ASSESSING ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF ABANDONED, ACTIVE AND RESTORED SOLAR SALTWORKS

T.L. CRISMAN[1], G.C. ZALIDIS[2] and V. TAKAVAKOGLOU[2]

[1] Patel Center for Global Solutions & Department of Integrative Biology
University of South Florida Tampa, Florida, USA
[2] Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece &
Balkan Environment Center, Lagadas, Greece

ABSTRACT

It is critical that solar saltworks be considered within the broader context of the landscape where they are located. While the geology, geomorphology, vegetative communities and human land use are important controlling variables on the structure and function of saltworks through nutrient and sediment loading and watershed hydrology, saltworks in turn can have an important feedback loop on the structure and function of the watershed, as well as, the adjacent shallow marine environment. It is important to determine ecological structural and functional aspects of saltworks that are considered of greatest benefit to humans and nature within the broader landscape, especially those that can be most easily integrated into multifaceted uses that exhibit long term sustainability. Once these values are determined, it is important to establish a management plan and monitoring program to ensure its compliance and sustainability. The present contribution examines the values and uses of abandoned, active and restored saltworks for human and nature within landscapes. Special emphasis will be placed on how to integrate such systems within the European Water Framework Directive and international wetland organizations such as Ramsar.

KEYWORDS: Saltworks, monitoring, sustainable environmental management