

Opportunities and solutions to reinforce the governance of the Medjerda basin

The ministry of Environment in Tunisia, WWF North Africa and IUCN Med are joining forces to discuss opportunities and solutions to strengthen the governance of the Medjerda basin.

This event is organized within the framework of the respective projects of IUCN Med and WWF North Africa, namely BRIDGE and MEDGIRE. The objectives of this event are as follows:

- Presentation of the results of the analysis of the current governance of the Medjerda Basin to derive appropriate recommendations.
- Initiation of a reflective process to enhance water management, adaptation to climate change, ecosystem protection, and improvement of livelihoods for local communities.
- Launch of the steering committee for the BRIDGE project.





The audience will understand the current challenges related to water management in the face of climate change and anthropogenic effects (increased population leading to increased demand, urban development, pollution...) and debate how all involved stakeholders can support the implementation of effective water management systems.

We will also address the interconnected nature of water management and socio-economic dynamics which is essential for formulating effective strategies that resonate with the unique needs of the North African region, with a specific focus on Tunisia. Robust socio-economic studies will enable us to grasp the intricate web of interactions between water resources, local communities, and economic practices.

Additionally, a sound legal foundation is paramount to establish clear and enforceable guidelines for water governance. It is important to underscore the pivotal role of comprehensive socio-economic studies and legal frameworks to support an effective governance process.

By emphasizing the importance of these interdisciplinary approaches, our side event seeks to catalyse a collaborative dialogue that advances actionable solutions, promoting sustainable water governance practices in the Medjerda Basin and contributing to the broader objectives of BRIDGE and the conservation efforts championed by the Ministry of the Environment in Tunisia.

Agenda

Time	Title	Speaker	
16:00-16:10	Context	Hekma Achour - IUCN-Med	
	Presentation of the main results of the Medjerda analysis	Imène Raies - WWF-NA	
16:10-16:25	Integrated river basin management, what opportunities for the Medjerda case? (Institutional collaboration)	Aissa Hlaimi, DG- DGRE, Ministry of agriculture, hydraulic resources and fisheries	
16:25-16:45	Discussion	All participants	
16:45-17:00	Ecosystem approach for a sustainable development of the Medjerda basin (Economic and social inclusion, NBS)	Hatem Ben Belgacem, DGEQV, Ministry of environment	
17:00-17:20	Discussion	All participants	
17:20-17:30	Identifying the steering committee members for the BRIDGE project monitoring	All participants	



MedGIRE is a project led by WWF North Africa and the Ministry of the Environment in Tunisia, and it was concluded in October 2022. This project was designed to support the establishment of the future Integrated Water Resources Management plan for the Medjerda Basin based on an ecosystem approach through the definition and recognition of Integrated Water Resources Management needs and water management priorities, the inventory and capitalization of ongoing studies and projects, and the production of additional studies necessary for the preparation of the IWRM plan.

BRIDGE is a global program established 10 years ago by the IUCN to support the capacities of countries sharing river or lake basins in implementing effective water management systems through a shared vision and efficient, coherent institutional frameworks. In the current phase of BRIDGE 5, we have included the watershed of the Medjerda River between Tunisia and Algeria among the beneficiary basins of this project.

L'initiative BRIDGE-Building River Dialogues and Governance Programme, « Bâtir le dialogue et la gouvernance autour des cours d'eau » vise à catalyser la gestion et le développement durables des ressources en eau, la sauvegarde de l'approvisionnement en eau et de l'assainissement, la conservation de la biodiversité et la coopération transfrontalière

BRIDGE-phase 5 consolidera les connaissances et l'expertise acquises au cours des phases précédentes pour mobiliser les principaux processus de négociation en cours où l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN) agit en tant qu'intermédiaire de dialogue pour favoriser les accords transfrontaliers à plusieurs échelles et renforcer les institutions. L'UICN visera à maximiser l'impact de BRIDGE-5 en alignant les résultats de son programme sur une série de priorités stratégiques et en les liant à des régions et des bassins spécifiques. Cette méthodologie garantira des solutions adaptées aux différents besoins des sites BRIDGE, dans des bassins sélectionnés. Ces efforts seront complétés par un ensemble d'interventions à l'échelle mondiale répondant à l'appel des Nations Unies pour accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'ODD 6.5.

Le projet BRIDGE, par ses activités dans le bassin de la Medjerda, vise à contribuer à l'amélioration de la gouvernance de l'eau transfrontalière dans la région en favorisant la coopération et le dialogue entre les acteurs de part et d'autre de la frontière.

Dans ce contexte, l'UICN en collaboration avec le ministère de l'Environnement de Tunisie a organisé une première réunion de projet du 29 et 30 mai avec la participation des principaux acteurs en charge de la conservation et de la gestion de l'eau en Tunisie.

Pour plus d'information:

Site web BRIDGE : <https://www.iucn.org/fr/article/202306/bridge-5-iucn-renforce-la-collaboration-et-lechange-au-niveau-du-bassin-versant-de>