

WWF's mission

WWF is one of the world's largest and independent conservation organizations. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature, by:

- · Conserving the world's biological diversity
- · Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- · Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF Mediterranean North Africa operates in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Libya. Since 1995, we have been working with communities, non-governmental organizations, companies and governments to create real solutions for people and to protect the natural resources of our region: forests, rivers, ocean, climate, food and wildlife.

Together, we are creating a world where people live in harmony with nature.

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OF CONSERVATION IN NORTH AFRICA

In this document, we present a brief overview of the engagement and achievements that our 25 years have delivered and a glimpse of the ambitious roadmap which we believe will deliver important conservation wins in North Africa.

It is with great pleasure I present the summary highlights of our work in North Africa of the past 25 years, outlining our priorities and future ambitions. Since the launch of our programs in 1994 in Tunisia, we believe that, in order to contribute to building a country where nature and the economy thrive together, we must maximise our impact. Our goal was to add most value to environmental conservation and best support North African countries in their path towards a sustainable future.

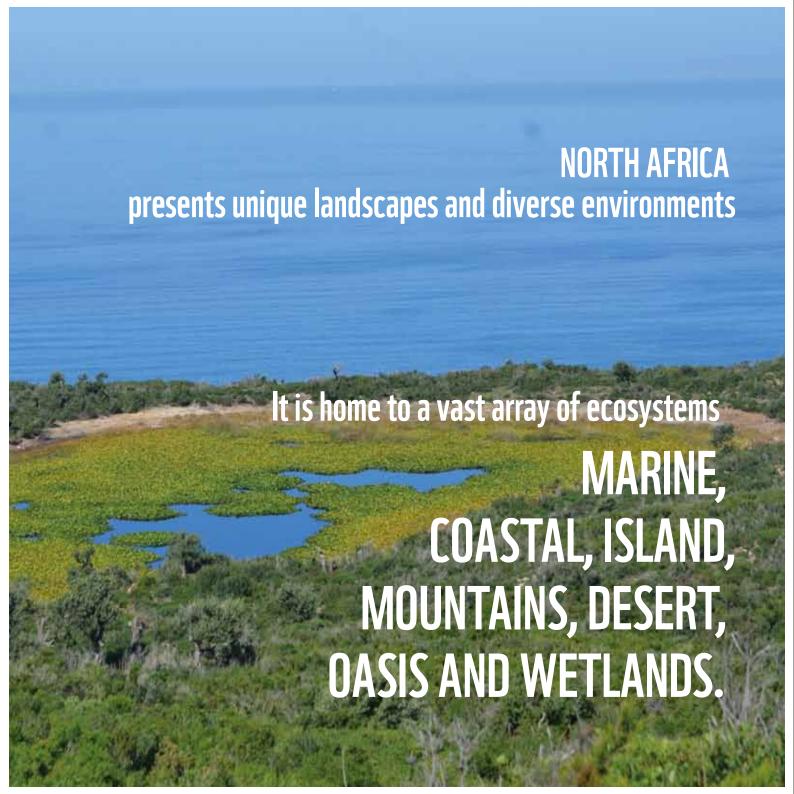
We first started by implementing educational environmental programs in Tunisia and Morocco focusing on schools based in and around protected areas with high recognition from the local authorities. We knew that higher conservation impact is only possible by involving local communities and most importantly by engaging the next generations. Our work has then developed to cover four North African countries, Algeria, Libva, Morocco and Tunisia, supporting their shifts towards a more sustainable region. We have consistently leveraged our strategy and a range of partners and other stakeholders to bring conservation to the table of governments and decision-makers. Our motto is that North Africa can possess a healthy and thriving natural environment without sacrificing its developing economy.

Even as we proudly look back on the past 25 vears of accomplishments, our sights remain firm on the future. Through the experience, knowledge, and expertise we have gained during these years, our ambition is to continue delivering high-impact and sustainable solutions for conservation. We will continue to support North African governments, civil societies, local communities and various other communities to achieve and ensure sustainable development while preserving the environment. Each vear we reinforce our position as the leading national non-profit advocate for conservation and sustainable practices, and it is thanks to the unwavering support we receive from our partners that we have flourished as a force for change within the North Africa Region. I would like to express my profound gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all of our partners at local and international level. We remain committed to further our progress and push for the environmental agendas in our region.

