

**MEDWETCOAST Project**  
**FINAL Report of the fifth Regional Advisory Committee meeting**  
**Cairo, Egypt, 26 – 28 September 2005**

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# 1. Introduction and address

## 1.1. Opening addresses

**Dr. Fouda, project director, Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)**, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Egyptian Government. He started by referring to Egyptian wetlands and the efforts of the government to conserve these. In Egypt, some of the wetlands are natural, some are man made (eg. Lake Nasser). He informed that Egypt has developed a national strategy and a plan of action for wetlands, which calls for the participation of all stakeholders and has been endorsed this year by high level authority.

With regards to the Egyptian component of the MedWetCoast project (MWC), he confirmed that the frameworks are in place at the sites. Management plans have been produced for the three sites. A management council is in place at each site, chaired by the local governor. Finally, a framework for action, with policy and institutional arrangements, has been set up that is conducive to biodiversity conservation and community involvement. He acknowledged that Egypt has learned a good deal from its participation in the MWC programme and benefited a good deal from it. This meeting provides a useful forum for the participants to share and exchange.

He noted that a number of issues emerged during project implementation. In particular, he pointed out that partnership has become a major component of the project: good governance became real and put into practice through the participation of local communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project. He remarked that he would wish to make use of this project to provide good case studies and examples, showing to the world communities that the Mediterranean region holds important ecosystems and values and is taking appropriate steps to protect it.

On behalf of **UNDP**, Ms. Elissar Sarouh, DRR, UNDP Egypt, first thanked the Egyptian team for the organization of the meeting. She welcomed all of the teams to Cairo, noting that the participation of all of the countries show a clear commitment to the project. She reminded that this meeting is an important one, as it might be the last one under the project. She emphasized the need to maintain the network that the project has helped to set up. While the project is drawing to an end, the sites still need attention. Noting the UNDP dedication to result-based management, she confirmed that the project impacts would be monitored and evaluated and that the extension of the activities beyond the life time of the project would be an indication of success. On the policy side, she explained that environment has been identified by UNDP as one of the pillars to achieve the goal of poverty eradication. The project shows how this can be embodied.

In Egypt, the national commitment to biodiversity is growing. UNDP has a privileged relationship with the national actors to implement actions in the various protectorates. As for the MWC project, apart from the scientific achievements, it has proved that it is possible to achieve sustainable livelihood through the protection of the ecosystem. It also has shown empowerment of communities and NGOs, also in cooperation with the GEF Small Grants Programmes. The project has helped build the capacity of national experts, and she noted that the experience gained within this project will surely benefit other projects.

She highlighted the high commitment from the Egyptian government that is represented in its financial cost-sharing of the project.

Finally, if it is understandable that the management of such a project was not easy, she pointed out that it should draw some useful learning. She wished that the Final Evaluation would provide a useful assessment for sharing the experience and the lessons.

Her statement is attached as *Annex 1*.

Tim Clairs, **UNDP GEF Regional Coordinator**, could not be present at the meeting. However, he had forwarded a message to the participants, that the MWC Regional Coordinator read to the meeting and shared with the participants. There, he acknowledged that the MWC project represents perhaps the most significant GEF experience in Mediterranean-type coastal and wetlands systems and has achieved a significant amount over

the past 6 years of implementation in addressing the main threats to its biodiversity. He pointed out how dedicated the national teams were and how each national component should be congratulated for their efforts. He also commended the knowledge management effort of the Regional Coordination Unit over the past year. Finally, he made some specific comments relating to project closure, the final evaluation and the GEF Tracking Tool, all priority issues for UNDP-GEF.

His full address is attached as Annex 2.

**Sylvie Goyet, MedWetCoast Regional Coordinator**, welcomed the participants to the meeting, pointing out the importance of this particular RAC, being most likely the last one under this format. She pointed out that this meeting is the opportunity to illustrate that progress has been made and results achieved. She presented the regrets from those delegates who could not be present at the meeting due to last minute constraints and conflicts: the representatives from AFD/FFEM, UNDP-GEF, UNOPS and MedWet, the delegates from the Albanian MoE, Morocco MoE, and Palestine Authority. Also, she explained that this meeting is an opportunity to see how to follow up on the achievements of the project, whether individually, among project components or collectively.

Finally, she introduced the agenda. Besides displaying the results and progress of the project, the meeting should also discuss practical arrangements for regional reporting and consolidation in 2006 when a number of components would still continue, whereas others would have closed. The meeting would also hear post-project arrangements and sustainability strategies. She explained that a session would be devoted to reviewing the draft TORs for the Final Evaluation and to presenting the initial products coming out of the project that document the experience and the lessons learned.

## **1.2 Approval of the Agenda. Appointment of Meeting Reporter and Chairperson.**

The agenda was approved. It is attached as Annex 3.

Dr. Mostafa Fouda was approved as chairperson for the meeting.

The MWC Regional Coordinator will assume the function of rapporteur and prepare the meeting report.

The final list of participants is attached as Annex 4.

## **2. Session I: progress in implementation of the national components**

Dr. Fouda introduced the session, inviting the project managers to present the progress in the implementation of their national component since the previous RAC.

### **2.1. Project component: Albania**

Ms. Violetta Zuna, MWC Albania project manager, presented the achievements of the project against the 3 outcomes (1: National policies ....., 2: The root causes of biodiversity loss are removed, sites are protected ... and 3: Closing the "Mediterranean circle" ). In particular, she focused on the work undertaken to finalize the management plans. She informed that MPs were officially approved by the Ministry of Environment in June 05 and that activities have begun to initiate their implementation (recruitment of rangers on site, study tour to Croatia and international expertise to assist the local team in arranging for the implementation of the plans. In terms of monitoring, she highlighted that the project is preparing locally-based monitoring programmes with the corresponding training (in partnership with the REC) extending related training by the sc institutions. The project has implemented a number of priority actions, among which she cited: deviation of discharge sewage waters in Narta, Improvement of waste management in Llogara; infrastructure in Llogara, tree planting in Orikumni and Pish Poro and Reconstruction of livestock watering points in Karaburuni.

Finally, she cited the priorities of MWC Albania for 2006 as:

- Finalization and approval of the National Wetland Strategy
- Ensure operational and well functioning Management Board
- Implementation of priority actions of MP
- Implementation low cost monitoring system for wetlands ecosystem at local level
- Increase involvement of the local NGOs, user groups, and stakeholders on project activities
- Training for all the interested and involved actors in PM management and wetland monitoring
- Continuous cooperation with Mediterranean countries and partners

Her presentation is attached as Annex 5.

## 2.2. Project component: Egypt

Dr. Esam El Badry, MWC Egypt project manager, explained that the priority over the reporting period 2004/05 has been implementation of the management plans. He then highlighted how these translated in terms of practical actions and interventions in each of the 3 sites.

### Zaranik:

He particularly emphasized the work carried out for livelihood development (revolving fund for fodder, oven, etc.). He also pointed out the project's effort to monitor the development and potential impacts of the El Salam Canal. Thanks to the comprehensive monitoring programme undertaken over the past reporting period, the project has been able to record a significant improvement in the site's biodiversity from the measures of the diagnostic (eg. 51 bird species were recorded during the autumn of 2000, compared to 78 species in 2004).

#### Zaranik Impacts

- ☞ One single corncrake was recorded during the survey in 2000, while 233 birds of the same species were recorded during the same period in 2004
- ☞ 19 birds of the Greater Flamingo were recorded in 2000, while records of 2004 show an increase in its number to 926
- ☞ 51 bird species were recorded during the autumn of 2000, compared to 78 species in 2004

### Burullus:

He reminded that the main conservation objective is to restore the lake's ecological and hydrological balance. As such, he reported that, thanks to the project's efforts, the spatial distribution of marine species has spread from just in front of the sea inlet to about 6km inside the lake. He also pointed to an increase in marine fish stock and a recovering of marine zooplankton.

### Omayed:

Priorities for Omayed involve: quarrying & hunting, solid waste dumping and rehabilitation of rangelands, with introduction of alternative livelihood schemes (eg. More than 10,000 olive trees planted). In terms of impacts, he cited reduced bird hunting and grazing violations and increase in cover of a local medicinal plant.

His presentation is attached as Annex 6.

### Discussion/Question

Mr. Abdelaaziz Houssayni, Directeur régional des Eaux et Forêts de l'Oriental, Morocco, asked about the delineation system of the sites. M. Fouda clarified that physical and site boundaries are not enough. All activities are being mapped. Communities have the right and ownership to continue the traditional way that they have lived. But he explained that if the communities wish to change and introduce a new activity, then they have to submit a request and it will be considered based on the land use plan, and the environmental impact of that new activity. M. Fouda also added that the project stopped grazing animals coming from outside.

Mr. Charbel Rizk, Lebanon, asked about the methods for fish monitoring. E. El Badry responded that the project receives information from the regular fish landings statistics. Today there are more than 67 marine species of fish in Burullus.

### 2.3. Project component: Lebanon

Mr. Charbel Rizk, MWC Lebanon project manager, first presented a table of main socio-economic dynamics acting as root causes of biodiversity loss at the sites and how these were addressed by the project and the solutions tested.

**Analysis of the Socio-Economic Dynamics Acting as Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss at the Sites**  
[Cadre1]

He pointed out to the greater involvement of other actors in the implementation of the project; the initiatives of community monitoring (eg. sea turtles in Tyr, a number of indicators in Aammiq) and the long-term partnerships engaged by the project that warrant the sustainability of all of the activities.

In terms of lessons learned from the MWC Lebanon experience, he suggested the following:

- still missing the proper monitoring of awareness and training programmes;
- the need to have more actors involved, especially the private sector;
- the need to determine monitoring baselines at the beginning of the project and to improve impact monitoring;
- the desirability to increase the funding time span to allow for impacts to be observed. In 5 years, he said, it is very difficult to determine the biodiversity impacts of the project;
- the need to take into account the complexity of admin procedures in the project, and;
- the need to work further on monitoring of social indicators (but not easy!).

Asked about the level of involvement of the private sector in MWC Lebanon, C. Rizk presented the map of Beirut, the ecotourism scheme and other examples. He also cited the business plan and the proposed development of eco-lodges run by a private company with proceeds back to the protected area.

His presentation is attached as Annex7.

### 2.4. Project component: Morocco

Mr. Youssef Slaoui, MWC Morocco project manager, presented a synthesis of the causes of biodiversity degradation at the sites. The table below has been summarized and extracted from the presentation (full table in Annex).

[Cadre2]

He then presented the institutional arrangements that are being worked on to oversee the implementation of MPs. Several scinerii were reviewed and developed for the various sites. In each of the 3 sites, the institutional arrangements that have been finally agreed upon are:

*Nador*: 'comite provincial de gestion'

*Moulouya* : co-management between the municipality and the provincial government (also proposal of the set up of a foundation)

*Beni Snassen* : management under the responsibility of the E&F [ministry of Water and Forestry] but delegated to two local NGOs.

Referring to the recommendations of the Mid Term Review, he commented that particular attention was put on enhancing the national policy frameworks:

- strengthening of the 'Cellule Littoral' which will be followed by important effort in 2006
- organization of meetings that should lead to the development of a national strategy for wetlands
- continuation of the training of NGOs, in particular in the area of project management.

He also pointed out that the local steering committee has met 3 times over the reporting period and will meet again in one week time to review the response from tourists to the structures set up on the site that control access and visitors' flows. He reminded of the study that was undertaken over the summer to analyze the behavior of



visitors to the site and the call for small projects extended to local organizations for socio-economic actions that contribute to conservation of biodiversity.

He emphasized that the project has worked hard this year to develop his relationships with other key actors: Centre regional d'Investissement, a public entity that is responsible for authorizing developments : the project is working to ensure that the entity takes into account the protected area status.

Fadesa, the large tourism complex: the project is cooperating with the private company so that it contributes to the construction of an environmental education center.

MWC Morocco programme for 2006 includes :

- Strengthening local coordination on the ground
- finalizing the MPs of Beni Snassen and Moulouya
- Confirming the signature of a memorandum of understanding with Oujda University for the biophysical monitoring of the sites.
- Strengthening the wardening of the sites through recruitment of short term help
- Completing the infrastructure works on the 3 sites
- Strengthening the awareness raising component
- Set up a scientific committee
- Strengthening the Cellule Littoral, with a 90KEuro collaboration with the CdL

In terms of lessons learned, he underlined the following :

- Need to ensure that the members of the steering committee do remain the same, in order to ensure continuity in the work – that implies a greater effort to sensitize higher decision makers to the significance of the committee and its roles.
- Setting up communication actions that are strategic and effectively structured.
- Recognizing the structural weakness of local NGOs and extending particular training to upgrade their capacity, in order for these organisations to be able to fully participate in the project.

Finally, he pointed out to the following indicators of improvement of the sites :

- Regeneration of the dunes
- Decrease in the amount of sand being collected from the site
- Effective decrease of poaching and increase in the number of fines
- Better area for the 'mouflon' (enclosed parc went from 8 to 100 ha), thus increasing the chances for a successful reintroduction of the species.
- Better control of the flows of visitors. It is expected that results of the biophysical monitoring of the sites will confirm the effectiveness of this action in terms of biodiversity conservation.

His presentation is attached as Annex 8.

## **2.5. Project component: Tunisia**

Mr. Habib Ben Moussa, MWC Tunisia project manager, presented the progress in the implementation of the Tunisian component. He underlined that the site management plans have been prepared in a participatory way with more than 20 workshops and meetings organised that helped identify the interests, constraints and opportunities of each of the stakeholder groups and resource users. Concrete actions were then carried out that aim at reducing the pressure upon the natural resources: control of water abstraction and use, development of livelihood activities, and strengthening of the capacity of municipalities to undertake the management of the sites. A management team for the sites has been set up; this team is recruited by APAL, which allows continuity in the management of the sites.

He emphasized that the project has been fully appropriated by the stakeholders and cited, in particular, the fact that urban plans do now take into consideration the site management plans, thus guaranteeing the long term protection of the sites. He further presented the case study of the Korba municipality as example of changes in the perception of the site by local stakeholders.

#### Case Study: Korba

Thanks to an effective appropriation of the objectives of the project by the stakeholders, the Korba municipality has undertaken a number of adjustments to its urban plan in order to guarantee the sustainability of the project:

- Participation of the project team in the development and endorsement of the Urban Plan ;
- Integration of the Korba site management plan into the Urban Plan ;
- Abandon of the current urban directive that envisioned the filling up and reclaiming of some of the lagoon for urban development;
- Abandon of the municipal slaughterhouse to the benefit of the project – the building will be turned into an ecocultural center;
- Linkage of the tomatoe factories to the sewage treatment plant ;
- Rerouting of an access road to protect the banks of the lagoon ;
- Contribution to tree planting on the banks of the lagoon;
- Adoption of a new logo for the municipality that displays the lagoon with a flamingo.

Finally, he spelled out some of the key impacts of the project todate, among which one could note:

- greater forest cover of the site thanks to replanting of endemic trees (protection for porcupine, tortoise, etc.)
- Protection of key species, through enclosure of a number of areas that contain critical habitat types (Juniperus oxycedrus in the forest and mountain areas, salicornes and reeds in the lagoon, kermes oak, etc.)
- Improvement in the water quality of the lagoon and water quantity, with a connection to the sewage treatment plant to receive treated waters.
- Development of livelihood alternatives (bee hives)

His presentation is attached as Annex 9.

#### **Discussion/Question**

C. Rizk remarked that presentations from the national components shared many similarities. He suggested that, over the years, the project has reached a stage where there is greater coherence and similarity in the way that the national components have carried out working methods, activities and aiming at common objectives.

**'It seems that we have reached a closing of the circle'. C. Rizk**

S. Goyet congratulated the national components for the impressive work done over this past reporting period. She commended the efforts of the teams in terms of greater attention to delivering results and generating impacts, to associating a greater number of local/national actors into the project, to bringing on board local communities and considering their needs and interests, and to building the appropriate policy and institutional frameworks for sustaining the protection of the sites.

She also reminded the national components that will continue onto 2006 not to forget provision in their 2006 workplan for some essential elements, i.e. a) closure of the project, b) final evaluation, and c) documenting the case studies and lessons learned.

Finally, she highlighted that one of the achievements of the project over this reporting period has been the extent to which it has adapted its management in response to constraints, opportunities or new information and monitoring. She added that all of the national components have displayed effective examples of adaptive management, e.g. new institutional arrangements, mini diagnostic and focused monitoring to compensate for insufficient regular monitoring from the start, inclusion of socio-economic aspects, greater attention to communication, etc.

Ms. Myriem Ouchen Noussairi, Programme Associate from UNDP Morocco, further commented on the adaptive management effort of the project over the past year. She mentioned the rework of the logframe and the new institutional arrangements at MWC Morocco. She concluded by saying that the project has now found its equilibrium at the institutional and scientific level, therefore allowing 2006 to be full will results, realization of objectives and outcomes.

### 3. Session II: Status report of the overall MedWetCoast project and of the Regional component in particular

S. Goyet first presented the statistics of the website. There has been a constant increase in the visits to the site. The statistics also display the news items and articles that have been most popular and successful in terms of visits. She cautioned though that statistics have to be used with care, as interpretation of these is difficult and hits on a subject can be motivated as much by accidental visits as by purposeful search for the information.

#### 3.1 Financial overview (overall project and RCU)

She presented an overview of the financial situation of the project.

In terms of cumulative spending against the budget, she informed that, as of July 2005 (time of the project PIR), the **project has reached 61,2% of overall disbursement against the budget**. She reminded that the figure covers some diversity in the rate of disbursement across the components. She emphasized that there has been an increase in the rate of disbursement over the reporting period (14% of total budget disbursed over the reporting period versus 11,3% for the period July03-June04). But that, some 46 to 50% of budget has still not been disbursed by major national components. The table below summarizes the situation.

	Albania	Egypt	Lebanon	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	RCU	Total	%
GEF	1,751,000	2,884,000		2,880,926	540,000	2,575,000	2,649,497	13,280,423	
FFEM			392,489	664,125		667,000		1,723,614	
Nat. c/sharing	150,000	1,445,146						1,595,146	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,901,000</b>	<b>4,329,146</b>	<b>392,489</b>	<b>3,537,825</b>	<b>540,000</b>	<b>3,242,000</b>	<b>2,649,497</b>	<b>16,591,957</b>	
<b>PIR July 01</b>	13.7%	21.1%		1.2%	53.7%	4.4%	19.3%	2,101,000	12.7%
<b>PIR July 02</b>	30.4%	35.2%		10.0%	83.1%	12.9%	35.2%	3,549,000	21.4%
<b>PIR July 03</b>	35.4%	38.8%	23.0%	17.1%	98.1%	28.4%	67.4%	5,931,765	35.8%
<b>PIR July 04</b>	43.5%	47.3%	35.1%	25.2%	100%	37.6%	81.4%	7,821,081	47.1%
<b>PIR July 05</b>	<b>57.87%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>10,153,194</b>	<b>61.2%</b>

She continued by pointing out that the **regional component** has reduced its spending over the reporting period, as requested: from 24% of its available total budget in calendar year 2002 to 15% in 2003, 12% in 2004 and 11% forecasted in 2005. She underlined that, from 1999 to end of 2005, the regional component

Her presentation is attached as *Annex 10*.

#### 3.2 Consolidated PIR / status of implementation of the whole project since last RAC4 of September 2004

She presented the progress in the implementation of the overall project, as reflected in the PIR of July 2005. She reminded of the objective of the project, i.e.:

Objective of the project: to enhance **conservation and effective management** of **wetlands and coastal ecosystems** of **6 Med countries**, through strengthening the **national policy framework** and **demonstrating integrated and sustainable management practices** at **15 key sites**

She highlighted that the project has devoted increased attention to national policy setting (national wetland strategy, coastal zone management), has registered an improved delivery since last RAC, both FFEM and GEF, has carried out greater activities to involve the local communities in the project. She explained that, to date implementation of the management plans is underway at all sites and that management plans have been finalized for 10 sites (in draft form for 1 site)

She pointed out also that, although there has been some encouraging activities in terms of monitoring, there is still insufficient feedback on 'whether or not the project is making a difference' and whether it is generating impacts.

She reviewed progress against the main project indicators against the objectives and presented some key achievements at site, national and regional level.

Finally, she underlined some of the lessons learned. Recorded in this year PIR, they represent a cumulative reflection on the implementation of the project from the start:

- ✍ Difficulty to share across the network, particularly because of the peculiar institutional set up of the project;
- ✍ Process of Site Management Planning has been a central component of the project. It needs continuous revisits and is not a static process;
- ✍ Difficulty to adjust LFA and project strategy because of a) insufficient skills in RBM/PCM, b) project driven by focus on visible activities, c) race for meeting deadlines and disbursement rates;
- ✍ Initial focus on the Protected Area itself and environmental science: now moving into larger sectoral and geographic limits, integrating with policy and physical planning, and bringing on board stakeholders;
- ✍ Difficulty to move from the management plans onto their implementation;
- ✍ Community involvement and participatory processes take time.

Her presentation is attached as Annex 11.

### **3.3 Component Tour du Valat**

Jean Jalbert, director of the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, elaborated further on the support provided by the Tour du Valat to the RCU over the reporting period. Besides hosting and administratively supporting the RCU, the Tour du Valat has supported the workplan of the RCU through undertaking the following activities:

- finalization of the booklet 'Integrated Management of Wetlands' and distribution
- socio-economic initiative: the TdV is putting effort to capitalize on the experience of MWC – case study report, strengthening of the network of socio-economic practitioners in the region.

He further informed that the Tour du Valat has provided assistance to MWC Lebanon and MWC Albania in accompanying the management planning process and would assist MWC Morocco in the preparation and drafting of the National Wetland Strategy.

His presentation is attached as Annex 12.

#### **Question/discussion:**

M. Fouda further reminded of the need to look beyond the borders of the protected area and involve local stakeholders. He mentioned that normal people and decision makers do not understand the value of biodiversity and that it is thus crucial to identify the benefits, the values, and the services that biodiversity can provide to the local communities. As such, the project should give more focus onto socio-economic analysis and activities.

M. Bayoumi noted that this project has been a big learning experience. In particular, he emphasized that the project has demonstrated that it is impossible to talk of biodiversity without mainstreaming the local communities and the socio-economic issues. He reflected that, if the socio-economic aspect of the project had started from the beginning, larger and more effective socio-eco initiatives could have been developed.

J. Jalbert suggested that, in terms of socio-economic valuation of wetlands, there are few cases. He referred to some documented cases from the US but explained that, to his knowledge, little has been done in the Mediterranean region. The Tour du Valat is interested to investigate this issue further, building on the UK and US experience.

H. Ben Moussa added though that a valuation of wetlands could be a tricky exercise. One has to look at all of the values: social, biological, economic, etc. He also raised the issue of 'avian influenza' and wonders whether this would be an issue for wetlands conservation.

M. El Mastour referred to the MedWet 2 initiative, where valuation of wetlands was then addressed.

M. Fouda then suggested to form a task force to look into the issue.

## **4. Session III: perspectives for the project post end of 2005/2006 – sustainability strategy\_**

### **4.1. MWC national component : sustainability strategy**

The countries were invited to first present a short **outline of their sustainability strategy for the MWC national component**.

#### **Albania**

V. Zuna referred to 3 main conclusions, i.e.:

- ≈ MWC developed an integrated approach involving all the partners
- ≈ MWC contributed on putting env problems high on the local agendas
- ≈ MWC generated methods that are being applied to other settings

She confirmed that MWC has generated widespread interest in the country, introducing new concepts of resource management. She also referred to institutional sustainability, policy framework and to the financial sustainability. She acknowledged that the government can cover all of the needs to come in terms of implementation of the management plans. The project is helping to find solutions.

Finally, she highlighted that documenting the results is of prime importance.

#### **Egypt**

E. El Badry, highlighted the principles that would lead the MWC Egypt component to reach sustainability:

- Change in practices and grassroots participation, in particular the activation of civil society and empowerment of women
- Local management capacity building built at the sites, through training programs for local teams, construction and renovation of visitor centers, equipping of centers, decentralization of management decision making through the local management boards and involving relevant stakeholders
- Financial sustainability

In terms of policy framework, he confirmed that the **National Wetland Strategy** developed by the project in 2004/2005 has been **adopted** and has been recorded in the Government budget planning.

#### **Lebanon**

L. Yamout highlighted that MWC Lebanon is considered as one of the most successful projects at the Ministry of Environment in Lebanon.

In terms of institutional and management sustainability, she explained the arrangements that are being finalized at each of the 2 sites:

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve a) a Government Appointed Committee: Supervision, Management, hiring of staff, fund raising, advocacy.... and b) Management Team: execution of activities, development of MP and WP, Patrolling

- Aammiq Wetland: a) an Owners-NGO Consortium (Suggested by MoE): Supervision and fund raising and b) Management Team execution of activities, development of MP and WP

In terms of financial sustainability, she explained that, as per the business plan prepared for each of the Management Plans, the implementation of the plan would cost about \$200 000 average per year per site

- Tyre Coast Nature Reserve receives a yearly allocation from the ministry of environment of \$70 000 and a yearly allocation from the Municipality of Tyre of \$22,000 as proceeds from the kiosks. They are expecting that the development of site activities would generate some 250 000\$/year

- Aammiq Wetland: the operationalization of the business plan and the development of site activities and lodging package should bring some 250 000\$/year.

She also cited a number of policy support measures and emphasized the ownership and partnerships that the project has helped generate.

### **Morocco**

Y. Slaoui first cited the new sharing of tasks and responsibilities between provinces, municipalities, Ministry of Forestry and NGOs with regards to the implementation of the management plans. Institutionally and policy-wise, he also referred to the listing of the 5 MWC sites as Ramsar sites in 2005, the process to turn the Moulouya into a national parc (and possibly later, Beni Snassen), the set up of a national coastal zone policy through the Cellule Littoral, and the decrees taken at provincial level to support conservation of the sites.

In terms of financial sustainability, he explained that the project is working on several fronts, including :

- funding from Interreg for one of the sites with a new phase starting in 2006-2007
- the development and submission with Tour du Valat of a SMAPIII project
- the fact that, as soon as the Moulouya has been declared a national parc, it will benefit from Government funds (at present, the MWC sites are budgeted under the Ministry of Eaux et Foret)
- progressive set up of mechanisms to allow local NGOs to receive financing for their activities
- discussions and negotiations with the tourism operator FADESA for its contribution to the construction of an environmental education center at the Moulouya

Finally, he emphasized that the project has entered into lasting partnership arrangements which will continue beyond the life of the project : Mesures de partenariat

- close collaboration with professional organisations to involve them in the management of the sites (fishermen, local communities, etc.)
- partnership with the Centre Regional d'Investissement
- partnership with the Oujda University for bio-physical monitoring of the sites, and
- discussion with FADESA

### **Tunisia**

H. Ben Moussa first referred to the legal and institutional framework that the project has helped set up : all of the MWC sites are protected by several legal instruments.

He then explained that the sites are well integrated within national strategies or programmes: National biodiversity strategy, national wetland strategy (which will be submitted on 4<sup>th</sup> December), listing of the project in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 5-year development plans, and annual inclusion of the project in the budget of APAL.

He highlighted that the management planning process has been an open process, facilitating dialogue and participation by all. There is now a solid management structure in place that will continue beyond the project life time.

Finally, he mentioned that the project has generated very concrete and visible actions but also helped develop medium and long term objectives that are adhered and agreed to by all stakeholders.

Their presentations are consolidated in Annex 13.

**Question/discussion :**

Ms. Lina Yamout, MWC Lebanon project director, emphasized that the human resource aspects must be taken into consideration. When the project finishes, the key project staff will likely leave and find another job. What mechanisms have been set up to keep these people that have been trained?

