

OFF YOUR MAP

Why Wetlands matter, in a context of climate change

Marianne Courouble, Policy Officer, MedWet

Rabat, 16 décembre 2019



What is a wetland ?

A **wetland** is a place where the land is covered by water, either salt, fresh or somewhere in between. Marshes and ponds, the edge of a lake or ocean, the delta at the mouth of a river, low-lying areas that frequently flood—all of these are **wetlands**.

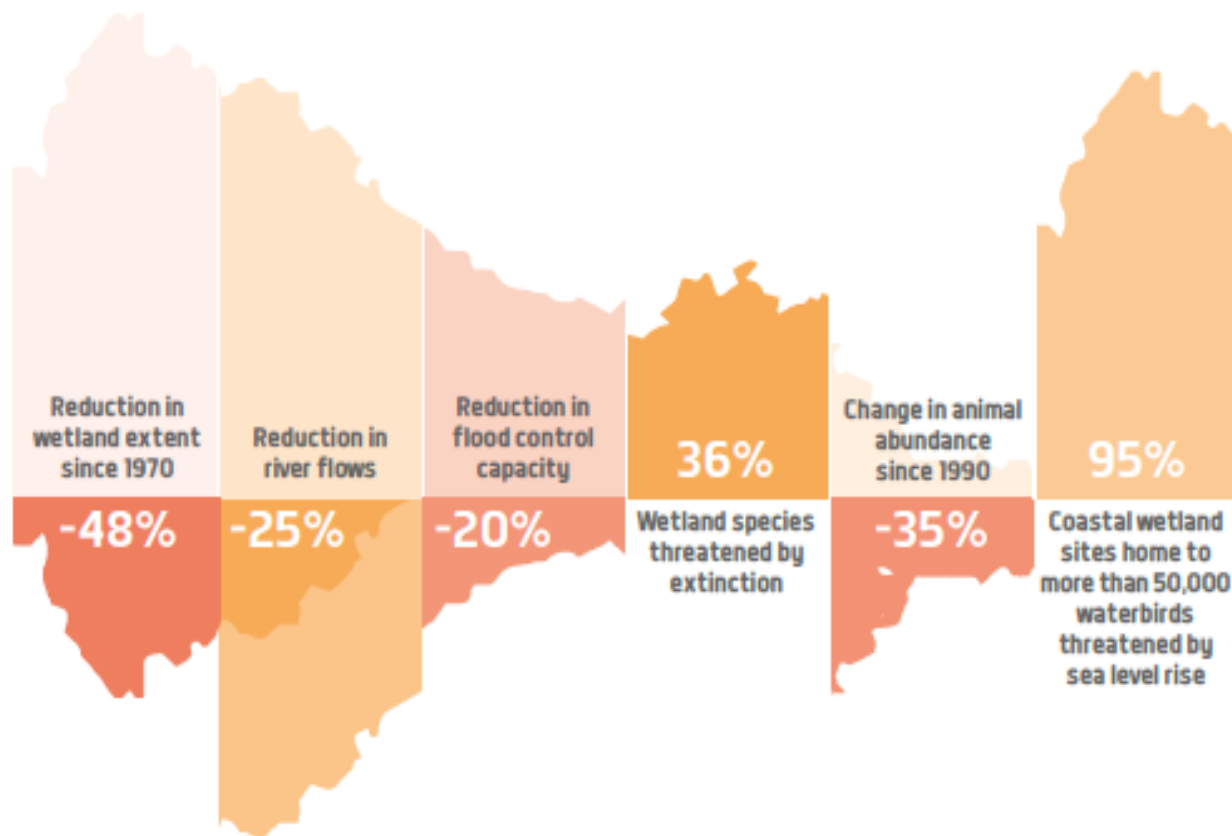


422 Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance) in the Mediterranean today



What is the state of Mediterranean wetlands ?

(MWO, 2019)



OFF
YOUR
MAP

Life
begins in
wetlands

85 scientists from 20 countries of the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) present:

1st SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ABOUT CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

FOOD SECURITY

Food demand is set to increase as yields of crops, fish and livestock decline

90% of commercial fish stocks are already overfished, with the average maximum body weight of fish expected to shrink by up to **half by 2050**

WATER RESOURCES

Within 20 years, **250+ million people** will be classified as 'water-poor'

Fresh water availability is to **decrease by up to 15%** among the largest decreases in the world

SEA LEVEL

Sea level rises may exceed 1 metre by 2100, impacting **1/3 OF THE REGION'S** population

Half of the 20 global cities set to suffer most from **sea level rises by 2050** are in the Mediterranean

ECOSYSTEMS

The Mediterranean basin is **ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT hotspots of climate and environmental change**

700+ non-indigenous animal species recorded due to warmer conditions

Increasing water acidification causes **mass deaths of marine species**

Mega fires have destroyed record areas of forest due to climate change

The Mediterranean REGION IS WARMING **20% faster** than the global average

Regional temperature increase of

→ **2.2°C**

by 2040 with current policies

→ Paris Agreement's target of 1.5°C

HEALTH AND SECURITY

Increase in **frequency, intensity and duration** of **HEAT WAVES** imply significant **health risks** for vulnerable populations, especially in cities

Increasing frequency in droughts since the 1950s has played a **significant role in the current regional crisis**

Conflicts concerning limited natural resources may **increase** large-scale human migrations

MedECC
Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change

Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

UN
environment
United Nations
Environment Programme

Mediterranean Action Plan
Mediterranean Council

Plan Bleu

OFF
YOUR
MAP

Life
begins in
wetlands

Wetlands as nature-based solutions to reduce climate change impacts

