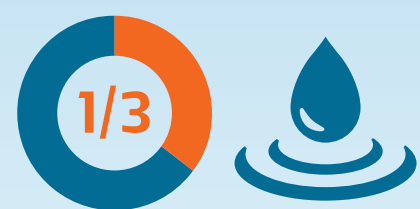


Wetlands and water stress in the Mediterranean

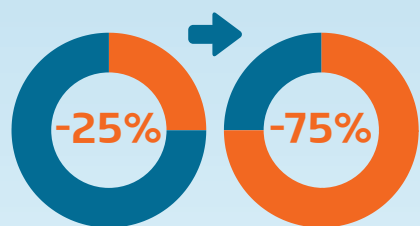


Water stress is a fact of life in the Mediterranean, and the situation is going to get worse in future. Wise use of our region's wetlands is essential to reverse the trend and save precious water supplies – and we must make sure we maintain their ecological processes too. [Find out more at offyourmap.org](http://offyourmap.org)



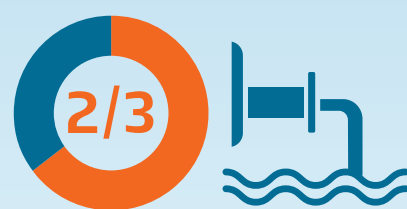
Water stressed countries in the Mediterranean

One-third, particularly in the Middle East and North-East Africa



River flows

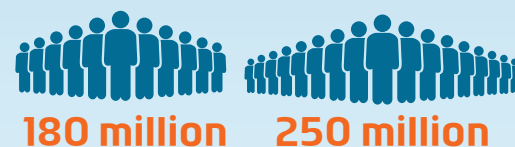
Heavily reduced



Agriculture

is the main driver for water extraction

2020 → 2040



People living under water-stressed conditions



A drier future

Less rain in the region by 2100

In a water-stressed Mediterranean, wetlands:



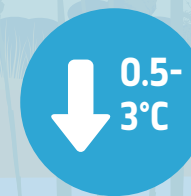
Purify and store drinking water



Recharge groundwater aquifers



Provide a buffer against floods, a reserve against droughts



Are cool spaces in urban areas, reducing temperatures by 0.5-3°C

Data source: Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2, Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, Plan Bleu, EEA, University of Perpignan