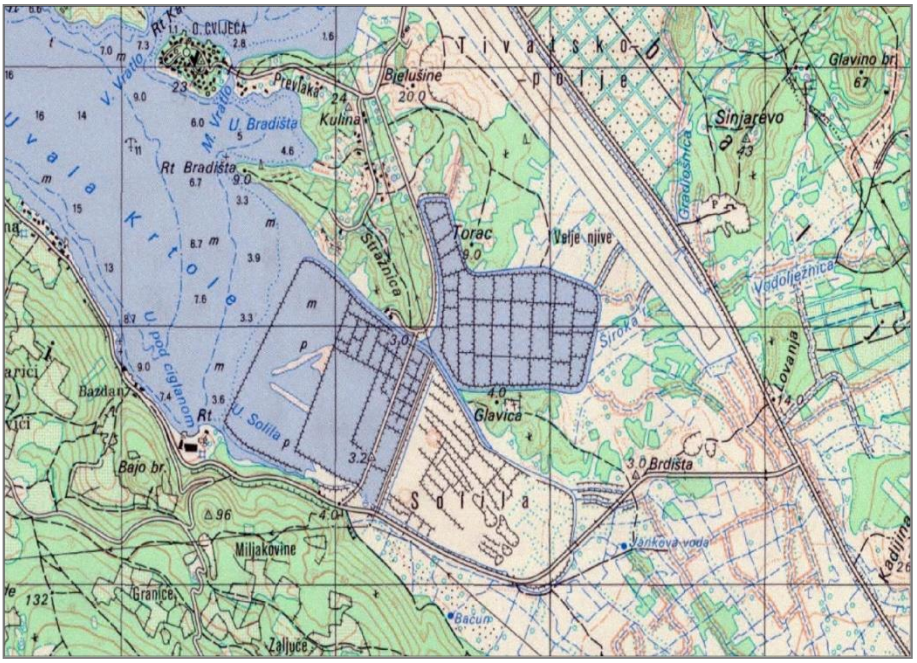
Hydrological study and habitat creation in Solila, Tivat, Montenegro – short summary

Solila are established as a Strict Nature Reserve, Ramsar Site, IBA, Emerald and potential Natura 2000 site. The area is located in the wider Kotor Bay area in the Krtoli community and Tivat Municipality along the eastern Adriatic Sea coast in Montenegro.



Solila: key information

- 150 ha
- Public and private land-ownership
- Clay substratum with hallophylus vegetation, occasionally flooded by seawaters
- Main freshwater sources: Široka rijeka, Kološun
- Reasonably low tides and waves
- Priority Habitat types: *1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand flats, *1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)), *1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilus scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)

Key factors that influence biodiversity in the area:

- Water regime, including floods
- Tidal waters
- Human uses and disturbances (ownership)
- Pollution

Main restoration and habitat creation works include:

- Removal of the sea defense stone wall to enable circulation of sea waters and recreation of fish spawning areas
- Creation of sea islets and network of small channels to increase water inflows
- Creation of freshwater innundation and water retention area for prevention of floods in the adjacent urbn areas and enhancement of hydrological conditions in the freshwater wetland
- Establishment of the demonstration salt harvesting field for interpretation purposes

The following activites are regulated or strictly forbidden: collection and destruction of plants and animals, disturbance, introduction of new species, different forms of commercial activities and uses of natural resources, water management and agrotechnical works to improve the land for production (melioration works).

Visitation of the reserve is regulated by a special decree issued by the management authority.

Control of water regimes in the area of Solila Reserve is essential to protect biodiversity as the former salina is a man-made ecosystem.