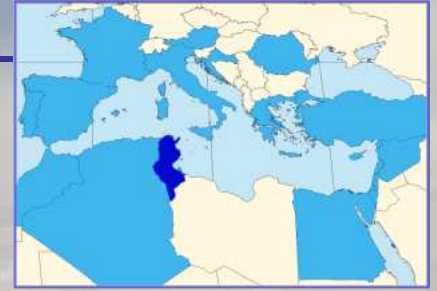


Tunisia



The Djeffara plain

Situated in the Southeast region of Tunisia, the plain of Djeffara spreads from the region of Skhira to the North of Gabès until the Tripolitaine in the South, on a surface of about 10,000 km². The whole Tunisian Djeffara can be subdivided in two zones parallel to each other from North to South: Djeffara of Médenine and Djeffara of Gabès, the present case study, which covers about 3,000 km².

Several studies showed that the intensive exploitation of the inshore aquifers of Djeffara causes - besides considerable resources depletion - an important deterioration of the water quality because of the increase of salinity due to the marine intrusion.

A **zone of interdiction for groundwater exploitation** has therefore been delimited but the **population** do not accept to be deprived of what they consider "their" water. They **do not understand why they have to pay** to obtain limited volume of water for their agricultural activities when they can directly abstract all water needed thanks to an already existing well located on their parcel.

Decision making processes are traditionally restricted to the first level of stakeholders (Ministry and State Secretariat), although national strategies involve so called "**participative actions**" but **only for the application of the decision**. Also in the present case study the farmers have limited confidence in the importance of the interdiction perimeters.

A clear cut between national (governorate), regional authorities and end users of water (Association of Collective Interest - ACI) is noticeable.



The relationship connecting regional authorities and end user are denser but mainly axed on technical support. However, relationships within end users are well developed thanks to the ACI: frequent meetings are organised and different problems related to water management are discussed. The presence of a **regional responsible** allows to make progressively the decision more accepted by the farmers.

DSS tools and approaches in Tunisia

In Tunisia, a few research projects were focused in last years on the use of DSS for water management at regional and local level, while experiences at the National level are still missing.

Keywords: Groundwater, Laws enforcement, Conflicts

Further readings: See the NOSTRUM-DSS *Tunisian National Report*, available at <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>

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