



# Creating awareness with the Mediterranean Wetland Outlook 2

A tool to address the loss and degradation of  
wetlands at regional scale

Ramsar Europe pre-  
COP Meeting



*Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory*



**MedWet**  
The Mediterranean  
Wetlands Initiative



*Research Institute for the conservation of  
Mediterranean wetlands*



- 2012 : A first attempt at synthesizing information on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level :

- MedWet sense, 27 countries (*18 in Ramsar Europe region*)
- Goal : Provide science-based evidence to decision-makers, for addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

- 2018 update : MWO2

- To be launched at Ramsar COP13





- **A more concise format :**
  - 17 Indicators fact-sheets
  - A short synthesis (8 pages)
  - Additional information online

1. Diversity and abundance of species	10. Human demography
2. Extinction risk of species	11. Land conversion
3. River flow	12. Ecosystem services provided by wetlands
4. Water quality	13. Role of wetlands in drought and flood mitigation
5. Wetland surface area	14. Role of wetlands in tourism and recreation
6. Flood dynamics	15. Surface area of Ramsar sites
7. Impact of climate change	16. Strategic efforts in wetland protection
8. Exploitation of renewable water resources	17. Wetlands and the Sustainable Development Goals
9. Water demand by sector	



## Some new results





# Trend in surface area of Mediterranean wetlands

- **WET index** (*with WCMC*):
  - Average rate of loss of natural wetland habitats within 405 Medit. sites : **45-51%** between 1970-2013
  - Rate of loss **higher than in the 3 surrounding continents**, *over same period*

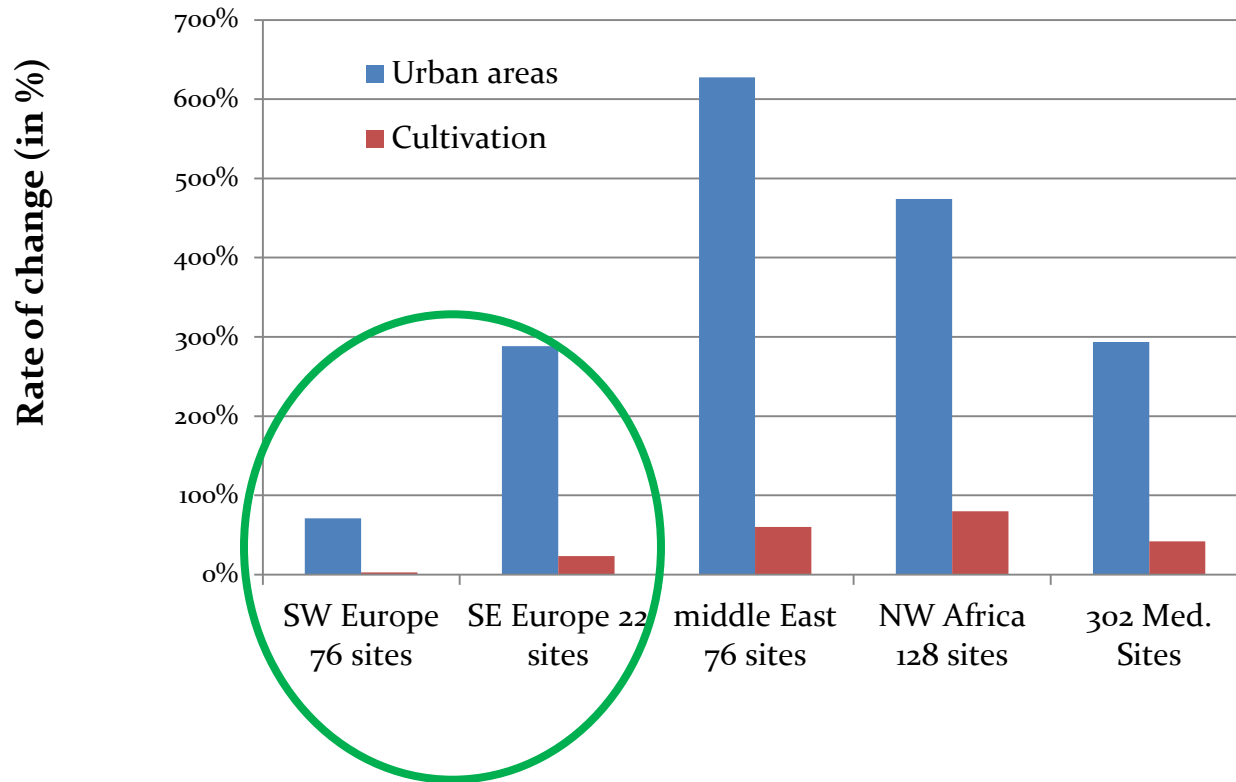


*[Note : the WET Index is based on a sample of wetlands (literature search) and does not necessarily reflect the actual rate of loss within the region as a whole – WCMC 2018 ]*