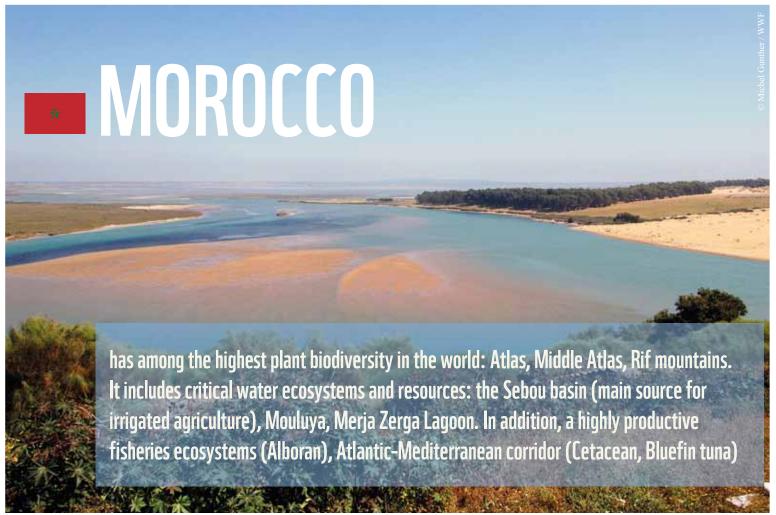
Now is the prime time for WWF North Africa to heighten its pursuit of a sustainable future for our region

WWF North Africa Director

Faouzi Maamouri







Meria Zerga Lagoon



O Michel Gunther / WWF



Barbarv macaque

Middle Atlas mountains, Morocco



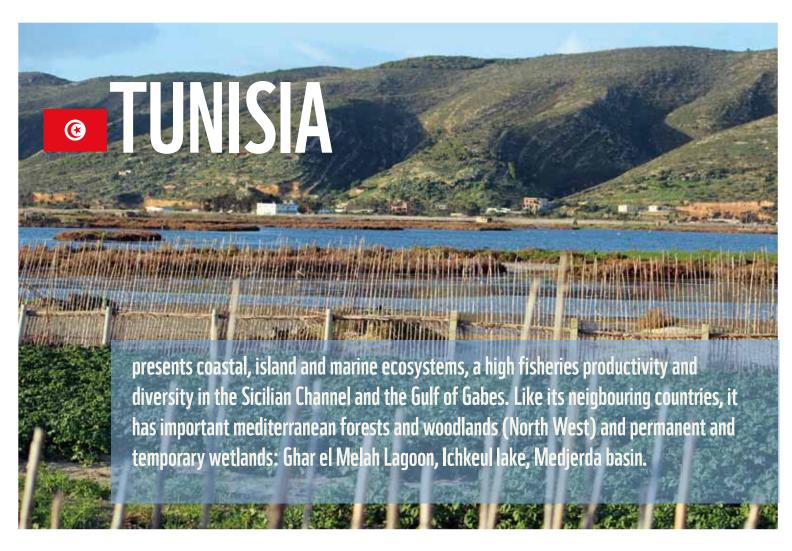






El Kala

Oasis Beni Abbess El Kala











Although North Africa has a rich and varied heritage of biodiversity encompassing a wide spectrum of ecosystems, the region is facing a myriad of threats such as :

- Water Scarcity and precariousness of water resources (quantitative and qualitative decreases in drinking water).
- Erosion and siltation of dams.
- Increase in desertification.
- Forest fires: Almost 50,000 ha of forests disappear every year both in the three countries.
- Loss of biodiversity.
- Limited agricultural land compared to that of the northern Mediterranean.
- Reduced soil quality and water salinity, heat waves, and floods due to climate change.





North Africa is an arid to semi-arid region. It has a fragile endowment of resources, high population growth, and an increasing pressure from development and industrial activities. All these factors make the region fragile and vulnerable to climate effects.

WWF North Africa acknowledges that the region will continue to develop rapidly and the demand on natural resources and environmental pressures will inevitably increase. Therefore, WWF North Africa's strategy aims to ensure socially responsible economic development of the region while protecting the resource base and the environment for the benefit of future generations.

has experienced successes in fostering biodiversity conservation in the region, particularly in Tunisia and Morocco. Since 1994, we have been implementing a number of projects of various scales that include the development of two Protected Areas and two MPAs, classification of 120 Ramsar sites, contribution to the development of national strategies, building capacity of local environmental NGOs and raising environmental awareness through educational initiatives and engagement campaigns. The resources acquired and relationships developed over the years have translated into a strong set of organisational capabilities which we seek to build on in order to continue our work in the region.

