



## **Building capacities of local associations in the Atlantic Moroccan Sahara in waterbird identification and monitoring**

By Pr. Sidi Imad Cherkaoui (Trainer), Moulay Ismail University, Meknès, Morocco

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Participants and members of the Association Nature Initiative at Dakhla Bay (Ramsar and IBA site)



Participants and members of Association Réseau Khnifiss at Khnifiss National Park (Ramsar and IBA site)



## **I. Results**

### **R1. Two groups belonging to two NGOs representing local Associations trained in Bird ID and monitoring**

With the financial support of the WSFI, two trainings on the identification and monitoring of waterbirds were organized from 23 to 28 January 2017 in the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara for the benefit of two local NGOs: Réseau Associations Khnifiss and Association Nature Initiative of Dakhla.

The two NGOs are leading local civil societies in the Sahara and advocate for the protection of protected areas including Khnifiss Lagoon and Dakhla Bay, both of which are considered IBAs and Ramsar sites of great importance for migratory waterbirds, the promotion of ecotourism and environmental education and the monitoring of wildlife.

Trainings took place in the two national parks that benchmark the targeted wetlands. The beneficiaries were mainly university students and / or voluntary members of both NGOs. Participants were interested in birdwatching, ecotourism and conservation. Among them, there were also local fishermen, preserve wardens and ecotourism guides (see list of participants Annexes I and II).

In total, 26 participants attended the training in Khnifiss Lagoon including three officers of the National Park staff and 12 participants in Dakhla, making the total beneficiaries 38 individuals (8 more persons than expected), demonstrating the interest of the civil society in wetlands and bird conservation locally.

Both associations recognize the importance of maintaining a regular monitoring of the birds at the level of these two key wetlands as well as in all the wetlands of the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara region which represents a key stopover area for thousands of migratory birds using the East Atlantic Flyway. As a result, they are committed to contributing to the winter censuses of waterbirds in accordance with national and international guidelines and are grateful to WSFI for providing them with the opportunity to be trained by an expert in bird identification and initiated in waterbird counting methods.

The trainings were carried out according to the programs in Annex IV.



## **R2. A guideline of waterbird and wetland monitoring developed**

A guideline document in Arabic was developed and disseminated.

## **R3. Two telescopes and 6 Binoculars distributed**

One telescope and 3 binoculars per NGO were bought and will be distributed soon.

**R.4 A supplementary set of 10 illustrated (WSFI) guides of waterbirds were disseminated by SPANA Morocco to the two NGOs, and the use of the guide was well understood.**

## **II. Communication and visibility**

The two training activities were covered by the local media, and photos were posted on the association websites and social media. Below are the electronic links to communication activities related to the project:

Dakhla:

<http://www.dakhlaalrai.com/showvideo1812.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL5NkNyZex4>

Khniifiss

[https://www.facebook.com/Khniifiss/?hc\\_ref=PAGES\\_TIMELINE](https://www.facebook.com/Khniifiss/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iq8ANPEBO8> (see video from 18min 44 - 21min 52)

All photos of the trainings are sent in a separate file.

Two attestations were delivered to the trainer (Imad Cherkaoui) in recognition of the training completion (Annex III).



### III. Waterbird census

Waterbird censuses were carried out at 7 different wetlands. A scientific paper is being prepared for a peer-reviewed journal using the census results for this winter and the past years to show the protection effects on waterbird trends in this geographical part of Morocco and the importance of maintaining long-term censuses in order to draw the best conservation measures and assess the response of waterbirds by comparing the relative abundance and species richness trends by sites and guilds.

### IV. Financial report

For some expenses that were impossible to justify by receipts/invoices, thus I have hired a society that has covered the workshop fees (venues, food, some participant accommodations) plus travel to sites including car rental. The society has charged 10% for management and delivered VAT-included invoices.

Activities		Intem (MAD)	Per se	Total (MAD)	(€) 1 mad= 0,097€
	Return ticket Airfare Casablanca Dakhla of trainer	989,4	1	989,4	94,98
	Return ticket Airfare Casablanca Layoun of trainer	1 306,40	1	1306,4	125,41
	Trainer fees (including accommodation, food and transport from Casablanca to Rabat)	2200	9	19800	1900,8
	workshops (lunches, venue, boats, others)	14210	1	14210	1364,16
A1	Travel to sites (n=7)	4670	1	4670	448,32
A2	Writing, translation, printing documents	0	1	0	0
	Telescopes	5000	2	10000	960
A3	Binoculars	1000	6	6000	576
A4	Distribution of WSFI field guide	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>			<b>56975,8</b>	<b>5469,6768</b>

Annex I

Liste des participants à la formation "Building capacities of local associations in the Atlantic Moroccan Sahara in waterbirds identification and monitoring"