# Land conversion to agriculture and urban areas

- Continued in 1975-2005, but with lower conversion rate in Europe than in S. & E. Med

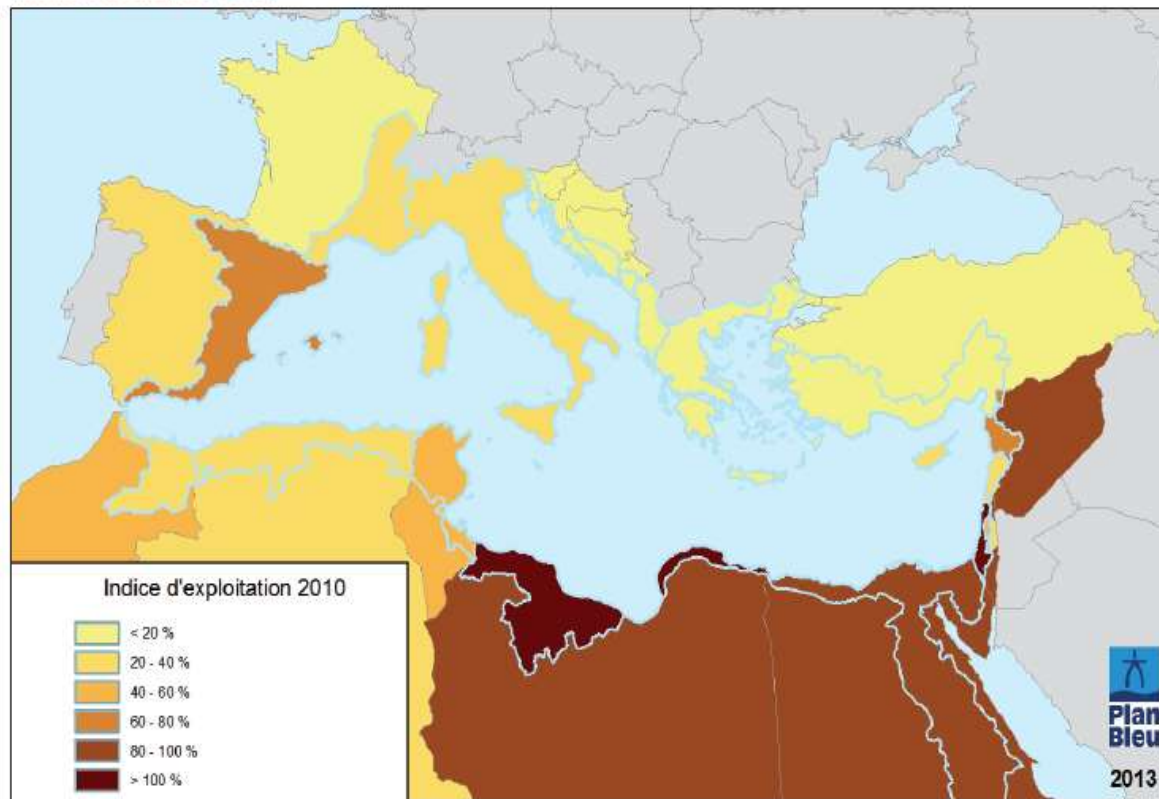


Source : GlobWetland-II & French Ministry of Environment Ramsar Sites project ; 302 sites



