

The values of wetlands and their management

Wetlands play a very important role in the ecological balance of the territory.

They act as temperature regulators of the local microclimate, regulate the outflow of water during river floods, and influence groundwater levels.

Wetlands are irreplaceable containers of water reserves, they filter the waters of the rivers that flow through it holding back pollutants, they accumulate nutrients released gradually in the rivers, regulating their contents.

They also offer opportunities for economic activities such as fish farming, cultivation and harvesting of marsh herbs and also handicrafts, agritourism and eco-tourism.

But they are also habitats with a difficult equilibrium, which can be greatly altered by human action, by the invasion of exotic species or by local or even more general natural phenomena, such as the current rise in the temperature of the earth.

Land management is therefore essential to maintain the necessary balance.

The Rhine Reclamation Consortium plays a central role in this daily work.

In fact important conservation objectives have been achieved by implementing the measures suggested in the Community LIFE projects. Water quality has been improved by dredging detention basins and canals, fields are regularly cut down, the expansion of reeds is contained, the water level is constantly controlled by the action of water vapors and by tubes, the chemical composition of the water is carefully monitored to prevent pollution, action is taken to contain the presence of non-native species and to encourage the increase of native ones.