

## Internship Final Report

1. **Title of internship:** Building a data set for sites and species fact sheets for Coastal Wetlands in the Middle East as priority sites for conservation.
2. **Host country, site location, and the dates of internship:** Jordan, Amman, 1 May- 31 Dec.
3. **Names of any sponsoring institutions involved in the internship:** Conservation Leadership programme.
4. **The overall aim summarised in 10–15 words:**

To contribute to WBDB (Birdlife Data Zone) and establish a dataset with key information to enable the Coastal areas situation analysis planned for a later stage, to strengthen the strategic national, regional and international alliances for effective conservation of coastal habitats in the Arabian Peninsula (Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq).

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### Executive Summary

A full data set for almost 50 site and 10 fact sheets for the coastal wetlands in the Middle East region were collected; to be used for the situation analysis later, to achieve below:

- To improve and synthesise knowledge of the current situation of coastal wetlands in the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant (State, Threat, Response), with a specific focus on birds, turtles, and dugongs
- To raise the awareness and build capacity among institutional stakeholders about the importance of coastal habitats and the need and opportunities for integrated coastal zone management.

### Introduction

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species.

A devastating fact: Since 1900, more than half the world's wetlands have disappeared (64%) as a result of drainage for agriculture, or conversion for other purposes of development. And contributing to the degradation of wetland habitats are climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and over-harvesting.

A dataset with key information were collected to enable the Coastal areas situation analysis planned for a later stage, to strengthen the strategic national, regional and international alliances for effective conservation of coastal habitats in the Arabian Peninsula (Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq).

### Aim and objectives

Build up a full data set for the coastal wetlands in the Middle East by selecting species, threats, values and ecological services and stakeholders, along with identification of the sources of information; and to have stories, case studies, national consultations, international consultations for all sites.

The Assessment of biodiversity conservation status at the adopted coastal sites will provide a summary for the region, as well as tabulated by country or at least for the key sites identified.

### **Activities and Methodology**

The data were collected Online; firstly, by determine what type of information needed, save and organize data after it had been collected, depended on a very helpful sites, such as: Critical site Network (CSN tool)- Wetlands International, AEWA, CAF, AEMLAP, RAMSAR and others. Summarize the data in Excel sheet along with a separated folder for each site.

Data collection depends on three main points: 1- Reference Accuracy: Getting data the right way encompasses the source of data, 2- The quality of data collected: to ensure that the collected data is clean, consistent, and reliable. 3- Get current and updated data.

### **Outputs and results**

A full Data set collected for the potential sites in the targeted region, species, and stakeholders, with identification of sources of information, including stories, case studies, all information about each site, general analysis for each site; to be ready for the next stage.

### **Achievements and impacts**

A full data set for almost 50 site and 10 fact sheets for the coastal wetlands in the Middle East region were collected. The Assessment of biodiversity conservation status at the adopted coastal sites provided a summary for the region, as well as tabulated by country or at least for the key sites identified. And this well be used for the situation analysis later, to achieve below:

- To improve and synthesise knowledge of the current situation of coastal wetlands in the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant (State, Threat, Response), with a specific focus on birds, turtles, and dugongs
- To raise the awareness and build capacity among institutional stakeholders about the importance of coastal habitats and the need and opportunities for integrated coastal zone management.

### **External influences and changes to internship**

There are no external influences and changes to the Internship.

### **Conclusion**

- The data collected will be used for the situation analysis later, to achieve below:
  - To improve and synthesise knowledge of the current situation of coastal wetlands in the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant (State, Threat, Response), with a specific focus on birds, turtles, and dugongs
  - To raise the awareness and build capacity among institutional stakeholders about the importance of coastal habitats and the need and opportunities for integrated coastal zone management.
- My internship with Birdlife International provided me with all kinds of new and exciting opportunities. I learned new skills, met new people, explored some of the stunning areas we

work in, and experienced something completely removed from my usual routine whilst making a valued contribution to the important work of Birdlife International. I have the chance to get a job with Birdlife Middle East as a Project Assistant for Migratory Soaring (MSB) Project.

- **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my supervisor Muna Al-Taq for her expert advice, guidance and encouragement throughout this Internship.

## **Appendices**

- Raw data: large amounts of data were generated; it will be attached in the email. (Excel sheet and 10 Fact sheets).

## **Bibliography**

1. Birdlife data zone.
2. Critical site Network (CSN tool).
3. Ramsar.org
4. Wetlands.org
5. world's protected areas.