H. Ben Moussa explained that, for Tunisia, the project staff has been recruited by APAL; they will therefore remain after the end of the project. Similarly in Morocco, Y. Slaoui informed that the Ministry of E&F has relied on its staff on the field. He further noted that the only person leaving the project in Morocco would be himself.

M. Houssaini emphasized that it is crucial to address the needs of the local population in order to ensure their full involvement in the project. The local population has to adhere to the objectives of the project; for this, it has to find its interest; and to find interest in the project, the local population has to see that its main concerns and needs are addressed. He pointed out that 4 years is too short to reach that objective. He regretted that the project has to close at the end of 2006. But he explained that the management teams in place are now putting all efforts to ensure that the local and national actors do fully take over the project and are able to continue the work after completion of the project.

**4.2. What regional activities are needed in 2006?**

S. Goyet first restated that, for the GEF, this project is one. As such, issues of consolidation of results, reporting and monitoring must be consolidated and displayed as one overall effort. She explained that, at present, the regional component would complete its operations at the end of 2005, for lack of available resources to pursue activities in 2006. She also reminded that the Lebanon component would complete in February 2006.

It is likely that, in 2006, the national components of Albania, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia will continue to function to complete all activities by the end of the year. The mechanics to fulfill the regional requirements must then be in place. On the other hand, if the national components value such regional functions as networking or website, specific arrangements should be set up to ensure continuity of these activities.

She presented a table summarizing the key activities that would need to be pursued a) to meet the reporting and monitoring requirements and b) to sustain certain functions that, in her opinion, are valued by the national components and would be useful to ensure in 2006. She cautioned that the table has been shared with the regional steering committee, but, since the meeting could not be held before the RAC5, the proposal has not yet been discussed or cleared by it.

<b>Proposed regional activities in 2006</b>	
<b>a) regional requirements</b>	
TPR meetings	UNDP GEF Regional Office + UNDP CO
Monitoring + technical support (and trouble shooting)	UNDP GEF Regional Office + UNDP CO
Reporting: PIR, QOR	PIR: a consultant ? + QOR: UNDP GEF Regional Office + specific briefing notes and reporting, on request
Final Evaluation	UNDP Regional Bureau + Lead Consultant recruited before hand. + Someone to facilitate and organize (access to documentation, visits to counties, contracting, etc).
<b>b) valued regional functions</b>	

MWC website (no newsletter, unless one of the countries is happy to take it over)	Subcontract with existing consultant Taken up by TdV or MedWet or RAC-SPA?? At what cost?
RAC6 - Sept 06	someone to coordinate, draft agenda, liaise with participants, etc. + facilitate meeting + report Extra cost to bring the Leb and Pal, if appropriate
Networking	Already existing within MedWet, RAC-SPA, MAP, TdV, CdL, ATEN, etc. New proposals in the region trying to 'use' the national MWC teams already (LIFE, SMAP, GEF SGP, etc.)
Lessons learned	Package to be finalized by end of 2005 (MPPR, Socio-eco, Training assessment, CD-Rom of MWC publications, CD-Rom of Training of Trainers in Man Plan, CD-Rom of website at end of 05 with all archives, CD-Rom of Rabat workshop). Should then be distributed – UNDP GEF Regional Office

## Discussion

Y. Slaoui confirmed that the list of activities proposed by S. Goyet is fine and conform to the needs of the national components. He suggested that it is up to the national components to see to it that these activities are effectively carried out in 2006. He recalled that a rough estimate for undertaking the tasks would amount to \$50-60K, which, when divided by the 4 remaining countries, is a small sum to pay, compared with the yearly budget. He explained that his preferred option would be for the recruitment of a consultant to carry out these tasks. He then asked whether the Regional Coordinator could provide a more detailed proposal, spelling out clearly the costs associated, tentatively, to each activity.

H. Ben Moussa asked whether the option to institutionalize the RCU had been pursued, option which had been discussed prior to the previous RAC4 meeting. S. Goyet explained that the institutionalization option had indeed been carefully studied in 2004, in collaboration with the partners (MedWetCU, and RAC-SPA in particular). She reminded though of the conclusions presented at RAC4 by Marcel Alers of UNDP-GEF. Also she questioned whether the national components do actually value the MWC regional coordination to the point of wanting it to be institutionalized in the long term. She pointed out that, in the past, there has not been sufficient demonstration of that value. One has to acknowledge, she pursued, that the 'raison d'être' of the regional coordination has really been to facilitate the implementation of the national components and enable these to deliver impacts at the national level, which is how the project was originally designed. The second role of the RCU has been one of mechanically ensuring the regionality of the project, i.e. consolidating results, reporting and networking. These seem hardly sufficient to justify an institutionalization of the RCU, all the more as the goal of the project (enhance conservation and effective management of wetlands and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean region) is already embodied in a variety of organisations: IUCN, MedWet/Ramsar, Tour du Valat, UNEP-MAP PAP-RAC and RAC-SPA, WWF, etc. These networks will continue to remain available to support the efforts of the countries in pursuing the protection of the sites and national policy setting.

J. Jalbert further confirmed that the Mediterranean was a region that had a lot of networks already and that the idea would be to build on these. He suggested that there are two main networks : MedWet/Com and RAC-SPA. He cautioned though that the partners and countries have a responsibility to feed and drive these networks, so that they can be used to achieve the goals that the parties have set for the region.

M. Bayoumi pointed out that this project has indeed been a headache. He expressed appreciation that the present regional coordinator has ably manoeuvred between facilitation and coordination. This is the value that the national components appreciate. He added that, linking activities as a regional component has been a real challenge: there is some achievement there, but little. He noted that, in his opinion, there was a necessity for the RCU to continue in 2006, at least to support the requirements of the GEF. He pointed out that, at RAC4, there was inability of the national components to agree on a contribution to sustaining RCU but that this could be overcome. He furthered that the RAC4 position essentially stemmed from the fact that there was a mismanagement of the RCU in the past and the national components would not wish to pay for this mismanagement. That being said, one needs to realize that the national components would likely not expend all of the funds by the end of the project and would



have to return unused amounts to the GEF. Taking this into consideration, he suggested that countries should contribute, on a voluntary basis, and putting funds into the RCU to sustain its functions over 2006. He insisted that the contribution could be on a voluntary basis only.

A. Hassouna concurred with the proposal of Y. Slaoui. He pointed out that, according to a rapid review, there would be 8 activities to sustain, including 3 or 4 that would need to be sub-contracted (incl. website, reporting). The national partners could indeed agree on taking on board the costs associated with these sub-contracts. Except for these, the other activities could be undertaken by the UNDP COs. The only activity that remains is the networking. But he noted that the project has not achieved much particular result on that issue and that there is already a good number of opportunities in the region to network.

L. Yamout confirmed that the activities that have been suggested by the RC are really important. She believes that there is a need to sustain the RCU if only for these activities in 2006. For Lebanon, she informed that more than 60% has been spent and lots of contracts are about to be finalized. She explained that, at the end of February 2006, there will be no funds to disburse. She reiterated that what was really important was the sustainability at the sites and agreed that the main objective was not to sustain the RCU in the long term but really the sites. She also pointed out that, in her mind, it is important to sustain the networking across the MWC sites and countries, in order to know more about lessons learned and the impacts of the projects, to exchange experience, and to organize cross-visits between sites.

C. Rizk pointed out that most of the national components are today at the beginning of the conservation action, though at the end of the project. Monitoring has been initiated but results of these and lessons learned would best be reviewed in some 10 years time. Proof of the sustainability of some of the actions would come in years from now, he said. He remarked that there is a need to keep monitoring and learning. He cautioned that if that process stops now, the benefits and learning would be lost.

V. Zuna agreed that it would be important to keep the project as a regional one and thus keep the RCU operational in 2006. She supported the suggestion that components, which still would have money available, should contribute to it. She expects that the Regional Coordinator would forward additional details on the costs of these various options.

S. Goyet, further building on the suggestion of C. Rizk, proposed to explore with the UNDP GEF and the partners how a function of 'monitoring the sites and then dispatching results' could be sustained over the long term. She pointed out that this would seem to be within the objective of the present MWC project and, as such, wondered whether the UNDP GEF would be interested and whether some creative mechanism could be set up, using the remaining funds and rooted within an existing institution (e.g. Tour du Valat, MedWet and RAC-SPA but also others). She offered to discuss the option with UNDP GEF.

## **5. Session IV: Final Evaluation and GEF Tracking Tool**

S. Goyet presented the draft TORs for the Final Evaluation. These are attached as Annex 13.

M. Bayoumi pointed out that he understood the requirement of the GEF for one report, but also explained that the Mid Term Review had not been useful for assessing the achievements of the national components. He did not think that the evaluation of the national components should be left to the responsibility of the national components. Rather, he suggested that the national reports be also the responsibility of the international mission, so that one would get a decent and coherent evaluation of the activities at the national level. In addition, he recommended that the mission look at how the national components have contributed to achieving the objectives of the regional functions and responded to the regional commitments.

L. Yamout concurred with the suggestion and actually confessed that she took it by default that the products would consist in one overall report and 6 national reports. She also stressed the importance of having good evaluators, both in terms of technical know-how and in terms of analytical skills.

All other national components (Albania, Morocco, Tunisia) confirmed their support to having national reports in addition to one overall evaluation, all under the responsibility of the international mission.

Some participants suggested that scheduling the Final Evaluation in mid 2006 was too early and that it would better be arranged for after 2006 or else organized at different time according to the time of completion of the respective components. S. Goyet responded that, in her understanding, the Final Evaluation has to be undertaken within the life-time of the project and conducted at the same time for all, lest it is very difficult and complex to organize and not coherent.

M. Bayoumi further added that, in his opinion, adding the national reports in the responsibility of the international mission should translate into one or two extra days only. The national reports should be tailored to each country and really easy to write and based on the field visit and mission reports. He also voiced that the overall cost of the Final Evaluation seemed quite high and wondered how to reduce some of the budget items. For example, he suggested that 2 international consultants only visit each country; the socio-economic aspects could then be covered by the national consultant.

L. Yamout also concurred that 3 international consultants visiting the countries would be too much.

H. Ben Moussa and Y. Slaoui asked that qualifications of the evaluators include a familiarity with the Mediterranean region.

The participants agreed to the proposed cost breakdown and to the advance payment to UNOPS. Provision for it will be made in their 2006 workplan.

## **6. Session V: GEF Tracking Tool**

In the absence of the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinator, S. Goyet presented the main elements of the tool, recalling its development by the WWF/World Bank Alliance. She then relayed the comments offered by Tim Clairs, the UNDP GEF Regional Coordinator (see Annex 2), in particular emphasizing that the tool would need to be submitted prior to the scheduling of the Final Evaluation. In addition, and in order to serve as yardstick, she recommended that all of the national components do undertake the exercise retroactively, at the time of the diagnosis.

## **7. Session VI : knowledge management / lessons learned of the project**

As the project is drawing to completion, a number of initiatives have been undertaken whether at the national or regional level to document the experience and describe useful case studies and lessons.

### **7.1 Regional initiatives**

#### **Publication: booklet on 'integrated wetland management'**

J. Jalbert presented the booklet that was finalized in late 2004 and recently published in both English and French. He regretted that the booklet was being issued at a late time in the project but stressed that, as a result, they were able to use many MWC case studies and examples, in addition to resources from a great number of experts and initiatives. Substantially, he explained that the booklet aimed at presenting how to carry out the principles of integrated wetland management and this was proposed in the form of questioning. He cautioned that the booklet is not a cooking recipe but a list of ingredients that illustrate the steps required to carry out an integrated approach. He pointed out that often the projects go too fast in the initiation phase. Finally, he spelled out the key issues that the booklet addresses, including: scale, organization, role of government, actors to mobilize, nature of the relationship.

S. Goyet added that the booklet was published as one of a MedWet series of technical handbooks, that have proved an extremely useful reference library for field practitioners. J. Jalbert also explained that the Tour du

Valat would like to continue the series, pointing that a possible next topic that is being discussed is 'the *biodiversity of wetlands in the Mediterranean region*'. The problem, he said, has been with the distribution. The effort put into developing the booklet needs to be matched by a similar effort in distributing the document. At present, doing it through the Tour du Valat network is not satisfactory or sufficient. He suggested that, if they were to reiterate the effort for a next booklet, the Tour du Valat would first wish to rely on the services of a professional editor.

His presentation is attached as Annex 14.

S. Goyet pointed out that she would have wished that the MWC had been able to contribute to this assessment of biodiversity values and that the project had the means and data to already compile a good report. This kind of linkages and consolidation could have been a good product from the project and a good contribution to the effort of partners to assess the status of biodiversity in the region.

J. Jalbert informed the meeting that the Tour du Valat is currently developing its programme for 2006-2010. One of the 3 new programmes is an observatory of mediterranean wetlands. The idea is to use the most relevant data, information and documents that exist, and establish a useful monitoring facility, also able to display decision making indicators. Putting the facility in place, he said, presupposes cooperation of a lot of actors.

### **Socio-economic case study report**

S. Goyet presented the initiative of the RCU to document the socio-economic approach that was carried out within the MWC project. The initiative is led by R. Mathevet, socio-economic from the Tour du Valat and builds on the information providing by the respective national experts.

Her presentation is attached as Annex 15.

She informed that the draft study will be shortly sent to the MWC socio-economic practitioners, seeking their further inputs and careful review. A final document should be tabled at the next meeting of socio-economic practitioners at the end of November 2005.

### **Management Plan Peer Review report**

S. Goyet presented the process that was carried out under this initiative:

- Recruitment of 2 consultants: international consultant (Parc des Cevennes, ICUN) + national consultant (Tunisia management plan expert, thanks to contribution from MWC Tunisia)
- Desk review: examination of site MPs, MWC guidelines – April/May 2005
- Tailored questionnaire sent to the national teams requesting further information or clarification – May 2005
- Field visits: Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco – May/June 2005
- Regional workshop, gathering practitioners from each of the MWC countries as well as invited protected area management experts from other projects in the region – June 2005
- Synthesis report – July/October 2005

She explained that the final report is regrettably not yet available, as considerable work is still required to consolidate the amount of information collected and produce a coherent report. She expects that further work will be engaged on it in October and that a final report should be available shortly and, in any case, by the end of this year. She informed though that the Rabat meeting report is available and it contained a number of useful points and illustrations. She handed out a copy of the CD Rom that was produced by the RCU that includes not only the Rabat meeting report but also the guidelines that were presented at that meeting and those that were referred to (IUCN, Eurosite, Ramsar, WWF, TNC, etc.).

Then, upon sketching out the outline of the draft report, she presented the initial findings of the review, in particular in so far as:

- ✍ Analysis of the guidelines
- ✍ Training and technical assistance

- ✍ Diagnosis studies
- ✍ Particular elements of the Management Plan process
- ✍ Proposed implementation
- ✍ Preparing the next plans

The details of her presentation are given in Annex 16

### **Training and capacity building assessment**

E. Thevenin, ATEN representative, presented the capacity building assessment that the RCU is currently undertaking, with the cooperation of the Training Focal Points and the leadership of ATEN. The objectives are a) to assess *how* far the training support has facilitated the implementation of the MWC project and *how much* it has contributed to raising sustainability of the management planning process in the sites and b) *whether* the chosen approaches in training management are sound and sustainable and *whether* the resources made available are being used in an appropriate and efficient way.

He explained the methodology that is being applied for this assessment. He then spelled out some of the preliminary elements of the evaluation, including:

- Looking for synergies across national training initiatives
- Assessing capacity constraints at individual level
- Re-enforce the planification of training
- Building dedicated team

The Training Focal Points will meet in Paris at the end of November 2005 (28-29 November) and will then review the draft assessment. That report will be available in December 2005.

His presentation is attached as Annex 17

## **7.2 National products**

National participants made presentations of specific case studies illustrating lessons learned or particular achievements of the project.

Albania:	Rehabilitation of water point for livestock in Karaburun
Egypt:	Project for Supporting and Developing Traditional Bedouin Women's Handicrafts in the Villages of Zaranik Protectorate
Lebanon :	Useful Lessons Learned
Morocco:	Projet de plan de gestion integree pour les Beni Snassen (DREFO_ Plan de gestion intégré (provisoire) du SIBE de l'embouchure Moulouya (Enda Maghreb)
Tunisia:	Illustration of ownership – case study of Korba municipality

Their detailed presentations are attached as a consolidated Annex 18

## **8. Session VI: Regional partner networks**

The two partners present, namely the Tour du Valat and UNEP-MAP RAC-SPA gave a presentation of their organization and its possible future linkages with the MedWetCoast project.

**Tour du Valat:** J. Jalbert explained that the TdV is currently working on the development of its 2006-2010 programme. To do so, the organization first reflected on the trends in the region and the causes of wetland loss and degradation in the Mediterranean. Progressively, taking account of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and an evaluation of its effort to date, the team has identified the niche, in terms of proposed programme outline. Over 2006-2010, the TdV will focus on 3 areas of work:

- ✍ Assess status & trends of Med Wetlands: Towards a Med Observatory => Feed and influence public policies
- ✍ Develop methods & tools => Promote & implement integrated wetland management
- ✍ Improve knowledge on animal & plant populations dynamics =>Ensure their conservation in a context of global change

J. Jalbert explained that, within that framework, there would be a number of areas of collaboration with the MWC national partners, in particular in so far as site activities for integrated wetland management, training and capacity building, and monitoring and indicators.

His presentation is attached as Annex 19.

**UNEP MAP RAC-SPA:** A. Ouerghi, marine officer at the UNEP MAP RAC-SPA, presented the development of the organization. There have been recent changes in the structure of the Regional Center and he informed that Mr. Gannoun is now director of the unit.

He proposed various areas of collaboration between the RAC-SPA and the MWC partners.

- SAP BIO: a PDF-B proposal is currently being developed. He hoped that a full project document would be tabled to the GEF in late 2006. In all likelihood, the implementation of the SAP-BIO project will liaise with the MWC sites.
- Follow up to the MedMPA: the implementation of this project has enabled the RAC-SPA to gather a number of lessons learned and useful case studies. The final report is being cleared and, once available, will be shared for experience.
- He also recalled of the services that RAC-SPA would be able to ensure, in particular for networking across the project sites, training and capacity building as well as particular technical assistance.

## 9. Recommendations of the RAC5 Meeting

The meeting agreed on the following recommendations:

1. The meeting noted the progress that has been realized by the countries and the regional component in achieving results over the reporting period.
2. The meeting demonstrated that the countries, through the project, have reached a stage where they increasingly share similar concerns and approaches and recognize the benefits of working together. Participants agreed to the notion that the project has now truly 'closed the Mediterranean circle'.
3. It invited the national components to put good attention, over the remaining time, to finalize activities, to document the process and results, and to set in place the necessary arrangements (institutional, financial, policy, participation) to ensure the sustainability of the project's results.
4. It invites the regional component, over the next 3 months, to complete the ongoing regional reviews and assessments, and to finalize arrangements for the Final Evaluation (TORs, implementation modalities).
5. The meeting took note of the improved delivery rate over the reporting period to reach 61% at July05. It reminded that, as per UNDP GEF advice, the project will operationally close at the end of 2006 and that any unspent funds will have to be returned then to the GEF.
6. To ensure the running of the project and its display as one entity, the meeting supports the idea of maintaining priority regional activities in 2006, as proposed by the RCU: website, RAC6, reporting/PIR, Final Evaluation, participation in TPR (and networking).

7. Within the next two weeks, the RCU will forward clear details of the two options, in terms of inputs (consultant, travel, etc.) and budget for 2006: a) implementation of the discrete activities referred to above through consultancies, b) maintaining the RCU to deliver those activities. The national components agree to review these, as appropriate, and channel a clear response to the RCU by the end of October 05.
8. The meeting pointed out that impacts and results, in terms of biodiversity and conservation, would likely best be demonstrated at the level of the sites and in some years time. It then discussed the benefits of arranging for monitoring the sites after the end of the project, designing impact indicators for assessing impacts. It asked the RCU to explore with the UNDP GEF the possibility of channeling any leftover funds of the project to setting up a facility for monitoring the sites, possibly relying on the work of the RAC-SPA, MedWet, on the programme 'Mediterranean Wetland Observatory' of the Tour du Valat and/or those efforts of other partners.
9. The meeting took note of the draft TORs for the Final Evaluation. It asked that the national reports be an integral part of the TORs and under the responsibility of the international mission. A number of other points were suggested, which will be taken into consideration in the finalization of the document.
10. The national components agreed to the proposed cost-sharing arrangements for the Final Evaluation and to ensuring a proper allocation in their 2006 budget.
11. The meeting heard the presentation on the GEF Tracking Tool and took note that it is a requirement for the project.
12. The meeting welcomed the production of thematic regional reviews that document the MWC experience and the lessons learned, i.e. TdV/MWC booklet on 'Integrated Wetland Management', socio-economic study, Management Plan Peer Review, and capacity building assessment. It called on the RCU to finalize the documents and to see to its proper dissemination.
13. The meeting appreciated the efforts of the national components to document the process engaged at the national level and the results.
14. The meeting took note of the update given by RAC-SPA and Tour du Valat and the leads proposed in terms of cooperation to further manage and conserve the sites. It thanked these partners for their continued support throughout the implementation of the project.
15. Finally the meeting thanked the Egyptian team for the efficient organization of this meeting.

## Closing

In closing, the chairman and the regional coordinator thanked the participants for their active and truly effective involvement in this meeting. They particularly commended the good spirit and disposition of the teams, pointing that this gives good indication that a next RAC meeting would surely take place in September 2006.

The host organization was duly thanked for its effort to gather all of the participants and organize the meeting.

Finally, the Regional Coordinator also took the opportunity of the meeting to extend a special thank you to C. Rizk, MWC Lebanon project manager, for his contribution to the project over the years, hoping that his departure from the project at the end of October 2005 would certainly not mean a departure from the region and from the goal of protecting the wetlands and coastal areas.

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**Fifth Regional Advisory Committee Meeting  
MedWetCoast Project  
26 September 2005  
President Hotel, Cairo**

**Address by Ms. Elissar Sarouh, DRR, UNDP Egypt**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of UNDP it gives me a great pleasure to address the fifth Regional Advisory Committee Meeting for the MedWetCoast Project. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Egyptian Authorities for hosting the workshop and the National Project Management team for their efforts in its organization. I would also like to welcome you to Cairo and wish to express our appreciation to all national and international teams who are here today who are committed to the conservation of the Mediterranean wetlands.

Unlike the four previous meeting, this meeting is very particular as it might be your last meeting under the umbrella of the ongoing UNDP-GEF Project. In this respect, I would like to stress the importance of maintaining the established networks for cooperation and experience sharing to ensure closing the Mediterranean circle. Meanwhile Mediterranean wetlands still need your dedication in advocacy to ensure the implementation of the management plans developed in the project. And noting the change in our orientation into a results based organization, the relationship of UNDP with the project will just not end with the phase out of the GEF funds. Nevertheless, the project impact will be monitored and evaluated after its close down, and accordingly the extension of the activities beyond the project life time will be our indicator for its success.

On the upstream level, UNDP Executive board has adopted Environment as one of its practice areas towards achieving its ultimate goal of eradication of poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods. In Egypt, these initiatives include the adoption of sustainable human development policies and support for operational activities, which demonstrate ways to create jobs, protect the environment and promote effective governance- with special emphasis on the needs of women. Our office is also committed to work with our national, regional and international partners as well as supporting the United Nations Resident Coordinator System.

In Egypt the national interest and commitment to conservation of biodiversity is steadily growing and UNDP is privileged to have an extensive partnership with the Nature Conservation Sector at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. In this respect, we at UNDP Country Office are proud to be operating in three protectorates within the framework of this project in addition to St. Katherine protectorate through UNDP-GEF funds. In addition, we are also present in three other protectorates through the Egyptian debt swap and Italian Cooperation funds.

As for the MedWetCoast project and apart from the project scientific achievements, the MedWetCoast Project has proved that it is possible to support the sustainable livelihoods through the conservation of eco-systems. The project also demonstrated best practices for empowerment of local communities and NGOs and ensured their engagement in conservation activities through synergies with the GEF small grants programme. In addition, the project has also positively contributed to the capacity building of the national experts and the experience gained in this project will surely benefit other conservation projects. In this respect, and in addition to the political support, the level of the government commitment was really high represented in the cost sharing and the additional resources mobilized to implement the management plans in the three protectorates.

It is indeed gratifying to witness the implementation of a regional environmental initiative, which covers several themes and features that we at UNDP strive daily to see into development programmes. It is understandable that the management of this project was not an easy ride and it has faced some difficulties in its implementation but definitely UNDP will benefit from the lessons learnt in this project in design and implementation of other regional projects. Meanwhile, we are currently looking forward for the project final evaluation to document your success stories and draw on lessons learnt for the future.



In closing I wish the MedWetCoast family a successful meeting and an enjoyable field trip and project outputs that will satisfies the aspirations of the your governments and counterparts.

**Message from Mr. Tim Clairs  
Team Leader & Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity  
GEF Regional Coordination Unit**

**Date:** 26 September 2005

**To:** [SGOYET@aol.com](mailto:SGOYET@aol.com)

**Subject:** Comments for the MWC RAC-5

Dear RAC5 Participants,

Firstly, my sincere apologies for not being able to participate in the RAC5 meeting with you. I was very much looking forward to attending right up until last Thursday when I was requested by John Hough, UNDP-GEF's Principal Technical Adviser for Biodiversity, to cancel my mission in order to finalise a new Migratory Soaring Bird submission to the GEF.

Secondly, I want to thank Sylvie and the Egypt MWC team for the terrific work in organising the meeting. I am sure you will all have a successful meeting and I look forward to receiving the outcomes.

Thirdly, it is important to recognise the effort that has been made by the national components to attend the meeting. It has been a busy year for many of you and I know you will have worked hard to make it to RAC5. I want to assure you that my absence was not planned and I am very disappointed not to have the opportunity to meet with you all and learn more about the progress you have made.

MedWetCoast was approved by the GEF Council in 1997 with a GEF allocation of \$13m. It has to be recognised that MWC has achieved a significant amount over the past 6 years of implementation in addressing the main threats to the Mediterranean's coastal and wetlands biodiversity. These biodiversity values remain some of the highest global important values in the Mediterranean basin and they support environmental services that are crucial for the attainment of national development priorities.

The project represents perhaps the most significant GEF experience in Mediterranean-type coastal and wetlands systems. These systems include the two main globally significant biodiversity values for the Mediterranean ecoregion: high plant species richness and endemism, as well as providing critical roosting and feeding sites for the millions of migratory birds on the African-Palaearctic flyways. These coastal and wetlands systems remain under severe pressure from rapidly increasing coastal urbanization and tourism development and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, particularly water (primarily for agriculture). These threats are mainly due to inappropriate or ill-conceived land-use policies.

The Mediterranean is the world's leading tourist destination, attracting 220 million tourists every year. The current pressures are only going to increase, making the lessons and experiences from MWC even more valuable. The project has tested innovative approaches to managing the coastal and wetlands systems, particularly approaches involving local community involvement at the site level. In most cases these approaches represented new beginnings for the participating countries, many of which implement strong centralized systems, with weak links to local populations, resource users or local economies. This has often meant centralized jurisdiction is at odds with decentralized powers (e.g. of regional governors and their equivalents), raising the need for interministerial coordination. Interministerial coordination can be a significant hurdle, especially when trying to develop integrated coastal zone management solutions.

