



Building capacities of local associations in the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara in waterbird identification, monitoring and wetlands threats management– Phase III

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Participants and members of
**Association Aicha pour le
développement de proximité et
environnement and Réseau Khnifiss**
at Guelmim Oued Noun Province.



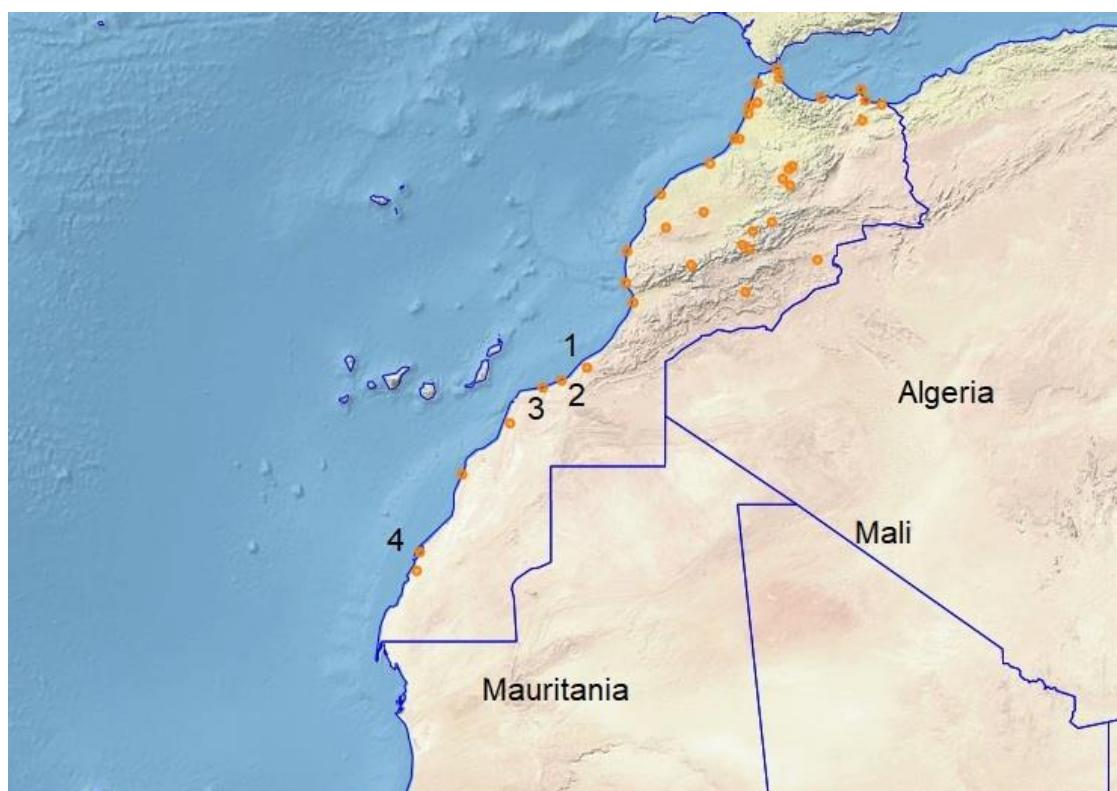
Participants and members of
**Association jeunes Trok pour la
protection du Golf Oued
Eddahab at Dakhla**

I. Results

R1. Two groups belonging to 3 NGOs representing local Associations trained in Waterbirds ID, monitoring and wetland threats management

With the financial support of the WSFI, two trainings on the identification, monitoring of waterbirds and wetlands threats were organized from 15 to 30 of January 2022 in the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara for the benefit of three local NGOs: **Association Aicha/ Réseau Association Khnifiss and Association des Jeunes de Troik pour la protection du Golf de Oued Eddahab** respectively based in Guelmim-Oued Noun and Dakhla.

Two of targeted NGOs are part of the **AMCDD** (*Alliance Marocaine pour le Climat et le Développement Durable*) and are leading local civil societies in the Sahara and advocate for the protection of Saharan Biodiversity and natural areas including the Ramsar sites of [Dr'a Estuary \(1\)](#), the [estuaries complex of Oued Chbeyka and Wa'er \(2\)](#), [Khnifiss Lagoon \(3\)](#), as well as the [Dakhla Golf \(4\)](#). (See map below)





All the four Ramsar sites are considered Saharan wetlands with Macaronesian bio-climate (Dakki, 2022) and also listed as Important Bird Area -IBA (Magin, 1995) and SIBE- Site d'Intérêt Biologique et écologique according to Moroccan Protected Areas Master Plan (BCEOM-SECA,1995). Also they are all occurring along the East-Atlantic flyway and attract hundred thousand of waterbirds each winter and throughout the year.