KEY DATES

1994-2000

- WWF initiated conservation work in Tunisia through education projects in schools and capacity building of civil society organizations.
- The education program was then extended to Morocco.
- WWF presence was established in Tunisia as a business company, as there was no possibility of establishing NGOsno possible on establishing NGOs.

2000-2010

- Conservation strategies in Morocco included ecoregional conservation planning in landscapes, support for MPAs, and reduction of fisheries impact, Ramsar designations and wetland management.
- First projects in Algeria in partnership with government agencies.
- WWF NA initiated marine conservation projects in Libya.

2011-2016

- Marine strategy in Algeria, Tunisia, Libya was scaled up.
- A programmatic partnership was established with a local NGO in Morocco.
- WWF was recognized as a key wetland actor.
- -After the Tunisian revolution, WWF started the process of obtaining the recognition of WWF NGO status.

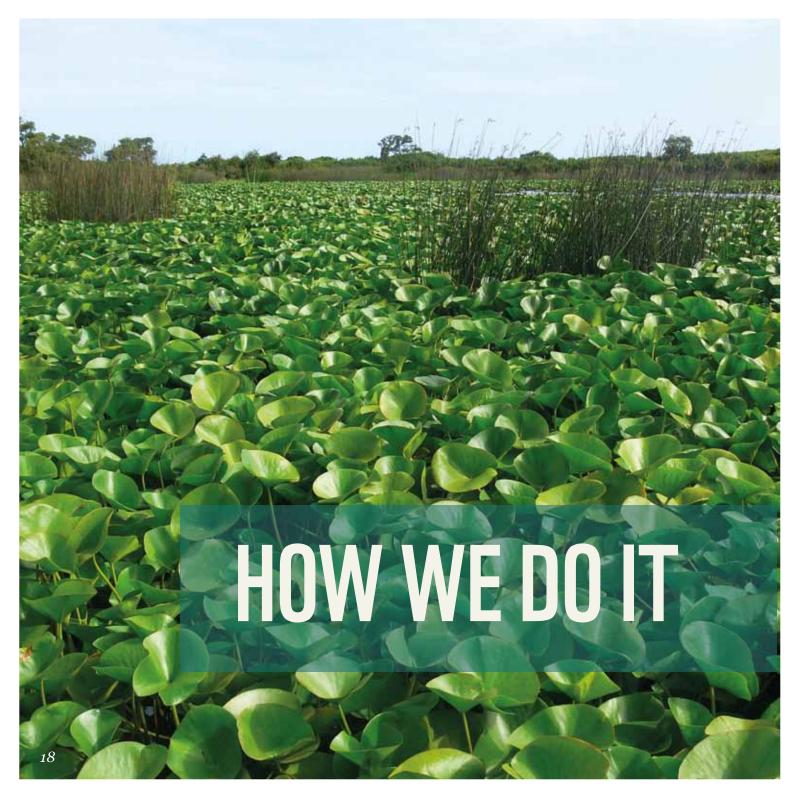
2017-2019

- Creation of WWF Mediterranean branch of which WWF NA is part of.
- WWF NA became a Tunisian NGO officially recognized in the official journal of Tunisia.
- Living Planet Morocco was created, a local moroccan association to implement the WWF program in Morocco.



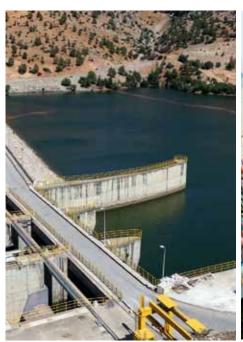








Our strategy is to prioritize and focus our efforts on areas of great relevance to conservation in North Africa. We work on Marine issues, fresh water and Wetlands, climate change and energy issues, and landscape conservation. We use our expertise to make significant progress towards biodiversity conservation and environment in North Africa capacity building, knowledge and dialogues involving regional stakeholders from government, the private sector and civil society actors.







