Conservation of Tunisian islands’ wetlands: Kerkennah and Kuriat islands as case study

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Background

**Mediterranean islands’ wetlands**

- protection
- shelter
- highly dynamic changing ecosystems

→ one of the world's most threatened ecosystems
Background

Mediterranean islands’ wetlands: The project

→ Inventory more than 14000 wetlands located on 160 islands
Outline

1. Introduction
2. Study areas and methods
3. Results
4. Recommendations
1. Introduction

The Mediterranean Basin

- A hotspot for islands’ biodiversity
- Rich in wetlands of both natural and artificial origins
- Dangers: Human activities + natural hazards (hydrological stress)
- Focus: toward inland/important wetlands → lack of information

- In 2017, the Mediterranean Islands’ Wetlands project, was set in motion:
  - inventory
  - dissemination of knowledge
  - promotion of conservation measures

- The present study: presents the outputs of Kerkennah and Kuriat islands’ inventory.
2. Study areas and methods
2. Study areas and methods

Identification and delimitation

Documentation

In situ inventory

Assessment (human impact)
3. Results

Preliminary Identification

- 9 wetlands
- 2 wetlands
- 42 wetlands
- 1 system
- 32 wetlands

Legend
- Wetlands location
3. Results

Wetlands identified in the study areas: Grande Kuriat

Initially → 5 wetlands

After the field visits

→ 1 multi-component system
3. Results

Wetlands identified in the study areas: Conigliera

Initially → 4 wetlands

After the field visits

→ 1 multi-component system
3. Results

Wetlands identified in the study areas

Initially → 42 wetlands

After the field visits

→ 3 wetlands were eliminated

→ Only 1 wetland is artificial: Saline
3. Results

Type of natural wetlands identified

- Pans: Chott
- Pans: Sebkha
- Pond
- Salt Marsh
3. Results

Human impact and degradation: Construction
3. Results

Human impact and degradation: Waste dumping
4. Recommendations

• ultimate objectives: formal protection and effective management of the areas

• Expansion of the national protected areas and updating / creation of Ramsar sites
• the integration of these areas in the management plans
• the realization of an adequate waste management strategy
• Encourage the participation of individuals and local groups in the conservation of these areas
Conclusions

- The present study shows that
  - the knowledge of state of different wetlands
  - the establishment of records of loss and degradation

→ are fundamental for the implementation of future management, restoration and conservation plans.
Thank you!

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