



Wetlands Sentinels in the Maghreb

The MedWet Network
of Civil Society

North Africa is home to many important sites ranked on the list of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) such as estuaries, chotts, coastal swamps, mountain lakes, and oases. Unfortunately, these wetlands of high ecological value are threatened because of human activities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective was to contribute to promoting the conservation and sustainable participatory management of selected priority wetlands in **Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia** through the development and capacity building of an active and efficient community of civil society organizations (CSO) in the three countries: the **MedWet Network of Civil Society**.

SITES SELECTED

- **Morocco:** Site of the Moulouya, Lake Dayet Aoua, Wetland Dayet Roumi, Wetland Sidi Boughaba, Marshes Fouwarat.
- **Algeria:** Wetland complex Guerbes-Sanhadja, Sebkhia of Oran, Lake Oglat Eddaira, Lake Réghaïa, wetlands of El Kala National Park.
- **Tunisia:** Sebkhia Soliman, Korba Lagoon, Lagoon Ghar el Melah, the Sebkhia of Esijoumi, Wetland complex of Chott el Guetayet, Sebkhet Dhreia, Oued Akarit, Oued Melah and Oued Rkhama.

ACTIONS

- Creation of a **platform** in order to strengthen the knowledge and monitoring of targeted sites for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.
- Putting in place an **assessment of the status and trends** of selected priority wetlands and provide timely results to targeted users such as Ramsar focal points of the three countries and local administrations.
- Investigation of the **socio-economic dimensions** of biodiversity, habitats, and causes of change, water management, and ecosystem services.

50

WETLANDS IN ALGERIA
(In May 2017)

24

WETLANDS IN MOROCCO
(In May 2017)

41

WETLANDS IN TUNISIA
(In May 2017)

PROJECT RESULTS

- A community of actors, including six civil society organizations in each country (18 in total), was created and brought together in the three countries for better wetland field action.
- A “Commitment Charter” between the 18 organizations was signed in Tunisia, 19-20 November 2014, as part of the draft Med-Wet CSO in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Three consultation meetings and an introduction to the collaboration among the three groups of associations with their respective administrations and Ramsar focal points were held in January and March 2015.
- The project was presented at the Ramsar COP12, with the participation of the CSO network to better familiarize them with the Ramsar Convention, and to assess the possibilities of better application of the Convention in the three countries.
- A capacity building plan was duly implemented by organizing three training sessions on the implementation of the monitoring protocol and a training-of-trainers course in the three countries with the participation of the international partners of the project.
- A wetland monitoring protocol has been developed and the associations and representatives of focal points have been trained to implement it on the ground.
- An internal exchange platform has been set up on the social networking tool and actively used by CSOs.
- Seven associations were awarded a grant to replicate and put into practice the knowledge acquired during the progress of the project.

Duration: 2014 - 2017

More information:

<https://medwet.org/medwetcsnetwork/>

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