Our iconic places



Sebou River Basin, Morocco

- A key basin in Morocco: it concentrates 20% of water resources in 8% of territory, provides 30% of surface water resources and 20% of groundwater resources of the country.
- Great socio-economic importance for Morocco:
 - Home to nearly 20% of the population.
 - It holds 30% of agricultural land and 20% of the potential irrigable land, representing only about 6% of the national area
- Important for biodiversity: 39 Wetlands (5 RAMSAR sites), 2 National Parks, 17 Sites of Biological and Ecological Interest (SIBE). Natural habitats for migratory birds and other endemic and rare species that remain also threatened.



Ghar El Melah Lagoon;

- One of the most famous Tunisian RAMSAR sites.
- The first RAMSAR City accreditation in the Arab world.
- A historical village rich in cultural heritage and old traditions linked to nature.
- \bullet High biodiversity hot spot for fish, birds, and plants .
- WWF active in promoting integrated coastal zone management, maintaining best practice on small scale fishing and traditional practices as well as supporting the new Ramsar city accreditation.
- One of the largest expanses of cork oak forests in the Mediterranean.



The Cork Land of Kroumerie, Tunisia

- Home to the endemic barbary deer and serval others species.
- WWF active in promoting sustainable cork use, improving in PA management and creating green jobs for local communities



National Park of Taza, Algeria

- National Park Taza is an important Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot, recognized under UNESCO-MAB and the Barcelona Convention.
- WWF has been supporting Taza NP since 2009, Taza NP aims to implement a policy of sustainable tourism in the park while closely working with the coastal municipalities, engaging the private and non-profit sector and fishermen to diversify and develop sustainable tourism activities.

CAPACITY BUILDING & EDUCATION

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya actively collaborate with WWF in promoting good environmental governance and nature conservation in North Africa. They have been successful at influencing environmental policy-making on a national and a regional level, raise environmental awareness among all stakeholder. WWF North Africa has successfully contributed to creating enabling conditions for sustainable development by broadening the constituency and strengthening the capacity of surrounding environmental actors.

Since 2011, civil society in North Africa has been experiencing unprecedented change. In Tunisia, more than 1,500 new NGOs have been founded resulting in a new decree to govern civil society organisations in the country.

In Tunisia, as in other neighbouring countries such as Morocco and Algeria, where local communities still heavily depend on scarce natural resources, democratization needs to be linked to sound environmental governance that reaches its most impoverished citizens, most of whom live in rural areas. Environmental NGOs play a vital role in protecting the interests of people and nature simultaneously.

For years, WWF has worked on strengthening the capacity of targeted environmental and development NGOs in North Africa, recognizing that an active civil society is a prerequisite for good governance and sustainable development.

WWF North Africa conducted a program to strengthen the capacity of 40 Algerian, Tunisian, Moroccan and Libyan NGOs associations.

The program fostered open dialogue in promoting an overall transparent process of decision-making regarding local, national and regional policies for sustainable development and natural resource management.

WWF facilitated networking with other stakeholders in order to address national and regional environmental challenges. The activities of the program included organizational capacity development, communication and leadership skills, focusing on young leaders.

Nearly 1000 people reached through cascade training Enabling the creation and the strengthening of four national NGO networks.

In 2008, WWF set up a group of 18 NGOs in Morocco in the frame of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) Working Group (GOT) to influence national and regional decision-making institutions. In 2014, a community of wetland stakeholders was created and gathered in all three countries for better wetland field action. This led to the creation of the "Maghreb Wetland Presidia" network funded by Mava.

Since 2013, WWF in Lybia has worked to set up training and capacity building programs for 22 NGOs, with the funding of the European Union, in order to cover the institutional, organizational, communication and strategic frame of an NGO. It also included the fundraising and technical aspects related to environmental impact assessment, waste management, and project setup and networking tools. More than 130 people participated and benefited from the program and 100 people participated in the online training courses.



