

SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTION OF PILOT WETLANDS

(Deliverable 3.2.2 – English summary)

Notes:

1) Please respect the maximum number of characters for each chapter: this is important in order to ensure the homogeneity of the partners' contributions.

Chapter number and name	Contents																																											
A.1	<p>Pilot wetland ID</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 683 1493 786"> <tr> <td>Name of the pilot wetland</td> <td>Melides Lagoon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Country</td> <td>Portugal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Region/s</td> <td>Alentejo</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 819 1493 952"> <thead> <tr> <th>Municipality/ies (*)</th> <th>Number of inhabitants</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grandola</td> <td>14826</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(*) only those that are involved in the protected wetland</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 1014 1493 1077"> <tr> <td>Organisation/s responsible for the management of the pilot wetland</td> <td>Câmara Municipal de Grândola (Grandola Municipality)</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 1115 1493 1310"> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Other entities (Administrations, NGO, etc.) directly involved in the management of the pilot wetland</td> <td>Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (Environment Agency)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instituto de Conservação da Natureza e Florestas (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests)</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 1346 1493 1442"> <tr> <td>Role of the partner in relation to the pilot area (i.e. development agency, research centre, ...)</td> <td>Local development NGO / governance process facilitator</td> </tr> </table> <p>Wetland management plan</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 1509 884 1677"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Foreseen</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>In preparation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Validated</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Being implemented</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 1715 895 1845"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>marine/coastal (**)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>inland (***)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>artificial (****)</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="1015 1715 1267 1845"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>fresh water</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>brackish water</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>salt water</td> </tr> </table> <p>(**) including estuaries, deltas and costal lagoons (***) including rivers, marshes and peatlands (****) including ponds, wastewater treatment areas, salt exploration sites and aquacultures</p> <p>Presence of water</p>	Name of the pilot wetland	Melides Lagoon	Country	Portugal	Region/s	Alentejo	Municipality/ies (*)	Number of inhabitants	Grandola	14826					Organisation/s responsible for the management of the pilot wetland	Câmara Municipal de Grândola (Grandola Municipality)	Other entities (Administrations, NGO, etc.) directly involved in the management of the pilot wetland	Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (Environment Agency)	Instituto de Conservação da Natureza e Florestas (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests)	Role of the partner in relation to the pilot area (i.e. development agency, research centre, ...)	Local development NGO / governance process facilitator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreseen	<input type="checkbox"/>	In preparation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Validated	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being implemented	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	marine/coastal (**)	<input type="checkbox"/>	inland (***)	<input type="checkbox"/>	artificial (****)	<input type="checkbox"/>	fresh water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	brackish water	<input type="checkbox"/>	salt water
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A.2	Values of the pilot wetland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural heritage If yes, please describe the main features of this value (*****) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The coastal lagoon is a priority habitat under Directive 92/43/EC - Habitats Directive. The surrounding area presents 11 additional habitats with importance for nature conservation, particularly those related to the coastal dune and its endemic flora, including Community protected species such as <i>Armeria rouyana</i>, <i>Lonopodium acaule</i>, <i>Linaria ficvalhoana</i>, <i>Thymus camphoratus</i>, <i>Ononis hackelii</i>. The pilot area is included in the Natura 2000 network as part of the Comporta/Galé Site (PTCON0034).</p> </div> <p>(*****) please provide a short description of the most emblematic habitat and species</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological heritage If yes, please describe the main features of this value <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The following archaeological sites are classified in the surrounding area: Santa Marinha, from the Mesolithic period; the Cistas das Casas Velhas necropolis, from the Bronze age; and the Pedra Branca dolmen, one of the most important megalithic monuments in Portugal, classified since 1990.</p> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architectural heritage If yes, please describe the main features of this value <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>There are two historical monuments of architectural interest in the lagoon surrounding area: the S. Pedro Church in the Melides village and Ruins of the Santa Marinha Church, at the upper part of the wetland valley and associated to the archaeological site mentioned above. Architectural heritage linked to traditional activities such as milling and pottery is also important. Good examples are the Salvador Mill, in the Boavista area, and the Melides Mill Factory that is now property of the Municipality and is often used for cultural events.</p> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethnological heritage If yes, please describe the main features of this value <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Fairs and traditional festivities occur all over the municipal territory. The Melides Fair is an annual event held in November that combines local product and craft sales with cultural events.</p> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape heritage If yes, please describe the main features of this value <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Landscape is one of the most important values of the Pilot Area, which is still quite natural and unspoiled. The landscape system is characterized by the association of a large beach, the coastal dune and the Lagoon. Around the Lagoon, to the east, the valley is occupied by rice fields which are an important part of the wetland ecosystem. Surrounding the wetland area there is the green border of the Alentejo pine forest. The Lagoon is opened to the sea once or twice a year for sediments and nutrients renovation.</p> </div>

A.3	Main threats and impacts for the biodiversity of the pilot wetland	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="571 427 1150 488" rowspan="2">Description of the threat</th> <th colspan="3" data-bbox="1150 427 1490 456">Relevance of the impact</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="1150 456 1262 488">low</th> <th data-bbox="1262 456 1374 488">medium</th> <th data-bbox="1374 456 1490 488">high</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 488 767 645">Agriculture</td> <td data-bbox="767 488 1150 645">Intensive agriculture (rice production): risk of chemical contamination of the water. 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A.4	Main reasons and expectations that underpin the governance process for the pilot area	<p>What are the main drivers for promoting a voluntary governance process like a Wetland Contract in the pilot area (i.e. why implement a governance process? why adopt such a tool?)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Lagoon is a natural value that has been showing problems related to water quality, a growing process of biodiversity deterioration and affecting the main economic activity (tourism). Although the process is, to a large extent, caused by natural factors, local population and economic operators converge on the need to restore water quality, while public authorities agree on efforts to slow down the natural negative evolution of the wetland.</p> </div> <p>What are the specific objectives and expected results from the Wetland Contract of</p>																																																																				

		<p>the pilot area.</p> <p>To reduce or eliminate negative factors affecting water quality; to promote or restore the use of the Lagoon for tourism, recreational and economic activities (i.e. fishing); to increase the biodiversity value of the wetland, particularly concerning birds population.</p>
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