

A special attention
in the project is dedicated
to seven animal species
and six habitats, i.e.:



Little Tern
Sterna albifrons



Common Tern
Sterna hirundo



Black-winged Stilt
Himantopus himantopus



Kentish Plover
Charadrius alexandrinus



Mediterranean Gull
Larus melanocephalus



Tooth Carp
Aphanius fasciatus



European Pond
Terrapin
Emys orbicularis

The LIFE+ MANSALT project has been envisaged to protect biodiversity in Natura 2000 area of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park.

- The project activities are incorporated in the following work packages:
- implementation of control over the water regime and restoration of areas degraded in the past;
 - awareness raising as to the significance of traditional salt-making, which preserved nature and enables the local community's sustainable development;
 - affirmation of a good practice model in the use of traditional methods during restoration of the salina's ecosystems.

Project value: 7.056.366 EUR.

Duration of the project: X. 2010 - IX. 2015

Financial contributions: EU: 3,439,983 EUR; Republic of Slovenia (via financial means allocated for the Sanation Programme to remedy the effects of damages caused during the extremely high tides taking place in December 2008): 3,106,382 EUR, Mobitel d.d.: 300,000 EUR, SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o.: 210,001 EUR

LIFE+ in Natura 2000

LIFE+ is EU financial instrument, aimed exclusively at environmental protection. It supports implementation of the EU environmental policy, stimulates projects that contribute to sustainable development and those that bring added value in the sense of environment and nature conservation in EU states. It is also the major financial mechanism for the implementation of projects in Natura 2000 areas, into which Sečovlje salt-pans have been incorporated as well.

Natura 2000 is European network of special areas of conservation designated by EU member states, its basic objective being to conserve biodiversity for future generations.

More about LIFE programme:
www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life

More about Natura 2000 network:
www.natura2000.gov.si

More about MANSALT project:
www.kpss.si

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LIFE MANSALT PROJECT

Man and nature at Sečovlje salt-pans
LIFE09/NAT/SI/000376



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR



The financial resources needed for the implementation of the project have been provided by the EU's LIFE financial instrument and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.



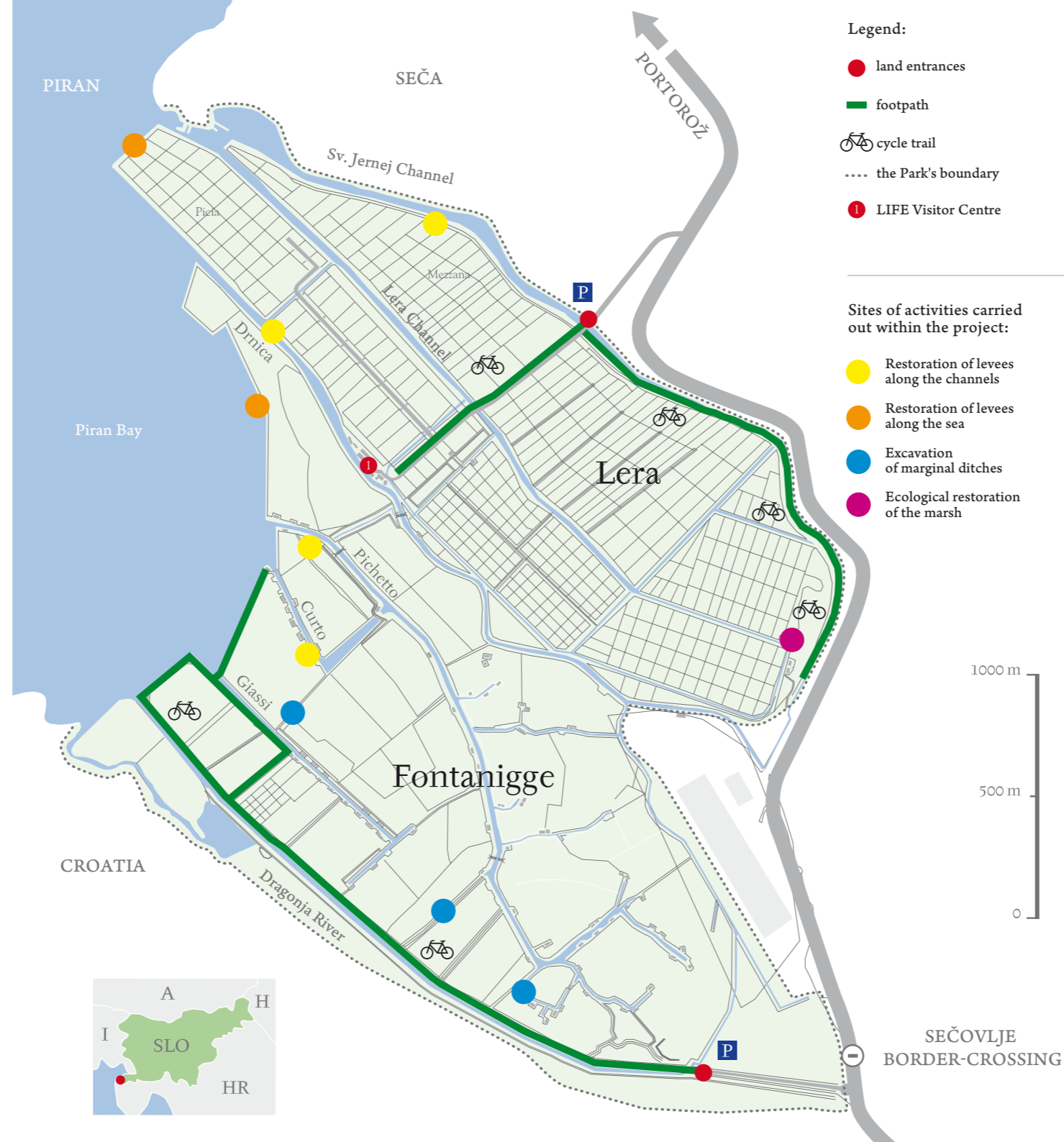
The special feature of the traditional Mediterranean salt-pans is their ability to retain the conditions necessary for the survival of plant and animal species restricted to the salty environment. Such coastal wetlands constitute various types of habitats,

