

STAKEHOLDERS' MAP

Wetland Contract Revision for the Special Ornithological Reserve Palud-Palù

GREW Project | WP1 Activity

Client:	Public Institution Natura Histrica
Contractor:	Sensum d.o.o.
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1. INTRODUCTION

This stakeholder mapping report presents an overview of key actors involved in the governance and management of the Special Ornithological Reserve (POR) Palud-Palù, as part of the GREW project (Governance of Wetlands in Italy-Croatia Cross-border Region).

The stakeholder analysis builds upon the existing Wetland Contract signed under the CREW project (2018–2021) and incorporates new insights from stakeholder workshops held on 3 March 2026.

The mapping identifies 28 stakeholders across six main categories: (1) Management & Administration, (2) National & Sectoral Agencies, (3) Research & Education, (4) Civil Society & NGOs, (5) Tourism & Culture, and (6) Private Sector & Local Experts.

These stakeholders play diverse roles in conservation, research, sustainable development, and climate adaptation within the wetland ecosystem.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

1. Identify all relevant actors involved in the management and protection of POR Palud-Palù
2. Clarify roles, responsibilities, and interests of each stakeholder group
3. Map institutional relationships and communication pathways
4. Support the participatory revision of the Wetland Contract
5. Facilitate stakeholder engagement in climate adaptation measures
6. Establish a foundation for long-term collaborative governance

3. METHODOLOGY

The stakeholder mapping was developed through a multi-source approach:

a) Document review: Analysis of the original Wetland Contract (CREW project, 2021), list of signatories, and associated partner organizations.

b) Workshop participation: Seventeen (17) stakeholders actively participated in the stakeholder workshop on 3 March 2026, providing input on management priorities, climate threats, and adaptation measures.

c) Stakeholder interviews: Consultations with representatives of JU Natura Histrica and key institutional partners.

d) Database consolidation: Integration of stakeholder data from the CREW project database (44 organizations).

4. STAKEHOLDER CATEGORIES AND ROLES

Stakeholders are organized into six functional categories based on their primary roles and institutional mandates.

Stakeholders



MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

- Public Institution Natura Histrica
- City of Rovinj
- Municipality of Kanfanar
- Municipality of Vrsar – Orsera
- Municipality of Bale
- Brijuni National Park Public Institution
- Istria County



NATIONAL & SECTORAL AGENCIES

- Ministry for Environmental Protection and Green Transition
- Croatian Waters
- Croatian Forests UŠP Buzet
- Regional Development Agency AZRRI
- Istrian Tourism Development Agency IRTA



RESEARCH & EDUCATION

- Ornithological Department, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Institute for Agriculture and Tourism
- University of Rijeka, Faculty of Civil Engineering
- University of Pula
- Institute of Public Health of Istria County



CIVIL SOCIETY & NGOS

- Association BIOM
- Hunting Association “Rovinj”
- Association “Zelena Istra”



TOURISM & CULTURE

- Tourist Board of Rovinj
- Tourist Board of Bale
- Tourist Board of Kanfanar
- Tourist Board of Vrsar
- Rovinj City Museum
- Archaeological Museum of Istria



PRIVATE SECTOR & LOCAL EXPERTS

- Local landowners
- Independent experts and consultants

Here is a more detailed list:

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

1. Public Institution Natura Histrica

Role: Manager of the Palud wetland

Type: Local authority, WC signatory

2. City of Rovinj

Role: Local government, WC signatory

Type: Local authority, WC signatory

3. Municipality of Kanfanar

Role: Local government

Type: Local authority

4. Municipality of Vrsar – Orsera

Role: Local government

Type: Local authority

5. Municipality of Bale

Role: Local government

Type: Local authority

6. Brijuni National Park Public Institution

Role: Public institution

Type: Local authority

7. Istria County

Role: Regional government, WC signatory

Type: Regional authority

NATIONAL & SECTORAL AGENCIES:

8. Ministry for Environmental Protection and Green Transition

Role: National environmental authority

Type: National authority

9. Croatian Waters

Role: Water management authority

Type: Sectoral agency

10. Croatian Forests UŠP Buzet

Role: Forests management authority

Type: Sectoral agency

11. Regional Development Agency AZRRI

Role: Rural development

Type: Sectoral agency

12. Istrian Tourism Development Agency IRTA

Role: Tourism development

Type: Sectoral agency

RESEARCH & EDUCATION:

13. Ornithological Department, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Role: Ornithological research, monitoring

Type: Research

14. Institute for Agriculture and Tourism

Role: Agricultural and tourism research

Type: Research

15. University of Rijeka, Faculty of Civil Engineering

Role: Hydrological research

Type: Higher education

16. University of Pula

Role: Marine and environmental research

Type: Higher education

17. Institute of Public Health of Istria County

Role: Environmental health monitoring

Type: Research

CIVIL SOCIETY & NGO:

