

TOUR DU VALAT

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



Tour
du
Valat

Research institute
for the conservation
of Mediterranean
wetlands



TOUR DU VALAT TEAM

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EDITORIAL

How should we behave in an unstable world?

A world in which yesterday's certainties are fading, and misinformation is used as a tool of power. A world in which scientific discourse is discredited, and one outrageous statement comes after another, banalizing the previous one. A world in which we invest 30 times more in actions that harm nature than in those that protect it⁽¹⁾.

In this increasingly volatile geopolitical and climatic environment, we felt the need to look ahead and identify a tool to guide us beyond the short-term upheavals. Therefore, two years ago, we developed a forward-looking vision for the next 15 years, far enough ahead to allow for real possibilities, but close enough to respond to decision-making challenges. This vision sets out the main principles and methods of action for the Tour du Valat, and it defines the strategic guidelines that will form the backbone of our work.



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In recent months, we have translated this vision into a strategic plan that will enable us to accomplish a third of this journey by 2030. It focuses on four scientific and conservation priorities:

- Deploying Nature-based Solutions in response to the climate crisis;
- Promoting an agroecological transition in response to agricultural intensification;
- Accelerating wetland restoration in response to their ongoing destruction;
- Implementing the “One Health” approach in response to pollution and emerging diseases.

To implement this plan, we have strengthened our organisation so we can respond to these challenges while remaining true to the Tour du Valat's DNA: having a long-term vision of our actions, consolidating our expertise based on solid, internationally recognised science, catalysing skills and energies, and producing robust data and reliable information that can inform public opinion and contribute to policy-making.

Yet beyond these fundamental issues, our approach must, more than ever, prioritise agility, adaptability, and solidarity with our partners in order to implement a reconciliatory vision of our societies, which places nature at the heart of the social contract.

Faced with a model that seems to envisage its perpetuation only through an ever-increasing monopolisation of natural resources (water, biodiversity, fossil fuels, minerals, etc.), it is up to us to propose another model, one that no longer considers nature as a mere resource or as a variable for adjusting economic competitiveness, but as the foundation of our lives, our well-being, our health, and our economy.

A model that respects planetary boundaries and reconciles economics and ecology, humans and nature. A model that we are building with enthusiasm and humility, determination and lucidity. So that wetlands remain places of abundance and wonder, a vital link between humans and nature.

ANDRÉ HOFFMANN
PRESIDENT

JEAN JALBERT
DIRECTOR GENERAL

(1) UNEP, State of Finance for Nature, “Nature in the Red”, 2026

THE TOUR DU VALAT

Founded over 70 years ago by Luc Hoffmann, a visionary naturalist and art patron, the Tour du Valat strives to conserve Mediterranean wetlands based on a simple recipe: a better understanding of these environments leads to better management of them. Convinced that preserving these threatened environments requires us to reconcile them with human activities, it develops research and integrated management programmes carried out in close collaboration with all stakeholders – scientists, users, managers, and decision-makers. By bringing together different perspectives and practices, the Tour du Valat demonstrates that a collective, partnership-based approach is essential to ensuring the future of wetlands.

- 4 FTEs on our Management team;
- 48 FTEs on our Programme team (our 5 research theme teams and the library);
- 19 FTEs on our Support team (accounting, cooking and cleaning, IT, human resources, communications and reception, development, and advocacy);
- 14 FTEs on our Estate team (Tour du Valat's Regional Nature Reserve, agro-ecological farm, buildings).

The teams were supported by 6 work-study students, 22 interns from universities or engineering schools, and 23 volunteers:

- 6 volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps, of Greek, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and German nationality;
- 5 ERASMUS and Interreg Youth volunteers, of Greek, Italian, French and German nationality;
- 12 Civic Service volunteers.

Visit of the Tour du Valat Regional Nature Reserve during the Camargue Festival (April 2025).

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1954 FOUNDED BY LUC HOFFMANN



1773
SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES
PUBLISHED SINCE 1954



PROJECTS IN
+ THAN 20
MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES,
WITH + THAN 300
PARTNERS

95 **EMPLOYEES**
REPRESENTING 85
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
POSITIONS (FTES)



117
PHD THESES
COMPLETED
3 DEFENDED IN 2025



WETLANDS,
ARE VERY PRODUCTIVE YET
HIGHLY THREATENED AREAS



USE OF **ORGANIC**
FARMING &
AGROECOLOGY

-35%* THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

-48%* MEDITERRANEAN REGION

*Between 1970 and 2015, according to the report of the MWO (MWO2 report) and Ramsar Global Wetland Outlook

45%

OF THE ENERGY
PRODUCED ON SITE

THANKS TO PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION,
REPRESENTING ALMOST 70 TONNES OF CO² AVOIDED



EMISSIONS
DIVIDED BY 5*

THANKS TO THE USE
OF WOOD CHIPS FOR
HEATING AND BIO-
SOURCED MATERIALS
FOR INSULATION

*Since 2009



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OLIVIER REY-MARBAT

Tour du Valat Technician

“I have a variety of tasks at the Tour du Valat including cleaning canals, raising levees and installing fences. I also help to sort the cattle for veterinary disease control, and in moving the herd. Not forgetting the work I do on building renovation projects!”

— OUR SITES

— MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AREAS

Our natural areas have a wide variety of habitats and environments characteristic of the Camargue, some of which are relictual, such as the river dunes. They are home to many rare and endangered species. The “Estates” team works to guarantee optimal conditions for maintaining the biodiversity of our sites. To better understand and preserve the habitats and species, numerous monitoring operations and inventories are carried out on a regular basis.

— MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

We manage our own open-range herd of Camargue horses and bulls on the central part of the Tour du Valat Estate, with some 280 cattle and 45 horses. Other parts of the Estate are grazed by herds of Camargue bulls belonging to renowned local herdsmen.

On the Mas du Petit Saint-Jean, a herd of around 30 Raïole sheep has been established to control the vegetation in the vineyards, the meadow orchards, and the high fire risk areas. Mares are kept in the marshes in winter and Aubrac cows graze on regrowth from September to December.

Live biodiversity on
our agroecological farm.
© Émilie Raynard | Tour du Valat

The Tour du Valat covers a total area of almost 2,918 ha in two distinct geographical areas in the Camargue: the Tour du Valat Estate itself, near the village of Le Sambuc, with a total surface area of 2,817 ha, 2,164 ha of which are classified as a Regional Nature Reserve; and the Mas du Petit Saint-Jean, with a surface area of 101 ha, located in the Gard region of the Camargue, very close to Aigues-Mortes.

— AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT SHOWCASING AGROECOLOGY

Our agricultural activities are based on organic farming standards and integrate viticulture, rice farming, agroforestry, and diversified pastoralism. These projects aim to provide answers to current challenges linked to climate change and the erosion of biodiversity.

The agricultural plots are cultivated according to the principles of agroecology, with the production of grapes for wine, fodder, potatoes, sweet potatoes, olives, almonds, and pomegranates. The 13 grape varieties currently grown offer a diversity of winemaking options.

— SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Scientific research programmes are conducted on our sites by our teams of scientists to better understand the functioning of ecosystems and species in relation to the various activities developed, particularly in terms of agroecology.





The Northern Lapwing.
© Thomas Blanchon | Tour du Valat

THE ESTATE AND ITS RESERVE

The Tour du Valat estate is home to a wide variety of natural environments typical of the Camargue, including vast temporary marshes, sansouïres, salt meadows and montilles. It is included in the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, in recognition of its equitable and effective management.



NEW MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- **Improvement of the site's hydraulic functioning**
Work carried out in the northern Giraud sector, recently incorporated into the RNR extension, has improved water management thanks to waterproofing and the creation of hydraulic structures on the Braude and Grenouillet marshes.
- **Agriculture**
Sown in November 2024, 20 hectares of durum wheat (Anvergur and Dimokritos varieties) produced 55.5 tonnes. After harvesting, the land was flooded to favour desalination and straw decomposition, while attracting many water birds.

SCIENTIFIC MONITORING AND OBSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

In 2025, 137 listening points set up at dawn in May enabled us to record 69 species of nesting birds on the Estate. The most common are the Common Nightingale, the Melodious Warbler, and the Eurasian Skylark. Several species are increasing in numbers (the Corn Bunting, the

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Natur'Adapt Sud Project:** the RNR team was actively involved in the process of adapting nature area management to climate change. After conducting a vulnerability assessment, which enabled it to look ahead and anticipate how the RNR would evolve in response to the major changes brought about by climate change, adaptive management strategies were defined.
- **The 2024-2033 management plan** was officially approved by the Sud Region on 23 April 2025.

Eurasian Stone-curlew, the Purple Gallinules, the Northern Lapwing, and the European Bee-eater). Conversely, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow was not detected this year, confirming its sharp decline in Western Europe.

INTERESTING SPECIES OBSERVED

- **Sawfly Orchid:** Already observed between 2015 and 2018 with a single plant, there are now two specimens of this protected orchid in two separate areas;
- **Baillon's Crake:** Favourable water levels enabled several encounters and the discovery of three juveniles, confirming reproduction on the Estate;
- **Western Spadefoot Toad:** Following successful reproduction in 2024, numerous immature specimens were observed this year in the southern part of the RNR;
- **Olive-backed Pipit:** First observation on the site and first recorded case of overwintering in the Camargue.

THE MAS DU PETIT SAINT-JEAN

The Mas du Petit Saint-Jean, located on a former dune belt between Aigues-Mortes and Sylvéréal, features three major landscape areas: relic dunes, colonised mainly by stone pine forests to the north, an agricultural area in the centre, and a mosaic of wetlands to the south.

