

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

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

23<sup>RD</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015



Partnership for  
nature and people

## Seabird Status & Priorities for Libya

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# Breeding Seabirds in Libya

## 1. Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

99% of Med breeding population in 3-4 sites. Non protected yet.

## 2. Common Tern *Sterna hisundo*:

Small colony of 70 pairs at Farwa island.

## 3. Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*.

Scattered breeding along the coast + Elba and Jeliana with LCT colonies.

## 4. Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

A single record from Farwa island, needs confirmation)

## 5. Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans michahellis*

Several small spring colonies at Gara and Elba, possibly at other small islands and rocky outcrops.

## 5. European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*

Two small colonies at Gara and Bardaa islands.

# Wintering Seabirds in Libya

IWC data (2005-2010):

15-22 species winters in coastal area (EGA-RAC/SPA-WCT, 2012). Some over 1,000 individuals:

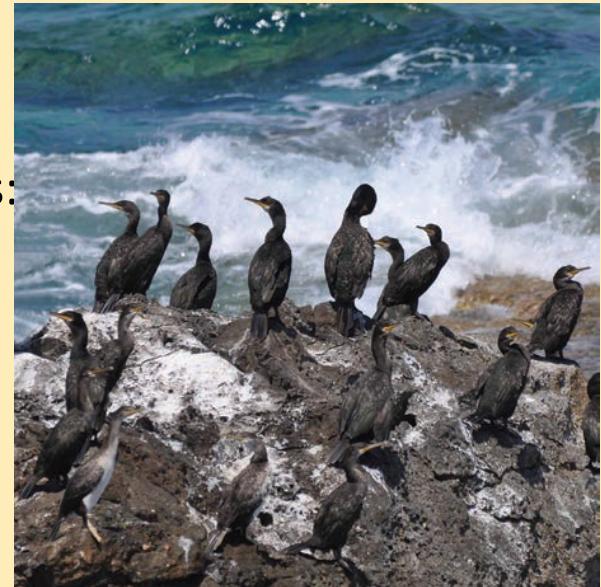
- Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*
- Black-headed *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*,
- Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*,
- Lesser Black-backed *Larus fuscus*
- Yellow-legged *L. Michahellis*
- Caspian Gulls *L. cachinnans*.

- Audouin's Gulls *L. audouinii* in good numbers, Greek breeding population?.

Other species were less encountered from coastal counts:

- Yelkouan Shearwater
- Northern Gannets





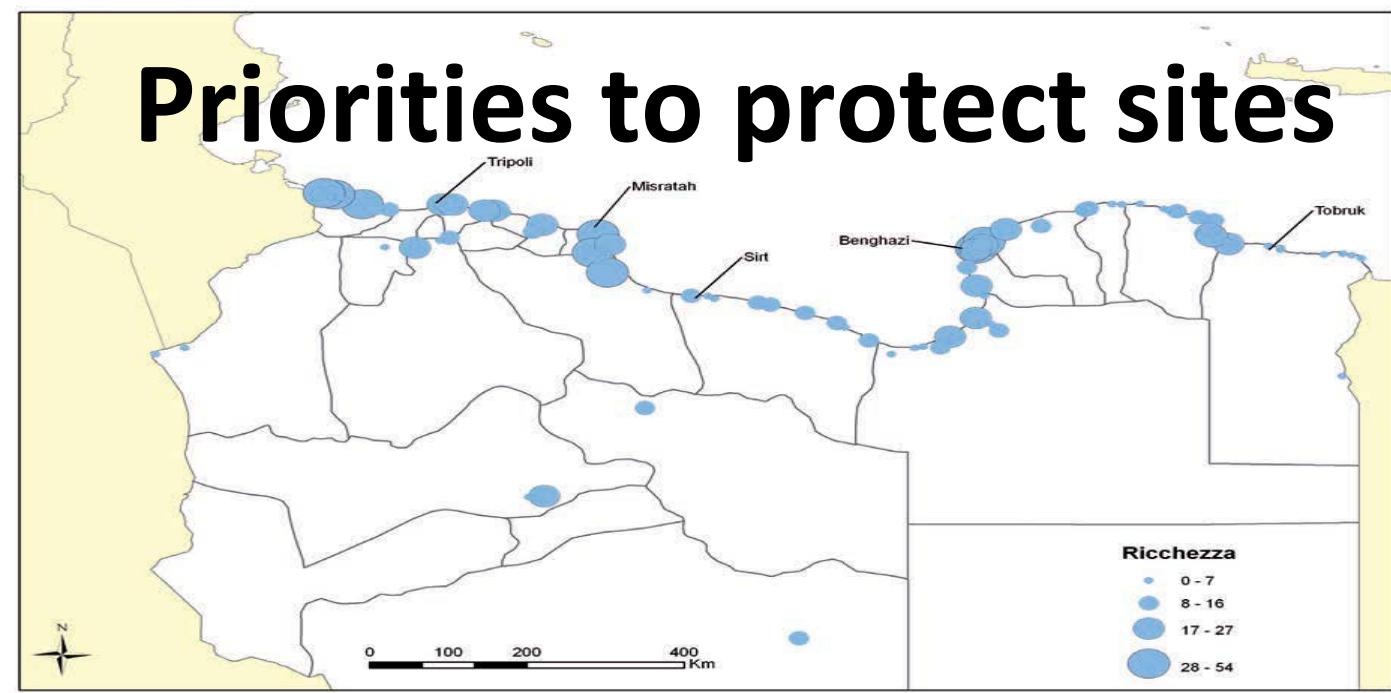
Photos credits:  
Atlas of wintering waterbirds of Libya

# Priorities to fill Knowledge Gaps

**Although not final, priorities include:**

1. Further study the foraging range of Lesser Crested Tern, using telemetry techniques, to delineate better protection boundaries around colonies.
2. Update the status of some breeding species population size (e.g. Little Tern).
3. Investigate species occurrence at pelagic waters (offshore) as almost nothing is known about diversity or distribution (apart from land based observations and the Malta project results).
4. Study the impact of fisheries –Bycatch- on pelagic seabird species, especially in the Northwest waters (opportunity of a Central Med joint project).

# Priorities to protect sites



1. Use the available data to establish a national network of IBAs along the coast and conduct surveys for Marine IBAs, with involvement of all stakeholders, using socioeconomic measures and awareness tools.
2. Update the legal protection framework to include islands, beaches for nesting species (seabirds, others).
3. Take effective measures to minimize disturbance at existing seabird colonies.



**A. Berbash**



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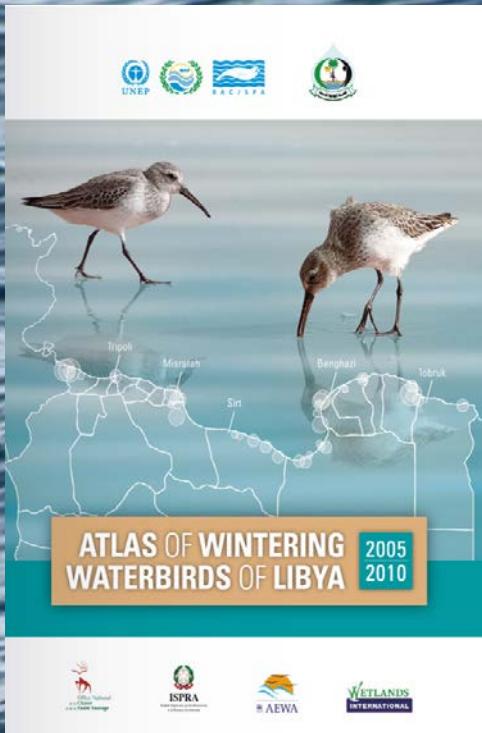


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Jointly we can make our seabird status better

Thank you