The first training took place at Oumifiss village at Aicha Association headquarter near Oued Noun wetland ([29.007624910871485, -10.240896764874135](https://www.google.com/maps/place/29.007624910871485,-10.240896764874135)) while the second training took place the Dakhla city and near its Lagoon ([23.876817449235443, -15.792997830478663](https://www.google.com/maps/place/23.876817449235443,-15.792997830478663)). Oued Noun is not designated as Ramsar site nor IBA and so far was never covered by the IWC since its launch about 40 years ago in Morocco. The beneficiaries were mainly university students, undergraduate teachers, site managers and / or voluntary members of the local NGOs. (see list of participants Annexes I and II).



In total, 12 participants attended the training in Oumfiss-Guelmim including one representative of the Moroccan wildlife conservation authorities namely the *Agence des Eaux et Forêts* and 10 participants in Dakhla, making the total beneficiaries 22 individuals (it could be a larger number) demonstrating the strong

interest of the civil society in wetlands and bird conservation locally despite the sanitary measures imposed by Moroccan health authorities due to Covid-19 pandemic and its variant Omicron. Nevertheless, more than 30 teenagers have actively participated in a cleaning campaign of the Dakhla lagoon from the solid waste organized by the association Troik right after the fieldwork.



The trained associations are recognizing the importance of maintaining a regular monitoring of the birds at the level of these key wetlands as well as in all the wetlands of the Moroccan Atlantic Sahara region which represents a key stopover area for huge numbers of migratory waterbirds using the East Atlantic Flyway. As a result, they are committed to contributing to the winter censuses of waterbirds next winters in accordance with national and international guidelines. They have expressed their strong acknowledgements to wadden Sea Secretariat for providing them with the opportunity to be trained in bird identification and initiated in waterbird counting methods.





Furthermore, they have committed to advocate for wetlands protection and threat mitigation.

Four participants from previous training of 2017 and 2018 have attended this third phase session to demonstrate their learning and how they use it to perform waterbird censuses and wetland surveys during previous years in their respective regions. The trainings were carried out according to the programs in Annex III.

R2. Presentations on waterbird and wetland monitoring developed in Arabic

All the courses documents were developed and presented in Arabic. All these documents were marked with the Waddesea secretariat's logo. As previously recommended during the former trainings, I have used the following reference as well (Hecker N., 2012. Identification et comptage des oiseaux d'eau en Afrique : Des outils pour le formateur – Nord de l'Afrique. ONCFS, Hirundo-FT2E, France).

R3. 6 Binoculars distributed

6 binoculars were purchased and will be offered to two NGO.

R.4 A supplementary set of 40 illustrated (WSFI) guides of waterbirds were disseminated to the 3 NGOs, and the use of the guide was well understood.

II. Communication and visibility

The two training activities were covered by local media social media (see links below).

All photos of the trainings are sent in a separate file (Annex 3).

Also here below some links to the FB pages of the two associations with regard to training activities

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=970895577158802&set=a.357538421827857>

<https://www.facebook.com/oumifiss.aichaasso.1>



<https://www.facebook.com/%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%83-%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%AC-%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%87%D8%A8-AJTp-lagune-dakhla-201437323232427/photos/pcb.4869272856448827/4869271903115589>

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=789590801663240&external_log_id=b5b60165-7dea-45d9-973e-14ca63243bf3&q=%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8%20%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%83%20%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%AC%20%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%87%D8%A8%20a.j.t.p%20lagune%20dakhla

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=264346649104352&external_log_id=b5b60165-7dea-45d9-973e-14ca63243bf3&q=%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8%20%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%83%20%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%AC%20%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%87%D8%A8%20a.j.t.p%20lagune%20dakhla

III. Waterbird census

Waterbird censuses were carried out at 5 different wetlands and results were sent to IWC coordinator in Morocco Pr. Mohamed Dakki (dakki@israbat.ac.ma)

Significant numbers of waterbirds were counted during the survey in Oued Noun-from Oumifiss village to the estuary which qualifies this wetland to become Important Bird Area (Presence of **433 Marbled Teal** (*Marmaronetta*

angustirostris) - VU, Common scooters (*Melanitta nigra*) - LC, Audouin's gull (*Ichthyaetus audouinii*), Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) - NT, 8500 bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) – NT, ..) and Ramsar Site in the future since it verifies several criterions:

- ✓ Criterion 1—Representative, rare or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region
- ✓ Criterion 2—Supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities



Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

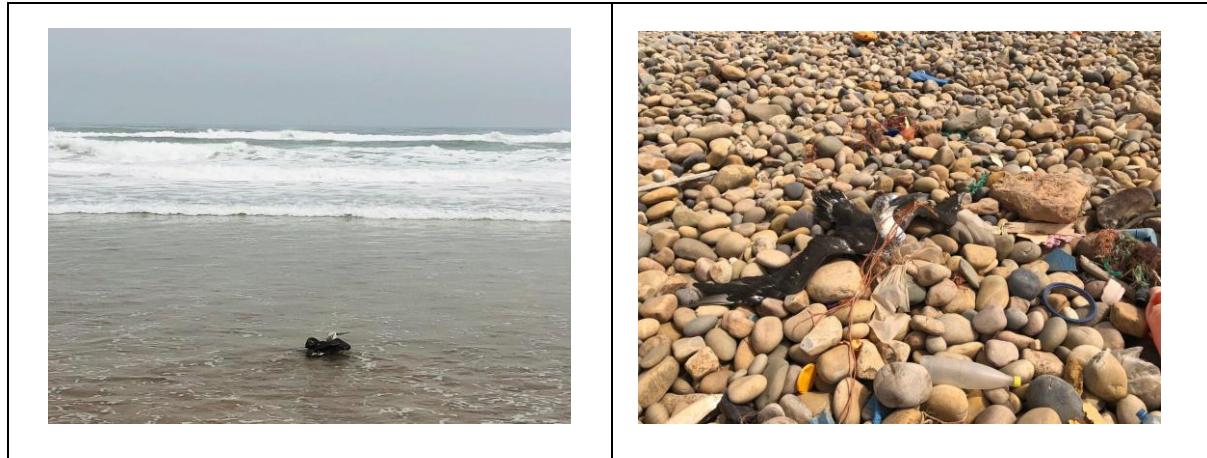


12 Duck species in Dakhla Lagoon



Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Also, I would like to point out that the association has saved a Northern Gannet (*Sula bassana*) caught in fishing nets and which was found in the beach of Oued Dra'a during the visit to the wetland for bird census. This action even small but has left a great sympathisation in the local community.



IV. Recommandations

In the light of the preliminary results about the significant importance of Oued Noun-Oumfiss Wetland, it has been decided to prepare a technical factsheet based on Ramsar's template in order to be submitted to Moroccan wildlife authorities (Agence des Eaux et Forêts) and Ramsar National Focal Point.

Also the National Alliance for Wetlands has decided to help advocating for the protection of Oued-Noun Oumfiss and for its designation at Ramsar Site. Support of WSFI will be highly appreciated in order to reveal the international character of those wetlands and the role of building capacities in waterbird monitoring along the East-Atlantic flyways.

V. Financial report

For some expenses that were impossible to justify by receipts/invoices, thus I have involved the “Association Nature Solutions” to manage these expenses and therefore it has covered the workshop fees in Dakhla (venues, food, some participant accommodations) plus travel to sites including car rental plus Association Aïch in Oumfiss. The two NGO's has charged 10% for management and delivered VAT-included invoices.

Activities	Item (MAD)	Number	Total	(€)
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			(MAD)	1 €= 10,3 MAD
A1	Return ticket Airfare Casablanca Guelmim of trainer	1635,37	1	1635,37 159
	Return ticket Airfare Casablanca Dakhla of trainer	2002	1	2002 194
	Trainer fees (including accommodation, food and transport from Casablanca to Rabat)	2 060	9	18 540 1800
	workshops (lunches, venue, others)	2150+4100 =6250	1	6250 607
	Travel to sites – Van rental	1500	2	3000 291
	Travel to sites – Fuel	495+430+475		1400 136
A2	Writing, translation, printing documents	0		0
A3	Binoculars	1200	6	7200 699
A4	Distribution of WSFI field guide	0	0	0 0
A5	Overhead	1175	1	1175 114
	Total			41 202,37 4000