The project has faced these issues and made important progress. Each national component must be congratulated for their efforts. I have realised over the year I have been in the region just how hard working this project is and how dedicated the national teams are. I particularly want to mention the Morocco and Tunisia components, who I had a chance to visit during the year and gained a higher appreciation for the work they have done and results they are achieving. I would also like say how impressed I have been with the work of Sylvie Goyet in the regional component. Sylvie has worked tirelessly this year to squeeze every drop of potential out of the meagre regional coordination funds and opportunities available to her. Without pausing for the birth of

Sophie or any holidays, she has put in a mammoth effort. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude and I am extremely sorry not to be there in person to say thank you to Sylvie.

The achievements of the project and the hard work of the regional component cannot be wasted. We owe it to ourselves to ensure the knowledge that has been gained is maintained, analysed and - most importantly - used into the future. In this regard, the knowledge management efforts of Sylvie over the past year must be highly commended. However, as we draw towards the end of the MWC experience, it is also extremely important to complete an appropriate Final Evaluation that draws out the lessons and experiences and ensures the MWC legacy is applied for future coastal and wetlands biodiversity conservation initiatives in the Mediterranean basin (particularly the implementation of the SAPs and the development of the UNEP-GEF Strategic Partnerships project).

I would therefore like to make some specific comments relating to project closure, the final evaluation and the GEF Tracking Tool. These are priority issues for UNDP-GEF and I hope appropriate time can be given to them during the RAC5 deliberations.

Warm regards and sincere apologies again,  
Tim

### **Project Closure**

- ? As I mentioned in an email to you all earlier this year, all MWC will be operationally closed at the end of 2006. UNDP-GEF hereby advises all UNDP Country Offices to ensure 2006 work plans and budgets are developed with this in mind.
- ? This is in-line with UNDP-GEF policy on project implementation, which does not allow for indefinite extensions to project duration. It is also in-line with new GEF M&E procedures where they pay careful attention to project extensions.
- ? The project was originally designed for 5 years. At the end of 2006 most components will have been under active implementation for 7 years. 7 years is the maximum duration UNDP projects can be implemented.
- ? Furthermore, it is inappropriate for UNDP as the GEF Implementing Agency to maintain a GEF regional project without a regional coordination mechanism. The regional coordination office will close at the end of 2005. One additional year for national component winding up is the maximum that can be considered without any regional coordination.
- ? The UNDP-GEF RCU does not have the budget nor capacity to take on the MWC regional coordination functions. It is also the policy of UNDP-GEF senior management not to have RCUs undertaking such functions.
- ? Any unspent GEF funds at the end of 2006 must be returned to the GEF Trustee.

### **Final Evaluation**

- ? The draft TOR for the final evaluation have been developed in-line with the GEF Guidance for Final Evaluations and the UNDP-GEF Guidelines
- ? It should be noted that the GEF considers MWC one regional project and therefore expects to receive one Final Evaluation report assessing results and impacts against the original Regional Proposal. The fact that a decision was taken to split the Regional Proposal into 6 NEX prodocs and one UNOPS prodoc is considered only as an implementation arrangement issue. So while the national evaluation reports are

important for national stakeholders, the overall project (i. e. 6 NEX prodocs and UNOPS prodoc) has an obligation to the GEF to deliver one Final Evaluation report

- ? The Final Evaluation report will eventually be a *public document*. All participants and national implementing partners should ensure the Final Evaluation report meets appropriate quality levels. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, has an obligation to submit the Final Evaluation report to the newly independent GEF M&E Unit (who reports directly to the GEF Council). The GEF M&E Unit reviews the report and assesses its quality. Its assessment is reported to the GEF Council.
- ? National implementing partners should be aware that future GEF country allocations will be partially determined on the Final Evaluation report. Therefore there is a strong incentive to ensure the highest quality report possible.
- ? The proposed budget in the draft TOR (\$146,000) is well within UNDP-GEF recommended evaluation costs. If anything, it is on the low side for a project as complex as MWC and for the extensive requirements set out in the draft TOR.
- ? NEX prodoc components have an obligation to ensure adequate funds are available for the Final Evaluation and are transferred to UNOPS as requested. \$146,000 should be considered as a minimum figure, even if this means NEX projects have to make budget revisions and/or cancel activities.
- ? The independence of the Final Evaluation is paramount. No evaluators should be selectors who may have, or may appear to have, any conflict of interest concerning the Final Evaluation. The evaluators (both international and national) should not have had any involvement with the implementation of MWC and have no affiliation (personal or professional) with any entity involved in the implementation.
- ? The formula for dividing the costs of the Final Evaluation looks sensible and is endorsed by UNDP-GEF RCU. The only alternative to consider would be if any NEX component wished to contribute more than the proposed percentage. This could be considered where a NEX component could contribute additional funds without affecting its 2006 workplan, while other NEX components may be forced to make revisions to their 2006 workplans in order to meet their evaluation financial obligation.

### **GEF Tracking Tool**

- ? It is now a GEF obligation that the METT be completed for every project. New projects must use the METT to establish a baseline before GEF approval. Older projects must apply the METT either at mid-term of Final Evaluation
- ? It should be completed for every MWC site, then consolidated up to the national level.
- ? A draft METT must be provided by the NEX Project Managers to the Final Evaluation Team upon commencement of the evaluation. The Evaluation Team will use this information as input into the Final Evaluation but will also verify the information and establish a baseline if necessary.
- ? RAC5 participants are requested to familiarise themselves with the METT and treat the process as a high priority. Future GEF country allocations will be determined in part by how well the METT is completed.

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**MedWetCoast 5th Regional Advisory Committee meeting  
Final Agenda**

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 2005**

20.30 Welcome dinner offered by MWC Egypt

**Monday, September 26th 2005**

9.00 - 9.30 Registration

9.30 - 9.45 Opening of the meeting and welcome by Egyptian Government representative

9.45 – 10.20 Opening addresses by:

- UNDP Cairo representative
- UNDP GEF Regional Office  
(statement read)
- MedWetCoast Regional  
Coordinator

10.20 – 10.30 Approval of the Agenda. Appointment of Meeting Reporter and Chairperson.

10.30 - 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00-13.00 **Session I: progress in implementation of the national components** (lead: Project Managers)  
Activity and Status Report of the MedWetCoast national components: **Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine Authority (excused), Tunisia** (15-minute presentation by the respective project managers on the basis of national APR/PIR of July 05, latest developments in implementation of the project and perspectives + 5-minute Questions & Answers).

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 – 15.00 **Session II: Status report of the overall MedWetCoast project and of the Regional component in particular** (lead: Regional Coordinator)

- Consolidated PIR / status of implementation of the whole project since last RAC4 of September 2004
- Activities of the Regional Coordination Unit over the reporting period (with reports from partners: TdV, and ATEN– 5/10 minutes each)
- Financial overview (overall project and RCU)

15.00 – 16.00 **Session III: perspectives for the project post end of 2005/2006 – sustainability strategy** (facilitation: Regional Coordinator)

- a) Sustainability strategies for the national components: 5-minute presentation by each of national team managers + 5-minute Q&A
- b) Recommendations of the RCU for regional activities in 2006 and discussion

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee Break*

16.30 – 17.15 **(session III continued)**

**Tuesday, September 27th 2005**

- 9.00 – 10.30            **Session IV: Final Evaluation and GEF Tracking Tool**  
Review of the proposed TORs and comments/discussion
- 10.30 - 11.00           *Coffee break*
- 11.00 – 12.00           **Session V: GEF Tracking Tool**  
Presentation by Regional Coordinator and discussion
- 12.00 – 13.00           **Session VI : knowledge management / lessons learned of the project**
- a) Regional initiatives:  
                                    Publication: booklet on ‘integrated wetland management’: 5-minute presentation by Regional Coordinator)  
                                    Socio-economic case study report: 5-minute presentation by Regional coordinator  
                                    Management Plan Peer Review report: 10-minute presentation by the Regional Coordinator and discussion  
                                    Training and capacity building assessment: 10-minute presentation by the representative of ATEN and discussion
- c) National products (various presentations consisting of 5-minute case studies by respective national representatives)
- d) Discussion
- 13.00 – 14.00           *Lunch break*
- 14.00 – 14.45           **Session V** - continued
- 14.45 – 15.30           **Session VI: Regional partner networks**  
Presentation by participating regional partners (UNEP-MAP RAC-SPA, Tour du Valat) and linkages of the MedWetCoast project with established or planned regional networks and projects.
- 15.30 – 16.00           Any other business
- 16.00 – 16.30           *Coffee break*
- 17.00- 17.30           **Recommendations** of the Meeting: presentation of draft recommendations and discussion

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(Cairo, 26-27 September 2005)

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## **National Presentation: Albania**

### **Outcome 1 - National policies ....**

- DCM for Narta ecosystem as “Landscape PA”- Oct. 04
- Setting up of the Management Board
- Preparation and approval of the management plans
- Drafting and consultation of the MP Guideline (Regulation)
  
- Elaboration of the National Wetland Policy/Strategy
  - Order of Minister of Environment
  - Involvement of different local experts
  - International assistance is being given by Mr. Papayannis

### **Outcome 2 - The root causes of biodiversity loss are removed, sites are protected ...**

- Provide additional supporting expertise on hydrological and water resource use (jointly with TdV expertise- Nov.04)
- Finalization and widely discussion of MP
  - Local community
  - Local authority and local institutions
  - National and Local Steering Committees
  - Seminars for public information (Dec.04, March 05)
  
- Press conference in Narta site (2 Feb. 05)
- Circulation to the line Ministries
- Approval of Management Plans by the MoE (June 05)

### **Implementation of Management Plans**

- Complementing capacities of the site administration:
  - i.Assistance with MP instruments such as management guideline, facilities, survey/monitoring
  - ii.Active involvement on project design and implementation of priority actions
  - iii.Recruting of 5 additional rangers in project sites
- International assistance on implementation of MP
- Establishing of users association

### **Monitoring**

- Monthly monitoring by rangers
  - Survey on human activities, fires, illegal hunting, fishing, etc.
  - Records and monthly reporting to MWC
- Preparation of locally based monitoring programme and related trainings by the scientific institutes (IH,MS,RBI)
  
- Consultation with Vlora University and other institutions on locally based monitoring
- Consultation and contracting REC for leading the implementation a locally based monitoring program and training sessions on monitoring

### **Priority Actions**

Development of priority rehabilitations and management actions :

- i.Deviation of channel that discharge sewage waters in Narta lagoon
- ii.Improvement of waste management in Llogara NP
- iii.Arrangement of the internal infrastructure in Llogara
- iv.Assisting Novosela commune on establishment of the landfill
- v.Tree planting in Pish Poro and Orikumi
- vi.Maintenance and cleaning of the communication channels in Narta, Orikumi lagoon
  
- vii.Reconstruction of livestock watering points in Karaburun

### **Outcome 3 - Closing the "Mediterranean circle" ...**

- Active participation on the regional meetings/workshops
- Contribution to the booklet on socio-economic of wetlands
- Contribution on events, e-newsletters, website, etc.
- Organizing a study tour to Kopacki Rit – Croatian Ramsar site (Sept.05)
- Incipient initiative for participation in the INTERREG program (Brindisi, Lecce, Puglia and two universities partnership)

### **Training**

Organize and conduct training sessions on:

- i.Ecotourism with international consultants (TdV-Oct.04)
- ii.Translation of cultural and natural values (Sept.05)
- iii.Contribution on GIS application to wetland inventories training done by EKBY and ECAT-Tirana (May - Oct.05)
- iv.Cooperation on wetland monitoring techniques done by GEF/WB project on integrate water management (in Kune Vaini ecosystem, June 2005)

### **Public Awareness**

- Publish and distribution of Calendar 2005 focusing views and historical/cultural places from project sites
- Production of a video & CD documentary on the progress of the project and particularly MP process
- Publish of a brochure on environmental, cultural and historical values of the MWC sites (Albanian and English)
- Celebration of environmental days
- Press conference focusing in MP
- Organizing environmental competition with pupils of the communities and associated a wareness campaigns
- Participation in the exhibition of COP 9 of Ramsar Convention

### **Partnership**

- Links and cooperation maintained with key institutions, experts and NGOs
- Cooperation with REC Tirana - financial assistance for funding to local NGOs
- ECAT Tirana - through ALWET project implemented by ECAT Tirana and EKBY (Greece).
- Tour du Valat - International assistance on MPs and on hydrological functioning of Narta & Orikumi wetland systems
- Cooperation with CSDC and joint activities for the awareness raising and promotion of the environmental days
- GDFP as administrator of MWC sites

Sustainability - Three Main Conclusions

- I.Developed an integrated approach involving all partners
- II.MWC contributed on putting environmental problems high on the local agendas
- III.MWC generated widespread interest in national resource management, introducing new concepts of resource management

Main Priorities for 2006

- Finalization and approval of the National Wetland Strategy
- Ensure operational and well functioning Management Board
- Implementation of priority actions of MP
- Implementation low cost monitoring system for wetlands ecosystem at local level
- Increase involvement of the local NGOs, user groups, and stakeholders on project activities
- Training for all the interested and involved actors in PM management and wetland monitoring
- Continuous cooperation with Mediterranean countries and partners

## **National Presentation: Egypt**

### **2004/05 Management Plans Implementation**

- ✍ Prioritize issues (local management committees)
- ✍ Set strategies for of addressing the issues
- ✍ Implementation of projects/corrective measures
- ✍ Monitoring results
- ✍ Readjustment of strategies based on monitoring results

### **Zaranik Management Priorities**

- ✍ Land ownership claims
- ✍ Bird Hunting
- ✍ Degradation of Zaranik Lagoon
- ✍ Deterioration of land cover
- ✍ El Salam Canal land reclamation project – a potential pollution threat.

### **Zaranik Implemented Management Projects/Corrective Measures**

#### **Land ownership claims**

- ✍ Initiation of dialogue with the Governor (through the management committee)
- ✍ Delineation of the site's boundaries

#### **Bird Hunting**

- ✍ Develop a comprehensive eco tourism initiative as an alternative livelihood
- ✍ Enforcement of existing laws.

#### **Zaranik Lagoon**

- ✍ Dredging and clearing of bughaz and a channel (around 1 km as first phase)
- ✍ A revolving fund project for legal fishing gears
- ✍ A revolving fund project to supply motors for fishing boats
- ✍ Mending of filters of Zaranik Salinas to prevent the trickling of frye fish into the factory's salt pans

#### **Land cover**

- ✍ Rehabilitation of rangelands
- ✍ Develop a grazing management program
- ✍ Improvement of cattle productivity (veterinarian campaigns/vet. clinic)

#### **Provide alternatives**

- ✍ Revival of traditional handcrafts for Bedouin women
- ✍ Revolving fund for Fodder supply
- ✍ Cultivation of Acacia at southern boundaries of P/A
- ✍ A revolving fund to supply ovens (an alternative source of fuel)

#### **El Salam Canal – A potential threat**

- ✍ Continuous dialogue with the Ministry of irrigation
- ✍ Regular monitoring of selected parameters for early detections of adverse effects

### **Zaranik Impacts**

- ✍ One single corncrake was recorded during the survey in 2000, while 233 birds of the same species were recorded during the same period in 2004
- ✍ 19 birds of the Greater Flamingo were recorded in 2000, while records of 2004 show an increase in its number to 926
- ✍ 51 bird species were recorded during the autumn of 2000, compared to 78 species in 2004

## **Burullus Management Priorities**

Restoring the Lake's ecological and hydrological balance

### **Restoring the Lake's ecological and hydrological balance**

- ✍ Dredging of sea inlet and canals
- ✍ Setting weirs and floating barriers on selected drains
- ✍ Cutting aquatic reeds below the surface in key areas to improve water circulation.
- ✍ Revolving fund for legal fishing gears
- ✍ Public awareness initiative targeting intermediaries: religious leaders, Journalists and fishermen association.

### **Burullus Impacts**

Spatial distribution of marine species spread from just in front of the sea inlet to about 6 km inside the lake

An increase in marine fish stock (from 2003 to 2004/2005)

The mullet fishes: 165 tons to 218 tons

Shrimp production: 165 to 218 tons

Seabass production: 82 to 109 tons

Crabs: 54 to 65 tons

The spotted seabass: 1100 to 1180 tons

The number of recovering marine zooplankton species increased from 9 species in 2004 to 24 in 2005

### **Omayed Management Priorities**

- ✍ Quarrying & Hunting
- ✍ Solid waste dumping
- ✍ Deterioration of land cover

#### **Quarrying & Hunting**

- ✍ Banning of hunting
- ✍ Banning of quarrying activities

#### **Solid waste dumping**

- ✍ Clean up campaigns
- ✍ Dialogue to find an alternative

#### **Land cover**

- ✍ Rehabilitation of rangelands
- ✍ Develop a grazing management program
- ✍ Improvement of cattle productivity (veterinarian campaigns/veterinarian clinic)
- ✍ Rehabilitation of wells and construction of a water reservoir

#### **Provide alternatives**

- ✍ Revival of traditional handcrafts for Bedouin women
- ✍ Revolving fund for Fodder supply
- ✍ Cultivation of olive trees
- ✍ A revolving fund to supply ovens (an alternative source of fuel)

### **Omayed Impacts**

- ✍ Increase in cover of *Colchicum ritchii* (a medicinal plant) which indicates that its use has been decreased, as Bedouins are busy in alternative livelihoods.
- ✍ Record of reduced bird hunting and grazing violations in Omayed: from 45/22 in 1999 to 0/18 in 2004. (however, there was an increase in grazing violations from 13 violations in 2003 to 18 in 2004 due to increased enforcement)





## National Presentation: Lebanon

**Analysis of the Socio-Economic Dynamics Acting as Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss at the Sites**

Resource	Threat	Root Cause	Tested Solution
Avifauna, Water and Soil (Lead)	Hunting	Indirect income to villagers	B&B, Eco-Tourism, development
Water, Soil, Fauna and Flora	Conventional Farming	Need for high yield Low return	Organic Farming
Eco-system	Tourism	Returns from beach tourism	Reduction of impact through strict environmental measures and restructuring
Flora	Herding	Grazing grounds not available. Too many heads	Defined grazing zones Alternative Grazing grounds New improved stocks Creation of a full network for produce
Piscifauna	Over Fishing	Low Fish stock Low income from fishing	No take zones Social development through alternative livelihoods

**Documenting and Sharing Lessons and Experiences**

- ✍ MedWetCoast Lebanon Management Plans to be used for other sites
- ✍ Business plans to be used with all new MP
- ✍ ATEN similar capacity development program
- ✍ Networking and partnerships
- ✍ Organic farming is being promoted in other reserves
- ✍ Bed and Breakfast also
- ✍ Eco-guide training included all the reserves
- ✍ New AFD FFEM Project includes lessons learned component

**Revitalizing the functions of the Steering Committee**

- ✍ The steering committee was not created.
- ✍ National Biodiversity Committee still pending
- ✍ Development of NEAP with cross-sectoral responsibilities. Wetlands are in by MWC
- ✍ Steering committee and task force to deal with the fishing issues in Tyre. MWC initiated
- ✍ Local development steering committee in Aammiq. MWC initiated

**Greater involvement of other actors in implementation of the project**

- ✍ Partnerships with NGOs:
  - A Rocha: Cost Sharing in the Monitoring
  - AUB/MoA Organic Farming in TCNR
  - World Vision: Organic Farming in Aammiq
- ✍ Community involvement in monitoring:
  - Sea Turtles in TCNR,
  - Full program in Aammiq

**Greater involvement of other actors in implementation of the project**

- ✍ Community development
    - Local committee in Aammiq to manage social development
    - Fishermen syndicate to spearhead the fishing issues
  - ✍ GAC structure involves local actors in management.
  - ✍ Awareness
    - A Rocha in Aammiq school program
    - TERRE-LIBAN: Awareness in TCNR
  - ✍ Increased cooperation from other Ministries
    - Agriculture, Defense, Interior...
- EXCEPT GAC ALL BY MWC ALL SUSTAINABLE

### **Review of LFA to take a Result Based Approach Including Definition of Result Indicators**

- ✍ PROJECT LFA not reviewed
- ✍ Result oriented execution of activities
- ✍ Result based management approach in management plans with indicators
- ✍ Impact monitoring of actions to the best possible extent

### **State of Implementation of National Training Plans**

- 27 Trainings identified with ATEN mission
- ✍ 19 (70%) Trainings done in different manners
    - Conventional training
    - Learning by doing
    - In house
  - ✍ 1 (4%) Training partially done
  - ✍ 7 (26%) Trainings to be done.
  - ✍ More trainings done beyond ATEN assessment

### **Sustained Efforts at Awareness Raising and Monitoring its Impacts**

- ✍ Continuous activity by the project team
- ✍ MWC to reinforce A Rocha's permanent school program and develop a TCNR school program. Yearly campaigns by TERRE-LIBAN and MEDASSET counterpart
- ✍ Eco-Guide training
- ✍ Lacks proper monitoring of impacts.

### **Institutional Arrangements for the Implementation of the Management Plans**

- ✍ Currently MOE-TCNR GAC
- ✍ Owners-NGO Consortium for Aammiq with support from MOE. Structure under review
- ✍ SISPAM to review GAC structure and develop the management of PAs. MWC was part of the drafting and follow up team of the project
- ✍ More actors involved specially private sector

### **Useful Lessons Learned**

- ✍ Determination of monitoring baselines at the beginning of the project. Improves impact monitoring.
- ✍ Funding time span increased to allow for impacts to be observed

- ✍ Administrative procedures in the project not taken into account in the time requirements: Reporting to MoE, UNDP, and AFD with different reporting requirements and long decision taking process.  
HOMOGENIZED REPORTING

EFFECT OF A REPORTING SESSION  
REANIMATION OF THE TEAM REQUIRED

### **Monitoring of Biodiversity and Other**

- ✍ Increase in turtle numbers 4,7,13, 1
- ✍ Coots breeding in Aammig permanently know
- ✍ Nesting colony of Night herons. First year
- ✍ Lutra lutra appeared in Aammig two summers ago
- ✍ Visitor numbers are increasing in Aammig
- ✍ Long term monitoring needed
- ✍ Management oriented monitoring
  - Ongoing in Aammig
  - Monitoring plan being prepared for TCNR
- ✍ Social monitoring still to be worked on. Not easy

**MANY THINGS WERE ACHIEVED IN THIS PROJECT AND MANY PROCESSES WERE SET....**

**THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN...**

## National Presentation: Morocco

## I- Objectifs du Projet

Objectif 1: Politiques nationales et capacités d'intervention pour s'attaquer aux causes de dégradation

a) Synthèse des causes socio économiques de dégradation de la biodiversité

Cause immédiate de la perte de la biodiversité	Politiques publiques et marchés		Politiques et structures macroéconomiques		Changement démographique		Iniquité et pauvreté immédiate	
	Cause	Effet	Cause	Effet	Cause	Effet	Cause	Effet
Destruction des dunes et des berges de l'oued	.Forte urbanisation dans la zone .Présence d'aménagements touristiques dans la zone qui attirent beaucoup d'estivants .Manque de sensibilisation des estivants .Demande importante pour le sable de Moulouya	.Ouverture des pistes et piétinement des dunes .Abandon des déchets solides sur les lieux  .Dérangement de la quiétude du milieu naturel .Dégradation des berges de l'oued et destruction des Tamaricaies	.Manque de clarté quant à l'application de la législation en vigueur .Chevauchement de responsabilité s (Forestiers, Commune, Domaine public hydraulique) .Propriété foncière non claire et bien définie dans plusieurs endroits .Manque de statut juridique pour le site	.Exploitation anarchique et abusive du sable .Défrichement de la végétation forestière sur les berges et dans les propriétés privées	.Forte fréquentation touristique en été .Proximité de la ville de Saidia et installation du projet touristique .Proximité d'une zone agricole par excellence (plaine de Triffa) .Urbanisation des villes de la région (Berkane, Zaio, Saidia...)	.Piétinement des dunes et utilisation du milieu humide pour le parking .Ouverture de pistes sur les dunes .Développement urbain .Exploitation du sable sur les berges de l'oued Moulouya Pour répondre à la demande en matériaux de construction	.Manque de ressources financières chez les agriculteurs locaux .Manque d'opportunité et d'emplois	.Les paysans vendent le sable sur leurs parcelles .Travail avec les exploitants du sable

Transformation d'habitats	.Marché rémunérateur existant pour les produits agricoles .Absence de marché pour les biens et services environnementaux	.Extension agricole aux dépens du milieu naturel .Destruction du milieu naturel	.Non clarté dans la propriété foncière .Non contrôle de l'usage de l'eau et non application de la loi en vigueur (pompage de l'eau de l'oued, irrigation par eau saumâtre) .Manque de statut juridique pour le site	.Défrichement des milieux humides .Extension des terrains agricoles sur le domaine public .Salinisation du sol	.Flux migratoire positif .Manque d'emplois alternatifs (disparition de l'activité pêche) .Urbanisation du côté embouchure (projet touristique)	.Expansion et intensification de l'usage des terres; .Exploitation des terres marginales .Défrichement des habitats humides (Kerbacha et Cherarba)	.Mauvaise distribution des terres agricoles (terres des sociétés étatiques) .Appropriation des terres agricoles par les riches (grands détenteurs de terres domaniales en location).	.Courte vision économique et environnementale .Utilisation intensive des terres productives et abandon des terres incultes. .Augmentation de la salinité des terres à cause de leur intense utilisation
Braconnage	.Grand nombre de sangliers .Non régulation légale de la population de sangliers .Manque de sensibilisation des populations locales .Insuffisance de contrôle pour appliquer la loi en vigueur	.Dégâts sur les cultures et dégâts physiques aussi. Braconnage	.Manque de statut juridique du site	.Accès non contrôlé au site et facilité de braconnage	.Manque d'emplois alternatifs .Insuffisance des ressources financières et Augmentation de la pauvreté	.Augmentation de la consommation des ressources .Effondrement de la gestion traditionnelle des ressources	.Manque d'opportunités d'emploi .Faible revenu de la population locale	.Braconnage pour des raisons pécuniaires .Braconnage pour des raisons de subsistance

b) Dispositions institutionnelles prises concernant les modalités de mise en oeuvre des Plans de Gestion (municipalités, gouverneurs et forestiers)

Plusieurs scénarii de gestion envisagés avec les municipalités et les provinces:

- Comité Provincial de Gestion sur Nador;
- Co- gestion municipalité et province sur la Moulouya( proposition de création d'une fondation);
- Gestion par les Eaux et Forêts déléguée à deux ONG locales sur les Béni Snassen.

c) Programme 2006

-Continuer le renforcement de la Cellule Littoral :

- ✍ Renforcement institutionnel en y intégrant les autres départements ministériels intéressés;
- ✍ Renforcement des capacités: convention d'assistance 2005-2006 avec le Conservatoire du Littoral;
- ✍ Assistance à la rédaction de la loi littoral

- Organisation des réunions devant mener à l'élaboration de la stratégie nationale des zones humides
- Poursuite des formations adressées aux collectivités locales et aux ONG sur la conservation de la biodiversité

*Objectif 2: Conservation de la biodiversité et élimination des causes de menaces sur les sites sélectionnés*

### **Rôle du comité de pilotage**

- Organisation de la réunion tripartite du Projet le 8 mars à Rabat (Ministère, Eaux et Forêts, PNUD, coordination régionale)
- Trois réunions du Comité de Pilotage au niveau local afin de prendre les décisions relatives aux réalisations sur le terrain
- Réunion d'étape sur la période estivale et le comportement des visiteurs par rapport aux installations (Bilan et planification)
- Le CP, présidé par le Gouverneur, seul habilité à donner les autorisations nécessaires d'emprise sur le terrain (parking, clôtures, enclos à poubelles)

Recrutement de deux éco gardes supplémentaires

Prise de décrets par le Gouverneur interdisant des usages nuisibles au site (ex: Jet Ski, extraction de sable, braconnage...) et limitant l'accès

### **Implication des différents partenaires et des acteurs dans l'exécution des activités du Projet**

- ✍ Enquête qualitative de la fréquentation du site de l'embouchure de la Moulouya auprès des visiteurs durant la période estivale (mois de juin et juillet 2005)
- ✍ Appel à projets aux ONG: identification de 3 projets – appui socio- économique basé sur une meilleure conservation de la biodiversité
- ✍ Sensibilisation du Centre Régional d'Investissement pour tenir compte des spécificités des SIBES
- ✍ Projet hôtelier FADESA: plaider pour la préservation du site et promotion de l'écotourisme

### **Programme 2006**

- ✍ Coordination locale des actions sur le terrain. Étoffer ces services par des collaborations avec les ONG et populations locales
- ✍ Renforcer le gardiennage par le recrutement de saisonniers aux côtés des gardes Forestiers
- ✍ Étude topographique et étude de la dynamique urbaine en complément d'une synthèse des causes premières de la dégradation ( en cours)
- ✍ Terminer les aménagements sur les trois sites
- ✍ Continuer l'élaboration des plans de gestion et veiller à leur application
- ✍ Mise en oeuvre de ces PdG après leur validation
- ✍ Renforcement du volet sensibilisation par le biais de formations et identification des appuis socio- économiques tout en prenant des mesures de conservation (frayères, pompage...)
- ✍ Élaborer un protocole de monitoring (en cours en collaboration avec la faculté des sciences d'Oujda)
- ✍ Reconstituer un comité de scientifiques restreint pour mettre à jour les principaux résultats du diagnostic et obtenir ainsi une mesure précise de l'évolution des espèces remarquables (automne hiver prochains)

*Objectif 3: Politique méditerranéenne de protection de la biodiversité et de gestion durable des zones côtières et humides*

#### a) Échanges d'expériences

- ✍ Organisation de l'Atelier Régional « Management Plan Peer Review » à Rabat en juin 2005
- ✍ Avec l'appui du Conservatoire du Littoral, préparation d'une convention engageant 90 000 euros pour le renforcement institutionnel de la cellule du Littoral
- ✍ Organisation de la réunion de programmation des activités pour les années 2006- 2007 du Projet INTERREG IIIB les 14 et 15 février à Rabat
- ✍ Organisation de journées d'échanges entre les représentants de l'Agence pour la Protection et l'Aménagement du Littoral et les membres de la Cellule Littoral du 18 au 20 avril en Tunisie
- ✍ Organisation en collaboration avec l'Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels de journées de rencontres des élus du 25 au 30 avril en France.

