



Civil society capacity building

for sustainable wetland management in southern and western Mediterranean

Engaging civil society in wetland conservation is a key factor in counteracting the ongoing loss of wetland habitats and decline of biodiversity. Civil society has an important role to play in reversing these trends, and thus should be engaged more actively at Mediterranean level.

CONTEXT

The civil society, and especially national Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), is gaining in importance and recognition throughout the Mediterranean, in terms of its capacity to initiate and lead initiatives for the conservation of wetlands. Its enthusiasm is its initial driving force, and has already achieved a great deal.

However, for a long-lasting and increasing benefit for wetlands, this enthusiasm needs to be reinforced and turned fully professional through the project: "Civil society capacity building for sustainable wetland management in southern and eastern Mediterranean" led by the Tour du Valat (France).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The project is implemented through the following strategies:

- Selecting key national leading NGOs.

- Training them in subjects of key importance for them ("Training of trainers").
- Multiplying the effect through leading NGOs training other national NGOs.
- Initiating or supporting existing monitoring programmes, e.g., wintering waterbirds, water quality, etc.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

By strengthening civil society in southern and eastern Mediterranean, the project allows a better valorization of wetlands, promoting a better taking into account of them by governments in decision-making concerning development and land-use planning, by:

- Professionalization of civil society in wetland protection, restoration, management, monitoring and communication actions.
- Active participation of civil society in the implementation of the Alliance for Mediterranean Wetlands (AMW).
- Development and institutionalization of the waterbird census network as a standardized regional indicator for monitoring and communication, awareness raising of the importance of the good ecological status of wetlands, and developing a "sentinel" function.

PROJECT COUNTRIES

Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Strengthening the technical, organizational and managerial capacities of ten associations in the concerned countries.
- Providing support by the ten partner associations and strengthening capacities of a minimum of 20 other associations actively working in wetlands and sustainable development in the concerned countries.
- Developing and implementing six micro-projects supported by civil society (one per country) for wetland management and sustainable development in sites with strong heritage value of biodiversity and culture.
- Establishment of a system of pooling and sharing of knowledge, trainings, experiences and contacts related to Mediterranean wetlands.
- Strengthening and harmonizing a system for reporting monitoring results related to wetlands through the AMW networks.
- Development of a rigorous methodology and implementation of AMW's "red alert" system aimed at proposing support and solutions for Mediterranean wetlands of national and international importance whose degradation trends are recognized as a concern.
- Increase of at least 10% of wetlands benefiting from regular monitoring through bird censuses and for which it will be possible to define an ecological value.
- Integration of the "wetland and biodiversity" component in a minimum of ten high-schools and/or universities in the countries concerned.

Duration: 2018 - 2021

Budget: € 650 000

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