



How can Spain help to make its artisanal salinas more sustainable?

Key policy recommendations

By developing relevant laws and regulations, putting in place incentive programmes and providing technical support, national and local governments can enhance the management of artisanal salinas, to generate both economic and environmental benefits. This factsheet the main recommendations compiled by the ENI CBC MED MedArtSal project based on the analysis of artisanal salinas in Spain.

PROFESSIONALISE THE SECTOR by developing a specific training programme and a professional category for salt workers

Given its low impact, artisanal salt-making should be legally **TREATED AS AN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY** rather than extractive mining 

PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT and public subsidies for salt workers and entrepreneurs

GAINING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT for conservation, natural resource management, governance and decision-making

ESTABLISHING OF A LOCAL NETWORK between salt owners to develop a common label which encompasses their products and services to make them more competitive on a larger scale

DISSEMINATE THE INHERENT NATURAL AND CULTURAL VALUES of salinas through outreach, awareness-raising and educational campaigns (fair, public and private advertising, reaching target markets, etc)



In Spain, the many gaps and inconsistencies in coastal planning and local regulations pose serious challenges to artisanal Salinas. Urban pressure in favour of intensive economic activities is a major threat for small artisanal Salinas. This means that artisanal products are not properly valued compared to those obtained industrially. Due to this and given the lack of political support, the salt producers experience great difficulties in establishing their companies and projects, which ultimately restricts the to a small group of elderly workers.

SWOT

W Weaknesses

- **Need for synergies** between Salinas and associations to foster legitimacy, e.g. through the development of labels or designations of origin
- **Age of Salinas owners/workers** and difficulties for generational renewal
- **Lack of coordination** in the corresponding administrations, slowness and bureaucracy. Complicated governance, lack of legal framework to protect artisanal management and old regulations
- Artisanal salt products haven't been sufficiently linked to other products and services provided by salinas, such as aquaculture, gastronomy, tourism or environmental education
- **Important deficit of infrastructures** that would allow the development of tourism in the Salinas: signage, tourist information points, accesses, basic services, etc.

SWOT

T Threats

- **Lack of differentiation** between artisanal salt and industrial salt. / There is no clear regulation or standard to certify organic salt as a product
- **Insufficient or deficient administration** and/or spatial planning regulations (Territory)
- **Pressures due to urban developments or land use** changes in favour of intensive agricultural and aquaculture developments
- **Lack of public financial and policy support** for the implementation, maintenance and viability of business projects, both economic and administrative facilities
- **Scarcity of local commercial links**





In light of these difficulties, it is very important that the salt producers create synergies among themselves in search of a greater recognition of the product and to promote the change of regulations at the national level. As with the other countries participating in the project, the natural and cultural potential of the Spanish Salinas is crucial for the creation of opportunities based on sustainability. Again, the diversification of products and services is a key step on the way to economic profitability and environmental protection.



Strengths

- **High environmental value** in active artisanal Salinas (biodiversity and ecosystems services)
- **High potential of diversification** of products/services (macro & microalgae, halophytes plants, healthy activities, tourism)
- **Potential to create gourmet products** in which there is growing interest: fleur de sel, algae, etc
- **Existence of abundant resources and values** in the Salinas that can be exploited economically: natural, tourist, heritage, historical, cultural and gastronomic
- **Very specific and high-quality** products and services that can only be obtained or developed in certain conditions



Opportunities

- Nature-based Solutions **opportunities to protect, sustainably manage,** and restore natural and modified ecosystems addressing societal challenges effectively
- **"Increased demand** for tailor-made tourism which takes advantage of the landscape and ecological value of the artisanal Salinas, including nature & outdoor experiences, and "salt tourism" (ecotourism)"
- **Resurgence of the gourmet and natural market.** Gourmet salt market growth both in volume (3.6% per year) and in value (4.8% per year)
- **High demand** for natural, healthy, functional, artisanal, organic and local products.
- **Blue Carbon market**



artisanal salinas

The MedArtSal Network aims at defining general objectives, principles and conditions for the development of capacity building activities, knowledge sharing and cooperation.