#### b) Mise en oeuvre du programme de formation

- ✍ Deux formations sur les Plans de Gestion conduites par des experts Français et Tunisien sur les sites de Béni Snassen et de la Moulouya
- ✍ Journée d'étude nationale sur la Gestion Intégrée du Littoral avec la Direction de la Réglementation et du Contrôle

#### c). Sensibilisation et ses résultats

- ✍ Journée Mondiale Environnement (05 juin 2005): Organisations des Journées Environnementales (3 au 5 juin à Nador) et d'activités auprès des écoliers à Berkane incluant la distribution de supports éducatifs
- ✍ Journée Arabe Environnement (16 octobre 2004): activités de sensibilisation de la population locale à la gestion des déchets sur le site
- ✍ Production d'affiches et de dépliants distribués pendant l'été sur le site de la Moulouya
- ✍ Production de supports éducatif et ludiques destinés aux écoliers pour la protection des oiseaux
- ✍ Dossier sur le projet MWC destiné aux partenaires institutionnels et à la presse:
- ✍ 5 fiches en Arabe et en Français sur les sites MWC
- ✍ Un dépliant sur les enjeux liés aux aires protégées «Les Aires Protégées, des Espaces Indispensables »
- ✍ Un dépliant sur le projet MedWetCoast Maroc « Protéger les zones humides et côtières en Méditerranée »
- ✍ CD Rom données techniques

### **II- Leçons apprises et à faire partager aux autres composantes**

- ✍ Membres du Comité de Pilotage: fidéliser les participants, sensibiliser les décideurs hiérarchiques pour envoyer la même personne à chaque réunion
- ✍ Mettre en place des actions de communication stratégiques et structurées
- ✍ Faiblesse structurelle des ONG locales: mise à niveau nécessaire

### **III- Résultats visibles sur les sites suite aux interventions du projet basés sur des indicateurs de mesure précis**

- ✍ Regeneration plus rapide que prévue des dunes (habitat);
- ✍ Baisse des prélèvements de sable;
- ✍ Baisse du braconnage (augmentation du nombre des PV);
- ✍ Baisse du braconnage (augmentation du nombre des PV);



- ✍ Grâce à la bonne sensibilisation des enfants, baisse du ramassage des oeufs;
- ✍ Extension du parc à mouflons de 8 à 100 hectares, une meilleure qualité de vie pour cette espèce réintroduite;
- ✍ Meilleure collecte et gestion des déchets;
- ✍ Nette amélioration de la gestion des flux;
- ✍ En attente des résultats du monitoring pour mesurer l'impact de ces actions sur la faune et la flore

Annex 9

## National Presentation: Tunisia

### Etat de mise en œuvre de la composante nationale du projet MedWetCoast Tunisie

Analyse de la dynamique socio-économique, causes fondamentales de la perte de diversité biologique au niveau des sites

- La phase diagnostic a pris en considération les aspects socioéconomiques par la réalisation d'une étude spécifique ;
- L'élaboration des plans de gestion a adopté une approche participative (plus de 20 ateliers participatifs réalisés) avec une analyse fine des contraintes et potentialités ainsi que des attentes des usagers ( ONG, communes population locale)
- La mise en œuvre d'actions concrètes visant la réduction de la pression sur les ressources naturelles : Maîtrise de l'exploitation de l'eau, développement d'activités génératrices de revenus et le renforcement des capacités des communes pour la prise en charge des sites

- Participation de la population dans les ateliers agenda 21 menés en coopération avec les autorités locales;

•

Mise en œuvre des actions des projet en s'appuyant en priorité sur les compétences et les opérateurs privés locaux ce qui contribue à la dynamique économique de la région ;

•

Organisation de l'exploitation des ressources (Joncs pour la production d'objet artisanaux à travers des autorisations d'exploitation données par le projet);

**=> Appropriation des objectifs du projet par les parties prenantes à travers les orientations des plans d'aménagement urbain qui intègrent, désormais, les plans de gestion des sites. Ce qui constitue un engagement irrévocable pour la protection des sites du projet**

### Documentation et partage des leçons et des expériences acquises

Le Démarrage du projet s'est accompagné avec l'entrée en vigueur de la stratégie nationale de la biodiversité et de son plan d'action. Le projet MedwetCoast a constitué une référence pilote au niveau de la conception et la mise en œuvre d'autres projets sur la préservation de la biodiversité :

- utilisation des termes de référence des études et des plans de gestion
- Montage institutionnel et approche de gestion

– Implication du personnel formé dans le cadre le projet dans les comités de gestion  
– Renforcement des compétences des Bureaux d'études tunisiens  
Partage d'expérience au niveau national DGEQV, DGF, ANPE, et au niveau international également avec le Maroc, l'Algérie ( via le Conservatoire du Littoral, le CAR/ASP (Zembra) et WWF (Wetschool),

### **Renforcement des fonctions des comités de gestion**

- Représentation au sein des mêmes comité de toutes les parties prenantes locales ainsi que les principaux acteurs nationaux
- Toutes les étapes du projet ont été soumises pour approbation, y compris le diagnostic, au comité de gestion local
- Une prise en considération du projet à l'échelle nationale à travers la visite de tous les ministres chargés de l'environnement au site du projet
- Présentation du projet comme un acquis considérable par les autorités locales aux visiteurs politiques
- Prise en considération du projet dans le programme de développement régionaux (emploi, écotourisme, lutte contre la pollution, gestion des déchets solides et liquides)

### **Implication d'autres partenaires dans la réalisation du projet**

Implication des principaux opérateurs locaux dans la mise en œuvre du projet à travers des conventions de partenariat et des délégations de maîtrise d'ouvrage :

- Protection des habitats (faune et flore) : Commissariat Régional du Développement Agricole (CRDA) ;
- Amélioration des conditions hydrologiques de la lagune de Korba : l'Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS) ;
- Réhabilitation de certains sites archéologiques : l'Institut National du Patrimoine (INP);
- Gestion des déchets : communes concernées ;
- Suivi des paramètres hydrologiques avec des Institutions scientifiques (CITET et INAT) et biologiques avec l'AAO ;
- Sensibilisation et éducation environnementale avec les ONGs locales.

### **Révision du cadre logique**

Le cadre logique adopté suivant les recommandations de l'évaluation mi-parcours a été réalisé en concertation avec le comité de gestion locale et approuvé en Juin 2004. Il constitue la base de la planification de la mise en œuvre du projet.  
les activités génératrices de résultats et d'impacts sont toujours d'actualité

Lors de l'élaboration du plan de travail 2006, si nécessité, certains indicateurs d'impacts pourraient être réajustés

### **Etat de mise en oeuvre du plan d'action formation**

- Voyage d'élus en France en collaboration avec la composante marocaine ;
- Participation à la réunion des Points Focaux Formation ;
- Journées d'animation et de sensibilisation dans le cadre du Projet avec les ONGs locales ;

### **Efforts entrepris pour améliorer les connaissances**

Depuis son démarrage, le projet a participé au développement de la connaissance sur les aspects liés à la conservation de la nature en général et de la biodiversité en particulier, à travers :

- Les actions menées par l'équipe du projet aussi bien au niveau des manifestations nationales que par le contact direct avec la population et l'ensemble des parties prenantes
- La coorganisation et l'animation de Journées de sensibilisation et d'information dans le cadre du Projet avec les ONGs locales
  - Camp d'observation de l'avifaune migratrice avec l'AAO Haouaria
  - Journée de la mer avec l'ATPNE Maâmoura
  - Journée sur les valeurs et les fonctions des écosystèmes côtiers : nécessité de protection avec l'ATPNE Korba
  - « Information numérique et environnement » dans le cadre SMSI
- Prise en charge et encadrement des travaux pratiques sur le terrain pour des étudiants en sciences de la terre (15) et en cycle d'ingénieurs halieutes (17)
- Encadrement de mémoires de recherche et de fin d'études pour 4 étudiants

### **Arrangements institutionnels pour la mise en œuvre du projet**

La Tunisie dispose d'une institution chargée de la gestion de l'espace littoral et de l'exécution du projet MedWetCoast qui est l'APAL ; L'APAL a bénéficié dans le cadre du projet d'un renforcement de ses capacités pour la mise en œuvre des plans de gestion ; Une équipe de gestion des sites a été mise en place ; Cette équipe est recrutée par l'APAL ce qui permet la continuité de la prise en charge des sites du projet et la durabilité des investissements ;

### **Leçons apprises, utiles à être partagées - Cas de la commune de Korba**

Grâce à une appropriation satisfaisante des objectifs du projet par les parties prenantes, des réajustements en matière de planification urbaine ont été entrepris par la commune de Korba pour assurer la durabilité du projet :

- Participation de l'équipe dans les étapes d'élaboration et d'approbation du PAU ;

- Intégration du plan de gestion du site de Korba dans le PAU ;
- Abandon des orientations du PAU en vigueur qui prévoyaient un remblai partiel de la lagune au profit de l'urbanisation ;
- Abandon de l'Abattoir municipal au profit du projet pour être réhabilité en centre écocultrel ;
- Connexion des usines de tomate à la station d'épuration ;
- Déviation d'une route pour éviter son passage sur les berges de la lagune ;
- Contribution au boisement des berges de la lagune ;
- Adoption d'un nouveau logo en prenant comme emblème la lagune avec un flamant rose.

**Impacts du projet sur les sites**

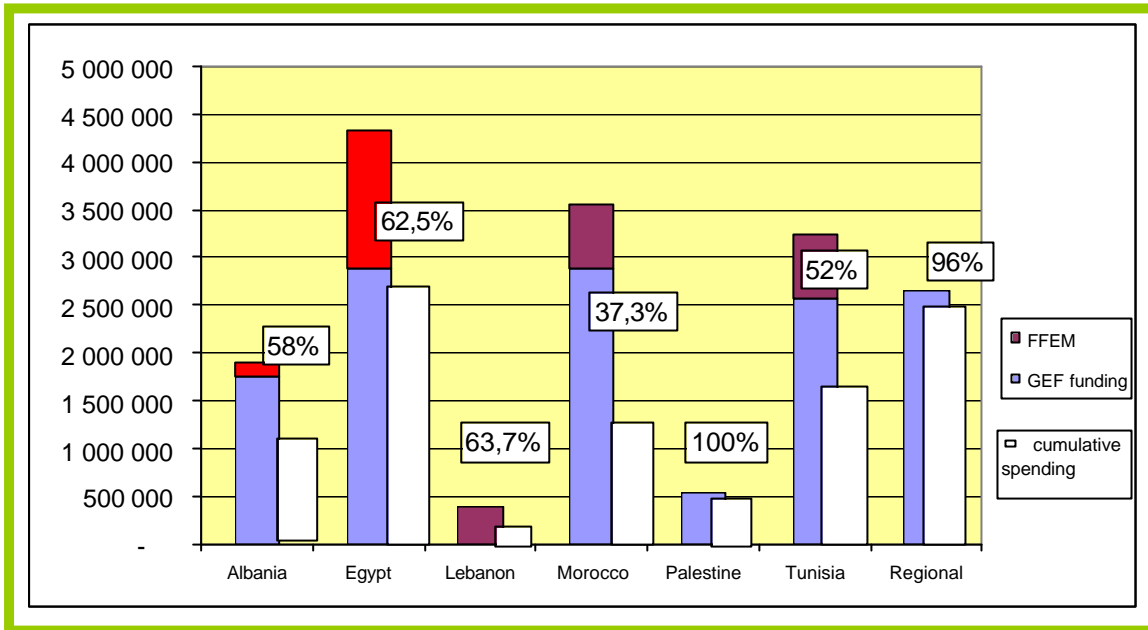


	<b>Consistance</b>	<b>Objectif/Résultat</b>
Protection des habitats et des espèces : Faune et flore	Reboisement de 2 ha de maquis dégradé à Haouaria par des plants de Caroubier	Renforcer la couverture végétale du massif par la plantation d'espèces rare et endémique et créer des niches écologiques pour la biodiversité (Porc-épic, tortue grecque, vipère lébétine)
	Protection de la grotte aux chauves-Souris (Haouaria)	Améliorer les conditions dans l'habitat des espèces protégées de chauves souris existantes (grand et petit Rhinolophes)
	Protéger la forêt de chêne kermès (espèce rare et protégée) seul vestige de la végétation climacique dans le massif	Mise en défens du maquis à Genévriers oxycèdre de Port aux Princes (4 ha)
	Protéger et arrêter les agressions contre le maquis qui représente l'un des site à Juniperus oxycedrus les plus importants dans la méditerranée	Mise en défens de la forêt d'oléo lentisque (Haouaria) un ha
Protection des habitats et des espèces : Faune et flore	Mise en défens des marges halophiles des lagunes (8000 m)	Renforcer la protection et favoriser la régénération du couvert végétal (salicornes, juncs, etc.) qui représente un habitat important pour de l'avifaune nicheuse et pour le reptile Chalcides chalcides (rare et menacé) dont la population présente sur les sites est la plus importante de la Tunisie.
Hydrologie des Zones Humides	Alimentation de la lagune par les eaux épurées STEP (6000 m3/j) conduite 2 km	Améliorer la qualité de l'eau et palier au déséquilibre hydrique suite à l'arrêt du rejet des eaux usées brutes.
	L'implantation de 8 nouvelles buses d'équilibre	Améliorer la circulation de l'eau entre le Nord et le Sud de la lagune de Korba
Socio-économie	Appui au développement de l'Apiculture (25 bénéficiaires)	Développer des activités économiques génératrices de revenus au profit des populations locales et les aider à abandonner les pratiques destructrices des habitats (surpâturage, déboisement)

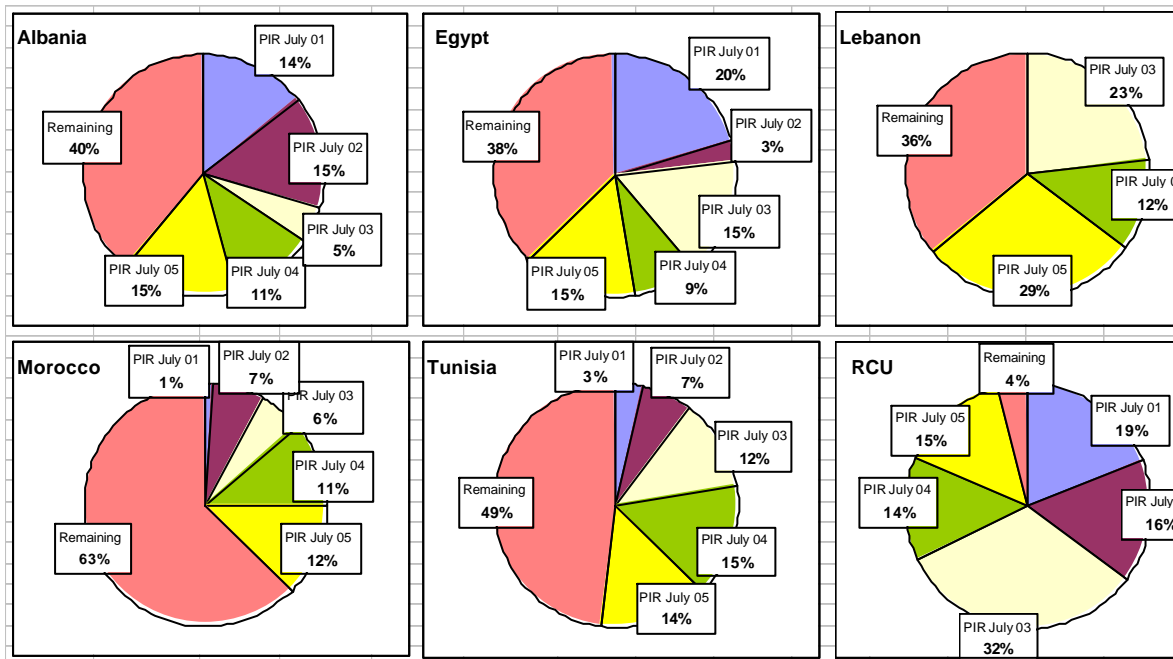
	Développement d'un tourisme écologique en partenariat avec un opérateur privé	Créer une dynamique socio-économique au profit des populations des sites par le développement d'activités artisanales liés à l'Eco-tourisme
Gestion des déchets	Acquisition de Trois petits tracteurs et de 50 containers au profit des coll. Loc.	Renforcer les efforts des collectivités locales dans le nettoyage des sites qui permettra l'amélioration de leurs conditions écologiques
Collaboration avec la Sté Civile et les partenaires scientifiques	Suivi scientifique des milieux aquatiques en collaboration avec l'INAT et l'AAO	Suivre l'évolution des milieux humides : amélioration des conditions hydrobiologiques des lagunes à Korba et stabilité au niveaux du reste des ZH
	Suivi de l'avifaune : augmentation des effectifs des oiseaux nicheurs grâce l'amélioration des conditions des habitats	Organisation de 3 journées de sensibilisation en partenariat avec les ONGs locales.
	Amélioration de la conception des différentes populations ciblées à l'importance de la protection et la conservation des écosystèmes naturels à abandon des pratiques destructrices du milieu	Encadrement d'étudiant dans le cadre de Travaux Pratiques de Terrains (Fac des Sciences, Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie)

**Financial Analysis: overall project and RCU**

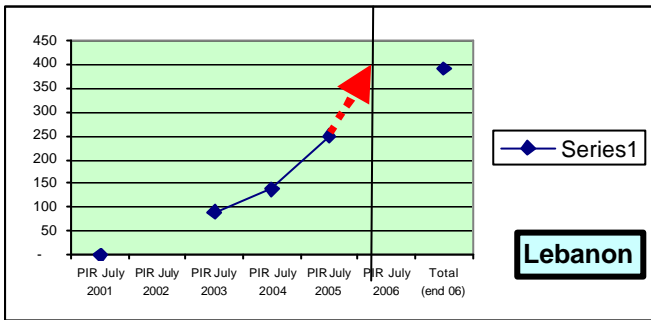
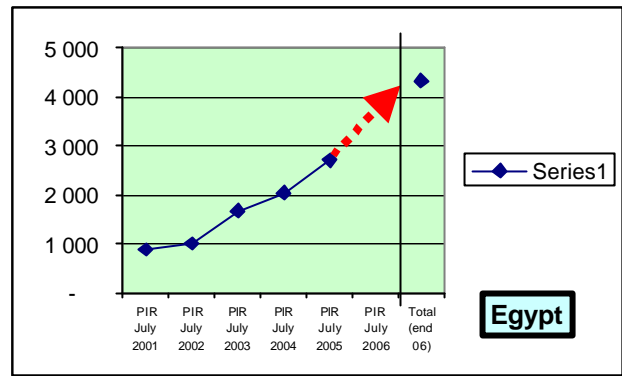
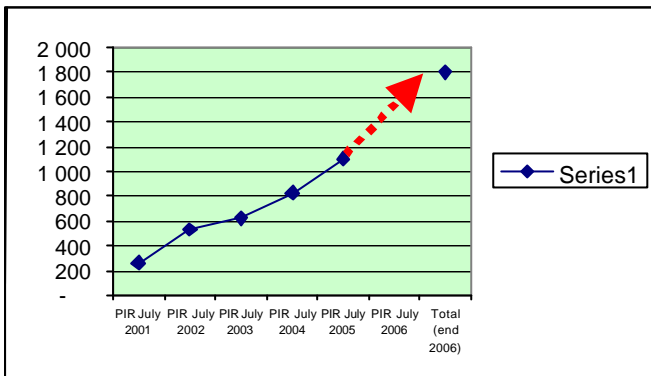
**MWC: Cumulative spending against external budget (July 2005)**



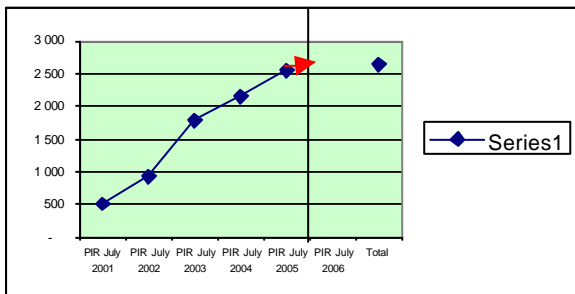
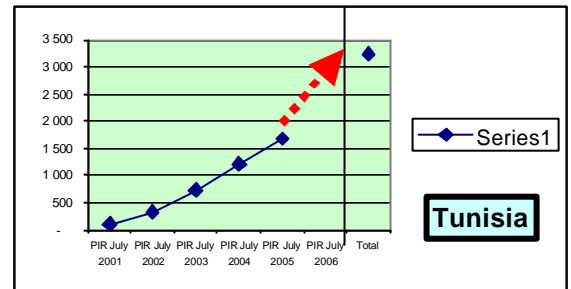
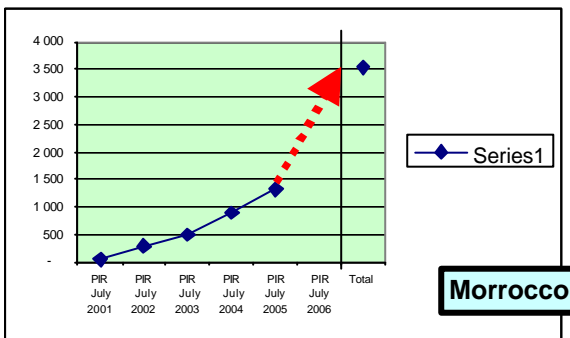
**MWC Overall: Cumulative spending (July 2005)**



**MWC components: record of cumulative disbursements and projection**



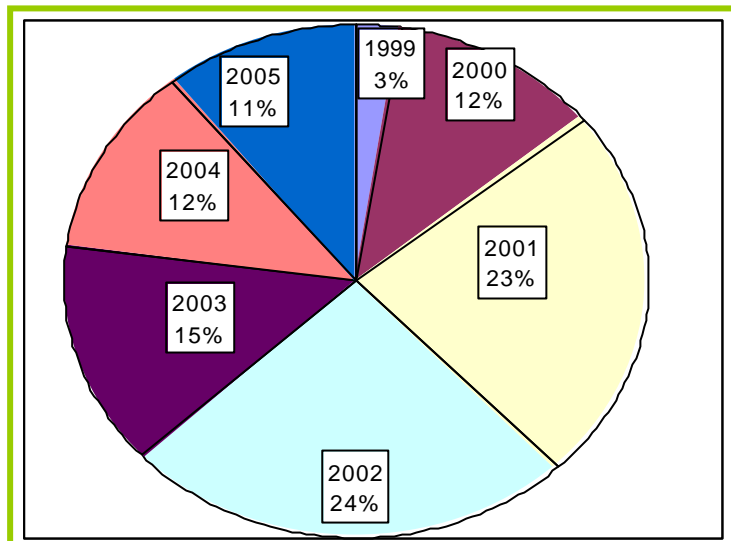
Cumulative spending	Albania	Egypt	Lebanon
PIR July 2001	260	885	-
PIR July 2002	532	1014	
PIR July 2003	620	1680	90
PIR July 2004	827	2049	138
PIR July 2005	1 099	2706	250
PIR July 2006			
<b>Total (end 2006/05-Leb)</b>	<b>1 800</b>	<b>4329</b>	<b>392</b>



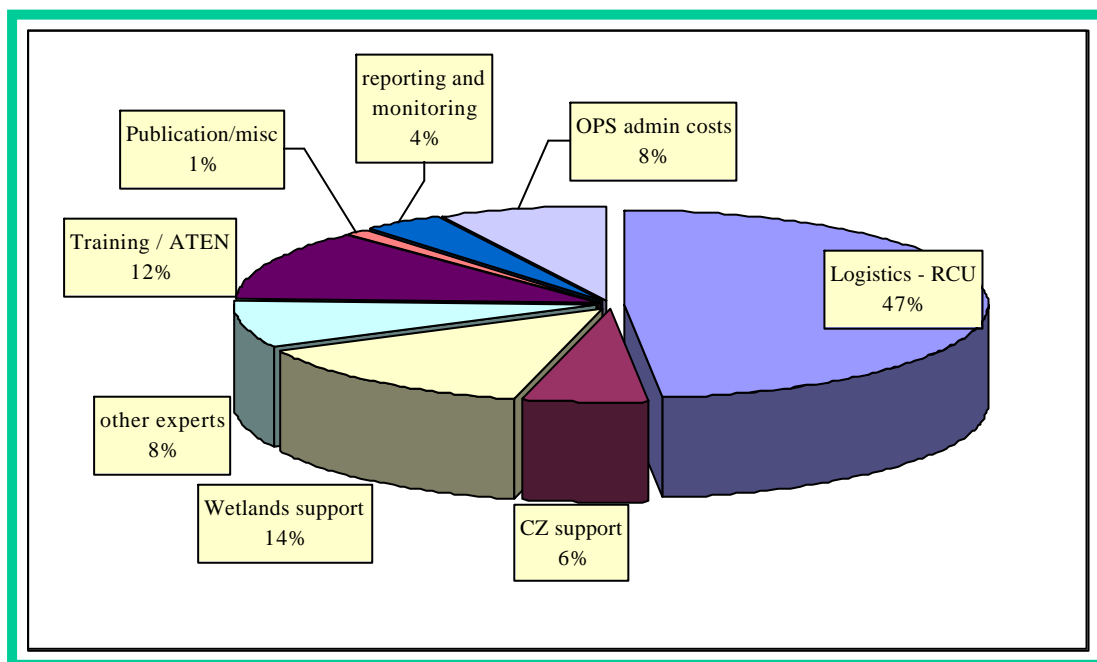
	Morocco	Tunisia	RCU
PIR July 2001	42	113	511
PIR July 2002	287	333	934
PIR July 2003	492	731	1787
PIR July 2004	892,482	1218	2156
PIR July 2005	1324	1685	2549
PIR July 2006			
<b>Total (end 2006/05-RCU)</b>	<b>3538</b>	<b>3242</b>	<b>2650</b>



### MWC Regional Component: Expenditures Breakdown per Calendar Year



MWC Regional Component. Breakdown of expenses per activity/cluster 1999-2005



#### Regional Component

#### Actual Expenditures over 1999-2004/05

Logistics and RCU operations » 47%  
 Technical assistance from experts » 28%  
 Training » 12%

**96% expended as of July 2005**

#### Tent. forecast for whole of 2005 » \$280K

- 50% for RCU core functions (staff, travel, logistics, website, F&A)  
 - 50% for activities (Socio eco, TFP, MPPR, Final Evaluation)  
**98% at end of 2005** (including provision of 30K for Final Evaluation).