Annex I

ر.ت	الاسم الكامل	الهيئة / الجمعية	الهاتف	البريد الإلكتروني	التوقع
.1	السيد سوليتنا	المؤسسة الخيرية لتحقيق المطردة	0670377768	0Mbde@gmail.com	
.2	العيب الكوني	سيدي ماضي	0662288935	Lhabib.Ka@gmail.com	
.3	طيس يتم	جمعية الوراث	0661455948	zaouiaelhabib@gmail.com	
.4	اتھو ياتوزير	مکانیق ترجمولالشة وادیتیه ایام خداوند	0661105197 0662316615	Lehler@Gmail.com	
.5	ساهر ناجيہ	جامعة انسا	0618533084	najih.omer@gmail.com	
.6	إسماعيل بوحسينا	AESVT Guelma	06.22.14.20.45	Smail.taghjig@gmail.com	
.7	محفوظ بولفاج	المجهة الصرافية للسنة والتنمية طرابلس	0613279341	asedassociation@yahoo.fr	
.8	دوعي ذبيح	معبة ٩ هنري	0671621408		
.9	عويس اساك	دعاة خنيس	0667726638	ouissa.alek@gmail.com	
.10	عويس عالي بن اود	دعاة خنيس	0666939857	ounifxsl@Hotmail.com	
.11	لحاج كسب	دعاة خنيس	0677600615		
.12	عكا السرعاد		0662383331	imad.chekrou@gmail.com	
.13					
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.17					
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[Date] 1



Annex II

الهاتف	البريد الإلكتروني	الاسم	الوظيفة	لهمات	البريد الإلكتروني	الاسم	الوظيفة	لهمات الكامل
0661783787	bilalsabir@gmail.com	مسعود ابي احمد الدكتور احمد الجعفرى الجعفرى الجعفرى	مساعد المدير مساعد المدير مساعد المدير مساعد المدير	0661964776 bilalsabir@gmail.com	0661964776 bilalsabir@gmail.com	مساعد المدير مساعد المدير مساعد المدير مساعد المدير	مساعد المدير مساعد المدير مساعد المدير مساعد المدير	حصة ١ ٣
0666460312	meshaneldaphot@gmail.com	سنت العين ادارة ادارة الادارة الادارة	مدير المخابرات مدير المخابرات مدير المخابرات مدير المخابرات	0661720316 DAHIDAKHLAGD@GMAIL.COM	0661720316 DAHIDAKHLAGD@GMAIL.COM	نائب مدير	نائب مدير	مريح عبد الوود
0661569753	ELFIZZARINOREDBIVE@gmail.com	رئيسي جمعية الجمعية الجمعية	دورات الفرق	0623997391 outmashabat@gmail.com	0623997391 outmashabat@gmail.com	نائب العام موري شباب نوري شباب	نائب العام موري شباب	عناء حبات
				0635755003 b6-pro@Hotmail.fr	0635755003 b6-pro@Hotmail.fr	نائب رئيس جمعية شباب شترك اد	نائب رئيس جمعية شباب شترك اد	صياد بو سليم
				0666127748	—	نائب مدير	نائب مدير	الحادي صهود

Annex III

Photos and videos of the trainings



Annex IV – Training Programme

	janv-17 9h -10h	10h-11h	11h-12h	12h-12h30	12h30-14h	14h-15H	15h-16h	16h-17h	17h-18h	18h ---
14 Friday					Voyage de Rabat à Casablanca			Casablanca -Laayoun		Layoun - Akhfennir (Khnifiss)
15 Saturday	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	Evaluation des menaces 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		
16 Sunday	Plan de la journée	Observation des oiseaux à Oued Chbayka : Identification, Recensement et description des paramètres du milieu Prise de poto des espèces			Pause-déjeuner	Exercices: Identification des Oiseaux photographiés Utilisation du formulaire		Evaluation Besoin en matériel Engagement pour le suivi des Oiseaux		
24 Friday	Recesement hivernal des Oiseaux d'eau dans les zones humides du Maroc Sud Atlantiques - Emboucure de l'Wad waer et Dra'a - Lagune de Knifiss - Oued Amma Fatma - Oued Chbeyka							Départ de Tan-Tan à Dakhla		
25 Saturday	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	Evaluation des menaces 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		
26 Sunday	Plan de la journée	Observation des oiseaux dans la Baie de Dakhla et Baie de Cintra : Identification, Recensement et description des paramètres du milieu Prise de poto des espèces			Pause-déjeuner	Exercices: identification des Oiseaux photographiés Utilisation du formulaire		Evaluation Besoin en matériel Engagement pour le suivi des Oiseaux		
28 Samedi	Dakhla - Rabat									

Workshop/theoretical part

Fiedwork/IWC

Trainer's trip