



جمعية أحباء الطيور
Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"



Seabirds , Marine IBAs & Marine Protected Areas in Tunisia : Knowledge, conservation & gaps to fill

Claudia Feltrup-Azafzaf,

Association « Les Amis des Oiseaux » (AAO) / BirdLife in Tunisia

PROTECTING SEABIRDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: ADVANCING THE MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

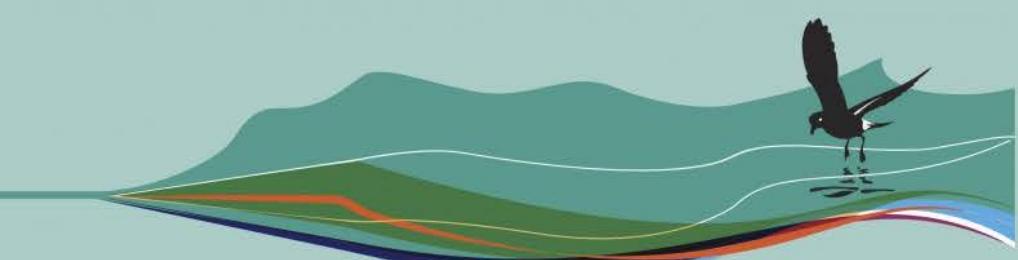
23RD - 25TH NOVEMBER 2015



MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



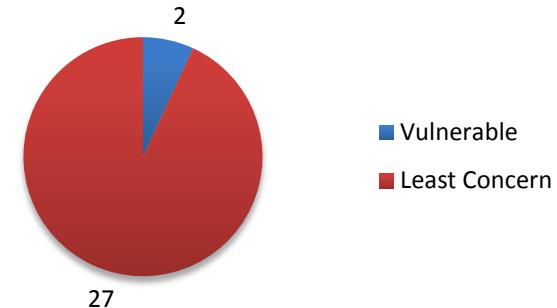
Partnership for
nature and people



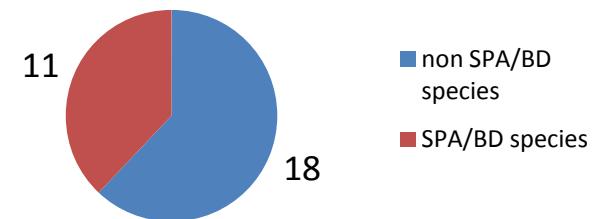
Seabirds in Tunisia – Species

N°	Species	Nom latin	SPA/BD Protocol Annex II species	Global Red List
01	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		LC
02	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		LC
03	Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	x	LC
04	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	x	VU
05	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		LC
06	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		LC
07	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	x	LC
08	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		LC
09	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		LC
10	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		LC
11	Great Skua	<i>Catharacta skua</i>		LC
12	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	x	LC
13	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>		LC
14	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		LC
15	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	x	LC
16	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	x	LC
17	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		LC
18	Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		LC
19	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		LC
20	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		LC
21	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		LC
22	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	x	LC
23	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	x	LC
24	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	x	LC
25	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	x	LC
26	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		LC
27	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	x	LC
28	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		LC
29	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		VU