2% to remain at end of 2005 » **\$45K**



**Reporting PIR 2005 (July 2004 – June 2005)****OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT**

: To enhance conservation and effective management of wetlands and coastal ecosystems of 6 Med countries, through strengthening the national policy framework and demonstrating integrated and sustainable management practices at 15 key sites

**1. Progress in implementation of overall Project Factsheet (PIR2005)**

<b>ProDoc Signature Date</b>	Albania: 31 August 1999 Egypt: 7 September 1999 Lebanon: 26 June 2001 Morocco: 29 September 1999 Palestine: Tunisia: 15 August 1999 RCU: 31 August 1999
<b>Closing Date</b>	Original: November 2004 Revised: December 2005  Albania: (GEF) November 2006 Egypt: (GEF) December 2006 Lebanon: (FFEM) February 2006 Morocco: (GEF/FFEM) December 2005 to be revisited in late 2005 Palestine: (GEF) September 2003 Tunisia: (GEF/FFEM) December 2005 to be revisited in late 2005 RCU: December 2005

- Increased attention to national policy setting - national wetland strategy, Coastal zone management
- **Improved delivery** since last RAC, both FFEM and GEF<sup>(47..61)</sup>
- Increased effort onto community development initiatives
- **Implementation of Man Plans** underway and Man Plans finalized for 10 sites (in draft form for 1 site)
- some encouraging activities but still insufficient feedback on ‘whether or not the project is making a difference: **impacts!**’
- Revised working operations in some countries to enhance delivery and effectiveness

	Albania	Egypt	Lebanon	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	RCU	Total	%
GEF	1,751,000	2,884,000		2,880,926	540,000	2,575,000	2,649,497	13,280,423	
FFEM			392,489	664,125		667,000		1,723,614	
Nat. c/sharing	150,000	1,445,146						1,595,146	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,901,000</b>	<b>4,329,146</b>	<b>392,489</b>	<b>3,537,825</b>	<b>540,000</b>	<b>3,242,000</b>	<b>2,649,497</b>	<b>16,591,957</b>	
<b>PIR July 01</b>	13.7%	21.1%		1.2%	53.7%	4.4%	19.3%	2,101,000	12.7%
<b>PIR July 02</b>	30.4%	35.2%		10.0%	83.1%	12.9%	35.2%	3,549,000	21.4%
<b>PIR July 03</b>	35.4%	38.8%	23.0%	17.1%	98.1%	28.4%	67.4%	5,931,765	35.8%
<b>PIR July 04</b>	43.5%	47.3%	35.1%	25.2%	100%	37.6%	81.4%	7,821,081	47.1%
<b>PIR July 05</b>	<b>57.87%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>10,153,194</b>	<b>61.2%</b>

**2. Impacts and results related to the GEF Strategic Priorities**

<b>Healthy bio-physical and environmental indicators recorded</b>	<u>Some evidence</u> : report from Egypt; monitoring of some key indicators in Lebanon; monitoring protocols with universities in Albania and initial reports; contracts with academics in Mor and Tun. <u>But no coherent and systematic feedback</u>
<b>Expanding protected areas</b>	<u>In progress</u> : Narta – Oct04; Moulouya, Ramsar designation in Mor and Tun.
<b>Improving management effectiveness of protected areas</b>	Site diagnosis studies Site Management Plans Urgent measures Management Bodies (in progress)
<b>Changes in sectoral policies</b>	Limited contribution of the project
<b>Changes in national policies for the environment,</b>	Framework laws and regulations: Lebanon, Tunisia (sensitive areas) National wetland policies/strategies : Egypt (final) Albania (draft)
<b>Improving practices of sustainable use of biodiversity resources</b>	Improved practices of resource use: - Improved water management - Decrease in illegal cases of resource abstraction - Alternative livelihood activities encouraged

### 3. Indicators at the project objective level

<b>National policy framework and strategies</b> in place for coastal zone management and wetlands	
Few policy instruments in place for wetland management. For coastal management, in some countries, there was already a good set of policy tools and instruments	<u>National wetland strategies</u> in Egypt, Albania. Planned in Tunisia and Morocco.  Particular effort to develop <u>coastal zone management</u> policies in Morocco (Cellule Littoral)
<b>Replication and/or applied at other sites or projects</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strong links with line ministries</li> <li>•Capacity of a core group of experts</li> <li>•Man Plan process replicated to other sites</li> <li>•Cooperation with other in-country UNDP, GEF projects</li> </ul>
15 globally significant wetland and coastal sites in 5 countries and 1 authority in the Mediterranean region are <b>legally protected</b> through the <b>establishment of PA status</b> by the project	

<p><u>AT START OF PROJECT:</u></p> <p>*  <u>Albania:</u> Narta &amp; Orikumi= no legal protection;  Llogara= national part, Karakurun = nature reserve</p> <p>* <u>Lebanon:</u> Ammicq = private site, Tyr=nature reserve</p> <p>-  * <u>Egypt:</u> all sites designated as protected area by law (Zaranik, Burrulus=Ramsar site, Omayed= Biosphere reserve)</p> <p>* <u>Morocco:</u> no legal protection for any of the sites</p> <p>* <u>Palestine:</u> Wadi Gaza = protected area</p> <p>* <u>Tunisia:</u> none of the sites were designated as protected areas, except for Zembra/Zembretta: national parks = about 400 ha:  - Haouaria = hunting reserve  - Dar Chichou : Réserve Cinégétique  - Korba was classified as Maritime Public Domain and in the process of being registered as RAMSAR site</p>	<p>Narta landscape PA in Oct04 in <u>Albania</u>.</p> <p>In <u>Lebanon</u>, Framework Law finalized; awaiting submission to Council; preparation of MOU for Aammicq</p> <p>In <u>Tunisia</u>, protection under Code of APAL and Planning Frameworks (SDZS). Draft decree for sensitive areas.</p> <p>In <u>Morocco</u>, publication of the decree which foresees the granting of the status of Parc National to the site of Moulouya. Sites declared Ramsar site.</p>
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### ... At the site level

- ✍ **Management plans** finalized in Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia Lebanon and Albania / initiated in Morocco (draft for Moulouya).
- ✍ **Management boards**
- ✍ q
- ✍ q Increased integration of **socio-eco/community development** activities into the project
- ✍ **Urgent measures** / initiation of some of the MP actions (physical structures, sign posting, access and control, rehabilitation of areas...)
- ✍ Increased **public participation and awareness** activities
- ✍ Initial inputs of **monitoring biophysical indicators** (Egypt, Albania, Lebanon)

### ... At the national level

- ✍ National wetland strategy (Feb04)
- ✍ coastal Zone Management: Morocco
- ✍ Increased attention to prioritizing activities for generating results and impacts (incl. Revisiting LFA and indicators)
- ✍ Partnership (partners, universities, NGOs, projects, line ministries)
- ✍ training?

### ... At the regional level

- ✍ 2 regional meetings : RAC4 (Tirana, September 04) and regional workshop for Man Plan process (Rabat, June05).
- ✍ Sub-regional activities: follow up to MedWet/Regions, MedWet NAWN project, SMAP submissions, participation in MAP SAP...
- ✍ Communication tools
- ✍ Documenting lessons learned and experience
- ✍ Sub contracts: thematic networking in areas of a) training and capacity building, b) socio-economics

## 4. Lessons

Difficulty to share across the network: particularly because of institutional set up of the project.

Process of Site Management Planning = central component of the project  
=> need continuous revisit, not a static process

Difficulty to adjust LFA and project strategy: a) RBM/PCM, b) focus on visible activities, c) race for meeting deadlines and disbursement rates

Initial focus on PA itself and env science: now moving into larger sectoral and geo limits, integrating with policy and physical planning, bringing on board stakeholders.

Difficulty to move from MPs onto their implementation

Community involvement and participatory processes take time

**RAC 5 Session II**  
**MedWetCoast Regional component**  
**Tour du Valat Activity report**

**1. Support to the Regional Coordination Unit**

**1.1 Hosting & logistical support to the RCU**

- ✍ Hosting the RCU till the end of its operation
- ✍ Administrative and logistical support
- ✍ Bilingual secretary / assistant to the RC on a 25% basis

**1.2 Technical support**

- ✍ National Wetland Strategies: follow-up to the MWC countries further to the regional seminar (Beirut, February 04)
- ✍ Booklet on “integrated wetland management” published in May 05 in the Tour du Valat / MedWet series. 1500 copies in English / 1500 in French, widely disseminated. To be disseminated during the Ramsar COP9.
- ✍ Socio-economic initiatives / network of experts in community development in the Mediterranean:
  - ✍ Workshops of MWC socio-eco practitioners to exchange methods & experiences (Tour du Valat, Nov 04 + Nov 05)
  - ✍ Publication of MWC case studies / Lessons learned (Dec 05)

**2. Technical assistance to National MedWetCoast projects**

**Albania**

Management planning, socio-economics & ecotourism (missions in Oct - Nov. 04)  
 Hydrology & water resources use (mission in Nov. 04)

**Morocco**

Seminar on the Moroccan wetland strategy + follow-up (to be fixed)

**Lebanon**

Management planning

**Sustainability: National presentations****ALBANIA**Three Conclusions

1.MWC developed an integrated approach involving all the partners

2.MWC contributed on putting environmental problems high on the local agendas

3.MWC generated widespread interest in national resource management, introducing new concepts of resource management

**Policy Support**

1.Legal framework on protected areas is being completed:

- i.Law on PAs
- ii.Different DCMs
- iii.DCM on Narta ecosystem protected area
- iv.Draft DCM on Orikumi-Karaburun-Llogara PA
- v.Regulation for implementation of MP

2.Implementation of ICZM Program

3.Efforts to link with the activities of NCSA project to ensure implementation of the management endorsed mechanisms

**Institutional and Management Sustainability**

-Embodying NSC and LSC to appropriate legally based structures (Management Boards which is being established)

-Establishing the Wetland Committee ref. NWS provisions

-Cooperation with the local authorities and main local institutions

-Encourage and accomplish continuous data collection

**Financial Sustainability**

-Cooperation with the local authorities and main local institutions to provide for synergies and share efforts in implementation of activities

-Strengthening and development of the local NGOs and community capacities

-Elaboration of project proposals aiming continuation of efforts for site protection and implementation of MPs

**Project Results Documentation**

-Provide project archive and documenting materials

-Use of all available means to distribute project results (workshops, seminars, brochures and other publications)

-Establishment of inventory and archives of data and information with informing means rendered available to other actors/donors active in the site areas

**EGYPT****Change in practices****Grassroots participation**

? Activation of civil society:



- ? Sensitization to conservation issues
- ? Establishing NGOs
- ? Trainings: Internal governance & project management
- ? Technical support in developing proposals, and implementing projects
- ? Participation of local communities in decision making & implementation
- ?

**Empowerment of Women:**

- ? Sensitization to conservation issues
- ? Illiteracy classes
- ? Birth Certificates/I.D.s
- ? Revival of traditional handcrafts for Bedouin women.

**Local Management Capacity Building**

- ? Training programs for the local Team:
- ? Introductory
- ? Monitoring
- ? CEPA

**Next Phase**

- ? Participatory approach
- ? Law enforcement & patrolling
- ? Physical Resources/Infra structure:
- ? Construction/renovation of Visitor centers
- ? Equipments
- ? Informative signs
- ? Setting up enclosures for conservation & monitoring purposes
- ? Training programs for the local Teams.
- ?
- Construction & renovation of visitor centers
- ?
- Equipping of centers
- ? Decentralization of management decision making through the local management boards.
- ? Involving relevant local stakeholders in the process

**Financial Sustainability**

- ? Adoption of National Wetland strategy
- ? Final document finalized.
- ? Lobbying for its adoption by the GOE & its inclusion in the public budget.
- ? Developing partnerships with government & non-government organizations
- ? Mobilizing additional resources
- ? Forging sustainable commitments

**LEBANON**

- INSTITUTIONAL AND MANAGEMENT SUSTAINABILITY
- FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
- POLICY SUPPORT MEASURES
- OWNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

**INSTITUTIONAL AND MANAGEMENT SUSTAINABILITY**

- **MoE:**
- Tutelage ministry
- Planning and strategizing
- Financial Support

–Supervision and approvals

•Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

–Government Appointed Committee: Supervision, Management, hiring of staff, fund raising, advocacy....

–Management Team: execution of activities, development of MP and WP, Patrolling

•Ammiq Wetland

–Owners-NGO Consortium (Suggested by MoE): Supervision and fund raising

–Management Team execution of activities, development of MP and WP

### **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Cost of the plan \$200 000 average per year per site

•Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

–Yearly allocation from MoE (\$70 000 increasing by 15% annually)

–Yearly allocation from Municipality of Tyre (\$22000)

–Operationalization of business plans

–Development of site activities (250 000\$/year)

•Ammiq Wetland

- Operationalization of business plan

–Development of site activities and lodging package (250 000\$/year)

### **POLICY SUPPORT MEASURES**

•CODE OF THE ENVIRONMENT (Law No: 444 Dated 8/8/2002)

•

•LAW OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MoE (Law No: 690 Dated: 27/8/2005)

•

•FRAMEWORK LAW FOR PROTECTED AREAS

•

•SISPAM Project executed by MoE

•

•NATIONAL DAY FOR PROTECTED AREAS “ MARCH 10”

•

•TCNR PROTECTED BY LAW

•

•THE GAC STRUCTURE IS IN THE LAW. THE GAC APPOINTS THE MANAGEMENT TEAM.

### **OWNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS**

•MoE:

–Cooperation with other Ministries (Finance, Interior, Agriculture, Tourism, starting with Defense)

•Tyre Coast Nature Reserve

–Government Appointed Committee: Represents the Municipality, NGOs, Local Government and MoA

•Ammiq Wetland

–Owners-NGO Consortium (suggested by MoE)

–Full cooperation between owners, municipality, youth club and A Rocha

## **MOROCCO**

### **I. Dispositions prises dans un but de durabilité**

✍ Répartition des tâches entre Provinces, communes, forestiers et ONG pour la mise en œuvre des Plans de Gestion

✍ Instauration d’une régularité des réunions entre les différents intervenants

✍ Inscription sur la liste de RAMSAE des cinq sites

### **II. Durabilité des financements**

✍ Interreg

- ✗ SMAP III
- ✗ Budget de l'Etat des que la Moulouya est un parc national
- ✗ Mise en place progressive de mécanismes de cofinancement
  - amorce de co-financement par les ONG locales en charge de la gestion des sites
  - pourparlers en cours avec FADESA pour financer la construction du centre d'éducation environnementale
  - véhicule utilitaire co-financé par la Commune concernée

### III Mesures politiques mises en place

- ✗ Parc national de La Moulouya et plus tard les Beni Snassen
- ✗ Mise en place d'une politique de GIZC par le biais de la Cellule Littoral
- ✗ Prise de décrets provinciaux pour protéger les sites des abus (le sable, jet ski, parking, sens interdits)

### IV Mesures de partenariat

- ✗ Etroite collaboration avec les associations professionnelles (pêcheurs ; apiculteurs ; habitants) du site pour participer à la protection de la biodiversité
- ✗ Centre Régional d'Investissement : intégrer dans leurs programmations la particularité des sites du Projet.
- ✗ L'Université : constitution d'un comité scientifique de suivi et d'un protocole de monitoring
- ✗ FADESA : accord possible pour réaliser en co-financement le centre d'éducation environnementale de la Moulouya

## TUNISIA

### Principaux facteurs de durabilité

1. Cadre réglementaire et institutionnel adapté
2. Intégration dans une Stratégie et/ou un programme nationaux
3. Processus concerté à toutes les étapes
4. Adhésion/ accord entre les parties prenantes
5. Actions concrètes visibles mais aussi des objectifs à moyen et long terme
6. Structure de gestion en place

### Cadre réglementaire et institutionnel adapté

Les sites du projet sont protégés par plusieurs textes juridiques :

- Le code Forestier aussi bien pour les espaces forestiers que les zones humides (Chapitre 4),
- Le Code d'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Urbanisme
- La loi sur le Domaine Public Maritime pour les zones humides et les dunes côtières,
- La loi de création de l'Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral : chapitre concernant les zones sensibles,

Et d'autres textes juridiques tel la loi de création de l'ANPE pour la protection contre la pollution

**Les sites du projet font partie soit du domaine public maritime et/ou du Domaine Public Forestier  
Ils sont actuellement décrétés zones sensibles**

### Intégration dans une Stratégie et/ou un programme nationaux

- Stratégie nationale de la diversité biologique en vigueur depuis 1998
- Stratégie nationale des zones humides en cours d'élaboration dans le cadre du projet
- 
- Inscription aux 9ème et 10ème Plans de Développement quinquennaux en tant que programme national ; celui en cours s'étend jusqu'à la fin 2006
- Inscription annuelle des crédits depuis 1998 sur le budget national de l'APAL et dans la loi des finances
-

- Les sites du projet font partie également du programme national de protection des zones sensibles
- Zembra fait partie du programme national des Aires protégées marines et côtières. Elle est par ailleurs ASPIM, site MAP et Parc National.

### **Processus concerté à toutes les étapes**

- prise en considération des aspects socio-économiques par l'adoption d'une approche participative (plus de 20 ateliers participatifs organisés) ;
- analyse fine des contraintes, des potentialités et des attentes des usagers ( ONG, communes population, locale) ;
- Participations active des parties prenantes dans toutes les étapes de mise en œuvre du projet ;
- Implication des partenaires locaux dans les actions de formation organisées par le projet ;
- Participation actives de l'équipe de projet dans les manifestations environnementales locales ;
- Intérêt politique accordé au projet par le ministère chargé de l'environnement (7 visites ministérielles depuis le démarrage du projet)

### **Appropriation des objectifs du projet par les communes qui ont pris en considération dans leur plans d'aménagement urbains les sites du projet**

#### **Adhésion/ accord entre les parties prenantes**

##### **L'adhésion des parties prenantes s'est concrétisée par :**

- Conventions de partenariat avec le CRDA (Ministère de l'Agriculture) pour la mise en œuvre du projet
- Convention de 10 ans avec l'Office National de l'Assainissement pour assurer l'alimentation du plan d'eau de Korba avec les eaux usées traitées
- Convention de 10 ans avec les principales communes concernant la conservation des sites et la gestion des déchets
- Convention de partenariat avec les ONGs Locales
- La participation de l'équipe de projet à toutes les décisions concernant l'occupation du sol dans zones limitrophes des sites

##### **• L'intégration des plans de gestion dans les Plans d'Aménagement Urbain en cours de révision**

##### **• Lancement d'un processus agenda 21 pour les sites**

#### **Actions concrètes visibles mais aussi des objectifs à moyen et long terme**

Actions visibles à court terme :

- La délimitation des sites et implantation de la signalétique
- Nettoyage des sites et des secteurs soumis à forte pression
- Renforcement du gardiennage
- Aides à 150 agriculteurs dans le cadre de la maîtrise de la gestion de l'eau et 25 bénéficiaires dans le cadre de la lutte contre les activités destructrices du milieu (surpâturage et déboisement)

Actions visibles à moyen et long terme :

- Sensibilisation du Public en collaboration avec les ONGs locales ;
- Renforcement des capacités des communes pour la prise en charge des sites ;
- Actions de protection et de réhabilitation concertées ;
- Mise en place d'actions de valorisation des sites pour le développement de l'écotourisme ;
- Organisation de l'exploitation des ressources ;
- Elimination des sources de nuisance;
- Mise en place d'un programme de suivi des paramètres biologiques et hydrobiologiques

## Structure de gestion en place

- Une Commission Nationale de Développement Durable présidée par le Premier Ministre
- Un Ministère chargé de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
- Une Agence spécialisée chargée de la gestion du littoral (APAL)
- Des institutions sous la même tutelle (ONAS, ANPE et ANGED) qui jouent un rôle important dans la protection des sites contre les sources de dégradation
- Un partenariat avec l'ensemble des institutions concernées (DGF et Collectivités Locales)
- Une cellule de gestion des sites en place et recrutée par l'APAL

## Gestion des connaissances / Leçons apprises

### Gestion des écosystèmes forestiers

Bien que la Tunisie dispose d'un cadre réglementaire et institutionnel adapté pour la protection de la nature, il existe différents intervenants

Les sites du projet sont composés de zones humides et écosystèmes forestiers

Les sites forestiers sont soumis au régime forestier sans faire entièrement partie du Domaine Public

Les programmes de gestion forestière sont du ressort du ministère de l'Agriculture

La mise en place d'un partenariat et un partage des objectifs entre l'APAL et le CRDA s'impose pour une cohérence dans la gestion

=> Durabilité des investissements

- Signature d'une convention cadre de partenariat
- 
- Implication dans les structures de décision du projet (Comité de Pilotage et Conseil Consultatif de Gestion Locale)
  - Suivi du projet
  - Validation des Rapports d'activités et des programmes annuels
  - Validation des études et des plans d'actions
  -
- Concertation étroite dans la réalisation des études de diagnostics et des plans de Gestion à prises en compte des programmes sectoriels prévus par le CRDA et leur adaptation aux nécessités d'une gestion conservatrice de la biodiversité
- 
- Coordination dans le gardiennage des sites par le partage des fréquences radios des gardes respectifs du projet et du CRDA et concertation sur une utilisation adaptée de l'espace ,

Renforcement des capacités par la prise en charge financière de certaines actions qui concernent les sites du projet :

- Renforcement de moyens logistiques (Radios, vélomoteurs, carburants)
- Protection des ressources hydrauliques,
- Promotion d'activités socio-économiques rurales

Valorisation mésologique de l'espace forestier par la transformation de la fonctionnalité de certaines infrastructures pour accueillir le public dans le cadre de l'éducation environnementale (Classe vertes, tourisme vert, recherche scientifique, etc.)

Complémentarité dans la mise en œuvre du projet par la maîtrise d'ouvrage déléguée des actions qui relèvent du domaine de compétence du CRDA

Renforcement des compétences par l'intégration de la dimension écologique et environnementale dans les pratiques de gestion du milieu forestier :

- Conservation des habitats et des espèces remarquables (Genévrier oxycèdres, Chêne Kermès, etc)
- 
- Choix des espèces les plus pertinentes pour les opérations de reboisement (Caroubiers et Pins au lieu de l'acacia ou l'Eucalyptus)
-

- Abandon des techniques de reboisement mono-spécifiques par la diversification des essences.

**Resultats**

vision unifiée des contraintes et des potentialités pour la gestion des sites entre le projet et le CRDA,  
Changement au niveau des pratiques de conservation et de la perception de l'usage de l'espace naturel au sein du CRDA,  
Cogestion des sites du projet MWC garant de la durabilité des mesures de conservation et de valorisation,  
Transfert de compétences acquises au niveau des services forestiers vers d'autres sites (particulièrement GEF/Parcs Nationaux).

DRAFT of 20Sept05

**Terms of Reference for Final Project Evaluation****MEDWETCOAST: CONSERVATION OF WETLAND AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION****Regional project with national activities in: Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine Authority, and Tunisia****I. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with UNDP/GEF M&E policies and procedures, all regular and medium-sized projects supported by the GEF should undergo a final evaluation upon completion of implementation.

**a) UNDP/GEF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy**

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy at the project level in UNDP/GEF has four objectives: i) to monitor and evaluate results and impacts; ii) to provide a basis for decision making on necessary amendments and improvements; iii) to promote accountability for resource use; and iii) to document, provide feedback on, and disseminate lessons learned. A mix of tools is used to ensure effective project M&E. These might be applied continuously throughout the lifetime of the project – e.g. periodic monitoring of indicators - , or as specific time-bound exercises such as mid-term reviews, audit reports and final evaluations.

In accordance with UNDP/GEF M&E policies and procedures, all regular and medium-sized projects supported by the GEF should undergo a final evaluation upon completion of implementation. A final evaluation of a GEF-funded project (or previous phase) is required before a concept proposal for additional funding (or subsequent phases of the same project) can be considered for inclusion in a GEF work program. However, a final evaluation is not an appraisal of the follow-up phase.

Final evaluations are intended to assess the relevance, performance and success of the project. It looks at early signs of potential impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. It will also identify/document lessons learned and make recommendations that might improve design and implementation of other UNDP/GEF projects.

**b) Execution arrangements**

For execution purposes, although approved by the GEF as a regional project, the project has been broken down as 7 projects: a regional component and 6 national components: Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine Authority and Tunisia. The national components are under NEX execution; the regional component is executed by UNOPS. UNDP is the implementing agency for the whole of the project.

Each of the 7 components is defined by a separate project document, approved and endorsed by the respective national authorities (signature of all of the countries for the regional component), a separate budget and specific national execution arrangements.

**c) The project objectives and its context within the country program**

The project's overall development objective is to conserve globally endangered species and their habitats, recognising wildlife conservation as an integral part of sustainable human development while improving capacity of government and non-government agencies to address biodiversity conservation issues.

The project aims specifically at the following immediate objectives:

- 1) Promotion and capacity building for the development of national policies and tools to address policy-related root causes of the loss of wetland and coastal biodiversity
- 2) Root causes of biodiversity loss in key demonstration sites are removed, and sites are protected.

- 3) “Closing of the Mediterranean circle” in terms of biodiversity protection and sustainable management of wetlands and coastal zones through cost-effective networking for transfer of lessons, interchange and training

Each of the separate components has slightly different immediate objectives and, accordingly, results and activities (the table in Annex I summarizes the series of objectives for each of the national components).

The objectives of the regional component are to provide for:

- 1) Capacity building through technical assistance
- 2) Closing the Mediterranean circle through networking, publications and sharing of experience

Discussed at the project first Regional Advisory Committee meeting (Rabat, Morocco, April 2001), a logframe, complete with indicators, means of verification and assumptions, was prepared (together with a Monitoring and Reporting strategy) with outside consultancy assistance and finalized in May 2001<sup>1</sup>. It is attached in Annex 2. Each national component and the regional component were then requested to produce a nationally owned customized logical framework through a consultative process with all national project partners.

At the regional level, one must consider that the Mediterranean Basin hotspot and Global 200 ecoregion is the largest globally significant ecoregion in the region. It is also useful to recall that the project was developed by the Conservatoire du Littoral (France) and the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (France), within the context of, respectively, the effort to promote the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the MedWet Initiative. Since then, the region has progressed in the implementation of ICZM with MAP CAMPs (Coastal Area Management Programs) national initiatives and METAP projects and, more recently, the preparation of an ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona convention. In parallel, the MedWet initiative and the associated team of wetland centers (CEZH/ICN of Portugal, Tour du Valat of France, EKBY of Greece, ARPAT of Italy, and SEHUMED of Spain) has engaged significant resources to address the degradation of Mediterranean wetlands, putting particular emphasis on the cultural aspects of wetlands, the networking across sub-regions and across wetlands actors (salinas, NGOs, etc.), the integration of wetlands management with water and agricultural policies, and awareness raising to the functions and fragility of wetlands. The MedWetCoast project served to reinforce and illustrate these efforts.

