



**Libyan national report
For
Regional meeting on the implementation of the Ramsar
Convention in the Arab region**

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Introduction : ○

From a rapid look at the map of Libya, it appears a very dry country with very limited rainfall on the coastal strip, whilst many oases are scattered on the yellowish brown desert that comprises almost the whole country. But at a closer look, Libya is not that dry, many wetland types can be found from Sebkhass, wadis and dams, to the coastal lagoons and little islands, as well the huge man-made lakes of the Great Man-made River, a project considered by many in the present world as an extraordinary human innovation. ○



Types of wetlands:

- Costal lagoons (Farwa, Ain Azziana, Ain al Ghazala, Joluana).



Gulfs (Bumba bay).
Sebkhas (Sebkhet Sultan, sebkhet Almangoub)



- Wadis (Wadi kaam, Wadi Hamsa, Wadi Turghat, Wadi Zaret, Wadi Mjenen)



- Reservoirs and dams (tanks of Man-made River in Sirte and Ajdabiyah, Wadi Ghan dam, Wadi Mjenen).
- Islands (Farwa island, Gara island, Elba island).
- Fresh water springs (Taourgha spring, Hisha springs, Ain Tagnet, Ain Alshgega).



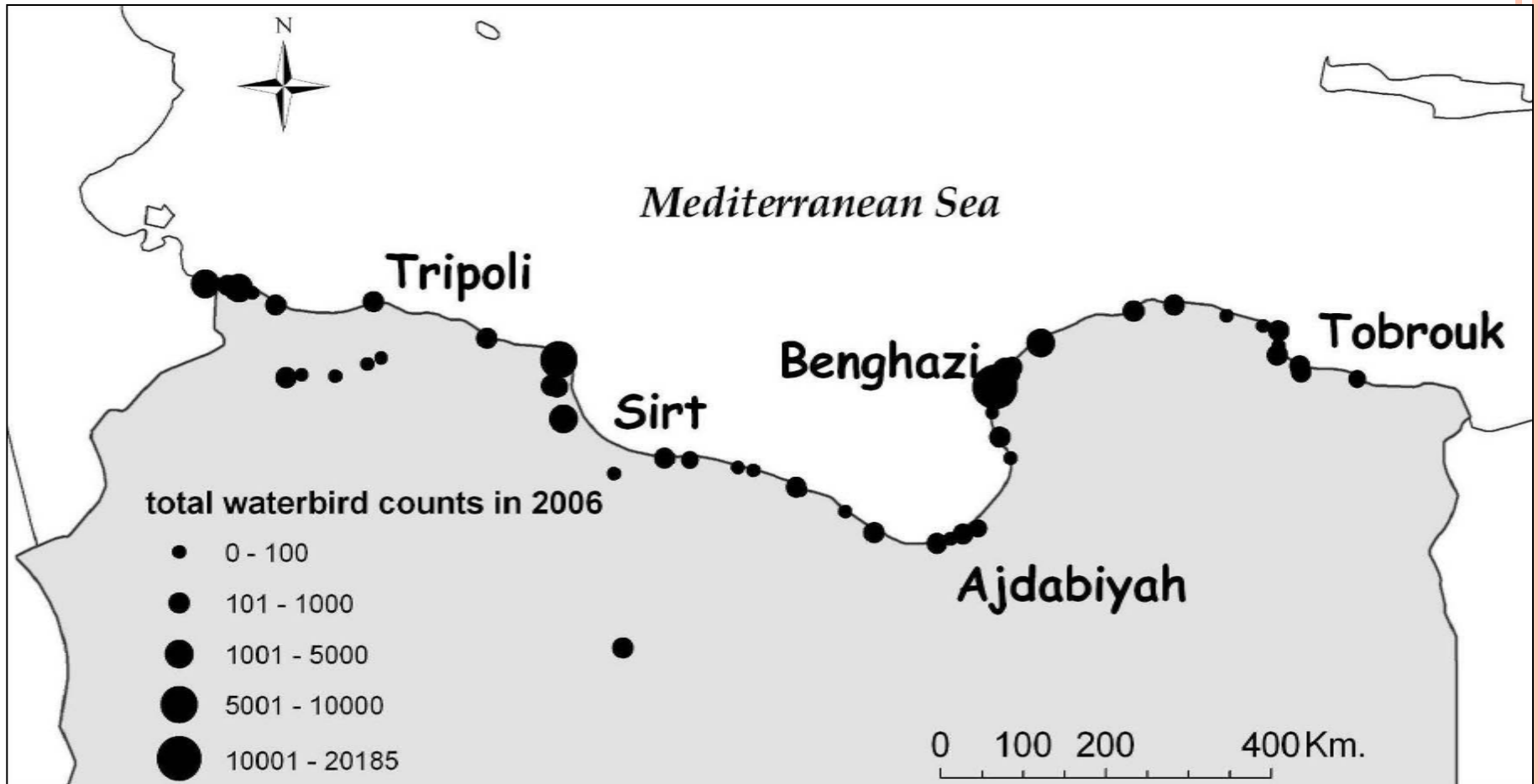


Fig.1. Map showing the distribution of Wetlands in the coastal area of Libya (after Azafzaf et al., 2007).

Value of wetlands for people, economy, biodiversity.

- For people:

- For the economy

- For biodiversity



The legislation in place to protect these wetlands.

Threats that wetlands face

- Hunting .
- Grazing.
- Pollution.
- Debris from construction materials.
- Disturbance to vegetation communities through cutting/ clearing.

Further work/assistance needed to protect these wetlands.

- Compile national-wide inventory according to Ramsar criteria (MedWet methodology) developed in the last ten years.
 - Setting up institutional framework for protection of wetlands, including the preparation of the national strategy for wetlands and the national legal framework.
 - Strengthening south/south collaboration (Pan Arab corporation), exchanging expertise with more advanced countries in the Arab region.
 - Increasing awareness at the level of decision-making and at the public level.
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| Site name | Crit. 1 | Crit. 2 | Crit. 3 | Crit. 4 | Crit. 5 | Crit. 6 | Crit. 7 | Crit. 8 | Crit.9 |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|--------|
| Farwa | Rare | | Yes | Winter birds | | | | Fish nursery | |
| Boukmesh | Rep. | | Yes | Winter birds | | Ph ros | | | |
| Mangoub | Rep. | L. aud | Yes | Winter birds | | | | | |
| Taourgha | Rare/Rep | L. aud M. ang Ay.nyr C. pall | Yes | Winter birds | | | | | |
| Sultan | Rep. | L. aud | Yes | Winter birds | | | | | |
| Kerkoura | Rep. | L. aud | Yes | Winter birds | | | | | |
| Benghazi | Rep. | Ay.nyr C. alex | Yes | Winter birds | | S. ben | | | |
| Kuz | Rep. | | Yes | Winter birds | | | | | |
| Ghara | Rep. | | Yes | Breed birds | | S. ben | | | |
| Bumbah | Rep. | | Yes | Winter birds | | S. ben | | | |
| Hajara | Rep. | Ay.nyr | Yes | Migrant birds | | | | | |

Table of proposed sites to be established as Ramsar sites
(Hamza et al.,2008)



Thank you for your
attention

