



REGION Rabat Salé Kénitra



ROYAUME du MAROC



PROVINCE de KENITRA



## International Conference Wetlands

Kenitra, March 28 and 29, 2019

"Protection and enhancement of Wetlands,  
in a territorial Co-development approach "

## CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL « ALZYMA » NETWORK

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## "DECLARATION OF KENITRA"

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Period 2019 – 2021

*Scope to knowledge:*

Concerned parties in solidarity with the "**Kenitra Declaration**", representing:

- ❖ State,
- ❖ Regional and local Governments,
- ❖ Ministerial and Regional Directorates of the State,
- ❖ Territorial Collectivities and their groupings,
- ❖ Education, training and research organizations,
- ❖ Associations and NGOs.

## **Preamble**

Wetlands are essential to human wellbeing, inclusive economic growth and climate mitigation and adaptation. They provide water for human consumption and agriculture. They protect our shores and help make cities and settlements safe and resilient. They are the Earth's greatest natural carbon stores. They support biodiversity and abundant and unique nature. They are vital to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They provide sustainable livelihoods and are essential to human health and wellbeing. Wetlands provide myriad benefits and services.

They are an irreplaceable source of biodiversity, host an incredible diversity of species and provide a valuable genetic reservoir.

In their natural functions, Wetlands promote flood protection, limit soil erosion, maintain water quality, and reduce pollution.

They are also sources of significant economic activities (fishing, breeding, valorization of biomass, tourism ...).

Because of their natural beauty and the diversity of animal and plant life, they offer many attractions for ideal tourist destinations. They can also be very educational for the children of the school and also for the general public.

In addition, Wetlands protect us from the effects of climate change through mitigation and adaptation functions, such as greenhouse gases, water purification, coastal defense.

By their functions and global issues identified and shared, on the future water scarcity and its consequences, on the food production, the health of populations, but also with regard to the framework of the cultural heritage of humanity that they represent, it is fundamental to preserve these Wetlands.

Indeed, to date, Wetlands are still among the most heavily impacted and degraded ecosystems (UN-Millennium Ecosystem Assessment). In the last hundred years alone, half of the world's wetlands have been lost mainly due to human intervention and mismanagement.

To meet this challenge on Wetlands, Man has been able to organize both through regulatory measures at the international level (RAMSAR - COP - ODD N ° 6), European, national, but also locally by implementing appropriate governance methods to reduce pressure; these devices are also backed by communication strategies and actions, raising awareness among children and the general public (*World Wetlands Day*).

**Have agreed the following provisions:**

**Article 1 - Object of the Manifesto**

The purpose of this declaration, known as the "**Kenitra Declaration**", is to define the areas and modalities for which the partners intend to continue their cooperation within the International Network "**ALZYMA**" set up for this purpose.

The parties recall their commitment to the preservation of biodiversity and their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by implementing quality cooperation actions.

The commitment of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to designate Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and to conserve and use wisely all their wetlands is critical in achieving the SDGs.

The Convention thus provides a ready platform to implement the SDGs :

- Integrated approaches: « *Ensure that wetland conservation, wise use and restoration are integrated into SDG planning and implementation. Contracting Parties to the « Convention on Wetlands » should ensure that their efforts to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan, are integrated into their SDG planning and implementation actions ».*
- Effective Wetland policies and practices at the right territorial scale: « *Adopt policies and practices for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to reverse current and future wetland loss and degradation ».*
- Cooperation and synergies: « *Develop multi-stakeholder partnerships as a critical means of implementation for wetland conservation, wise use and restoration. As such, efforts are necessary to promote these partnerships between different sectors of society in Ramsar Sites ».*

While the exceptional biodiversity of Wetlands is a heritage to be preserved, the current considerations on climate change both revealed and followed by scientists, but also observed in the field, condition us to strengthen the synergy between these areas.

We consider that, if Wetlands are well managed, they will make an important contribution to the well-being of the populations of our regions and to the proper functioning of natural systems, in particular the cycles of water and climate, which are essential for a region. healthy socio-economic development.

We are aware of the complexity and benefits of interactions between natural systems and those of society and the co-production of services. There is therefore a need to work together, a necessary awareness to initiate good governance with decision makers.

The man at the heart of territorial development, both rural and urban, benefiting from a local wetlands environment, must have the political, administrative, legal, technical and financial capacity to organize its territory in preservation requirements. , enhancement and therefore co-development.