#### **d) Project indicative facts**

☞ The Project started its operation in September 1999 for an initial period of 5 years. All of the national components did commence around the same time, except for Lebanon, which initiated activities in mid/late 2001. The Palestine component completed activities in late 2003; the regional component was extended for one additional year and completed its operation at the end of 2005. Due to necessity to extend its support for reasons highlighted in the respective tripartite meetings, the national components of Albania, Egypt were extended until the end of 2006. The tripartite meetings of the Morocco and Tunisia components at the end of 2005 will statute on a possible one year extension. The UNDP GEF regional coordinator has clarified that the deadline of end of 2006 was absolute for all of the MWC components. The table below summarizes the status of start and completion for each of the components.

Prodoc signature date	Revised Closing date
Albania: 31 August 1999	Albania: November 2006
Egypt: 7 September 1999	Egypt: December 2006
Lebanon: 26 June 2001	Lebanon: February 2006
Morocco: 29 September 1999	Morocco: December 2005 - TBD
Palestine: September 1999??	Palestine: September 2003
Tunisia: 15 August 1999	Tunisia: December 2005 - TBD
RCU: 31 August 1999	RCU: December 2005

<sup>1</sup> ICLEI, Toronto, Canada, May 2001 ‘MedWetCoast: Monitoring and Reporting Strategy’



⌘ The project was funded by the GEF (at 78,2% of total), the FFEM (at 10,4%) and co-financed by the government of Egypt and Albania respectively (at 9,6%). It received cost-sharing from the individual governments of the respective countries. At the time of writing, **mid-August 2005**, the **disbursement ratio for the overall project is 61,2%**. It covers considerable differences though among the components: from a 100% disbursement ratio for the Palestine and 96,2% for the Regional components to 37,4% for the Morocco component. The table in Annex 3 spells out the details, as of mid-August 2005.

Budget GEF	12,974,497	78,2%
Budget FFEM	1,726,489	10,4%
Government co-financing	1,595,146	9,6%
Total BUDGET	16,591,957	100%
Total EXPENDITURE to date (June 2005)	10,150,791	
Disbursement ratio (as of July 05)	<b>61,19%</b>	

⌘ The MoE is the **government counterpart institution and implementing agency** for the national components, i.e. Ministry of Health and Environment, Committee for Environmental Protection in Albania; Ministry of Environment, Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency in Egypt; Ministry of Environment in Lebanon; Ministry of Urbanism, Environment, Land Development and Housing / Secretariat of State in charge of the environment / Directorate of Observation, Studies and Coordination in Morocco (TBC); Environment Quality Authority (EQA) of the Palestine Authority; and National Agency for the Protection and Development of the Tunisian Littoral (APAL) in Tunisia.

⌘ The project drew upon the **technical and scientific experience of project partners** which were associated to the project from the start : the Station Biologique of the Tour du Valat, Arles, France (one of the project design partner and co-implementing agency from 1999 to end of 2002), the Conservatoire du Littoral, Paris, France (one of the project design partner and co-implementing agency from 1999 to end of 2002), and the Ateliers Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN). Each of the partner provided specific assistance: the Station Biologique of the Tour du Valat in the area of wetland management, the Conservatoire du Littoral in the area of coastal management, and the ATEN in the area of capacity building.

⌘ For each of the components, the **day-to-day management** of the project was undertaken by a full-time Project Manager contracted by the project, and assisted by a national and local team (the composition and nature of the national project team varies for each of the component and changed overtime). The Regional component was managed by a full time regional coordinator (Sept 1999 – July 2002; July 2003 – December 2004) and then by a part time regional coordinator (January – December 2005), assisted by a regional assistant (full time till mid-2004, part time from mid-2004 onward).

⌘ The regional component was subject to a **Management Review** from an institutional and management perspective (June 2002) and the project was subject to a **Mid Term Review** (August-September 2003). Both of these reviews should be taken in consideration.

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION**

Upon the requirements of the GEF and FFEM, it was commonly agreed and recommended that an external final evaluation mission be undertaken prior to its closure at the end of 2006. The Regional Advisory Committee of September 2004 (RAC4) recommended that the RCU take on the responsibility for coordinating the preparation and implementation of the Final Evaluation. The UNDP GEF further suggested that the Final Evaluation be sufficiently comprehensive and extensive to cover all of the complex aspects of the project.

The Final Evaluation will cover both GEF and FFEM funded activities and, as such, fulfill the requirements of these two funding agencies for final reporting.

The particular objectives and focus of this evaluation are specified below. The evaluators must note that, according to the March 2005 revised modifications of the GEF M&E guidance (see also annex 4), priority emphasis must be put on the first three elements, i.e. assessment of the project achievements, sustainability of the project and strength of the project's M&E system.

Focus and objectives of the evaluation:

1. Evaluate project **achievements** at the **impact level**. *Annex 4* details the GEF M&E process that should be followed. Monitoring reports of bio-physical indicators, annual progress reports against the indicators of the project, mid term evaluation and other assessments should be looked at for reference.
2. Review all the progress made by the project toward achieving its **sustainability** in terms of provision of all planned inputs, performance of the different implementers and their ability to carry on the work, adequacy of the policy undertakings and the management tools produced and its practicality for use by the different parties.
3. Review the **Monitoring & Evaluation** procedures put in place by the project, in particular examine the selection of indicators, the mechanisms of review and monitoring, and the adaptive management approach that the project would have followed to respond to changes in the context and responses (see also annex 4).
4. Assess the **relevance** of the project to the national development priorities, UNDP practice areas and the needs of the direct project stakeholders. In particular,
  - determine the overall appropriateness of the objectives of the project to the pertinent GEF mission, mandate and strategic approach (BD1)
  - determine the relevance of the project design
5. Analyze the **attainment** of global **environmental objectives**<sup>2</sup>, outcomes/impacts<sup>3</sup> (i.e. analyze the project's success in achieving conservation of biodiversity in the selected sites and replication of the approach), project objectives<sup>4</sup>, and delivery and completion of project outputs/activities<sup>5</sup> (based on indicators).
6. Review the **implementation approach**, in particular focusing on:
  - ✗ **execution arrangements**;
  - ✗ **institutional arrangements**;
  - ✗ the **regionality** of the project and regional benefits;
  - ✗ **coordination arrangements** among the various components (in particular as they provide for sharing and networking, and joint reflection to address common problems);
  - ✗ **efficiency of the technical backstopping** of the contractors and partners (i.e. the quality of inputs and performance of the project subcontractors at the regional, national and site levels).
7. Review the **financial management** of the project, assess the **cost-effectiveness** of the activities undertaken and cost-sharing arrangements mobilized by the project.
8. **Identify the difficulties** faced during the implementation of the project and how the project and partners responded to them.
9. Assess the extent of **country ownership** (from the various project stakeholders' point of view, at the national and local levels) and drivenness of the implementation process. This includes the assessment of

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<sup>2</sup> This should be the highest level in the project's logical framework, which is often labeled the "goal" to which the project contributes. Different implementing agencies are using different terms for this level. The World Bank often refers to this level as the "global objective". UNEP uses "overall project objective" to describe this level, while UNDP has used "development objective".

<sup>3</sup> Proposed changes to and effects on the environment and society to be caused by the project.

<sup>4</sup> "Project objective" are the second highest level of objectives in the logical framework. This are referred to by the World Bank as development objectives, by UNDP as project objectives and by UNEP as "objectives".

<sup>5</sup> This refers to outputs, activities or components as described in the Project Document that will contribute to the attainment of the objectives.

the government taking over the sustainable management of the project and the government support to integrating the project objectives and goals into the national development agenda and programs.

10. Assess the degree of **participation** of the various stakeholders, including scientific, technical, and non-governmental organizations, and **involvement** of the general public and public groups in the implementation of the project (see also annex 4).
11. Present and analyze **main findings and key lessons**, including examples of **best practices** for future projects in the region or countries.
12. Assess the **replicability** of the project using the same management approach and mechanisms in other areas in the country or region.
13. **Identify gaps and recommend remedial actions** that could be adopted at the short, medium and long term, as well as future orientations aiming at ensuring a successful sustainability of the project, as appropriate.
14. Include, in an annex, an explanation of any differences or disagreements between the findings of the evaluation team, the IA/EA or the GEF recipient organizations.

Each terminal evaluation will include **ratings** on the following criteria: (a) Outcomes/ Achievement of objectives (the extent to which the project's environmental and development objectives were achieved); (b) Implementation Approach; (c) Stakeholder Participation/Public Involvement; (d) Sustainability; and (e) Monitoring & Evaluation. The ratings will be: Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Marginally Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, and N/A. This system will allow consistency across all IAs/EAs.

The main stakeholders of this evaluation include: the executing and implementing agencies; the regional, national and local sub-contractors (individuals and institutions); the regional, national and local steering committee members; the local beneficiaries at site level. Representative of all of part of these parties would have to be consulted in the course of this evaluation.

In addition, through this evaluation, it is expected that this evaluation will serve to further build capacity in the region for GEF M&E techniques and processes. The international team will be required to devote attention to 'coaching' the national consultants, working with them to define the tools of evaluation and, at the end, evaluating the performance of the national consultants.

Finally, an explanation of the terminology used in this document is attached in Annex 5.

### **III. PRODUCTS EXPECTED FROM THE EVALUATION**

The evaluators will prepare **one final evaluation report in English**, the format of which is described below. In addition, the evaluators will prepare an **executive summary of findings (both in English and in French), formatted so as to be easily presented as overhead to meetings.**

The evaluation report should be structured along the following lines:

1.	Executive summary
2.	Introduction
3.	The project(s) and its development context
4.	Findings and Conclusions
	4.1 Project formulation
	4.2 Implementation
	4.3 Results
5.	Recommendations
6.	Lessons learned
7.	Annexes

Details pertaining to each of the above chapters are given in Annex 6.

The final report should not exceed **50 pages in total**, with a concise executive summary of no more than 3 pages. It will be written in English and submitted in electronic form in MS Word Format to the UNDP GEF regional office in ... copies.

The national components, though they fully appreciate that the project is a regional undertaking, have requested that the Final Evaluation do make provision for **national evaluation reports**. Indeed, impact, effectiveness, efficiency, replicability, relevance and sustainability, are most evidenced at national and site level. The Final Evaluation process thus provides for the preparation of national evaluation reports, although they will not form part of the Final Evaluation report. National reports will be prepared and drafted by the national consultants, with technical guidance from the international evaluators, but under the responsibility of the UNDP CO. Details and clarifications are spelled out in the ‘national consultants’ TORs’ [To be prepared].

#### **IV. METHODOLOGY OR EVALUATION APPROACH**

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with GEF principles for final evaluations. Specifically:

- ? Major project stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels should be involved.
- ? If the project did not establish a baseline (initial conditions), the evaluators should seek to determine it through the use of special methodologies so that achievements, results and impacts can be properly established. These methodologies must be presented to, and verified by, UNDP during the start-up of the evaluation, before country visits commence.
- ? It would be advisable to take advantage of the M&E systems of each project component and their log frames (the M&E components should also be evaluated).
- ? Evaluators should have an updated knowledge of GEF policies and strategies.

The evaluation will include **ratings** on the following aspects: (1) Sustainability; (2) Outcome/Achievement of objectives (the extent to which the project's environmental and development objectives were achieved); (3) Implementation Approach; (4) Stakeholder Participation/Public Involvement; and (5) Monitoring & Evaluation. The evaluators should use a six values rating system (Highly Satisfactory-HS, Satisfactory-S, Moderately Satisfactory MS, Moderately Unsatisfactory-MS, Unsatisfactory U, Highly Unsatisfactory HU). The benefit of a six value system is that it will allow for a more balanced set of options (three options on the satisfactory side and three options on the unsatisfactory side) while at the same time allowing for a category that while not quite satisfactory is not low enough to be unsatisfactory.

The Team Leader is responsible for agreeing evaluation methodologies for data verification during the field visits and stakeholder meetings (questionnaires, surveys, interview techniques etc) and presenting them to UNDP before the country visits commence for endorsement.

In general, monitoring and evaluation practices at GEF explore five criteria that are applicable to projects, programs, and thematic or country-level monitoring and evaluation but that do not all need to be systematically reviewed in all cases. These five specific monitoring and evaluation criteria used in combination provide the decision-maker with essential information in connection with present and future decisions on projects and programs.

**Impact:** measures both the positive and negative, foreseen and unforeseen, changes to and effects on the counterparts/communities targeted by the project. This includes addressing aspects such as the capacity development, awareness raising and leverage of funds and national policies.

**Effectiveness:** measures the extent to which the objective has been achieved or the likelihood that it will be achieved.

**Efficiency:** assesses the outputs in relation to inputs, looking at costs, implementing time, and economic and financial results.

**Relevance:** gauges the degree to which the project or program at a given time is justified within the global and national/local environment and development priorities.

**Sustainability:** measures the extent to which benefits continue from a particular project or program after GEF assistance/external assistance has come to an end.

The World Bank/ WWF Alliance for forest conservation and sustainable use has developed a **management effectiveness-tracking tool** (guidelines attached) that has been used by the Global Environment facility.

This tool must be applied by the evaluation team, both for establishing a baseline (if necessary) and assessing the final results. The project teams are expected to provide a draft of the completed Tracking Tool before the evaluation commences. The MedWetCoast project falls under GEF Strategic Priority BD1 - Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Areas. As requested by the UNDP GEF and the regional component of the project in April 2005, some of the national components have then applied the GEF Tracking Tool that could serve as mid-term measure – at the time of writing, the form has been completed by Albania and Morocco. The Regional Advisory Committee meeting of September 2005 also further explained the principles and modalities for applying the tools, inviting the other components to use it.

This evaluation will entail:

☞ Reviewing all available documentation among which:

- Project Documents of each of the 7 components (\*) including logical frameworks and annual workplans
- Progress reports including TPR reports (national and regional) and PIR reports (national and consolidated)
- The Management Review (June 2002) and the mid term evaluation report (October 2003)
- All project monitoring reports and other outputs of the project's monitoring system, particularly the measurement of indicators
- Draft completed GEF Tracking Tool
- The publications and meeting reports (national and regional) (\*)
- The regional networking reports (RACs) (\*)
- The newsletter and the website (\*)
- The training needs assessment reports and the reports of the regional and national training seminars (\*);
- The Management Plan Peer Review report, the Socio-economic booklet, the Training Assessment (all regional reports – finalized by end of 2005) (\*)
- The logframes and yearly workplans
- The different laws that apply for the protected areas in the respective countries (and framework laws)

(\*) available on the project website: [www.medwetcoast.com](http://www.medwetcoast.com)

An important requirement is that much of the information on project reporting, results and processes will be available for the evaluation team. This information will be presented to the evaluation team upon commencement of the evaluation. It will be provided with an annotated cover note describing the relative importance of each document, key sections and issues to be brought to the evaluators' attention. The Regional Coordinator will also provide a report of the project's accomplishments and lessons.

☞ Field visits: All of the evaluators will visit each of the 6 countries. The country visits will include a field visit to at least one of the project sites.

☞ Meeting and conducting interviews with all the involved partners in the project as well as representatives of the communities living in the vicinities of the MWC sites. The final evaluation consultants should at least interview the following people:

a) national components:

- Director of the project
- Manager of the project
- Local coordinator
- Members of the national steering committee
- A Site manager
- A local NGO/community representative
- Representatives of subcontracted entities by or partner to the project (local municipality, local council, government sectoral agency, national scientific institute, etc).
- A local municipality representative
- UNDP Environment Unit team / UNDP GEF Focal Point
- AFD representative (for national components with FFEM funding)

b) regional component:

- Representatives of the three technical sub-contracted partners (France)
- International consultants providing assistance to the national components
- UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit (Beirut)
- AFD/FFEM Regional Coordinator (Paris)
- UNOPS Officer
- The Regional Coordinator
- Members of the Regional Steering Committees

During these meetings, the evaluators will be able to use the assessment technique such as questionnaires, focus group discussions, checklists, etc...

## **V. EVALUATION TEAM**

The evaluation mission will consist of a team of three consultants, seconded by national consultants in each of the countries.

The international evaluators:

1. An external international consultant who will also act as the **team leader**. He /she shall possess a solid experience in **evaluating** internationally funded natural resource management projects and proven skills in result-based monitoring and evaluation techniques. Additionally, he/she would have good knowledge of biodiversity conservation and protected area management, desirably with a high University Degree (Ph.D/M.Sc.) in the field of environment and experience (> or =10 years) at the regional or international level. Previous involvement and understanding of UNDP and GEF procedures is an advantage. Good writing skills are also required. His/her focus will primarily be on assessing **institutional arrangements and management of the projects and governance, as well as** policy impacts on stakeholders and institutionalization of the project at national and local levels. He/she will also be responsible for overseeing the preparation and implementation of the evaluation, under the leadership of the UNDP GEF unit.
2. An external international consultant with experience in **evaluating** internationally funded natural resource management projects and a thematic expertise in developing, running and assessing **Integrated Conservation and Development Project**. He/she shall possess a high University Degree (Ph.D/M.Sc.) in the field of environment and natural resources conservation in addition to an extensive experience (> or =10 years) in protected areas management with considerable experience at the regional or international level. He/she will have expertise in **socio-economic approach**, practical knowledge of the **integration** of conservation and development concepts, and special strengths in assessing **livelihood benefits and people/stakeholders participation** in protected areas management processes.
3. An external international consultant, also with good experience in **evaluation** techniques and assessment of natural resource projects. He/she will have particular knowledge of **biodiversity and protected area management**. He/she shall possess a high University Degree (Ph.D/M.Sc.) in the field of environment and natural resources conservation in addition to an extensive experience (> or =10 years) in protected areas management with considerable experience at the regional or international level. His focus will primarily be on assessing biodiversity impacts of the project. Expertise in ecological monitoring is required. Expertise in wetland/coastal management is a plus.

The international consultants will be recruited by UNOPS, in consultation with the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinator, and will work under the technical supervision of the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit (Beirut). All of the international consultants must have excellent command of **English**. At least 2 of the international consultants should have some knowledge of **French**, sufficient to carry on a conversation with local/national stakeholders. One of the 3 international consultants should have a working knowledge of **Arabic**. Finally all of the three international consultants should have the ability to train and coach and the capacity to transfer knowledge and skills.

National consultants

In each of the 6 countries, a team of 2 national consultants will be recruited by the UNDP CO. The objectives are threefold: 1) build capacity in the region and identify national evaluators that can be groomed to become international evaluators, skilled in GEF M&E, 2) assist the international team and provide the national ‘reality check’ throughout the evaluation and 3) compile a national evaluation report. The **national consultants will be provided with separate Terms Of Reference**. The national consultants must have excellent command of English, both written and spoken, plus of the national language, as appropriate.

The tasks of the national consultants will be two fold: 1) **assist the international evaluators** in the assessment work and contribute to the drafting of the **draft and final evaluation report** and 2) carry out an **assessment of the national component and submit a national evaluation report to the UNDP CO**. The first objective is directly within the scope of the present TORs; to accomplish the work, the national consultants will report directly to the Team Leader, who will guide and suggest ways to organize their work, and confirm the suitability of their contribution and outputs (see below). The second objective is under the responsibility of the UNDP CO.

#### Supervision and reporting arrangements

- ✘ The **Team Leader will have overall responsibility and accountability** for the organization of the mission and for the production of the output. He/She will **report technically to the UNDP GEF Regional Office**, which will agree with him/her on the timetable and outputs. Administratively and for contract purposes, he/she will report to UNOPS Geneva.
- ✘ The other two **international consultants** will be recruited by UNOPS on the basis of these TORs (supplemental annexes describing the outputs for each of the other international members may be required); the Team Leader will assist UNOPS screen and select the consultants. They will **report to the Team Leader. He/she will define the specific outputs for each of them and the benchmarks** at the start of the mission (preparation phase); these will be annexed to their individual contract. He/she will clear the ‘certificates for payment’ for each of them, if/when the outputs have been produced and submitted in a satisfactory way.
- ✘ The Team Leader will review and **clear the TORs for the national consultants**. He/she will help the UNDP CO screen and select the national consultants. For the first objective of their TORs, the national consultants will **report to the Team Leader. He/she will define the specific outputs for each of them and the benchmarks** at the start of the mission (preparation phase); these will be annexed to their individual contract. He/she will clear the ‘certificates for payment’ for each of them, if/when the outputs have been produced and submitted in a satisfactory way. For the second objective of their TORs (national assessment report), the national consultants will receive technical advice and guidance from the Team Leader (and the international consultants, as appropriate), in particular insofar as workplan, format, methods and tools. However, the responsibility for the **satisfactory production of the national evaluation report remains with the UNDP CO**.
- ✘ In case of **conflict** among the team members, the Team Leader will be called upon to address and resolve it, with assistance, as appropriate, from the respective UNDP CO. If the matter can not be resolved, the Team Leader will propose a modification of the working arrangements, at no extra cost to the project. Finally, in case of a major conflict involving the credibility of the Team Leader, the UNDP GEF Office will be called upon for arbitration.

In each of the countries, the team of 5 people will be hosted by the national MWC project office, which will make available facilities, transport, and secretarial assistance, as required. The national MWC project office will be responsible for organizing the visits, meetings and field trips of all of the consultants during the period of their stay in the country and/or duration of their mission.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

a) The mission of each international consultant will be of **42 working days duration**. The following time breakdown is suggested:

task	number of days (for each int. consultant)	Total number of days
Desk study and review of documentation	3	9
Preparation of missions and evaluation	3	9
Field visits (includes travel time) <sup>6</sup>	5 days x 6 countries	90
Draft report	4	12
Final report (incl. a one-day debriefing by the team leader to UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinator	2	6
Total per consultant	42 days	126 days

b) an **additional 20 days** will be added to the **team leader's contract**. This will allow him to 1) revisit the TORs of the evaluation, upon review of the latest documentation and developments pertaining to the project, 2) assist in the recruitment of the other international team members as well as the national experts: the Team Leader will have authority for determining individual evaluation team members' TORs, and will help the respective UNOPS and UNDP CO identify, screen and select consultants and 3) assist the UNDD-GEF Regional Office in the mobilization of the final evaluation, as required.

c) the **three consultants will, together, visit each of the countries**. In each of the countries, the first task will include a briefing with the national consultants and joint work to confirm the evaluation process in the countries and the techniques and tools to be used – advance email exchange with the national consultants will be arranged.

d) the initial **draft report will be circulated** to 1) the UNOPS officer, the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinator and the FFEM representative. Then, upon their clearance, to 2) the key stakeholders of the national and regional components: the national project directors and managers, UNDP CO environment focal persons, representatives of regional technical partners, for review and comments. Except for comments correcting factual information, the comments relating to the interpretation and opinion of facts will be inserted as a separate annex to the report.

e) A meeting between all of the consultants (national and international) at the end of the field visits and prior to finalizing the draft report will be scheduled a) to further fuel the 'coaching' approach and contribute to the training of the national experts, b) to discuss findings among the consultants, etc. Funding is being provided for this event.

f) The final report will follow the same **format** as the draft report. It is spelled out in *Annex 6*.

g) The evaluation is being undertaken for **UNDP**, as the GEF Implementing Agency. UNDP will thus have authority and responsibility to accept the report and technically manage and drive the whole of the Final Evaluation process.

## **VII. BUDGET AND TIMETABLE**

### **1. Budget: the total cost of the international Final Evaluation is estimated at: 146,000 USD**

Fee of international 3-person team (average)	USD500 x 126 days	64,000 USD
Team Leader additional assistance (incl preparation/mobilization of the Final Evaluation):	USD600 x 20 days	12,000 USD
Travel expenses (one round trip Europe-country averaged at USD1,000 and per diem averaged at USD155):		35,000 USD
Regional seminar of the consultants:		25,000 USD
Misc (report distribution, printing, translation, etc.):		10,000 USD

The following points should be noted:

<sup>6</sup> The field visits will start with Lebanon to first include a full briefing by the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordinator and 2-day work session between the three international evaluators to confirm and finalize the procedures for the Final Evaluation.



- 1) The costs related to the **national consultants** and the preparation of **national final evaluations**, as indicated in the ‘national consultants’ TORs’, will be **born by the respective national component**; they will be recruited by the UNDP CO, on the basis of the TORs provided; adequate provision in the budget should be made to that effect in 2006.
- 2) The cost of the **Palestine** national component and its share of the international evaluation will be born by the regional component of the project, for ease of procedures.
- 3) The international and national cost of the Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon components will be born by the **GEF and FFEM funding**, in proportion of their budget contribution.
- 4) The cost of the **international Final Evaluation** will be divided among the 7 components, in proportion to their share of the external budget allocated to the project (i.e. a total of GEF and FFEM funds of USD14,996,811): Albania = 12%, Egypt=19%, Lebanon=3%, Morocco=24%, Palestine=4%, Tunisia=22%, and RCU=18%. **Adequate provision in the budget should be made to that effect.**
- 5) The regional seminar is being estimated at 25,000 USD (15 persons travel, per diem and fees for 3 days).
- 6) The international component of the Final Evaluation will be administered by UNOPS (i.e. recruitment of the three international experts, arrangements of travel and per diem, organization of the regional seminar). Since the regional component though does not have sufficient funds to advance the totality of the international evaluation, UNOPS will send a pro-forma invoice to each of the national components on the amount agreed and call **advance payment of that amount**. It will need to have received that advance payment, before launching the mobilization of the final evaluation. Upon completion of the activity, UNOPS will reconcile final expenditure figures and take the necessary actions with the UNDP CO to claim or reimburse funds, as appropriate.

### Timetable

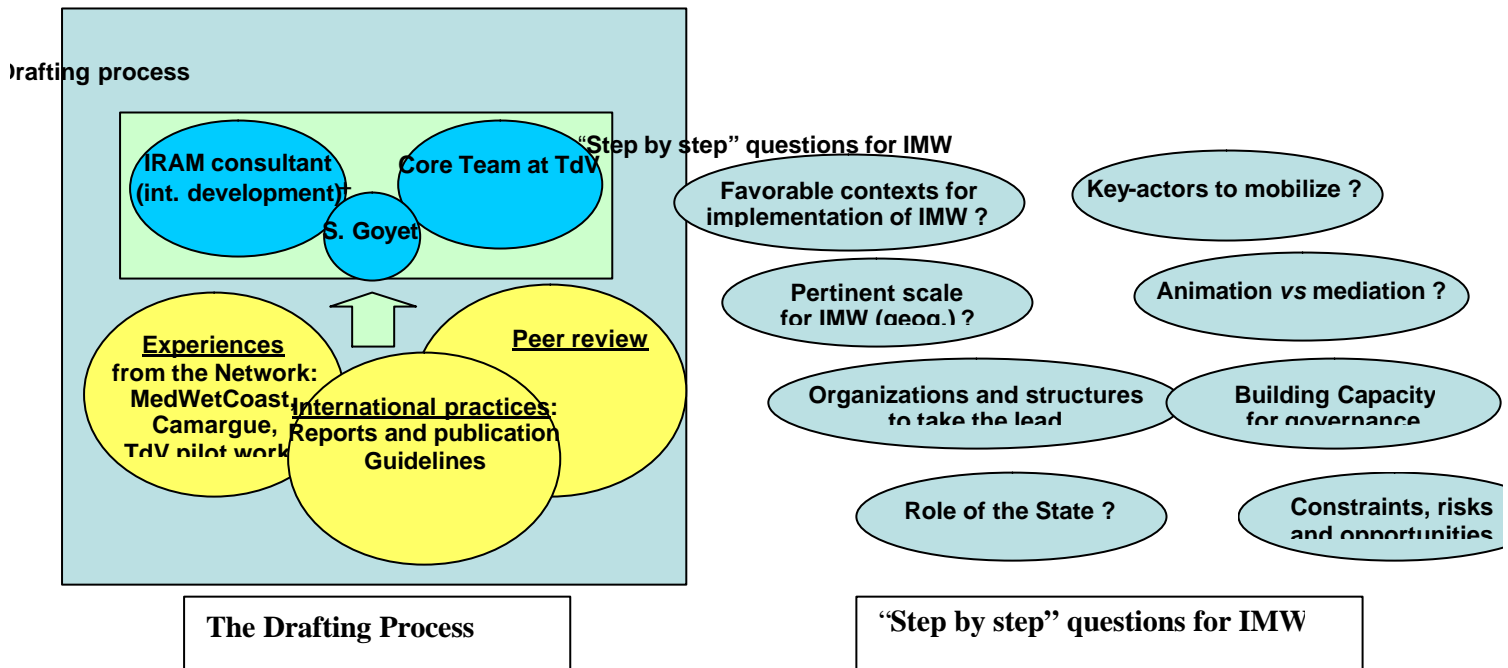
To fully capture the range of activities and assess results and impacts, it is proposed that the evaluation take place at the beginning of the second half of 2006, i.e. in **August – November 2006**, with submission of the final report at the end of November 2006.