CATTLE FARMING AND AGROECOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Our cattle and agroecology activities included:

- tests on the management of cover crops in vineyard plots experiencing salinisation;
- our first distillation of helichrysum, yielding a few liters of floral water;
- a good harvest of myrtle berries, which were immediately dried and set aside for making myrtle wine or seasoning dishes;
- the production of pomegranate juice using fruit from our orchards;
- a bountiful harvest of new potatoes sold to employees, grocery stores, and a local CSA;
- the sale of the first sheep from our growing Raïole flock.

BIODIVERSITY

In the spring, our farm hosted its first comprehensive biodiversity survey weekend. From May 15 to 17, 2025, more than 70 amateur and professional naturalists surveyed the site, day and night, to record as many taxa as possible. This effort resulted in the observation of over 390 new species, enriching previous inventories.

The data will be added to the re-wilding farms platform via the GeoNature tool. These inventories document common and functional biodiversity, particularly pollinators, wildflowers in grain fields, and soil microfauna, and provide essential information for monitoring changes in biodiversity in relation to agricultural practices.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 600 visitors were welcomed to the farm for educational tours and public events.
- The grape harvest began 15 days earlier than usual.
- Katrina Muller, a winemaking and vineyard management consultant, gave her input on winemaking and grape growing techniques.
- Mario Bourcin started working at the Tour du Valat in September 2025 as part of a work-study program in wine and spirits marketing to support the growth of product sales.

First comprehensive survey of biodiversity
on the Petit Saint Jean site in May 2025.
© Émilie Raynard | Tour du Valat





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ELIE GAGET

Research Director in Ecological Statistics

“I am interested in climate change adaptation as a way to anticipate future conservation needs. Protected area management can implement new conservation actions that will ensure the long-term conservation of species and wetlands in spite of climate change.”

THE PROGRAMME

With over 70 years of scientific and conservation experience, the Tour du Valat further strengthened its activities in the Mediterranean Basin in 2025. Thanks to support from its long-standing public and private partners, it carried out a wide range of actions reflecting its four modes of taking action: understanding, managing, conveying, and convincing.

The third edition of the eagerly awaited Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook was published by the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory for the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention. The result of a partnership between the Tour du Valat and MedWet, this third edition warns us that despite their vital importance for populations and biodiversity, Mediterranean wetlands remain threatened ecosystems, subject to multiple pressures (intensive agriculture, overexploitation of water, land artificialization, and climate change) that are causing rapid and continuous losses.

Unable and not wishing to tackle this problem alone, the Tour du Valat plays a leading role in several well-established regional partnerships, such as the Mediterranean Waterbird Network, the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands, and the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium. These partnerships mobilise funding and expertise to support NGOs, research centres, governments, and administrations in 27 Mediterranean countries. Through several large-scale projects that came to or continued to be in full stride in 2025, the capacities of many local partners have been strengthened in terms of wetlands management and waterbird counting. In addition, the restoration of several hundred hectares of wetlands has been undertaken from Türkiye to Morocco, Lebanon, and Albania. With more than 10,000 volunteers mobilised on average, each year, to monitor wintering waterbirds in 15 Mediterranean countries, and more than 600 students receiving training on birds and wetlands during the 2024/2025 school year, local populations have also confirmed that when they receive the necessary support and room to maneuver, their involvement is an indispensable complement to the actions of institutional actors.

From its base in the Camargue, the Tour du Valat has demonstrated more than ever the value of its unique model, which combines, in a single organisation, international action that is rooted locally, scientific research and field conservation, advocacy and capacity building. For example, we can be proud that the several decades of health ecology research carried out in the Camargue—a field that remained confidential until the «One Health» approach came to the fore—has enabled us to share operational management tools with wetland stakeholders in 2025, as recently seen in the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park in Albania. We can also be pleased that the experience gained in the Sud-PACA region in adapting protected area management to climate change is now benefiting our Mediterranean partners, helping them to transform as much as possible a source of concern into a lever for taking action.

Marked by alarming setbacks in public policy and a drastic decline in public funding for development aid and biodiversity, 2025 could have made us fear increased competition between nature conservation stakeholders in general and wetland stakeholders in particular, or even a breakdown of coalitions. On the contrary, it spotlighted the tremendous solidarity that unites us. From local actions to the IUCN World Congress, we have «stuck together,» developed our knowledge together, shared our experiences, sought funding, campaigned, alerted the media, and exchanged our points of view. This is fortunate, because it is exactly what we will need in 2026 to continue this tremendous collective adventure, from which we draw hope and dignity and forge our greatest victories.



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RAPHAËL BILLÉ
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



Installation of a fyke net in the Tortue marsh, Grandes Cabanes Sud Estate / OFB / Conservatoire du Littoral.
© Brandes

Species conservation

The Mediterranean basin is a biodiversity hotspot. While some taxa are showing positive trends, wetland biodiversity, which includes many endemic species in the Mediterranean basin, is shrinking. Birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish are threatened by direct and indirect factors, including climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, recreational disturbance, legal and illegal harvesting, infrastructure development, inadequate water management and invasive alien species.

The main conservation challenges are to generate scientific knowledge on the effects of threats on the dynamics and distribution of these populations, to assess the effects of management actions, and to raise awareness among experts and political decision-makers through key messages. In this theme, we focus on taxa which we have studied for many years, namely birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. Long-term monitoring of populations places us in various international networks of researchers and managers. These networks help us to improve population estimates, identify negative trends, and work together to prevent the destruction of wetlands. In addition, our expertise is transferred to the Mediterranean community, stakeholders and managers through expert committees, online courses, training courses, workshops, guides, reports and publications.

We have organized the theme into three complementary areas:

- populations whose status is unfavourable and which require judicious action based on up-to-date scientific knowledge;
- the study of the direct and indirect negative effects of anthropogenic factors on wetlands, such as the increase in native or exotic predators, hunting or the colonisation of invasive exotic species;
- the study of connectivity disruptions due to human disturbance (physical or chemical barriers that are common and increasing in the Mediterranean).

JOCELYN CHAMPAGNON AND MARION VITTECOQ | COORDINATORS

THE PROJECTS

1 **Migration project: How do seabirds and migratory birds use the Gulf of Lion?**

JOCELYN CHAMPAGNON |
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Conducted between 2021 and 2025 in the Gulf of Lion, the Migration programme has filled the gap in data on seabirds and migratory birds by developing complementary data collection methods in the context of offshore wind farm development. It has considerably enriched our knowledge about how birds use this space, and highlights the marked vulnerability of seabirds in wind farm areas, as well as certain migratory species, which are frequently observed flying close to the blades when crossing the sea.

2 **A new management plan for grassland waders**

ARNAUD BÉCHET | bechet@tourduvalat.org
JEAN-BAPTISTE MOURONVAL

In 2025, the Tour du Valat finalised the 2026-2035 National Management Plan for five species of grassland waders in sharp decline in France. This plan aims to stabilise and then increase breeding populations by improving reproductive success, through a programme of 11 actions focusing on agricultural practices, the restoration of wet meadows, water management, and the reduction of disturbances, based on a concerted approach.



Video retracing, within the framework of the COLAGANG project, the 4 years of research on the eels of the Camargue.

3 **COLAGANG: monitoring European Eel to better protect them**

DELPHINE NICOLAS |
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Between 2021 and 2025, intra-lagoon ecological connectivity was studied as part of the COLAGANG project, jointly run by the Tour du Valat and the OFB. Telemetric monitoring (RFID and acoustic) was used to characterise the phenology of escape and the migration routes of silver eel found in freshwater habitats in the Camargue.

The results highlight the high variability of individual behaviour and reveal connectivity issues within the Vaccarès hydrosystem, as well as a previously unsuspected escape route via the Little Rhone.

Common Redshank.
© Michel Lepley



Migration: animal behaviour that influences ageing

The Tour du Valat has been studying Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) for over 40 years in the Camargue in a unique ringing and observation programme. This long-term monitoring not only helps to protect this iconic species, it also provides a better understanding of animal ageing mechanisms.

A study published in August 2025 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS, 2025) reveals that the rate of ageing in Greater Flamingos is strongly influenced by their migratory behaviour. In this species, some birds called “residents” remain in the Camargue throughout their lives, while others referred to as “migrants” travel along the shores of the Mediterranean every year.

THE RESULTS ARE SURPRISING

At the beginning of adulthood, residents have a higher survival and reproduction rate than migrants. However, this behaviour comes at a cost: they age more quickly after the age of 20. Their ability to reproduce declines more rapidly and their probability of dying increases more quickly than migratory flamingos, which pay a higher cost for migration early in life, but experience slower ageing later in life. Thus, the senescence process begins earlier in residents (20.4 years on average) than in migrants (21.9 years).

A colony of flamingos on the Fangassier pond.
© Jean E. Roché





Greater Flamingos.
© Jean Jalbert | Tour du Valat

This discovery illustrates a fascinating principle: seasonal migration, widespread behaviour in the animal kingdom, can influence the way an animal ages. Greater Flamingos are thus an ideal model for understanding the biological, behavioural, and environmental factors that influence senescence within a single species.

Beyond being a curious scientific finding, this discovery highlights the importance of long-term monitoring and population conservation for a better understanding of the mechanisms of life. Thanks to its ringing programme, which began in 1977, the Tour du Valat continues to acquire unique data that informs conservation strategies and our understanding of ageing in the animal world.