How can these preservation concerns be more widely shared and translated into action in local policies, which bear strong planning and development objectives ?

In view of these requirements, we are partners of the Network, we are committed to engage, although remote, in a concerted approach to connect our projects, share our knowledge, our strategies, our tools, and identify the activities that we could approach together, such as capacity building, methodologies, access to international funding ...

If in our territories certain zones meet the high international label of the **RAMSAR** network, other more modest Wetlands, without reference or label, exist; they are nonetheless as vulnerable to human aggression and therefore deserve to be considered in the strategy that drives us.

Thus, the present "**Kenitra Declaration**" aims to constitute an International Network of "voluntary" organizations, based on trust and mutual respect.

The number of Members is not limited. Other Members may later join the "**ALZYMA**" Network in accordance with the objectives and intellectual posture as described in this Declaration.

## **Article 2 - Areas of application**

The parties intend to develop programs of cooperation, expertise and exchange of experience, with regard to wetland issues, in the following areas:

- Integrated management of water and aquatic environments and territorial governance at the scale of the watershed,
- Valorization of natural heritage through tourism and culture,
- Contribution of scientific knowledge to the ecology of coastal wetlands in relation to the watershed,
- Support for local economic development by enhancing scientific knowledge and supporting innovative approaches that respect the environment,
- Development of an urban approach, controlled and sustainable by a co-development approach,
- Reflections, measures and actions for a management strategy, backed by adaptation measures to the effects of Climate Change,
- Exploration and implementation of Nature Based Solutions,
- Other themes may emerge during the life of the "**ALZYMA**" Network.

The networking methodology will allow partners to work together on a single domain that would be defined collectively, or to invest in an area of their choice and share the experience with other Network Members.

During its annual program of activities, the "**ALZYMA**" Network will be able to join temporarily other networks, to reinforce the collective synergies of the actions.

## **Article 3 - Commitments of the parties, within the limits of their respective powers**

Each of the partners undertakes to cooperate closely to intensify the exchanges between the territories in a global development logic respectful of each of the partners, to:

- Promote within his country, his organization, the potential of the present international cooperation and to mobilize within his services or with his partners, a qualified and appropriate expertise to the stakes of this cooperation.
- To share with the members of the Network "**ALZYMA**" the acquired knowledge, experience and know-how on the RAMSAR area of its territory, in technical, scientific and Governance and management terms, including associating the entities that are responsible for the RAMSAR area.
- Establish good coordination with other regional and international actions related to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- Mobilize human resources and the appropriate technical means to achieve the objectives of its cooperation.
- Look for strategies to mobilize funding, which would be necessary to run the « **ALZYMA** » Network and to implement the action programs that will be adopted as a follow-up to this Declaration.
- Identify on its territory, the prospects of territorial development, and endeavor to accompany them in a co-development process, enriched by the "**ALZYMA**" Network.
- Promote to the authorities of his country, the results of the cooperation.
- To welcome other partners in the "**ALZYMA**" Network presenting by their territory, the characteristics of the basin and / or the Mediterranean climate.
- To be represented for each member of the Network, in the form of a partnership entity made up of different organizations and actors structurally grouped, representative of the territory and in charge of the management, the preservation and the valorization of the Wetlands.

#### **Article 4 - Implementation of the action programs**

The action programs may be the subject of Conventions on cooperation programs to be adopted by the partners each year.

An annual review of the programs will be carried out each year through an activity and financial report.

In order to promote the approach of the International Network "**ALZYMA**", it is agreed to entrust at the beginning of this initiative and for two years (2019-2021), the mission of animation of the Network to the French Association "**La Goutte d'Ô** », which will also facilitate regular exchanges between Members.

In addition to digital exchanges between Network members, it is agreed to meet at least once a year. The location proposals, remain at the initiative of each Member.

#### **Article 5 - Duration of commitment of the Declaration**

The Declaration will remain valid for a period of three calendar years from the date of this day.

It may be renewed thereafter, by tacit agreement, with the agreement of the newly convinced and interested parties. Other partnership formulas may be explored.

The Presidency of the Network "**ALZYMA**" will be entrusted in turn to the organizing country of the Conference.

Done at KENITRA, Morocco, on March 28, 2019.