OFF YOUR MAP
Why Wetlands matter, in a context of climate change

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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)
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
Wetlands as nature-based solutions to reduce climate change impacts