

GUEMBEUL NATURAL RESERVE

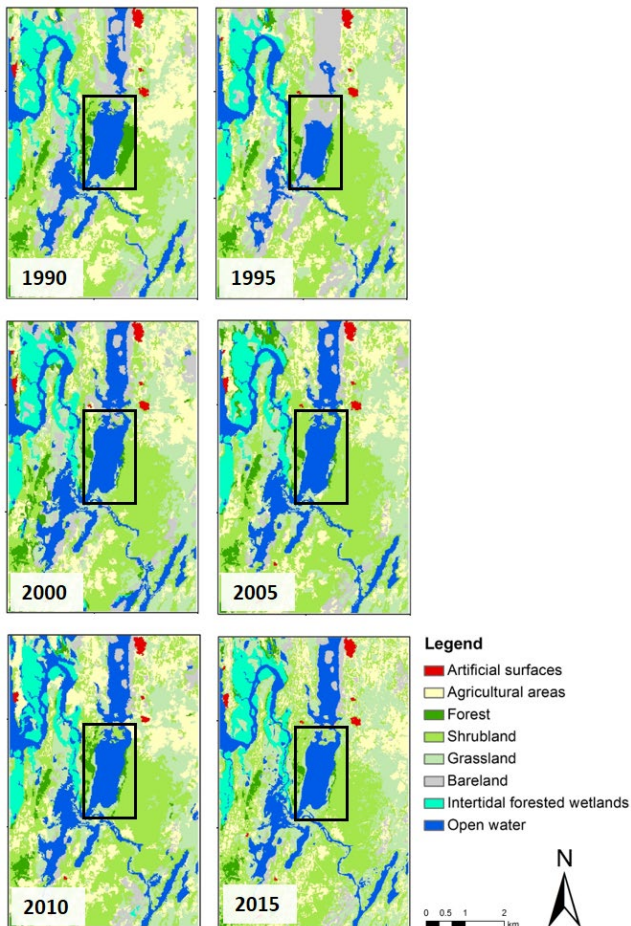
SPOTLIGHT

“The Guembeul Natural Reserve is one of the best places in the world to spot some of the most threatened mammal species that inhabit the Sahara and the Sahel area.”

| David Cabedo, 2018 ^[1] |

WETLAND HABITAT MAPPING PRODUCTS

Historical Mapping | 1990 - 2010

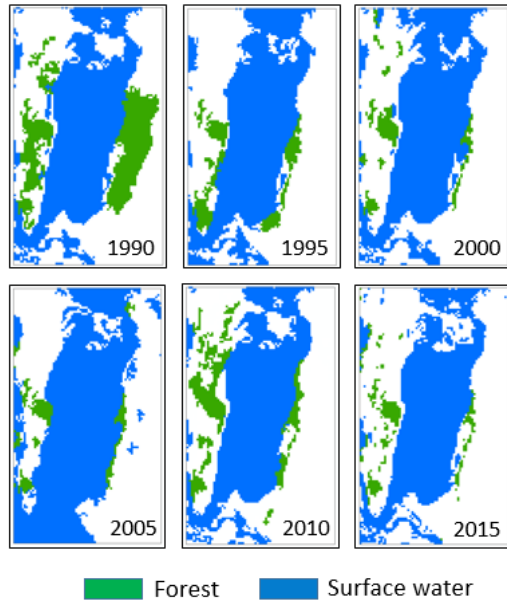


Description: Historical maps of land cover/use in and around the Guembeul Natural Reserve derived from Landsat and Sentinel-2 satellite images acquired between 1990 and 2015. The black rectangle indicates the specific location of the Guembeul Natural Reserve and its roughly coverage.

