



Development of the Protected Areas Network and Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity in Morocco

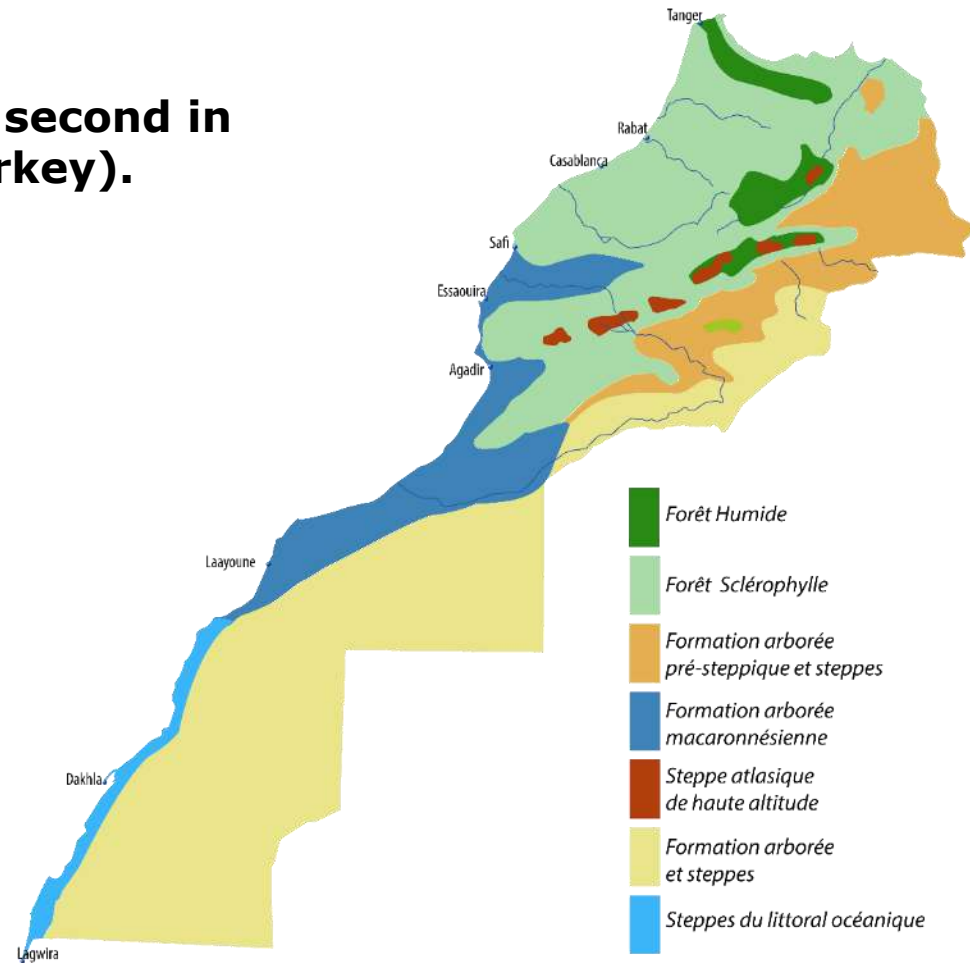
Morocco boasts a rich natural heritage with rare species and natural ecosystems.

Within the Mediterranean basin, Morocco ranks second in biodiversity, following the Anatolian region (Turkey).

Diversity of Fauna and Flora:

- Over 4,000 species of vascular plants
- More than 100 species of mammals
- Over 450 species of birds
- More than 90 species of reptiles

An overall endemism rate of 20%



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AXE 2

Differentiate and develop spaces according to their

Historic turning point for the development of protected areas.

