

Algeria *Fishing in the Desert*

1.86 million hectares (ha)

The **Ukrainian** Danube Delta activities are geared towards halting further man-made damages and restoring the natural function and value of wetlands for people and nature. Activities are aimed at economic development strategies, such as ecotourism and fostering traditional sustainable use of wetlands resources such as reeds, medicinal plants and fish. More than 46'000 ha of the delta were included in the UNESCO Danube Biosphere Reserve in August 1998.

Conservation in the Balkans

The new Prespa Park was announced by Albania, Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Balkans' first crossborder protected area. The two Prespa lakes are among the oldest in Europe and renowned for their natural beauty and variety of species including populations of rare waterbirds. It is the only place in the entire European Union where the dalmatian and white pelicans breed together. The new covers an area of 55'830 hectares.

Algeria is protecting ten new wetlands, unique to the desert: chotts (seasonal lakes), oueds (seasonal rivers), gueltas (natural water sources in rocky desert) and oases. Birds en route from Europe make the heart of the Sahara their pitstop. The gueltas, believed to be the remnants of what was once a Sahara of lush vegetation and flowing rivers, is a refuge to species of "desert fish" found only here. Today, desertification, agricultural expansion or industrial waste threaten these fragile wetlands. Researchers continue to gather data that will help conserve these fragile spots where people and nature depend on each other.



D. Landenbergue/WWF



WWF is the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organization with over 4.7 million supporters and a global network active in 96 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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