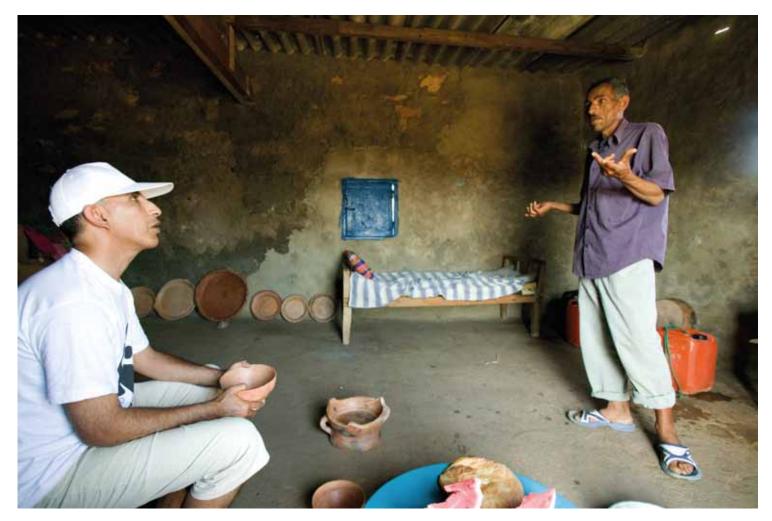
Working with local communities





Our participatory approach involves local communities in the conservation and sustainable management of resources through the implementation of reinforcement programs to enable sustainable use of natural resources.

WWF has initiated a local dynamic and has been able to influence protected area management policies and tools to better integrate the local population in the management of spaces, by promoting alternative socio-economic development. At least 400 families living in and around protected areas (Feija, Oued Zen and Cap Serrat and Cape Negro) in north-western Tunisia have been able to acquire knowhow and management of protected areas and natural resources to improve their living conditions. These families have been able to conduct micro-projects and to offer valuable service with respect to nature.







Working with entrepreneurs





Since 2015, WWF North Africa has contributed to the creation of a sustainable development model in and around protected areas in the North-West of Tunisia by promoting socio-economic services that involve young entrepreneurs, associations and local communities.

Our work has initiated green jobs in and around protected areas through the establishment of 13 green enterprises, mostly led by higher education graduates, such as ECO-RAND, a startup providing ecotourism services in Sidi Mechreg and TunaRoma, a unit of aromatic and medicinal plants production and transformation.



WILDTUNISIA by WWF North Africa





"Wild Tunisia" is an eco-label dedicated to products and services from protected areas and natural areas of high ecological value in Tunisia. It was launched by WWF North Africa in Tunisia, in partnership with the Directorate General of Forests (DGF) and the Swiss Foundation "DROSOS".

The objective of this label is to showcase products and services from protected areas in Tunisia,

by improving their brand image in order to facilitate their commercialization and thereby improve the well-being of the local communities involved in their design.

Our work in education



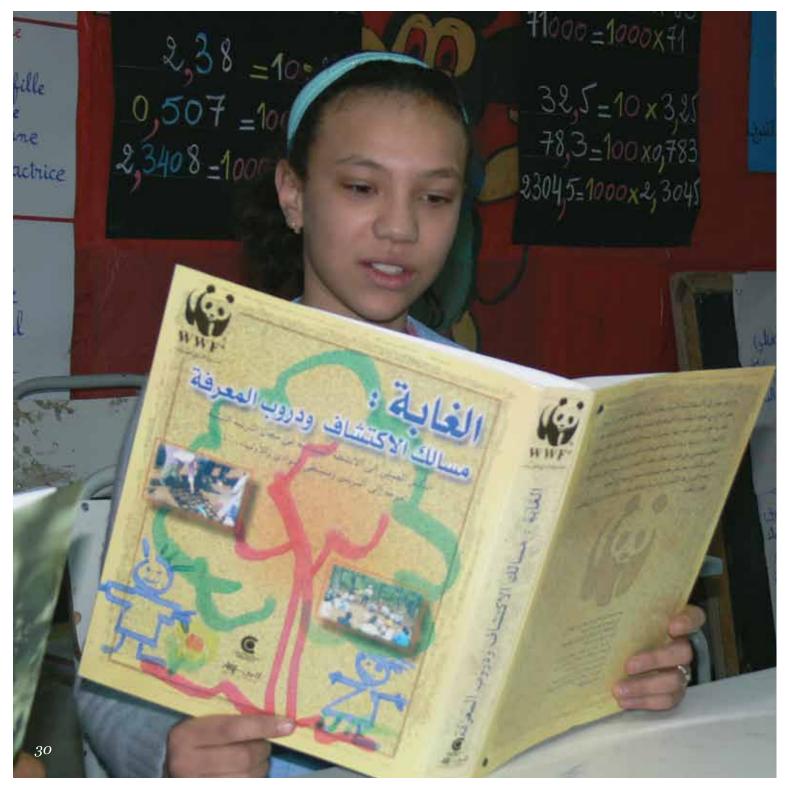
Our work in education







Every year, WWF North Africa organises a series of training sessions around the the flora of the Tunisian landscape. Students from fields of Biology, Ecology, Agronomy and Environment, are brought together for a week of training on prospection of sampling and interpretation on the terrestrial ecosystems in an approach to protect biodiversity and habitats. Since 2018, 50 students have benefited of two sessions organized in the Oued Zen National Park in Tunisia.





