



RAMSAR SITE
NUMBER
1651

Mares temporaires de Tre Padule de Suartone //



FRANCE

Area :
217 ha

Date of designation :
February 2nd 2007

Coordinates :
41° 28'N 09° 14'E

Summary

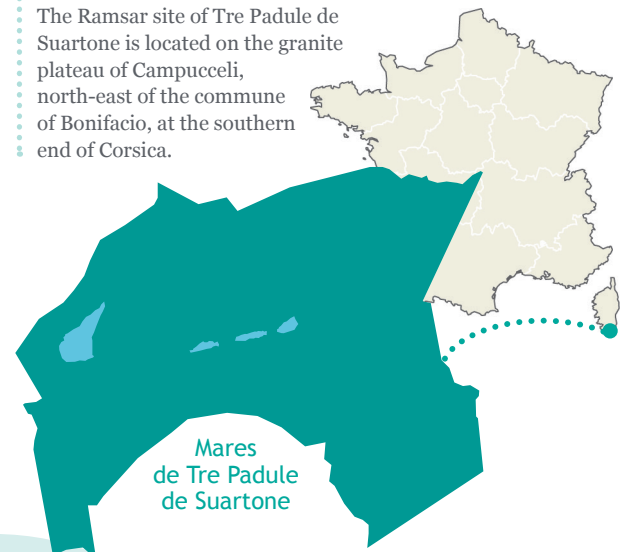
The temporary Mediterranean ponds of the Tre Padule of Suartone offer a singular spectacle, tiny confetti scattered in the heart of the green maquis of a granite plateau. Flooded from late autumn to spring, they shelter an exceptional biodiversity, concentrated on a few hectares. Their landscape is constantly renewed, the austerity of their substratum in summer giving way to the delicate reflection of the sky in winter and then to a profusion of colors in spring. Classified as a nature reserve, the site benefits from an unequalled quietness, a few kilometers away from the most frequented beaches of southern Corsica.

Internationale importance

The Tre Padule of Suartone are wetlands of natural origin whose hydrological functioning is closely linked to the Mediterranean climate. The site, rich in species adapted to the extreme conditions of these environments, is renowned for the presence of threatened, vulnerable and rare plant species such as *Pilularia minuta*, *Isoetes velata* and *Ranunculus revelierei*, of specific plant groups, as well as four amphibians: *Discoglossus sardus*, *Bufo viridis*, *Hyla sarda* and *Pelophylax lessonae bergeri*. Several endemic or rare plant species for the Mediterranean region are also of great biological interest, such as *Helosciadium crassipes*, *Littorella uniflora*, *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* and *Antinoria insularis*.

General location

The Ramsar site of Tre Padule de Suartone is located on the granite plateau of Campucceli, north-east of the commune of Bonifacio, at the southern end of Corsica.



Mares de Tre Padule de Suartone

Services provided by wetlands

The number of visitors to the site remains limited, as part of the site is private. However, the preservation of its exceptional biodiversity, with many endemic species, and the improvement of scientific knowledge on this fragile and threatened habitat respond to the problems of management of global public goods. An educational program on the temporary Mediterranean ponds of Corsica has been initiated from the educational activities conducted by the nature reserve since 2004.

Adverse factors

The temporary Mediterranean ponds are fragile, isolated spaces on which climate change could have a strong impact.

On the site of Tre Padule de Suartone, the main anthropic threat comes from the risk of fire, especially because of the presence of several species with high flammability potential such as the Aleppo pine.

The manager also watches over the possible overabundance of wild boar populations, whose burrowing action can concern a significant part of the surface of the ponds, and to the control of the floristic species that can invade the ponds, such as *Corona coronopifolia* or *Dittrichia viscosa*.



Four species representative of the site



PILULARIA MINUTA
(*Pilularia minuta*)

The discovery of *Pilularia minuta* on the Tre Padule of Suartone, a first for Corsica, is at the origin of the recognition of the high floristic value of the site. A tiny amphibious plant of temporary ponds, characterized by its tracing rhizome and its filiform leaves, it is classified as a species in danger of extinction (EN) on the world and European red lists of the IUCN.



DARK SPREADWING
(*Lestes macrostigma*)

Large damselfly observable from May, dark spreadwing is easily distinguished by its green and blue coppery colors. Rare and threatened, it requires good quality wetlands to develop. It is also recognized as a good indicator of climate change and as such is one of the eighteen taxa of the National Action Plan "Odonata".



SARDINIAN TREE FROG
(*Hyla sarda*)

Endemic to Corsica and Sardinia, this anuran with a smooth and green skin finds in the four ponds of the Tre Padule of Suartone a site favourable to its reproduction, notably by the absence of fish. Equipped with adhesive suckers, the tree frog spends most of its life on the ground, feeding on insects in the bushes and hibernating under a moss or in the hollow of a rock.



TWO-LEAVED GENNARIA
(*Gennaria diphylla*)

Two-leaved gennaria owes its name to its two stem leaves, easily recognizable to the trained eye. The end of its stem is decorated with numerous flowers of a delicate pale green. Its rarity in Corsica, where the south of the island is the northern limit of its range, is worth its status of protected species. In 2017, more than 700 feet were counted in the nature reserve.



Biodiversity

The floristic richness of the site of Tre Padule de Suartone is undeniable. More than 340 species of vascular plants bloom there in and out of the temporary ponds, of which about forty present an exceptional patrimonial character. Some populations, such as that of *Ambrosina bassii*, are consequent in the natural reserve. The group of orchids is the best represented there, a dozen species taking advantage of large areas of grassland. The fauna is not to be outdone: invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, etc., the site is frequented by a hundred different species, among which twenty-seven are of heritage interest.



Management and conservation



The Tre Padule de Suartone site has been classified as a nature reserve since December 11, 2000. Managed by the Office of the Environment of Corsica, the nature reserve of Tre Padule de Suartone is registered on the list of wetlands of international importance since February 2, 2007. With a management plan covering the period 2014-2019, the nature reserve ensures the preservation and scientific monitoring of the ponds and their watersheds, to complete the inventories of certain groups unknown such as lichens and bryophytes, but also to contribute to their recognition by all audiences, from elected officials to schoolchildren.



The Ramsar Convention

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, commonly known as the Ramsar Convention, is a global inter-governmental treaty that provides the frame-work for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only global treaty to focus on one single ecosystem.

