



WAMAN SEBOU

Managing Water Resources in Morocco (the Sebou river basin)

During the last ten years, a solid partnership has been built between the main management bodies in the Sebou river basin (Morocco) and several international organisations for nature and wetland conservation. This has greatly improved awareness of the need for improving water management practices, by implementing the notion of a river minimum flow as a key approach.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The WAMAN (WATER MANAGEMENT) Sebou project is intended to build on the established partnerships and improve awareness by implementing the first stages of a Water Fund mechanism in two sub-basins within the river catchment.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The ultimate goal of the project is to enhance the conservation of freshwater ecosystems in these two sub-basins and in particular to:

- Make sure that water management in these sub-basins takes into account societal benefits from freshwater ecosystems and their water needs.
- Influence the nature of agricultural development.
- Stimulate public and private stewardship of wetlands and make available sustainable funding for the upper catchment wetlands to be restored.

- Upscale the developed and proven approaches to the whole basin level.

ACTIONS

Project actions have been grouped into four main strategies that are strongly interconnected:

1) Improving knowledge

- Compile and process existing data on hydrology, biodiversity, ecological functions, land use/land cover, socio-economy and policy frameworks at the scale of the studied sub-basins.
- Assess ecosystem services and predicted water balance in view of various human water needs and climate change scenarios.
- Promote good practices for a sustainable water use.

2) Facilitating the dialogue

- Raise awareness about the necessity for a sustainable management of water resources by building a multi-stakeholders platform based on the development of a Sebou Basin Water Fund (SBWF).

3) Supporting implementation

- Develop communication campaigns and lobby key stakeholders in order to ensure the implementation of policy frameworks that support the integration of e-flows and the maintenance of ecosystem functions in water management plans.

4) Scaling up to the basin scale

- Upscale the SBWF to cover the entire basin.

MAIN PROJECT OUTPUTS

1) Improving knowledge

- Updated maps and datasets on the hydrology, habitats, species, land use/land cover and ecosystem values of the two sub-basins, which could be used for the assessment of ecosystem services and predicted water balance, in the context of climate change.
- A priority list of the most valuable ecosystems (including their monetary values) and listing of business opportunities.
- Clear reports that will allow informed discussions whilst setting e-flow parameters and stimulate a balanced discussion on the functioning of the water storage plants.

2) Facilitating the dialogue

- Documents, reports and proposals supporting the development and the implementation of the SBWF.
- Reports in attractive format that will convince potential business partners.
- Workshops and events.

3) Supporting implementation

- Draft text of by-laws that will allow actual implementation of the minimum flow legal requirement.
- Discussions amongst relevant stakeholders leading to increased willingness for the implementation of e-flows.
- Guidelines recommending innovative land use practices for climate change mitigation.

4) Scaling up to the basin scale

- A strategy with clear guidelines to upscale the SBWF and cover the whole Sebou basin.

Duration: 2018 - 2020

Budget: ~1.2M €

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