

# TUNISIA



## MDGs

### Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

Tunisia, a semi-arid country, faces climatic challenges because of irregular and inadequate rainfall, a fragile ecosystem, limited natural resources and the risk of over-exploitation of these few resources.

Recent studies show that 3 million hectares of land in the Centre and in the North suffer serious erosion and over 7 million hectares of land in the south suffer from wind erosion and secondary salinization. To reconcile the agricultural use of lands and soil protection against the different processes of desertification, Tunisia has, for several decades, developed several programmes for reforestation, pastoral improvement, dune fixation and the conservation of soil and water.

With its 1300 km of coast, the Tunisian littoral has various landscapes and important natural resources under a variety of pressure, including pollution, exploitation of sea resources and a concentration of human and economic activities along the coast causing environmental problems linked to the fragility of the marine ecosystems. The utilization of the coastline and adjacent spaces is monitored through various mechanisms with various institutions responsible for the environment, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources.

Great efforts were deployed by adopting regional development strategies to improve the living conditions of Tunisian households through access to basic public services such as drinking water, electrification, health services and education. This strategy provided drinking water in 2002 to 93.6% of the total population, and 82.6% in rural areas. But regional statistics reveal notable disparities with 10% of the population in the Northwest and Centre West with no access to drinking water. The largest proportion of people without access to safe drinking water represented 22.4% in the governorate of Jendouba.<sup>1</sup>

## QUICK FACTS

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:</b> | \$117,965,800 |
| <b>Total UNDP and Co-Finance:</b>     | \$1,549,113   |
| <b>Total:</b>                         | \$119,514,913 |

## SPOTLIGHT

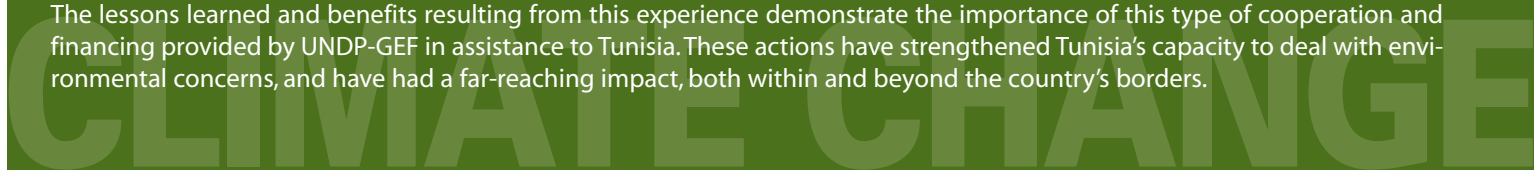
### Developing Capacity to Combat Climate Change<sup>2</sup>

In an effort to develop the capacity of the Tunisian National Renewable Energy Agency (ANER) to combat climate change and develop a strategy to mitigate GHG emissions, UNDP launched a climate change project in Tunisia with financing from GEF to assist the preparation of the country's First National Communication on the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This process required the preparation of an inventory of GHG emissions, as well as the calculation of projections of energy consumption with a view to assessing mitigation potential. To enable these calculations, ANER, in cooperation with the French company Arcadia, developed an environmental module for its existing software Med-Pro. The environmental module, Med-Pro/Environment, enables calculations of the level of emissions in the energy sector, following the methodology recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The development of Med-Pro/Environment has provided a very useful tool for the preparation of Tunisia's National Communication to the UNFCCC. In addition, as a result of capacity-building in methodologies for GHG inventories, ANER is now in a position to develop a national strategy and action plan for reducing GHG emissions in the energy sector, as well as creating a portfolio of potential Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. All this equips Tunisia with substantive technical competence which could be set at the disposal of other countries, promoting South-South cooperation.

The lessons learned and benefits resulting from this experience demonstrate the importance of this type of cooperation and financing provided by UNDP-GEF in assistance to Tunisia. These actions have strengthened Tunisia's capacity to deal with environmental concerns, and have had a far-reaching impact, both within and beyond the country's borders.



Environment is one of the three pillars of sustainable development and constitutes one of the eight MDGs towards which the international community has committed itself. In Tunisia, UNDP strongly supports the efforts in environmental policy to establish adequate frameworks and strategies. This is reflected by UNDP's portfolio of projects for which environment represents a very large part, especially funded by the GEF.<sup>3</sup>



**Francis Dubois, Resident Representative**

## PORTFOLIO

**FSSD\*** UNDP, GEF, and the Tunisian government are working to improve the capacity of governmental and non-governmental agencies to address pressing environmental concerns. This includes identifying and assessing capacity constraints in the implementation of UN environmental conventions and preparing a national strategy and an action plan, raising awareness and increasing the understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change, enhancing scientific and technical capacity for assessing vulnerability of food production and water resources, and building national capacities in the field of financing of energy conservation.

**ENERGY** With the overall objective of assisting Tunisia in reducing the long-term growth of GHG emissions related to consumption of fossil fuel energy, GEF is supporting the Tunisian government in its commitment to implement an optimal-efficiency building code for residential and commercial sectors. It also aims to reduce the growth of GHG emissions through the design, implementation, promotion and support of an optimised cold appliance energy labelling and minimum energy performance standards programme.

**LAND** The Tunisian Government, DDC, and TPC/S are working to improve the institutional framework necessary for supporting the mobilization of financial resources and partners to implement a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and building the capacity of regional and local stakeholders in developing a participatory resource mobilization strategy to implement a Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification.

**BIODIVERSITY** UNDP, GEF, and the Tunisian government are supporting biodiversity efforts focused on enhancing livelihoods of communities and the environment in the surroundings of El Feija national park, removing barriers to genetic erosion of date palm in the Maghreb region, and contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in the Mediterranean.



### CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS

**Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Tunisia**

FFEM  
 Government of Finland  
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<sup>3</sup>MDGR 2004 and [http://www.undg.org/documents/3665-Tunisia\\_MDG\\_Report\\_-\\_English.doc](http://www.undg.org/documents/3665-Tunisia_MDG_Report_-_English.doc); <http://www.tn.undp.org/>; TUNDP Tunisia Country Office Document: "Capacity Building on Prediction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions due to Energy Activities"; <http://www.tn.undp.org/>; "Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development