Protected Areas in Morocco

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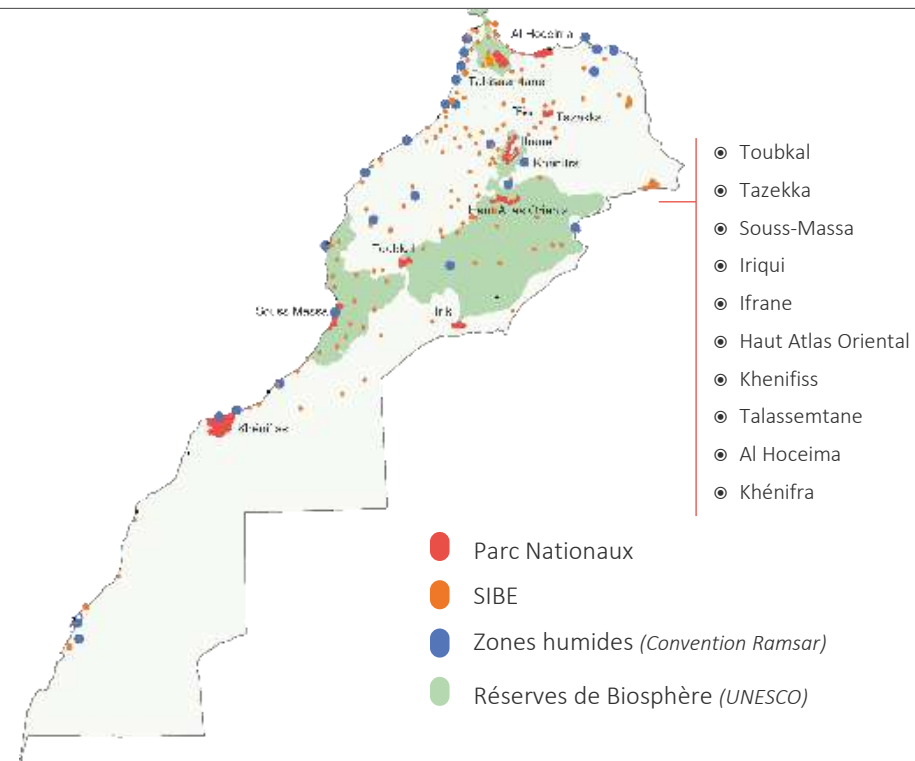
2,5 millions hectares

- 10 national parks
- 8 new protected areas under creation
- 154 Sites of Biological and Ecological Interest (SIBE)
- 38 Ramsar sites

Development and enhancement of national parks

The 10 National Parks will undergo a new zoning process tailored to the environmental and socio-economic contexts of these areas, paving the way for ecotourism.

The protected areas network will be expanded through the creation of new protected areas, enabling biodiversity conservation and the preservation of endangered species.



A Response to Commitments Under the New Global Biodiversity Framework

By 2030, Morocco aims to establish a comprehensive and ecologically representative national system of protected areas that will:

- **Conserve at least 30% of terrestrial and coastal zones;**
- **Restore at least 30% of degraded freshwater, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems;**
- **Reduce to near zero the loss of areas of critical importance for biodiversity.**

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Conservation and management of core areas

- Program for the reintroduction of extinct species
- Program for the restoration of terrestrial ecosystems
- Program for the restoration of wetlands

Ecotourism Promotion in Protected Areas

- Developing a tailored ecotourism vision for each park.
- Planning and equipping visitor sites in partnership with relevant actors
- Engaging private operators to create innovative nature-based hospitality and recreational products.
- Establishing a "Parks" brand to enhance recognition and support.

Program for Socioeconomic Empowerment and Local Community Involvement

- Development of infrastructure and facilities to support sustainable activities.
- Promotion and enhancement of local product value chains.
- Active involvement of local stakeholders in all stages of the valorization process.

Establishment of a new zoning

- Core park zone
- Adherence area
- Park territory



The core zone of the park must be protected to the maximum extent



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National Wetlands Action Plan

1. Involvement of institutional stakeholders and development partners.
2. Development of regional strategic plans for wetlands, defining priority intervention sites.
3. Engagement of municipalities, provinces, and regions: **Communal Plan, Regional Plan.**
4. Creation of integrated action plans for priority wetlands with partners.
5. Establishment of a network of Ramsar site managers.
6. Development of a monitoring system for conservation status.
7. Development of visitor facilities: information centers, urban furniture, food services, signage, etc.
8. Local participation around Ramsar sites:
 - **Local management committees**
9. NGO involvement in awareness-raising activities.
 - **One NGO = One Wetland.**