Lieu : Lagune de Khnifiss

23-24 Janvier 2017

Nom et Prénom	contact	émargement
SIKU LATIFA	laty.jb@gmail.com 06 77 69 20 35	
BENHARAL Abdelkhal	0661911140	
Boudaya Soud	0611015127	
EDMUND Elhanan	0618446421	
Aama Mohamed	0662351690	
SALMOUAYCHE	0638066612	
SALEKDABZI	0604934222	
MEDCHASSAN AYACH	0698974777	
MOHAMED AYACH	0601205777	
JIB MADEN	0668223990	
JRAYFE ARDLAALA	0655900572	
MAMMOUD AYACH	0634838302	
MAHJOB	0603141950	
ALIBALBA	0606671658	
LEBID AYACH	0600643560	
Mohamed AYACH	0600468218	
Elguenimel mahjoub	0626002768	
Aboussa ANDI	06-36-46-31-30	



Annex II

Liste des participants à la formation "Building capacities of local associations in the Atlantic Moroccan Sahara in waterbirds identification and monitoring"

Lieu : Dakhla

26-27 Janvier 2017

Nom et Prénom	contact	émargement
LAFDIL SCHAIRE	0662590554	
EL MARISS HAYA	0670800841	
MOHAMED BENTHODJ	0662594444	
Alefale ELHaj	0678257411	
ELhamri Mustapha	0676193679	
SALKA HO RMATEAMH	0677367885	
Mediani Mohamed	0672126305	
ELJAFFALI Blissane	0661804495	
SAM LELIM <sup>Ben</sup>	0661308785	
MORAD MOHAMED LANEZ	0662495267	
MUHAMMED LANEZ SAFSAR	0678751712	
ELMAXKI Sid Ahmed	0661829971	

## Annex III





### Annex III (Bis)



#### Attestation

Je soussigné Mr. Salek Aouissa, Président de l'Association Khnifiss, que Pr. Sidi Imad Cherkaoui, de l'Ecole Supérieure de Technologie de Khénifra (Université Moulay Ismail), a dispensé une formation dans l'identification et les techniques de suivi des oiseaux d'eau du 23 au 25 janvier 2017 dans la lagune de Na'ila (Khnifiss) au profit des membres de notre association.

Cette formation qui a été financée par le Secrétariat de Waddensea entre dans le cadre du projet « *Building capacities of local associations in the Atlantic Moroccan Sahara in waterbirds identification and monitoring* »

Cette attestation lui a été délivrée à sa demande pour valoir et servir ce que de droit.

Fait Akhfennir (Parc National de Khnifiss), le 25/01/2017

Signée : Mr. Salek Aouissa

Président de l'Association

  
Réseau Association  
Khnifiss  
Président : AOUISSA Salek  
Tél : 06 67 72 66 38



## Annex IV

janv-17	9h -10h	10h-11h	11h-12h	12h-12h30	12h30-14h	14h-15H	15h-16h	16h-17h	17h-18h	18h ---
22 Dimanche				Voyage de Rabat à Casablanca			Casablanca -Laayoun			Layoun - Akhfennir (Khnifiss)
	Enregistrement Tour de table Introductions/ programme	Les Zones humides et oiseaux d'eau (OE) Directives suivi zones humides et OE	Aproche voie de migration: initiative Wadden Sea, WI, AEWA et Ramsar	Questions/débats	Pause-déjeuner	Identification, comptage et suivi des oiseaux d'eau au Maroc	Utilisation du matériel optique (Jumelles et telescope) et Guide d'identification d'oiseaux			
23 Lundi	Plan de la journée	Observation des oiseaux dans la <b>Lagune de Khnifiss</b> : Identification, Recensement et description des parametres du mileu Prise de potos des espèces			Pause-déjeuner	<b>Exercices:</b> Identification des Oiseaux photographiés Utilisation du formulaire	Evaluation Besoin en matériel Engagement pour le suivi des Oiseaux d'eau			
	Recensement hivernal des Oiseaux d'eau dans les zones humides du Maroc Sud Atlantiques - Pointe d'Awfist - Zones Humides de Laayoune - Oued Amma Fatma - Oued Chbeyka							Départ de Laayoun à Dakhla		
25 Mercredi	Enregistrement Tour de table Introductions/ programme	Les Zones humides et oiseaux d'eau (OE) Directives suivi zones humides et OE	Aproche voie de migration: initiative Wadden Sea, WI, AEWA et Ramsar	Questions/débats	Pause-déjeuner	Identification, comptage et suivi des oiseaux d'eau au Maroc	Utilisation du matériel optique (Jumelles et telescope) et Guide d'identification d'oiseaux			
	Plan de la journée	Observation des oiseaux dans la <b>Baie de Dakhla</b> : Identification, Recensement et description des parametres du mileu Prise de potos des espèces			Pause-déjeuner	<b>Exercices:</b> identification des Oiseaux photographiés Utilisation du formulaire	Evaluation Besoin en matériel Engagement pour le suivi des Oiseaux d'eau			
26 Jeudi	Dakhla - Rabat									
27 Vendredi										
28 Samedi										