## Water exploitation index : lower in Med. Europe than Middle East/ N.Africa (*except Eastern Spain*)

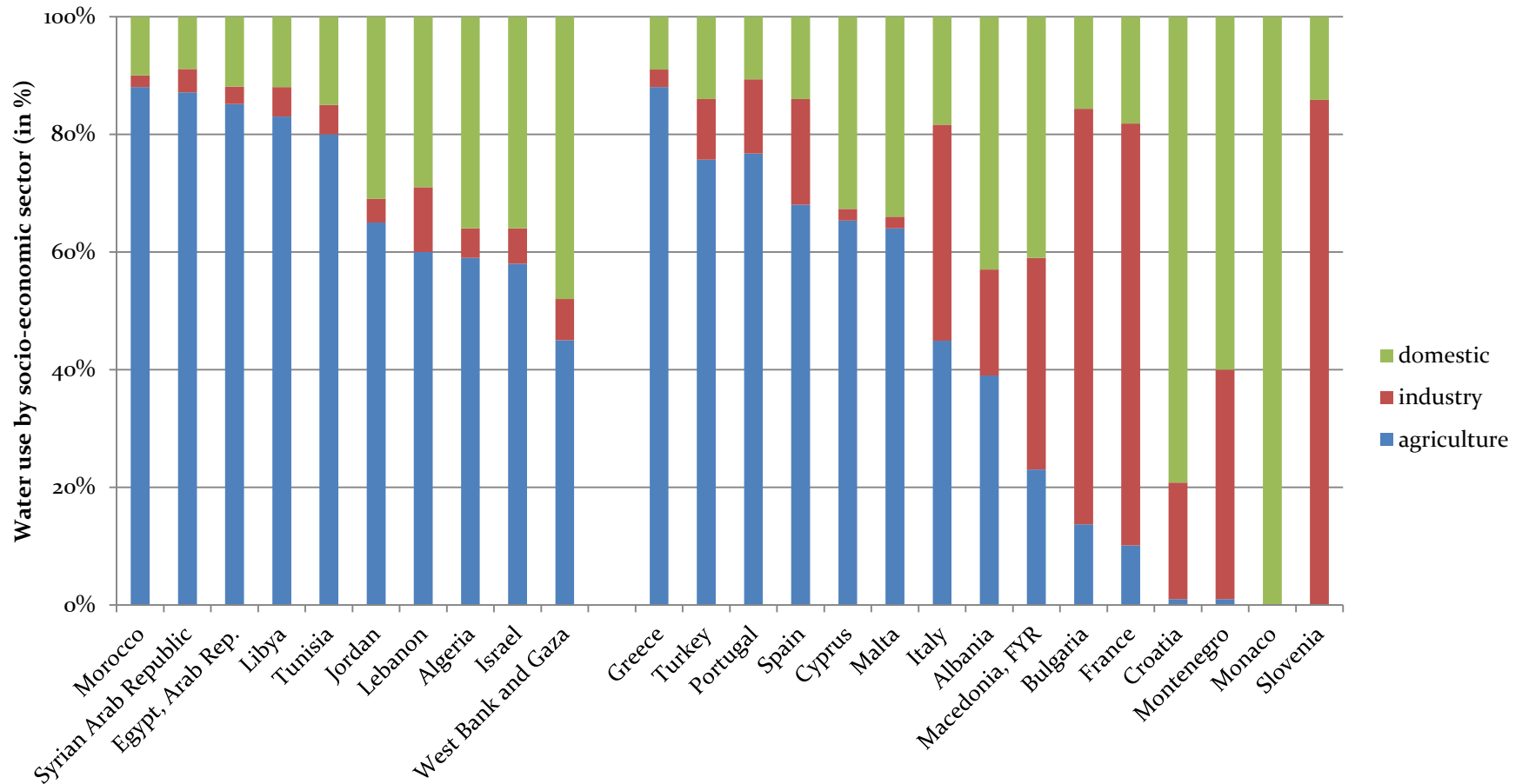
Figure 1. Indice d'exploitation des ressources en eau naturelles renouvelables à l'échelle des pays et bassins versants méditerranéens (2005-2010)



Source : Plan Bleu, 2013



... probably linked to lesser demand for irrigation water  
*(dominant in N.Africa & Middle East)*