FRESH WATER

The wetland inventories recorded 7800 sites including 5200 sites in Morocco, 1451 sites in Algeria and



1 178 sites in Tunisia.

Water resources are essential in North Africa, a region already subject to water stress and a hot spot of climate change. The wetland inventories recorded 7800 sites including 5200 sites in Morocco, 1451 sites in Algeria and 1 178 sites in Tunisia.

The Sebou, Moulouia and Medjerda basins provide essential water resources yet these remain highly threatened by dams, loss of vegetation cover and climate change. Le Guerbes, El Kala, Ichkeul, Gar el Melah and Tunis lakes are highly valuable but remain endangered wetland systems. Despite its importance, these freshwater ecosystems suffer from overexploitation of water due to unsustainable transfer for water-intensive crops, recreational facilities and industrial use. This leads to poor quality of water, also caused by insufficiently treated organic and chemical pollutants allowed to flow into freshwater ecosystems.

Our Fresh Water Program works on addressing these major threats by:

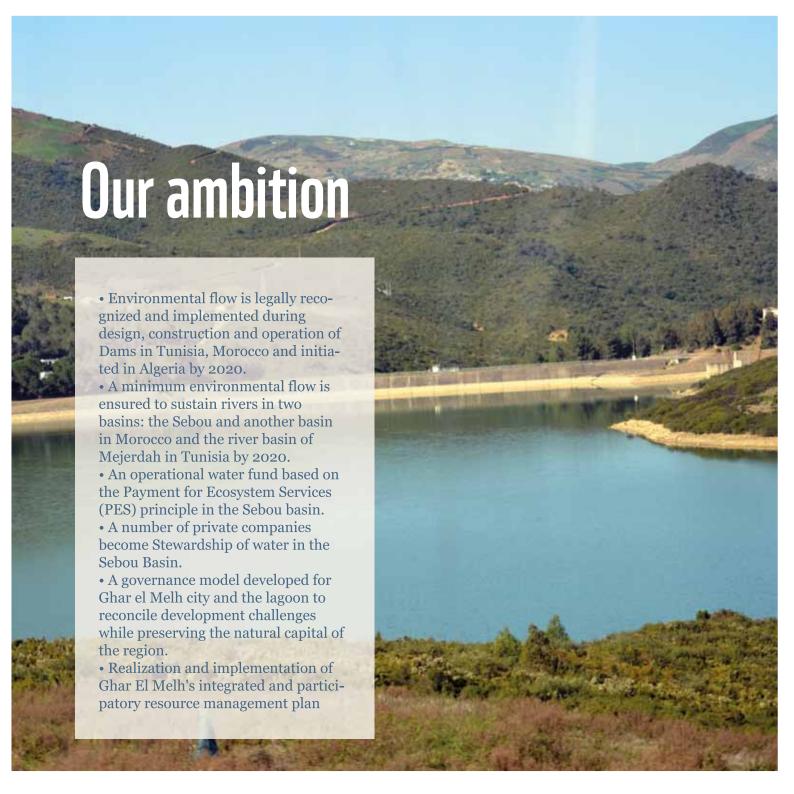
- Changing the water management culture from a predominantly hydraulic engineering framework to a new framework where water security and people's livelihood are based on the conservation of the key ecolofical functions of water ecosystems.
- Strengthening the conservation of wetlands through demonstrating, valuing, and incoroprating into decision-making the full value of the ecosystem services they provide.







- A Model of governance developed for Ghar el Melh to reconcile development challenges while safeguarding natural capital of the region.
- Realization and implementation of the Integrated Resources Management Plan of Ghar El Melh.
- WWF North Africa introduced a new accreditation for cities showing efforts to conserve their wetlands «The wetland city accreditation» and it was adopted by the Ramsar Convention in 2015
- Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in North Africa through: 120 new Ramsar sites (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) Management plan, wetland centre
- Ghar El Melh received the Wetland City Accreditation and has become the first Arab and North African city on the Ramsar list of accredited cities in 2018.
- Contributing to the development of wetland strategies in Algeria and Tunisia by integrating wetland values and importance to ensure their protection and sustainable management.



