

Oued Outat, Morocco

Geo-ecological region:
Moroccan Middle Atlas

Population:
5 700

Area:
18 000 ha

Average rainfall:
200 mm/year

Altitude:
1 200-2 500 m a.s.l.

Discharge:
fast and seasonal



Oued Barbara, Mauritania

Geo-ecological region:
Mauritanian Sahel

Population:
9 000

Area:
22 100 ha

Precipitation range:
200-400 mm/year

Altitude:
200-600 m a.s.l.

Discharge:
fast and seasonal



Rio Membrillo, Ecuador

Geo-ecological region:
Coastal Ecuador

Population:
6 000

Area:
18 000 ha

Precipitation range:
1 500-2 000 mm/year

Altitude:
700-1 000 m a.s.l.

Discharge:
slow and continued



INTERREGIONAL PROJECT FOR
POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND
COMBATING DESERTIFICATION THROUGH
COLLABORATIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

www.fao.org/forestry/forestsandwater/59063

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IN COLLABORATION WITH



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DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
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l'Environnement et
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OUBAME



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OUBAME



Oued Outat



Oued Barbara



Río Membrillo

The Interregional Project for Poverty Alleviation and Combating Desertification through Collaborative Watershed Management is named for the three micro-watersheds where the project is implemented:

Oued Outat in Morocco,
Oued Barbara in Mauritania and
Río Membrillo in Ecuador.

All three are already suffering from or are at risk of desertification. As a result of this process, local people are losing their natural capital assets and their living conditions are deteriorating.

The OUBAME project started in June 2010 and is supported by FAO's Trust Fund Programme with the Government of Spain. The two-year pilot phase of the OUBAME project aims to assess the feasibility of decreasing the negative impact of desertification on people's livelihoods, by applying a collaborative and integrated approach to watershed management.

In particular, the OUBAME project seeks to identify ways to break the vicious circle of desertification and land degradation on the one hand, and poverty and food insecurity on the other, by merging indigenous and scientific knowledge and technology; raising awareness of upstream/downstream watershed linkages;

building the capacity to deal with watershed management issues among local institutions and technical services; and mobilizing political and financial support at national and regional level. At each pilot site, the project is analyzing hydrological, forestry and agro-ecological conditions and carrying out livelihoods and local needs assessments.

The project supports local interest groups in identifying their natural resource problems, systematizing related local knowledge, consulting with technical experts and implementing viable solutions for these problems. This hands-on learning process is expected to lead to tangible and visible interventions such as for example gully control, forestry and agroforestry activities, soil and water conservation and protection of riparian vegetation. The findings and experiences from these activities are disseminated by means of local media, in order to create a critical mass of concerned watershed stakeholders.

Cost-effectiveness analysis will also be carried out by the end of the project, to provide decision-makers with evidence of the advantages of investing in watershed management. Finally, a comprehensive and participatory watershed management plan will be designed at each project site for implementation in a possible second project phase.