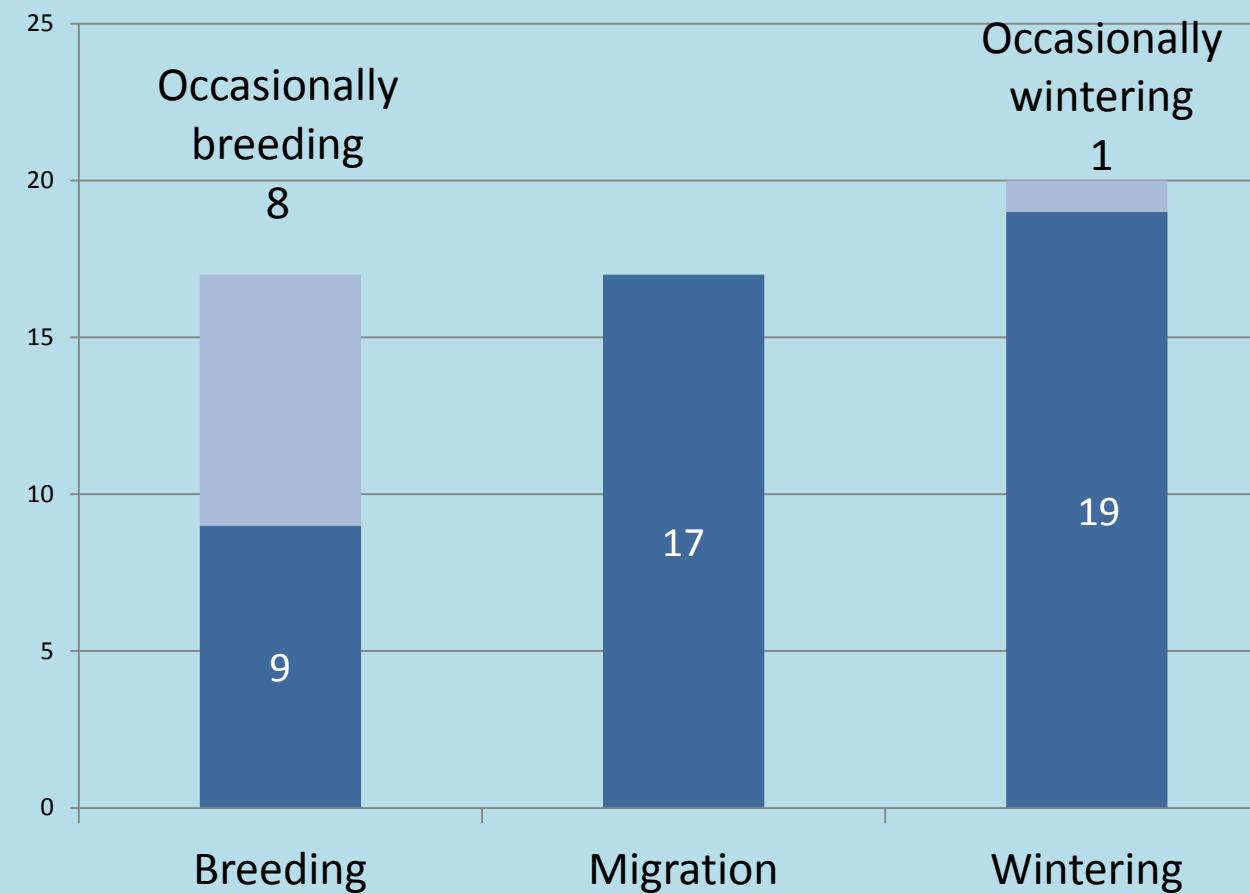
Global Redlist Category



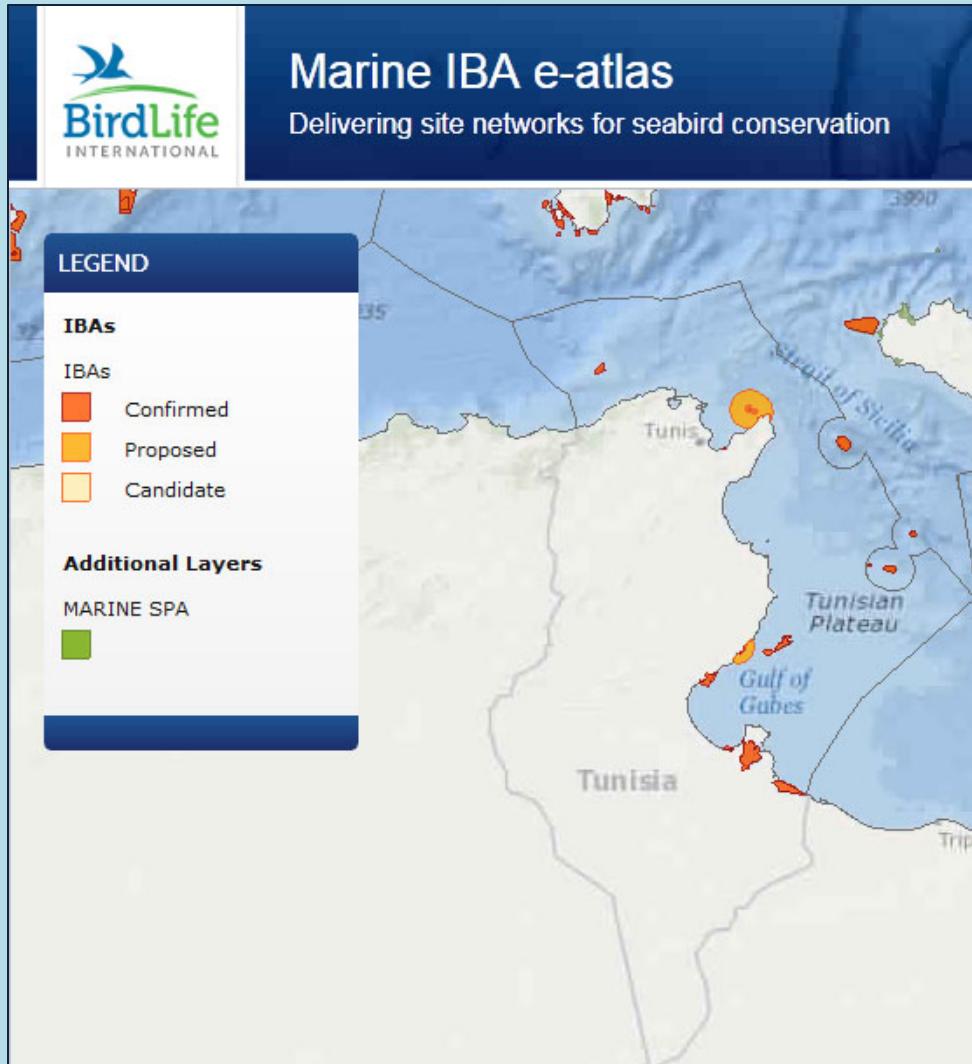
Species on Annexe II of the SPA/BD protocol



