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International Meetings of Kénitra (Morocco) on Co-développement in Wetlands « 26-27-28 Septembre 2018 »

Statement of reasons :

Wetlands, spaces of transit between land and water, constitute a remarkable natural heritage. Because of their biological richness, they provide a large number of functions.

Today, these remarkable ecosystems are under threat: drainage, filling, overfishing and pollution have significantly reduced the surface area of wetlands or degraded the quality of water and habitats. The challenge is to stop their destruction and degradation while ensuring the maintenance of their essential social and economic functions, including their promotion and local territorial development. Achieving this delicate balance is what local authorities are committed to with the integrated management of wetlands.

Conscious and mobilized by the challenges of protecting wetlands, conservation actors are faced with **methodological issues that are essential** for designing a more sustainable management strategy for these areas. These issues relate to taking into account the **complexity** and **diversity** of natural environments, but also to **the integration of actors and policies** for the definition and implementation of innovative and viable approaches and devices.

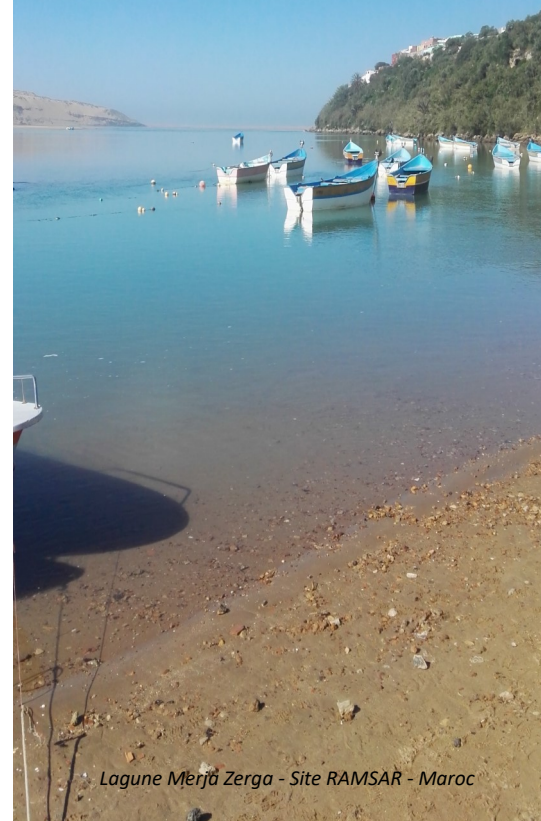
Beyond the commitments made by states, communities and associations, **the question of how to integrate the conservation** of these spaces, the dynamics of development of the territories in which they fit, **remains in the context of a necessary adaptation to climate change.**

How can these preservation concerns be more widely shared ? **How** can we really translate them into major actions that live up to the stakes ? **How to promote** integration at different levels: that of actors and users, that of politicians emanating from different scales and skills ? **How to succeed** to integrate more deeply the actors and the various users in the definition, the implementation and the management of these exceptional resources ? How can these conservation and management measures be enshrined and translated into local policies for planning and promoting / developing the spaces in which these wetlands fit into ?

All these questions could benefit from feedback from Partners and would be shared within the International Network "ALZYMA", which will be formally created at the Kénitra Seminar.

Prospects envisaged for "ALZYMA":

- ◆ First Meeting of Partners: from 26-27 et 28 september 2018 - Location: Morocco (Kénitra)
- ◆ Perspectives of work within the ALZYMA-Network: Topics ? Methodology ? Organization ?
- ◆ Actions Targets: EU Programs ? - Events: Forums ? COP ? RAMSAR ? Symposia ?
- ◆ Travel / missions on each of the Partner Sites: from the 1st semester 2019



Lagune Merja Zerga - Site RAMSAR - Maroc

The envisaged partners

<u>Morocco</u> : Merja Zerga Lagoon	1
<u>Tunisia</u> : Ghar El Melh Lagoon	2
<u>Iraq</u> : to decide / to define	3
<u>Spain</u> : to decide / to define	4
<u>France</u> : Bassin de l'Or	5
<u>Italy</u> : to decide / to define	6
<u>Lebanon</u> : to decide / to define	7
<u>Croatia</u> : to decide / to define	8
<u>Greece</u> : to decide / to define	9