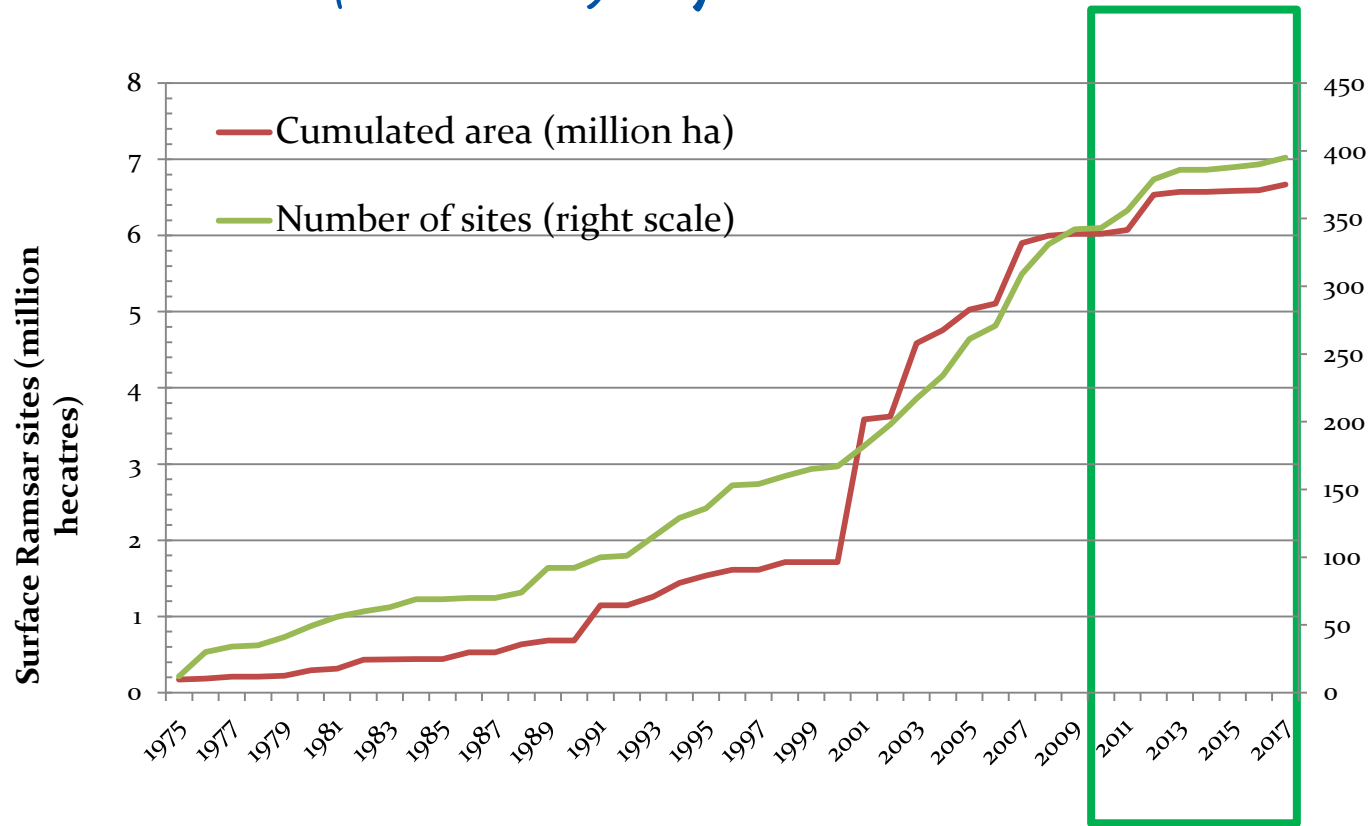






# Responding to pressures : Ramsar sites designation

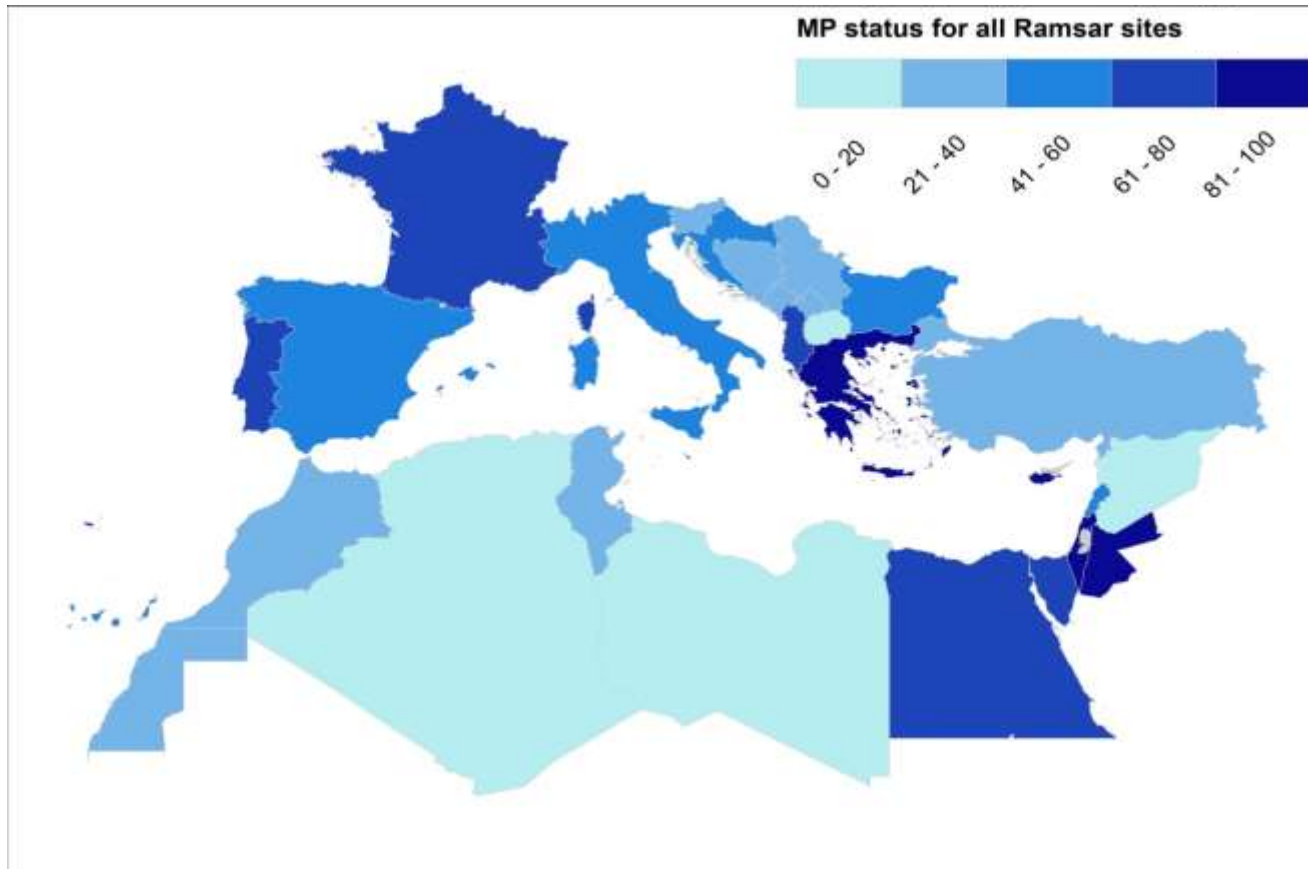
- 6.7 million ha (395 sites) by end 2017



- Since 2000 : designated area **x 3.8 in Mediterranean** (vs. x 2.6 globally)
- Since MWO1 (2012), 52 new Medit. Ramsar sites (+645,000 ha), **half in Europe**



# Ramsar sites « Management effectiveness » ?



- 23 of 52 new Ramsar sites have an effectively implemented management plan ; for 5 sites, under preparation ; 29 have no MP



## Questions for discussion, Interactive session

- How do Mediterranean CPs foresee they can **use the information of the MWO 2** *(or how would non-Med. CPs use similar regional tools ?)* to **address the root causes** of wetland loss in their countries ?
- Towards which **audience** should MedWet aim to disseminate MWO2 for **maximum impact** ?
- How **relevant** are the MWO2 indicators for **European CPs** ? *(chosen for pan-Mediterranean applicability)*
- Out of the 17 MWO2 indicators, **which ones are more important** for your country ? is any crucial type of information/indicator **missing** ?
- *(time allowing :How would CPs welcome in the future calculations of the indicators at national scale (when possible) ? )*



- Learn more at COP 13 !
- Indicators factsheets to be gradually released from spring onwards





# TOUR DU VALAT

*THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION !!*

[www.tourduvalat.org](http://www.tourduvalat.org)



