

# Key stakeholders participate in ODYSSEA National Workshop held in Tunis

The ODYSSEA project partners based in Tunisia, ANDDCVS (National association for sustainable development and conservation of the wildlife) and RAC/SPA (Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas), organised on February 16<sup>th</sup> a National Workshop devoted to the discussion and interaction with major stakeholders.

With the support of the Coordinator Partner, DUTH, and of the Scientific Director of the project, Dr. Ghada El Serafy from Deltares, the Tunisian-based partners were able to present the basic activities and objectives of ODYSSEA and take stock of the relevant achievements and ongoing initiatives carried out to about 50 stakeholders representing public authorities, civil society and the knowledge sector.

Beyond an introduction to ODYSSEA activities and an exchange of experience, the workshop was also an opportunity to discuss concrete ways to facilitate data gathering as the Observatory will gradually be put into operation and to maximize the impact of the collaboration process.

The focal point of the discussion was the Gulf of Gabes, as it is the area that will be covered by the Observatory that the ODYSSEA project is expected to put in place by early 2019.

In effect, a major output of the Workshop was the creation of three Working Groups, under the leadership of Dr. Hekma Achour of ANDDCVS, which will contribute to overcome legal and technical aspects related to the establishment and operation of the Observatory and at the same time support its link with the local Blue Economy.