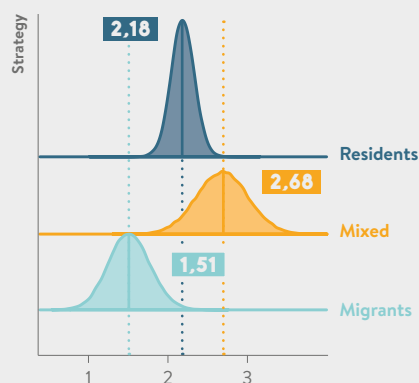
— SIGNIFICANT MEDIA COVERAGE

Following the release of our press release upon the publication of the scientific article, we received 27 international media mentions: in Switzerland (8), the USA (5, including Forbes), Spain (4), Japan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Argentina, England, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Russia and Kazakhstan. In France, an Agence France-Presse (AFP) dispatch and 14 articles/reports were published (Le Figaro, Géo, France Culture, La Provence, Le Monde Science et Médecine, Science et avenir, France 24, France 3 Occitanie, France Inter...).

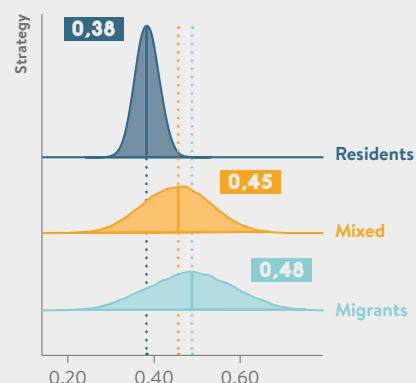
Bibliographic reference: H. Cayuela, S. Roques, A. Arnaud, C. Germain, A. Béchet, & J. Champagnon, Migration shapes senescence in a long-lived bird, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. (2025)

Senescence index

Mortality in old age among resident flamingos (dark blue) or those with a mixed strategy between residency and migration (orange) is higher than that of migratory flamingos (light blue)



Probability of successful reproduction at an advanced age



If you would like to learn more about the Greater Flamingo while contributing to the preservation of the species › visit monflamant.com to sponsor the flamingo that you prefer!

PROJECT LEADERS

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TEAM

Sébastien Roques, Antoine Arnaud, Christophe Germain, not to forget Luc Hoffmann and Alan Johnson who started our monitoring programme

PARTNERS

Scientific: University of Oxford, CEFE – CNRS, LBBE – CNRS
Technical: Compagnie Salins, flamingo ring observers around the world
Financial: Adopt a flamingo sponsors



Study of plastic dispersed
by Yellow-legged Gulls.
© Patrick Landemann

— Health ecology

A major threat to Mediterranean wetlands, pollution has a direct impact on biodiversity and water quality. Infectious diseases are another direct threat to certain vulnerable species. Their circulation in wildlife can also have an impact on the health of humans and domestic animals. The general aim of this theme is to help limit the impact of pollution and infectious diseases, which are often linked, on wetland biodiversity. To accomplish this objective, we are developing long-term studies focused on the diversity of diseases and pollutants to which the entire biocenosis is exposed.

This theme focuses on two areas:

- understanding the impact of pollutants on vertebrates;
- reducing the direct and indirect impacts of infectious diseases on wetlands.

The aim of these two areas is to develop practices that are more respectful of the environment to ensure greater resilience of ecosystems and limit the occurrence of large-scale health crises. This theme is part of the “One Health” approach, which emphasizes the links between human, animal, and environmental health.

In 2025, we strengthened our interdisciplinary research based on a “One Health” approach. Working with chemists, we published a protocol for quantifying microplastics in vertebrate organs, developed from studies on gulls and applicable to all seabirds. In the field, we worked with hunters and managers to optimise the monitoring of avian influenza in wild birds (see focus p18), which enabled us to detect the circulation of highly pathogenic viruses in November, while raising awareness of stakeholders on preventive measures. Hunting cartridges found in the Camargue confirmed the continued frequent use of lead ammunition despite the ban on its use in wetlands since 2006. This observation was corroborated by controls carried out at the end of 2025 by the French Biodiversity Agency.

MARION VITTECOQ | COORDINATOR

THE PROJECTS

1 **ARCHE: a study of vector ticks and their wild hosts**

CAROLE LERAY | leray@tourduvalat.org

The ARCHE project aims to understand the conditions under which Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) emerges in southern France. In partnership with the CIRAD, this research focuses on the interactions between the ticks that carry the virus (*Hyalomma sp.*) and wildlife. In 2025, as part of Mélanie Gippet's thesis, more than 1,000 birds were inspected in the Camargue, Corsica, and Porquerolles, enabling more than 200 ticks to be found. Some of these ticks were of the genus *Hyalomma*, suggesting that bird migration plays a role in their dispersal. At the same time, we started characterising the host communities in the Pyrénées-Orientales, where these ticks are already established.

2 **ZOOCAM: better understanding the spread of diseases in the Camargue**

THOMAS BLANCHON | blanchon@tourduvalat.org

Launched as part of the Camargue zone workshop (ZOOCAM), this project aims to better understand the local circulation of pathogens that can be exchanged between humans and wildlife. In 2025, work focused on establishing protocols and beginning sampling, with the collection of faeces of 14 species of wild mammals and the

launch of analyses targeting coronaviruses. A second component explores the impact of plastic pollution on the transmission of diseases by different vectors, with initial tests currently underway in the laboratory.

3 **The European Pond Turtle: a sentinel of wetland contamination**

ANTHONY OLIVIER | olivier@tourduvalat.org
LESLIE-ANNE MERLEAU | merleau@tourduvalat.org

In 2025, work on the contamination of European Pond Turtles continued. An article submitted at the end of the year shows the frequent detection of both PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and PAEs (phthalates) in different habitats in the Camargue, highlighting exposure to multiple contaminants. In addition, biochemical data from blood samples taken in the Camargue, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, and Brenne regions were obtained through a partnership with the Chizé Zoodyssee animal park. They will be used in 2026 to analyse the potential impacts on the health of European Pond Turtles.

4 **Seagulls: witnesses and actors in the spread of plastic**

CAROLE LERAY | leray@tourduvalat.org

Our work on the Yellow-legged Gull was marked by Charly Souc defending his thesis that focuses on the ecology of the movements of this species and its exposure to pathogens and pollutants. His findings show that, unlike Yelkouan and Scopoli's Shearwaters, which frequent areas of microplastic accumulation in the Gulf of Lion, Yellow-legged Gulls are mainly exposed to plastics in landfill sites.

Harvesting mollusks in the Camargue.
© Thomas Blanchon | Tour du Valat



Long-term monitoring of avian influenza

Avian influenza viruses have existed for thousands of years in their natural reservoir, wild waterbirds, particularly Anatidae (ducks, geese, and swans) and Laridae (gulls and terns). However, since 2022, their dynamics have been changing rapidly, spreading to new species and raising new challenges. The Tour du Valat and its partners are committed to strengthening the monitoring of these viruses in wetlands and helping local stakeholders manage associated crises.

Avian influenza viruses (AIV) are highly diverse, and the vast majority are low pathogenic (LPAIVs). This means that they cause few or no symptoms in infected birds, making their circulation generally invisible. However, a few strains, specifically subtypes H7 and H5, can become more pathogenic. These forms are referred to as highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAIVs).

Historically, the spread of HPAIVs became a cause for concern when they began to cause significant losses in duck and chicken farms in the mid-1990s in Southeast Asia. During the winter of 2005–2006, such viruses reached Europe. Since then, the circulation of HPAIVs in poultry farms has been a major economic issue in many countries, including France.

Common Crane.

© Jean Jalbert | Tour du Valat





Flying ducks.
© Jocelyn Champagnon | Tour du Valat

NEW CONSERVATION CHALLENGES: MASS MORTALITY AMONG WILD BIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS

The recent dynamics of these viruses have undergone rapid changes, profoundly altering the challenges linked to them. While the risks to poultry farms remain very high, since 2022 different strains of HPAIV H5N1 are also causing massive mortality of wild birds and marine mammals. At the end of 2025, several thousand Common Crane died in France, at Lake Der-Chantecoq and in the Landes region. The situation is therefore critical from a conservation perspective.

In this context, in 2024 the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) launched a European network for active surveillance of HPAIVs in wildlife. This system is complementary to passive monitoring which is based on analyzing the causes of suspected deaths. It enables viruses to be tracked even when there are no visible warning signs.

THE TOUR DU VALAT IS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH AND MONITORING FOR MANY YEARS

Tour du Valat which has been involved in researching and monitoring viruses circulating in wild bird populations for over twenty years, is leading the French part of this programme in partnership with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), and others. Since the autumn of 2024, we have been alternating between monitoring ducks hunted from September to January and studying gulls from March to June.

Between September 2024 and October 2025, no highly pathogenic influenza viruses were detected during our monitoring. However, in November 2025, HPAIV circulation was detected in hunted birds, with no mortality observed, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of the surveillance system. This system will be maintained and optimised over the years in collaboration with our French and European partners.

This programme, which focuses on HPAIVs, also prepares all stakeholders concerned (researchers, hunters, reference laboratories, natural area managers, etc.) to meet the challenges linked to other infectious diseases that may emerge in the coming years.