**MedWet**  
The Mediterranean  
Wetlands Initiative

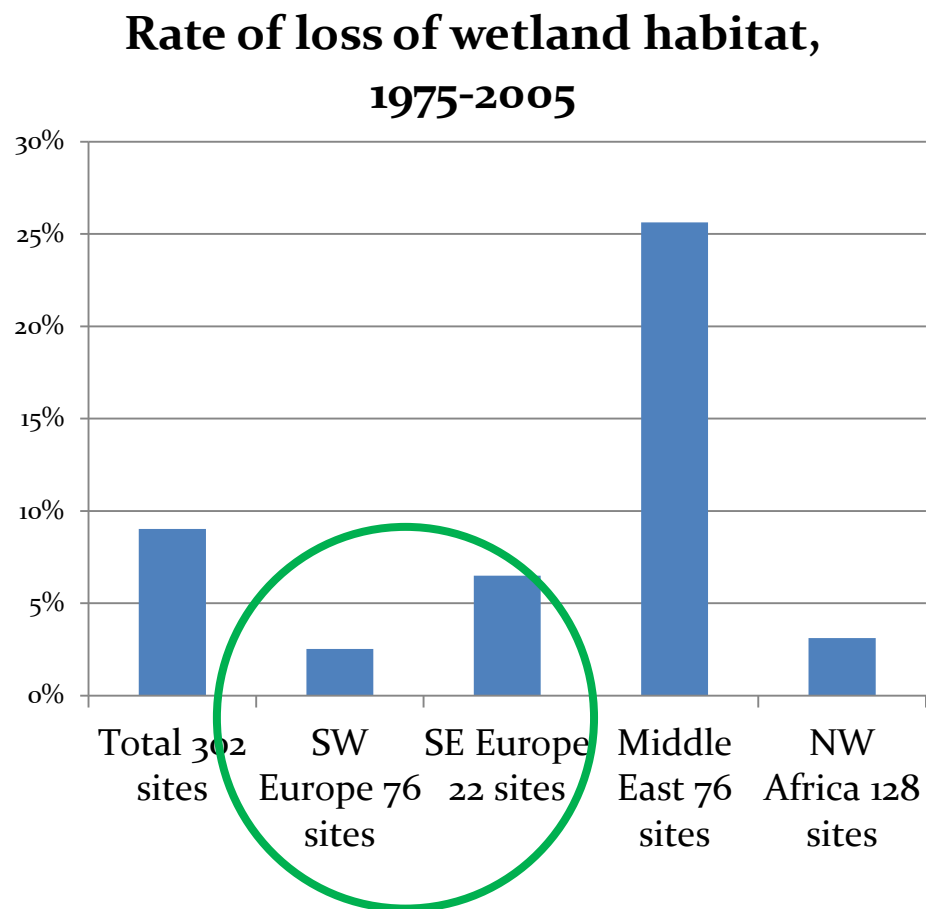






# Trend in surface area of Mediterranean wetlands

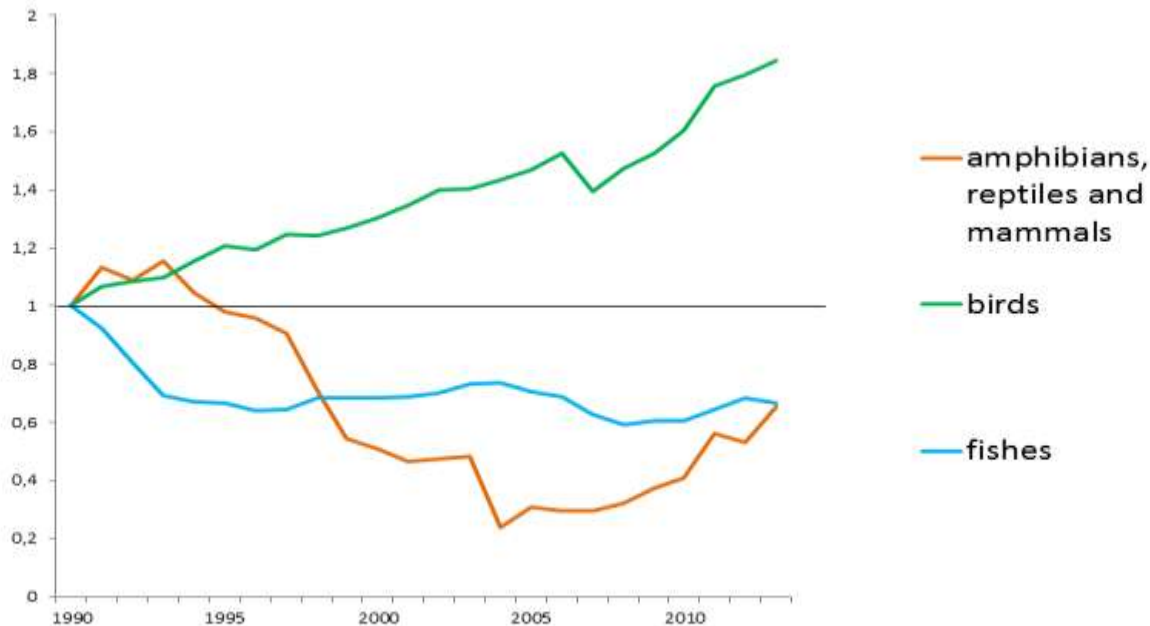
- Sub-regional differences in rate of wetland loss



