



Conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetlands with high ecological value

The Ghar el Melh case, Tunisia.

The city of Ghar el Melh, in the north of Tunisia, has a rich natural and cultural heritage. It hosts the Ghar el Melh lagoon, a Wetland of International Importance, providing precious services to local community. Due to human activities within the lagoon, urgent actions are needed to save the lagoon ecosystem that is facing progressive pressures.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As part of its strategy for Mediterranean coastal wetlands, the MAVA Foundation is supporting the project on “conservation and sustainable development of coastal wetland with high ecological value: Ghar El Melh, Tunisia”.

The site is one of the four Mediterranean coastal wetlands highlighted by the MAVA Foundation to develop best practices that will serve as references for the Mediterranean region.

The project is led by WWF North Africa in partnership with international and local organizations joining forces to conserve the Ramsar Site of Ghar el Melh.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the economic, socio-cultural and ecological development of the Ghar El Melh area through the establishment of an integrated management system of available resources and good management practices. This will lead to the vision of building a participatory and integrated local governance system to preserve the precious wetland, Lagoon of Ghar el Melh.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Improve knowledge and information of biodiversity, hydrology, marine resources, and social-economic aspects of Ghar El Melh.
- Build capacity and raise awareness at all levels.
- Carry out lobbying and policy work for decision makers.
- Demonstrate best practices on tourism, agriculture, water use, fishing, etc.
- Support management planning combining CZM and IWRM, etc.

The preservation of the special characteristics of Ghar el Melh is one of the means the stakeholders in the region intend to use to help Ghar el Melh obtain the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention.

EXPECTED RESULTS

At the end, the project is intended to achieve the following results:

- Developing a model of governance for Ghar el Melh to reconcile development challenges while safeguarding natural capital of the region.
- Preserving sustainable use and water resources.
- Controlling agriculture, urban and industrial pollution.
- Regulating tourism to proper capacity.
- Realizing and implementing the Integrated Resources Management Plan of Ghar el Melh.

With these results, the project will ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing equitably distributed socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders, including stable employment and income opportunities and social services to the communities of Ghar el Melh.

Duration: 2018 - 2021

Budget: € 1 232 205

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