Sampling of mallards during waterfowl hunting.
© Rémi Tiné | Syndicat Mixte pour la protection et la gestion de la Camargue Gardoise (federation for the protection and management of the Camargue in the Gard)

PROJECT LEADER Marion Vittecoq | vittecoq@tourduvalat.org

TEAM Carole Leray, Thomas Blanchon, Théo Ihlein

PARTNERS **Technical and financial:** ANSES, Toulouse National Veterinary School, OFB, INRAE, Gard Departmental Analysis Laboratory, CEN Occitanie (Occitanie Nature Area Conservancy)



Monitoring amphibians in the Gediz Delta within the ProZhum project.
© Lisa Ernoul | Tour du Valat

Management and restoration of natural and agricultural ecosystems

In order to conserve the rich biodiversity associated with wetlands, we work at different scales in different geographical zones. It has been shown that it is more efficient and effective to conserve existing wetlands as it is often difficult or impossible to restore destroyed wetlands to their pre-existing conditions. However, when damage or destruction has already occurred, restoration can be proposed as an option to improve wetland functions and biodiversity.

We use both approaches to ensure sustainability of wetlands today and in the future. Our management Activities aimed at conserving existing wetlands are constantly evolving to meet the changing contexts. Global changes, including climate change and social-economic activities, are taken into account in all of our management and restoration activities to meet the new threats and to find suitable alternatives. By looking outside of the strictly protected areas, we are able to study and improve the existing activities to find solutions that take into account both the human and natural aspects of wetlands.

The Tour du Valat grounds, including the Tour du Valat Estate, the Petit Saint-Jean site and the Verdier marshes, are real open air laboratories where we test different management and restoration techniques. We also worked with local private and public landowners to continue our management and restoration activities on over 3,000 ha of wetlands in the Camargue.

This year, in collaboration with our partners, we continued to advocate for the implementation of the European nature restoration law. We kept working to prepare for the implementation of the new law by providing essential data for the French restoration strategy.

LISA ERNOUL | COORDINATOR

THE PROJECTS

1 Wetlands management and restoration

LISA ERNOUL | ernoul@tourduvalat.org

The Cassaire and Petit Badon projects have enabled us to consolidate and share our expertise in ecological restoration with students, managers, and decision-makers. These two sites served as case studies that informed the reflections developed by Hugo Fontes on “reference ecosystems” in restoration ecology within the context of his thesis on temporary ponds.

Hydraulic works were carried out at two sites of the Etangs et marais des salins de Camargue to restore conditions favourable for the reproduction of the Dark Spreadwing, a priority species in the National Action Plan for Dragonflies & Damselflies.

Estimates of the carbon stock contained in more than 2,000 hectares of peatlands in the Rhône Delta were made based on soil and flora observations. This work will help define priorities for conservation and restoration actions.

In addition, the first bog restoration project in the French Mediterranean is continuing, with the first field campaigns underway at the Joyeuse Garde site.

Volunteers from the association managing the Verdier marshes community restoration project have collectively built a new bird observatory within the tamarisk grove.

A participatory bat monitoring programme was carried out within the Rest-Chir'Eau project on the Bras de Fer site, with over 100 participants who covered almost the entire site.

In the Mediterranean, Çağdaş Yaşar, a Turkish PhD student, launched a study to identify restoration potential in Turkish deltas.

2 Studying and promoting agroecology

ARNAUD BECHET | bechet@tourduvalat.org

As part of the initiative to study and promote agroecology, research focused on the influence of field edge configurations — hedges, canals, and grass strips — on the presence of birds and bats. A conceptual model of the Camargue island was developed to simulate the effect of changes in agricultural practices, ranging from intensification to agroecologisation on agricultural irrigation water volumes and the risk of soil salinisation.

Aerial view of the restored Petit Badon marsh.

© Loïc Willm / Tour du Valat




RESCOM: when nature becomes the solution to climate and societal challenges in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean basin is a global biodiversity hotspot that is currently under pressure from both human activities and climate change. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are emerging as a major tool that can protect populations and territories. Based on resilient ecosystems that can be true natural allies, they reconcile conservation, human well-being, and socio-economic development. This is the key objective of the RESCOM project, which is being coordinated by the Tour du Valat for the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium (MBC). It aims to deploy these solutions, which, despite their many benefits, are still insufficiently considered in the Mediterranean region.

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

The MBC brings together several leading organisations, such as the Tour du Valat, which have long been involved in nature conservation in the Mediterranean. By pooling the expertise of its members, the Consortium's mission is to preserve the integrity of ecosystems (coastal areas, small islands, forests, wetlands, marine areas) in ways that can sustainably ensure the vital services they provide to society, while revealing their full potential as sources of NbS.

The MBC's first flagship project, RESCOM (Strengthening the resilience of Mediterranean ecosystems), is putting this approach into practice at 15 sites in eight Mediterranean countries: Albania, Egypt, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia, and Türkiye. By providing direct support to natural area managers, the initiative implements conservation and restoration measures focused on ecological connectivity, which is essential for species mobility and the functioning of major natural cycles, such as water and nutrient.



Divjakë-Karavasta National Park in Albania is home to the country's largest coastal lagoon and a remarkable diversity of habitats, which are now under severe anthropogenic and climatic pressure. This area is one of the pilot sites for the RESCOM project, which is dedicated to testing Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

© Divjakë-Karavasta National Park



The MBC provides technical support to partner managers of pilot sites, such as here in Albania, at the Divjakë-Karavasta National Park.

© Anaële Sacchetti | PIM Initiative

project partner managers, RESCOM is helping to build a genuine community of practice around NbS, favouring their replication and dissemination.

THE EXAMPLE OF DIVJAKË-KARAVASTA NATIONAL PARK IN ALBANIA

In Albania, in the heart of the Divjakë-Karavasta National Park, the Tour du Valat is supporting the management team, through RESCOM, in implementing actions on the country's largest coastal lagoon, which is a Ramsar site. The project combines ecological assessments and restoration actions targeting the mosaic of ecosystems that characterise the site, including wetlands, dunes, and wooded areas.

For example, revegetation, the control of invasive species, and the delimitation of strictly protected areas help to stabilise fragile dune landscapes and slow down coastal erosion. These measures benefit both local populations and biodiversity. They strengthen coastal protection, water quality and the area's ecotourism appeal, while improving ecological connectivity and maintaining species of conservation concern.

A MULTI-COUNTRY DYNAMIC TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

While NbS are increasingly being promoted as a response to major societal challenges such as climate change, their application in the field remains complex. In 2025, an in-depth study conducted by the MBC and the Tour du Valat identified the factors for their success in the Mediterranean basin, including the effective involvement and coordination of local actors, strong political commitment, adequate funding, and awareness-raising campaigns to ensure public support.

As they adapt to the specific contexts and challenges of each territory, it is essential to promote a dynamic of exchange and learning through experience for the implementation of NbS.

By facilitating this sharing of experiences among



The involvement of all local stakeholders is a key factor in the success of NbS — here in Morocco — in the Khenifiss National Park, a RESCOM pilot site.

© Marion Douchin | Tour du Valat

PROJECT LEADER

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TEAM

Lisa Ernoul, Antoine Gazaix, Carol Mañoso Gimeno, Philippe Lambret, Arsène Marquis-Soria, Pauline Rocarpin, Salima Slimani, Marc Thibault, Elisa Tuillon

PARTNERS

Technical: Member organisations of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium (AIFM, MedPAN, MedWet, PIM Initiative, IUCN Med, Conservatoire du littoral) and national and local partners at the pilot sites (public administrations, local civil society organisations)

Scientific: Local research institutes or centres in partner countries

Financial: FFEM, MAVA, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

RETROSPECTIVE — 2025



EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS AT THE TOUR DU VALAT?

No! A game of bubble football during our team-building day!



© Arsène Marquis-Soria



STUDENTS FROM THE EGNP IN ACTION!

Removal of invasive plants to preserve the ecosystem of the newly restored Petit Badon marsh.

© EGNP

MIROVA'S MISSION COMMITTEE, A LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



© Arsène Marquis-Soria



FIRST COMPREHENSIVE BIODIVERSITY SURVEY ON OUR PETIT SAINT-JEAN SITE

© Émilie Reynard

COLUMBA MARTINEZ-ESPINOSA, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN SECTION OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS

A member of this section for the past eight years, Columba has been a research engineer at the Tour du Valat since March 2022.



© Agence Carnéliéon



THE TOUR DU VALAT AWARDED A PRIZE BY THE AEW

© Aydin Bahramilouian (CC BY-NC 4.0)

The Tour du Valat team receiving the 2025 AEW Conservation Award in the institutional category at the 9th Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) to the AEW in Bonn.



© Tour du Valat

THE TOUR DU VALAT AND THE MWO AT THE RAMSAR COP 15

The Tour du Valat and the MWO attended the Ramsar COP 15 in Zimbabwe to advocate for Mediterranean wetlands.



© Tour du Valat

THE PROZHEM PROJECT LINKS THE CAMARGUE AND GEDİZ (TÜRKİYE) DELTAS

An in-depth exchange of knowledge on wetland restoration between the Tour du Valat, Doğa Derneği, and Akdeniz Koruma Derneği.



© Marion Douchin / Tour du Valat

AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WETLANDS

A partnership initiated by MWO and MedWet with the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment as part of the development of a National Wetlands Strategy.



© Charlotte Bertrond

DISCOVERING BATS

Students from the Le Sambuc Elementary School hopped on their bikes to go looking for signs of bats at the Verdier marshes as part of the Rest'Chir-Eau project.



© Tour du Valat

4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GREATER FLAMINGOS IN VENICE

Participants in the workshop on flamingo research and conservation in the Mediterranean and West Africa.



Sampling campaign under the Water Framework Directive in oligo-mesohaline lagoons, at the Étang de Campagnol, Émilie Laurent.

© Julie Régis | Tour du Valat

Dynamics and management of hydrosystems and coastal areas

Climate change is exacerbating already existing environmental problems in the Mediterranean Basin, due to unevenly distributed water resources, increasing pollution, and changes in land use such as the conversion of natural wetlands into urban and agricultural areas or artificial wetlands.

