



8 March 2023 | La Baule



Bulgarian
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LIFE FOR POMORIE
LAGOON



LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON: BENEFITS AND PROBLEMS

IMITAR POPOV
Green Balkans NGO

Avec le
soutien
financier de





Pomorie Lagoon

National protected site + Ramsar site

SCI/SAC Pomorie BG0000620 (2007/2020)

SPA Pomoriysko ezero BG0000152 (2009)



CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE

- One of most important sites in Bulgaria for habitats 1150* Coastal lagoons and 1310 Salicornia and other annuals
- Most important breeding site for Sandwich tern and second most important for Avocet, Common tern, Little tern, Black-winged stilt in Bulgaria
- Important stopover site for shorebirds along Bulgarian Black Sea coast
- Most important site for *Trachomitum venetum* in Bulgaria
- Most important site for Dark Spreadwing *Lestes macrostigma* in Bulgaria
- One of the most important sites for conservation of Caucasian goby *Knipowitschia caucasica*
- The oldest and one of only two saltworks in Bulgaria
- Most important source of medicinal mud with 2 specialized hospital + several hotels





GREEN BALKANS NGO' POMORIE LAKE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Restoration of habitat for breeding of birds in partnership with BTCV

Protected area marking and info-boards

Restoration of hydrological regime

Design of freshwater drainage system restoration (canal, pump, pipeline)

Management plan development (not approved by MOEW)

Bird ringing; visitor centre; removal of invasive species



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LIFE19 NAT/BG/000804 LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON PROJECT

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE

<https://lifeforpomorielagoon.eu/>
www.facebook.com/PomorieLagoon

To restore bypass drainage canals and dikes to sustain traditional salt production;
To provide long-term improvement of priority habitat 1150* Coastal lagoon in SCI Pomorie;
To improve the breeding sites for priority bird species by construction of one new wooden platform and restoration of existing islet;
Unites actors from NGO, business and scientific sectors



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Achieved so far:

- 4905 m of dikes restored
- 3140 m of Northern and 760 m of Southern bypass channel cleared
- 460 m² of breeding islet and new platform for target bird species restored by volunteers
- Study of dragonfly assemblage: high abundance of *L. macrostigma* suggesting importance at European level
- Adapted monitoring matrix for Coastal lagoons
- Consultative council



DIFFICULTIES AND THREATS

Disrupted hydrological regime by ring road construction: 4 ha marsh is buried by soil and gravel and not storing freshwater.

New shortcut leads freshwater into the lagoon. Decreased average salinity and increased water level. Salt production ceased.



SUMMARY

OVER 25 YEARS OF WORK AT THE SITE INCLUDED COLLABORATION WITH DIFFERENT ACTORS:

Environmental authorities (MOEW, RIOEW Burgas, BSBD, Forestry Service, Fishery Agency);

Scientific institutions (IBER-BAS, IO-BAS, PU, SU, TU, TdV);

Pomorie Municipality, local and national schools;

Bulgarian and foreign NGOs (BBF, BTCV, BBS, etc.) and partners (Parco Delta del Po, Camargue NP, Evros Delta NP, Molentargius NP, BTU, BDF, etc.)

Funders: LIFE, Embassy of Netherlands, GEF, World Bank, OPE, BBS, Lidl, etc.

...BUT ALSO PROBLEMS WITH DIFFERENT ACTORS:

Hunters, Kite-surfers, Land-owners of restituted saltpans; Pomorie Municipality (all opposed management plan);

Road Infrastructure Agency and contractors – planning and building new ring road

Tourism developers – WAVE resort on the edge of the saltpans

RIOEW, BSBD – no enforcement: two on-site checks concluded with a prescription that was not executed by RIA and/or contractor... LAST RESORT

LAST RESORT: COMPLAINT TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN NOVEMBER 2022





Thank you for your attention!



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