18. Association BIOM

Role: Biodiversity protection, WC signatory

Type: NGO

19. Hunting Association "Rovinj"

Role: Wildlife management, WC signatory

Type: Interest group

20. Association "Zelena Istra"

Role: Environmental advocacy

Type: NGO

TOURISM & CULTURE:

21. Tourist Board of Rovinj

Role: Tourism promotion, WC signatory

Type: Tourism

22. Tourist Board of Bale

Role: Tourism promotion, WC signatory

Type: Tourism

23. Tourist Board of Kanfanar

Role: Tourism promotion, WC signatory

Type: Tourism

24. Tourist Board of Vrsar

Role: Tourism promotion

Type: Tourism

25. Rovinj City Museum

Role: Cultural heritage, education

Type: Culture

26. Archaeological Museum of Istria

Role: Heritage research

Type: Culture

PRIVATE SECTOR & LOCAL EXPERTS:

27. Local landowners

Role: Resource users

Type: SME / Private sector

28. Independent experts and consultants

Role: Technical expertise

Type: Experts

5. KEY FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS (3rd March 2026)

1. High engagement: Seventeen stakeholders participated actively, representing diverse sectors including local government, research institutions, NGOs, tourism boards, and water management authorities.

2. Consensus on priorities: Strong agreement on the need for improved infrastructure (parking, trails, waste management), enhanced surveillance, and continuation of ecological monitoring.

3. Climate adaptation focus: All stakeholder groups recognized drought, heatwaves, and coastal flooding as key climate threats requiring urgent adaptation measures.

4. Institutional coordination: Need for clearer communication pathways between JU Natura Histrica, local municipalities, and sectoral agencies (Hrvatske vode, Institute of Public Health).

5. Tourism vs. conservation balance: Stakeholders agreed that POR Palud should remain primarily a nature reserve, with tourism promotion activities transferred to tourism boards.

6. Local community engagement: Strong emphasis on transparent communication with local residents to build trust and support for conservation measures.

The following stakeholders actively participated in the workshops:

No.	Stakeholders name and surname	Organisation
1	Christian Gallo	Hrvatske šume, UŠP Buzet
2	Ana Hilat	Hrvatske šume, UŠP Buzet
3	Paula Markoć	JU NP Brijuni
4	Martina Hervat	JU NP Brijuni
5	Raina Jovanovski	JU NP Brijuni
6	Ema Čehić	Općina Medulin
7	Bora Vitas	ZZOP / MZOZT

No.	Stakeholders name and surname	Organisation
8	Franko Vuković	Lovačko društvo „Srna“
9	Karla Fabio Čubrić	ZZOP / MZOZT
10	Franko Vuković	Lovačko društvo „Srna“
11	Karla Fabio Čubrić	ZZOP / MZOZT
12	Nenisko Landeka	NZZJZ IŽ

6. STAKEHOLDER INFLUENCE AND INTEREST ANALYSIS

Based on workshop discussions and institutional mandates, stakeholders can be categorized by their level of influence (decision-making power) and interest (stake in POR Palud outcomes):

HIGH INFLUENCE / HIGH INTEREST (Key Players)

JU Natura Histrica, Istria County, City of Rovinj, Ministry for Environmental Protection, Croatian Waters, Association BIOM

HIGH INFLUENCE / LOWER INTEREST (Context Setters)

Regional Development Agency AZRRI, Istrian Tourism Development Agency IRTA

LOWER INFLUENCE / HIGH INTEREST (Subjects)

Rovinj Hunting Association, Tourist Boards (Rovinj, Bale, Kanfanar), Local landowners and hunters.

LOWER INFLUENCE / LOWER INTEREST (Crowd)

Independent experts, Museums (Rovinj City Museum, Archaeological Museum)

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

1. Establish a formal Stakeholder Coordination Group led by JU Natura Histrica with quarterly meetings
2. Develop a stakeholder communication strategy with differentiated messaging for each category
3. Strengthen partnerships with research institutions (University of Pula, Institute for Agriculture and Tourism) for long-term monitoring
4. Create a transparent reporting system for sharing ecological data and management decisions with local communities
5. Involve local stakeholders (landowners, hunters) in practical implementation of conservation measures

6. Organize annual stakeholder forums to review progress on Wetland Contract implementation.

8. CONCLUSION

The stakeholder mapping reveals a diverse and engaged network of 28 organizations and individuals committed to the sustainable management of POR Palud-Palù. The participatory workshop on 3 March 2026 demonstrated strong stakeholder consensus on priority actions, particularly in infrastructure improvements, climate adaptation, and community engagement.

The revised Wetland Contract will benefit from this multi-stakeholder input, ensuring that governance structures are responsive, transparent, and effective in addressing both current challenges and future climate risks.

Continued stakeholder collaboration will be essential for the successful implementation of climate adaptation measures and the long-term resilience of the Palud wetland ecosystem.