MARINE



The marine environment in the regional waters of North Africa is unique. North Africa is home to a diversity of habitats. Alboran Sea, Algeria-Tunisia basin, Sicilian Channel, Gabes Gulf, Sirte Gulf, Cyrenaica are all areas of high marine diversity and significant fisheries ecosystems such as Blue fin tuna.

Despite its wealth of diversity, the marine environment is facing major threats due to the overexploitation of the stock using inappropriate fishing gear, as well as illegal trawling, which contribute to the loss of marine diversity and the degradation of certain habitats.

Our Marine Program works on addressing major threats and protects marine habitats and species by:

- Scaling up MPAs number and management effectiveness by demonstrating their value as generators of benefits and economic opportunities.
- Transformating North Africa fisheries toward science based co-management, with greater engagement of small-scale fishers.







LANDSCAPE



North Africa contains very important natural resources. It counts 3139 plant species in Algeria, 8000 species in Morocco and 2800 species in Tunisia.

The variety of substrates and climates lead to diverse forest ecosystems and a mix of vegetation including holm oak forests, cork oak forests, wild olive and carob woodlands and Alfa Steppes, all of which cover important areas in the region.

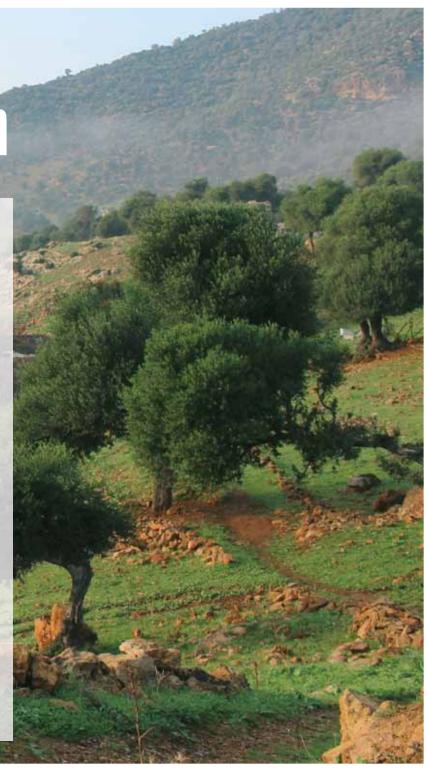
The Maghreb forests are increasingly vulnerable due to degradations caused by high human populations, widespread deforestation, overgrazing and urbanization on the outskirts of cities. The most significant threat is the large-scale occurrence of wildfires, with an average annual loss of 50,000 hectares (for all three countries) causing severe socio-economic

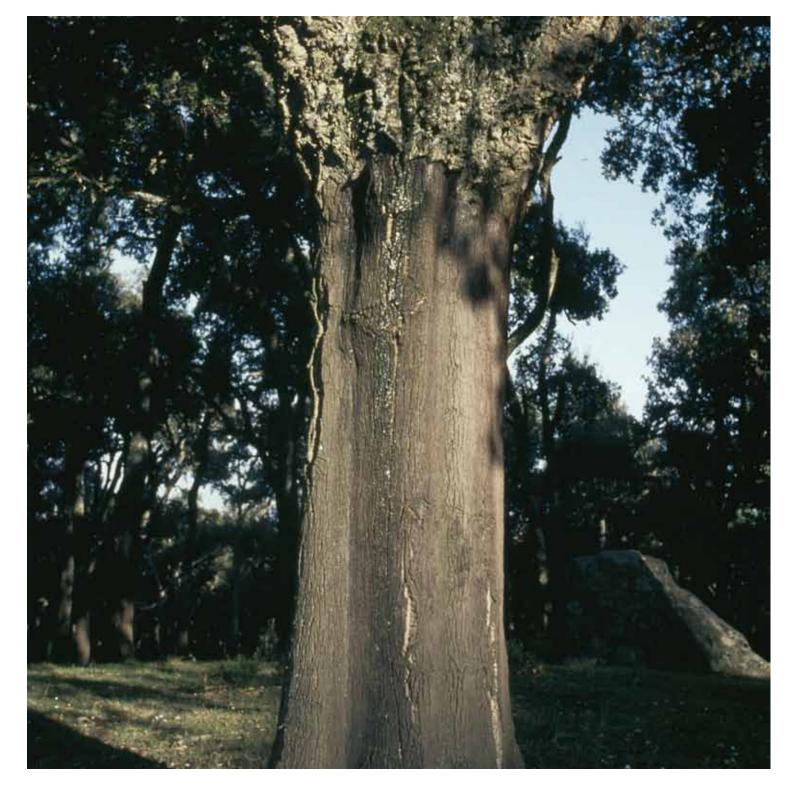
Therefore, WWF North Africa is working to mitigate these threats by improving the quality of forest landscapes of high conservation value, generating more socio-economic benefits, securing wider support for protected areas by economic and political actors, and by promoting integrated landscape management.