Source : GlobWetland-II & French Ministry of Environment Ramsar Sites project ; 302 sites



## Contrasting trends depending on groups :

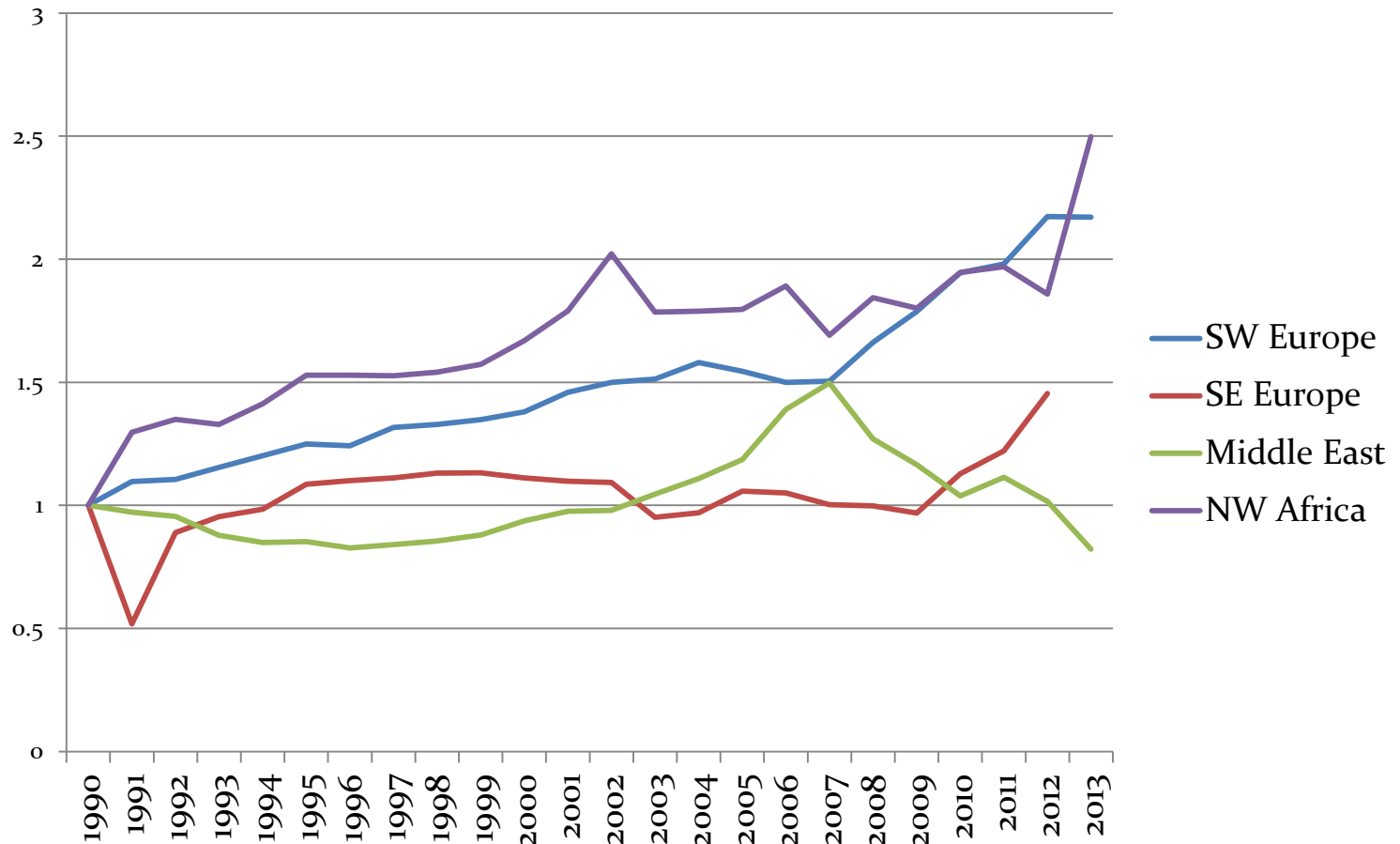


- Wetland birds increase in the Mediterranean, other vertebrates decline
- Birds : older protection (e.g. Bird Directive in EU : 1979) + benefit from man-made wetlands ;
- Others suffer from decline especially of temporary wetland habitats, and pollution