Land use and water management choices and policies are complex processes resulting from numerous socio-economic factors. They involve stakeholders with sometimes conflicting interests. In addition, the socio-economic and political context tends to generate short-term responses that do not adequately address long-term environmental problems.

In this context, our team is working to:

1. inform decision-makers, stakeholders, and managers and raise their awareness of the changes affecting Mediterranean wetland habitats (losses, conversions, hydrological alterations);
2. help them to substantiate their water management choices:
 - with the best possible compromise between all the issues and uses of these areas in terms of biodiversity, human activities, and other concerns;
 - by looking not only at resolving short-term problems, but also addressing long-term ones.

OLIVIER BOUTRON | COORDINATOR

THE PROJECTS

1 Understanding the spatial and temporal dynamics of wetland

ANIS GUELMAMI | guelmami@tourduvalat.org

The **CAFEZH project** was completed in 2025 with the production of summary reports focusing on the mapping of wetlands in the Seine estuary and the assessment of their ecological functions, particularly carbon sequestration and denitrification. The work combined remote sensing data and field surveys to characterise the hydrological and biogeochemical dynamics at the estuary scale. The project's conclusion was marked by a final reporting meeting held on 7 October 2025, bringing together scientific partners and local stakeholders.

As part of **the Sebou Water Fund (FES) project**, the work enabled the finalisation of the calculation of DPSIR indicators and their integration into the FES Geoportal. The results were shared and discussed during a living lab in Morocco with the FES's local and national partners, followed by a webinar dedicated to the transfer of tools and the dissemination of the project's key findings.

2 Informing water management

OLIVIER BOUTRON | boutron@tourduvalat.org

The **European REST-COAST project** has concluded with the production of summary reports highlighting the actions carried out since 2021. Ecological monitoring shows the positive effects of restoration work at the Étangs et Marais des Salins de Camargue site, which are also featured in a scientific publication on Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

As part of the **LIFE Adapto+ project**, monitoring of vegetation and habitats was carried out at the Brasinvert-Grand Radeau site, accompanied by a training course on the use of an ecological coastal index employed in adaptation to climate change. Methodological tools were also produced for the establishment of a long-term monitoring programme at this site.

Our support for managers in reducing the risk of eutrophication in lagoons has continued at the Scamandre-Crey-Charnier, Vendres, Vaccarès and Berre lagoons. Tailored support was provided depending on the site, including modelling, conducting or monitoring studies on the analysis of water and nutrient flux data. Measurement campaigns under the Water Framework Directive were also carried out on the eight oligo-mesohaline lagoons in mainland France.

Finally, hydrogeological monitoring was implemented at the Petit-Saint-Jean and Bois des Rièges sites (in collaboration with SNPN) to understand the hydro-saline dynamics of their groundwater tables. Finally, two PhD theses led to scientific publications: one on identifying, for the Camargue Island, the key relationships between hydro-saline dynamics, water management and human activities (agriculture, hunting, fishing, tourism); the other on the respective influences of climate and human activities on the dynamics of phytoplankton in several Corsican lagoons, in order to anticipate the possible trajectories of these ecosystems.



Installation of a piezometer in vineyard plots affected by salinisation, carried out by Morgan Garnodon and Django De Herder.

© Julie Régis | Tour du Valat



Access the publication on Nature-based Solutions by scanning this QR code.

From data to decision: a toolkit for spatially prioritising coastal wetland restoration

Gaining a better understanding of how coastal wetlands function and targeting restoration actions where they are most relevant are major challenges for water management, adapting to climate change, and local resilience. Through the Horizon Europe RESTORE4Cs project, the Tour du Valat is helping to strengthen this integrated approach by combining Earth Observations, in situ measurements, and socio-economic analyses within decision-making tools designed to inform restoration policies.

Funded by the Horizon Europe programme, the RESTORE4Cs project explores how the restoration of coastal wetlands can enhance their contribution to climate change mitigation, particularly through carbon sequestration, while generating ecological and socio-economic co-benefits. Based on an integrated approach to socio-ecological systems, the project is being conducted on six pilot sites in Europe, representing a wide variety of hydrological and climatic contexts and human pressures. This heterogeneity allows for a detailed analysis of the interactions between ecological status, hydrological functioning, and the services provided by wetlands, while ensuring that the results can be transferred to larger scales.

Physicochemical monitoring of water for the study of carbon flows in wetlands.
© RESTORE4Cs



MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS TO QUANTIFY GREENHOUSE GAS FLUXES IN DIFFERENT COASTAL WETLANDS

The Tour du Valat has actively contributed to the production of knowledge in the Camargue, one of the pilot sites. Four seasonal measurement campaigns were conducted to quantify greenhouse gas fluxes in different types of coastal wetlands, including habitats in good conservation status, restored and degraded. This fieldwork provides a better understanding of how hydrological conditions influence carbon and greenhouse gases exchanges between soil, vegetation, and the atmosphere, and highlights the crucial role of good water management.

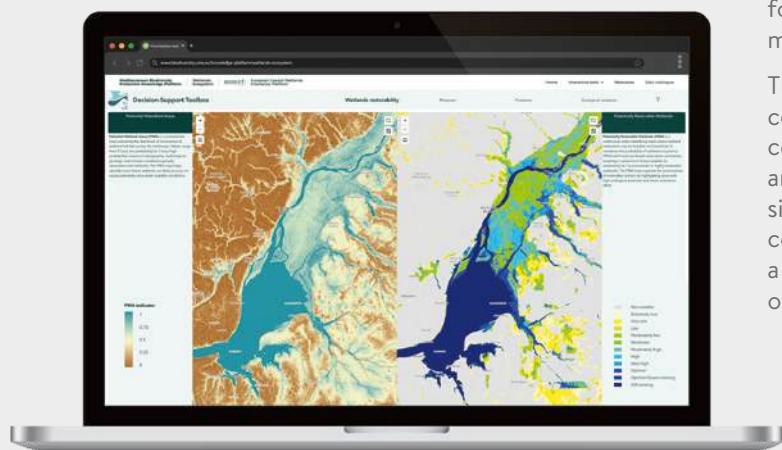
One of the main objectives of RESTORE4Cs is to translate this detailed knowledge into operational tools that can inform public decision-making. In this context, the Tour du Valat has played a central role in **developing the RESTORE4Cs Toolbox, a decision-making tool designed to support spatial planning and the setting of priorities for coastal wetland restoration.**

The Toolbox can identify lost wetlands that could be restored and those whose functioning has deteriorated and require rehabilitation. By cross-referencing information on land use, ecological status, anthropogenic pressures, water dynamics, and carbon storage potential, it provides an integrated view of wetland dynamics and management. Users can explore different restoration scenarios, compare the expected benefits in terms of hydrological regulation, climate change mitigation and biodiversity, and identify areas where actions would be both feasible and effective.

Designed as a tool to bridge the gap between science and action, the Toolbox supports national and regional authorities in implementing European restoration objectives, while providing practical support to site managers and those working in the field. It helps to meet the spatial planning and prioritisation

requirements of European frameworks for nature restoration, climate, and water management.

Through RESTORE4Cs, the Tour du Valat continues to demonstrate its ability to combine field research, spatial dynamics analysis, and the development of decision-making tools. The project shows how coastal wetland restoration can become a tool for organising climate action based on solid scientific evidence.



An online Toolbox that combines ecological, hydrological, and topographical data to guide the restoration of coastal wetlands.

© RESTORE4Cs



Access the online toolbox by scanning this QR code.

PROJECT LEADER

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TEAM

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PARTNERS

RESTORE4Cs Consortium: 16 partners from 9 countries › <https://www.restore4cs.eu/about/partners/>



Natura 2000 managers and coordinators are being trained in the identification of macrophytes in lagoon environments, April 2025, Life Marha.

© Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes

Science and Society interfaces

Across the Mediterranean, voices are being raised to combat the decline of wetlands. The Tour du Valat supports these efforts by coordinating several networks of stakeholders committed to conservation, whilst drawing on sound scientific knowledge.

The human pressures that directly degrade Mediterranean wetlands – land conversion, intensive agriculture, pollution, overexploitation of water resources, illegal hunting – often stem from poor governance. When decision-makers lack reliable scientific information, or are not fully convinced of the value of these environments, they may fail to implement the measures necessary for their preservation. In this theme, we have therefore brought together several science–society interfaces tasked with translating and disseminating scientific findings to decision-makers and society, in order to inform their choices and raise awareness. They strengthen the capacities of stakeholders, foster cooperation and provide data and methods to better protect ecosystems.

THOMAS GALEWSKI | COORDINATOR

THE PROJECTS

1 Status-Pressures-Responses of wetland biodiversity

THOMAS GALEWSKI | **ELIE GAGET**
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This research area explores – at a macroecological scale – the responses of biodiversity in Mediterranean wetlands to global changes. Léonie Jonas, a PhD student, has published her first thesis article, which assesses how conservation efforts undertaken under European LIFE funding facilitate the adaptation of waterbirds to climate change. The study shows that waterbirds are better able to adapt their distribution in response to climate change when this funding is directed towards the protection of their habitats rather than when it is focused on specific species.