300 Sites (400.000 ha)

130 Natural sites

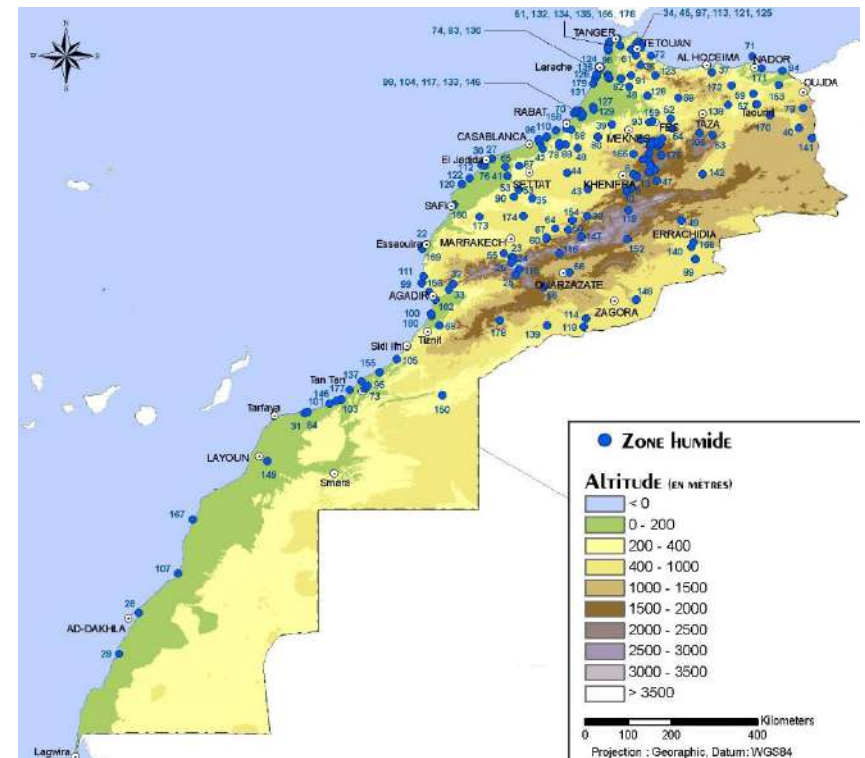


280.000 ha

170 Reservoir Lakes



120.000 ha

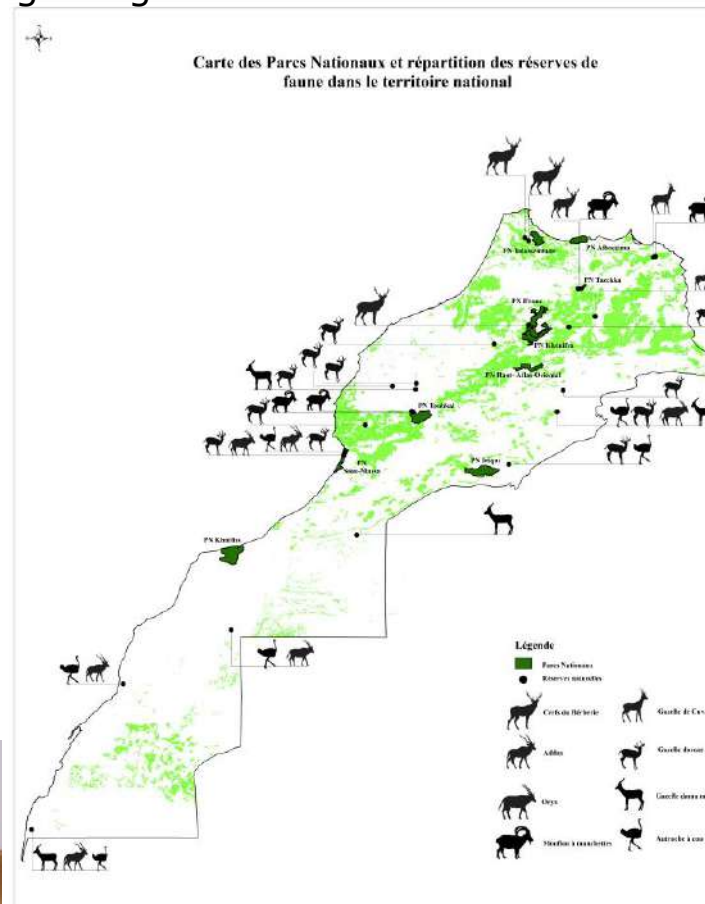


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As part of Morocco's Forest Strategy 2020-2030, specifically the axis focused on the **conservation plan for species threatened with extinction**, efforts are being concentrated on safeguarding biodiversity through targeted actions and sustainable management approaches.

1. Action Plans for the Conservation of Extinct or Threatened Species

- **24 Update and implement of existing and new National Action Plans (NAPs):** Wild ungulates, red-necked ostriches, Barbary macaques, Northern bald ibis, Serval, Raptors.....
- **Programs for Population Reinforcement and Reintroduction into the Wild:** Focus on species such as the **> 56 Addax**, **> 550 Barbary sheep**, **> 26 Red deer**, **> 450 Dorcas gazelle**.



2. Development of Semi-Captive Populations

- **Enhancement of Wildlife Reserves:**
 - Establish and improve the management of reserves to support conservation goals.
 - Creation of food plots for vultures.
- **Growth of Semi-Captive Populations:** Focus on the sustainable development and management of semi-captive populations as a strategy for species conservation and future reintroduction efforts.



3. Combating Illegal Trade in Protected Species

- **Strengthening the Legal Framework:** Enhance regulations and enforcement mechanisms to better protect threatened species.
- **Capacity Building:** Develop skills, resources, and institutional capacities to effectively combat illegal wildlife trade and support conservation efforts.

