

CHALLENGES FOR WATERBIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

SUMMARY OF MONITORING
2019 · 2023



General
report
2019-2023



Mediterranean Waterbirds
Oiseaux d'eau Méditerranée
الطيور المائية بمنطقة البحر المتوسط

GENERAL CONTEXT

MORE THAN

10,500

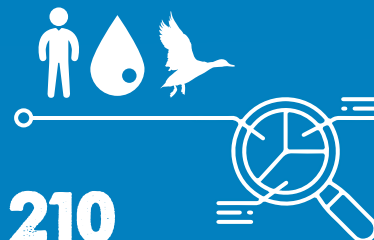
\\ **VOLUNTEERS** involved
across 15 countries

2,972

\\ **WETLANDS**
regularly monitored

210

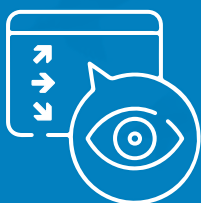
\\ **SPECIES** recorded
between 2019 and 2023



OBSERVED TRENDS

\\ LOCAL DECLINES LINKED TO:

- **climate change**
(related displacement)
- **habitat loss and degradation**
(e.g. Ichkeul Lake
and Nile Delta)
- **hunting pressure** in both
wintering and breeding sites



\\ STABILISATION/INCREASE OF SOME POPULATIONS in Northern and Western Europe, thanks to:

- effective **conservation policies**
against human pressures
and climate change
- a network of functional **wetlands**

SITES AND RAMSAR NETWORK

\\ **222 SITES** meet Ramsar criterion 5 or 6, based on waterbird counts from 2019 to 2023, in the 13 countries that submitted country reports:

- **almost 50%** are already
Ramsar sites
- **50%** not yet designated



\\ **79 SITES** meet Ramsar criterion 5 (> 20,000 birds)

\\ **56 WATERBIRD SPECIES** met criterion 6 sites (>1% of the population)

- **6 currently threatened species** (IUCN Red List)

\\ **STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF PROTECTED SITES** is essential to ensure the conservation of these species

*It should be noted that a stricter interpretation of the term
"regularly" (aligned with what is expected to be adopted
at Ramsar COP 2025) may have reduced the number
of eligible wetlands, compared with the previous report.*

AVIAN INFLUENZA

\\ **GROUP OF ANCIENT VIRUS**, naturally circulating among Anatidae and Laridae

\\ **SINCE 2022:** rapid spread of virulent strains to new species

\\ **MAJOR THREAT** to waterbird conservation

\\ **PRIORITY ACTIONS:**

- **stay informed** about the evolution
of the situation
- **report** any unusual mortality to the relevant
health authorities
- **contribute** to surveillance and preparedness
for future outbreaks

