



## **GEF project:** Adaptive Management and Monitoring of the Maghreb's Oases Systems



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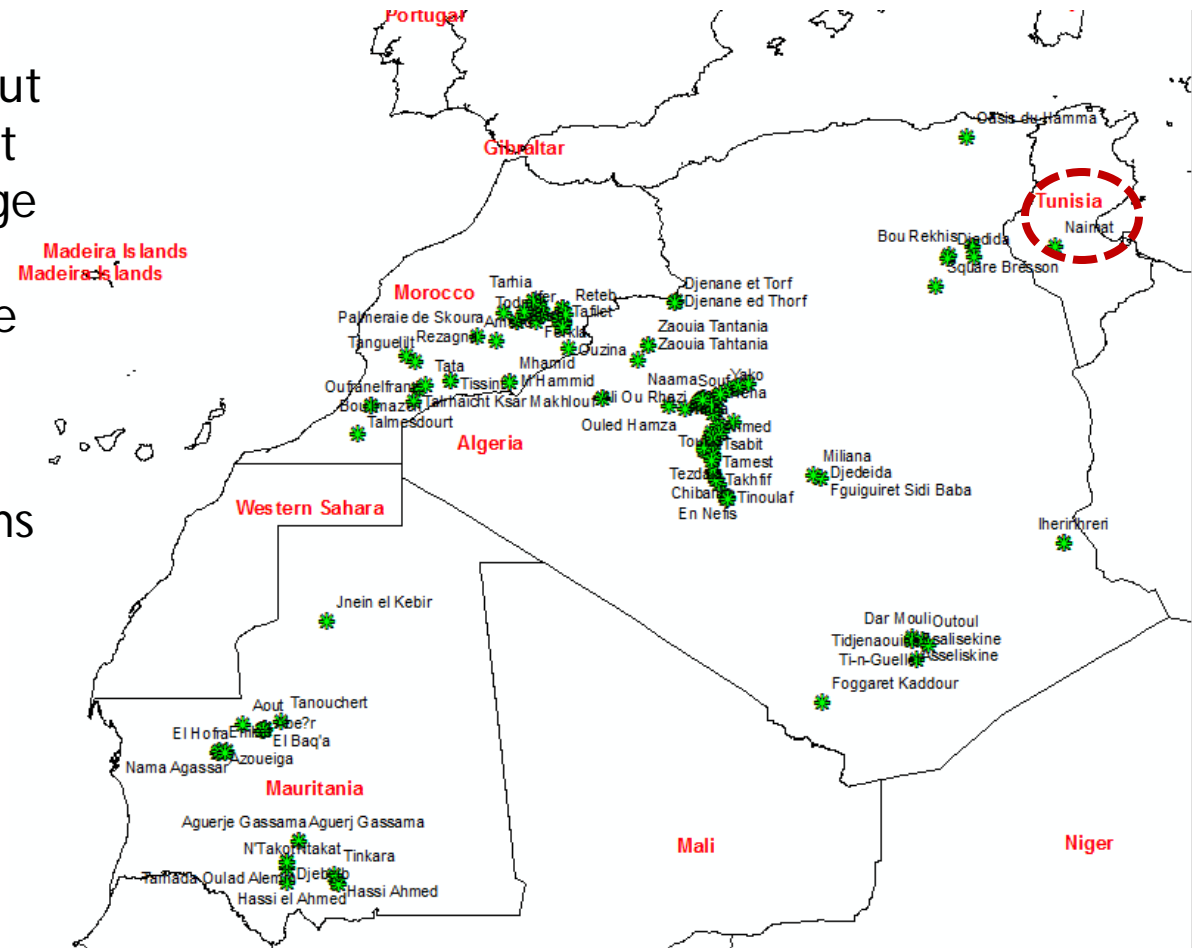
- **Recipient Countries:** Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia
- **Executing Partners:** Government of Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia; NGOs.
- **Focal Area:** LD-4. Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD Parties.
- **Indicative Grant Amount (\$):** 1,726,484
- **Indicative Co-Financing (\$):** 4,163,890



## Summary

- Oases ecosystems dominate zones of about 30% of the grounds that emerged along the large arid scarf which links Africa to Asia; from the Sahara to Mongolia.
- Most common environmental problems faced by communities and farmers include water scarcity, fragile soils, water and wind erosion, and land and water degradation.

*OASIS distribution in Magreb (from <http://www.satelliteviews.net/>)*



## Project components

Within the scope of this project, two level activities are envisaged:

1. support country level information systems on land degradation trends and monitoring systems that will later enhance the regional monitoring and management of oasis ecosystems, and
2. linking and harmonization of programmes and initiatives at a local level while sharing of knowledge on best adaptive management practices.

### *Naimat (Tunisia)*





## Project components

- **Component 1:** Enhancing institutional skills to collect, manage and monitor Natural Resources degradation trends and impacts for an increased capacity to apply adaptive management tools in Natural Resources Monitoring and Sustainable Land management.
- **Component 2:** Enhancing knowledge on best practices for dynamic conservation, adaptive management and monitoring of oasis ecosystems.
- **Component 3:** Information dissemination, awareness raising advocacy to facilitate scaling up, monitoring and evaluation.



## Main outcomes

- **Regional/country level oases ecosystem monitoring and awareness:**
  - Enhanced oases ecosystem monitoring system providing harmonized data management and effective monitoring tools and system including in country training programme.
  - Enhanced institutional coordination and capacity to effectively monitor oases ecosystems.
  - Enhanced awareness amongst decision makers about the need for adaptive management of oasis ecosystems.
  
- **Local level/oases communities - dissemination of best SLM practices**
  - Enhanced and expanded knowledge-base on dynamic conservation and adaptive management of Maghreb Oases.
  - Enhanced awareness, capacities and opportunities for local communities to derive socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits resulting in increased valuation and sustainability of the Maghreb oases heritage systems.



## Global benefits and adaptation benefits

- **Global:**
  - Dynamic conservation and adaptive management of the Maghreb oases ecosystems
  - Greater resilience to climate change, maintenance of ecosystem goods and services, and the benefits they generate on soil, water and air as well as human life.
  - With traditional water rights and management systems, the inter- and intra-species interactions help controlling pest and diseases, and promote efficient water (reducing land degradation) and nutrient uses.
- **Local:**
  - Effective dissemination of environmental and social information coupled with capacity development providing economic benefits through reducing losses of agricultural productivity, infrastructure and disruption to people's livelihoods.
  - Impact on people's health and wellbeing, thus on communities and social structures.
  - Many of the beneficiaries will be women, especially within the oasis agriculture sector where they contribute heavily to overall productivity yet are often the most vulnerable to food insecurity.



## Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

- Innovative concept of people's centered approaches to implement a dynamic conservation based on the communities' agri-culture and traditional knowledge.
- The project intends on fostering a collaboration between and among oases communities.
- The project aims at identifying potential opportunities and investment for up-scaling the results and experiences of the previously implemented and on going FAO Initiatives and projects in the Maghreb region.
- The scaling up will be encouraged through the dissemination of tested models for monitoring land degradation, lessons learned and experiences in implementing dynamic conservation of oases, and to raise awareness and ensure that the local communities and stakeholders understand and adopt the SLM approaches and tools.