



Sea Birds Monitoring in the Egyptian Mediterranean Coast in the frame of the IMAP – MPA project in Egypt Common Indicators (4, and 5)

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Introduction

The Egyptian Mediterranean coastal wetlands are important for the sea birds. They include the six major coastal lagoons on the Mediterranean; Bardawil, Malaha, Manzala, Burullus, Idku, and Maryut. The remainder of the Egyptian Mediterranean coast is of rather limited importance for birds. Two of these important wetlands for sea birds have been declared Ramsar Sites along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast.

The programme of monitoring of sea birds in the Egypt Mediterranean coasts has been implemented in the framework of the EU-funded project "Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas" (referred to as IMAP-MPA project). The IMAP monitoring requirements focus on, based on agreed common indicators, parameters that are indicative of the state of the environment, the prevailing anthropogenic pressures and their impacts, and the progress towards a good environmental status (ecological objectives and targets).

The bird monitoring programme was implemented during the winter periods of the IMAP- MPA project along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast. Fifteen species listed in the SPA/ BD sea birds annex have been recorded.



Materials and Methods

- ◆ In particular, attention has been given to the species mentioned in the IMAP sea birds monitoring protocol, not all the recorded birds in Egypt, as, some of them are not recorded along the Egyptian Mediterranean coasts.
- ◆ The work was conducted in the framework of IMAP-MPA project implementation of national bird monitoring, where the next Common Indicators are determined Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Common Indicators CI3: Species distributional range; and CI4: Population abundance.
- ◆ The team used point observations by professional cameras, cars, boats, observation sheets, guidebook, rangefinder, and binoculars. Global Positioning System (GPS) was used for coordinates.
- ◆ The working area extended along the Egyptian Mediterranean coast to include the most important wetland and RAMSAR sites as shown in the following tables:

No.	Site	N	E
1	Salloum MPA	31° 41' 00"	25° 37' 10.96"
		31° 33' 53.61"	25° 37' 23.34"
		31° 29' 48.14"	25° 22' 26.33"
		31° 30' 57.55"	25° 12' 35.31"
2	Lake Maryut	31° 4'52.61"	29°52'45.93"
		31° 9'10.82"	29°53'24.56"
3	Lake Idku	31°15'51.90"	30°10'45.33"
		31°15'13.59"	30°13'23.39"
4	Lake Burullus	31°24'35.63"	30°45'48.23"
		31°28'18.15"	30°43'14.01"
		31°33'59.13"	30°57'31.74"
5	Lake Manzala & Malahet Port Fouad	31°17'9.88"	32°10'25.10"
		31°15'2.85"	32°12'8.62"
		31°13'12.47"	32°19'33.23"



Results

The following table presents the 15 bird species that were recorded during the field survey based on the IMAP system

Serial	Species	Common Name	Site of record based on the IMAP – MPA survey	Status/ Local distribution
1	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Pied kingfisher	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, Idku, and Maryut	Mediterranean and Red Sea
2	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Kentish plover	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, and Idku	Nile Delta Lakes, Wadi El-Natroun, Alexandria to Salloum, Suez canal, Faiyum, and Wadi El-Rayan
3	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	White-throated kingfisher	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, and Maryut	Nile Delta and north Sinai coast
4	<i>Larus armenicus</i> (Buturlin, 1934)	Armenian Gull	Lakes Manzala, and Burullus	There is No available recent information about the local distribution
5	<i>Larus audouinii</i> (Payraudeau, 1826)	Audouin's Gull	Lake Maryut	Lake Manzala and Lake Qaruun
6	<i>Larus genei</i> (Breme, 1839)	Slender-billed Gull	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, Idku, and Maryut, and Salloum MPA	North-western Sinai, Lake Qaruun. Mediterranean and Red Seas
7	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Temminck, 1820)	Mediterranean Gull	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, Idku, and Maryut	Mediterranean coast and Nile Delta
8	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Osprey	Lakes Manzala, and Maryut	Red Sea coast, and islands except Suez and Aqaba Gulfs. Lake Nasser, and southern Nile valley
9	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Great White Pelican	Lake Manzala	Sinai, South Nile Delta and South Nile Valley, Delta wetland and Suez Canal Zone
10	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> (Pallas, 1811)	Greater flamingo	Lakes Manzala, and Maryut	Lake Maallaha, Lake Bardweel, Lake Qaruun
11	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i> (Lesson, 1831)	Lesser Crested Tern	Lakes Manzala, and Maryut	Red Sea islands, Mediterranean coast, Nile Delta and Suez Canal Zone
12	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Pallas, 1764)	Little Tern	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, and Idku	Mediterranean and Red Sea coasts and Faiyum
13	<i>Sterna caspia</i> (Pallas, 1770)	Caspian Tern	Lakes Manzala, and Maryut	Red Sea coast, Mediterranean coast and Nile Delta
14	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789)	Gull-billed ter	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, and Maryut	Nile Delta and Valley
15	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> (Latham, 1787)	Sandwich Tern	Lakes Manzala, Burullus, Idku, and Maryut	Mediterranean and Red Sea Coasts. In Salloum Not Recorded But (Locally recorded)