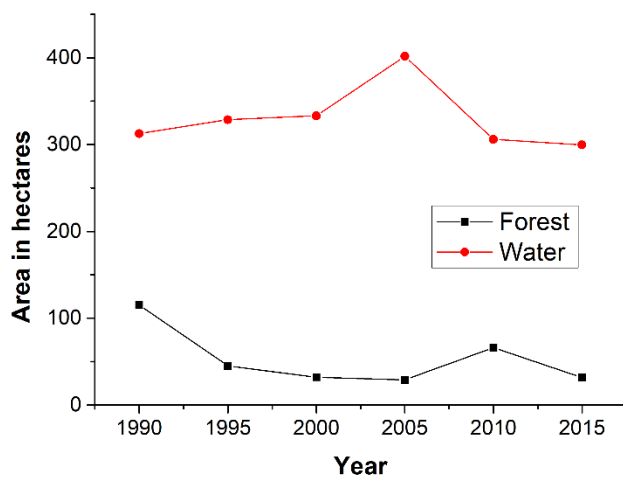
FAST FACTS

- The Guembeul Natural Reserve (fr. Réserve spéciale de faune de Guembeul) is a private natural reserve, located about 10 km south-west of the regional capital, Saint-Louis, Senegal.
- The site covers an area of 720 ha. It is one of the biggest reserves in Senegal and under the supervision of the Senegalese army.
- The reserve consists of an extensive saline lagoon with a surface area of 200 ha and surrounded by a 12 km perimeter fence which has enabled the regeneration of Acacia savannas.
- The site is a special wildlife reserve and was designated as an IUCN category IV (habitat/species management area) protected area in 1983.
- The reserve is particularly well known for its species reintroduction programs. It has a mission to act as an experimental breeding center for Sahelian wildlife such as dama gazelle, dorcas gazelle and tortoises.
- The reserve is an inland wetland. The salty and brackish waters of the lagoons are controlled by a system of hydraulic valves.
- The reserve was designated as a Ramsar site in 1986. The fact that it serves to complement the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj (another important Ramsar site) justifies its Ramsar status.
- The reserve is an important site for waterbirds. 200 species of birds are nevertheless represented: flamingos, black-tailed barges, Eurasian spoonbills, gulls, and sandpipers. 124 of these species are protected by the Berne and Bonn Conventions. The reserve is known to be the largest nesting site of avocets in Senegal ^[2].





Description: The six maps illustrate the changes in tree cover and surface water within the Guembeul Natural Reserve from 1990 to 2015.



Description: The tree cover within the Guembeul Natural Reserve has been continuously decreasing from 115 ha in 1990 to 32 ha in 2015, although a slight increase can be seen from 2005 to 2010. The decline of the tree cover within the reserve may be attributed to the increase of the reintroduced gazelle population (i.e., overgrazing within a fenced habitat) from 1990 to 2005. While on the other hand, the surface water within the reserve has been increased from 313 ha in 1990 to 402 ha in 2005, but decreased after the 2005. The area of surface water in 2015 was 300 ha, which was the smallest water body over the last 25 years.



Description: The scimitar oryx or scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), also known as the Sahara oryx, is a species of Oryx once widespread across North Africa which went extinct in the wild in 2000 [3]. Today, it is bred in captivity in special reserves such as the Guembeul Natural Reserve in Tunisia.



Description: The Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), or common spoonbill, is considered a threatened species and a conservation icon across Europe. Most birds migrate to the tropics in winter, with European breeders mainly going to Africa. The Guembeul Natural Reserve is one of the major wintering sites for Eurasian spoonbills in Senegal [4].

References

- [1] Cabedo, D. (2018). Guembeul Natural Reserve, A print from the past. <https://worldbirdwatching.wordpress.com/2018/04/05/>
- [2] Réserve Spéciale de Faune de Gueumbeul. Ramsar Sites Information Service. <https://rsis.ramsar.org/rsi/338>
- [3] IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group (2016). *Oryx dammah*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T15568A50191470.
- [4] BirdLife International (2016). *Platalea leucorodia*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. 2016: e.T22697555A86435028.

Acknowledgement and Authors

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