



**INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF THE GREAT RIVERS OF THE WORLD:  
"TAKING ACTION FOR WATER AND CLIMATE"  
23-25 October 2017 - Rome, ITALY**

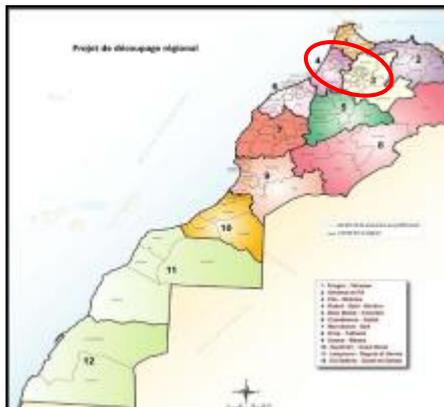
**"Transboundary water and climate readiness initiative"**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT TITLE: Reduction of the Industrial pollution in the city of Fez**

**BASIN AND COUNTRIES – REGION:**

The Sebou Basin, located in the North of Morocco, is a region with high stakes. Actually, despite its area represents only 6% of the national territory, it gathers 20% of the population and over 40% of the economic activities of the country, with major agriculture zones (1,88 Million hectares) and more than 50% of the national Olive Oil, Leather, Paper and Sugar Productions.



**ORGANIZATION CONCERNED:**

Main beneficiary of the project is the “Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency”.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND CONTEXT:**

Being the most populated area of the Basin, the city of Fez gathers a very important and constantly growing number of inhabitants and Industries, which generate substantial loads of wastewater that were discharged in the environment, leading to very high pollution rates for the local water resources – and mainly the Sebou river. In order to solve this problem, the most important and most recent wastewater treatment plant of Morocco was put into service in Fez in 2014. However, the Industrial sector still has a very significant impact, as very few industries are equipped with preliminary treatments that could reduce their emissions of pollutants, while they keep discharging their highly polluted effluents into the sewerage network (or sometimes directly into the water

courses). These assets are consequently being damaged, while the plant is regularly affected by serious malfunctions.

This is particularly true for the Olive Oil sector which generates a very important and additional load of highly concentrated effluents, corresponding to the pollution caused by 700 000 people during a time lap of 3 months, while it represents only 0,6% of the total wastewater flows of the city. Given this context, in order to protect the new treatment plant, the water and sanitation public utility of Fez has no other choice than by-passing these raw effluents directly into the Sebou, even though this major water stream of Morocco is already and seriously affected by climate change, as its flow has been constantly decreasing for dozens of years. All these factors lead to a high concentration of pollution into Sebou river and then to severe ecological matters around Fez. The situation is even preoccupying all along the Sebou course, the city being acknowledged as responsible for 40% of the pollution of the whole river.

## **AIMS OF THE PROJECT (WATER & CLIMATE...)**

The goal of the project is to reduce the pollution caused by the industries of Fez, which will help improving the whole local water and sanitation sector.

In order to reach this objective the project will not only focus on technical solutions, but will also include the development of financial and institutional tools combined to capacity building and support to the local authorities in charge of water resources management.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION: ACTIVITIES AND INVESTMENTS**

The French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition and IOWater, have been supporting the Sebou Basin Agency through the realization of a preliminary diagnosis regarding the industrial pollution in Fez and the already existing solutions. This has allowed the identification of the main problems to tackle and of the gaps that have to be addressed, and to the proposition of a corresponding action plan.

The main activities proposed in this project will be:

- ✓ Update of the inventory of the main industries in Fez, with their main characteristics regarding water and pollution
- ✓ Technical and financial studies to propose appropriate on-site treatment solutions
- ✓ Institutional and financial studies for the application of “polluter-pay” taxes and for the creation of a fund dedicated to the industries’ on-site treatment
- ✓ Setup of discharge authorizations including treatment objectives and thresholds for pollutants discharges
- ✓ Development of a database and of a computer tool to enhance the calculation of “polluter-pay” taxes and to monitor their collection
- ✓ Capacity building for the industries and water and sanitation local stakeholders
- ✓ Contracting authorities support

The project will especially focus on the active participation and collaboration of all the concerned stakeholders (Sebou Basin Agency, Water and Sanitation public Utility, Technical Department of Fez City, Industries), as this integrated approach it is a key factor for the success of such processes.

In addition to complementary analyses and studies, it will also include an important capacity building component upon the technical solutions, and the appropriate institutional and financial arrangements required to tackle industrial pollution in a sustainable way. To this purpose, the mobilization of French Basin Agencies Experts will be a relevant mean, as they will provide their sound experience of the solutions that have led to excellent results in France.