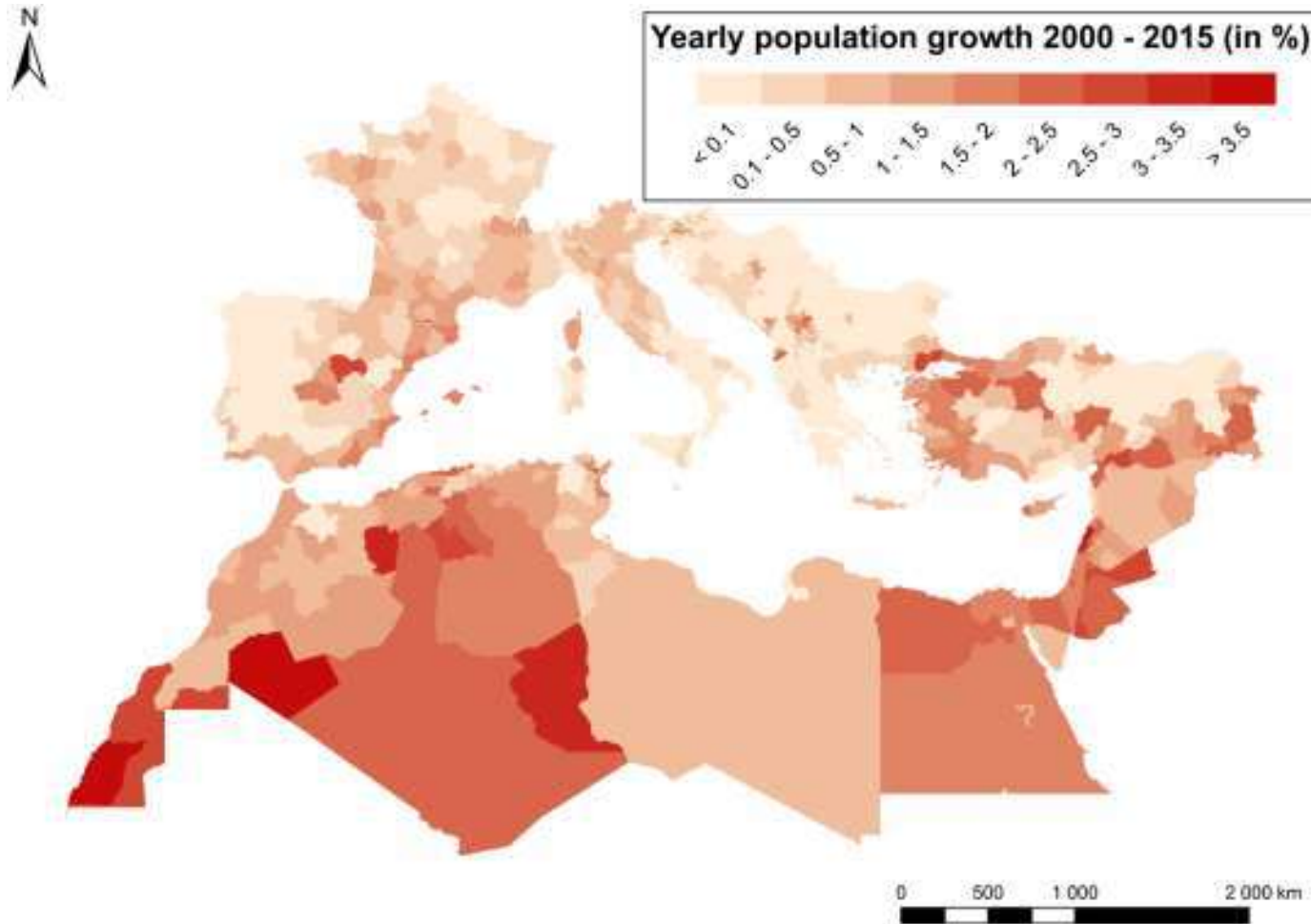
# Trends in Biodiversity : Waterbirds LPI

SW Europe & NW Africa > SE Europe > Mid. East  
(West Med. Flyway > East Med. Flyway ?)





# An ultimate Driver : human demography



... especially areas with highest growth (*cf. pressure on water, wetland conversion to farmland/ urban areas...*)