



3rd Mediterranean Water Forum

22-24 January 2018

Cairo, Egypt



Water sharing & Cooperation

Future for the Mediterranean

Conclusions of the WG5: ECOSYSTEMS, Managing and restoring for water services and biodiversity

Coordinators:

Maroua OUESLATI: SEMIDE - EMWIS “Euro-Mediterranean information system on know-how in the water sector”

Jaime L. Fraile: Hydrological Planning Office, Segura River Basin Authority
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment.

(on behalf of F-IEA)



MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA Y PESCA,
ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

CONFEDERACIÓN
HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL SEGURA

The working group at a glance:

- ▶ Number of participants : 18
- ▶ Number of case studies presented: 3
 1. Lake Manzala Engineered Wetland a Successful Model for the Mediterranean Sea Protection, Egypt
 2. Albufera de Valencia: semi-urban wetland under ecological recovering process in Spain
 3. Characterization of the issue of ecological waters demand: strategic orientations and action plans for pilot sites in Tunisia
- ▶ Potential case studies for the 8th WWF identified: 5 (depending on funding availability)

Highlights from featured case studies

- 1. Lake Manzala Engineered Wetland a Successful Model for the Mediterranean Sea Protection, Egypt**
 - 1. Artificial wetland provided ecosystem services & enhanced existing natural capacities**
 - 2. Capitalized services (fish, crops) helped long term sustainability of the project**
- 2. Albufera de Valencia: semi-urban wetland under ecological recovering process in Spain**
 - 1. Involve relevant stakeholders in the project from start: definition of target scenario**
 - 2. Forecasting results within a realistic timeline allowed the wetland to improve at own speed**
- 3. Characterization of the issue of ecological waters demand: strategic orientations and action plans for pilot sites in Tunisia**
 - 1. Promote on site treatment before releasing into the environment**
 - 2. Set environmental demand to guarantee delivery of adequate ecosystem services**

Highlights from the open discussion

- ▶ Wetlands provide valuable ecosystem services for both local and global communities; for example, climate change mitigation
- ▶ To achieve public involvement, translate ecosystem services in terms of the needs of local communities
- ▶ You only learn to love what you get to know: research & educate
- ▶ Need to further promote the economic assessment of ecosystem services
- ▶ Include the cost of degradation into general accounting for projects
- ▶ Water sharing: participatory allocation of available resources between different users/sectors and ecosystems can enhance the delivery of ecosystem services

The main Mediterranean... ...messages

- ▶ Ecosystems know no boundaries: they require cooperation and solidarity
- ▶ Integrate ecosystem deterioration into pricing of water services
- ▶ Ecosystems are of great value for the fight against climate change
- ▶ Maintaining essential productions requires maintaining ecosystem services
- ▶ There will be no achieving the SDGs if we turn our back on the water ecosystems

...gaps and needs

- ▶ Regional level assessment for the ecosystem services provided by the main mediterranean wetlands
- ▶ Raise awareness and research on the relationship between water and biodiversity
- ▶ Regional program for awareness raising on the subject of water related ecosystem services

...questions to raise at the WWF8

- ▶ How can we enforce an allocation of water for the ecosystems?
- ▶ Are NBS an alternative to traditional, grey infrastructure solutions?
- ▶ How to assess which restoration measure(s) is best for each scenario?

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Thank you for your attention
Merci beaucoup
Muchas gracias
شكرا جزيلاً

