting birds



Increase the breeding and roosting sites



restore the water regime over 16 ha freshwater habitat for bird species of conservation concern

Transplantation the seagrass *Ruppia maritima*

Three methods are applied -> restore the typicality and representativeness of the Coastal lagoons habitat

TURF transfer with plants on wooden frame



Creation of products from coastal habitats and salinas and increase the added value

Pelican soap



Green salt from Salicornia



First Bulgarian chocolate with salt

Assessment of the success

Greater Flamingo has increased its presence in Atanasovsko lake from 5 individuals in 2014 to 3000 in 2022



Thank you

www.facebook.com/salttolife_biodiversity.bg
www.lagoon.biodiversity.bg/en



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