<i>Benchmarks</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Submission of draft report to UNDP GEF & FFEM	30 September 2005
Comments by UNDP GEF & FFEM to evaluators	15 October 2005
Cleared draft ready and sent to national stakeholders/regional partners (could also then be sent to UNDP GEF M&E)	30 October 2005
Written feedback from national stakeholders and regional partners	15 November 2005
Final draft submitted to UNOPS, UNDP GEF and GEF M&E, FFEM	30 November 2005

In case of further written comments on the final draft from any of the partners or stakeholders, the UNDP GEF Regional Office will acknowledge and assess whether these should be annexed to the report. The final report will not be revised at that stage.

**Annexes to the draft TORs are not included in this document.**

**Publication n°13 TdV / MedWet Series  
 “Integrated management of Mediterranean wetlands”**



**What’s in?**

- Conservation issues in the Mediterranean
- Integrated management : theory and concepts
- Criteria and tools for IMW - “Step by step” questions for IMW

=> Provides a framework for implementation of IWM  
 Need to adapt to different contexts and possibilities  
 Not a cooking recipe

## **MWC Socio economic approaches: experience and lessons learned**

### **Objective**

- 1) Documenting MWC processes and practices for integrating socio-economic issues into the implementation of the project
- 2) Drawing examples, experience and lessons

### **Drafting process**

Socio-economist from TdV + RC

with inputs and peer review from MWC socio-economic working group (meeting in Arles in Nov04 + Nov05)

### **Content**

1. Project design and implementation: operationalizing ICDP principles
  - > greater assistance in inception phase to explain the principles and guide the definition of work
2. Understanding cause-and-effect relationship
3. Stakeholders analysis and identification of 'entry points'
4. Building trust and confidence with local actors
5. Improving land tenure and natural resource access and control
6. Implementing livelihood alternatives that contribute to conservation objectives
7. Implementing livelihood alternatives: requires dedicated expertise
8. Institutionalization of the project: capacity building for NGOs and local actors
9. Monitoring and evaluation of the socio-economic site management activities

## MWC Management Plan Peer Review May to October 2005

### Objectives

- documenting the process ;
- consolidating lessons learned and critical examples on that subject;
- providing suggestions and recommendations for finalizing MPs and informing the review ;
- informing the future preparation of guidelines,

### The process of the Review

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of 2 <u>consultants</u>: int. (Parc des Cevennes, ICUN) + national (Tun MP - Tun contribution)</li> <li>• <u>Desk review</u>: examination of site MPs, MWC guidelines</li> <li>• Tailored <u>questionnaire</u> sent to the national teams requesting further information or clarification</li> <li>• <u>Field visits</u>: Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco</li> <li>• <u>Regional workshop</u>, gathering practitioners from each of the MWC countries as well as invited protected area management experts from other projects in the region</li> <li>• <u>Synthesis</u> in the form of a report that was submitted to the project's regional advisory committee</li> </ul>	<p>Feb-April 05</p> <p>April-May05</p> <p>May05</p> <p>May05</p> <p>End June05</p> <p>Sept/Oct05</p>
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### The report

1. Introduction
2. Review of the MWC guidelines and process
3. Issues:
  - intro,
  - issue in MWC MPs,
  - conclusion
4. Implementing the MPs
5. Preparing the next generation of MP
6. Conclusion

### Initial findings

- A. Analysis of the guidelines: emphasis on description and baseline
  - ✍ In line with Ramsar and Eurosite
  - ✍ Could be fine in the context of a first MP

- ✘ Lacking an integrated ‘ecosystem approach’
- ✘ Insufficient attention to RCA and to the sources of the pressures & threats
- ✘ Recommended workplans do not give enough attention to governance, empowerment, and community benefits
- ✘ Many ‘experts’ and ‘consultants’ in the guidelines, nothing on communities themselves doing part of the diagnosis

### B. **Technical assistance**

Credit to the **training organized** (Amman, Zaranik). Coherent and common approach should have given way to more exchanges and sharing across the countries

Particular responsibility of the **international consultant** in both assisting in the drafting and peer reviewing the process : any conflict of interest there?

### C. **Diagnosis**: very comprehensive... too much?

- ✘ Exhaustive scientific studies: not guided by any focus or objectives?

“challenge in this phase has been to keep the scientists under guidance.  
Experts had a tendency to move on with a scientific approach,  
i.e. one that requires a full picture of the situation before making any analysis”

- ✘ Insufficient attention to the inter-connections across the studies/issues

“The sectoral analysis of the diagnosis phase has probably segmented too much the ecological and ecosystem approach”

e.g. link between the reed bed, the reed cutter, the market for thatched roof, the bittern that roost in the reed bed, and the Quality and quantity of the water ”

- ✘ Socio-economic issues are not streamlined into the analysis but as a stand along review ; whereas socio-economic issues prevail behind every analysis of fauna, flora, etc.
- ✘ Socio-economic analysis remained a very macro analysis with little site approach, little behavioral approach, and little analysis on the linkages between man and nature
- ✘ Insufficient analysis of the local knowledge (‘savoir populaire’)

balance between scientific expertise and popular knowledge is a platform for ensuring integration of the protected area into the local settings

- ✘ Subject has mainly been terrestrial
- ✘ Causal chain analysis is a weakness (time and scale, participatory assessment and acceptance, questioning behaviors?)
- ✘ The ‘integrated and ecosystemic approach’ missing in the consolidation

**AS A RESULT, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN ARE NOT CLEAR AND CAUSES BEHIND THE PRESSURES NOT MAPPED NOR SOCIALLY ACCEPTED (from diagnosis to MP)**

- ✘ **Find the balance between carrying out complete baseline studies versus focusing on the main biodiversity challenges without putting too much time and effort into a comprehensive diagnosis**

✍ **Studies are also an opportunity to involve local staff and facilitators**

#### D. Elements of the MP

1. Ecosystem integration: marine, catchment, corridors

2. Values: MP often refers to ‘absolute values’

Insufficient attention put on other values of the PA, besides biological values: cultural, landscape (romantic scenery!), social, economic

No regional assessment of the sites values?

3. Limits are not always clearly identified: there should be maps and clearly identified and agreed upon limits (PA and buffer zone). Also, zoning proposals may be disconnected from the reality on the grounds and from the diagnosis

zoning is a fundamental element of a MP. It is supposed to display, in a spatial approach, the way that activities can be organized and that uses are authorized

Concept of buffer zone seems to be a difficult one and one that has not been taken seriously in the MWC MP process.

4. Objectives. MP is being prepared for a Protected Area, and, as such, it would seem that the **priority objective of the MP must normally be one of conservation**. He cautioned of the implications of introducing sustainable development as a priority objective of the MP; these implications have to be analyzed

Logframe had been quite well applied, but there is a lot of **confusion over the objectives**, with a huge list of ‘ideal objectives’

5. Monitoring : Less than 50% of MWC MPs have indicators next to the proposed actions

6. The financing plan in the MWC MPs is often just a declaration of intention

7. Question as to what criteria were used to prioritize projects ?

8. Ecotourism: an ideal solution?

9. Communication

E. Proposed implementation (most often along priority actions) spelled out in the MP may be realistic in **stable conditions**. What about when the conditions change (in terms of land tenure, in terms of law and legal status, in terms of priorities, in terms of financial resources, etc.)?

Need to consider **institutional arrangements** for implementation in MP

F. **Preparing the next plans**

**Training programmes and Capacity Building in support of Project activities  
results and lessons learned in training management / capacity development  
Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN)**

**General Approach**

- to assess *how far* training support has facilitate the implementation of the MWC project and *how much* it has contributed to raising sustainability of the management planning process in the sites?

*whether* the chosen approaches in training management are sound and sustainable and *whether* the resources made available are being used in an appropriate and efficient way ?

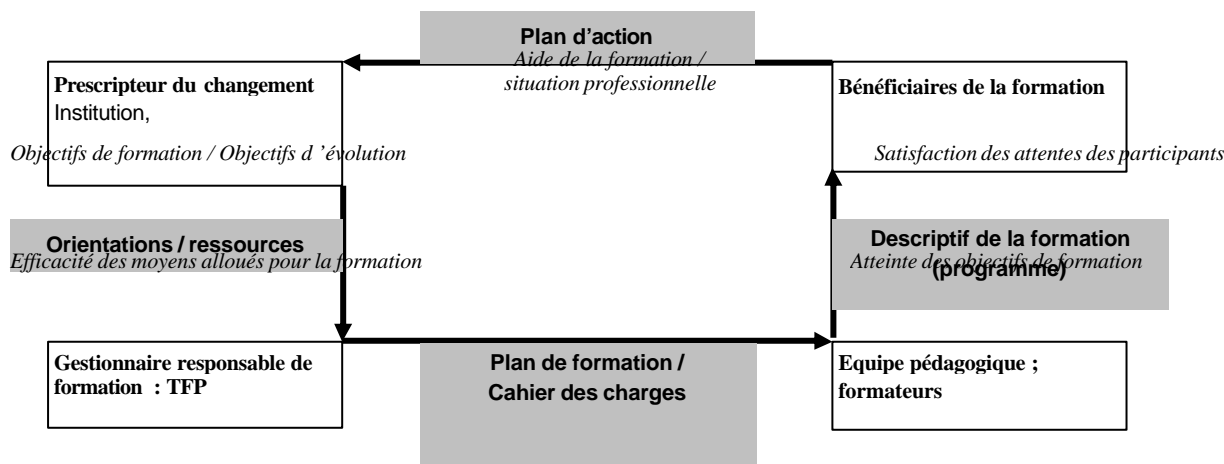
**Our objective :** to propose, adapt and apply training activities to different situations to meet the country capacity development needs.

**Operating principles**

- ≠ Initiate and guide the training needs assessments in each of the countries
- ≠ Implement regional training and support and monitor the national training management process
- ≠ Identification of a training focal point in each country/national component
- ≠ Evaluation

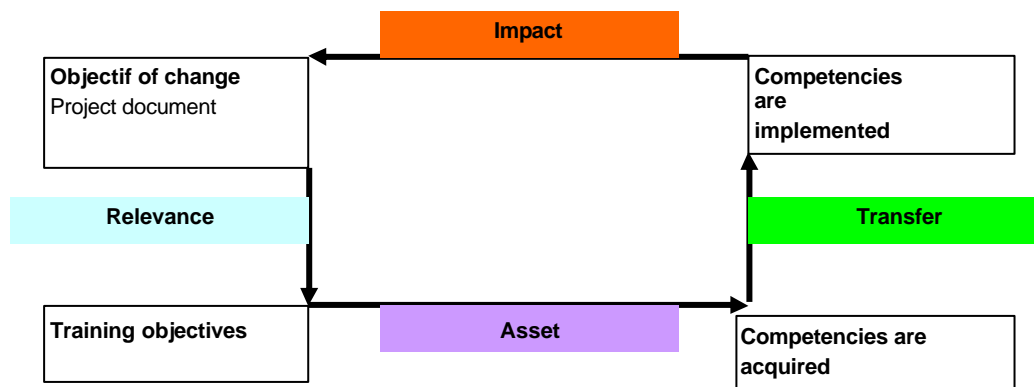
**Planification/mise en œuvre de la formation**

*Exigences de qualification sont elles satisfaites ?*



**Evaluation**

$$Impact = (Relevance) \times (Asset) \times (Transfer)$$



## Development of the training focal point function

- ✍ General acceptance of the institutions for this function
- ✍ TFP annual meetings / Distance assistance
- ✍ National training activities
- ✍ List of training activities
- ✍
- ✍
- ✍
- ✍ / Sustainability of the TFP Function

## Initiate and guide the training needs assessments

- ✍ Important training needs assessment and (non validated) national training plan
- ✍ Participation of TFP to the process (ex : Alb to Lebanon...)
- ✍ National training assessment
- ✍ National training intentions on annual basis

## Implement regional training...

- ✍ Link between RT and general project process ; Resources available at RCU level
- ✍ Valorisation of Mediterranean resources and link with international assistance (sd, mp, seminars)
- ✍ Regional MWC publications
- ✍ Cf : socio-economics and management plan peer review.

## ... and support the national training management process

- ✍ Means and resources available in each countries;
- ✍ Originality of many initiatives : Link Morocco - Tunisia ; Religious training in Egypt ; public mobilization in Albania ; Study tour Morocco - Tunisia in France, Organic farming in Lebanon....
- ✍ Mobilization of national resources / experts; cross sharing of trainers; specific national publication
- ✍ National evaluation

## General evaluation and lessons learned

- ✍ Building dedicated team :
  - promote competencies standards for protected areas jobs
- ✍ Re-enforce the planification of training :
  - Clarify responsibilities between institution (employer) and TFP
- ✍ Insuring the best use of resources
  - Lost of resources when non relevant person goes to training
- ✍ Assessing capacity constraints at individual level :
  - Link with daily activities and difficulties encountered in the reality
- ✍ Looking for synergies across national training initiatives
- ✍ Strengthening link between initial and continuing training



- ⌘ Professional networking
  - Enforce technical exchanges and joint mission
  - Support the implementation of formal contracts with other regional partners networks
  - Importance of regional meetings ; common guidelines (toolbox) and communication (web)
- ⌘ Capitalisation; publication is essential. It need appropriate resources

⌘

⌘

### **Next steps**

- ⌘ TFP meeting in Paris (28 - 29 November)
- ⌘ Documenting report on training evaluation - dec 2005
- ⌘ Continuation of national training implementation - 2006

## Case studies of national products: lessons learned and illustration of achievements

### ALBANIA REHABILITATION OF WATER POINT FOR LIVESTOCK IN KARABURUN-ALBANIA

#### Three Conclusions

1. Contribution to ideas, analysis, and policy making in the protected area management field is one of its most important achievements
2. MWC thinking and ideas in this field have had a major positive impact in the administrative unit of many protected areas of the country
3. Success and failures of the MWC reflect the strengths and weaknesses on the management of environment issues in the country

#### Weakness and Failures

- Gaps at local level in conception and execution
- Ideas floated and then forgotten
- Sometimes ideas were dropped, reinterpreted, or absorbed into a different frame

#### Case Study - General data

- Karaburun Peninsula covers an area of 62 km<sup>2</sup>
- There are nearly 40,000 heads of livestock, goats & sheep
- Pastureland area is about 10,000 ha
- Lack of fresh water resources
- During '70, there were build 15 hydro-technical works

#### Water Point for Livestock

- Most of water pont are not functioning
- Gradual decrease of the number of livestock and cattle
  - number of livestock reduced up to 50 %
  - pastures use is reduced up to 40%
- Difficulties for the wildlife (eg. for the wild bear, wolf, red fox, rabbit, mountain partridge, etc.)
- Need for rehabilitation of the water point for livestock and improvement of grazing capacities

#### Expected Outcomes

- Augment the water volume and water supply in site
- Increased number of livestock in the pastureland
- Secured freshwater supply for the wildlife
- Alternative solution for water supplies needed for fire extinction in Karaburuni area
- Increase of community interest towards MWC project and active participation

#### Action Undertaken

- Rehabilitation of a water point situated in Ravene, 12 km distant from the nearest inhabitant center.
- Cleaning up of nearly 60 m<sup>3</sup> residues and mud accumulated
- Washing –up inner part of the “Iera”, painting with hydro-paint a surface of 82 m<sup>2</sup>

- Dredging and maintenance works in the communication channel
- Covering the surface by a concrete layer
- Plastering of the inner part

### **Results**

- Successful results of rehabilitation
- Very fruitful and useful cooperation with local people
- Partners were the local authorities and other local association in the site

## **EGYPT**

### **A Case Study:**

### **Project for Supporting and Developing Traditional Bedouin Women's Handicrafts in the Villages of Zaranik Protectorate**

Prepared by: Dr. Magda Ghoneim  
Socio-Economic Advisor

## **BACKGROUND**

- ? Over-grazing is one of the most important threats facing flora and affecting biological diversity, particularly in desert areas surrounding Lake Zaranik.
- ? The main reason for over-grazing is the low socio-economic standard suffered by locals, coupled with the lack of alternative sources of livelihood.
- ? Traditional handicrafts is an untapped opportunity for alternative livelihood.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- ? Conservation of biodiversity through alleviating pressure on natural resources.
- ? Conservation of cultural heritage through conserving local handicrafts.
- ? Alleviating socio-economic standards for locals, particularly women.
- ? Activating civil society, building its capacity and stressing the participatory approach as a guarantee for sustainability.
- ? Spreading social and environmental awareness.

## **PROJECT STAGES**

- ? The project is divided into three stages.
- ? Work on the first stage was completed.
- ? The second stage is currently under progress.
- ? Work on the third stage will commence with the year 2006.

## **PROJECT STAGES:**

First Stage

### **Training:**

This stage aims at equipping the human resources who will execute the project with the necessary technical and administrative skills to be transferred to future human resources. Training is divided into:

- ? Training of producers
- ? Training of trainers
- ? Training of administratives

Second Stage

**The Pilot:**

This stage aims at:

- ? Advanced training of past groups.
- ? Commercial production of mastered products.
- ? Opening marketing channels and commencing on marketing the products.

Third Stage

**Sustainable Production:**

This stage aims at:

- ? Sustaining the project indefinitely, as backed by acquired experience and skills.
- ? Project continuance on solid economic bases, its further growth & development and the increase of its beneficiary base.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ? Abiding to the project plan in terms of both quality and time-frame.
- ? Training of 16 embroidery trainers.
- ? Training of 16 garment producers.
- ? Training of 40 embroidery specialists.
- ? Producing high-quality marketable products.
- ? Signs of social change with regards to women’s role and status; as participants now enjoy more respect and freedom, approved by males in their families.
- ? A change in locals’ attitude towards civil society, as they become more convinced of its importance.
- ? Establishing a strong rapport and confidence between MedWetCoast and locals.
- ? Locals’ adoption of MedWetCoast’s goals and their support for its activities.

**OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS**

- ? The main obstacle was a lack of physical premises for the project in the targeted geographic area. No property fitting the minimum requirements in terms of space and electricity was available for rent. The problem is compounded with social constraints on female movement as well as lack of public transportation.
- ? The fact that MedWetCoast failed to provide a vehicle for the transportation of trainers, trainees, administratives and raw materials, caused an increase in transportation fees.

**Lessons Learned**

- ? Reassurance of MedWetCoast’s main orientation “the participatory approach” which integrates environmental needs with local development goals.
- ? The importance of channeling resources towards securing an infrastructure, particularly building premises and transportation means, as it is impossible for the project to complete these on its own, particularly as it is a non-profit project.
- ? There is a need to extend training. While garment production needs further training, embroidery (although perfected) needs further training on new types.

? Upon trainees' request an additional activity was added, namely garment production for children and locals. This meets local needs, generates additional income for the project and its staff and makes the most value out of existing production machines.

## LEBANON

### Useful Lessons Learned

- ✗ Determination of monitoring baselines at the beginning of the project. Improves impact monitoring.
  - ✗ Funding time span increased to allow for impacts to be observed
  - ✗ Administrative procedures in the project not taken into account in the time requirements: Reporting to MoE, UNDP, and AFD with different reporting requirements and long decision taking process.
- HOMOGENIZED REPORTING
- ✗ Long term monitoring and management-oriented monitoring needed
  - ✗ Social monitoring still to be worked on. Not easy
  - ✗ More actors involved specially private sector
  - ✗ Awareness Raising: Lacks proper monitoring of impacts.

## MOROCCO:

### Plan de gestion intégré (provisoire) du SIBE de l'embouchure de la Moulouya

#### Situation du SIBE

Région du Maroc oriental

Provinces : Nador-Berkane

Superficie : ~ 3500 ha

#### Processus d'élaboration du P.G. du SIBE

- Le diagnostique : Description du milieu et analyse des valeurs biologiques et écologiques.
  - Plan d'actions prioritaire : Actions urgentes de conservation des hot spots de la biodiversité du site.
  - Participation des acteurs : Formation, ateliers , appels à projets
  - Compilation des données : Données (Diagnostique + Actions urgentes + Consultations et concertations des acteurs)
- ✗ Définition des éléments de Plan de Gestion

#### I- Proposition de zonage du SIBE

##### 1- Réserve naturelle intégrale (RNI)

- Aire prioritaire de conservation
- Objectif: Protection et réhabilitation des habitats des communautés animales et végétales.
- Localisation: Charba - Sansouire et jonchaie de part et d'autre de l'E.M. - Ain chebbak sud - La marais de Boudia – Tamaricaie de karbacha

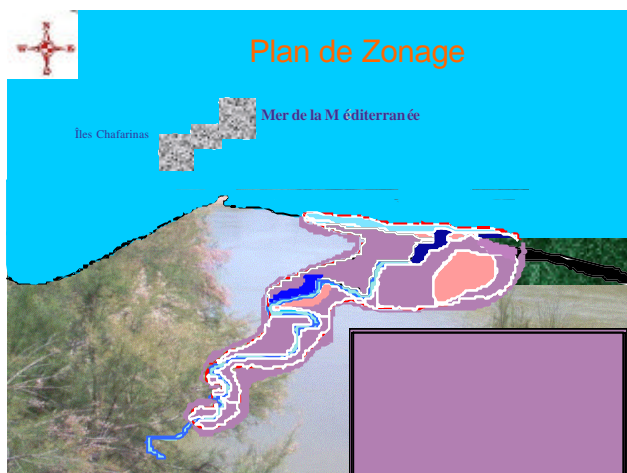
##### 2- Zone de sanctuaire gérée ( ZSG)

- Présentant des particularités écologiques représentatives du SIBE.
- Objectif: Gestion spécifique en concertation avec population.
- Localisation: Lit de l'Oued - Tamaricaie sur la rive gauche – plage – Eau marine côtière et dunes de part et d'autre de l'E.M y compris les bandes de sansouire.

##### 3- Zone de gestion des ressources naturelles (ZGRN)

- Zone soumise à des restrictions quant à l'ampleur des activités.
- Objectif: promotion d'une gestion compatible avec le développement durable ( Eco tourisme).
- Localisation : Z.T.: Champs de culture – Lit de l'Oued en amont de la réserve.
- Z.M.: Dunes côtières et Eaux marines entre F.Bas et l'Est de l'E.M.

- 4 - Zone périphérique (ZP)**
- Offre le plus grand potentiel de développement durable.
  - Objectif: Minimiser l'impact entropique.
  - Localisation: Hors de la réserve.



**Plan de Zonage**

## II- Objectifs

Les objectifs fixés dans le cadre de ce PGI découlent de la vision commune des acteurs (objectifs globaux) et des missions (objectifs spécifiques) qu'on a assigné au SIBE.

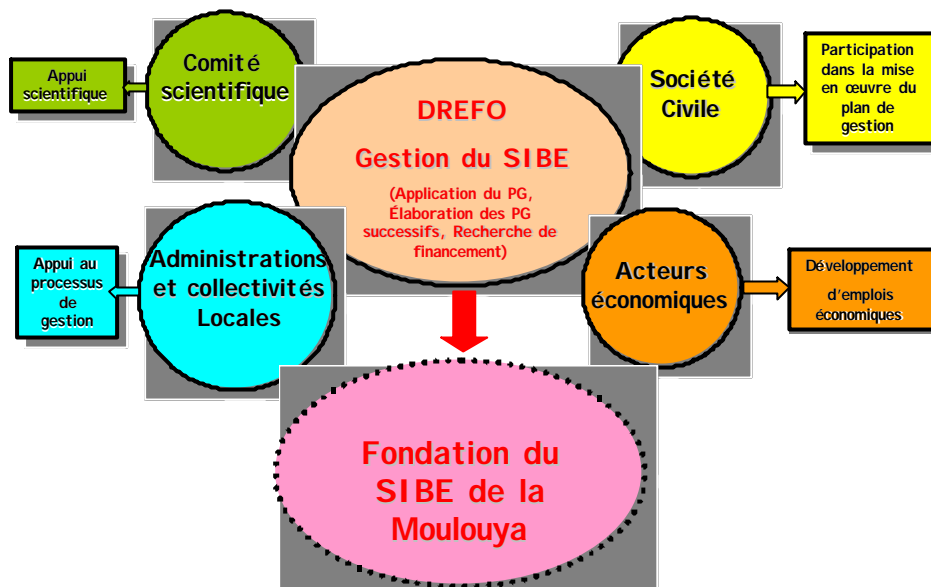
### OBJECTIFS GLOBAUX (OG)

1. CONSERVATION D'ECHANTILLONS REPRESENTATIFS DU PATRIMOINE NATUREL DE LA FAÇADE MEDITERRANEENNE DU MAGHREB (5 OS)
2. PROMOTION D'UN ENSEMBLE DE BONNES PRATIQUES EN MATIERE DE PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT SUR LE SIBE (3 OS)
3. APPUI SOCIO-ECONOMIQUE AU NIVEAU DE LA POPULATION DU SIBE ET DE LA ZONE TAMPON POUR ALLEGER LES PRESSIONS ANTHROPIQUES SUR LE SIBE (2 OS)

### III- Proposition de programmes d'aménagement intégré pour le SIBE

1. Programme de surveillance et de contrôle
2. Programme de conservation et réhabilitation des habitats et des espèces
3. Programme de suivi écologique, études et recherche
4. Programme d'aménagement éco-touristique
5. Programme formation
6. Programme de communication, éducation et sensibilisation
7. Programme d'éco-développement

## IV- Proposition d'une structure institutionnelle de gestion du SIBE



### MOROCCO

Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement  
 Département de l'Environnement  
 Direction Regionale des Eaux et Forets de l'Oriental

### PROJET DE PLAN DE GESTION INTEGREE POUR LES BENI SNASSEN

#### PRESENTATION GENERALE

Province : Berkane

Système foncier: Domaine forestier, domaine public et privé;

Superficie du SIBE: 8300 ha;

Limites du SIBE: le SIBE doit englober un maximum d'éléments importants concernant aussi bien les aspects écosystémiques que paysagers ou culturels;

Usages: Agriculture, parcours et collecte de bois de feu pour usage domestique.

