



Ready to start the works...

In November, the rehabilitation of the wetlands in the Sentina Reserve.

Re.S.c.We. activities are going on at a good pace: the selection procedures to award the contracts for the execution plans and the construction works for the ecological restoration have been concluded. In March 2011, the contractor for the planning is found to be the Studio Silva, an engineering company based in Bologna, while the execution of works has been awarded, in October 2011, to the company Verdimpianti settled in Rovigo.

All the necessary topographical surveys and investigations were accomplished in the spring, and the definite project plan, which follows the feasibility study carried out by ICRAM in 2008, was officially presented in June.

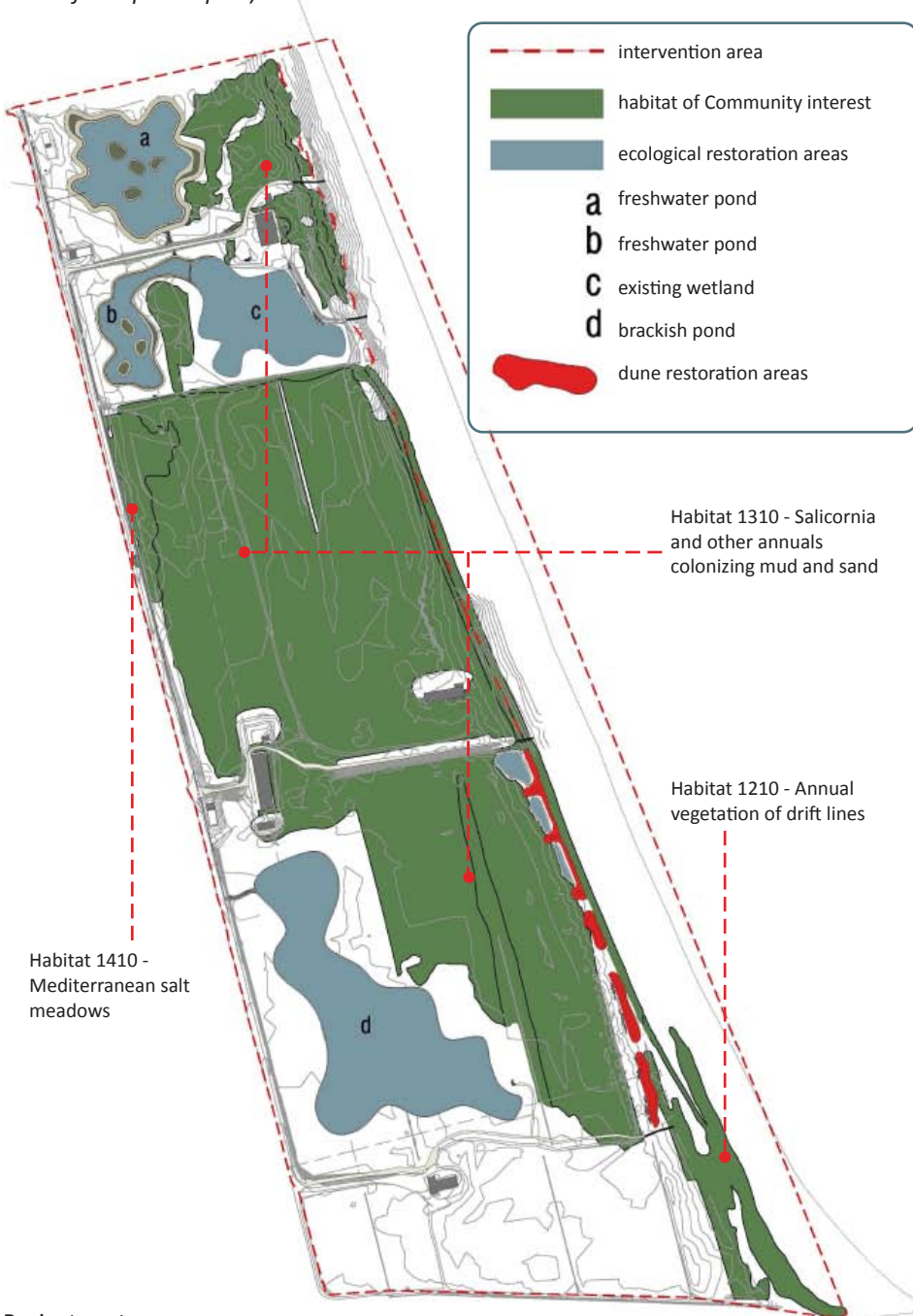
The burying the power lines have just been finished, so that the morphological remodeling of the ground could be started by November 2011.

Meanwhile, in the botanical garden of Centro Ricerche Floristiche delle Marche (Marche floristic research centre), the propagation of the native plants to be planted in the spring, is taking place.

In terms of communication activities, the popular publication and the first brochure, both on local flora and fauna, have just gone into print and they are already available for download on the project website.

The project will also be presented during the MED-PAN conference of the marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Sea which will be held in Vodice, Croatia, on November 27th to 29th .