THE PROJECTS (NEXT)

2 Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance (MWA)

LORENA SEGURA |
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The MWA brings together civil society to amplify the voice of wetlands in the Mediterranean, particularly in national and regional policies, and comprises 30 NGOs and research centres from 18 countries. Its advocacy work has contributed to the protection of iconic sites under threat, such as the Narta Lagoon (Albania), the Camargue (France) and the Urdaibai Reserve (Spain), through the Red Alert mechanism. Meanwhile, the Green Light mechanism opened up new prospects in 2025, laying the foundations for ambitious ecological restoration projects in Vrina (Albania) and Carska Bara (Serbia).

3 Mediterranean Lagoons Transfer unit consortium

VIRGINIE MAUCLERT |
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The year 2025 marks the culmination of the Life Marha project with the launch of an interactive map co-developed with the OFB, showcasing data on the conservation status of “Coastal Lagoons” across 21 Natura 2000 sites. It marks the culmination of eight years of technical support and the training of 500 practitioners in the field.



Scan this QR code for more information.

4 Protection and Restoration of Mediterranean Wetlands

JANE BALLARD | ballard@tourduvalat.org

In early 2025, 14 civil society organisations launched projects in 10 countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, with a total budget of €476,000. These initiatives cover a wide range of activities, from the restoration of wet grasslands through sustainable grazing in Türkiye to community mobilisation for the protection of the Tawergha wetlands in Libya. By mid-2025, ten of these organisations had identified emerging structures to develop mentoring projects (€10,000) in these same countries. These initiatives take various forms, such as birdwatching or litter-picking activities in Lebanon, or strengthening advocacy for the restoration of the Buljarica wetlands in Montenegro.

5 National Biodiversity Observatory (NBO)

CHRISTIAN PERENNOU |
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How is the state of France’s wetlands evolving? In its latest report, the National Biodiversity Observatory, whose Wetlands component is coordinated by the Tour du Valat, provides a clear and illustrated overview of these essential ecosystems, compiling 33 key indicators related to biodiversity, the pressures they face, and the actions being taken to protect them.



Scan this QR code to access the PDF document.

6 Natur’adapt Sud

NOÉMIE NOJAROFF | **VIRGINIE MAUCLERT**
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In 2025, the Tour du Valat led the Natur’Adapt Sud program to give nature reserve managers in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region the tools they need to address climate change by identifying the most vulnerable habitats and working together to develop adaptation strategies.



End-of-project meeting.
© Laureen Keller | CEN PACA

7 Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO)

ANIS GUELMAMI | guelmami@tourduvalat.org

See Focus, pages 32-33.

8 Medwaterbirds network

LAURA DAMI | dami@tourduvalat.org

See Conveying & convincing, pages 36-37.

Mediterranean wetlands: responses to ongoing crises

With the publication of Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 3 (MWO-3), the third report on the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands, the Tour du Valat has reaffirmed its role as an interface between science and society. The new report offers a shared perspective on the crises affecting Mediterranean wetlands, while identifying concrete solutions that can inform public policy.

Published in July 2025 by the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO) – a scientific tool of the Ramsar MedWet Regional Initiative led by the Tour du Valat – the MWO-3 is the third edition of a benchmark regional report. Based on 18 indicators harmonized across the Mediterranean Basin, it provides public decision-makers and civil society with an up-to-date assessment of the status and trends of wetlands, as well as recommendations for action that can halt their decline.

Bank of the Nile(Egypt), the wetlands in Mediterranean floodplains, which are shaped by river floods, play a key role in water regulation, soil fertility, and the preservation of biodiversity, while supporting human activities along the waterways.

© EwaStudio, Envato



40% OF WETLAND-DEPENDENT SPECIES ARE LISTED AS "NEAR THREATENED"

The verdict is clear: despite decades of conservation policies and some local success, the decline of Mediterranean wetlands continues. Historically, nearly 56% of natural wetland habitats have already disappeared, and since 1990, the average rate of loss has exceeded 12%. This degradation is leading to a rapid erosion of biodiversity: 40% of wetland-dependent species are in a poor state of conservation, a figure that rises to 69% for endemic species. **Beyond the environmental stakes, this decline directly affects water and food security, the ability of regions to cope with climate change, as well as the health and well-being of Mediterranean populations.**

The causes of the decline of Mediterranean wetlands are now well established and closely interlinked. Intensive agriculture is the primary pressure, with nearly 30% of the functional area of wetlands occupied by crops, while irrigation accounts for nearly two-thirds of water withdrawals. Urbanization and land artificialization are exacerbating these pressures, with a 44% increase in impermeable surfaces around wetlands since 2000. Pollution, invasive alien species, and overexploitation of living resources also contribute to this degradation. **Climate change is playing a major role in exacerbating these issues:** the rise in average sea level, estimated at between 0.34 m and 1.06 m by 2100, combined with reduced freshwater and sediment inflows, could lead to the disappearance of 69% to 92% of Mediterranean coastal marshes. This vulnerability is exacerbated by widespread hydrological fragmentation, with 95% of major Mediterranean rivers currently affected.

MWO-3 also highlights the persistent limitations of governance. While more than a third of Mediterranean wetlands now have protected status, fewer than 10% are subject to binding measures. This gap underscores the difficulty of fully recognizing wetlands as essential natural infrastructure for addressing climate, ecological, and social crises.

The report, however, offers a message of hope. When ambitious conservation, restoration, and sustainable management policies are implemented, wetlands respond positively. Coordinated monitoring shows a 43% increase in wintering waterbird populations between 1995 and 2022. Many restored sites are regaining essential ecological functions, contributing to water regulation, mitigating the effects of extreme weather events, and supporting sustainable human activities.

Through MWO-3, the Tour du Valat is helping to translate scientific findings into policy action. This report calls for wetlands to be recognized as genuine Nature-based Solutions capable of simultaneously addressing the climate, water, and biodiversity crises, while emphasizing that the current trajectory is not irreversible.



Lake Umm Al Maa (Libye). Oases are man-made wetlands found in arid regions that are made possible by the presence of groundwater. They support human communities through agriculture and serve as vital havens for biodiversity in desert landscapes.

© Sfiyat



Access the report ›
"Mediterranean
Wetlands: Responses
to Crises"

PROJECT LEADER

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TEAM

Michael Ronse, Thomas Galewski, Elie Gaget, Nina Bègue, Rania Cheikh, Alice Chen, Gaja Talamini (Tour du Valat/MWO)

PARTNERS

MedWet, European projects (OurMED, RESTORE4Cs, Wetland4Change), IUCN-Med, Wetlands International, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), National Center for Space Studies (CNES), European Space Agency (ESA).



© Hervé Hôte / Agence Caméleon

HAYTEM BOUCHRI

Doctoral student

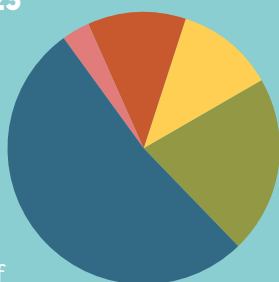
“In the wetlands of Morocco, I am studying the ecology of the Marbled Duck, a migratory species, whose movements reveal the fragility and complexity of the ecological balances that shape these environments.”

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Knowledge transfer is central to the Tour du Valat's mission, and a great amount of effort is made to achieve that goal. Communication in the scientific world, through publications and talks, and making the results of our research available to potential users (site managers in particular), are major activities for our teams.

PUBLICATIONS 2025

We published a wide range of articles in international journals, with 45 publications by the end of 2025, 33 of which had an impact factor, for an average impact factor of 4.24. Our activities are not limited to our scientific publications, and our publications are diversified both in terms of nature of the documents (see figure above) and target audience: scientists, site managers, technicians, students, the general public, and decision-makers.



SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS	45
PHD/HDR *	3
BOOKS/CHAPTERS IN BOOK	10
STUDENTS REPORTS	10
TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS	18

*HDR : Habilitation to direct research



Find all our publications
by scanning this QR code!

RESOURCE CENTRE FRANÇOIS BOURLIÈRE LIBRARY

The Tour du Valat Resource Centre has been in existence since 1954. It was initially made up of documents from the personal library of the Tour du Valat's founder Luc Hoffmann:

- 6,620 publications and theses;
- 490 different periodicals of which 71 are running;
- 47,980 offprints, booklets and reports.

Thanks to our library portal,
tourduvalat.centredoc.fr, the centre
enables any internet user to:

- discover the most recent publications by Tour du Valat researchers;
- carry out bibliographical research in the document collection;
- view scientific updates on biodiversity;
- find out about new acquisitions.

INFORMATIONS

The Resource Centre is open to everyone on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00 to 12.00 AM and from 1.00 to 5.00 PM. It offers Wi-Fi connected workstations, access to all documents, and the assistance of a librarian.

Ph. +33 (0)4 90 97 29 76 / biblio@tourduvalat.org
Documental portal: tourduvalat.centredoc.fr

CONVEYING & CONVINCING

In addition to our many scientific and technical publications, every year we carry out numerous skills transfer and advocacy activities, which are vital to achieving our mission of “Ensuring the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands by improving our understanding of how they function and mobilising a community of stakeholders.” Here are just a few examples of our work.

A MOOC FOR NETWORKS OF WATERBIRD OBSERVERS

The first session of the MOOC “Identifying and Counting Waterbirds in North Africa and the Sahel: How and Why?”, held from September to December 2025, attracted more than 1,600 participants. Designed to strengthen observer networks, the course addresses wetland conservation issues, the role of censuses, and methods for identifying and counting species. A second session is planned for 2026.

The course is available at: www.mooc-conservation.org.

Clémence Deschamps | deschamps@tourduvalat.org



PUBLICATION OF NEW TECHNICAL REPORTS BY THE MEDWATERBIRDS NETWORK

The Medwaterbirds Network/Mediterranean Waterbird Network has published an update to its technical reports on the status of waterbird counts in the Mediterranean for the 2019–2023 period, covering eleven partner countries.