Seabirds in Tunisia - Status



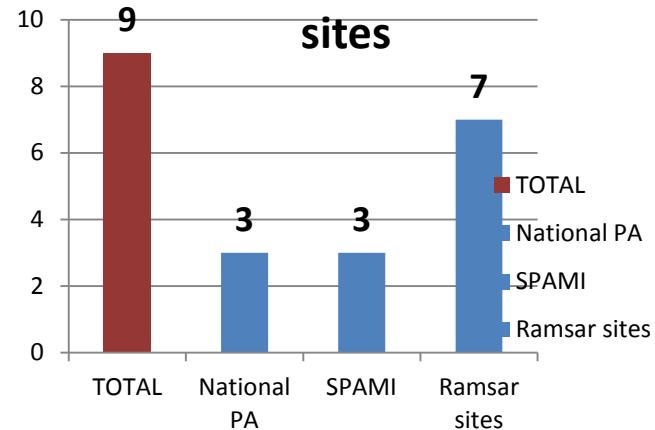
Marine IBAs in Tunisia



Marine IBAs and MPA Tunisia

IBA	IBA code	Area in ha	Importance for marin birds	National PA status	SPAMI	Ramsar site
Galite archipelago	TN001	700	Audouin's Gull	Nature Reserve	SPAMI	
Zembra and Zembretta Islands	TN003	391	Scopoli's Shearwater, Audouins Gull	National Park	SPAMI	
Soliman	TN011	600	Slender-billed Gull			Ramsar
Kerkennah islands	TN026	15000	Great Cormorant, Mediterranean Gull			Ramsar
Salines de Thyna	TN027	1900	Slender-billed Gull, Commun Tern, Caspian Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Great crested Grebe			Ramsar
Kneiss	TN032	5850	Slender-billed Gull	Nature Reserve	SPAMI	Ramsar
Gourine	TN037	2100	Great Cormorant			Ramsar
Boughrara	TN038	50000	Slender-billed Gull, Commun Tern, Caspian Tern			Ramsar
Bibane	TN044	23000	Great Cormorant, Sandwich Tern, Great crested Grebe			Ramsar

Number of Marine IBAs, NatPA, SPAMI & Ramsar sites



Threats



Fishery → food resources for birds, is thought to have an impact, but which ???

Bycatch → thought to be important, but how severe is it and where does it happen ???

- **Predators** → rats !!! feral cats ??? stray dogs !!! Yellow-legged gulls !!!