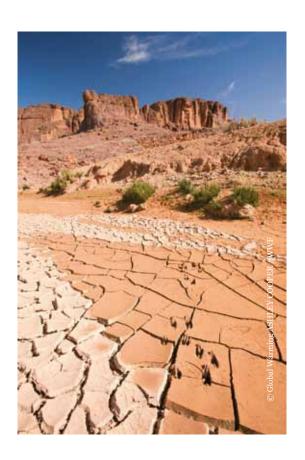
Our ambition

- Improve the Protected Areas governance quality carried out in 25% of PAs in the region.
- Assess the existing and potential socio-economic benefits of natural capital in 80% of PAs in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.
- Socio-economic benefits are generated in 10% of the PAs within the region based on the sustainable use of natural capital, and product certification (Wild Tunisia)
- Maintain the traditional practices that communities value and wish to pass on to the next generations.
- Strengthen dialogue between civil society associations and policy makers on key policies regulating PA management for protection and conservation.
- Set up a charter for the management and conservation of endemic, rare and endangered wildlife and plants, to be adopted by managers and local populations.





CLIMATE CHANGE



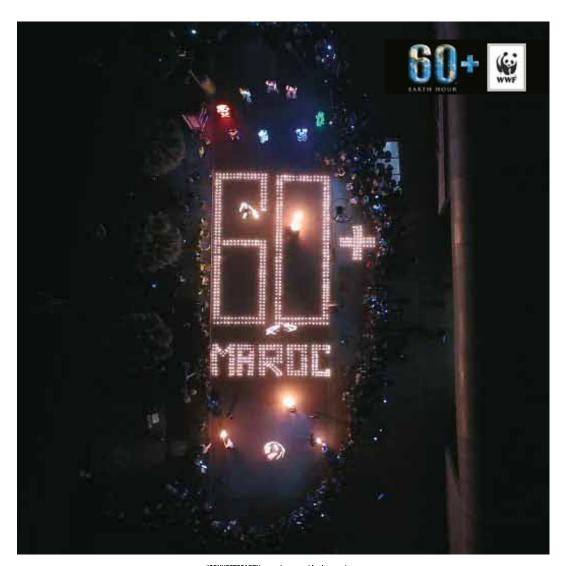
The Mediterranean region, especially North Africa, is highly vulnerable to climate change. The region suffers from water-scarcity, a high dependency on climate-sensitive agriculture and a large share of its population and economic activity in flood-prone urban coastal zones. These factors made North Africa directly affected by the effects of climate change.

In order to improve climate change adaptation and governance in Morocco and Tunisia, WWF North Africa seeks to build knowledge and advocacy to facilitate dialogue between civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders on a local, national and international front.

Our programs focus on improving public engagement by mobilizing citizens and decision-makers around the issue, as well as the engagement towards a national strategic approach.







#CONNECT2EARTH_together to tackle climate change.

EARTH HOUR

WWF North Africa

MOROCCO

Area: 710 850 sq km Mediterranean coast: 500 km Atlantic ocean coast: 3000 km Forest: 9 037 714 ha Wetlands: 400 000 ha Population: 36 607 000



TUNISIA

Area 163 610 sq km Mediterranean coast:1 148 km Forrest : 1 300 000 ha Wetlands: 1 271 583 ha Population: 11 551 400

LIBYA

Area: 1 759 540 sq km Mediterranean coast: 1 770 km Wetlands: 1505 ha

Forests: 217 000 ha Population: 6 549 402

ALGERIA

Area: 2 381 741 sq km Mediterranean coast: 1 622 km Forrest: 4 071 000 ha Wetlands: 3 032 813 ha

Wetlands: 3 032 813 ha Population: 42 620 000



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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