These reports provide an overview of national waterbird counting networks, population trends, and opportunities for new RAMSAR sites. A regional summary report based on data from 15 of these partner countries has also been produced. It highlights the spread of threats such as avian influenza and the need to strengthen monitoring systems.



All these reports can be accessed by scanning this QR Code.

CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF HEINZ HAFNER

As part of our annual lecture series honoring the work of Heinz Hafner in the conservation of waterbirds and wetlands, Denis Couvet, Professor at the National Museum of Natural History and President of the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity, gave a lecture titled “Is Agroecology a Profound Transformation of Modern Agriculture?”.

ADVOCACY

In 2025, the Tour du Valat strengthened its advocacy efforts on behalf of Mediterranean wetlands in various ways. The year was marked by a strong collective mobilization through red alerts, contributions to public debates, and letters and manifestos supported by numerous organizations and scientists.

At the same time, the Tour du Valat intensified its dialogue with French decision-makers through numerous institutional meetings, a hearing at the National Assembly, and several contributions and strategy notes on key public policies. These actions led to concrete outcomes, including the cancellation of the Urdaibai project and the withdrawal of an amendment on “heavily modified wetlands.”



© Défi-clé RIVOC

5^{ÈME} EDITION OF THE “BIODIVERSITY AND VECTORS” SUMMER COURSE

Twenty participants, from seven countries, with diverse scientific, professional, and geographical backgrounds gathered at the Tour du Valat for the “Infectious Risks and Vectors in Occitanie” (RIVOC) Key Challenge to explore vector-borne diseases affecting humans, animals, and plants.

A NATIONAL FORUM TO FOSTER SYNERGIES BETWEEN WETLANDS RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

From November 19 to 21, 150 researchers and managers from across France gathered at Luma Arles for a forum aimed at strengthening the ties between wetlands research and management, with the goal of better preserving these essential natural habitats.

You can find all our achievements on our website www.tourduvalat.org and on our document portal tourduvalat.centredoc.fr

Participants at the National Forum in front of the Luma Tower.
© Arsène Marquis-Soria | Tour du Valat



MEDIAS

In 2025, our activities were covered in 268 media reports, including 7 television reports, 16 radio programs, 211 print articles, and 32 online articles.

In 2025, a special effort was made to promote our scientific publications. Two were featured in an AFP news release, and received widespread coverage in the national press. The first study, published in the journal Conservation Science and Practice, showed that despite the ban in France on hunting with lead ammunition in wetlands since 2006, waterbirds were still contaminated by lead shot. The second study, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, examined the influence of migratory behavior on the aging of the Greater Flamingo.

The Open Day, organized by the Tour du Valat on February 2, 2025, as part of World Wetlands Day (WWD), received widespread local coverage.

Finally, the media campaign promoting our "Adopt a Flamingo" programme helped raise significant awareness of this initiative. The campaign generated 28 media reactions.

TOUR DU VALAT 2.0

In 2025, our social media outreach intensified, with a particular focus on LinkedIn, where we significantly expanded our presence. The number of followers grew across all our social media platforms.

At the end of 2025, the LinkedIn page had 9,222 followers (an increase of 2,084 followers compared to 2024), while the Tour du Valat Facebook page had 5,586 followers (an increase of 538 followers). Meanwhile, Instagram accounts for the Tour du Valat and Adopt a Flamingo had 2,747 and 1,333 followers, respectively.

2025 IN FIGURES

in 9,222 FOLLOWERS | 197 PUBLICATIONS | 441,063 VIEWS | 57,790 INTERACTIONS

f 5,586 FOLLOWERS | 167 PUBLICATIONS | 391,172 VIEWS | 6 836 INTERACTIONS

@ TOUR DU VALAT 2,747 FOLLOWERS | 68 PUBLICATIONS | 94,440 VIEWS | 5 355 INTERACTIONS

@ ADOPTE UN FLAMANT 1,333 FOLLOWERS | 30 PUBLICATIONS | 29,501 VIEWS | 1,210 INTERACTIONS

On average, each post on LinkedIn was viewed by 2,239 users and generated 301 interactions (shares, likes, etc.), representing a 25% increase in interactions compared to 2024. On Facebook, posts averaged 2,342 views and 41 interactions, representing an 83% increase in views compared to 2024. Finally, posts on our Instagram account averaged 1,389 views and 79 interactions (+115% in views in 2025).

The Tour du Valat website received on average 3,240 visits per month, while our Adopt a Flamingo site (monflamant.com) was visited 2,480 times per month. 170 videos are on our Vimeo channel and were viewed 34,461 times in 2025.

PUBLICATIONS MOST SEEN AND SHARED ON OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS

- Tour du Valat projects: MOOC-RESSOURCE, Green light for the-restauration of the Vrina marshes, Natur'Adapt Sud, MIGRALION, Where is Spoony?...;
- ...as well as popular science articles, publications by naturalists, behind the scenes videos of our projects, and alerts on ecosystems and species;
- Wetlands Research and Management Forum organized by the Tour du Valat for 150 people at the LUMA Foundation in Arles;
- Opposition to the proposed extra-high-voltage (EHV) overhead power line between Fos-sur-Mer and Jonquières-Saint-Vincent;
- Advertisements for job openings, doctoral candidates, internships, and civic service jobs.



© Hervé Hôte / Agence Caméleon

ANNE CLAUZEL AND JULIE TAVIGNOT

Human Resources and Payroll Manager / Accounting Manager

*“Two rare species have landed at the Tour du Valat for a long-term nesting period.
Anne in Human Resources, Julie in Accounting and Management.”*



© Hervé Hôte / Agence Caméléon

From left to right

LALY CONRARDY, SOPHIA JAVIER, CAROLINA MAÑOSO GIMENO, THEO IHLEIN, LOANE OFFRET, MATHIS VUILLEMIN, DJANGO DE HERDER, LILAS GRENET, TOM BARILLER, ALANA BELL, ALEXIOS MARAGKOUidakis-VASILIKIS (missing in the photo)

European Solidarity Corps and Civic Service volunteers

“Based at the Tour du Valat, our work is very diverse. We are involved in every team, providing support for scientific monitoring, and have the chance to develop new skills in natural history, technical work, and interpersonal relations. It’s such a pleasure to gain such experience this while contributing to wetlands conservation!”

THEY SUPPORT US

Providing concrete responses to the challenges facing the Mediterranean, promoting and implementing integrated management, mobilising the most relevant expertise and funding projects: all these actions require the establishment of strategic relationships with a wide range of organisations.

Today, we work with more than 300 partners located all around the Mediterranean basin, including research centres, universities, NGOs, foundations, governmental and intergovernmental bodies, as well as private companies. Building these strong partnerships, at different geographical scales, is essential to achieving our goals. Whether in the form of financial support or exchanges of knowledge and scientific expertise, these collaborations foster mutual enrichment and strengthen the impact of our actions.

Once again, we would like to thank all our partners who worked alongside us in 2025.

OUR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The Tour du Valat Foundation has always worked closely with numerous scientific partners, both locally and nationally, and throughout the Mediterranean basin. Founded on the values of scientific independence, transparency and commitment to the common good, the Tour du Valat works to strengthen international cooperation in order to protect wetlands.

OUR MAIN PUBLIC PARTNERS



OUR PRIVATE PARTNERS & SPONSORS

ASSOCIATIONS & NGOs



supports the Mediterranean coastal reedbeds, to help managers monitor the proper functioning of reedbeds on a coherent and functional scale.



supports the Illegal Killing project, which involves monitoring illegal hunting activities during waterbird counts, in order to assess the pressure exerted on these species in wetlands in eight Mediterranean countries. Analysis of the policies and legislation in force will also enable advocacy and communication to be adapted, with the aim of reducing illegal hunting by 50% by 2030.



has been supporting the monitoring of colonial shorebirds along the French Mediterranean coast since 2011 as part of the LARIMED project (2019-2025).



The new crowdfunding platform "flamingo.eco", which supports wetlands, successfully launched its first campaign in 2025 to raise

funds for a Tour du Valat project aimed at preserving the damselfly species *Lestes macrostigma*. Its goal is to recreate the ecological conditions necessary for the reproduction of this species.



supports the AEWA African Initiative by funding waterbird censuses in Chad and Sudan.



supports the writing of a report of lessons learned from wetland management efforts aimed at protecting the Eurasian Bittern in Europe, which will support the implementation of the 2025-2034 National Action Plan for the species.



supports a number of wetlands restoration projects in the Camargue: restoration of agricultural wasteland at the Cassaire and Petite Forêt sites; restoration of wetlands for the conservation of the large-stigma damselfly and other threatened dragonflies, and evaluation of projects to restore intra-lagoon hydro-ecological continuity with the European eel, an emblematic and threatened species.

COMPANIES



A partner of the Mediterranean lagoons transfert unit, It helps the MLTU celebrate World Wetlands Day and supports its communication campaign that promotes events in Mediterranean lagoon territories. Every year, its employees also take part in a wetlands enhancement project.



supports agroecology in the Camargue by purchasing birdhouses as part of the CAM-AGRO-ECO project, which promotes practices that support biodiversity.

FOUNDATIONS



supports a project to restore wetlands in the Camargue (temporary ponds), with the aim of re-establishing favourable conditions for the reproduction of a species of odonate threatened with extinction endangered in France and Europe, *Lestes macrostigma*.

