



## 169CHA015 - Dakhlet El Melah

### Description

Dakhlet El Melah is located at the south-south-eastern edge of Chargui island in Kerkennah Archipelago, just outside the village of El Ataya. The whole area was included in the national wetlands' inventory under the code 169 (Hughes et al, 1997). It is an extended coastal sebkha with an elevation that ranges from 0 to 2.5m above sea level (Topography Map, 1973; Etienne, 2011). It is covered in seawater whenever the tide is advanced or the wind is strong. As for freshwater, it comes entirely from precipitations during autumn and winter and it stagnates in the area for weeks. At the north-eastern part of the system, a small area is used by local fishermen to keep the boats and at the back side, along the northern part of the wetland; urbanisation is continuously progressing and new houses are being built. Whereas inside the wetland, 3 football fields are present, large quantities of garbage and debris are being thrown and in the future, a new road will be constructed; bringing more pressure to the area. The dominant flora species in the wetland are *Salicornia europaea* L., and *Sarcocornia fruticosa* (L.) A. J. Scott. *Arthrocnemum macrostachyum* (Moric.) K. Koch and *Halocnemum strobilaceum* (Pall.) M. Bieb. are also present.

[Field visit: Th. Giannakakis, K. Charfi, I. Rais & M. Ouali 05/2018]

### General information

#### Basic information

<b>Wetland location:</b>	Marine/Coastal
<b>Area (Ha):</b>	21.7
<b>Hydrological interaction with other wetland:</b>	No -
<b>Water salinity:</b>	Salty (> 18.0 g/l)
<b>Fresh water entry:</b>	Catchment area (precipitation)
<b>Hydroperiod:</b>	Temporary/Intermittent

#### Geographic information

<b>Governorate:</b>	Sfax
<b>Island:</b>	Chargui
<b>Municipality:</b>	Kerkennah
<b>Coordinates (WGS84):</b>	11.302266 E - 34.736051 N

#### Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type	Coverage (%)
A -- Permanent shallow marine waters in most cases less than six metres deep at low tide; includes sea bays and straits	< 5
H -- Intertidal marshes; includes salt marshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised salt marshes; includes tidal brackish and freshwater marshes	> 95

#### Property status

Public

## Protection statuses & other designations

### Protection status

Protection status category	Protection status subcategory	Site name	Code	Coverage (%)	Legislation
International Protection	Ramsar Site	Kerkennah		100	Ramsar Convention
National Protection	Sensitive areas	Kerkennah		100	L. n° 94-122, 28/11/1994; D. 98-2092, 28/10/1998 (Jort n°88)

### Important bird areas

IBA Code	Site name	Coverage (%)
TN026	Kerkennah Islands	100

## Ecosystem Services, Activities & Impacts

### Ecosystem Services

Type of Ecosystem service	Ecosystem service	Scale of Benefit	Importance
Regulatory services	Erosion regulation		
Regulatory services	Flood hazard regulation		
Regulatory services	Storm hazard regulation		
Supporting services	Provision of habitat		

### Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
210 = Professional fishing	High
220 = Leisure fishing	Medium
421 = disposal of household waste	High
423 = disposal of inert materials	High
501 = paths tracks cycling tracks	High
502 = roads motorways	Medium
703 = soil pollution	

### Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
210 = Professional fishing	High
220 = Leisure fishing	Medium
401 = continuous urbanisation	High
421 = disposal of household waste	Medium
423 = disposal of inert materials	Medium
501 = paths tracks cycling tracks	High
502 = roads motorways	High
511 = electricity lines	High

### Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
AS- = Loss of scenic value	Medium
HL- = Habitat loss	Medium
WSG = Salt water intrusion of ground water	High
WSR = Salt water intrusion of surface water	High

## Habitats & Vegetation

### Habitat types

Habitat types	Coverage (%)
1440 Salt pans	
1510 * Mediterranean salt steppes (Limonietalia)	

### Vegetation types

Vegetation type	Coverage (%)
Halophytic	76 - 95

## Species

### Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
Arthrocnemum macrostachyum (Moric.) K. Koch		
Halocnemum strobilaceum (Pall.) M. Bieb		
Salicornia europaea agg.		
Sarcocornia fruticosa (L.) A.J. Scott		

## References

## Representative Image & Map