



Why We Need to Protect the Camargue Wetlands



What and Where are the Camargue Wetlands?

The Camargue is the largest wetland in France, and the second largest delta in the Mediterranean region after the Nile delta. The Camargue stretches over nearly 150,000 hectares between the gulfs of Aigues-Mortes and Fos, forming a triangular delta with the Mediterranean Sea at its base, along 80 km of sandy shores.

Why are the Camargue Wetlands so Important?

The Camargue hosts numerous animal and plant species. Vertebrates are represented by 75 species of fish, 15 amphibians, 6 reptiles, 32 mammals, and 412 birds, with 111 regularly nesting species. More than 1500 of the 4,700 species of flowering plants identified in France are found in the Camargue. The Camargue plays a major role for some bird species, harbouring most of their national breeding populations, wintering populations, or stopover populations.

What is Threatening the Camargue Wetlands?

Over the last 150 years, especially since the diking of the Rhone was undertaken in 1869, the hydraulic functioning of the Delta has been profoundly modified by human activities, in particular for agricultural purposes (rice-growing) and salt production. These activities have led to considerable changes in the natural functioning of Camargue ecosystems.

What Can You Do to Help?

The A Rocha France team offers young people the opportunity to acquire competences in scientific studies of flora, fauna and ecosystems and to put this into practice by implementing projects for managing and protecting sensitive or threatened sites. Support the program by making donations. Contact information: france@arocha.org.



For more information visit www.surfersforwetlands.org



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