FOUNDATIONS

Fondation
de
France

has supported several multidisciplinary research projects at the Tour du Valat. A current project, applied to agricultural production systems, aims to develop an agro-ecology showcase site on the Petit Saint-Jean farm in the Camargue Gardoise, and in particular a collective composting unit.

**FONDATION
FRANÇOIS
SOMMER**
POUR LA CHASSE ET LA NATURE

In line with its commitment to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats, the François Sommer Foundation supports the Tour du Valat in conducting scientific research aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of restoration and water management efforts in temporary brackish habitats.



support a project to introduce chiropterans (bats) to our agroecological farm, as crop auxiliaries to combat grape worms.



supports the Mediterranean lagoons transfert unit by providing key players with the tools they need to better assess the state of conservation of the lagoons as well as by raising awareness of the issues and increasing the political will to preserve them more effectively.



**FONDATION
PRINCE ALBERT II
DE MONACO**

Since the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory was set up, the foundation has been helping the Tour du Valat to assess the state and trends of wetlands in the Mediterranean basin, in particular by developing indicators on water resources and biodiversity.

**L U M A
A R L E S**

LUMA ARLES supports us through a project to host international students, where we raise their awareness of the challenges and consequences of climate change, and of the concept of nature-based solutions. In 2025, Luma partnered with the Tour du Valat to organise the National Forum on Research and Management of Wetlands.

Restored salt marshes in
Gökova Bay, Akyaka, Türkiye, 2025.
© Anthony Olivier | Tour du Valat



BUDGET & GOVERNANCE

The budget for 2025 amounts to €7,900,000

EXPENDITURES IN EUROS

Breakdown:

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

€4,534,000 (57,5 % of the budget)
in 5 thematic areas:

- €945,000 for Species Conservation;
- €135,000 for Health Ecology;
- €1,002,000 for Management and restoration of natural and agricultural ecosystems;
- €455,000 for Wetland Dynamics and Water Management;
- €1,485,000 for Science-Society Interfaces;
- €512,000 for shared scientific activities (management, resource center, conferences, training, transfer, project development, etc.).

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

€1,110,000 (14 % of the budget)
for managing the Tour du Valat
and Petit Saint Jean sites.

RESOURCES TEAM

€1,042,000 (13 % of the budget)
for the resources team, which includes:
accounting, administration, IT, canteen,
and vehicle maintenance.

COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY & DEVELOPMENT

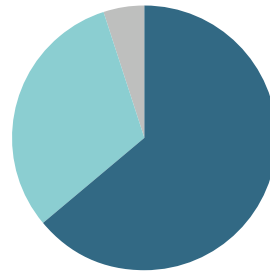
€582,000 (7,5 % of the budget)

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

€272,000 (3,5 % of the budget)
including the governance of the organization
as well as the representation of the Tour du Valat
at major international forums.

INVESTMENTS (MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION)

€360,000 (4,5 % of the budget)



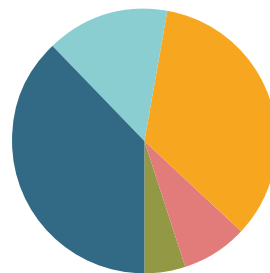
BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES

PERSONNEL EXPENSES	64%
OPERATING COSTS*	31%
DEPRECIATION EXPENSES	5%

*purchases, external service providers, travel expenses...

INCOME IN EUROS

- Private Partnership Agreements: €4,200,000
- Public Partnership Agreements: €2,700,000
- Revenue from farm products and other services: €625,000
- Donations and other resources: €375,000



BREAKDOWN OF INCOME

PROVALAT FOUNDATION	38%
OTHER PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS	15%
PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS	34%
TOUR DU VALAT INCOME*	8%
DONATIONS AND OTHER INCOME	5%

*income from farm products sold and services provided by the Tour du Valat

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COLLEGE OF FOUNDERS

- **André Hoffmann**
President
- **Maja Hoffmann**
Vice-president
- **Vera Michalski-Hoffmann**
- **Isabel Hoffmann**

COLLEGE OF EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- **Cécile Lenglet**
Subprefect of Arles, representative of Ministry of Home Affairs
- **Jean-Luc Parrain**
Regional Academic Delegate for Research and Innovation representing the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (DRRT PACA)
- **Sébastien Forest**
Regional Director of the DREAL PACA, representing the Ministry of Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention
- **Patrick de Carolis**
Mayor of Arles, representing the Arles town hall

COLLEGE OF EXPERTS

- **Dr. Paule Gros**
Secretary, BiodivEarth, Switzerland
- **Dr. Sylvie Goyet**
Treasurer, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Austria
- **Alexis Katsaros**
Deputy Secretary, MedINA, Greece
- **Maher Mahjoub**
Deputy Treasurer, IUCN-Med, Spain

Board of Directors (November 2025).
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HONORARY MEMBER

- **Thymio Papayannis**
Senior MedWet advisor,
President of MedINA, Greece

SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

- **Dr. Yann Laurans**
President, Programmes Director,
WWF France, France
- **Dr. Denis Couvet**
National Museum of Natural History,
Paris, France. Chairman of the FRB
(Foundation for Research on Biodiversity)
- **Dr. Ruth Cromie**
Chair of Technical Committee for UNEP
Agreement on the Conservation of African-
Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA),
United Kingdom
- **Prof. Nick Davidson**
Nick Davidson Environmental, Royaume-Uni
& Institute for Land, Water & Society,
Charles Sturt University, Australia
- **Prof. Elena Kazakou**
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of Organisms, Communities and Ecosystems,
Montpellier SupAgro, France
- **Prof. Phoebe Koundouri**
Athens University of Economics and Business;
President-elect of the European Association
of Environmental and Resource Economists;
Director of EIT Climate KIC Greece;
Co-Chair of the United Nations SDSN Greece
- **Dr. Olivier Langrand**
Executive Director, Critical Ecosystem
Partnership Fund, United States of America
- **Dr. Ana Rodrigues**
Vice-President, Director of Research, Centre for
Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE-CNRS),
Montpellier, France



SUPPORTING RESEARCH

Supporting the Tour du Valat means contributing to an initiative that goes beyond the realm of science: it means investing in the protection of ecosystems that provide essential services to society. The research carried out at the Tour du Valat informs public policy, improves water management, preserves biodiversity, and strengthens the resilience of regions facing climate change. Every donation, no matter how small, helps to transform this knowledge into concrete action, protect our vital natural heritage, and advance scientific research that is in the public interest.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

The protection of nature and biodiversity has a direct bearing on your organisation's performance and accountability, regardless of your sector. Proposing a sponsorship scheme within your company – whether you are an employee or a manager – means committing your organisation to an initiative that is both meaningful and impactful.

In addition to supporting a cause of public interest, corporate sponsorship unites teams around a common project, strengthens internal cohesion, and enhances the company's image. It also entitles the company to a tax rebate equivalent to 60% of its financial contribution.

Contact › **Béatrice Guenebeaud**
guenebeaud@tourduvalat.org

MAKE A DONATION OR A BEQUEST

If the Tour du Valat's values resonate with yours, and if you place particular importance on the rigour, independence, and public benefit of our work, you can make a lasting contribution to nature conservation. Convinced that a healthy environment is essential for building the world of tomorrow, you can support our mission in the long term by making a donation or leaving a bequest to the Tour du Valat Foundation.

This long-term commitment represents a significant contribution to research, biodiversity, and the common good. We will assist you in this process in complete confidentiality, whilst strictly adhering to all legal requirements and your wishes.

Contact › **Anne Ackermann**
ackermann@tourduvalat.org



ADOPT A FLAMINGO

Would you like to support the conservation of wetlands whilst learning more about them? Why not adopt a flamingo?

Take a look around our website, monflamant.com, and you're sure to find the flamingo that's right for you. There's something for every taste and budget! You might fall in love with one of our mascots, can discover our four families of flamingos with their extraordinary stories, or choose your ideal flamingo... and give it the name you prefer. A lovely idea if you're looking for a meaningful gift.

*Adopt
a
flamingo*

More than 4,000 sponsors have already joined this adventure. The more of us who adopt a flamingo, the better the species will be monitored, understood, and protected throughout the Mediterranean.

Find out more at › monflamant.com

SUPPORT THE TOUR DU VALAT WHILE BENEFITING FROM TAX BREAKS

The Tour du Valat Foundation is recognised as a public interest organisation and is therefore entitled to receive donations. 66% of your donation is tax deductible, up to a limit of 20% of your taxable income (for French residents). A € 100 donation will only cost you € 34 after tax deduction..

VISITING US

TOUR DU VALAT ESTATE

Each year, the private estate opens exceptionally to the general public:

- on World Wetlands Day (February);
- on the Festival of the Camargue and the Rhône Delta (May);
- together with the Bureau des Guides Naturalistes (BGN), through guided visits on reservation

Two sites are also open to the public on a permanent basis:

- the Verdier Marshes, located north of the village of Le Sambuc on D36;
- the Grenouillet Lagoon observation platform located on the road from Fiélouse to Le Sambuc that links D36 road to the Vaccarès Lagoon, just north of the Tour du Valat.

MAS DU PETIT SAINT-JEAN

A Tour du Valat property, located in the Camargue Gardoise, where events, guided tours and tastings of wines and other farm products are organised, with a point of sale on site:

- during the “Farm to Farm” event (April);
- on the Festival of the Camargue and the Rhône Delta (May);
- in partnership with the BGN, through guided visits on reservation.

If you wish to receive information about the programmes and other events organized at the Tour du Valat for the general public, you can apply by filling in the form on our website or by contacting us at: secretariat@tourduvalat.org



WWW.TOURDUVALAT.ORG



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