such as estuaries, mud flats, halophilous plant sites (e.g. Broom scrubs), Mediterranean salt meadows, Cytisus associations ... Coastal wetlands, particularly those in the Mediterranean, are highly endangered, mostly owing to mass tourism, building activities, and land-use change; in the previous century, the traditional salt-pans in the Adriatic almost disappeared, as salt-making was apparently too expensive in comparison with salt imported from northern Africa. Owing to the diverse plant associations, numerous animal species and endangered habitats, the Sečovlje salt-pans have been integrated into Natura 2000 network, which protects and retains favourable conservation status of biotically most significant areas within EU territory.



To a great extent, the preservation of diverse habitats and species in the salt-pans depends on the maintenance of their water regime. The salt-pans are surrounded by levees, which protect them from uncontrolled inflow of water from the

sea as well as from the Dragonja and Drnica catchments. The majority of rare and endangered salt-pan birds, such as Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Little and Common Terns, Yellow-legged Gull etc., nest on the ground or on the levees. Poorly maintained levees do not hold high waters at bay during high tides or floods, and the salina birds' eggs and young may be washed away. Floods can have similar unfavourable impacts on other plant and animal species as well. The European Pond Terrapin, which can be found on the margin of the pans, inhabits the freshwater environment of the former coal mine. The area is being slowly filled with sediments, the fresh water is becoming increasingly scarce, which means that the terrapin's habitat is condemned to gradual disappearance as well.



Legend:

- land entrances
- footpath
- cycle trail
- the Park's boundary
- 1 LIFE Visitor Centre

Sites of activities carried out within the project:

- Restoration of levees along the channels
- Restoration of levees along the sea
- Excavation of marginal ditches
- Ecological restoration of the marsh



Silty and sandy mud flats, exposed to view during low tides



Estuaries



Spartina Swards
Spartinion maritimae



Mediterranean salt meadows
Juncetalia maritimi



Pioneer stands of species from the genus *Salicornia* and other annuals on silt and sand



Mediterranean halophilous scrubs
Sarcocornetea fruticosi

Activities aimed at reaching the objectives of the LIFE MANSALT project:

- restoration works aimed at controlling the salina's water regime envisage restoration of 6,255 metres of levees along the channels, 1,580 metres of frontal levees along the sea, excavation of 8,000 metres of marginal ditches, which would enable a more effective exchange of water in salt-pan basins and thus more oxygen in the water, and regulation of some 8 hectares of the freshwater marsh;
- the activities aimed at raising environmental awareness envisage a transfer of the picture of events taking place at the salina nest sites to the Visitor Centre, where the visitors will be able to follow the »reality show« unfolding among salina birds, organisation of workshops for the young and adults on the significance of the salt-pans as a Natura 2000 site;
- preparation of a good practice model for the salina restoration works in cooperation with other people participating in the management of traditional salt-pans and coastal wetlands, and exchange of experience in the management of coastal wetlands.