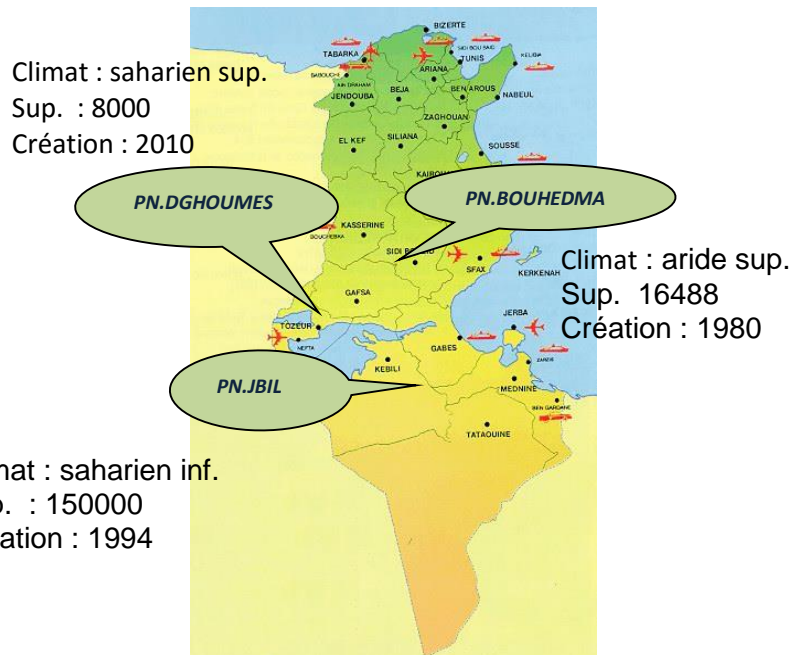


Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment

Directorate-General for Environment and Quality of Life

GEF 4035 “Ecotourism and Conservation of Desert Biodiversity”

Project intervention areas



The project aims to contribute to the conservation, promotion and enhancement of dryland ecosystems and biodiversity through the development of a new approach to protected area management that integrates ecotourism development and engagement of local communities.

Project **components**:

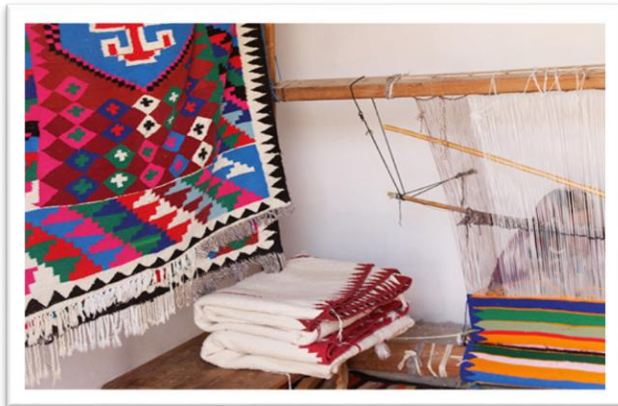
- (1) Promoting favorable conditions for the Management of Protected Areas and the development of ecotourism
- (2) Support the Integrated Natural Resource Management of the 3 National Parks and their adjacent areas
- (3) Project Management

Duration of implementation: 5 years (22 May 2013 - 31 July 2018)

Three **lessons learned** from the project:

1. How has the project contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of the population bordering the three national parks? What are the means to achieve this?

The project helped to create permanent employment/direct income for 230 persons, provided an indirect income to 170 persons, and casual employment to 125 men and women.



2. What techniques are used to support the conservation of natural resources in national parks? To what extent have these techniques influenced management effectiveness within national parks?

The project carried out work to conserve water and soil (structures in Gabions, development of the hydraulic network, rehabilitation of the fence of Jbil park), it also reinforced the surveillance network inside parks.



3. Is the project successful in making the three national parks attractive to ecotourists? To what degree?

The project has worked on three pillars: (i) the regulatory and institutional aspects (through proposals for draft text (s) amending / supplementing or revising the legislative and regulatory framework on protected natural areas and promoting Sustainable tourism), (ii) communication, awareness-raising and training, and (iii) field achievements (improving infrastructure within parks, signage on roads leading to parks, Micro projects to promote ecotourism ...)

