

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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# PaulisProject



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## **“PAULIS” PROJECT: A CHALLENGE FROM A NEGLECTED HABITAT**

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The widespread of the toponym “Paule” and of other vernacular names such as “Piskina”, “Padule”, “Lakku” used in the Sardinian languages for designing temporary wetlands suggest a high number and a strong perception at local scale of these habitats in the past. In spite of this, the lack of information on their ecology, biodiversity, temporal dynamics and spatial distribution at regional scale, has made it difficult an adequate consideration in conservation programs. The opportunity of Nature 2000 network was not been adequately exploited because the habitats 3110, 3120 and 3170\*, to which Mediterranean Temporary Wetland could be referred, were rarely recognized inside SIC and protected areas, or left outside their boundaries. Moreover the available scientific literature was little and difficult to access.

“Paulis” project, funded in 2012 by the Region of Sardinia - Regional Law 7 August 2007, n. 7: 'Promotion of scientific research and technological innovation in Sardinia', was aimed to capturing the interest on these neglected habitats through the implementation of scientific and educational products.

The researches carried out by the team of the project have provided the following deliverables:

- scientific papers on: taxonomic and functional diversity of vascular plants, bryophytes and macroinvertebrates living in Sardinian Mediterranean Temporary Ponds; spatial and temporal variability of the habitat and the biotic communities; main drivers of biodiversity; seed and spore soil bank as reserve of biodiversity;
- map of habitat distribution at regional scale;
- data-base of vascular plants, bryophytes and macroinvertebrates;
- interactive guide to the flora [http://drvades.units.it/stagnisardi\\_en/](http://drvades.units.it/stagnisardi_en/);
- assessment of several species according to IUCN categories and criteria;
- priority lists for the conservation of sites and species.

The dissemination of the information and an increased awareness of public, environmental managers and policemen is being promoted through the presentation of communications and posters in congress and seminars, the participation to public events, the engagement of students, the creation of a website <http://paulisproject.jimdo.com/english/> and a facebook community <https://www.facebook.com/paulisproject?ref=hl>, the organization of a photo contest and of the present International Symposium on Mediterranean Temporary Ponds.

Will these actions effective for containing the threats on this habitat in Sardinia?