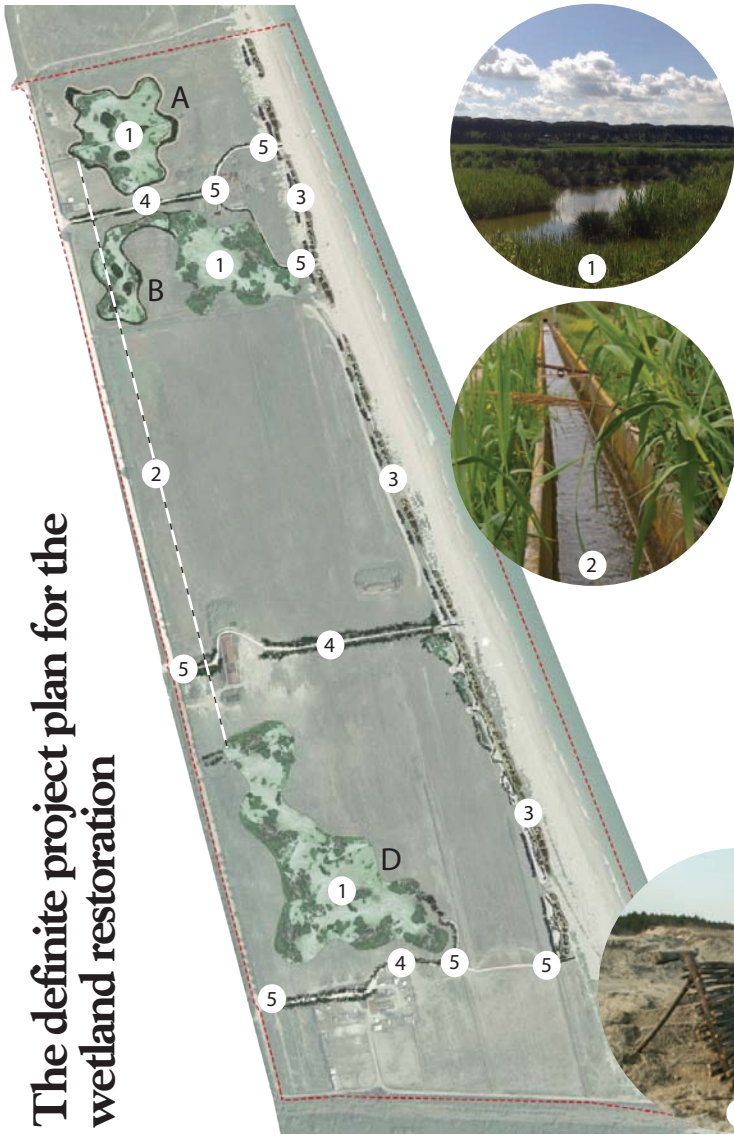
Overlay map of the project with the habitats of Community interest (Extracted from the definite plan report)



Project partner



The definite project plan for the wetland restoration



The definite project plan includes the following interventions:

- 1 The construction of two permanent freshwater ponds (A - B) in the northern part of the intervention area to be waterproofed with clay of fill, and a temporary brackish pond (D) in the southern part of the intervention area that will not be waterproofed.
- 2 The refurbishment of the irrigation network through the demolition of the existing channels no longer useful for the project purposes, the realization of a new stretch of water adduction channel with two derivation points to supply ponds A and D.
- 3 The redevelopment of the dune system by placement of beached logs and willow fencings and the planting of dune shrub such as *Tamarix gallica*. In the southern part of the intervention area it's also expected to shape shallow ponds behind the dunes, the consequent filling sand will be used to build up discontinuous dune strings.
- 4 The requalification of the fruition network through the rehabilitation of the main paths providing access to the beach, the construction of boardwalks for dune crossing, the creation of roof terraces for the bird-watching and wattle.
- 5 The installation of information boards and directional arrows in order to promote the fruition and to arouse the interest to the Reserve.

Project activities progress report

Preparatory actions

- Definitive and executive planning
- Topographic detailed surveys
- Geological, hydro-geological and geotechnical surveys
- Formal agreement for the availability of the areas
- Best Practice review

Concrete conservation actions

- Ecological restoration of the wetlands
- Construction of the connection canal
- Restoration of the irrigation network
- Naturalistic conservation works on the dune system
- Countermeasures against invasive alien species
- Works for fauna
- Works for the fruition and the naturalistic interpretation

Communication and dissemination of results

- Communication/ dissemination materials
- Local events for the general public
- Conferences for specialized audiences
- Working table with tour operators
- Didactic activities for children and young people
- Guided tours for adults
- Participation to an eco-tourism trade fair
- On site panels
- Web site and periodical newsletter
- Audiovisual production

Overall coordination and management

- Admin./financial management
- Technical reporting
- Training for the reserve employees
- Monitoring activities



Meeting the Sentina...

Fauna/2



Kingfisher - *Alcedo Atthis* (photo by Antonio Neroni)

Flora/2



Sea bindweed - *Calystegia Soldanella* (photo by P. Malizia)