



ALGERIA

Development and protection of the oued Bouselam ecosystem in urban surroundings to the west of the Sétif commune in Algeria

Project presented by the Sétif commune.

→ Context and strategy

Oued Bouselam tends to not follow in its natural bed, thus favoring flooding. Its sources of pollution are essentially urban, industrial and agricultural in origin. Currently, the aquatic ecosystem and fauna have completely disappeared. In their place, we find spontaneous wild flora, algae, organic pollution, harmful insects, excessive grazing and abusive deforestation. In consequence, land irrigation using this water favors the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Oued Bouselam is one of the rare permanent waterways in Algeria. It is the main hydrographic axis of the Sétif region and the main source for the Ain Zada Dam, which provides drinking water for a million inhabitants in the cities of Sétif, El Eulma, Bordj-Bou-Argeridj and Bougaâ.

→ Project

Protection of the oued Bouselam ecosystem aims on collecting all waste that pours directly into oued Bouselam, preserving the region's biodiversity, and supplying good-quality water adapted to irrigation, fish farming and drinking. The project aims in particular to combat harmful insects, thereby eliminating breeding grounds for epidemics. Finally, the project is designed to protect flora and the vegetational cover, which would encourage the creation of ecotourism areas (tourist places), to promote grazing methods that would take into account sustainable development, and to protect the forest (original flora and fauna).

→ Implementation

Concretely, the project aims to recalibrate the banks of the oued (heal and clean), install pedestrian passageways (avoiding passageways over the oued), inventory pollution sources (amphibians, algae, mollusks, etc.), treat infected areas (bushes, stork nests, elimination of insects). The plots for grazing and those for spontaneous plants will also be delimited.

→ Expected results

- » Stop pollution in the oued itself, as well as in all effluents and outflows.
- » Promote phytoremediation.
- » Secure a drinking-water supply for the local population and protect it from all types of external contamination.
- » Preserve and protect the subterranean water tables of the region, as well as tree species.
- » Establish a balance between irrigation, grazing and economic activity in the context of sustainable development that will promote employment (create attractions such as a museum of natural history, build an equestrian complex, create areas for hiking, etc.).

→ Partners

The University of Sétif (university biology researchers), the Department of the Environment, the Department of Urbanism and Construction, the local Administration Directorate, the National Office of Sanitation, the Department of Tourism, the El Khadra – FADEV (Forum for Improvement of the Environment and Development of Living Conditions) association, student organizations, Ecology classes, Scouts, Archi Moon Hazi Bachir - Design Office and Hidhab Radio.