Pollution → water pollution and solid waste, particularly in the Gulf of Gabes & the Gulf of Tunis

- **Egg collection** → gulls and terns in the Gulf of Gabes and particularly in Salines de Thyna IBA and Kneiss Nature Reserve

Threats



Illegal Killing → Persecution of Great Cormorant (Great crested Grebe ???) in the Gulf of Gabes and particularly in El Bibane IBA & Illegal hunting in all coastal wetlands

Habitat degradation and disturbance → thought to impact more severely the breeding populations

Size, capacity and coordination of existing monitoring networks → few trained field observers of « truly » marine birds, missing links between research and monitoring networks, missing links between marine bird and waterbird monitoring and conservation programmes , etc.

Responses

Bycatch → New research project underway : « Trophic Ecology and Impacts of Bycatch on the Avifauna communities of Zembra Archipelago – TRIBAL » ...*poster at the poster session (INAT)*

Predators → rats eradication projects with multi-stakeholder approach underway on Zembretta (since 2009) and Kuriat Island (since 2015) (APAL, Conservatoire du Littoral/PIM, APNES, NGB, etc.)

Pollution → Many solid waste cleaning campaigns carried out on islands and in coastal wetlands, awareness raising campaigns in different sites, coordination with local authorities for black spot leverage (national and local NGOs with support by local authorities, APAL, citizen initiatives, etc.)



Responses

Egg collection & Persecution →

2014/2015 Study on Illegal Bird Killing (BLI & AAO), development of monitoring protocole (AAO), awareness raising (AAO, AZHST)

Size, capacity and coordination of existing monitoring networks → some bilateral collaboration (all), some research and survey projects with multi-stakeholder approach (Conservatoire du Littoral/PIM, APAL, RAC/SPA, INAT, AAO, etc.), development of training materials (ONCFS & GREPOM) and bird identification guide in Arabic (ONCFS & AAO)



Things to do

Up-dating Marine IBA inventory → new population size, etc.

Make Marine IBAs inventory even more attractive/useful for national stakeholders → adding information on other bird species than those leading to designation, language

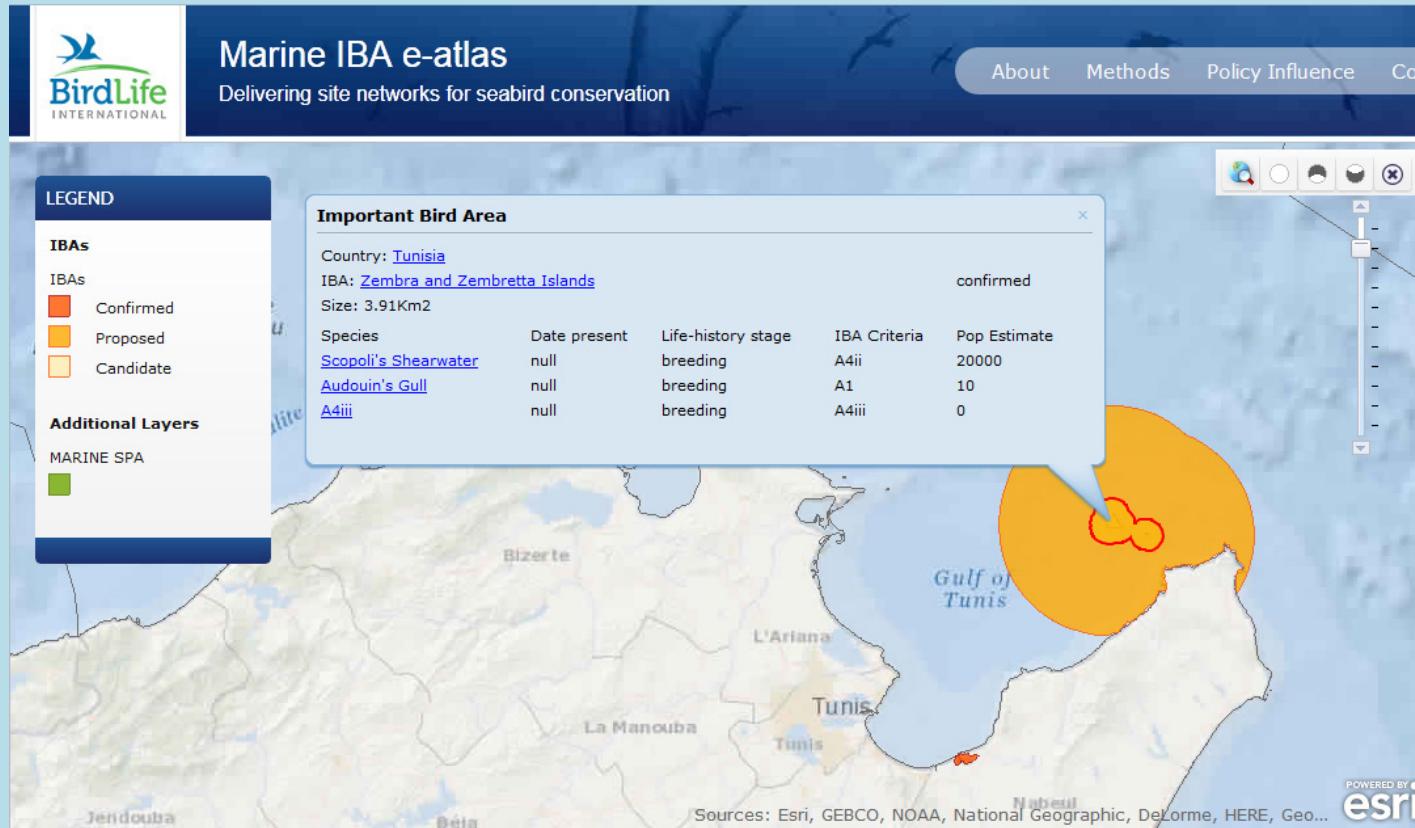
Establish better links between different programs/database/inventories such as Seabirds and Waterbirds → add waterbird data for coastal Marine IBAs

