



ENHANCING WATERBIRD MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL HABITAT IN CHAD, EGYPT AND SENEGAL

The wetlands of sub-Saharan Africa have been subject to significant anthropogenic pressures, which have been exacerbated by increasing human population and risks associated with global climate change. Wetlands resources are especially used for agriculture, livestock, fishing, hunting, salt exploitation, mining and ecotourism. For many local people, waterbirds are a direct source of protein, as well as a source of financial income. However, the current exploitation of the waterbird resource, particularly migratory species, was not sustainable. Against this background, the project developed a set of pilot activities to ensure the sustainability of exploiting migratory waterbirds in sites chosen among the wetlands of international importance in three target countries: Chad, Egypt and Senegal.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project developed and implemented methodologies and simple counting tools for the participatory monitoring of migratory waterbirds in selected pilot sites; assessed and updated the management plans for wetlands of international importance in the three target countries; and carried out an estimate of the socio-economic importance of waterbird resources. Each component was accompanied by follow-up capacity-building activities on the management and conservation of resources on-site or during workshops and seminars. In Chad, data was collected and processed on waterbirds and the conditions of wetlands, which was made available to national partners and would further contribute to the implementation of international commitments in the countries concerned, as well as to the revision of the conservation status of certain species. The project laid the foundations for implementing a follow-up project, RESSOURCE (Strengthening expertise in sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment), which will ensure the continuity of the project activities and extend them to other Sahelian countries.

IMPACT

The interventions that were implemented in the three target countries to improve water bird management, including the protection of natural habitats, will contribute to the preservation of the environment through the promotion of rational management and use of natural resources. This will benefit the ecosystems and local communities that rely on them for food and other resources, including income.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 495 000

Duration

April 2016 – December 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partners

Governments of Chad, Egypt and Senegal

Beneficiaries

Experts of the national structures responsible for wetland management in Chad, Egypt and Senegal



ACTIVITIES

- The first censuses following the International Waterbird Census (IWC) framework were carried out in the entire Ramsar Convention site of the Bahrs Aouk and Salamat floodplains in Chad.
- IWC were conducted in four of the most important Egyptian Wetlands: Lake Burullus, Lake Manzala and Lake Nasser, as well as the whole Nile River course from Aswan to Cairo; and training courses were provided for Nature Conservation Sector staff.
- Censuses were carried out in Djoudj National Bird Park in Senegal, together with training.
- A report was produced on Bahr Aouk and Salamat Ramsar sites, containing five priority recommendations, to support management of the wetlands.
- Capacity building was provided on wetland management and waterbirds monitoring for national managers and technicians from Chad.
- A network of experts was established for the monitoring of waterbirds in Lake Chad Basin, and an action plan for the regular management of activities related to the waterbird census was implemented.
- The first data was collected for socio-economic evaluations of the exploitation of migratory waterbirds in: Senegal River Delta; south of Lake Chad and east of Lake Fitri; and Egypt.



Project Code
TCP/INT/3505

Project Title
Pilot support and capacity strengthening for a sustainable use of migratory birds and an integrated management of wetlands

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