

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on BIODIVERSITY, SUSTAINABILITY & SOLAR SALT

EuSalt BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

Biodiversity means the biological variety of life forms. It is an integral part of sustainable development. However, the assessment of alarming biodiversity loss globally set the context for the EU Strategy to 2020 aiming to halt biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems.

EuSalt recognizes the importance of biodiversity to our earth and to human health, and therefore encourages a better understanding of the man-environment interaction. Certain economic activities such as in salt production are fair and active contributors to biodiversity. To this end, the interaction of humankind enhances and enriches biodiversity.

EuSalt:

● **ADVOCATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLAR SALTWORKS IN MAINTAINING BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS: MAN CREATES BIODIVERSITY**

Biodiversity refers to diversity and richness in species and is vital for both human life and activities. It is therefore the responsibility of man to not only maintain and preserve but also to create biodiversity.

Solar salt works contribute to preserving and enriching biodiversity in coastal zones. Salt marshes consist of wetlands stretching over vast, wide-open basins, providing a suitable home to a variety of aquatic and migratory birds, and to a flora specific to coastal areas. Thus, salt production naturally and directly enhances biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems.

There is a deep, genuine interest in maintaining solar salt works for its disappearing would mean a disaster for the environment. In addition, salt works' activities can coexist with eco-tourism. Eco-tourism contributes to bringing public attention to biodiversity issues and coastal ecosystems.

What we need at European level is to promote better awareness of what is being done for biodiversity by solar salt works.

● **STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT RESPONSIBLE MINING GOES HAND IN HAND WITH BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION**

Responsible management and planning from industry can minimize and prevent potential negative impacts of mining activities on natural areas. Minimizing mining-related threats involves:

- First of all, the identification of the possible direct and indirect influence of mining activities on the environment, and the promotion of good biodiversity management to prevent any disturbance;
- Mitigation and rehabilitation as an important part of biodiversity management.

Non-energy extractive mining industries can also anticipate and respond to non-mining – related threats and enhance biodiversity in area where they are located.