Use existing field observer networks more effectively → develop & provide common monitoring protocols, training & data exchange platform...*some documents and tollkits may exist, but it is often a matter of language*

Ensure better coordination, collaboration and exchange between national stakeholders → permanent committee, national workshops



Things to do – update Marine IBA inventory



Updating information:

New population estimates : P. Defos du Rau, K. Bourgeois, M. Thévenet, L. Ruffino, S. Dromzée, R. Ouni, A. Abiad, R. Estève, et al. (2015): Zembra breeding population of Scopoli's Shearwater estimated to be 141,780 pairs

Things to do – better national coordination

- **DGF** (General Directorate of Forests/MA)
- **DGP** (General Directory of Fishery/MA)
- **APAL** (coastal protection and development agency/MEDD)
- **INSTM**
- **INAT**
- **National and local NGOs** (AAO, APNES, ATDPA, NGB , AZHST etc.)
- **Private sector** (COTUSAL, fisheries, etc.)
- **Conservatoire du Littoral** (PIM – small islands initiative)
- **RAC/SPA**
- **WWF**
- **etc.**

Better information, exchange & coordination:
Creation of a National Task Force or
Consultative Committee



Things to do

More research → feeding areas, impact of fishing & bycatch, impact of water pollution, species breeding on the Tunisian coast, invasive species and predators, etc.

More monitoring → all (Marine) IBAs, SPAMIs & Ramsar sites, illegal killing, pollution

Gather more & better data on fishing → fixed fisheries in coastal wetlands, fishing in the Gulf of Gabes and around the SPAMIs

Raise awarness → local population, fisherman, law enforcement bodies, decision makers, etc.

Develop LCG network → especially for the the Gulf of Gabes



Things to do

Advocate for better conservation → for budgets dedicated to research, protection and management in MPA, for management plans, for law enforcement, etc.

More transboundary approach to research, monitoring and conservation → seabirds breeding in Malta and Italy regularly visiting the Tunisian waters and coast

Engage more with RAC/SPA and Barcelona Convention
→ Tunisian stakeholders have been benefitting a lot from RAC/SPA support already, but there is probably more to do, clearly RAC/SPA could support any regional program of work with regard to research, capacity building, management plans, species action plans, etc.



Credits

- Photos: Hichem Azafzaf, Mahdi Abdelly (Soliman), Naoufel Hammouda (Bibane), Claudia Feltrup-Azafzaf (awareness- raising, monitoring)
- Maps on Marine IBAs: Marine IBAs e-atlas (<http://maps.birdlife.org/marineIBAs/default.html>)