#### LES VALEURS BIOLOGIQUES

720 taxons dont :

- 28 espèces endémiques
- 20 espèces rares
- 3 espèces menacées
- 64 espèces remarquables

17% des taxons de la flore marocaine

41% des familles floristiques

68% des genres floristiques

#### LA FAUNE

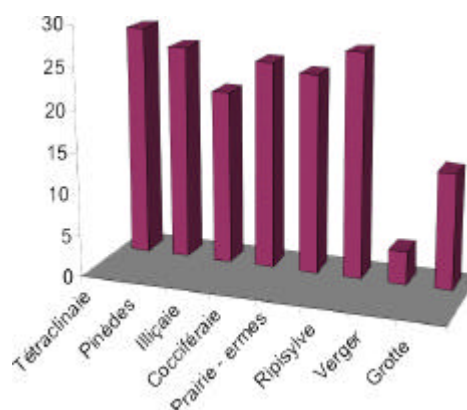
366 taxons dont : 41 espèces endémiques 46 espèces rares 20 espèces menacées 31 espèces remarquables	Carrefour biogéographique sp euro-sibériennes sp saharo-sindienne sp ibéro-maghrébines
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2ème position nationale pour les reptiles

**LES HABITATS**

11 grands habitats dont :

- Pinèdes
- Illicièdes
- Tétraclinaie
- Cocciféraie
- Prairie - ermes
- Pelouse
- Ripisylve
- Oued
- Cultures et terrasses
- Verger
- Grotte

**Les principaux enjeux**

Eau	Écoulement des sources Qualité de l'eau Préservation des frayères Aménagement des berges
Grotte	Aménagement Valorisation Recherches
Chenaies	Surpâturage Carbonisation
Tetraclinaie	Agriculture

**La valorisation du site**

Tourisme	Aménager Promotionner Encadrer Accompagner
Grottes	Accessibilité Informations Recherches
Faune	Réintroductions Informations
Terroir	Production locale

**Menaces et dysfonctionnements**

- ✗ Absence de protection juridique du site;
- ✗ Forte demande hydrique avec captage des eaux de sources et de l'oued;
- ✗ Absence du contrôle du prélèvement de l'eau;
- ✗ Pression touristique forte et incontrôlée;
- ✗ Public local non sensibilisé;
- ✗ Sensibilité au feu;
- ✗ Coupe et ramassage illégal du bois;
- ✗ Dégâts liés à la présence du sanglier;
- ✗ Formations forestières fragiles;
- ✗ Dépôts de déchets solides, lavage de voitures et pollution au-delà du seuil d'autoépuration.

**Objectifs prioritaires de conservation**

- ✗ Améliorer l'état des habitats
- ✗ Améliorer l'état de la biodiversité du site
- ✗ Exploiter de façon rationnelle les qualités esthétiques et pédagogiques du site



**Protection**

<u>plantes</u> : Euphorbia briqueter	<u>poissons</u> : Barbus moulouyensis	<u>reptiles</u> : Tortue grecque Chaméleon
<u>oiseaux</u> Hieraetus pennatus Accipiter nisus Picus vaillantii (Pic de Leveillant) Coccothraustes coccothraustes	<u>mammifères</u> Hepestes ichneumon (Mangouste)	<u>habitats</u> Tétraclinaie Cocciféraie Pinède Erme Illiçaie Cours d'eau

<b>réhabilitation</b>	<b>réintroduction</b>
<u>plantes</u> : Adenocarpus decorticans Rhus pentaphylla	Mouflon manchettes Gazelle de Cuvier Loutre
<u>mammifères</u> Porc-épic	Lynx caracal Vautour fauve
<u>habitats</u> Grotte Cascade Falaise Gorges Frayères	Percnoptère d'Egypte Faucon pèlerin Faucon lanier

**Conservation**

- ✘ Assurer une protection efficace des habitats et biotopes fondateurs de la biodiversité locale (Tetraclinaie, Cocciferaie, ripisylve, oued,...);
- ✘ Maintenir les niveaux de population des espèces menacées (barbeau, tortue, chat ganté, mangouste, épervier,...);
- ✘ Réhabiliter les espèces et les habitats très altérés (Frayères, Adénocarpe, Salamandre, Cascade, proc-épic.

**Objectifs d'Aménagement**

- ✘ Réintroduire les espèces emblématiques récemment disparues (Gazelle de cuvier, loutre, lynx, vautour et chêne liège);
- ✘ Matérialiser les différentes vocations spatiales (zones de protection, de réhabilitation et de valorisation);
- ✘ Concrétiser une unité de gestion du sibe (Institutionnalisation des partenariats et appui aux collectivités locales et ONGs);
- ✘ Valorisation du patrimoine naturel (Aménagements des grottes);
- ✘ Exploiter rationnellement et écologiquement la ressource naturelle.

**Objectifs de développement**

- ✘ Développer avec la population usagère une démarche participative et négociée pour la mise en œuvre de programmes de compensation viables (développement d'un plan tourisme nature,...);
- ✘ Assurer la mise en place d'une stratégie de développement durable, compatible avec les impératifs de protection du sibe (élaboration d'une charte intercommunale de valorisation du site,...);
- ✘ Engager un processus de valorisation des potentialités socio-économiques au profit des populations locales et dans le respect des objectifs de protection du site (développement de l'agro-écologie et des produits de terroir labéllisables,...).

**ZONATION DE L'ESPACE****Zones réserves:**

- ✘ Cocciferaie de jbel Israne;

- ✘ Secteur de la source d'Aïn Bourbah;
- ✘ Zone à illiçaie sur filon granitique du secteur Jbel Foughal;
- ✘ Grottes

**Zones à accès restreint:**

- ✘ Chênaie verte de Ras Foughal et Aïn Almou;
- ✘ Tétracinaie de Jbel Abioud;
- ✘ Zones accessibles des grottes:
- ✘ Secteur Jbel Achaouen.

**Zones à accès ouvert:**

- ✘ Vallée Idrissi et Ferrouj;
- ✘ **Secteur Israne (Pinède).**

**Zones à utilisation spéciale:**

- ✘ Vallée de zegzel;
- ✘ Secteur Jbel Ansoura

## **MISE EN VALEUR DU SIBE DE BENI SNASSEN**

### **Programme d'actions urgentes**

L' étude de diagnostic a mis en exergue des actions urgentes axées sur :

- ✘ Conservation de la biodiversité.
- ✘ Création des infrastructures d'accueil en vue de développer l'écotourisme de montagne.
- ✘ Promotion des actions d'incitation à la participation des populations locales

### **EXTENSION DE L'ENCLOS A MOUFLON**

- ✘ Éviter la concurrence entre les mâles.
- ✘ Élargir le territoire vital de la population.
- ✘ Lâcher de la population animal dans le SIBE.
- ✘ Montage financier du projet :

### **CONSTRUCTION DU MIRADOR ET AMENAGEMENT D'UNE PISTE PEDESTRE**

Objectifs du projet :

- ✘ Promouvoir l'écotourisme dans le SIBE de Béni Snassen
- ✘ Gérer le flux des visiteurs (circuits)
- ✘ Conserver et protéger les zones d'accès restreint.
- ✘ Consistance des travaux :
  - Construction de Mirador
  - Aménagement de piste pédestre sur 5 000 ml
- ✘ Coût total du projet : 162 963 Dh

### **AMENAGEMENT DE TROIS AIRES DE REPOS**

Objectifs

- ✘ Gérer le flux des visiteurs
- ✘ Promouvoir les activités de l'écotourisme
- ✘ Conservation de la biodiversité

Montage du projet :

Coût : 96.558 Dhs

Entreprise : Sté Yassine Travaux

### **Distribution des ruches pleines**

Objectifs

- ✘ Favoriser l'adhésion de la population au projet de conservation de la biodiversité.
- ✘ Créer de nouvelles AGR au profit de la population locale

Coût : 108.000 Dhs

Fournisseur : Sté les chantiers de Debdou

Nombre de ruches à distribuer: 100 ruches

Coopératives bénéficiaires : 2 Coopératives : TITSAT et TGHASROUT

**Distribution des plants fruitiers**

## Objectif

- ✍ Favoriser l'adhésion de la population au projet de conservation de la biodiversité.
- ✍ Créer de nouvelles AGR au profit de la population locale

Coût : 49.980 Dhs

Fournisseur : Pépinière Saïss

Nombre de plants à distribuer:

Amandiers : 4800 plants

Oliviers : 1500 Plants

Douars bénéficiaires: 11 douars situés à l'intérieur ou

limitrophes au SIBE

Nombre de bénéficiaires: 104 agriculteurs

Nature du problème	Actions du plan de gestion
Aménagement grotte chameau/grillage/bétonnement/ fermeture	Création d'un comité intercommunal Grottes avec partenaires E & F, Culture, Tourisme, ONG pour définir cadre d'aménagement
Reboisements espèces allochtones	Nécessité de préserver l'intégrité phytogénétique du sibe
Comportement touristes: pollution liquide, solide et sonore	Actions de sensibilisation: documents pédagogiques pour enfants et touristes; supports informatiques,....
Prélèvement de plantes médicinales	Zonation de protection des plantes médicinales
Gestion des déchets	Pose de poubelles et système de collecte
Aménagements hydroagricoles: modification du débit et impact sur les frayères	Impluviums et collecteurs des eaux de pluie, Tuyaux PVC plutôt que bétonisation, réservoirs et citernes mobiles
Surpâturage à Ras Foughal	Alternatives bois de feu (fours améliorés et collectifs, fours solaires, approvisionnement gaz,....
Braconnage faune	Elaboration d'un système de compensation
Répression par les services forestiers	Compagnes de sensibilisation par ONGs;
Régulation de l'effectif du sanglier par amplification des battues administratives	Pullulation du sanglier
Proposition au projet par commune fiche gestion des déchets	Décharge Tafoghalt et gestion des déchets
Promotion de l'agroécologie	Pratiques agricoles érosives et pollution par engrais chimiques
Actions ONGs	Analphabétisme
A partir de la mise en place comité grotte élargissement progressif	Absence d'encadrement et de concertation
	Présence des carrières

**PROGRAMMES D'AMENAGEMENT ET ACTIONS****P1: CONSERVATION ET RÉHABILITATION DES HABITATS ET DES ESPÈCES****Action1./ Réhabilitation des écosystèmes à tétraclinaie et à cocciferaie:**

Activité1.1/ Récolte des semences de provenance locale,

Activité 1.2/ Elevage de plants en pépinière,

Activité 1.3/ Plantation,

Activité 1.4/ Crochetage et semis direct,

Activité 1.5/ Mise en place de la clôture et gardiennage.

**Action2/ Réintroduction de la Gazelle de Cuvier, de l'Ibis chauve et de l'Aigle Royal:**

Activité2.1/ Etude de faisabilité,

Activité2.2/ Acquisition d'animaux,  
 Activité2.3/ Aménagement des points d'eau,  
 Activité2.4/ Gardiennage, suivi vétérinaire  
 Activité2.5/ Installation de miradors pour l'observation de la faune sauvage.

Action 3/ Lutte contre les incendies de forêts

Activité 3.1/ Ouverture et entretien des tranchées pare feu, Activité 3.2/ réhabilitation des pistes, aménagement des points d'eau et surveillance.

Action 4/ Réhabilitation du dépotoir de Tafoghalt.

Activité 4.1/ Création d'un espace vert:

Activité 4.2/ nettoyage,  
 Activité 4.3/ compactage  
 Activité 4.4/ plantation.

## **PROGRAMME APPUI SOCIO ÉCONOMIQUE À LA CONSERVATION**

Action1/ Organisation de la population dans le sibe:

Activité 1.1/ Identification du public cible (groupements d'intérêts),  
 Activité 1.2/ Ateliers de sensibilisation et d'information (approche participative),  
 Activité 1.3/ Création et renforcement des groupements d'usagers,  
 Activité 1.4/ Plan du développement douar (Réunion douar).

Action 2/ Actions communautaires:

Les activités de développement socioéconomique seront définies dans le cadre de Plan de Développement des Douars (PLDD) sur une période de 5 ans. Leurs mises en œuvre intégrées et partenariales seront programmées dans des contrats programmes annuels.

Action 4/ Développement de l'écotourisme

Activité4.1/ Ouverture des circuits pédestres (circuit amateurs de la nature, circuits sportifs,...)

Activité 4.2/ Installation de miradors avec équipements;

Activité 4.3/ Construction d'un écomusée et d'un centre d'accueil et de sensibilisation,

Activité 4.4/ Création des gîtes d'étape.

### **Programme sensibilisation, information et communication**

Activité Ateliers de sensibilisation  
 Activité Elaboration de dépliants et de brochures  
 Activité Installation de panneaux informatifs illustrant les potentialités du sibe,  
 Activité Spots télévisés, site web et presse écrite: dépêches, articles,....

### **PROGRAMME CONTRÔLE ET SURVEILLANCE**

A1. Constitution d'une unité de gestion pour le futur parc;  
 A2. Aménagement de pistes;  
 A3. Panneaux de signalisation;  
 A4. Installation des stations météorologiques à Aïn Almou, Tafoghalt et Berkane.

### **PROGRAMME FORMATION**

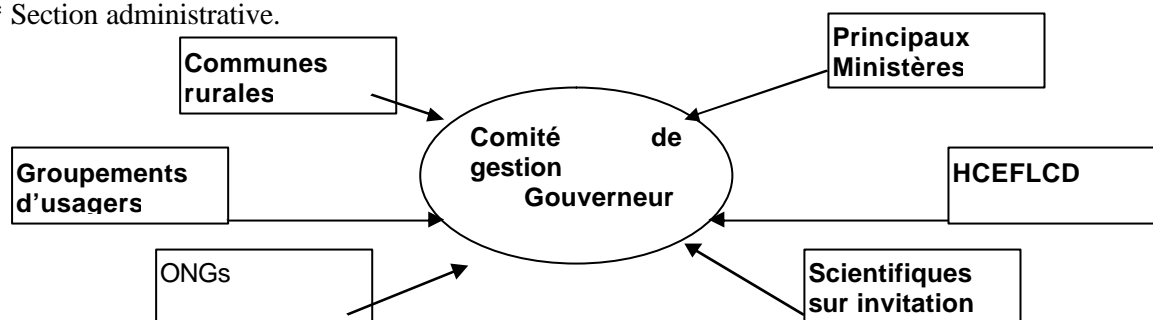
A1. Formation spécifique des ingénieurs;  
 A2. Formation des techniciens supérieurs et des agents techniques;

- A3. Organisation des visites d'expérience;
- A4. Formation des animateurs vulgarisateurs ruraux;
- A5. Formation des guides touristiques de la nature.

## ORGANISATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSEE

La structure d'administration et de gestion du sibe sera composée des sections suivantes:

- \* Section de conservation et de réhabilitation;
- \* Section de suivi écologique et de recherche scientifique;
- \* Section d'écodéveloppement;
- \* Section d'écotourisme et d'éducation à l'environnement;
- \* Section administrative.



Les ressources humaines sont composées de cadres chargés de la mise en œuvre du plan de gestion et l'encadrement dans l'exécution de ses programmes.

Sur le terrain les techniciens, en partenariat avec les acteurs locaux, assurent la réalisation des actions programmées selon le zonage qui découlera du plan de gestion.

### Résultats attendus de cette organisation:

- ⌘ Renforcer les capacités d'organisation de la population et des institutions locales;
- ⌘ Améliorer les conditions de vie des populations locales à travers la mise en place de projets générateurs de revenu;
- ⌘ Faire émerger une évolution positive des mentalités, des pratiques d'usages et des comportements à l'égard de l'environnement;
- ⌘ Développer un partenariat et une approche intégrée capable de concilier les objectifs de conservation et du développement sur la base des contractualisations.

### DISPOSITIF D'EXECUTION

- ⌘ Promouvoir les mécanismes de gestion intégrée et l'utilisation rationnelle et durable des ressources naturelles pour maintenir les processus écologiques fondamentaux avec la participation des populations locales
- ⌘ PARTENARIAT
- ⌘ Mise en réseau des divers partenaires impliqués dans le développement local visant l'établissement d'un partenariat multilatéral entre plusieurs intervenants (collectivités locales, ONGs, Agence du Développement social,...)

La **DREFO** en qualité de coordinatrice locale du projet *MedWet Coast* a dorénavant déjà initiée deux conventions de partenariat avec deux ONGs locales pour amorcer le dispositif de valorisation touristique, éducative et scientifique des ressources naturelles et de la biodiversité dans le sibe des Béni snassen.

## TUNISIA

### Leçons apprises, utiles à être partagées - Cas de la commune de Korba

Grâce à une appropriation satisfaisante des objectifs du projet par les parties prenantes, des réajustements en matière de planification urbaine ont été entrepris par la commune de Korba pour assurer la durabilité du projet :

- Participation de l'équipe dans les étapes d'élaboration et d'approbation du PAU ;
- Intégration du plan de gestion du site de Korba dans le PAU ;
- Abandon des orientations du PAU en vigueur qui prévoyaient un remblai partiel de la lagune au profit de l'urbanisation ;
- Abandon de l'Abattoir municipal au profit du projet pour être réhabilité en centre écocultrel ;
- Connexion des usines de tomate à la station d'épuration ;
- Déviation d'une route pour éviter son passage sur les berges de la lagune ;
- Contribution au boisement des berges de la lagune ;
- Adoption d'un nouveau logo en prenant comme emblème la lagune avec un flamant rose.

**Impacts du projet sur les sites**


	<b>Consistance</b>	<b>Objectif/Résultat</b>
Protection des habitats et des espèces : Faune et flore	Reboisement de 2 ha de maquis dégradé à Haouaria par des plants de Caroubier	Renforcer la couverture végétale du massif par la plantation d'espèces rare et endémique et créer de niches écologiques pour la biodiversité (Porc-épic, tortue grecque, vipère lébétine)
	Protection de la grotte aux chauves-Souris (Haouaria)	Améliorer les conditions dans l'habitat des espèces protégées de chauves souris existantes (grand et petit Rhinolophes)

	Protéger la forêt de chêne kermès (espèce rare et protégée) seul vestige de la végétation climacique dans le massif	Mise en défens du maquis à Genévriers oxycèdre de Port aux Princes (4 ha)
	Protéger et arrêter les agressions contre le maquis qui représente l'un des site à Juniperus oxycedrus les plus importants dans la méditerranée	Mise en défens de la forêt d'oléo lentisque (Haouaria) un ha
Protection des habitats et des espèces : Faune et flore	Mise en défens des marges halophiles des lagunes (8000 m)	Renforcer la protection et favoriser la régénération du couvert végétal (salicornes, jongs, etc.) qui représente un habitat important pour de l'avifaune nicheuse et pour le reptile Chalcides chalcides (rare et menacé) dont la population présente sur les sites est la plus importante de la Tunisie.
Hydrologie des Zones Humides	Alimentation de la lagune par les eaux épurées STEP (6000 m <sup>3</sup> /j) conduite 2 km	Améliorer la qualité de l'eau et palier au déséquilibre hydrique suite à l'arrêt du rejet des eaux usées brutes.
	L'implantation de 8 nouvelles buses d'équilibre	Améliorer la circulation de l'eau entre le Nord et le Sud de la lagune de Korba
Socio- économie	Appui au développement de l'Apiculture (25 bénéficiaires)	Développer des activités économiques génératrices de revenus au profit des populations locales et les aider à abandonner les pratiques destructrices des habitats (surpâturage, déboisement)
	Développement d'un tourisme écologique en partenariat avec un opérateur privé	Créer une dynamique socio-économique au profit des populations des sites par le développement d'activités artisanales liés à l'Eco-tourisme
Gestion des déchets	Acquisition de Trois petits tracteurs et de 50 containers au profit des coll. Loc.	Renforcer le efforts des collectivités locales dans le nettoyage des sites qui permettra l'amélioration de leurs conditions écologiques
Collaboration avec la Sté Civile et les partenaires scientifiques	Suivi scientifique des milieux aquatiques en collaboration avec l'INAT et l'AAO	Suivre l'évolution des milieux humides : amélioration des conditions hydrobiologiques des lagunes à Korba et stabilité au niveaux du reste des ZH
	Suivi de l'avifaune : augmentation des effectifs des oiseaux nicheurs grâce l'amélioration des conditions des habitats	Organisation de 3 journées de sensibilisation en partenariat avec les ONGs locales.

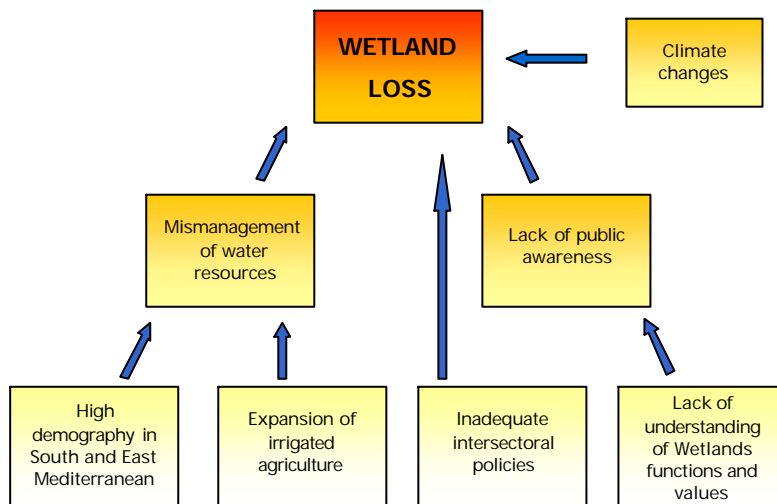
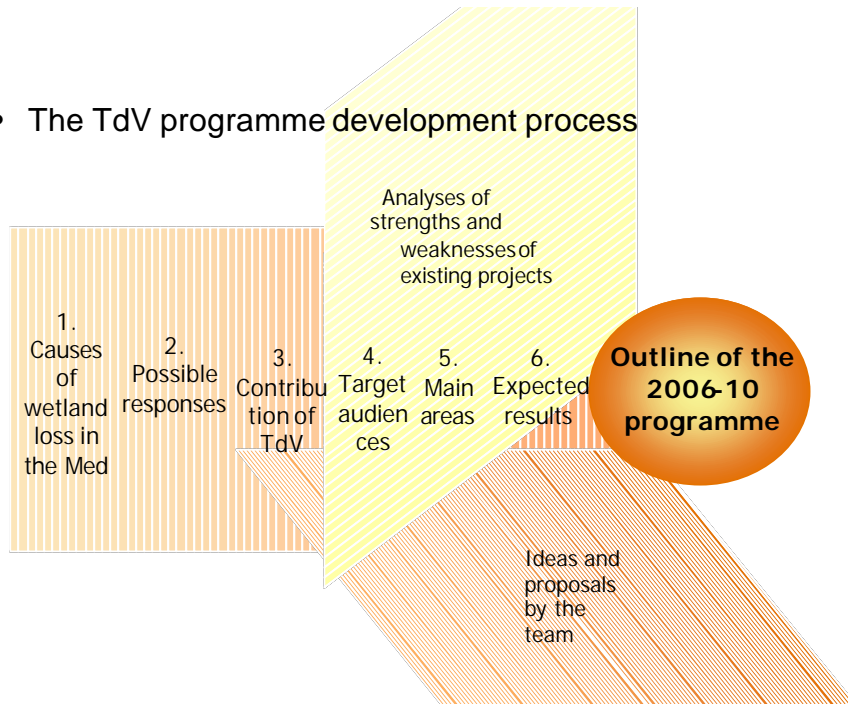
	Amélioration de la conception des différentes populations ciblées à l'importance de la protection et la conservation des écosystèmes naturels à abandon des pratiques destructrices du milieu	Encadrement d'étudiant dans le cadre de Travaux Pratiques de Terrains (Fac des Sciences, Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie)

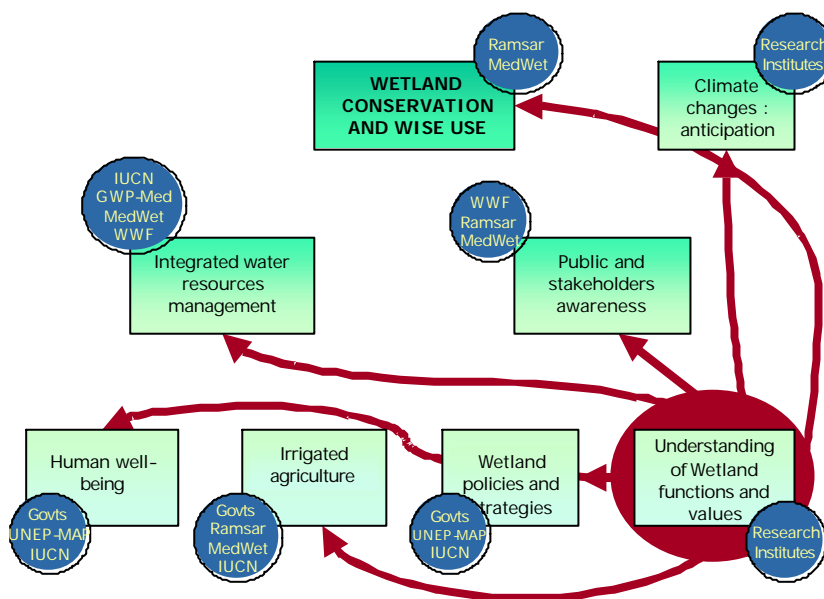
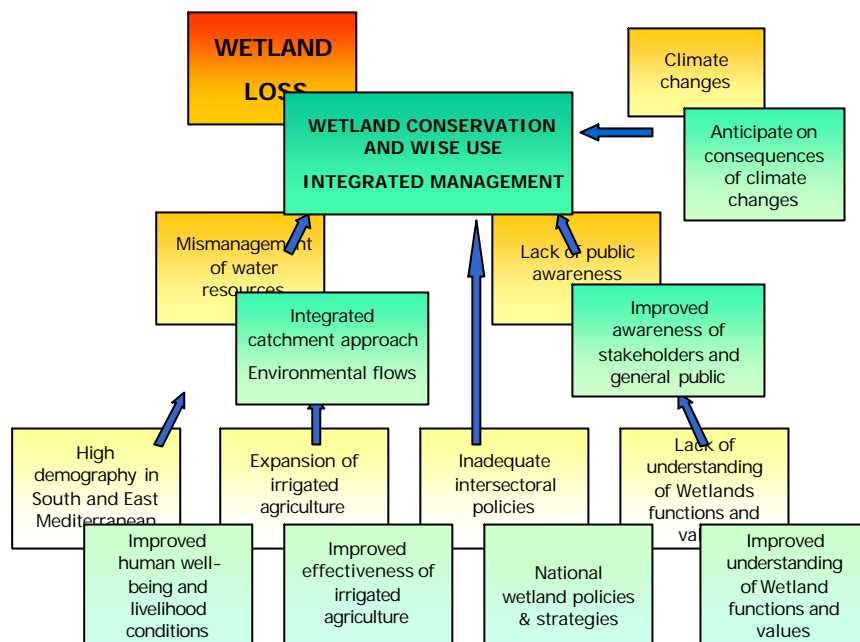
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**Tour du Valat: Programme 2006-2010**

- The TdV programme development process





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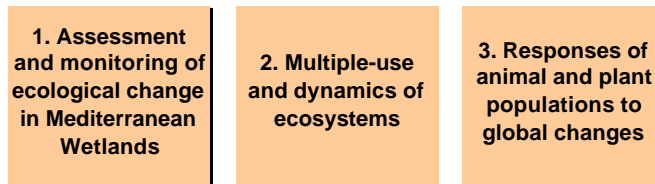
**Tour du Valat’s response**

≈ Assess status & trends of Med Wetlands: Towards a Med Observatory è Feed and influence public policies

≈ Develop methods & tools è Promote & implement integrated wetland management

≈ Improve knowledge on animal & plant populations dynamics è Ensure their conservation in a context of global change

## Tour du Valat programme 2006-10



**A. Biology (Vegetation structure and dynamics, population biology of vertebrates, etc.)**

**B. Integrated management and ecosystem modelling**

**C. Transfer and promoting wise use of Mediterranean Wetlands**

**D. Estate management**