

Algeria



The Great Sebkhia of Oran

The *Great Sebkhia of Oran*, is a RAMSAR salt lake basin located south of Oran within the *Oranie Chott Chergui* Hydrographic Basin. The Sebkhia is fed by an hydrographic network from both north (*Murdjadjo*) and south (*Tessala*).

The whole system (lake and catchment) is the heart of a problem linking **local development and ecological preservation**. While the plains have a great agricultural potential, north and south of the Sebkhia have experienced opposite types of development.

The **northern part** took advantage of the spreading and development of Oran and its industrial activity which is now in turn a source of major pollution: urban and industrial wastes which lead to an increasing salinization of the Sebkhia lake. The **southern part** remained unexploited in terms of infrastructures.

The water resources (both surface and underground waters) of the Sebkhia are not known with accuracy and in 2002, the Ministry of Water Resources entrusted a French engineering private institution to undertake a global study leading to an adequate solution for the Sebkhia problem.

The process was initiated through a **participative approach**, including different actors: Ministry of Water Resources, other decision-makers, local representatives, municipalities, civil society, industrials, agriculture, universities, etc.

The Ministry of Water Resources **played however the major role** in the participative approach while the other actors had a marginal position.



DSS tools and approaches in Algeria

There is no real use of DSS tools for water Management in Algeria. Recently some projects dealing with GIS and management have been conducted within the bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Germany (GTZ). They mainly concerned the definition of a Regional Water Plan (PRE): multi-sources data collection and organization, GIS, management approaches.

The process described in this leaflet could however provide the basis for further DSS development.

Keywords: Wetland, Conflicts, Public participation

Further readings: See the NOSTRUM-DSS Algerian National Report, available at <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>
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Contacts: ARCE - Association pour la Recherche sur le Climat et l'Environnement <http://www.arce.asso.dz>

